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THE PRANA FUND AWARDS GRANTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL PROJECTS THAT INTEGRATE THE VISUAL OR PERFORMING ARTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Charlottesville, VA, January 2022 – The Smith (Karyn and Brice) Family’s Prana Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation is pleased to announce nearly \$20,000 in awards to support projects that integrate environmental education and the visual arts through hands-on educational opportunities for children living in Charlottesville and/or Albemarle County.

Many children have not had the opportunity to experience and understand the fragility and wonder of the natural world. Through such experiences, children can learn to value the environment and be good stewards. The visual arts provide an outlet for expression and learning. The combination of both can promote an important sense of self-worth and connection to the world.

All recipients are 501(c)(3) nonprofits, schools, or fiscally sponsored organizations serving the Charlottesville/Albemarle area and special consideration was given to those that engage children who have traditionally experienced limited access to the arts and outdoors, and to projects that incorporated hands-on learning and a multi-disciplinary approach in a joyful, creative way.

Winter grant recipients are Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, Living Earth School, Second Street Gallery, and Wildrock.

Established in 2004, the Prana Fund grant program has now awarded nearly 60 grants totaling \$489,000.

“We are grateful to Karyn and Brice Smith’s Prana Fund for their continued support of children living in our region,” says Donor Relations Manager Ethan Tate. “Now more than ever, in a digital world and during a time of pandemic-induced restrictions, opportunities for outdoor learning and artistic play contribute to the health and well-being of our youth.”

If you are interested in applying for this grant in autumn 2022, please contact Ethan Tate for application guidelines at etate@cacfonline.org. You can sign up [here](#) for updates from the Community Foundation regarding upcoming grant rounds.

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The Charlottesville Area Community Foundation was established in 1967 – on the ideals of interconnectedness, of neighbor helping neighbor, and of valuing the lives of others – as an engine for positive change in Charlottesville and the surrounding counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson, and Orange. The Community Foundation works with local residents, nonprofits, and public and private organizations to facilitate philanthropy and create an equitable region where everybody can thrive. For more information, visit www.cacfonline.org.