



Douglas
County
Community
Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015



A Full Circle Youth Program student practices using a touchscreen computer.



A Boys & Girls Club member works on math skills.

Grants Program to Be More Flexible and Responsive

We've made some changes to our popular Community Grants program to make it more flexible and responsive to the needs of Douglas County nonprofits.

Community Grants support a wide range of projects in the areas of arts and culture, children and youth, community development, education, health, housing and human services.

Two Opportunities to Apply Each Year

Applicants will now be able to choose between two times to apply in a calendar year. In 2016, deadlines will be February 1 and September 1.

"We know that community needs and opportunities arise throughout the year," said program officer Marilyn Hull. "Providing a choice between two grant cycles will allow nonprofits to apply when the timing is better for them."

More Flexible Guidelines

We've made minor changes to our grant guidelines to broaden the types of expenses we will be open to funding. Under some circumstances, we will now consider funding items that may become recurring costs for the nonprofit. DCCF will not provide multi-year funding for the same expense, so it would be up to the organization to sustain the program in the future.

"For example, nonprofits could apply for seed money for program innovations or improvements," said Hull. "We want applicants to propose projects that will increase their impact and reach."



For more information, contact Marilyn Hull at 785-843-8727 or marilynhull@dccfoundation.org, or visit our website dccfoundation.org.

Van Go Working to Build Financial Future

Van Go, Inc. is in the midst of a campaign to build a permanent source of income. The arts-based social service agency provides job training to high-needs local youth. It is approaching its 20th year of operation.

Agency director Lynne Green said the board of directors wanted to create a stable financial future for the organization. "Creating an endowment was the next logical step in our effort to 'keep Van Go going forever,'" said Green.

The Van Go Endowment Fund was established at the community foundation.

"This has been a local grassroots effort on behalf of a homegrown not-for-profit that benefits at-risk young people, ages 14-24. We've been overwhelmed by the community's support and understanding of Van Go's need for an endowment."

At Van Go, young people receive academic support, job and life skills training, mental health services, and lessons in healthy living. Teens served by the program have higher graduation rates than others with similar histories.

Green said that at Van Go, youth "blossom into confident, goal-setting, respectful citizens of our community."



Both Van Go and the Lawrence Arts Center are currently raising funds to build long-term sources of income. To give to the Van Go Endowment Fund or the Lawrence Arts Center Legacy Fund, visit dccfoundation.org.



Eudora Schools Foundation Starts Fund to Support Teaching Innovations

The Eudora Schools Foundation has established a DCCF fund to expand its efforts to support teachers who are innovative and create environments that help students realize their full potential.

Since its inception in 2006, the schools foundation has funded over 41 projects totaling more than \$24,000 in classroom grants across the district. This year's Teacher Excellence Grant program funded projects such as a "bike lab" with exercise bikes for students to ride while reading, a weather lab for making weather observations and predictions, and a radioactivity monitor that can be used for carbon dating.

Schools foundation executive director Shanda Hurla hopes the relationship with DCCF will help the organization do even more.

"Public education funding disparities and decreasing resources across our state have presented a major obstacle for our schools," Hurla said. "The role of the Eudora Schools Foundation becomes ever more crucial in raising funds and advocating for public education to support the priorities and success of our schools."



Foundation Prize Patrol presents a Teacher Excellence Grant

Board Financial Training Draws Large Crowd



A seminar on understanding nonprofit financials for board members drew more than 250 people to the Lawrence Arts Center on October 15.

Local CPA Michele Hammann of Summers, Spencer & Company said every nonprofit board member should understand basic terminology, be able to read financial statements and judge their soundness, and have the capacity to recognize warning signs that might indicate a change in the overall health of an organization.

Phil Kosmala, CFA, of Taiber, Kosmala & Associates talked about designing and maintaining prudent investment policies and practices.

Thank you to the United Way of Douglas County, Summers, Spencer & Company and Edmonds Duncan group for joining us in sponsoring this seminar.



Make Giving Tuesday and year-end contributions easy. Give to your choice of 75 local charitable funds at dccfoundation.org.

15th Anniversary Celebration

Thank you to foundation friends who helped us celebrate our 15th anniversary on August 29 at the Lawrence Arts Center. The program included a performance by the Lawrence Children's Choir, and several attendees were given the opportunity to direct a grant to the nonprofit organization of their choice.



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*Connecting the diverse
citizens and communities
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through charitable action.*

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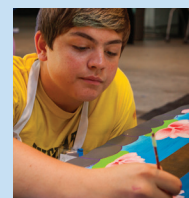
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