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## *HCSF 2019 Focus on Children's Ministries*



*The Harold C. Smith Foundation to Promote Christianity is proud to announce that six recipients have been awarded grants, based on innovative responses to a competitive Request for Proposals issued in April 2019.*

HCSF's commitment to supporting Children and Youth Ministries prompted grant managers to conduct an in-depth study in 2019 to identify the practices and approaches linked to ministry growth or decline, including a nationwide survey of 150 church leaders hosted by the Barna Group. The parameters of the Request for Proposals relied on analysis of survey results, revealing strong indicators for effective children and youth ministries in the areas of attendance, curriculum, approach, leadership, and volunteerism.

### **Congratulations to the winners!**

**Atlanta Dream Center's Children's Ministry:** The project reaches children who are facing adversity, poverty, hopelessness, drug abuse, violence and crime through creative solutions - to help give hope and restore. This project, designed to restore communities and build hope, expands strategic outreach to new neighborhoods, improves discipleship methods, creates and implements a more adaptable curriculum, enhances collaborative culture (staff, volunteers, parents) and strengthens parent involvement.

**Brooklyn Tabernacle Kids Special Needs:** The project provides adapted Christian education for children with intellectual learning disabilities and on the Autism Spectrum. This project significantly enhances the current Special Needs ministry, through the utilization of best practice approaches, specialized equipment/technology, and intensive leadership and volunteer training.

**Kona Kids Hawaii:** The project offers afterschool programs, school campus clubs, community discipleship groups, life skills training, and summer activities that emphasize the love of God. This project expands outreach to at-risk children in remote regions to help them realize their innate value, make better life choices, and achieve personal goals through Christian values.

**Manhattan Grace Tabernacle:** The project is based in a thriving Church with a new pastor, who has prioritized the importance of the Children's ministry. This project will initiate the integration of children within the Sunday church service; implement more dynamic youth-friendly worship (including use of musical instruments); update curriculum to be more relevant and age appropriate, improve oversight and training, involve children in community-based service projects.

**Revival Tabernacle:** The project is the vision of a new youth pastor, who is passionate about reinvigorating the existing youth ministry in the impoverished area of Highland Park, Michigan. This project is designed to provide hope for young people in a community known for its extreme social and economic decline and high crime rates. Project goals include renovating/updating the room used for youth meetings and hosting social events and retreats with leaders trained on effective strategies and approaches that encourage young people.