

History of the Foundation

Denis and Martha Pierce have been lifelong philanthropists. Their charitable contributions to local organizations and beyond have always been a part of their personal and professional lives. In an effort to maximize their investments in the community and facilitate growth and stability in the nonprofit arena, the Pierce family — Denis, Martha, and their children, Benjamin, Jason, and Tasha — created the Foundation in December 2007.

The main focus of the Foundation is on organizations that help to alleviate homelessness and provide housing services and opportunities. In addition to its own funding, the Foundation works in myriad ways to help bring visibility and additional support to its grantees.

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Pierce Family

FOUNDATION

*Helping nonprofits build
on their strengths*



The Pierce Family Foundation supports nonprofit organizations providing essential social services in the areas of housing and opportunities for homeless people. We primarily support organizations in the Chicago metropolitan region as well as select projects in Michigan.

We place special emphasis on organizations that:

- Provide housing for women and children and families
- Address the needs of immigrant families
- Supply environmentally sound practices for food, housing and energy efficiency

We are particularly interested in helping organizations increase their effectiveness by providing support that focuses on operational needs and organizational development, offering grants and technical assistance for technology, strategic planning, nonprofit operations, financial management, fundraising, communications, board development and other areas that contribute to organizational stability and sustainability.

Unique to the Foundation is its commitment to underwriting the donation of organizational support services for its core grantees. Once an organization becomes a grantee of the Pierce Family Foundation, it is eligible to receive at no cost a host of direct services provided by a team of nonprofit support specialists on call to the Foundation.

We tend to fund community-based organizations in need of ongoing support to stabilize or grow their core operations, and organizations with less opportunity to secure funding elsewhere.

** All proposals are by invitation only. Unsolicited proposals are not accepted or acknowledged. Organizations invited to apply are chosen through recommendations made by the Foundation's founding family, the Foundation's professional staff, and its grantee network.*



The Foundation provides an extraordinary level of support and attention to a select group of organizations within the Chicago area. These nonprofits are known as our core grantees (listed below). For a complete list of all grantees, please visit www.piercefoundation.org or contact Lindsay Marriott (lindsay@piercefoundation.org).

Chicago Religious Leadership Network (www.crln.org): Equips and mobilizes religious leaders and congregations to advance peace, justice and human rights in the Americas.

Emergency Fund (www.emergencyfund.org): Provides immediate financial assistance to help low income Chicago area individuals and families through a crisis or transition.

Good News Partners (www.goodnewspartners.org): Christian asset-based community organization, focusing on housing, education and economic development

Housing Opportunities for Women (www.how-inc.org): Ensures that homeless individuals are housed as quickly as possible, and then provided with tools for success and self-sufficiency.

Institute for Women of Today (www.instituteofwomentoday.org): Provides transitional housing for homeless women and their children.

Interfaith House (www.interfaithhouse.org): Provides a healing environment and resources to help ill and injured homeless adults restore their health, rebuild their lives and regain self sufficiency.

La Casa Norte (www.lacasanorte.org): Provide a safe and nurturing environment for homeless and abandoned youth.

The Cara Program (www.thecaraprogram.org) helps motivated individuals affected by homelessness and poverty to transform their lives and achieve real, lasting success by providing comprehensive training, permanent job placement, and intensive support services.

Neighborhood Housing Service (www.nhschicago.org) creates opportunities for people to live in affordable homes, improve their lives, and strengthen their neighborhoods. NHS makes loans to help people buy, fix and keep their homes, educates and prepares new homeowners for success, provides foreclosure prevention services as well as other programs.