

Foundations Community Partnership awards \$210,000 in grants

Foundations Community Partnership board of directors has announced the distribution of \$210,000 in grant funding to support 19 Bucks County nonprofit organizations and the families they serve.

The grant program is an integral part of Foundations' mission to improve the lives of youth and their families in Bucks County. The grants included \$100,000 in Bucks Innovation and Improvement Grants (BIG), \$60,000 in Capital Grants and a \$50,000 Target Funding Grant.

Foundations Community Partnership awarded a \$50,000 Targeted Funding Grant to the Bucks County Housing Group for its Transition Age Shared Living program. This pilot program will help facilitate community integration of transition age youth, to help them establish themselves as independent community members through a shared living model.

Foundations' Bucks Innovation and Improvement Grants (BIG) were awarded to the following organizations and programs:

- Network of Victim Assistance in Jamison will use the grant for its Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse training program, which will offer training for 500 participants to help them comply with current legislation by the Department of Public Welfare.

- Access Services in Ft. Washington will use the funding to expand its "Enriching Lives with Bucks Life" program service area from Lower Bucks County to include more activities in Central Bucks County. The program serves Bucks County families with a child or adolescent who has emotional, behavioral, social and/or learning challenges.

- Family Service Association of Bucks County will use the grant for its Call Center, which brings together three vital services designed to secure the health and well being of 10,000 vulnerable Bucks County residents.

- The Aldie Foundation's Adolescent Counseling Program in Doylestown will use the grant to support its substance abuse counseling and treatment program for 50 adolescents ages 14 to 17 years old who are struggling with substance abuse and dependency.

- The Bucks County Health Improvement Project's (BCHIP) Clinic provides free primary and chronic care for low-income, uninsured adults and is the only free clinic in the area for unemployed adults. The grant will enable the clinic to expand its ability to provide onsite mental health counseling and to direct health care to these underserved patients.

- Central Bucks Family YMCA in Doylestown will use the grant for its Ability Summer Camp, where 25 children with disabilities will be selected from 36 mainstream day camps to participate in arts and crafts, music, sports, games, and relationship-building.

- The Lower Bucks Family YMCA in Fairless Hills will use the grant to expand its Special Abilities Building Bridges program for pre-K and school age children. They will provide education and leadership training for YMCA staff and

teachers to address the needs of children in their Early Childhood Education Program in Fairless Hills and Morrisville.

- Snipes Farm and Education Center's Farm to School Program in Morrisville will use the funding to work closely with local school staff, administrators and experts from the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to articulate specific education goals for students with special needs.

- NHP Foundation's Operation Pathways - Brighton Lip in Levittown will use the grant to provide a safe, educational environment for children of low-to-moderate income families during out-of-school time.

- YWCA in Trevoze will use the funding to support its Girls Circle program, which is focused on building self-concept and self-esteem for girls ages 9 to 18 to prevent development of mental health problems.

- Chandler Hall's Intergenerational Education and Outreach program in Newtown will use the funding to ensure, through educational outreach in Bucks, that young children, especially those at risk, have purposeful and successful opportunities to interact with elders through development of an training manual and outreach.

- ATG Learning Academy in Warmminster will use the funding for its ATG Together program. This socially based, interactive program focuses on providing clubs to a student body of 50 special needs students.

- Six organizations received Capital Grants from Foundations Community Partnership:

- Christ's Home for Children in Warmminster will use the funding to purchase a new van to safely transport clients to activities and appointments. The program uses the family education model to provide care for 70 special needs children and youth in group home settings.

- Council Rock School District in Newtown will use the grant to purchase a van for its Achieve program, which provides pre-vocational services to transitional age youth with developmental disabilities.

- Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Perkasie will use the funding to build a new tack room that will allow easier access for 160 clients with special needs.

- Potential, Inc. in Newtown provides services to 125 children, youth and adults with autism to help them reach their educational, social, and emotional potential. It will use the grant for new waiting room furniture and a security system in its new building.

