

IRISH YOUTH FOUNDATION (UK) GRANT AWARDS 2017 FOR PROJECTS BASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Artillery Youth Centre, Belfast

www.artilleryyouthcentre.org

£4,000 has been awarded towards a “community apprentice” project which aims to support 10 young people through a year-long programme of training, work experience, community action and personal development. The project will enhance their leadership skills, develop their capacity and build their sense of belonging within the community. It will involve residentials, skills training and mentoring and will hopefully start these young people on a road of community activism, volunteering and positive citizenship. The programme aims to help these young people become more employable and give them an opportunity to explore their own values and beliefs.

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

£4,000 has been awarded towards encouraging and supporting children and young people with Down Syndrome to participate in a Music Education and Therapy programme. A Music Education and Therapy Centre will be opened in an unused room the Shared Future Centre and the project will offer new opportunities for the children and young people to learn to play musical instruments, develop musical awareness and vocal skills, whilst being engaged in creative music making and show casing their talents on an annual basis to a wide audience in one of the local theatres.

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.

Growth for Adolescents and Providing Support, Lurgan

£4,000 has been awarded towards a project called Community Adolescent Mediation and Listening Services (CALMS) – a community mediation project for the North Lurgan community and surrounding areas. The area has been designated as a Low Peace Impact Area with low educational attainment, limited mobility and lack of employment; significant levels of ongoing paramilitary control, community tensions and violence with destructive cycles of the past continually reinforced; large numbers of marginalised young people and lack of youth activities resulting in recruitment of young people into paramilitary activity, crime, interface rioting and violence; high levels of mistrust and limited connections with statutory agencies and the police. CALMS is an early harm reduction intervention programme that seeks to listen and mediate a solution in any situation such as peer relationship breakdown and threat of paramilitary/gang violence. It seeks to provide a physical space and safe environment for the local community.

Growth for Adolescents and Providing Support was established in 2011, achieving charitable status in NI in 2016, and in 2015 acquired 30,000 sq ft of recreation space in a local community family complex including sports/physical activity space for 450+ people and a fully functional dance studio which is used 7 nights a week with an excess of 200 young people. GAPS's vision is to unite and empower young people in a single place and to be a catalyst for ideas, innovation and skill development for life learning and positive well-being. Growth for Adolescents and Providing Support aims to promote a model of youth care to provide education of positive mental and emotional health and provide sporting facilities for physical well-being development.

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 times 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 situated on an interface site and directly beside a peace line. It 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.

Patrician Youth Centre, Downpatrick, Co Down

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/Diversionary 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. The programme will also promote inclusion – inclusion of those with needs, i.e children with Autism and those arriving in the community from other countries such as Syria having suffered trauma in the process. It will welcome, nurture and support the well-being of all those who participate.

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

£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

£4,000 has been awarded towards The Patch project which, following a successful pilot project last year, aims to offer 20 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

£4,000 towards the operation of a READING ROOMS – GOES MOBILE project which sees a "Mobile Reading Room" 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. This project aims to build on the delivery last year of this programme with Extern Pathway programme working with young people aged 15-18 who are disengaged for various reasons from mainstream education. The programme will remove barriers experienced by these participants who are the most vulnerable and marginalised in the community. It 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 strengthening self-confidence and self-esteem.

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.

West Bann Development Centre, Coleraine

www.westbann.com

£4,000 has been awarded towards 'Practical Youth' which will offer life skills courses to 36 young people over 12 weeks in practical skills of maintenance/decorating, sewing and crafts, budgeting and money management. The programme seeks to bring young people together from different backgrounds to develop life skills and educate them as a route to employment and further training and skills that can be used in the home, at college, at work or for business creation.

West Bann Development covers a large geographical area and much work is targeted to benefit the residents of a renowned deprived and culturally divided area known as Churchlands. It aims to stimulate regeneration of the area for the benefit of the public, relieve poverty, unemployment, and enhance community life by providing opportunities which will enable local residents to fulfil their aspirations and improve relations to positively impact upon their lives. Programmes include education and training, health and well-being, childcare and older people's services.

Willowfield Parish Community Parish Association, Belfast

www.willowfieldchurch.co.uk

£4,000 towards the expansion of their existing work with young people and children in the summer and post-summer term-time activities 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. The Great Escape also provides a strong foundation for working with young people further throughout the year and really addressing their needs. The term-time programmes involve a mixture of activities and environments that seek to engage young people in positive ways in their community and aim to address the lack of hope for the future that many young people have and raise their expectations of what they can achieve and become.

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

£4,000 towards a new accredited training and work placement initiative designed to engage 48 young people who are the most marginalised and disadvantaged in the process of life-long learning through non-formal education and training to improve their life chances, enhance their capacity to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and to make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

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. Youth Link is the largest provider of accredited training for volunteer and part-time youth practitioners and young people in Northern Ireland. It is the only forum in Northern Ireland where churches co-operate formally in the service of young people. It was formed in 1992 by a strategic alliance of the Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. Youth Link exists to provide support and training for youth workers and peace building and reconciliation experiences for young people.

LAWLOR EDUCATION GRANTS 2017

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.

Grants awarded under this programme will be announced in due course for the forthcoming academic year.