

# DEACONESS FOUNDATION'S YEAR IN REVIEW



## Note from Bethany

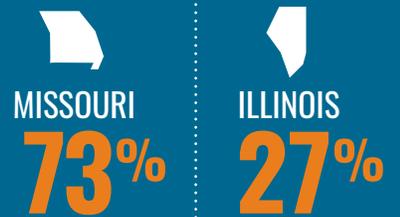
This has been a year of reckoning—reckoning of care for our people, our communities, and our future. In moments of crises Deaconess organized alongside our neighbors in unprecedented ways to meet urgent needs following an EF3 tornado that carved a 23-mile path of destruction across the bi-state St. Louis region, to respond to the uncertainty and increased need caused by the delay in nutritional benefits for children and families, and to protect access to care for all people. The opportunities for us to stand shoulder-to-shoulder are plentiful for the future we believe is plausible. As ever, we are a community of bold action, rooted in faith, led by love, and committed to justice.

BETHANY JOHNSON-JAVOIS PRESIDENT & CEO



## 2025 GRANTMAKING SNAPSHOT

### REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



TOTAL INVESTMENT  
**\$1.46M**

### STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BRACKETS

ORGANIZING &  
POWER BUILDING  
**38%**

POLICY, ADVOCACY  
& RIGHTS PROTECTION  
**36%**

COMMUNITY HEALTH,  
WELL-BEING &  
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY  
**26%**

## FROM RAPID RESPONSE TO DURABILITY

The escalation of climate change and the risk it brings to our communities requires long-term planning and deeper investments in adaptive community infrastructure and environmental justice policy that will help to provide necessary relief in the short-term while also building a future-driven plan of action geared towards building climate resilience.

Following an initial rapid-response investment of \$90,000 in the wake of the May 2025 tornado, Deaconess dedicated an additional \$250,000 to support long-term durability grounded in **community-driven priorities, equity and justice, and preparedness for the future.**

### THE INVESTMENTS WERE AWARDED TO:

- 1 EQUITY LEGAL SERVICES
- 2 NORTH NEWSTEAD ASSOCIATION
- 3 NORTHSIDE RESILIENCE FUND
- 4 NORTHSIDE YOUTH & SENIOR SERVICE CENTER
- 5 POWER4STL
- 6 REJUVENATING COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES
- 7 TENANTS TRANSFORMING ST. LOUIS

**MISSION** In the spirit of our faith heritage, the mission of Deaconess Foundation is the improved health of the community and people of Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois.

**VISION** Deaconess Foundation envisions a community that values the health and well-being of all and gives priority attention to the most invisibilized. This community only thrives if the allocation of power and distribution of resources, benefits, opportunities, and burdens are not predictable by, nor predicated on race.

## SEEDING THE FUTURE GRANTS

Deaconess Foundation continues to invest in efforts that pursue accelerated change in conditions and systems transformation through coalition and base building, grassroots advocacy, civic engagement, community organizing, and public policy change through its quarterly Seeding the Future grants.

## COMMUNITY-STEWARDED FUNDS

In Spring 2025, Deaconess launched the NextGen Grantmakers initiative in partnership with Vision for Children at Risk as a transformative youth-stewarded grantmaking initiative that places funding decisions for young people directly in the hands of young changemakers. Coupled with the Seniors Community Revitalization & Development Fund, which is stewarded by a Senior Advisory Board comprised of older adults, Deaconess invested \$450,000 in grant awards through its participatory grantmaking approach and amplified the key cross-generational themes in the types of support needed by both seniors and young people, alike.

### ACROSS BOTH GROUPS, FIVE KEY AREAS EMERGED:

- 1 SAFETY AND STABILITY
- 2 HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS
- 3 SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE
- 4 COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL CONNECTION
- 5 ACCESS TO HOUSING AND SOCIAL SUPPORT



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[DEACONESS.ORG](https://DEACONESS.ORG)

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