

12/16/2024

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Final Expenditure Summary Report

Project Name: Freedom Walkway Event

Grant Award Amount: \$10,000

Project Overview:

The project funded a celebration to honor the enduring efforts of nominated Rock Hill citizens who have made significant contributions to the cause of justice and equality for all citizens. The \$10,000 granted allowed the 2024 Freedom Walkway Celebration to honor Father Edward Wahl, Reverend James S. White, and the Winthrop University's Black Pioneers - Arnette Gladden Mackey, Sue Frances Meriwether Steed, and Delores Johnson Hurt. These five individuals were honored for the various ways in which they showed courage in the face of injustice. The Freedom Walkway Ceremony is a lovely event that brings together various individuals and community groups to celebrate those who have showcased integrity, courage, and justice.

The \$10,000 funding was used to create an event to honor these individuals. Because the event is free and open to the public with a presentation and a reception, the grant money was used to rent the space, provide food, beverages, and decorations, and pay for plaques and the engraving of bricks for the physical Freedom Walkway space. This space is open and available to the public, and ensures that these heroes are not forgotten.

Goals Achieved:

1. **Acknowledgment of Historical Struggles:** The celebration highlighted the nation's long struggle to extend equality and justice to all, acknowledging that these ideals were not achieved immediately, and require the persistence and courage of local citizens to uphold these ideals, particularly when it is inconvenient.
2. **Honoring Everyday Heroes:** The event celebrated the contributions of ordinary citizens who played heroic roles in the ongoing journey toward equality.
3. **Community Engagement:** The project brought together diverse groups in Rock Hill to reflect on shared history, achievements, and the continued pursuit of justice. These

groups included family members of the nominees, members of Historic Rock Hill, students from the Applied Technology Center, members from various local communities of faith, Clinton College, Winthrop University, the City of Rock Hill, local media, and various other community members who appreciate the purpose of this event.

4. **Educational Impact:** Through storytelling, videography produced by high school students at the Applied Technology Center, and presentations, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and progress in realizing the nation's founding ideals through the work of local community leaders.

Public Benefit:

This project fostered a sense of unity and inspiration within the community by celebrating both historical and contemporary efforts toward equality. It reminded attendees of the significance of collective action and the role individuals play in shaping a more just society. By educating and inspiring the public, the event reinforced shared values and motivated continued efforts to uphold the principles of liberty and justice for all.

The funding was pivotal in creating an inclusive, impactful celebration that honored the progress made while inspiring future generations to keep striving toward equality.