



## Disability Opportunity Fund Awards Over \$500,000 of Grants to Organizations Improving Lives of People with Disabilities Through Its Inaugural DOF Cares Program

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY, June 21, 2019 — To celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (July 26, 1990) the Disability Opportunity Fund (DOF) through its Inaugural DOF Cares Program has awarded over \$500,000 in grants twenty nine (29) organizations who are working to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

For the last twelve years, DOF has 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 to help them achieve independence and live their own success stories now and into the future.

In response to receiving a large donation in late 2018, DOF launched DOF Cares: a new program to provide grants to organizations which serve people/children with disabilities and their families. The aim of DOF Cares in 2019 aims 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 are thankful of the support from our donor to launch this program.” said Charles D. Hammerman, president and CEO of The Disability Opportunity Fund. “We received excellent and innovative proposals in all five Priority Focus Areas and we are excited that the DOF Cares grants will continue provide assistance to people with disabilities all across the United States.”

### Winners of the Inaugural DOF Cares Awards for 2019: (in alphabetical order)

Allegro Foundation [www.allegrofoundation.net](http://www.allegrofoundation.net)

America’s Vet Dogs [www.vetdogs.org](http://www.vetdogs.org)

Birthright Israel Foundation <https://birthrightisrael.foundation>

Bridges to Adelphi <https://bridges.adelphi.edu/>

Cerebral Palsy Soccer, Inc. [www.cpsoccer.us](http://www.cpsoccer.us)

Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation [www.dsafonline.org](http://www.dsafonline.org)

Girl Be Heard [www.girlbeheard.org](http://www.girlbeheard.org)

Greenbrier County Health Alliance [www.greenbriercountyhealthalliance.org](http://www.greenbriercountyhealthalliance.org)

Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc./America’s Vet Dogs [www.guidedog.org](http://www.guidedog.org)

Hartley House [www.hartleyhouse.org](http://www.hartleyhouse.org)

Heroes to Heroes [www.heroestoheroes.org](http://www.heroestoheroes.org)

Initiative for Women with Disabilities [www.nyulangone.org/locations/initiative-for-women-with-disabilities](http://www.nyulangone.org/locations/initiative-for-women-with-disabilities)



Integrate Autism Employment Advisors [www.integrateadvisors.org](http://www.integrateadvisors.org)  
International Academy of Hope [www.yai.org/ihope](http://www.yai.org/ihope)  
Karen's Hope, Inc. [www.karenshope.org](http://www.karenshope.org)  
Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York [www.littleflowerny.org](http://www.littleflowerny.org)  
Long Island Sled Hockey, Inc. [www.lisledhockey.org](http://www.lisledhockey.org)  
Madison House Autism Foundation [www.madisonhouseautism.org](http://www.madisonhouseautism.org)  
National Disability CDFI Coalition (website under construction)  
NY Off Road Driving [www.nyoffroaddriving.com](http://www.nyoffroaddriving.com)  
Person Centered Care Services [www.pccsny.org](http://www.pccsny.org)  
RespectAbility [www.respectability.org](http://www.respectability.org)  
SNACK & Friends, Inc. [www.snackyc.com](http://www.snackyc.com)  
Special Education Legal Fund [www.spedlegalfund.org](http://www.spedlegalfund.org)  
The Kelsey [www.thekelsey.org](http://www.thekelsey.org)  
West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association [www.wvoma.org](http://www.wvoma.org)  
White Sulphur Springs Main Street Foundation <https://wssmainstreet.org>  
Wisconsin Developmental Disabilities Network [www.ddnetworkinc.org](http://www.ddnetworkinc.org)

#### About Disability Opportunity Fund:

Created in 2007, The Disability Opportunity Fund (The DOF) bridges the disability market and community development financial institutions, which have the necessary infrastructure and resources to address the continuing needs of this growing market. The DOF focuses on the primary concerns of the market including the need for more housing, schools and community centers. The DOF is a not-for-profit organization located in Rockville Centre, N.Y. For more information, please visit [www.thedof.org](http://www.thedof.org).