

# IRISH YOUTH FOUNDATION (UK) GRANT AWARDS 2016 FOR PROJECTS BASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND

## **Artillery Youth Centre, Belfast**

[www.artilleryyouthcentre.org](http://www.artilleryyouthcentre.org)

£4,000 has been awarded towards a project which aims to support a group of young volunteers through a process of work experience, training, community activism and personal development. This project will support 10 young adults through a yearlong programme of volunteering and community action. The project will enhance their skills, develop their capacity and provide a springboard for these young people into the world of work. It will involve residential, skills training and mentoring and will challenge the negative stereotyping of young people. As a result of their participation in the programme, young people will gain the skills and confidence to take their first steps into the world of work. They will enhance their own social capital and learn the skills of leadership and the value of community action; the rewards of hard work and benefits of co-operation and working with others.

Artillery Youth Centre is a youth-led project for young adults based in the New Lodge area of North Belfast. It is independent and works with marginalised groups including young parents, young offenders, youth at risk and school-refusers. It aims to work in partnership with young people to create a professional, imaginative and creative youth service for this community; by delivering a series of programmes and projects that will help increase confidence and self-esteem and thereby encourage the participation of young people in their own community.

## **Foyle Down Syndrome Trust, Derry/Londonderry**

[www.foyledownsyndrometrust.org](http://www.foyledownsyndrometrust.org)

£4,000 has been awarded towards the creation of a multi-sensory room which can be used by all the members, aged 0-24, to develop a variety of skills but which ultimately enriches the provision for the children with sensory impairments. The project will have a variety of uses and benefits for them all. Careful lighting and sound affects the unconscious mind and will form the basis for much of the work in the multi-sensory room. It is envisaged that language development, anger management, speech therapy, hand/eye co-ordination and gross/fine motor skills will all be enhanced using the special effects in the room.

Foyle Down Syndrome Trust is a local charity established in 1995 by parents who believed that more could and should be done to help their children lead full, meaningful and productive lives. It fosters a culture of inclusion with its innovative and groundbreaking approach to the educational and social needs of children and young people with Down syndrome enabling them to reach their full potential.

### **Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group, Belfast**

£4,000 has been awarded towards “Summer Without a Riot” – a programme put together by the young people from the Youth Project from the results of last year’s successful summer diversionary programme. They would like to see it grow and encourage more participation from other young people in the community during time of social unrest and unwanted sectarian violence. Providing social outing and summer camp meets the needs of the young people in the summer and is very topical all year round. With the continued support of the IYF, the programme has provided a safe environment for young people and allowed them to participate in many different and challenging activities. The programme is also used to grow the volunteer base and provide on the job training to young leaders. The Cliftonville Community Centre is a purpose-built facility, situated in the heart of Manor Street, a catchment area which is one of the most deprived wards in NI. The centre is run by a group of residents and aims to be a beacon of hope and opportunity in the community where local people can address their needs and gain support and advice for a better quality of life.

### **New Life Counselling, Belfast**

[www.newlifecounselling.net](http://www.newlifecounselling.net)

£4,000 has been awarded to provide counselling sessions for 5-10 children and young people currently on a waiting list and support them through counseling and creative therapies to give them coping mechanisms and build their emotional resilience for dealing with conflict and family breakdowns. There are currently 82 children and young people presenting with this issue on the waiting list.

New Life Counselling is a voluntary counselling organisation committed to supporting the the emotional health and wellbeing needs of its clients through the provision of counseling and therapeutic services. It provides one to one counseling and group therapy services for children, young people, adults and families for reasons including bereavement, relationship difficulties, impacted addiction, suicidal thoughts, depression, bullying and anger.

