

United Way
of Monroe County



2010-2011 Youth Allocation Panel Report

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United Way of Monroe County
Youth Allocation Panel
2010-2011 Summary of Funding Recommendations

Agency and Program Name	2010 Youth Allocation Funding Request	2010 Funding Recommendation
American Red Cross of Monroe County Masters of Disasters	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Equi-librium, Inc. Equine-Assisted Learning and Movement Experience for Children with Autism	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Pocono Family YMCA Teen Leaders Club	\$5,000.00	\$0
Pocono Services for Families and Children Youth Mentoring Initiative	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00
The Follow Me Foundation Healthy Snacks, Healthy Child	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. Youth Leadership Summer Institute	\$4,457.00	\$2,500.00
	\$18,457.00	\$10,000.00

2010-2011 Youth Allocation Funding Recommendations and Rationales

Masters of Disaster

American Red Cross of Monroe County

Project Description: Funding will support the implementation of the Masters of Disaster curriculum to elementary students in Monroe County. The Masters of Disaster program motivates children to learn about disasters while keeping them prepared for natural and human-caused disasters. The curriculum contains ready-to-go lesson plans, activities, and demonstrations on the following disaster-related topics: Be Disaster Safe (general disaster preparedness), Facing Fear, In the Aftermath, Home Safety, Fire Prevention and Safety, Earthquakes, Floods, Hurricanes, Lightning, Tornadoes, and Wild land Fires.

Subjects covered through lessons are language arts, geography (social studies), science, mathematics, and health. Red Cross staff and volunteers will prepare and implement lessons for Monroe County elementary students. The lesson will focus on one of the above disaster-related topics. The Masters of Disaster program increases children's awareness of unexpected events. An essential part of preparing for any disaster is to be ready with plans, supplies and practice. The program inspires young people by teaching them to prepare for all hazards.

2010-2011 Funding Request: \$1,000

Panel Recommendation: \$1,000

2010-2011 Projected Outcomes: 375 elementary students will be taught through 16 Masters of Disaster lessons (23 student avg. per classroom). 80% of students will demonstrate an increased knowledge in disaster preparedness and education as demonstrated by pre/post program testing.

Rationale for Funding: The panel believes that it is important for children to know how to respond to disasters as early as possible. They also noted that many children in Monroe County are left unsupervised for extended periods of time because of the large commuter population and, therefore, it is important that children are aware of what to do during a disaster.

Comments & Recommendations: The youth recommended that the project be offered systematically to each grade level, so that all children will have knowledge about each type of disaster.

Equine-Assisted Learning and Movement Experience for Children with Autism

Equi-librium

Project Description: To provide ten, forty-five minute sessions of individualized equine assisted learning and movement experiences to 30 Monroe County children, 2-18 years of age, who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) during summer of 2010.

2010-2011 Funding Request: \$1,500

Panel Recommendation: \$1,500

2010-2011 Projected Outcomes: Positive changes in individuals ranging from 20-60%, with an average change of 30% will be seen in the areas of cognition, behavior, and function with the following areas of concentration showing improvement within the 10 week summer period:

- Increased attention span
- Increased communication
- Increased level of cooperation
- Increased ability to follow directions
- Increased functional redial vaulting and/or functional riding skills
- Decreased behaviors of perseveration
- Decreased disruptive behaviors

Rationale for Funding: The panel felt that this is an important project to fund because autism is a growing issue. They also liked that the activities were interactive and hands-on. In addition, the panel was pleased to see that direct evidence was presented to demonstrate success.

Comments & Recommendations: The youth panel recommended that the project presenter continue to share personal success stories.

Teen Leaders Club
Pocono Family YMCA

Project Description: The Pocono Family YMCA recognizes the lack of educational and recreational programs available to youth between the ages of 13 and 16. Most non school sponsored sports programs are geared toward younger children to teach game skills. Churches try to fill the socialization void, but organized religions are experiencing a downturn in attendance especially in the teen ages. The YMCA in an attempt to give these youth a safe, educational, and fun environment will be starting a Teen Leaders Club.

The Teen Leaders Club will start in June 2010 with a Teen Leaders Camp. This camp will provide club members with opportunities for leadership training, personal growth, social development, peer mentoring, and service to others through community service projects. At the end of the summer the Teen Leaders Club will continue bi-weekly meetings to continue the community service projects and to “just hang out”. Teen game nights and meetings will be held at the Dominick Lockwood Youth Center. The youth will continue to visit local businesses and service organizations throughout the year. They will be able to interact and learn from various leaders around the community and actively participate in events that will broaden their knowledge of local businesses and the community in general.

2010-2011 Funding Request: **\$5,000**
Panel Recommendation: **\$ - 0 -**

2010-2011 Projected Outcomes: More youth will be educated to the need for volunteers in the community and what agencies use volunteers. They will learn about local businesses and business opportunities preparing them to be future business leaders and possibly help them when making career decisions. They will develop specific skills through community projects. The teens will learn to appreciate and understand the diversity in our community while having fun in a safe environment.

Rationale for Funding: The panel recommended that the presenters provide a more enthusiastic presentation, in the future. The students felt that the presentation left an impression that parents would be able to send their teens to the YMCA where they would be looked after as if they were in childcare. The youth also recommended that future presentations include a solid curriculum with a clearer explanation of what they intend to do. In addition, the panel felt that the summer

camp was very expensive, especially for those families that do not qualify for scholarships or assistance.

