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## **Project Flourish Awards Another \$250,000 to Advance Transformative Initiatives for the Good of Houston**

*Biannual program sparks five finalists working to address mounting social challenges facing the city*

**HOUSTON, April 13, 2023** – First Presbyterian Church of Houston’s (FPC Houston) Project Flourish has identified five Houston-area social entrepreneurship ventures to receive funding totaling \$250,000. A panel of expert judges selected this year’s finalists, which address complex social challenges faced by the Houston community, including underemployment, education, issues of homelessness, and families of children with Down Syndrome. They include:

- **[CODEXCEL](#)**: Trains minority, underserved, and truant teens from low-income areas for future skill STEM and construction occupations through innovative, unconventional programming and industry partnerships. CODEXCEL is a program of Victory Village Corp. Awarded \$60,000.
- **[KUTS for Christ](#)**: Serves the unhoused and impoverished community in the Houston area by providing free haircuts, hygiene packages, Bibles, and connection with community organizations to help take the next step out of poverty. Awarded \$50,000.
- **[Right to Read](#)**: Provides no-cost reading support to kindergarten through third-grade students in Houston's under-resourced communities, which promotes observable reading growth, confidence and success. Awarded \$60,000.
- **[The Summer Institute](#)**: Seeks to encourage, equip and empower under-resourced middle school students to become diligent scholars and faithful leaders in their communities. Awarded \$60,000.
- **[Zoe's Toolbox](#)**: Offers free early developmental therapy toolboxes to families in the Down Syndrome community to empower parents with resources to assist them in encouraging their child's developmental growth outside of professional therapy. Awarded \$20,000.

The five Project Flourish award recipients were selected from a field of 12 semi-finalists, a total pool of 34 applicants.

“The process of getting from application to selection is difficult, but knowing each one of these finalists can have an immeasurable impact on this city and the people in it, is priceless,” said Lyndsey Knight, Director of Innovation and Engagement at First Presbyterian Church of Houston. “We look forward to watching each of these organizations find their place in the fabric of this city.”

(more)

In recent months, each semi-finalist was paired with an accomplished business leader who helped to refine their business plan and pitch presentation. The panel of judges made up of business and community leaders who are members of the First Presbyterian congregation, selected the award recipients and determined how much each will receive.

“Once again we are inspired by the depth and breadth of innovation demonstrated by the participants of Project Flourish,” said Rev. Curtis Bronzan, Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. “Through the selection of these five organizations, we are excited to add new avenues for serving this city to the collection of “Flourishers.””

The five Project Flourish award recipients will be presented to the FPC community at 12:30 PM, Sunday, April 16, in the Fellowship Hall of FPC Houston, 5300 Main Street, Houston. Media are welcome.

The amount of total award per winning venture is conditional upon the proper paperwork being drafted and mutually agreed upon.

To learn more, please visit [www.projectflourish.org](http://www.projectflourish.org).

#### **About First Presbyterian Church Houston**

Established in 1839, First Presbyterian Church of Houston was the first church to organize and build in Houston. Today its congregation continues to worship and serve from its location in the heart of the city's museum district. Committed to providing opportunities to gather, grow, and go, the FPC Houston community strives to impact Houston and beyond through multiple worship styles, Biblical teaching, and diverse opportunities to serve both locally and globally. FPC is affiliated with ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. This relationship with the denomination is expressed through participation in its local governing body, the Presbytery of Texas. For more information, visit <https://fpchouston.org>.

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