The DOF in 2019:
Investing in the Future of the Disability Market!

What an exciting year at DOF! In 2019, with your support, we “invested” in the disability market by expanding our loan portfolio to new clients such as Children’s Academy. Previous clients such as Achieve Behavioral Health and Etta Israel approached DOF to help grow their programs. We formalized our DOF Equity Plus program with investments in Quake and Ultranauts. We are working with the local community in White Sulphur Springs, WV to address the issues surrounding Substance Use Disorders and Opioid Use Disorders. Our Inaugural DOF Cares Program launched this past year allowing us to support thirty disability-related organizations.

DOF is excited to have you join us as we explore how our 2019 “investments” will pay dividends for many years to come!

Thank you for your continued interest and support. We wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!
We “Care”!

For the last twelve years, we have been a financial leader focused specifically on the disability market providing lending and investment services and technical expertise to the organizations and agencies working with people with disabilities.

In response to receiving a large donation in late 2018 and to celebrate the 29th Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (July 26, 2019) we awarded over $600,000 in support to thirty (30) organizations who are working to improve the lives of people with disabilities through our Inaugural DOF Cares program.

The aim of DOF Cares is to provide individual grants between $10,000 and $50,000 in the following Priority Focus Areas: Education, Employment, Housing, Public Policy and Socialization/Sports. We accomplished the original goal of attracting applications from around the country and for initiatives of not only well-established programs, but innovative initiatives as well. The grants extended internationally, as two programs connect people with disabilities with the State of Israel. In the United States, grants are supporting programs in California, Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, West Virginia, North Carolina, Upstate New York and the New York Metropolitan area.

We Help Create: DOF Invests in Ultranauts and Quake

Last year’s Strategic Plan approved by the DOF Board included the launch of DOF Equity Plus – our goal of adding equity investments in the disability market to the loan portfolio we have established since 2008. We invested in the Quake Accelerator program https://www.quakecapital.com/ to help DOF explore potential investments in innovative start-ups addressing the needs of people with disabilities.

We successfully closed an investment in Ultranauts http://ultratesting.us/ which provides highly flexible, high quality software testing services through exceptional onshore teams that include individuals on the Autism Spectrum. SustainVC and DOF led the round, joined by a diverse group of impact investors including The Libra Foundation (investment facilitated by Candide Group), Social Venture Network, Wasabi Ventures, Moai Capital (run by Emergence Capital Founder Brian Jacobs), Cognizant Vice Chairman Frank D’Souza, Bain & Company Chief Talent Officer Russ Hagey, and advocate & philanthropist Lisa Yang.

We Envision: DOF Partners with RespectAbility and PHI

In 2019, we formalized relationships with two great organizations: Respectability https://www.respectability.org/ and PHI https://phinational.org/. DOF will maintain a Board Seat with each organization.

RespectAbility is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that understands we are a stronger community when we live up to our values – when we are welcoming, diverse, moral and respect one another. They work with entertainment, policy makers, educators, self-advocates, nonprofits, employers, faith-based organizations, philanthropists, journalists and online media to fight stigmas and advance opportunities for people with disabilities. PHI fosters dignity, respect, and independence—for all who receive care, and all who provide it. As the nation’s leading authority on the direct care workforce, PHI promotes quality direct care jobs as the foundation for quality care.
DOF Provides $1,000,000 to NYC School Providing Cutting Edge Services to Students with Special Needs

The Children’s Academy is a private, nonprofit school that educates children with speech and language challenges and learning differences. The school moved to a larger space in New York City to meet its needs, allowing for outdoor space and an occupational therapy gym that was not available at its previous location and providing the room to grow to 73 students. As of September 2019, TCA is operating solely from the new location. The new 16,000 square foot location in midtown Manhattan offers a larger footprint with better amenities for students, including updated and renovated classrooms and other spaces used for programming and administration. The Property will also incorporate new technology solutions that will further enhance the learning environment and respond to the evolving needs of the student body. DOF’s $1,000,000 Tuition Bridge Loan allows TCA the ability to grow its incredible program while it adjusts to its new home and attracts new students for the future.

Increasing the Reach of a First-Class Organization

Achieve Behavioral Health (ABH) provides a multitude of health-related services for patients and their families. Services include food for the sick, volunteer transportation, free loan of medical equipment, comprehensive services and programs for children suffering from terminal illness, health education, and senior citizens programming including case management and financial support.

Bikur Cholim’s mission is to minimize physical, emotional, and psychological pain by providing support and succor to those in need. It does this through the operation of a NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) Article 31 clinic and a NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Article 32 clinic. The clinic currently provides over 40,000 units of service to over 2,000 individuals annually, the largest single provider in Rockland County.

This year, DOF provided an $800,000 loan which allowed ABH to acquire and move to a new building where it is serving approximately 300 children per year. Being able to shift current mental health services to the new facility allows increased intake at ABH’s main location. This is the third loan from DOF to ABH and we are very proud of their work in Rockland County, NY.

Welcome Back, Etta Israel!

The Tikvah Etta and Lazear Israel Center for the Developmentally Disabled (ETTA) is a social services provider for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as autism and Down syndrome in West Hollywood, CA. Founded in 1993, ETTA’s full spectrum of services allows people with disabilities to live independent, included, and active lives. ETTA’s services include residential housing, case management, employment training and placement, educational services and social services.

In 2011, we provided a $50,000 loan to ETTA to renovate a group home which was repaid. This year, ETTA asked DOF to provide a $3,400,000 loan to help them expand their programs and attract additional local support from an active Board of Directors and other supporters. We look forward to seeing ETTA’s operations run more efficiently, increase organizational profitability and bandwidth which allows for continued and improved services for the over 700 clients ETTA serves.
DOF PORTFOLIO PARTNERS: AS OF NOVEMBER 2019

To meet the constant flow of demand for our capital, we have maintained a steady and committed pipeline of investment resources. The following “DOF investors” provide over $25,000,000 of flexible capital to our current portfolio!

Adrian Dominican Sisters
Anonymous Foundation
Anonymous Individual
Bank of America
Basilian Fathers of Toronto
BNB Bank
Capital One
Catholic Health Initiatives
Charles Schwab Bank
Congregation of St. Joseph
Dignity Health Services
Dominican Sisters of Hope (Ossining, NY)
Deutsche Bank
HSBC
Mercy Investment Services
Metropolitan Commercial Bank
Northern Trust
PNC Bank
Prudential
Racine Dominicans
Religious Communities Impact Fund (RCIF)
Rockefeller Foundation
Ridgewood Bank
Seton Enablement Fund
Sisters of St. Francis, PA
Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, NJ
Trinity Health
Wells Fargo

DOF FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS—2019

We are honored to include the following as 2019 foundation/corporate sponsors of the DOF “Family”:

Anonymous Donor
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Northville Industries
BNB Bank
Metropolitan Commercial Bank
Sterling Bank Foundation
BMO Harris Bank Foundation

Your support is extremely important to us.

Your contribution will go directly towards building the support systems needed to provide access to funding for these underserved populations.

DONATE ON THE WEB: visit our web site at www.thedof.org and click on How You Can Help icon to make your contribution via credit card.

DONATE BY MAIL: fill out the enclosed form and send it back to us in the enclosed envelope. Checks are made payable to The Disability Opportunity Fund.

THANK YOU!