

**Avison Fund Committee - Granting Cycle 2023**  
**Recommendations to FMC Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Kathryn & Charles Avison—Miriam Avison Charitable Fund**

Avison Committee: Erin Bumgarner-Harris, Lance Drane, Betsy Hewitt, Cynthia Knowles (Clerk), and Diana Lopez.

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I want to express gratitude to the Avison family for their generosity that allows our Meeting to give to others. I also want to thank Betsy Hewitt, Diana Lopez, Erin Bumgarner, and Lance Drane for their work and wisdom.

We received 19 applications. We have enough money this year to fund 8. As outlined by the Fund, up to 20% of each year's distribution may go to Quaker Organizations. The Quaker organization(s) this year is Friends Peace Teams.

We propose funding:

**Ace Mentor:** \$10,000

**Aldea:** \$10,000

**Families First:** \$10,000

**Food for Free:** \$10,000

**Friends Peace Teams (Quaker):** \$9645

**La Colaborativa:** \$10,000

**Science Club for Girls:** \$10,000

**TEN:** \$10,000

**Total Quaker:** \$9645

**Total Non-Quaker:** \$70,000

**Total:** \$79,645.

We recommend these eight grants to Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) Meeting for Business. If our recommendations on how to disburse the funds from a donor-advised fund established through the generous will of a longtime FMC attender at The Boston Foundation (tBf) are approved, we will shepherd the grants through the process.

These recommendations, after approval from this Meeting for Business, will be sent to The Boston Foundation with the signature of the Presiding Clerk of this Business Meeting. Those receiving these grants, and those who were suggested but are not receiving a grant cannot be notified until after this meeting approves the recommendations. **Accordingly, you are asked to honor that this information is confidential for two weeks until all the organizations, chosen or not, are notified by this committee.**

The recommendations are for a total of \$79,645.

I will give some very brief descriptions of the projects we are funding. Feel free to contact me for more information about their work. We will also list them on the website with links to their web pages.

## Questions?

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### **GRANT DESCRIPTIONS: (short summaries)**

**The ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston** provides a weekly afterschool program is free of charge to the high school students, 90% of whom attend public or charter schools in the Greater Boston area. Over fifteen weeks, students design a project under real-world program and site constraints with the guidance of mentors who work in the industry. This year, students are designing an emergency shelter camp to respond to a hypothetical climate-related flooding disaster in Boston.

**ALDEA** (stands for Advancing Local Development through Empowerment and Action) with their sister organization in Guatemala target chronic childhood malnutrition while building rural partners' capacity to address future challenges on their own. This grant will be used for construction materials for 63 gray water filters and to provide training to 134 families in the proper use of the infrastructure, hygiene, health, and environmental protection in rural villages.

**FOOD FOR FREE** is a program that helps alleviate hunger through both food rescue and direct service programming. Since its founding, it has expanded into not only a program for communities in need but to school children in K-12, college students and families with young children among others. Avison money will be used for their Summer Weekend Eats Program in July and August which serves approximately 350 elementary and middle school aged campers over the 6-8 week program in Cambridge and Somerville.

**SCIENCE CLUB FOR GIRLS, INC.**- founded by two mothers concerned about gender, racial, and socioeconomic equity in STEM education. From a single club for girls in kindergarten, it has evolved into a leader in experimental STEM learning for girls. Avison Funds will be used to create a larger geographical outreach, particularly in Chelsea, for 125 additional participants during the academic school year.

#### **Friends Peace Teams**

Reading aloud projects for children in Rwanda, DR Congo & Burundi in seven peace libraries with trained librarians to help raise reading levels. Kids will gather with books material & librarians to heal after genocide & work toward trauma recovery.

#### **Families First**

Parents of children, birth to eight years in impoverished neighborhoods who have experienced structural inequity. In 2023 the plan is to add 213 parents in Holyoke & Springfield. They teach core skills to reach the goal of responsive relationships with their children taught by local bilingual parents Families First has trained and will support.

**LA COLABORATIVA**- Their Youth Mental Health initiative will support 43 youth with a combination of employment and weekly mental health support.

#### **T.E.N.- THE EMPOWERMENT NETWORK GLOBAL**

Will address low literacy rates and children leaving school in Haiti. TEN will run an afterschool program based on the successful near peer mentoring approach used at a summer camp they also run.