



Highland Park

community foundation

2017 Grant Awards Reception
Highland Park Community House
Wednesday, October 18th

A Special Thank You to Our Event Sponsors

Platinum



Gold



Silver





On behalf of the Board of the Highland Park Community Foundation, welcome to our annual grants awards evening.

We are gathered tonight because of the generous donations of many individuals, families, and foundations. Because of them, we are able to support numerous worthy organizations that provide social service, educational, and arts programs in our community. The grants presented this evening are an acknowledgement of their tireless dedication and work on behalf of those in need.

The economic climate in Illinois, as well as nationwide, continues to affect all non-profits and agencies. Government support for their programs has been dramatically cut, while demands have increased sharply. Now, more than ever, the Highland Park Community Foundation is charged with the challenge of helping these agencies so that they, in turn, can help the people they serve.

We are pleased to report that this year we are awarding nearly \$183,000 to 35 agencies.

Congratulations to all of the grant recipients here this evening and thank you for your outstanding efforts!

Peter W. Flanzer

Chairman

Highland Park Community Foundation

Program

Musical Interlude provided by Midwest Young Artists

Welcome	Peter Flanzer	Chairman, Highland Park Community Foundation
Guest Speakers	Sara Sher	Highland Park Golden Apple Chair
	Scott Shallenbarger	2017 Highland Park Golden Apple Recipient Director of Theater Arts Highland Park High School
	Holly Fleischer	Guidance Counselor and Homework Club Coordinator
	Aliza Gilbert	College Counselor and National Hispanic Institute Summer Program Coordinator Highland Park High School
	Casandra Ibarra	Students
	Jennifer Lopez	Highland Park High School
Jack Blane Award	Betsy Brint	Executive Committee Member Highland Park Community Foundation
Grant Awards Presentation	Nancy Mills	Vice-Chairman, Highland Park Community Foundation
Closing	Nancy Mills	Vice-Chairman, Highland Park Community Foundation

2017 Grant Recipients

Anixter Center	Focus on the Arts, Inc.	Music Institute of Chicago
The Art Center Highland Park	Highland Park Aquatics Club	Northern Illinois Food Bank
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center	Pilgrim Chamber Players
Blessings in a Backpack Highland Park	Highland Park High School – Homework Club	Random Acts of Flowers Chicago
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago - Lake County Senior Services	Highland Park High School – National Hispanic Institute Summer Program	Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers
Center for Enriched Living	Highland Park High School – Working Together programs	Stuart I Raskas Friendship Circle of Illinois
Center for Independent Futures	Highland Park/Highwood Legal Aid Clinic	Tri-Con Child Care Center
CJE SeniorLife	Highland Park Strings	Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center
College Bound Opportunities	Jewish Child & Family Service – Response	<u>Previously Awarded 2017 Recipients</u>
Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition	Jewish Council for Youth Services	Food Truck Thursdays (Affiliated Fund)
East on Central Association	Kids Rank	Highland Park Golden Apple
Family Network (A Family Focus Center)	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory	<u>Affiliated Organization/Project</u>
Family Service of Lake County – Community Counseling		Disaster Relief Quarter Campaign #Our Community Cares
Family Service of Lake County – Latino Educational Continuum		Welfare Council of Highland Park/Highwood

Anixter Center

Anixter Center's mission is to provide an array of services and support to help people with disabilities and related challenges live, learn, work, and play in the community. Located in Highland Park, the agency's Adult Community Transition (ACT) program helps facilitate the transition of young adults with developmental disabilities from their safe, nurturing school environments to life in the broader community. This is accomplished through individualized employment and volunteer opportunities, case management, educational activities, socialization, and recreational activities developed to maximize their independence, giving these young adults "the ability to soar."

The Art Center Highland Park

The Art Center Highland Park (TAC) is dedicated to education in the visual arts through classes, outreach programs, gallery exhibitions, and events. TAC is a community-based organization that has been in existence since 1960, whose goal is to ensure access to the arts for all ages and cultural interests. TAC inspires everyone from children through seniors to achieve and transform their world through more than 400 classes offered annually.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters develops high-impact 1:1 mentoring relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people facing adversity. Mentors ("Bigs") work with children ("Littles") in the community, workplaces, their schools, and many places in between. 100% of the grant funds from the Highland Park Community Foundation directly support the Highland Park Neighborhood Mentoring Program.

Blessings in a Backpack Highland Park

Blessings in a Backpack is designed to feed school age children whose families qualify for Federal programs and have little or no food at home on weekends. Last year, the Highland Park program served 150 families.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago - Lake County Senior Services

Catholic Charities (CC) strives to serve people age 60 and older in Lake County who seek assistance, regardless of their religion, race, or nationality. CC's goals are to help seniors remain in their homes/communities, maintain independence as long as they are safe, and provide them with options and knowledge of services available in their community.

