



Jumpstart Our Youth



YOUTH PHILANTHROPY IN MAINE and the U.S.

Youth philanthropy in Maine and the nation takes many forms and includes youth from ages 9 to 25. Volunteering, grantmaking and advocacy/activism seem to be the primary programs. In 1989, the Maine Community Foundation began using youth as resources in its own grantmaking programs. Since then a formal program has been underway. In May 2005 a gathering of a dozen youth philanthropy and youth-serving organizations was held in Portland.

Many programs are school-based and include high school aged youth who show some leadership aptitude or are excelling academically. High schools across the nation have long sponsored Key Clubs. In recent years, service-oriented clubs have proliferated. Civic leadership and citizenship clubs are becoming more frequent as school curricula are cut. Other organizations use after-school programs as vehicles to keep youth off the streets while helping other nonprofits in the community. Community foundations across the country are using youth as resources in their own grantmaking; often having one or more young person on the grant review team.

A quick scan of Maine's youth philanthropy elicits the following list. This is by no means a complete list, but is intended to provide a sample of what models of youth philanthropy are available.

- Youthlinks ~ www.youthlinksonline.org
Provides after-school programs that include community service, leadership and enrichment opportunities to all youth ages 11-17 from anywhere in mid-coast Maine.
- YOUTHINK ~ www.service-learningpartnership.org
A national network of members dedicated to advancing service-learning as a core part of every young person's education.
- The EdGE ~ www.seacoastmission.org/youth_development.html
A youth development program of the Maine Sea Coast Mission for students in grades 4-8 in coastal Washington County, Maine. It is designed to encourage youth to stay engaged in school, build character, improve academic performance and build self-confidence.
- Maine Department of Education Task Force and Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools ~ www.mecitizenshiped.org
A coalition of more than 50 individuals and organizations committed to promoting and strengthening citizenship education and civic engagement across Maine.
- KIDS Consortium ~ www.kidsconsortium.org
Prepares young people to be active and responsible citizens by training and supporting educators, community organizations, and youth in best practices for service-learning.



National programs include:

- Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana ~ www.ypin.org
A statewide network of 40+ partner organizations with the common goal of engaging youth to “give and serve” within their communities.
- Youth Leadership Institute ~ www.yli.org
Youth Leadership Institute builds communities where young people and their adult allies come together to create positive social change.
- CRF Youth Forum ~ www.crfforum.org/resources
Dedicated to helping young people learn about their constitutional heritage, give voice to their ideas and opinions, and make well-informed decisions as citizens in a democracy.
- Michigan Community Foundations’ Youth Project ~ www.youthgrantmakers.org
A Youth Advisory Committee, YAC, is a youth grantmaking body of a community foundation with a permanently endowed youth fund. YACs focus on serving the youth in their community by addressing issues of concern and importance to local youth through grantmaking from the revenue earned on the youth endowment.
- National Youth Leadership Council ~ www.nylc.org
To create a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world with young people, their schools, and their communities through service-learning.
- Minnesota tool Kit for Giving ~ www.minnesotagiving.org/resources/youth.htm
Provide tools and encouragement to help youth discover and activate their natural philanthropic spirit.
- Youth Foundation Center ~ www.youth.foundationcenter.org
Foundation Center provides information about foundations that might want to support their work.



Jumpstart Our Youth [J O Y]

MISSION

To revolutionize youth philanthropy in Maine by building and strengthening communities through youth leadership in philanthropy and community service.

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

While the majority of youth philanthropy programs typically target high-school age and older youth, **Jumpstart Our Youth** is geared initially toward youth aged 9 to 14. Youth aged 15-17 who were previous members can serve as mentors

HISTORY

In the mid-1970's Bert Clifford of Unity, Maine headed a group of local citizens that identified with ideas or "seeds" for community development that could be nurtured and eventually harvested. Some of these seeds that took root in Unity were the Leisure Homes retirement center, Unity College and affordable housing complexes. These were followed by the Field of Dreams athletic complex and the Unity Centre for Performing Arts (a 200+ seat theater, gallery and banquet space).

In August 2002, to mark the first anniversary of Mr. Clifford's passing, the Unity Foundation founded a youth philanthropy program – originally called "Seedplanters". The first four young people involved were children of UniTel employees. UniTel is an independent telephone company, owned by Mr. Clifford at the time of his passing. In 2003, this program transferred to UniTel and is an annual program using the time, talent and energy of the employees' children and grandchildren.

In the first year, the kids gave away \$2,000 to six nonprofits providing services to children in Waldo County. In addition, Unity Foundation donated \$50 to a charity of each youngster's choice.

In 2003, the program was transferred to UniTel and became "*Unikids Care Club Care Club*". Since that time *Unikids Care Club Care Club* has given grants totaling more than \$6,000 and provided hands-on volunteer time to several local nonprofit organizations, including a local food pantry and children's home.

