



## Better Together Success Keeps Local Matters Trucking Along!

**LOCAL MATTERS KNOWS** that kids who grow veggies eat veggies. Its hands-on education programs encourage kids to get their hands dirty and learn about where their food comes from in an effort to create healthy eating habits that will stick with them for life.

After one of the two trucks the organization used for their education programs was totaled last year, they needed a solution to replace it so they could continue to bring this important programming to kids around the city. In an effort to quickly raise funds, Local Matters submitted a quick pitch to be considered for a Better Together project. Better Together was launched by The Columbus Foundation in 2018 as an online crowdfunding tool, uniting community champions to rally for real-time needs in central Ohio.

In early May, the Better Together project **Hands-on Gardening Education** launched with a goal of \$14,000 to support the purchase of a new truck. In 34 days, it had surpassed its goal, bringing in a total of \$14,237.

During the summer of 2018, Local Matters actively worked with kids in 28 gardens across the city. Its eight-week summer program teaches basic ecology and all about food—how it's grown, where it comes from, and how healthy food fuels our bodies.

"With kids, our job is to break down some of those barriers to healthy eating and help them feel confident and excited about making healthy choices," said Adam Fazio, Director of Development for Local Matters. "One of the most powerful ways we do that is by getting them in the garden. Whenever possible, we incorporate some element of growing into our work."

The truck, vital to Local Matters' gardening programming, helps transport tools, product,



A successful Better Together project helped Local Matters secure a new truck (pictured top left) that will be used to support its gardening efforts throughout central Ohio. Each year, the organization provides hands-on gardening opportunities to hundreds of local kids, encouraging healthy eating habits.

and people. The organization serves 100 different gardening sites throughout the city, from community centers and schools, to sites at places like St. Vincent Family Center and Maryhaven.

"We use our trucks every day to travel to all of the gardens, haul equipment, plants, and supplies," said Adam. "And having multiple trucks allows us to do multiple volunteer events at the same time."

Thanks to the outpouring of generosity from 96 donors who contributed to this successful Better Together project, Local Matters will continue its important work inspiring kids from across the city to embrace healthy eating.

"We are so grateful to The Columbus Foundation and the community for stepping up to give children and families the experience of gardening and hands-on education," said Michelle Moskowitz Brown, Executive Director of Local Matters. "Together, we are making sure everyone in central Ohio has access to fresh, healthy food!"

## Columbus Youth Foundation Awards Grants at Home Run Derby



**THE MINOR LEAGUERS** weren't the only ones hitting it out of the park during the Triple-A Home Run Derby held at Huntington Park on July 9. *Columbus Youth Foundation (CYF)*, a Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation, presented six local nonprofits with grants ranging from \$4,100–\$40,000 during an on-field ceremony.

The recipient organizations all provide youth-focused programming to promote health and wellness in central Ohio through recreation and sports.

"Since its initial founding in 1955, investing in opportunities for kids to have fun has been a primary goal of the Columbus Youth Foundation," said Cathy Lyttle, Chair of CYF. "Our longstanding relationship to Huntington Park and the Clippers made this summer's Home Run Derby the perfect time and place to recognize these remarkable organizations who share our vision for strengthening kids' lives through recreation and sports."

Established as the first Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation in 1976, CYF has awarded more than \$4 million in grants to help young people attend summer camp, participate in recreational activities, and engage in athletic pursuits. It makes a difference in the lives of youth from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods of Columbus by providing healthy, positive opportunities to learn life lessons through recreation and sports.

### NONPROFITS HONORED DURING THE HOME RUN DERBY:

**Recreation Unlimited Foundation**  
\$4,100 for Summer Camp Scholarships

**Girls on the Run of Central Ohio**  
\$10,000 for Afterschool Programs

**Boys & Girls Club of Columbus, Inc.**  
\$40,000 for the Summer Brain Gain Program

**YMCA of Central Ohio**  
\$8,000 for Garver YMCA Youth Sports Programs

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio**  
\$10,500 for Camp Oty'Okwa Scholarships

**Gladden Community House**  
\$10,000 for the Team Sports Program



As of October 24, 2018, 23 Better Together projects have been completed, raising a total of \$173,548 to fund real-time needs in our community. New projects are added regularly! Visit [columbusfoundation.org/bettertogether](http://columbusfoundation.org/bettertogether) to see how you can make a difference today.