FSC Pauses to Honor the Life and Legacy of Two Giants

Reverend C. T. Vivian and Congressman John R. Lewis
July 17, 2020 was the day the world witnessed the death of not one but two giants who made a huge impact on the lives of Americans over the last 60 plus years ~ it was the day two soldiers stepped off the battlefield. Both will be missed dearly but both worked for years to improve civil and human rights…

Cordy Tindell Vivian (July 30, 1924 – July 17, 2020) ~ was an American minister, author, and close friend and lieutenant of Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement.

For the Rev. C.T. Vivian, a jail cell was about as familiar as a police officer's fist. For his work during the height of the civil rights movement, the minister and activist was arrested more times than he cared to count and suffered several brutal beatings at the hands of officers throughout the South. All the while, he held fast to one principle: "In no way would we allow nonviolence to be destroyed by violence," he recalled in an oral history recorded in 2011.

Vivian was a proselytizer of nonviolent resistance. He was also a leading member of the Freedom Riders, a loose collection of activists who took rode interstate buses to protest segregated bus terminals — and often suffered beatings and arrests as a result. From Peoria, Ill., where he organized some of the civil rights movement's first sit-ins in the late 1940s, to Selma, Ala., where a sheriff sucker-punched him on camera in 1965, Vivian bore the same message: Change must come, and nonviolent direct action is necessary to bring it about. Over the following decade, his efforts took him to Chattanooga, Tenn., Jackson Miss., and Birmingham, Ala., among other cities throughout the South.

John Robert Lewis (February 21, 1940 – July 30, 2020) grew up in an era of racial segregation. He was born outside of Troy, Alabama. In 1957, Lewis left Alabama to attend the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee. There, he learned about nonviolent protest and helped to organize sit-ins at segregated lunch counters. He was arrested during these demonstrations, but Lewis was committed to the civil rights movement and went on to participate in the Freedom Rides of 1961.

Martin Luther King's sermons and news of the 1955-56 Montgomery bus boycott inspired Lewis to act for the changes he wanted to see. Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., he joined the burgeoning civil rights movement. Lewis was a Freedom Rider, spoke at 1963's March on Washington and led the demonstration that became known as "Bloody Sunday." He was elected to Congress in 1986 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.

In December 2019, Congressman Lewis announced that he had been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer and he passed away on July 17, 2020.

#KeepMoving #GoodTrouble #NecessaryTrouble

COVID-19 UPDATE

In an effort to aid public health efforts to contain the coronavirus and keep our employees safe, the staff at Fund for Southern Communities are currently still remotely until further notice.

Thanks to technologies of today, FSC will still be operating as usual. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Please take the necessary precautions in keeping yourself safe and healthy.

Thank you for your understanding.

Congratulations to FSC Grantee Partners!

Lakewood Amphitheater Community Finance Committee:

Polar Rock Neighborhood Association
South Concerned Citizens Atlanta
Southern Black Girls And Women’s Consortium Recommendation:

3D Girls, Inc.
Alabama Black Women’s Roundtable
BAMA Kids, Inc.
Black Belt Women Rising
Black Girls Rock of MS, Inc.
Brilliant Stars Academy
Center Helping Obesity In Children End Successfully, Inc.
Change Today, Change Tomorrow
Children of the Village Network, Inc.
CHOICE
CONNECTIONS DIVINE INC.
Datule’ Artist Collective
The Next Grant Cycle Deadline to be announced soon!

FSC can only award grants to organizations that are registered as a non-profit organization within their respective state (Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina). Organizations must also have 501(c)(3) tax status, or a Fiscal Agent; a limited number of 501(c)(4) organizations with a Fiscal Agent may be accepted.

Some things to consider before applying:

- Is your organization working for long term social change?
- Is your total organizational budget $150,000 or less?
- Is your organization located and doing work in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina?
- We do not fund direct services, social services or special events.

If you fit these basic guidelines, your organization may be a good fit for the Fund for Southern Communities.

For specific guidelines and details on how to apply, download our Application Here!

If you have any questions regarding eligibility, preparation of the application, or the funding process, please call 404-371-8404 or write the Fund at grants@fundsouth.org.

Total: $123,150

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