

IRISH YOUTH FOUNDATION (UK) GRANT AWARDS 2018 FOR PROJECTS BASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Artillery Youth Centre, Belfast

www.artilleryyouthcentre.org

£4,000 has been awarded towards a Young Women's project working with 16 young women over the course of a year aiming to address the use and misuse of social media; increase their educational attainment and support them to be more empowered and assertive. It will involve residential, skills training and mentoring and will hopefully start these young women on a road of community activism, volunteering and positive citizenship.

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.

Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group, Belfast

£5,000 has been awarded towards "Standing Together" – a programme progressing from last year's successful "Summer Without a Riot" put together by the young people of the Youth Project. They are very excited about what this year can present with more young people getting involved, especially at times of social unrest and unwanted sectarian violence. Providing social outing and 2 summer camps, the project 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 provides a safe environment for young people and allows them to participate in many different challenging activities and to learn new skills. The programme is also used to grow the volunteer base and provide on the job training to the volunteers and 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.

Oasis Youth, Portadown, Co Armagh

www.oasisyouth.co.uk

£5,000 has been awarded towards a 1 year programme which will benefit BME children in Portadown and Craigavon and will build on the experience/relationships which have developed through current or previous programmes. The project will deliver a 1 week summer scheme in July and 2 after school programmes running weekly for 36 weeks from September 2018 – July 2019. The 2 after school programmes will be in central Craigavon and at the Oasis centre involving 100 children. These children will be from different cultural backgrounds such as: Poland, Portugal, Lithuania and Irish/Northern Irish and will promote integration between both local and BME children and young people. The summer scheme with a good relation focus will be delivered in July in a marquee and classrooms at a local high school in Portadown, and will include 500 children (60% BME/50% free school meal recipients) and 200 volunteers (150 young leaders and 50 18+ adult leaders). The summer scheme will recruit new BME children and volunteers into the after school programme due to start in September. This will prepare for a new season of integration work with children. Evaluation from this programme will allow for youth-led programmes to be implemented where young people's ideas will be taken on board.

Oasis was formed in 2010 as an integral part of Community Intercultural Programmes (CIP) services to support members of the new communities and was created to assist the integration of young people from diverse ethnic cultures and communities.

Oasis provides a wide range of services for children and young people and channels them through personal development, health and wellbeing initiatives, and cross-community projects aimed at tackling isolation and social exclusion. Approximately 240 children and young people from 12 different cultures participate in projects every week and the Oasis programme is now considered a model of good practice, unique in Northern Ireland.

Patrician Youth Centre, Downpatrick, Co Down

www.patricianyc.com

£5,000 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 – weekend provision on Friday and Saturday evenings and mid-term targeting 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

£5,000 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.

St Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre, Belfast

www.stpetersimmaculatayc.org

£2,000 has been awarded towards a project which aims to provide mentoring support for the most vulnerable and at risk young people in the Lower Falls community of Divis. The project will target young people who are involved in the youth justice system and are isolated and excluded from most services. The lack of wrap-around services further limits the life potential of the young people. The project will provide staff support, motivational interviews and some one-to-one mentoring for them when they return to the community.

St Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre delivers developmental youth services to high-need young people in West Belfast through formal and informal education programmes, community service programmes, arts and culture activities, athletic activities and counselling. The Youth Centre aims to broaden the horizons and life expectations of the children and young people and assist them in reaching their full potential as active and positive citizens in their community.

West Bann Development Centre, Coleraine

www.westbann.com

£5,000 has been awarded towards “18 in ‘25”. This futuristic project is aimed at local young people who will be *age* 18 in the *year* 2025. It will take time to explore a number of themes relevant to young people around themselves, their family, their community and their future work. These will help the young people create a vision for themselves and be better equipped for the future by gaining knowledge of the aforementioned topics. The overall aim is to instill respect for diversity and arm the young people with skill sets that *really* count in a fast changing environment.

“The best way to predict the future is to create it” - Abraham Lincoln

The project aims to reach 28 young people between the ages of 11-14 exploring the following themes in a fun and informative way:

- 1 My Leisure - Time - Exploring technological changes over the next 10 years.
- 2 My Family - Exploring demographic changes in the future world we live in
- 3 My Community -Exploring diversity and local politics in 2025+
- 4 My Money – What are the trends? Mortgages or Rental? Coins or paperless?
- 5 My World - Exploring the Super Powers of 2025+
- 6 My Work - Exploring employment over the next decade and changing job titles.

My Predictive Time Capsule (vision board)

My Reward (trip to W5)

Through this project young people will gain the following experience and benefits:

vision and resilience; skills and mentoring; community relations; interpersonal skills; hope and motivation; confidence and CV material. The neighbourhood is in a High Needs area of Northern Ireland where residents experience multiple deprivation according to NIMDM. It has 8% higher child hood poverty than the rest of Northern Ireland. This project will be a show case for the neighbourhood exemplifying the efforts of the young people working together in a divided community towards a shared and exciting future.

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 fulfill their aspirations and improve relations to impact positively upon their lives. Programmes include education and training, health and well-being, childcare and older people’s services.

Willowfield Parish Community Association, Belfast

www.willowfieldchurch.co.uk

£5,000 has been awarded towards the ongoing youth work in the Woodstock, Ravenhill and The Mount areas of East Belfast, which are rated in the top 10% for social deprivation, taking 56 young people, aged 11-17, along with 16 leaders on a week-long summer residential, *The Great Escape*, held at the Cleenish Centre in Enniskillen from 6-11 August. The week is full of fun activities not available in Belfast including coasteering, go-karting and an adventure day at the lakes. Willowfield PCA is based in a loyalist working-class area where there are still hangovers from the years of The Troubles. Additionally, the community centre is based 0.4 miles from the local interface where regular antisocial behavior takes place at increased times of tension, particularly over the summer period surrounding the Twelfth and while the young people are off school for the summer break. Positive role models in this area are lacking, with a front-page headline from the Belfast Telegraph in 2014 stating: *“Loyalist thugs are Protestant boys’ only role models”*.

This residential is a significant week in the lives of these young people as it enhances their personal development. Building trust and accountability with the young people, the leaders facilitate environments for them to be inspired and self-reflective about barriers in their lives. Many of the key volunteers at this camp attended themselves as young people and have named it as critical to dealing with and moving on from risk taking and behaviours prevalent in the community.

The aim is that young people return home from the residential with improved attitudes and awareness of those around them, with a sense of hope for their futures and an increased sense of self-worth, cemented by the knowledge that they have role models who are firmly invested in their lives and who will remain invested throughout the year as well as just at camp.

WCPA was set up in 2002 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

£5,000 has been awarded towards an accredited training and work placement initiative designed to engage 48 young people who are the most marginalised and disadvantaged in a 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 2018

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 11 schools and colleges have been awarded grants of up to £4,000 each in 2018/19 to be used to help disadvantaged pupils and school projects at the Principal's discretion:

Ashfield Boys' High School, Belfast

Belfast Boys' Model School

Brooklands' Nursery, Belfast

Corpus Christi College, Belfast

Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh, Co Tyrone

Hazelwood Integrated College, Belfast

Lisneal College, Derry

Malone Integrated College, Belfast

St Cecilia's College, Derry

St Louise's Comprehensive College, Belfast

St Mary's College, Derry

8 individual students will also receive bursaries this academic year.