



2019-2020 Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club Community Service Grants and Distributions

The theme for this year's community service grants was to fund projects that would improve and enhance the quality of life for Evanston school-aged children and youth in the areas of health, safety and the environment. We were excited to give grants to seven outstanding organizations, representatives of which spoke at our June 2 meeting. Below is a brief description of our grantees.

Curt's Cafe

The youth ages 17-20 served by Curt's Cafe live in the most at-risk situations and they have faced many barriers to success, often resulting in anger issues. Through this program nine youth from Evanston learn job skills, receive counseling twice a week, work on GED's and receive a stipend. Since the cafes are currently closed due to COVID19, they are partnering with Connections For the Homeless to prepare 2000-2500 meals a week for four shelters and for seniors living by themselves. They practice social distancing as they prepare and pack the meals and many of the youth have found the activity to be rewarding as a way of giving back. Our grant helps make up some of the loss of revenue caused by the closure of the cafes.

Erie Family Health Foundation, Erie Evanston/Skokie Center

The Evanston/Skokie Center was established in 2011 in response to the needs revealed through the Evanston 150 research, for which our club gave the first seed money. Erie provides medical, behavioral health counseling, psychiatry, and wrap around programs to low-income teens and adults in the area, regardless of ability to pay. In 2019 services were provided to over 9000 patients at the Evanston/Skokie Center of which 90% were low income. 73% had Medicaid and 17% were uninsured.

The pandemic has necessitated expanded telehealth services, redesign of examination areas to separate patients visiting for well visits from those there for sick visits, and expansion of services from six to seven days per week. Support of their "Teen Hub" will make possible more testing for sexually transmitted infections as well as a sustained response to COVID-19 for over 1300 adolescents ages 12 to 19.

Hillside Food Pantry

Hillside Food Pantry was established eleven years ago. It has built a sustainable food rescue program which provides food to an average of 400-500 households per week with distribution on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The pantry is staffed almost entirely with volunteers who give approximately 250 hours each week. Food is supplied at a very reasonable price by the Greater Chicago Food Depository which amasses food donations from local grocery stores. Distributions are made in brown grocery bags which must be new per Health Department requirements.

An anticipated rise in the number of patrons due to the pandemic and unemployment, along with a price increase in bags and shipping of them, will strain the budget at Hillside. We hope our grant will help this valuable service to our community.

Books & Breakfast

Books & Breakfast typically provides 180 children and young teens at 5 school sites with a nutritious breakfast, tutoring assistance and game time prior to the school day. Overwhelmingly children of color, B & B participants receive personal attention and learning support from staff and volunteer mentors. The COVID virus has upended their model, forcing Books & Breakfast to develop ZOOM programming to keep students engaged and learning. Our funds will support their summer plans which include providing deliveries of books, art supplies and learning materials to every participant in the program.

Tiz Media Foundation

Tiz Media Foundation's (TMF) mission is to increase youth confidence, interest, and academic achievement in math and science by designing innovative and engaging programs that integrate STEM with music, writing, and art. Since their founding, TMF has engaged more than 1,000 youth in its environmental and STEM experiential programming.

In partnership with the City of Evanston's Office of Sustainability, TMF will create and implement a digital environmental education curriculum that teaches elementary-age youth about waste reduction. The curriculum will align to the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP), a goal of which is to increase the community waste diversion rate to 100%. The curriculum will provide youth with hands-on learning opportunities to understand the actions the City is and plans to take to reduce waste, the importance of waste diversion, and how their actions can support this goal.

Evanston Work Ethic (WE) Program, Forrest E. Powell Foundation

Evanston Work Ethic's motto is *the future counts*. Each year, WE creates a group of non-college-bound ETHS juniors and seniors seeking an opportunity for real-world work experience and teaches them to interact professionally and perform successfully in a work environment. With an ultimate goal of helping the students prepare for financial independence, WE's 18 month program includes practicing soft-skills in pre-internship workshops, participating in career exploration days along with the prior year's group,

working in a six week paid summer internship, meeting with a mentor matched to the student's career-interest, and getting one-on-one coaching for post high school planning. This partnership between school and participating employers emphasizes learning entry job skills and working as part of a team and provides students with a strong start after high school by helping them build confidence and learn skills that carry over into the world of work.

The Recyclery Collective

'Mobility Justice' is the mantra of The Recyclery Collective, an interesting, innovative idea, reaching out to many in the Chicago area, including Evanston. It is an educational bike shop that promotes sustainability by giving access to tools, skill, and opportunities for collaboration to a diverse group of participants ages 5-75+.

Our grant is to be used for new parts and accessories to offer at Youth Open Shop through the Earn a Bike/Bike parts program. Youth Open Shop is held on Monday afternoons from 4:00-6:00. Having additional parts available to earn incentivizes participation among youth and keeps them engaged.

Other Larger 2019-2020 ELRC Community Service Committee Distributions Outside the Grants Process

Evanston Police & Fire Foundation

First United Methodist Church for soup kitchen

Asian Family Services

Lula Smith Run for Jesus for sack lunches

Evanston Community Foundation Rapid Response Fund matched by District Grant

Bundled Blessings

KOI's Table 23 donation to ELRC went to Rainbows For All Children