Comments & Recommendations: The youth panel liked that the program had an environmental component by encouraging youth to clean up parks. They also felt that connecting students to businesses was a great idea.

Youth Mentoring Initiative

Pocono Services for Families and Children

Project Description: Area youth (ages 14 yrs – 22 yrs) are provided with opportunities to plan and carry out mentoring activities with disadvantaged and disabled pre-school age children enrolled in PSFC programs. Prior to working with our young children, PSFC staff visit with youth who are in schools and universities to provide an orientation to early childhood education. Training topics covered with youth include early childhood development, early literacy, best practice for early childhood, communicating with preschoolers and sensitivity to the differences in learning styles and children’s abilities. Hands on activities such as role-play, reading aloud and creative art activities are used with youth to meet their varied learning styles and actively involve all participants.

This program benefits both our young “at risk” children and area youth by 1) providing positive experiences for youth and young children to engage in education, sports, creative arts, music/movement, technology and literacy learning activities, 2) building self esteem and confidence in participants, 3) making local youth feel more connected to their community, 4) teaching tolerance and acceptance of different learning styles and capabilities, and 5) providing one on one mentoring for our “at-risk” and most vulnerable young children to support their growth.

2010-2011 Funding Request: **\$5,000**

Panel Recommendation: **\$3,500**

2010-2011 Projected Outcomes: Youth participants will spend time mentoring “at risk” young children, to improve self esteem and abilities. 100% of youth participants will receive and participate in orientation and training in early childhood educational development. 100% of young children participating will improve at least two academic indicators as tracked by Work Sampling assessment tool.

Rationale for Funding: The panel felt that the presentation was very good and included excellent visuals that helped explain the project. The youth also felt that the project effectively helped two different age groups and provided opportunities that may not otherwise be offered.

Comments & Recommendations: The panel recommended that future presentations include young people who have been involved in the project.

Healthy Snacks, Healthy Child
The Follow Me Foundation

Project Description: The Healthy Snacks, Healthy Child program is committed to bringing healthy, natural and organic (when possible) snacks, organic milk, cereal, fresh fruit, etc. to children we serve through the Food for Friends emergency food program. With over 4,000 children registered in Monroe County, it is a challenge to have these healthy bags available the first and third Wednesdays of the month when we are giving out food. Through grants such as yours, and careful wholesale shopping we are working towards making these snack bags available to all children. Since childhood obesity is such an enormous problem, especially among the less fortunate (due to limited funds, parents are often forced to purchase inexpensive, high fat and sugar foods), we are trying to make this issue a priority.

2010-2011 Funding Request: **\$1,500**
Panel Recommendation: **\$1,500**

2010-2011 Projected Outcomes: With grants awarded for 2010, we are focusing on providing at least 1 vegetable snack, such as baby carrots and 1 fruit to every child at every food distribution. A grant of \$1,500 will provide this for approximately 6 months based on the current prices through Pocono Produce for Macintosh apples and carroteenies.

Rationale for Funding: The panel applauded the organization for providing healthy foods, and it showed them that the organization founders really care about people. They also liked that the project targets children, since they (as opposed to older adults) will most likely be willing to change their diets. The panel also liked that the project addresses obesity, which is a growing problem.

Comments & Recommendations: The youth recommended that the presenter offer more statistics on the demographics of those served, in the future. They also suggested that they show pictures, in the future, to help explain how the food is distributed.

Youth Leadership Summer Institute
Women's Resources of Monroe County

Project Description: The Youth Leadership Summer Institute is a peer educational effort implemented throughout the county by Women's Resources of Monroe County. During the Youth Leadership Summer Institute, student leaders are trained in preparation to become peer educators for the school year. New students are selected yearly to help execute sociodramas, advocacy campaigns, and workshops to increase community knowledge of domestic and sexual violence. A sociodrama, or educational theater, uses role play techniques to interact with an audience of learners who become involved in the drama rather than remaining a passive audience.

The program engages youth in civic responsibility, allows them to become victim advocates for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, and instills a sense of volunteerism and community service in the students' life. This peer education effort allows program attendees and victims to disclose information to peers in comfortable school settings. Through preventative education, youth learn what types of behaviors are unacceptable in interpersonal relationships; in turn students become advocates through their presentations to others. Trained leaders will help guide victims through the various resources and services available through Women's Resources of

Monroe County. These qualities help students to become compassionate leaders as they embark on their lives past high school.

2010-2011 Funding Request: \$4,457
Panel Recommendation: \$2,500

2010-2011 Projected Outcomes: Through pre and post project evaluations for the Youth Leadership Summer Institute we will demonstrate the below tangible outcomes:

- 1) We will educate and recruit 20 students to become peer educators from Monroe County school districts.
- 2) We will increase students' understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault by 75%.
- 3) 100% of peer educators will receive 35 hours of domestic violence and sexual assault training.

Rationale for Funding: The youth panel liked the project because, by training a small group of students, many more students in each school will be positively affected.

Comments & Recommendations: The panel recommended that future presentations include a sociodrama demonstration.