
2014 GRANTS



Community Grants

Funding from the OPRF Community Grantmaking Endowment Fund and the other funds noted.

Accion (\$3,450)

A general operating grant to help sustain Oak Park-River Forest community's small business owners through loans and business support services.

Collaboration for Early Childhood (\$10,000)**

A program grant for Oak Park-River Forest pre-schools and childcare centers to provide hearing and vision screenings and implement a standardized development screening tool, "Ages and Stages Questionnaire." Partial funding from the Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund and Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund.

Hephzibah Children's Association (\$5,000)**

A program grant to support Oak Park-River Forest families through day care services. Funded by the Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund.

Literacy Volunteers of Western Cook County (\$5,000)

A program grant to support tutoring for low-literate adults, as well as adult English language learners who perform below the high intermediate level in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Maywood Fine Arts (\$5,000)

A program grant to support the operation of the Fit and Fun Healthy Families program, which improves fitness and health by providing increased activity, nutrition education, and parent involvement. Funded by the Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund.

Mujeres Latinas en Accion (\$5,000)**

A program grant to raise awareness of the lasting effects of domestic violence on families within the Latino community, and to provide bilingual services to victims of domestic violence and their children. Funded by Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund.

NAMI Metro Suburban (\$5,000)

A program grant to support Individual Placement Services, which promote the recovery of people with mental illnesses through employment. Funded by Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund.

Oak Park Education Foundation (\$5,000)

A program grant to expand the VEX Robotics program to all Oak Park middle school students interested in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Oak Park Festival Theatre (\$7,200)

A capacity building grant to provide interim professional management consultancy to enhance funding sources, marketing strategies, and production.

OPRF Day Nursery (\$4,400)

A program grant to support the Project Approach, which engages children in detailed explorations, decision making, and independence. Funded by Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund.

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry (\$10,000)**

A general operating grant to support Oak Park families through the distribution of nutrient-dense food, delivery of nutrition education, and advocacy education on the effects of hunger. Partial funding from the Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund.

Parenthesis (\$5,000)**

A general operating grant to support optimizing operations and the development of existing and emergent programs, such as the Parent as Teachers model. Funded by the Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund.

Sarah's Inn (\$10,000)**

A program grant to support the counseling program for adult victims and their children, which addresses the effects of trauma and teaches healthy coping mechanisms. Partial funding from the Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund, Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund, Auxiliary of West Suburban Medical Center Fund, and Eleanor Teng Women's Care and Advocacy Fund.

Smart Love Family Services (\$5,000)

A program grant to support the Parent Support Initiative, which provides parents with emotional support and services. Funded by the Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund.

Sugar Beet Co-op (\$3,000)

A program grant to support Sugar Beet Schoolhouse which educates families on healthy lifestyles and building community vegetable gardens. Funded by the Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund.

The Children's Clinic (\$5,000)**

A general operating grant to support primary health care, therapy, and dental services to low income families. Funded by the Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund.

Community Grants (continued)

Thrive (\$9,000)

A capacity building grant to support the study and adaptation of leadership culture to best suit the clients being served.

West Cook YMCA (\$5,000)

A program grant to support Single Room Occupancy (SRO), which offers safe, affordable housing to qualified single men ages 18-80. Funded by the Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund.

West Suburban PADS (\$7,500)

A capacity building grant to support an internal study for potential programmatic, organizational, and financial efficiencies, and potential gain for West Suburban PADS. Funded by the Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund.

West Suburban Senior Services (\$4,500)

A program grant to address the needs of LGBT seniors by offering outreach, socialization, health education, mental health counseling, and education on local, state, and federal programs for seniors. Also funded by the Beck Seniors Fund and Community Partnership Fund.

United Way of DuPage/West Cook (\$12,089)

A general operating grant to support activities of the United Way of DuPage/West Cook, which supports programming to help individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability and healthy lives. Funded by Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund.

DISCRETIONARY

Frank Lloyd Wright Trust (\$2,500)

Support of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust's 2014 Legacy Year celebration.

Providing Instruments for the Next Generation (PING!) (\$1,500)

Support of the general operations and mission of PING!

** Denotes two-year grant

Total \$135,139

Communityworks Grants

Funding from the Communityworks Endowment Fund as determined by the Communityworks Advisory Board in conjunction with the Grants and Programming Committee of the Community Foundation and its Board of Directors.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Dominican University (\$25,000)*

For the Community Leadership Program, a nine month leadership development program for emerging and existing leaders in the Oak Park-River Forest area.

SUCCESS OF ALL YOUTH

District 97 (\$40,000)*

For the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program which supports the professional development of District 97 middle school teachers and administrators working towards accreditation of the International Baccalaureate Program.

Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation (\$117,000)

For the initial twelve-month expenses (July 2014 - June 2015) of the Success of All Youth (SAY) Collective. For Oak Park and River Forest, SAY will engage youth, families, and community partners to coordinate and align priorities, efforts and resources to empower youth to reach their full potential.

PLANIT GREEN

Seven Generations Ahead (\$25,000)*

For Seven Generations Ahead to serve as the subject matter expert and project director to support implementation of PlanItGreen strategies by convening and facilitating CORE team and community forums designed to engage community, implement specific projects, aggregate data indicators on community resource use and process measures, produce 2015 Community Sustainability Report Card and more.

