



Racine Community Foundation Announces Unique Grant Competition Innovative Youth Soft Skills Development Programs Sought

RACINE, WISCONSIN, July 1, 2017...The Racine Community Foundation (RCF) is focusing attention on an often overlooked, yet critical success driver in life – development of soft skills, the interpersonal skills and behavioral traits which characterize a person’s relationships with others. Community non-profit organizations are being asked to submit ideas for innovative programs to address development of stronger soft-skills in the young people they serve by close-of-business on Tuesday, August 15, 2017.

Soft skills, such as effective communication, self-confidence, teamwork and strong work ethic among others, are essential to success in school, as well as job and career pursuit. Sociologists use the term “EQ” or Emotional Intelligence Quotient” as opposed to “IQ” or Intelligence Quotient to distinguish soft skills from hard skills, which refer to a person’s knowledge and occupational skills.

The need for RCF’s soft-skills development grant program emerged from a comprehensive 18-month long series of conversations with youth engagement organizations, according to Liz Powell, Executive Director, RCF. “Each told us how critical soft-skill development was for the young people they serve, as well as the dearth of resources available to address. This unique grant program will help bring an increased focus on this vitally important component of effective youth engagement to help prepare young people to thrive in school and work environments.”

In response, an anonymous donor offered a matching grant to help support one or more programs in our community that address this significant need. The unique nature of the matching grant coupled with RCF’s desire to identify the best possible uses of the funds, RCF has adopted a grant making process that is inclusive, cost-effective and engages our community. Community youth-focused organizations can access the one-page soft-skills development grant application online for by calling RCF offices at 262-632-8474. Submissions may be made for either existing programs or one(s) the organization would like to develop. All applications received by the August 15th deadline will be reviewed by volunteers affiliated with the Foundation, and a small number of finalists will be determined. Finalists will then be asked to make their best “pitch” to a diverse panel of community members who will select the winner(s) and the amount to be awarded.

ABOUT THE RACINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The mission of the Racine Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Racine County by encouraging and providing opportunities for charitable giving and by managing and distributing the funds in a responsible manner. For additional information, please visit: www.racinecommunityfoundation.org, the Foundation's Facebook page or call 262.632.8474,