### **Northern Ireland Children’s Enterprise, Belfast**

[www.nichildrenenterprise.com](http://www.nichildrenenterprise.com)

£4,000 has been awarded towards a residential programme which aims to train and support 18 young people from marginalised communities to become young leaders in a divided community. Last year the residential programme funded by the IYF, which involved putting young people through an accredited peer leadership programme, was hugely successful and oversubscribed. NICE would like to follow this up by running another programme but using some of the young people trained last year as peer mentors on the new programme. This will allow them to further develop their skills and put these to use, and to train a new group in peer leadership and mentoring.

The aim of the organisation since inception in 1988 has been the development of good relations between communities in Northern Ireland. Its objectives are to promote reconciliation, good relations and mutual respect by providing programmes which provide a variety of opportunities for people to learn respect and value all the traditions and diversity that exist in the community.

## **Patrician Youth Centre, Downpatrick, Co Down**

[www.patricianyc.com](http://www.patricianyc.com)

£4,000 has been awarded towards the continuation and development of key aspects of the Centre supporting 3 projects currently funded by the IYF: Homework Support for children aged 8-11 years on 4 afternoons weekly; the Award programmes – Duke of Edinburgh's/President's and Millennium Volunteers for 14+ year olds, and the Late Nite Economy/Diversionsary Programmes – Friday and Saturday evenings and mid-term provision for young people who are more difficult to engage or who are known as being involved in at risk/anti-social behaviour.

Patrician Youth Centre is a full-time, purpose-built Youth Centre centrally located in Downpatrick which aims to provide, maintain and promote facilities and activities of a social, spiritual, educational and recreational nature in order to improve the lives of young people without distinction of sex, political, religious and other opinion.

## **REACH Across, Derry/Londonderry**

[www.reach-across.co.uk](http://www.reach-across.co.uk)

£4,000 has been awarded towards the T.A.S.K Project (Training in Activities, Skills and Knowledge) which aims to develop and strengthen cross-community contact between 50 young people, by means of a variety of positive development and recreational activities and events, in a region adversely affected by anti-social behavior, under-age drinking and lingering sectarianism. The project aims to provide productive opportunities and training that will enhance the employability, social awareness and confidence levels of participants. It will include a Summer Scheme, an Outdoor Education Camp and a personal development programme.

REACH Across is a cross-community youth project for 14-17 year olds in the western region of NI which aims to create and develop cross-community contact between young people through a programme of contact residentials, training courses, weekly meetings and international projects. It aims to provide young people from recognised areas of disadvantage, or social service referrals, with personal development opportunities that will increase their skills-base, employability, social awareness and self-confidence.

## **Sólás, Belfast**

[www.solasbt7.com](http://www.solasbt7.com)

£4,000 has been awarded towards The Patch project offering 10 young vulnerable teens aged 14+, who have been diagnosed with Autism and learning difficulties, a unique training in gardening and food production through the use of aquaponics. Aquaponics is a sustainable method of producing plants including chillies and tomatoes, which grow twice as fast as using traditional methods. It is a user and eco-friendly food cultivation system, recycling water from fish tanks to feed the plants, encouraging respect for the environment and an improved sense of citizenship. The chillies and tomatoes will be turned in to sauces and relishes and sold to local cafes/restaurants, giving the students an opportunity to participate in the production of food and, within time, its sale. The long term goal is to improve employability among these young people by providing them with skills they can use in home and work environments. Young people with special needs lose all statutory support at age 19. Sólás aims to start upskilling them now so they do not spend life after school confined to day-care centres which are not always appropriate for the needs and abilities of these individuals.

Sólás is an educational charity which provides support and resources to children and young people with additional needs including autism and ASD. Although based in South Belfast, the charity's work extends across Northern Ireland and it strives to ensure that "every child is a happy child" by offering children and young people unique learning opportunities tailored to their needs to attain their full potential in learning and life.