DISCRETIONARY

River Forest Parks Foundation (\$6,600)

For the Natural Lawn Care Residential Campaign, the first initiative of the newly formed River Forest Sustainability Committee in partnership with the Village of River Forest. This is a three-tiered effort to mitigate chemical impact on human and environmental health from chemical lawn care use and mosquito abatement.

Village of Oak Park (\$2,500)

For the Residential Water Efficiency Program, a successful incentive-based water efficiency program offered to Oak Park homeowners.

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Communityworks Grants (continued)

Green Community Connections (\$5,000)

In support of the Collaboration for Resilient Community & Youth Sustainability Leadership Program, a two-pronged approach to diversity and to build engagement in sustainability efforts with hard to reach populations; families and youth.

West Cook Wild Ones (\$5,500)

For the establishment of a wildlife corridor of native gardens, plants and insects connecting Columbus Park to Thatcher Woods.

Hephzibah Children's Association (\$3,000)

For the Cultivating Community Project, an outgrowth of a Community Leadership project, to create an edible vegetable, fruit and flower garden at Hephzibah House, in partnership with Root Riot, Hephzibah's Oak Park Auxiliary, and a local master gardener.

Oak Park River Forest High School Scholarship Foundation (\$2,500)

To provide general operating support of the Scholarship Foundation's 90th Anniversary Campaign.

* Denotes multi-year grant

Total Grants \$232,100

Future Philanthropists Grants

Funding from Future Philanthropists Fund as determined by the high school junior cohort of the Future Philanthropists Program.

Best Buddies (\$1,500)

To support Best Buddies Illinois Chapter's work in OPRF middle schools and High School, specifically to allow 4 students to attend the Annual Best Buddies International Leadership Conference and a Special Olympics sponsored event.

Hephzibah Children's Association (\$1,900)

To support the youth-led Rodeo themed fair for children recovering from abuse and living in area group homes. Hephzibah Huskies plan, organize and operate the day-long summer event.

Oak Park Education Foundation (\$2,500)

To support Vex Robotics, which provides hands-on engineering and computer programming experiences, including summer camps, to middle school students in Oak Park.

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry (\$4,325)

To support the Nutrition Education Program for families, which is created and delivered on site by 20-30 dietetics students from Dominican University who receive "community nutrition" credits as required by the curriculum. Interns develop individualized nutrition programs for children, youth and families who use the Pantry on a regular basis.

Parenthesis (\$2,500)

To support Parenteen and Mothering on Our Own programs, which provide support services to teen parents and single low-income parents. Participation in the program is often affected by transportation and childcare barriers which can be solved by providing the parent participants with subsidies for such use.

Relentless Mentoring (\$950)

To support this start-up pilot of a youth-driven mentoring program specifically for African-American male youth who are at high risk academically and behaviorally. Mentees later become mentors who return to the program as young adults.

Sarah's Inn (\$2,000)

To support the annual Leadership Development Institute in which twelve OPRF high school students plan and lead a violence prevention service learning project to benefit their peers.

West Suburban Special Recreation Association (\$5,000)

In support of the 2014 Illinois Therapeutic Recreation section Annual Softball Tournament with the goal of attracting 168 athletes with disabilities from 11 surrounding communities.

Youth Education Mentoring Basketball Association (\$4,325)

To support the Mentoring Empowerment Program which provides workshops to train and support peer mentors at Julian Middle School. Peer mentors train in leadership and basic financial skills.

Total \$25,000

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Grants Made Possible by the Following Funds

Access to Recreation Fund

Enhancing and expanding recreational facilities into fully accessible opportunities for people of all abilities.

Beck Seniors Fund

Supporting programming for seniors in Oak Park and River Forest.

Community Partnership Fund

Enabling and encouraging grants and leadership activities in the focus area of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues.

Communityworks Endowment Fund

Advancing community aspirations with current focus on the following priorities: Continuum of Learning, Environmental Sustainability and Community Leadership.

Eleanor Teng Women's Care and Advocacy Fund

Supporting organizations and programs that serve or advocate on behalf of women who are seniors, disabled or victims of domestic abuse.

Future Philanthropists Fund

Supporting the grantmaking of the Future Philanthropists Program, a two-year program in which select junior and senior high school students learn the art and science of philanthropy. As juniors, program participants make decisions about the distribution of \$25,000 in grant funds to worthy local nonprofit organizations.

OPRF Community Grantmaking Fund

Enhancing impact on the well-being, enrichment and sustainability of Oak Park and River Forest through grants to local organizations.

Community Chest of Oak Park & River Forest Fund

Supporting the social service needs of the communities of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park in the areas of child and family support programs, health and wellness programs and crisis and emergency services. A specified portion of the annual distribution is given to United Way.

Oak Park and River Forest Near West Health Services and Education Fund

Supporting the health education and health services needs of the residents, particularly lower income individuals, in the primary service area of the West Suburban Medical Center.

Auxiliary of West Suburban Medical Center Fund

Advancing the health of individuals in the west suburban community through health promotion, wellness activities and initiatives that contribute to health improvement.

Foundation Grants in 2014	\$	394,239
Scholarships* in 2014	\$	810,300
		Total
		\$1,204,539

** In addition to grants to nonprofits, the Foundation has provided 269 scholarships this year – 156 enrichment and 113 academic scholarships to students – altogether totaling \$810,300 from funds we manage.*