A \$2,000 grant budget is the typical amount provided for awards. In addition, UniTel provides adult advisors and additional funds for participant materials (notebooks, sweatshirts, etc.), advertising, postage, travel and the awards ceremony.

When developing this program guide, the founding *Unikids Care Club Care Club* members were asked to assist. Their personal growth and continued commitment to their community's youth is impressive.



OBJECTIVES

More than 10 years of research show that youth engaged in philanthropy lead in giving and volunteering during their lifetimes, as well as choosing nonprofit/human service related careers. In an agrarian state like Maine, it is important to instill in our youth the understanding of philanthropy and the responsibilities and rewards that come with being a giving member of the community.

Through building the youths' awareness of philanthropy and honing skills such as team building, goal setting and critical thinking, this project promotes leadership, entrepreneurship and generosity.

Youth participants have the opportunity to formulate new, and enhance existing, skills.

Knowledge in the following areas will be acquired:

- Community and public foundations
- Grantmaking
- Basic finance/budgeting
- Fund development
- Evaluation methods
- Community issues – needs assessment/diversity/issues affecting youth
- Nonprofit organizations (local)
- Volunteerism

Tools for accomplishing following areas will be introduced to the participants:

- Effective grantmaking
- RFP creation
- Review and evaluation of applications
- Collaborative opportunities
- Evaluation of process
- Critical thinking
- Leadership
- Team building
- Communication

Many of the same skills will be enhanced and strengthened for the adult participants/advisors to youth philanthropy programs.

COSTS:

The program costs include, but are not limited to:

- Grant funds
- Refreshments for meetings and award ceremony
- Facilitator time and travel costs (can be considered in-kind)



ADULT PARTICIPANTS

What's involved?

- Set the program parameters (maximum award; funding area/region; application deadline; meeting dates; refreshments, etc.)
- Help the youth understand concepts and skills necessary for thoughtful and prudent grantmaking
- Publicize the program
- Coordinate site visits
- Organize and publicize the award ceremony
- Provide the grant money as well as costs associated with program
- Thank the youngsters for their time and energy

What does it take to be an effective Adult Advisor?

- Patience
- Flexibility
- Quick thinking
- Good communication skills
- Understanding of and willingness to work with youth
- Willingness to learn about philanthropy
- Be encouraging and motivating
- Be a good role model
- Be open-minded
- Knowing when to “let go”

Above all – Advisors must be personally committed to the project and WANT to be involved. The kids know when someone “shows up” because its part of the job.



OUTCOMES

The benefits of a youth philanthropy program are both measurable and immeasurable. Studies have shown that youth who are encouraged to give and/or volunteer grow up to be more generous and even work in the nonprofit world. Harder to quantify is the sense of connection with the community and the life skills gained by participating youth.

Outcomes include:

- Cultivating philanthropy in young people
- Supporting youth-serving programs
- Encouraging volunteerism
- Building long-term friendships
- Enhancing public communication skills
- Promoting positive youth-adult interaction and decision-making

OPTION 1: An annual grantmaking project taking 4 or 5 meetings:

- Session #1: Get acquainted and learn the basics of how young people can donate money to worthwhile nonprofit groups that help kids in the local community.
- Session #2: Discuss the applications received from local nonprofits requesting funding and decide which 2 – 4 groups they want to see for a site visit (field trip).
- Session #3: Visit the nonprofit groups, then return to the original meeting site to discuss and decide on the grant awards.
THE FINAL DECISION IS THEIRS ALONE!
 [A second day of site visits can be made depending on applications and timing.]
- Session #4: Youth publicly present checks to the nonprofit groups. Lots of photos!

OPTION 2: This program combines grantmaking and volunteering. The grantmaking portion of the program can be done one or more times per year (see Option 1). The volunteering/community involvement portion is ongoing.

Abilities enhanced at this level include time management, money management, environmental audit, fundraising, and communication.

- Session #1: Get acquainted and learn the basics of how young people can donate money and time to worthwhile nonprofit groups that help kids in the local community.

Work together to understand the needs of their community.

Decide on both grantmaking and volunteer opportunities.

- Session #2: Same as Option 1

- Session #3: Same as Option 1

- Session #4: Same as Option 1

- Ongoing: Identify volunteer opportunities

Identify fundraising opportunities

Determine group meeting schedule as well as a way to stay in communication between meetings.



A FINAL WORD

We trust that the youth who participate will find this experience rewarding, educational and fun. We welcome your questions and feedback at all times.

For additional information, please contact: Jumpstart Our Youth
c/o Unity Foundation
P O Box 815
Unity, Maine 04988
207-948-6489
info@unityfdn.org
www.unityfdn.org
www.jumpstartouryouth.org