

I first started working with Healers of Color Collaborative of Michigan for my Capstone Project at Eastern Michigan University. HCCM is a nonprofit at its beginning stage. The mission of this organization is to provide social and emotional support and resources for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and LGBTQIA+ Communities. These services will be free of charge to the BIPOC communities, and other marginalized populations and will decrease stigmas attached to being a person of color or LGBTQIA+ experiencing mental health concerns. Funds raised will go toward grant programs, scholarships, services, and finding a permanent space for the organization to call home.

I will tell you that as a person who is not of color or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, it was a little intimidating going into a board meeting with all these powerful, intelligent, and quite frankly, remarkable people. The reality could not be further from the truth as I was welcomed and accepted to the group. I am truly grateful for the experience to be a part of something that is so important to ALL communities, as no one should feel stigmatized or be refused the care that they need.

Nedra Cannon, founder of Healers of Collor Collaborative of Michigan, says it best:

“HCCM is so personal to me as a Black woman. I was born in Lansing, MI and have lived most of my life in Michigan. I have always had a passion, a calling rather to be of service to my community. My experiences with mental health and the stigma attached to invisible mental illness fueled my drive to want to work in the helping profession. I have seen firsthand; people be denied service because they were not experiencing acute crises. People of color have long experienced mistrust with the medical, educational, and legal profession and my goals for Healers of Color Collaborative of Michigan are to decrease the stigma attached to seeking mental wellness services for people of color and queer people of color, and to put in place scholarships to eliminate barriers to these disparities. We also strive to create a provider database and offer scholarships to those who identify as Healers so they may have funds to increase their ability to serve our community. BIPOC communities have experienced disadvantages when it comes to safe places, and our goals include providing resources, free mental health first aid training, sponsors and funds to purchase a building to house our counseling center, trauma informed yoga instructors, and health and wellness practitioners...we just need someone to say "YES" to us.”

They just need someone to say YES. Let's be that someone.

If you would like to donate to Healers of Color Collaborative of Michigan, please consider using Barton Malow's Build Your Community Team Member Giving/Match program. Through this program, the Barton Malow Foundation matches up to \$2,000 per person, per year in charitable giving. Making a matched donation is a two-step process.

1. Make a payroll-deducted contribution to the Foundation. Please note that many of you have already elected to do this on a bi-weekly basis for 2021. To make your payroll-deducted contribution, click [here](#).
2. Request that your contribution is matched and donated to the charity of your choice. To request a match, click [here](#).

Details needed to complete the Request a Match form for Healers of Color Collaborative of Michigan:

SAP# 137015

Healers of Color Collaborative of Michigan

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