



Message to the Community

In 1926, Southern Baptist Hospital began operating in New Orleans with a primary Mission of “Healing Humanity’s Hurts.” The hospital served all members of the community for almost 70 years. In August 1995, the hospital was sold and the proceeds were used to create Baptist Community Ministries (BCM). During the ensuing 22 years, BCM has invested over \$178 million in local nonprofits and other community partners. BCM is also a direct service provider. A team of 13 chaplains provides pastoral care services in several healthcare settings and to the New Orleans Police Department. In addition, BCM’s Congregational Wellness department supports church nurse and congregational health promoter programs in 130 local churches.

Unlike most peer foundations across the country, BCM is a faith-based Christian organization. BCM is proud of its Baptist heritage and seeks to glorify Jesus Christ by its works in the community – through Philanthropy, Chaplaincy Services and Congregational Wellness. BCM is resolute in its desire to be a trustworthy and reliable community partner.

During 2018, the Board of Trustees of BCM began a strategic review of both its funding priorities and the direct services provided in our five-parish service area. This process is ongoing and discussions will continue throughout the remainder of the year. To date, the focus has been on grant-making. The purpose of this communication is to inform our partners about changes recently approved by the Board that will guide future investments in the community.

Philanthropy

1. As part of its evaluation of grant applications, one factor that is considered is the Mission of the applicant organization. **Going forward, a greater emphasis will be placed on “Mission alignment.”** The grant-making process will remain competitive and both faith-based and secular organizations are encouraged to apply.
2. Since 1996, BCM has primarily funded grants in four zones of interest. In recent years, we have emphasized “cross-zone” strategic work in the areas of Health, Education and Public Safety. This has allowed us to make targeted investments in the community that are expected to yield long-term results. **After careful consideration, BCM will be transitioning out of work in the Governmental**

Oversight zone. Active grants in all four zones of interest, including Governmental Oversight, will be honored.

3. During the summer of 2018, staff will begin implementing changes to BCM's transom grant application and review processes. **As a result, BCM will not have a Fall 2018 transom cycle.** BCM will resume accepting applications for grants in January 2019.

Looking Forward

As mentioned earlier, the Board of Trustees will continue its critical review of BCM's grant-making and direct service programs during the remainder of 2018. Once decisions are made, we will reach out to inform the community about any additional changes that are in the offing. BCM is grateful to our local nonprofits and other community partners that have worked tirelessly to "Heal Humanity's Hurts" over the last 22 years. We are more encouraged than ever about the prospects for the future.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cbeasley@bcm.org.


Charles Beasley
President & CEO