

Subrecipient Spotlight – Hannan Center (Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation)



Established in 1925, the mission of the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation (also known as Hannan Center) is to preserve the dignity and enhance the quality of life of older adults in Detroit. Hannan Center offers creative aging programs, events, and workshops as well as a full-service social work department to connect older adults to the support they may need to remain healthy and independent. Major programs include:

Beyond U – Beyond U facilitates creative aging classes and workshops that provide social interaction, personal enrichment, and intellectual growth.

Ellen Kayrod Art Gallery – Established in 1994, the Kayrod Gallery hosts a diverse group of older adult artists, professional and amateur, in exhibits throughout the year.

Zena Baum Senior Service Center – Staffed by Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW), the activities and services of the Center help older adults (60 years+) access and navigate the services they need to age in place, improve physical and emotional health, and remain independent.

Spanning all programs, the Hannan Center serves approximately 1,000 clients annually.

The Hannan Center uses Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF) funds to run the The Zena Baum Senior Service Center (The Center). The Center primarily serves Detroit residents, many from low-to-moderate income households. Through the support of the NOF, Detroit seniors are served in the following ways:

- biopsychosocial assessments, including memory and depression screenings
- personalized care plans developed with support from Licensed Master Social Workers to determine and meet personal goals
- assistance securing Department of Human Services benefits (e.g. Medicaid/Medicare) and nutrition programs (e.g. Meals on Wheels)
- referrals to resources that address financial and legal issues, including a monthly legal clinic in partnership with Elder Law and Advocacy Center
- referrals to mental health counseling and behavioral health professionals
- opportunity to obtain small grants through the Hannan Center’s Emergency Fund for urgent needs such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, mattresses, and minor home repairs.

According to Tara Franey, the Hannan Center’s Director of Development, “Receiving the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund award allowed us to expand the capacity of the Zena Baum Senior Service Center. Prior to NOF funding, the Hannan Center was only available two days per week, and it now operates full-time, Monday – Friday. Funding has also allowed us to continue providing vital services during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to offering the services of the Zena Baum Senior Service Center via telehealth, we have developed and implemented a Telephone Reassurance Program to help seniors feel less isolated and to connect them to the resources they may need to remain healthy and independent.”

Additionally, Franey continues, “the Hannan Center has been able to leverage its NOF award to secure additional funding from foundations and corporations to serve local seniors, including establishing three new programs: Active Connections, which provides mental health counseling for older adults living with depression; DayBreak, a day program which serves older adults with dementia and their caregivers; and My Neighborhood Connections, which is a community-based initiative to help seniors support each other and successfully age in place through a peer-to-peer volunteer network and wrap around social work services.”

Clients of the Hannan Center have a lot to say about the value of it to the community, including:

“You can learn a lot about the values of an organization as soon as you walk in the door, and when you walk into the Hannan Center you know the place is genuine.”

“Hannan Center is a gem right here in the middle of the City”

“Getting connected to the Hannan Center and the support programs saved my life”

“I would like to appreciate and tell someone about the help I received from the social work department at the Hannan Center. The help was outstanding, and I am grateful.”

For more information about the Hannan Center, please visit: <https://hannan.org/>