Dear Servants of Christ,

As Brighter Days begins its third year of awarding grants to local works, we thought it would be a good idea to catch many of you up on who we are and why we started.

Each of you is dependent on the one-time, monthly and yearly gifts you receive to function on a day to day basis. Overhead, salaries, miscellaneous expenses, and a budget require a lot of stewardship. Often, you have bigger plans and goals that go unfulfilled because of these basic needs. Lack of funds, manpower and logistics can derail some really great ideas. As a result, our community misses out on the benefits of your meaningful intentions.

Brighter Days wants to identify the ideas that get edited and left on the cutting room floor and where we can, we'd like to fully fund those ideas. Sometimes, ideas have had a start but are at risk of ending because of a lack of funds. We'd like to help you make sure you are able to complete these worthy projects.

We also have had some time to refine our process. The first year, without a fully functioning website in time for grant submission, applications were hand-delivered. Still, we were able to fund five grant requests totalling just over $66K with impact on the community at large (avg. grant awarded was $13K). In our most recent granting cycle, Brighter Days Giving awarded five organizations a total of ~$81K (avg. grant awarded grew to just over $16K). Even though our goal is to grant $100K or more annually, we do not plan to award more than five grants each year, and in fact, we may even award fewer grants of larger value. As a result, we prayerfully anticipate awarding larger grant amounts as our membership grows more generous and numerous.

How do we choose our grant finalists from among our pool of worthy applicants? In addition to alignment with our gospel-centered values and a local presence, we look at the number of lives that could potentially be impacted physically, emotionally and spiritually, per dollar awarded.

Brighter Days would like to encourage you to articulate some dreams you have that may be laying on the cutting room floor and apply through the website for a grant. We are excited to see how God will work to accomplish each of our goals.

Thankful for each of you and looking forward with great anticipation,

Phares Gilchrist
Ministry Liaison
Brighter Days Giving