



November 2019 Newsletter

Dear Donors,

It is our pleasure to update you on the projects The Rumphius Foundation funded in 2019. None of this could happen without your kind and generous support.

We continue to discover wonderful organizations who exemplify Mike's mission of finding small and meaningful ways to leave the world more beautiful than they found it. This year's grant recipients applied special and unique attention to beautifying the spaces in their communities. Both projects described below drew on community collaboration.

### **Project one – Lexington Kentucky**

Last winter we received a wonderful letter from a fifth-grade teacher at **The Sayre School** in Lexington, KY. Audrey Bebensee's students had been given the assignment to do something positive for the environment and to identify funding to support it. One of the students came upon the Rumphius Foundation website ([www.rumphiusfoundation.org](http://www.rumphiusfoundation.org)) where she read about founder, Michael Schuller, and the Foundation's mission. The student was excited to share Miss Rumphius's story with her classmates and the class proposed planting native pollinator gardens around public areas in Lexington similar to what Barbara Cooney's *Miss Rumphius* had done. The fifth graders' second step was to collect *thousands* of bottle caps and lids which were removed from the landfill and repurposed into three environmental-friendly benches. The project taught the children about the environment, community beautification, and working together for a common good. Audrey Bebensee reports "they were thrilled to find that they were to receive the necessary funding to make their plan a reality."



Sayre students work on one of the pollinator gardens which enhance the town.

While another student lies buried in the thousands of bottle caps they recovered.

## Project two- Las Cruces, New Mexico

Our second grant was given to **Cruces Creatives** a nonprofit committed to fostering economic development, supporting the arts, protecting the environment, strengthening social connections and furthering education in Las Cruces, NM, a small city on the border of the Rio Grande. Cruces Creatives provides artistic space and resources for a diverse, intergenerational community. The grant received is for the design and implementation of a collaborative mural enhancing the exterior wall of the town library, which celebrates the diversity and agricultural roots of the community. What makes this project unique is that the mural was designed in a paint-by-number format so that community members of all ages could participate in beautifying the building.



We thank our donors and appreciate your continued support. On to 2020!  
Wishing you and yours a happy healthy new year. [The Schuller Family](#)

*For those wishing to donate, please make checks out to Fidelity Charitable Gifts Fund, writing Rumphius Foundation in the memo line. **Mail your donations to:***

Fidelity Charitable, PO BOX 770001, Cincinnati, Ohio 45277