

SECURING THE CENTER'S FUTURE

In March 2025 AHCC was awarded \$3.79M through the State of Connecticut's Community Investment Fund (CIF) to support the creation of the Earl Exum Community Resource Center. Funding from the CIF grant is expected to cover *fully* the anticipated costs of the construction drawings and engineering expenses as well as the build-out for the Community Resource Center's space (6,300 square feet), technology, and indoor and outdoor furnishings.

Once the Center is open in January 2028, AHCC will be responsible for all operating costs, including utilities and maintenance as well as salary for at least one staff member. AHCC is not in a position to cover these costs by absorbing them into the church's annual operating budget.

From the beginning, our intention has been to try to raise approximately \$2.5- \$3.5M for a special endowment fund that will generate sufficient income (using AHCC's current 5% endowment draw rate) to cover all EECRC *operating costs—in perpetuity*. Plans for launching an endowment fund campaign next year are underway.

Last year we took steps with the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation (formerly Hartford Foundation for Public Giving) to establish a new and separate EECRC endowment fund at the Foundation. Funds raised during the endowment fund campaign (and thereafter) will be deposited directly into that endowment fund, the income from which will fund annual operations in the Center on an ongoing basis.

The **purpose of the endowment** – and of our planned campaign to raise funds for it – is to ensure the Center remains operationally stable, financially secure, and missionally impactful for decades to come—and *not* dependent on year-to-year fundraising fluctuations.

Annual operating expenses are projected to be approximately \$175,000 per year. Initial start-up costs (before the endowment is generating income) will be funded principally by grants that provide current-use dollars in support of operations. We expect income from the endowment will be sufficient to fully fund operations by year three or four.

The largest expense category is, as expected, personnel-related—approximately 70% of operating costs if the Center is fully staffed with 1.5 full-time employees (FTE), who will be supported by a cadre of volunteers. The Center's director will be the key staff person, playing critical roles as welcomer, navigator, connector, communicator, and evaluator.

With an endowment in place and fully funded, the EECRC will be able to operate at full capacity and sustain operations beyond initial donations.

The CIF grant has created **a one-time window**: state funding, church space, and community demand are aligned.

With the capital build-out already funded, donors who give to the endowment fund will bring to fruition a vision and structure the state government *already* has invested in.

With an endowment fund sufficient to generate the annual funding needed to operate the Center, the sacred work of renewal and the transformation it makes possible will continue not just for years, but for generations.

EARL EXUM COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER AT AHCC

Giving to the Earl Exum Community Resource Center at AHCC Endowment Fund will represent an opportunity to ...

- help show the world what is possible when compassion becomes concrete;
- honor the legacy of one extraordinary individual whose words – *We work better in community than we do alone* – and whose example of servant leadership continues to inspire us today; and
- help improve, and maybe even transform, the lives of *many* extraordinary individuals who call Asylum Hill home and dream of a better future -- for themselves, for their families, and for their neighborhood.