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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

**Nehemiah Charitable Fund Receives  
\$110,000 Grant for Youth Civic Engagement Program**

**San Bernardino, CA** – The Nehemiah Charitable Fund is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$110,000 grant from the Black Equity Collective (BEC). The grant award is administered through the BEC's CATALYZE Program which is based in Los Angeles and is focused on strengthening the capacity and infrastructure of Black-led and Black-empowering organizations in Southern California.

Grant funds will be used toward programmatic support to hire and train community engagement staff that will administer outreach, voter education, and registration activities in San Bernardino County. The Youth Civic Engagement Program aims to educate voters on the electoral process and increase voter turnout among Black youth in communities of color such as the cities of San Bernardino, Rialto, Fontana, and Highland. Engagement activities will include educational presentations and Get Out the Vote campaign outreach strategies in partnership with various local youth groups.

Historically, white youth are more engaged in the voting process than youth of color whereas many youth of color are more likely to face barriers to voting compared to white youth. Barriers for Black youth often include; lack of transportation to polling places, problems with voter ID, and long lines at the polling places. Other issues that impede the participation of youth of color include poor engagement tactics, low outreach strategies, and the lack of civic education.

"We are very pleased to receive this grant award from the Black Equity Collective," stated Pam Grogan, CEO of the Nehemiah Charitable Fund. "This funding will allow our organization to address the need for targeted outreach to Black youth in San Bernardino County through engagement activities that will aim to increase their understanding of various issues on the Ballot, the electoral process, and engagement with their elected officials. I am confident that we will be able to reach our goal of increasing civic engagement among Black youth and getting them to the polls on election day."

**About the Black Equity Collection (BEC):**

The Black Equity Collective's mission is to join funders and communities as partners in strengthening the long-term sustainability of Black-led and Black-empowering organizations in Southern California. The Collective is a community-public-private partnership with Black Equity as its central, unifying force. The Collective was born out of the Black Equity Initiative (BEI), an effort that began in 2017. Since 2020, The Collective has awarded over \$3.2M to various social justice organizations in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

**About Nehemiah Charitable Fund:**

Nehemiah Charitable Fund is a nonprofit organization that works to build capacity for stronger communities. Our mission is to provide capacity building resources and promote philanthropic leadership in San Bernardino County. We achieve this by providing training, education, and technical assistance to nonprofits and residents. As such, our programs and initiatives aim to increase leadership development, community engagement, and outreach, including racial and social equity for communities of color in our region. Since its inception, our organization has provided outreach and education to over 7,400 individuals representing vulnerable and low-income communities in the region.