

For Immediate Release

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Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund Awards Nearly \$1M to Non-Profit Organizations

- **Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund is evolving its charitable giving strategy as it builds upon 72 years of community support.**
- **Funds are being distributed across Strategic Partner grants, Community Partner grants, and expanded employee contribution matching.**
- **Recipients in 2024 include non-profit organizations promoting diversity, development, mobility, and access to employment.**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 3, 2024) – The [Bridgestone Americas](#) Trust Fund today announced it has awarded nearly one million dollars in 2024 to U.S. national and local non-profit organizations. These contributions represent a shift in Bridgestone's corporate philanthropy efforts, which now include Strategic Partner grants, Community Partner grants, and expanded employee contribution matching.

A total of 22 non-profit organizations received grants based on their close alignment with the company's geographic footprint and its evolving business strategy as a sustainable mobility solutions company. Eight of these organizations will receive larger Strategic Partner grants and increased volunteer support because they perform work in areas of priority for Bridgestone, including promoting diversity, mobility, education, and access to employment. The fourteen additional Community Partner grants were awarded to organizations recommended by Bridgestone employees through a process that aims to democratize how the company drives change.

"This is the first strategic shift in our charitable giving since the Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund was established 72 years ago by Harvey Firestone, Jr.," said Wade Munday, Director of Corporate Philanthropy and Social Impact, Bridgestone Americas. "We remain committed to delivering on Bridgestone's mission of serving society in our local communities and industries. Now we are applying a laser-focused approach on aligning our philanthropic efforts to strategic business areas where increased levels of support can help scale solutions and serve more people."

Bridgestone is also integrating the social impact platform Optimy to simplify applications for Community Partner grants and allow Bridgestone employees to submit employee match requests. Employee contribution matches of up to \$2,000 per year per employee, which were previously limited to academic institutions, now include all U.S. non-profit organizations, colleges and universities.

In total, the Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund has awarded \$949,000 in grants across the below list of non-profit organizations thus far in 2024:

Strategic Partners

- **United Way of Greater Nashville** (Nashville, TN) to help alleviate poverty in Middle Tennessee.
- **Techforce Foundation** (Phoenix, AZ) to help create a diverse 21st century workforce of auto technicians across the U.S.
- **Play Like a Girl** (Nashville, TN) to increase girl's access to STEM education through sports.
- **Truckers Against Trafficking** (Englewood, CO) to help end human trafficking in the U.S.
- **United Way of Summit-Medina** (Akron, OH) to help alleviate poverty in Northeast Ohio.
- **Japan-America Society of Tennessee** (Nashville, TN) to help promote cross-cultural understanding in the state of Tennessee.
- **Adaptive Sports Ohio** (Akron, OH) to help increase access to sports and mobility for people living with disabilities.
- **Urban Green Lab** (Nashville, TN) to help promote sustainable living across the U.S.

Community Partners

- **Children's Museum of Southwest Louisiana** – Lake Charles, LA
- **Conexion Americas** – Nashville, TN
- **Business Council for International Understanding** – New York, NY
- **Edgefield County Youth Empowerment Center** – Johnston, SC
- **Advancing Women in Nashville** – Nashville, TN
- **Russellville High School** – Russellville, AR
- **Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal** – Bloomington, IL
- **Dream Center Academy** – Gastonia, NC
- **A Field of Angels** – Russellville, AR
- **Rotary Club of Russellville Foundation** – Russellville, AR
- **Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena** – Washington, DC
- **The Baby Fold** – Normal, IL
- **COMMIT Foundation** – Bozeman, MT
- **Sharing & Caring, Inc.** – Dardanelle, AR

The Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund, originally the Firestone Fund, was founded in 1952 in Akron, Ohio, with \$1.5 million at the direction of Harvey Firestone, Jr., son of company founder Harvey Firestone, Sr.

More information can be found online at

<https://www.bridgestoneamericas.com/en/company/foundations/social-contributions>

About Bridgestone Americas, Inc.:

Bridgestone Americas, Inc. is the U.S.-based subsidiary of Bridgestone Corporation, a global leader in tires and rubber, building on its expertise to provide solutions for safe and sustainable mobility. Headquartered in Nashville, Tenn., Bridgestone Americas employs more than 45,000 people across its worldwide operations. Bridgestone offers a diverse product portfolio of premium tires and advanced solutions backed by innovative technologies, improving the way people around the world move, live, work and play.

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