## **Verbal Arts Centre, Derry-Londonderry**

[www.theverbal.co](http://www.theverbal.co)

£4,000 has been awarded towards the operation of a “Mobile Reading Room” to be driven to hard to reach, marginalised communities living in areas of high deprivation throughout Belfast and its surrounds. READING ROOMS – GOES MOBILE is a highly branded customised vehicle with the capacity to drive to inaccessible locations with a bespoke internal space to allow young people to get on board when static and participate in a Reading Room, wherever they are. The project aims to remove all barriers experienced by participants who are the most vulnerable and marginalised in the community. The programme is based on a weekly engagement session led by a trained facilitator who will use specially selected high quality literature to connect with participants focusing on themes of mental health development, reduction in social isolation and creative engagement. The project aims to work with a total of 30 young people to build a love of reading in a safe place for their voice to be heard.

The Verbal Arts Centre was established in 1992 to be a space, both physical and conceptual that provides all members of the community regardless of age, background or ability with the opportunities, skills and resources to tell their story using creative means and to experience and engage with the stories of others. The prime purpose of the Verbal Arts Centre is the promotion of the language arts, celebration of commonality and diversity, development of knowledge, understanding and excellence in creative performance and critical practice across the verbal art forms, together with research, publications and provision of information.

## **Willowfield Parish Community Parish Association, Belfast**

£4,000 has been awarded towards the expansion of their existing work with young people including the Great Escape Summer Residential scheme which has been running since 2009 and plays a key role in youth work in the community, allowing young people to link up in new friendships and experience new activities, and the 7up scheme which works around issues of those making the transition from primary to secondary education in a fun way and links them with youth workers and volunteers for support when school starts back in September.

WCPA was set up 14 years ago in inner city East Belfast to benefit local residents, specifically teenagers, elderly, lone parents, primary aged children, unemployed, families struggling with the impact of deprivation and poverty. The Willowfield area is classified with high social deprivation and health issues, mental health problems, educational underachievement, and drug and alcohol misuse are huge challenges along with pressure from paramilitary groups. WCPA aims to meet the needs of the community around them and make a positive impact in people’s lives. It runs a variety of support programmes, including groups for recovering alcoholics, homework clubs, English language classes, job club, sports/healthy lifestyle programmes for kids, volunteer programmes, detached youth work in schools and local streets, lifestyle and self-esteem programmes. Through detached work in schools, local streets, its drop-in and youth clubs, WCPA connects with more than 150 local young people each week who struggle with the impact of sectarianism, social deprivation, educational underachievement and low employment opportunities.

## **Youth Link NI, Belfast**

[www.youthlink.org.uk](http://www.youthlink.org.uk)

£4,000 has been awarded towards a new accredited training and work placement initiative designed to engage or re-engage young people at risk of disadvantage and social exclusion, not in education, employment or training in an educative and resilience building programme. The programme will enable young adults to develop their generic and essential skills, their confidence and self-esteem, to prepare them for further training and skills development, to improve their empowerment prospects and enable them to take their place as active citizens within their own communities and beyond.

Youth Link is a unique partnership of Churches working together to develop excellence in youth work and ministry, enabling young people and youth practitioners to be agents of transformation in a divided society.

## **LAWLOR EDUCATION GRANTS 2016**

During the academic year the Irish Youth Foundation supports disadvantaged pupils from all community backgrounds under this programme of grants toward the advancement of education in Northern Ireland. A number of individual Irish students at universities and colleges in the UK also receive financial support.

The following schools and colleges have received grants of £3,000 in 2016/2017 to be used to help disadvantaged pupils and school projects at the Principal's discretion:

**Ashfield Boys' High School, Belfast**

**Belfast Boys' Model School**

**Christian Brothers' School, Glen Road, Belfast**

**Corpus Christi College, Belfast**

**Hazelwood Integrated College, Belfast**

**Lisneal College, Londonderry**

**Malone Integrated College, Belfast**

**St Cecilia's College, Derry**

**St Louise's Comprehensive College, Belfast**

**St Mary's College, Derry**

**St Patrick's College, Belfast**

**8 individual students will also receive bursaries this academic year.**