

OPEN a WORLD of PROMISE



Help a student apply for Enrichment Grants for
cultural & educational experiences



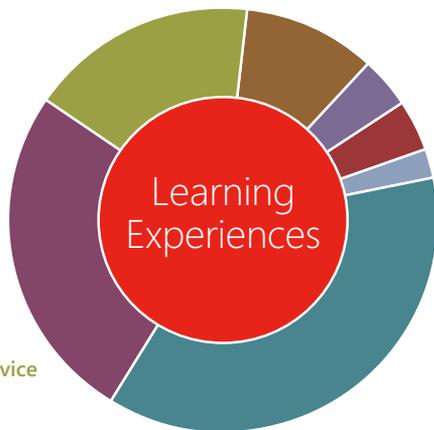
**Crystal
Charitable Fund**

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

YOU can help

Over the past twelve years, **2,250 young men and women** have received enrichment grants from the Crystal Fund amounting to over **\$6.6 million** in support of extended cultural or educational experiences away from home. Grantees aged 13-19 years received up to **\$4,000 per person** to support a range of enrichment experiences including cultural exchange, community service, college experience, environmental programs, boarding schools, sports and language programs. Travel destinations include the US, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Africa.

- 37% Culture / Community Service
- 26% College Experience
- 17% Environment / Community Service
- 10% Language/Community Service
- 4% Educational/Boarding School
- 4% Leadership/Sports
- 2% Leadership/College Experience



Students or parents cannot apply directly for a Crystal grant.

Teachers, counselors or mentors should apply on the student's behalf. If you know a student who might qualify for a grant visit:

oprpcf.org/grants-scholarships/enrichment-grants

The long-term goal of the Crystal Fund is to assist low income youth to break out of poverty so that they can live comfortable, productive lives; grow up to be examples to others and provide leadership in helping others do the same; and ultimately grow up to make a difference in bettering our world.

According to the Annenberg Institute for School reform, a growing body of research demonstrates that participating in organized activities outside the classroom helps cultivate the skills, habits, connections, and knowledge that prepare children for lifelong success: academic success in school, graduating from high school, going to college, getting a job, and participating in civic life.

As a teacher, mentor, counselor, or youth development organization, you can play an important role in achieving our goal through recruitment of young men and women to attend high quality educational or cultural experiences within the US or abroad. Youth development and mentoring programs have also played a crucial role by recruiting applicants, providing feedback on the short-term impact of the enrichment programs, and by integrating enrichment programs as a key component of their overall efforts in supporting youth development.

Short-term impact based on feedback after travel is inspiring and includes outcomes such as increased confidence, collaboration and independence. Participants also report a difference in world view or perspectives, and influence on career or college interests.

Examples of Enrichment Programs Funded by the Crystal Fund

Culture/Language/Community Service programs abroad (AFS, Road Less Traveled, CIEE) • Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris • Language Programs (Concordia Language Villages) • College Summer Programs (Washington, Michigan, Stanford, etc.) • Boarding School programs (Exeter, Cushing, Choate Rosemary Hall) • Girl Scouts, Europe • Junior State of America (JSA) • School of Creative and Performing Arts, New York • Small Fry Tournament (Basketball) • National Debate program • Colombian Youth Exchange (Afro-Colombian culture)



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Any questions?
Contact Elizabeth Chadri at
echadri@oprfcf.org.

"I made friends from ten different states and two countries."

"Before this experience, I constantly doubted my ability to succeed in college. I am now confident that I will do well."

"I became more independent and open minded."