

Northfield YouthBank 2016 Grant Recipients

RoboRaiders – Northfield High School Robotics Team



The RoboRaiders Robotics Team is known for the time they put into building their competition robots, however, that is just a small part of what they do. The competition build season lasts only six weeks, the rest of the year this group meets to learn new skills, practice their techniques, market their work, fundraise and inspire youth younger than them to participate in STEM programs. Five members of the Robotics team put forward a YouthBank proposal asking for funds to help them with their outreach to students in the high and middle schools that aren't familiar with the robotics team and the skills one can gain by participating. The YouthBank team is excited to fund this group and the amazing work they are doing. Fiscal Agent: Northfield Public School District.

Driver's Education Scholarships

This proposal was submitted by four members of the TORCH Youth Advisory Board. Last fall YouthBank gave funds to them to start a scholarship fund for out-of-school experiences. A majority of their funds were spent supporting both classroom and Behind-the-Wheel Driver's Education courses for youth that were unable to afford these courses. Transportation remains a huge barrier to youth connecting with programs or activities in their community. In addition, there are many youth that drive without a license as they can't afford to take the classes. Having scholarships available to those that need it should help in addressing these concerns. This project fits nicely within the YouthBank themes and is run by the TORCH Youth Advisory Board, both factors that excited the YouthBank team and influenced their decision to fund it. Fiscal Agent: Northfield Public School District



Spring 2016 Grants

Themes: Engaging Youth in Community Building and/or Social Justice

Recording Studio for the Key



This proposal was put forward by three youth that serve on the board at the Northfield Union of Youth (NUY). The NUY and its building, the Key, are a home away from home for many teens in the community. At The Key, youth are encouraged to explore their talents through Art nights, poetry jams and open mic concerts. The funding provided by YouthBank will pay for the installation of a free, open to all recording studio. The YouthBank team was drawn to this project as the studio will give youth the opportunity to truly explore their interest in music and since it will be free to use it particularly helps youth who would be unable to afford recording studio fees.

Fiscal Agent: Northfield Union of Youth

Marnita's Table

Representatives from The Mayor's Youth Council were the youth behind this project proposal. Building on the theme of "Community Building", a Marnita's Table event will bring together youth from the High School, Area Learning Center and Arcadia for a meal and structured conversation. The goal of the event will be to break down social barriers that exist between youth that attend the various schools. We are excited to support this time-tested model of community building.

Fiscal Agent: Northfield Public School District



Fall 2016 Grants

Themes: Healthy Living and/or Creating Community Connections

Gender Sexuality Alliance - Awareness Campaign



The Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) is an all-inclusive group that focuses on helping young people find and come to terms with who they are. The GSA provides a network of support within the high-school and works to spread the message that no one is alone in their experiences. They asked for funding from YouthBank in order to expand their presence in the high school. They will do this by: creating an Ally Pledge, making and distributing Pride merchandise, having speakers and holding meetings that are open to all. The YouthBank team was eager to support this project that is offering broad support, awareness and education to their peers.

Fiscal Agent: Northfield Public School District

The Race Exhibit

This project was a proposal made by three students who are currently in English as a Second Language (ESL) at Northfield High School. *Race: Are We So Different?*, an exhibit currently at the Science Museum of Minnesota, helps visitors understand what race is and what it is not. The youth leading this project had been looking at race throughout the fall semester and put forward this project idea in the hopes of involving more students in the conversation. YouthBank grant funds will cover the costs for 90 students to attend the exhibit and work with representatives from the Penumbra Theater to use theater as a way to reflect, spark dialogue, problem-solve, model solutions, and take action around the issues presented in the exhibit. The YouthBank team was excited by this project because it is a new way to broach the subject of race in our community and fits well into their grant theme of “creating community connections.”



Fiscal Agent: Northfield Public School District

The Studio

A project that fit into the “healthy living” theme of this fall’s grant cycle is “The Studio”. Put forward by three high school students, “The Studio” will be an all-inclusive area and time for any student grades 6-12. Meeting at the Northfield Arts Guild, on Saturday evenings, they will vary between semi-structured time with instructions in a certain art medium or a visit from a guest artist and freestyle, open-ended nights for students to use any medium. Their YouthBank grant will help to cover the cost of snacks, instruction, paid supervision and all needed art supplies. The desire to fund this project was rooted in two areas; first, that creating art has shown to help teenagers work through complex emotions, and second, the desire to see a healthy place in town where youth can hang out.



Fiscal Agent: Northfield Arts Guild

Turf Field for The Key



Transforming the unfinished outdoor space behind The Key into a multi-purpose turf field available for all youth, was the desire of the five youth who submitted this grant proposal. The space is currently undeveloped and under-utilized, however a turf-field where any sport could be played, free of charge, and that is centrally located in downtown Northfield will help bring various youth together. The funds received from YouthBank will be pooled with other sources to landscape the space and install a 30 by 50 foot Turf Field. The YouthBank team felt this project resonated with both their themes by giving a safe space to participate in healthy activities and bringing different groups of youth together.

Fiscal Agent: Northfield Union of Youth

Summer Camp Scholarships

This grant proposal was submitted by the TORCH Youth Advisory Board. They believe it is important for young people to have meaningful activities to do in the summer. Summer camps can be great exposure to learning new things, to college campuses and to delving further into interest areas. However they are often off-limits to the many youth who do not have the financial resources to take part in them. YouthBank funds will be used to provide scholarships to various summer camps. The TORCH Youth Advisory Board will implement an application and review process to distribute the scholarships. The YouthBank team is excited to fund this project for many reasons including the direct and significant impact it will have on those that receive scholarships and the fact that the TORCH Youth Advisory Board will be administering the program.



Fiscal Agent: Northfield Public School District

Immigration Exchange Dinner



The Immigration Exchange Dinner will introduce mainstream and Latino community members, both youth and adults, and allow them to get to know each other through learning about one another’s immigration stories, dining together and having facilitated conversations. The six youth that put forward this project proposal have participated in a similar youth only dinner and were eager to expand it to more people in the community. This project proposal was enthusiastically supported by the YouthBank team as they feel it perfectly fits the theme of “creating community connections,” creates cross generational interactions and raises the discourse around the topic of immigration.

Fiscal Agent: Healthfinders Collaborative

LGBTQ Support Group

Starting a group that supports Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning youth in the community is the focus of this project. The three high school students responsible for this project have a desire to ensure that there is a safe space (a space that has an open and accepting environment where people with the same experiences can come together without judgment) for LGBTQ youth in Northfield. In addition to providing the space they will have workshops and speakers to support and educate youth and their families. YouthBank funding will support speakers, education materials and group projects. The YouthBank team is excited that this project will provide a space for a group of their peers that haven’t had many support systems previously.

Fiscal Agent: First United Church of Christ

