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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than 100 local community initiatives receive Neighbor Up Action Grants

Cleveland, OH, – In May, more than 100 community projects crafted by local residents received grants from the Neighbor Up Network, totaling \$385,614 of support. The funding, provided through a collaboration with Neighborhood Connections, the Cleveland Foundation, The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, and The McGregor Foundation, focuses on supporting resident-led initiatives.

Neighbor Up received 186 grant proposals, of which 121 were funded through **Neighbor Up Action Grants**. The funded projects, ranging from community improvement groups to cultural and sports initiatives, have each been awarded funding for their efforts in enriching their respective communities. The awards will support various projects aimed at transforming vacant spaces, fostering community dialogue, promoting sports and cultural heritage, and providing support for bereaved families. Here are a few highlights from the list of initiatives that received funding:

- [Citizens to Bring Back North Broadway](#), located in Broadway-Slavic Village, received \$2,750 to transform vacant areas into usable shared spaces such as parks, playgrounds, or community gardens.
- **Karaoke and Conversation** received \$4,700 to continue its effort in the Central-Kinsman neighborhood, bringing together residents to talk about tough topics and then have fun singing the night away with karaoke.
- [The Baseball Heritage Museum](#) received \$4,230 to host the *Umpire Training Institute* for anyone interested in becoming an umpire. The training will take place at League Park in the Hough neighborhood.
- [The Roberto Clemente League](#), a baseball team located in Clark Fulton that serves a vital role in Cleveland by catering for the Latino community, was awarded \$2,350 for their *Project Grow and Organize*. The group plans to purchase two shipping containers for

equipment storage, and acquire a mobile pitching mound for various age groups in their league as well as visiting teams for tournaments.

- The [HOPE Bereavement Fund's 24th Annual Appreciation Day Celebration](#) received \$2,820 to host its event, which will include hot meals, games, and scholarships for students in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood.

“These neighborhood groups and their efforts demonstrate what's possible by people working together,” says Neighborhood Connections Director Tom O’Brien. “These initiatives are about everyday people in the community choosing to value possibility and relationships over self-interest and separation. These groups and initiatives all started with a conversation about what people can create together. We are honored to support their work.”

Neighbor Up Action Grants fuel the power of neighbors to make the change they want to see in their communities. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000, and are meant to spur small, grassroots community initiatives throughout Cleveland and East Cleveland.

For more information, visit the [Neighbor Up Network website](#).

About Neighborhood Connections

Neighborhood Connections is an innovative, nationally-recognized community-building program established in 2003 by the Cleveland Foundation to support resident-led change. It is implemented by E. 66th Street Services, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and funded by many partners. Neighborhood Connection’s work begins with residents, and works closely with institutional players to share power and make lasting change in our communities.

Learn more at neighborupcle.org.