



at THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for MISSISSIPPI

February, 2024

# The Fund Memo

LGBTQ Fund of MS

*This Newsletter includes:*

- *Spotlight on My Brother's Keeper (We the Positive)*
- *LGBTQ Fund of MS Needs Assessment*
- *Small Business Shoutout*
- *Donor recognition*

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donate*





## Spotlight

My Brother's Keeper, Inc. (MBK) is a private, nonprofit, 501(c) (3) organization with three offices in the Jackson, MS metropolitan area, (headquarters in Ridgeland) and two offices in South Mississippi – Hattiesburg and Gulfport. MBK's mission is to reduce health disparities throughout the United States by enhancing the health and well being of minority and marginalized populations through leadership in public and community health practices, collaboration and partnerships.

MBK's mission is to reduce health disparities throughout the United States by enhancing the health and well-being of minority and marginalized populations through leadership and collaboration with the public and with community healthcare practices.

As it exists today, MBK is an experienced CBO working to eliminate health disparities among underserved, uninsured/underinsured and other vulnerable populations through health education, health promotion, policy and environmental systems changes, and other health equity approaches. MBK's efforts have expanded to include a wealth of health issues, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and cancer, which has systemically transformed MBK from a grassroots organization into a community-based leader that strives to change the health status of Americans one community at a time.



Robin Webb addresses the crowd at a "We the Positive Network" event held at Hal and Mal's in Jackson, MS in November.





# *LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi Needs Assessment*

In 2018, the LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi carried out a comprehensive, statewide needs assessment of LGBTQ+ Mississippians. The timely and important findings and outcomes of the needs assessment have informed the funding of grant dollars since the very first round of grant making in 2020. Some notable findings from the 2018 needs assessment are presented below. Since 2020, the LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi has provided nearly \$450k in funds to 30 LGBTQ (and LGBTQ-adjacent) organizations across the state! This funding has supported direct health and mental health services, programming and events, emergency services and housing, and training and educational opportunities, among other things.

Today, 5 years later, the LGBTQ Fund is supporting a second, follow-up statewide needs assessment. It is noteworthy that the LGBTQ Fund places such focus on data-driven decisions and strategy. This needs assessment will inform funding priorities and direction for future funding periods.

While the 2018 needs assessment provided a vivid snapshot of the lives of LGBTQ+ Mississippians, the state and our community's needs have changed. We've seen some Mississippi LGBTQ+ organizations dissolve and new organizations form in this time. Laws and policies in the state and nation have changed. We've been through collective trauma with COVID-19. The climate toward our community has changed. So where do we stand now, and where do we go from here?

Help us shape the future of our LGBTQ+ communities in Mississippi by sharing your experiences. Please consider taking ~10-15 minutes of your time to respond to our survey. The survey asks about experiences and perspectives across multiple life domains: health and mental health, work, school, religion and the church, neighborhoods and communities, and legal and justice. Your responses are anonymous and confidential.

You can access the survey by scanning the QR code in the image above or go to [tinyurl.com/lgbtq-ms-2023](https://tinyurl.com/lgbtq-ms-2023). Please be sure to share our survey with your queer family and friends who live in or have lived in MS within the previous 5 years!!



BIPOC and Trans folks report more familial discord characterized by physical assault, homelessness, and lack of support

# Highlights from 2018 Needs Assessment

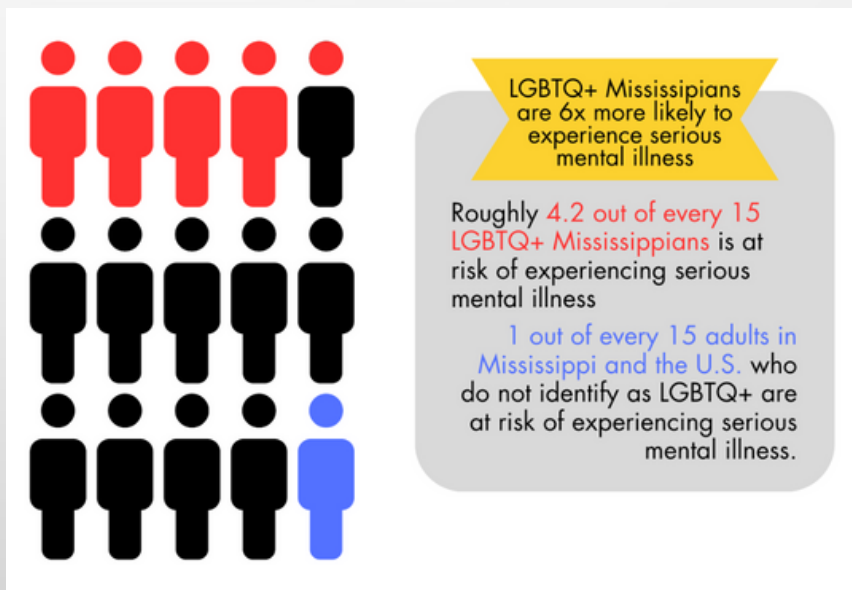
**Mental Health:** Respondents reported excessively high potential for suffering from serious mental illness (28%) as compared to the general population of adults in Mississippi and the United States (6%). An alarming rate of survey respondents (18%) also reported high rates of substance use needed to “block out bad feelings.” Increased rates of mental health distress were reported by respondents of color, transgender respondents, respondents living in rural areas, and younger respondents.