Center for Enriched Living

The Center for Enriched Living (CEL) enhances and enriches the lives of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities – from youth through adulthood. CEL provides a space for their members to grow and learn new social, educational, and independent living skills with a community of friends and a world of opportunities.

Center for Independent Futures

Center for Independent Futures upholds a vision for the future where individuals with disabilities have access to all opportunities of a full life. The Center creates sustainable solutions through community living options, personal networks, and lifelong planning and education, tailored to support individuals and families as well as schools and agencies. Center for Independent Futures offers life skills tutoring; person-centered planning, training, and consultation; a full calendar of social, cultural, and educational activities; and more.

CJE SeniorLife

CJE SeniorLife's mission is to enhance the quality of life and to facilitate the independence of older adults. CJE will offer three "Purpose, Passion and Financial Health in Retirement" workshops to approximately 150 seniors at the Highland Park Library in order to assist in planning for retirement.

College Bound Opportunities

College Bound Opportunities (CBO), a local nonprofit, mentors low-income, high-achieving students, so they can attend and graduate from college. Most CBO Scholars are first-generation college students and, without support, would likely forego college. Through CBO programs, including one-to-one mentoring between volunteers and scholars, tutoring, training services, laptop computers, and financial assistance during college, nearly 95% of CBO Scholars are graduating from college.

Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition

Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition (CTAD) is a community coalition that is comprised of parents, local government, school officials, clergy, and health providers. CTAD's mission is to generate conversation and provide accurate information about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in our community.

East on Central Association

East on Central is a literary and arts journal devoted to the creative work of artists and writers in our community. East on Central also offers periodic "creative encounters" that are open to the entire community and allow artists and writers to interact with one another.

Family Network (A Family Focus Center)

Since 1983, Family Network has offered high quality community-based programs to children and families in Highland Park and Highwood. Family Network provides bilingual (English and Spanish) prevention-based support, including child development activities for expectant parents and families with children ages birth through three, afterschool programs for children in kindergarten through 5th grade serving seven local schools, and a wide range of services including adult education, parenting classes, and support groups. Support from the Highland Park Community Foundation helps provide early childhood development and scholarship support to families in the Parent/Child Drop-In Center.

Family Service of Lake County:

Community Counseling and Latino Education Continuum

Founded in 1930, Family Service of Lake County responds to the ever-changing needs of our communities with professional social services, educational programs, and case-management referrals for all ages. Over the past 85 years, tens of thousands of children, youth, adults, and families have benefited from personalized, holistic care and services. Highland Park Community Foundation's support benefits comprehensive community counseling and mental health services and increased academic support to help improve the quality of life as well as the academic and employment success of Highland Park and Highwood Latino students.

Focus on the Arts, Inc.

Focus on the Arts (Focus) is a three-day and three-night biennial fine arts festival that exposes thousands of students and our community to the visual, performing, and communication arts. All events take place at Highland Park High School, are open to the public, and are free of charge. The mission of Focus is to increase appreciation and understanding of the arts and of arts professionals. The 27th biennial Fine Arts Festival will be held April 9-12, 2019.

Highland Park Aquatics Club

The Highland Park Aquatics Club (HPAC) serves as a high quality competitive swim club for the cities of Highland Park and Highwood. HPAC coaches are committed to providing all swimmers a challenging yet nurturing swimming environment. The Highland Park Community Foundation's grant will help subsidize the required swim association fees for low-income swimmers so they can participate and compete as members of HPAC.

Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center

Since 1951, Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care (HP Community), a nonprofit, early childhood education and child care program has been providing affordable, quality, licensed care, and education to hundreds of children ages two to ten, in partial and full day programs. Sliding scales fees, scholarships, State funding, and local support make it possible for all members of our diverse community to benefit from HP Community's services. These services include art and music classes, an on-site food program, social work services, and early screenings with appropriate interventions.

Highland Park Golden Apple

In 2010, the Highland Park Community Foundation and a local family foundation initiated an annual Golden Apple Award to recognize outstanding teachers in the Highland Park School systems. Nominations are made in a rotating cycle: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. A selection committee comprised of exemplary current and retired educators and administrators and former Golden Apple award recipients, evaluate the extensive application and complete a full day of observation. The final recipient of the award is chosen based on instruction, content knowledge, student and staff interaction, and contribution to school and community.

Highland Park High School - Homework Club

Offered at Highland Park High School Monday through Thursday, Homework Club is a free after-school tutoring program in math, science, English, and social studies. In addition to tutoring, students can receive counseling services as well as ACT prep. Anywhere from 50 - 100 students attend Homework Club each week.

Highland Park High School - National Hispanic Institute Summer Program

Dream, Believe, Achieve. The grant from the Highland Park Community Foundation helps fund scholarships for the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) Summer Program and enables Highland Park High School to send several high-achieving Latino students to the NHI Leadership Conference. The week-long Conference is held each

summer at DePaul University. Students from across the U.S. attend to learn leadership, communication, civic government, and community activism skills.

