Community Impact at a Glance

$18m
BMO Harris Bank contributed $18 million to charitable causes.*

16,100+
Attendees at BMO financial education events.

8+ years
BMO has maintained enterprise-wide carbon neutrality for more than eight years.

$1b+
Originated more than $1 billion in loans to small businesses.*

$679m+
BMO’s community development loans support affordable housing, economic development and community services.*

$2.7b+
Mortgage loans, with nearly 31% going to low and moderate income borrowers.*

93%
93% of BMO employees participated in the BMO Employee Giving Campaign.

40%
Senior leadership roles at BMO held by women.

$250m+
New commitments for community development investments.*

900+
BMO Harris Bank provided grants to more than 900 non-profits.*

2019
BMO Harris Bank was featured on the Forbes annual America’s Best Employers For Diversity 2019 list.

$7.3m
Donated by U.S. employees during the 2018 BMO Employee Giving Campaign.*

*Amounts are for the year ended December 31, 2018, and relate to our U.S. operations.
AT BMO, WE ARE DRIVEN by a single Purpose to Boldly Grow the Good in business and life. At our core, we are focused on driving positive change for our customers, our employees and the communities we serve. As part of our Purpose, we’ve made a bold commitment to help create environments that enable zeros barriers to inclusion.

In this Community Impact Review, we’re highlighting our efforts to break down barriers beyond our walls, to help foster economic health and vitality while driving social change. Whether through our program to fund scholarships for under-served students throughout North America or the investments we’ve made to reduce economic disparity in Chicago’s neighborhoods, these stories are meaningful examples of how we are using our resources and expertise to provide access to education and build stronger communities.

We understand that access to economic prosperity is a barrier to success for many. Our hope is that BMO can play a role in boldly growing more opportunities for those who need it most.

I thank you for taking the time to read this review. I hope it gives you a glimpse into just a few of the ways that BMO is working to reduce economic disparity and create sustainable opportunities for all.

David Casper
U.S. Chief Executive Officer, BMO Financial Group
“Economic opportunity and strong neighborhoods go hand in hand.”

Delivering on Bold Commitments

BMO announces largest U.S. philanthropic commitment designed to bolster Chicago neighborhood revitalization

“OUR PARTNERS IN CHICAGO’S Austin neighborhood have a powerful vision for the future and we’re honored to help accelerate the implementation of that vision with generous corporate partners like BMO,” says Sean Garrett, President and CEO of United Way of Metro Chicago. “Other neighborhoods across the city are doing this work as well, and we’re excited to partner with them as we continue toward building a stronger Chicago region.”

This year, BMO Harris Bank was proud to announce a $10 million commitment to United Way of Metro Chicago, the largest U.S. philanthropic donation in the bank’s history, in support of Neighborhood Network. The United Way launched the Neighborhood Network initiative in 2013 to create and implement break-through strategies to reduce economic disparity in ten neighborhoods across Chicagoland. Bringing together business and community leaders, the Neighborhood Network initiative is focused on engaging residents, building a greater sense of community, expanding education and connecting residents to workforce opportunities.

This work BMO Harris is supporting through the initiative will be heavily concentrated in the Austin neighborhood, and will help execute their community revitalization plan and support programs, social service infrastructure and capital improvement. The remaining investment will be directed to building infrastructure and developing organizational capacity across United Way’s other Neighborhood Networks.

BMO is putting its Purpose, Boldly Grow the Good in business and life, into action. Through this partnership with United Way, the bank hopes to help create a sustainable future for all Chicagoland residents, with zero barriers to inclusion, a goal aligned to the Bold Commitments it announced in 2019.

“Economic opportunity and strong neighborhoods go hand in hand,” said Dave Casper, U.S. CEO. “As an institution with deep Chicago roots, we consider it our responsibility to boldly grow the good across the city. We look forward to working with the entire City of Chicago to remove barriers to economic inclusion for all Chicagoans.”

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Michael Bush, CEO of Great Place to Work, meets David Thomas, after a presentation on the importance of diversity and inclusion in our workforce.
“Without scholarship programs like those that ETE funds, the market would miss out on great talent, and the possibilities of a more diverse workplace.”

Building Brighter Futures
Equity Through Education celebrates 15 years of providing access to education and opportunity

“BMO’S EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION (ETE) scholarship has opened doors to a range of opportunities for me,” says Sandy Jean-Charles, Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) scholar. “I landed an amazing internship, where I grew more confident in my abilities. This collaboration between JRF and BMO Capital Markets carves out a much-needed space for minority students and helps level the playing field.”

Every year, BMO Capital Markets donates a day of institutional equity trading commissions from the U.S., Canada and Europe to charities helping under-privileged students through scholarships, internships, bursaries and other academic programs. This year marked a special year on the trading floor as BMO rang in ETE’s 15th year. Since the program’s introduction in 2005, more than CDN$21 million has been raised and 5,000 students have been provided with greater access to education.

Celebrating this milestone year of giving, BMO Capital Markets’ 2019 ETE trading day raised CDN$1.6 million toward educational assistance for students in North America and Europe.

One of the eight charities that received a portion of this year’s proceeds was the JRF. By providing grants to minority students with leadership potential, but who lack the resources to fulfill their educational aspirations, the JRF enables students to attend schools they could not otherwise afford, ultimately breaking down barriers to inclusion.

Like Sandy, BMO’s own David Thomas, BMO trading floor Vice President and Chair of BMO New York’s Black Professional Network, has been impacted by the JRF. When it came time to apply for college, there was only one place Thomas wanted to attend: The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, it was financially out of reach, but the JRF Scholarship was there to help.

“David is just one of many leaders in our industry who have had the opportunity to thrive thanks to more inclusive company policies and financial assistance from programs like ETE,” said Dan Barclay, CEO and Group Head, BMO Capital Markets. “Without scholarship programs like those that ETE funds, the market would miss out on great talent. We are proud to celebrate 15 years of ETE.”
Who We Are
Established in 1817, BMO Financial Group is a highly diversified financial services provider based in North America. BMO provides a broad range of personal and commercial banking, wealth management and investment banking products and services.