- Peaceful Living in Harleysville will use the grant to make acoustic modifications and reduce echoes in treatment rooms. Peaceful Living is a day program providing services for 30 transition age young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Valley Youth House in Warmminster provides emergency shelter for up to 85 runaway, homeless and street children and youth per year. The grant will help pay for new furniture in the emergency shelter.



Council Rock students take gifts for Head Start children

Schoolwide project by student government

Administrators and members of the student government at Council Rock High School North participated in the annual Holiday Project for the Bucks County Local Head Start program.

In November and December they held "dollar days" when members of the Student Executive Board went around to every classroom at North and collected donations from the students to buy presents for children in the program.

"This year we collected enough money for each kid to have \$75 worth of presents from Walmart," said Kara McCullough, the executive board's public relations officer.

"After we have the money, the students and administrators take a bus to Walmart one day after school and shop for each child."

"We receive a slip of paper that shows the size of clothes and shoes that they wear as well as what they are interested in (toys, colors, characters, TV shows, etc.). Once we shop for every child, the student government spends another day after school wrapping each present."

"On the day of the event, all of us bring the presents with us, as well as activities and crafts (including one of our musical groups from school such as the chorus or band to play holiday songs) and we throw a holiday party."

"There is nothing that is more rewarding than seeing the look on the children's faces when they open up their gifts. The smiles are endless. Though this event requires a lot of time and effort, it is 100 percent worth it and we all truly enjoy being a part of it."

The students hope they can inspire more people to get involved in the Head Start program or programs like it.

The photographs show students preparing gifts for the Head Start program.



Foundations Community Partnership, presented the Ivy Hill Foundation with a \$10,000 grant that will be used to build a tack room at its new equestrian facility on Mill Road in Perkasie. At the Dec. 22 check presentation are, from left, Ron Bernstein, left, executive director; Foundations Community Partnership (FCP); Chris Brockert, president, Ivy Hill Foundation; Caroline O'Connell Sinton, associate director; FCP; and Donna Carlson, development director, Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center.



CB West to debut innovative instrument in concert

Central Bucks High School West, the first high school in the world to own the Seaboard Grand, will unveil the revolutionary new keyboard in concert on Jan. 17.

An innovation in both technology and music, the Seaboard strives to be what no other instrument is: perceptive to the player. ROLI founder and Seaboard inventor Roland Lamb wanted it to be "a new way of playing that would connect musical fluidity with every moment of physical contact ... a single continuous surface, such that every note would become interconnected and fully alive."

Neil Delson, CB West's director of bands, has worked with ROLI over the past year to

coordinate the purchase plan and delivery of West's Seaboard, which will be one of only 88 Seaboard Grand Limited First Edition instruments built by the London-based company.

"My goal for my students is to always continue to expose them to a wide range of musical practices and genres," Delson said. "The Seaboard has afforded them the opportunity to experiment with new technology that no other school in the world currently has access to; this level of cultural innovation personifies the town of Doylestown and its commitment to arts education."

The Seaboard's arrival at CB West was due to a creative partnership with OOKA restaurants and the Doylestown school community.

Early last spring, OOKA created a CB West sushi roll and agreed to donate proceeds toward the Seaboard. CB West students, staff, and parents launched a fundraising campaign, including a kickoff dinner, social media promotions and sushi sales during West's jazz festival. OOKA's rolls were a huge success, generating more than \$9,000 and helping West reach its goal in fewer than two months.

"We are proud to be part of such the Doylestown community which has been so supportive of arts education," said Ken Johnston, regional manager of OOKA Restaurants. "This has been an exciting project and we are thrilled to have played a part."

CB West student musicians and alumni will be joined by guest keyboardist Cory Henry, of jazz-R&B group Snarky Puppy, at the concert, which will take place in CB West's auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17.

Two pieces to be performed are commissioned from CB West graduates Andrew Carson and Matthew Samson.

General admission, student and senior, and VIP tickets will be available. Visit cbwestseaboard.brownpapertickets.com for tickets.

The cost is \$12 general admission and \$10 for students/seniors. VIP tickets, at \$45, include preferred seating, signed merchandise and a special reception prior to the concert.