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United Way, foundation award education grants

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More than two dozen grants have been awarded to area non-profit organizations that help create culture emphasizing the importance of a college education.

The grants, announced by Mayor Greg Fischer, the Community Foundation of Louisville and Metro United Way, total more than \$200,000. They are in response to the vision created by the program called 55,000 Degrees, a public-private partnership that is working to increase the number of area residents with college degrees by 55,000 by the year 2020.

Grants were awarded for programs that address five key points that predict students' success in their educational journey: early childhood, reading at grade level by fourth grade, middle school transition, high school graduation and transition to college or career.

Fischer, who is chairman of the 55,000 Degrees board of directors, commended the partnership created by the Community Foundation and Metro United Way to support area programs that will move the community's education agenda forward.

The grants are:

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- * California Area Family Development Center, \$6,400 to acquire toys and equipment to provide teachers with resources to better implement all aspects of early learning program.
- * Community Coordinated Child Care Inc., \$10,000 to pay for planning new approaches to early childhood education so programs are more fiscally stable.
- * Family & Children's Place (three grants), \$10,000 for staff training; \$9,880, for delinquency-prevention program; \$9,905 for program to help prepare at-risk eighth graders for high school.
- * Iroquois Child Care Center, \$6,400 to purchase toys, computers, sports equipment and furnishings.
- * Jefferson Community & Technical College Foundation, \$9,450 to improve children's writing skills.
- * Kentucky Refugee Ministries Inc., \$10,000 for refugee children's activities.
- * Jefferson County Public Schools, \$9,995 for English as a second language program.
- * Spalding University, \$10,000 to support literacy programs at Maupin Elementary School.
- * Actors Theatre of Louisville, \$8,550 to support a partnership with Western, Stuart, Olmsted and Thomas Jefferson middle schools to provide free programming to eighth grade students to attend 10 sessions of New Voices: Monologue vs. Dialogue residency program.
- * Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Kentuckiana, \$10,000 for mentoring program for middle school youth.

- * Americana Community Center, \$10,000 for programs for refugee, immigrant and low-income youth.
- * Liberty High School (JCPS), \$10,000 for dropout-prevention program.
- * Louisville Urban League, \$10,000 for program to enhance student knowledge, skills, responsibility and attitudes toward school and the community.
- * One Plus One Equals U, \$10,000 for program to keep at-risk students aged 13-19 in school.
- * Presbyterian Community Center, \$10,000 for program to keep at-risk youth in after-school programs.
- * Boys and Girls Haven, \$10,000 for program to provide stable living for children leaving foster care.
- * Family Scholar House Inc., \$6,420 for program to help single parents overcome barriers to a college education.
- * Jefferson Community & Technical College, \$10,000 to assist students to better access available college services and to prepare them to achieve academic success.

INDIANA

- * Reach Out and Read (Floyd and Clark counties), \$10,000 for program to help children enter kindergarten ready to learn.
 - * Schools in Clark County, \$10,000, for Extended Day Learning Program.
 - * Greater Clark County Schools Educational Foundation, \$10,000 to prepare middle school students for standardized tests.
 - * Lanesville Community School, \$8,000 to support a college "boot camp" for at-risk middle school students.
 - * Blue River Services Inc. (Harrison County), \$7,500 for summer camp to show participants that college is attainable and to excite youth about furthering their educations.
 - * Purdue University College of Technology at New Albany, \$10,000 for program that allows high school students and their parents to interact with Purdue's local faculty in a classroom setting.
 - * Jeffersonville High School, \$7,500 for workshops to promote college preparation.
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