Highland Park High School Working Together programs

These programs provide various sports, crafts, and art instruction to children and adults from low-income families in Highland Park and Highwood. The program is a partnership with Highland Park High School and the Working Together parent group. Participants include more than 180 children and 35 adults. Their activities take place at Highland Park High School.

Highland Park/Highwood Legal Aid Clinic

Since May of 2015, the Highland Park-Highwood Legal Aid Clinic has served hundreds of members of the community, primarily in the areas of housing, immigration, and domestic violence. Highland Park Community Foundation's funding will help to design and implement a domestic violence program to address the many legal and social issues involving family stress, domestic abuse, and intimate partner disturbances.

Highland Park Strings

The mission of the Highland Park Strings is to provide the community with free concerts where families, friends, and residents of Highland Park can gather for an afternoon of musical enjoyment at the highest level. This grant will help fund three Sunday afternoon concerts at Highland Park High School.

Jewish Child and Family Service – Response

Response, a program of Jewish Child and Family Services, empowers adolescents and young adults, ages 12-24, to make healthy life choices. Currently, Response provides counseling, sexual healthcare services, and outreach programming on a variety of topics in middle schools, high schools, camps, synagogues, and community centers. Response also offers parent education and support, and leadership development opportunities for students, such as Operation Snowball. This year's grant will allow Response to serve 40-50 students from District 113 in the 2018 Operation Snowball Program.

Jewish Council for Youth Services

The JCYS George W. Lutz Family Center (Lutz) serves Highland Park children and families of all religions, races, and ethnicities. Lutz currently provides partial day pre-school to over 200 children, full-day childcare to 115 children, and before and after school programs to approximately 150 school-age children. Additionally, over 500 children attend a variety of day camps during the summer. The Center also offers parent-child programs, athletic activities, and art classes year-round.

Kids Rank

Kids Rank was developed to help military children recognize and develop their positive characteristics while connecting them with other military children. The program serves military children attached to the Great Lakes and Fort Sheridan installations and runs during the school year.

Midwest Young Artists Conservatory

The primary goal of Midwest Young Artists (MYA) is to provide the highest quality music education to young musicians in order to encourage their individual, artistic, and personal development in a supportive environment. From classical, jazz, and choral ensemble instruction to music and movement, MYA offers a full range of musical training to youth, from toddlers to pre-college students.

Music Institute of Chicago

The Music Institute of Chicago produces community outreach programming through high quality music instruction and engagement opportunities. The grant from the Highland Park Community Foundation will support "Music for Life," a free library program designed for children ages 4-8 and their families to experience classical music.

Northern Illinois Food Bank

Northern Illinois Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program distributes food to under-served areas, where there is little access to food assistance. The Highland Park Community Foundation's grant will provide greater access to nutritious food for the 6,270 residents of Highland Park and Highwood who face food insecurity. Three mobile pantries will serve 300 families in the area.

Pilgrim Chamber Players

The Pilgrim Chamber Players have been performing innovative chamber music concerts in the Highland Park community for 21 years. The Pilgrim Chamber Players present concerts at the Highland Park Senior Center as well as programs for school age children of Highland Park and Highwood. Guest artists include John Sharp and David Taylor of the CSO and many other great musicians.

Random Acts of Flowers Chicago

Random Acts of Flowers improves the emotional health and well-being of individuals in healthcare facilities by delivering recycled flowers, encouragement, and personal moments of kindness. The grant from the Highland Park Community Foundation will be used to deliver bouquets to residents in nursing homes in Highland Park.

Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers

Faith in Action Volunteers is a non-sectarian organization whose mission is to help older adults maintain their independence and improve their quality of life. Professionally trained and supervised volunteers provide friendly visits and help with transportation, errands, grocery shopping, respite care, and household chores.

Stuart I Raskas Friendship Circle of Illinois

The Friendship Circle's mission is to empower today's teens to bridge the gap between families of children with special needs and the rest of the community. Volunteers offer friendship as well as social and educational experiences, enriching lives and reaping the rewards of selfless giving.

Tri-Con Child Care Center

Tri-Con Child Care Center has been providing affordable, high-quality early care and education for children of local, low-income families for over 45 years. Tri-Con offers a year-round, full day preschool, an after-kindergarten enrichment program, and a summer camp program. Through developmentally appropriate experiences that are based on the Illinois Early Learning Standards, students are prepared for a successful school journey. Fees are based on a sliding fee scale with 100% of all children being subsidized through either partial state funding or Tri-Con's own Scholarship Program.

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (ZCenter) is the only rape crisis center in Lake County. The Highland Park Community Foundation's grant will support ZCenter's Children's Program. Through counseling and community education, this program helps survivors of sexual assault heal, prevent re-traumatization, and change assumptions and attitudes about rape and sexual abuse.

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