

Community Foundation of Southern Indiana awards grants at annual event

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 02 December 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 02 December 2009 13:56

Forty-two local charitable organizations got good news Monday, November 30 when they received grants from the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana. The organizations, which serve residents of Clark, Floyd and Harrison counties, were recognized at the Community Foundation's annual grant event at Kye's in Jeffersonville.

A total of \$108,000 was awarded to 42 Southern Indiana organizations, said CFSI program officer Melissa Weissinger. The funding came from the Community Foundation's Community Endowment Fund. A total of \$285,711 was requested through 63 grant applications. "Last year, we increased the maximum amount available through individual grants from \$2,500 to \$5,000, and that generated more applications," Weissinger said. "We saw a comparable amount of applications again this year. Clearly, the economy continues to impact the community. More people need help, and these organizations do important work that directly deals with these challenges. We are gratified that we can make a contribution."

Grant proposals were considered by a committee of 22 dedicated volunteers, who spent many hours making initial evaluations and then following up with applicants, including site visits, phone interviews and other work meant to ensure the committee had all of the details necessary to decide which grants to fund. The volunteers evaluated each application based on how many people will be affected by the funding, along with other criteria.

"These are not easy decisions," Weissinger said, "and all of the applicants have a worthy cause. When you have finite resources, you must make a very detailed analysis about how organizations will spend the money, and about where the greatest needs lie. Our committee takes this process very seriously, and they did outstanding work."

Following is an alphabetized list of organizations receiving grants:

American Red Cross, Clark County chapter, received start-up funding to implement an Indiana State Department of Health nurse-assistant training program.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Jeffersonville, in support of the Augustus F. Hawkins Literacy Center.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, for a two-year pilot program to mentor students at Hazelwood school.

Blue River Services, to outfit one of five bedrooms at the nearly complete Wyandotte Youth Shelter for boys.

Brandon's House Counseling Center, to provide free counseling for teens and their families.

Carnegie Center for Art and History, to fund a permanent exhibit about Lucy Higgs Nichols, a former slave who sought refuge with the 23rd Indiana Regiment.

Center for Women and Families, to renovate the outdoor courtyard at its New Albany facility.

Childplace, to add or replace office furniture in its administration building.

Clark County Superior II Drug Court, to ensure all participants receive clinical assessment in addition to case management assessment.

Communities in Schools of Clark County, to operate Helping Hands Service Clubs in 10 Title I elementary schools, which serve children with behavioral problems.

Delta Epsilon sorority, to provide an automated external defibrillator to New Albany-Floyd County public schools.

Down Syndrome Support Association of Southern Indiana, to operate a free speech-language pathology class for people with Down Syndrome.

Dream Factory, Louisville Chapter, for a Southern Indiana Dream Bank, which grants dreams to children who live in Southern Indiana.

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Falls of the Ohio Foundation, for the second phase of design work on the Crossroads Campaign New Exhibit Project, which begins in early 2010.

Floyd County Head Start, to purchase an assortment of die cut sets to enhance numerous classroom activities for its preschool programs.

Floyd Memorial Hospital and Health Services, to provide therapeutic massage to patients with serious medical issues.

Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, to conduct two outreach programs in Floyd County: Play It Safe, for girls at Silver Street Elementary, and Science Sensations, for girls at Parkview Community Center.

Guerin Inc., to purchase a standalone lift for elders receiving skilled nursing care at The Villas of Guerin Woods.

Hispanic Connection of Southern Indiana, to connect Hispanic workers with businesses needing employees; aid in processing immigration forms; and to encourage widespread participation in the Census among the Hispanic community.

Hosparus — Hospice of Southern Indiana, to purchase five pieces of medical equipment that will aid in caring for hospice patients.

Howard Steamboat Museum, to conduct community outreach in support of establishing Spring Into Art as an annual event; to continue fall and summer art classes; and to improve the museum's Web presence.

Interfaith Community Council, to support its emergency financial services program in Floyd County, which helps families in hardship afford food and avoid utility disconnection or eviction.

Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana, which plans to deliver financial literacy programs to 250 Southern Indiana youth in 2010, in partnership with non-profit and educational organizations.

Leadership Harrison County, to fund a SIMSOC ("Simulated Society") day for its current class. SIMSOC is designed to help participants experience life from differing perspectives.

Leadership Southern Indiana, to fund a SIMSOC day.

LifeSpan Resources, to provide emergency financial assistance to clients who need help with prescriptions, utility bills, minor heating/air repairs and transportation fees.

LifeSpring, to implement evidence-based treatment programs that have proven effective, as well as materials to increase public education.

Louisville Zoological Gardens to support Zoo To You, the Zoo's education outreach initiative, in which zoo educators bring zoo animals and science lesson plans to underserved elementary schools in Clark and Floyd counties.

The Nature Conservancy, for a public service announcement, in partnership with movie theaters in Clark and Floyd counties, about the importance of conservation.

New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, to expand its Walking Books program, with an infusion of new large-print and audio books.

CAPE Floyd County, to operate its First Teacher program in seven elementary schools. The program aims to improve literacy for kindergarteners by creating a literacy-rich and supportive home environment.

New Hope Services, to purchase two computers with adaptive hardware and software to aid communication, training and education of people diagnosed with autism and other developmental disabilities.

New Life Community Development Corp., for an after-school program that provides tutoring and educational enrichment to disadvantaged students in New Albany's West End. The goal is to double the number of children served.

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New Progressive Baptist Church, to present and promote an educational and drug-free prevention curriculum program to participants.

Our Place Drug and Alcohol Education Services, to fund an afterschool program geared toward 10- to 14-year-old youth. The program covers prevention of substance abuse, violence and gambling, and also provides homework assistance, recreation and other services.

Personal Counseling Service, to provide mental health counseling to families who are considered working poor or who lack insurance or access to Medicaid.

Our Lady of Providence Junior-Senior High School, for its SADD Chapter, which operates a yearlong program for students in grades 7-12 about making good decisions regarding underage drinking, other drug use and impaired driving.

Serenity, to support its new recovery complex, a 48-bed residential facility that serves homeless men with addictions.

Southern Indiana Asset Building Coalition, to help locate and train volunteers to complete 100 tax returns for elderly and low-income clients who have not been previously served by the coalition.

St. Luke's United Church of Christ, to provide food, supplies, pest control and equipment for providing free weekly meals to the hungry.

St. Mark's United Church of Christ, to purchase equipment for its soup kitchen and to provide assistance for people facing a housing crisis because of overdue rent or utilities.

West Clark Community Schools, to support Plug Into Reading. The grant will help Henryville Junior-Senior and Borden Junior-Senior high schools foster reading for pleasure and comprehension by supplementing the district-wide MP3 recorded books program.

For more information about these grants or the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, call (812) 948-4662 or (888) 388-2374 or see the organization's Web site, www.cfsouthernindiana.com.