**Safety and Fear:** A sizable portion of the sample reported having been the victim of physical violence (9%), verbal harassment (54%), and sexual abuse (47%). In addition, nearly the entire sample reported experiencing fear in various social contexts and concealing their sexual orientations or gender identities as a result of this fear. Transgender respondents and respondents of color reported negative interactions with law enforcement and periods of homelessness more frequently than other demographic groups in the sample.

**Neighborhoods and Communities:** Most survey respondents (63%) reported few opportunities for networking with other LGBTQ folks in their communities. Respondents generally felt that their communities were somewhat inclusive to LGBTQ people. Respondents of color and those living in rural areas reported fewer opportunities for networking. Transgender respondents reported attending pride events more often when compared to cisgender respondents.

**Life Satisfaction:** Approximately half of survey respondents reported feeling generally satisfied with their lives, feeling safe and secure, and feeling generally happy most of the time or often. Respondents belonging to older age cohorts reported greater life satisfaction, while transgender respondents generally reported decreased life satisfaction.

**Family:** The majority of respondents reported relatively good familial relationships characterized by general family acceptance of their LGBTQ identities. Notably, nearly one quarter (24%) of respondents reported that they were parents, with 65% reporting that their children live with them most or all of the time. Respondents of color and transgender respondents reported higher rates of familial discord more often characterized by physical assault, homelessness, and lack of support.



To read more of the original needs assessment report of findings, go to [lgbtqfundofms.org](http://lgbtqfundofms.org) under the ‘Resources’ tab.

## GRAND CHAMPION

### FOUNDERS CIRCLE (\$25,000- \$49,999)

Donna Barksdale - Morgan Freeman -  
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Robin Morgan

### (\$100,000- \$499,999)

Funders for LGBTQ Issues: Out in the South

### PATRON (\$10,000- \$24,999)

The Dick Molpus Foundation -  
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### ADVOCATE (\$2,500- \$9,999)

Arthur Alley Associated, LLC - Roy and Nancy Campbell - Bob LaCour - Megan and  
Martin Clapton - Frank Farrow - James Keeton - Carol Puckett - Elizabeth Smith -  
Stonewall Inn Gives Black Initiative - Women's Foundation of Mississippi, Inc.

### ANGEL (\$1,000- \$2,499)

Bonnie Allen - N. Keith Ashburn - Camp Best - Brian  
Clinton - John and Nellie Cohen - Odiri Dafe - Bart  
and Debbie DeLashmet - Tommy and Rebecca  
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Constantine, Mark Damron - Linda L. Katz

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Foundation - Madeline Tess Farmer - Christopher Gassett - Roy  
Hamilton - Lacey Chagnon/Guruz Fitness Studio - Lloyd Hanson  
Bette Hoffman - Birney and Beth Imes - Lisa and Billy Percy -  
James Polk - Adam and Josh Protos - Whitney and Ravi Raju -  
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Hampton Shaddock - Keith Ashburn

### SUPPORTER (\$100-\$499)

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Jessica Blanchard - Michael Martella - Susan & David Womack - John Overton - Erick J. Weeks

### CONTRIBUTOR (\$25-\$99)

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- Dustin Weiss - Cherry Williams - John Wray - Tiffany Zellers - Laura Nagel - Morgan Tubbs - Jimmie & Andy Sweat

### *Small Business Spotlight*

THE **PEOPLE'S CUP**  
**MICROROASTERY**

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Starkville, MS, United States, Mississippi  
(662) 722-3587  
thepeoplesroaster@gmail.com

### SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Belhaven Residential - Jackson, MS  
Bravo Italian Restaurant- Jackson, MS  
Chipper and Coco- Jackson, MS  
Jean's Restaurant- Meridian, MS  
People's Cup MicroRoastery- Starkville, MS  
Proof Bakery- Starkville, MS  
Robin Morgan Financial- Jackson, MS  
Shaggy Hound- Starkville, MS  
Smoak Salon- Jackson, MS  
Sugar Magnolia Bakery -Flowood, MS  
Taste LLC- Starkville, MS