

IRISH YOUTH FOUNDATION (UK) GRANT AWARDS 2020 FOR PROJECTS BASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Artillery Youth Centre, Belfast

www.artilleryyouthcentre.org

£6,000 has been awarded towards the continuation of last year's Cook It project which was cut short by the Covid emergency. Working with 20 young people aged 15-17 over a year the programme will help them gain life skills, understand nutrition and the relationship between health and food. It will involve skills training, cooking effectively on a budget, food preparation and working collectively to understand how important good food is to the welfare of young people themselves, their peers and their families.

Since the Covid Emergency became the all-pervasive issue in the community, Artillery Youth Centre set up the kitchen to provide a weekly Sunday dinner for isolated and vulnerable families, using the equipment purchased through the project and the volunteers involved in the programme. Since the lockdown, they have been delivering meals to around 50 people each week.

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 decision-making in their communities and their own lives.

Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group, Belfast

£5,000 has been awarded towards a programme called 'Distance Makes a Difference' to support both the young people and their families through the Covid-19 emergency. Smaller groups will be run to ensure the social distancing guidelines are met which will give the young people the time and a place where they can express their feelings and talk about the impacts of the situation. The very successful summer camp, which has been running for 10 years with the help of IYF funding, will not be going ahead this year and this new programme will look at the positives and negatives of the experience for the young people from having no school, not seeing friends and family to being totally isolated from everything they ever knew before. When possible small groups will be taken to the beach to take part in themed games to give the young people a chance to relax and be children again. A creative art programme and home learning workshops will also be organised as well as connecting parents with the Youth workers to express any issues of concern they may have about their children.

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

£6,000 has been awarded towards the continuation and development of key aspects of the Centre supporting 4 projects currently funded by the IYF. The programme elements supported, which will commence in September, are:

Homework Support – the provision of support for children with homework completion and directed study, especially for children new to the area, i.e. from Syrian and Bulgarian families

Award Programmes – support for young people aged 14 plus to take part in award programmes, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh's Award and gain recognition and accreditation which will support their educational/vocational development

Late Nite/Mid-term Diversionary Programmes – providing a weekly late night programme with cooked supper on Friday nights and out of Centre trips on Saturday evenings and providing 2 mid-term week programmes for young people during October 2020 and February 2021 to address need alongside fun and enjoyment when young people are not in school. The Centre aims to work on themes relevant to the young people's needs which in the past have included self-care, mental health and physical fitness

Family Support – supporting families to engage in youth services through providing bespoke support packages for children and young people to promote engagement in key programmes nurturing personal, social and educational development.

Patrician Youth Centre is a full-time voluntary organisation centrally located in Downpatrick, ranked in the top 10% - 20% most deprived wards, 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. The Youth Centre is fully committed to ensure the care, welfare and safety of young people who participate in the organisation and aims to foster the personal, social and spiritual development of each young person.

REACH Across, Derry/Londonderry

www.reach-across.co.uk

£5,000 has been awarded towards the S.A.I.L Project 2020 (Summer Activities and Integrated Learning) which will provide a two-stage approach to enabling cross-community contact and developing the personal skills, confidence and awareness levels of young people aged 14-17yrs. The project will provide positive and integrating opportunities, in a region adversely affected by anti-social behaviour, under-age drinking, lingering sectarianism and worrying mental health/depression/suicide levels. Participants will primarily be recruited from recognised areas of disadvantage, and referrals will be accepted from social services and partner schools.

During the project participants will be invited to select and participate in an activity, a skills session and a learning workshop, as part of a Summer Intervention Scheme and invites will also be issued for a 5-day Outdoor Education Camp. The Summer Intervention Scheme will be a combination of development workshops, education visits and outdoor activities that will build up the confidence and awareness of participants. The Outdoor Education Camp will be self-catering and will consist of a range of activities, life-skill challenges and team-building exercises, that will enhance confidence, friendships and outdoor skills.

In addition to the Summer Scheme and the Summer Camp, participants will be given the option of being Staff for a Day or for a week. During their placement, participants can gain experience in office administration and youth work procedures, and thereby benefit their employability or progression routes. These intended residentials are conditional on government guidance and schools have been contacted to provide the use of their grounds for nights' camping if outdoor centres remain closed.

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

£4,000 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 criminal lifestyles and are either on their way into the youth justice system, are presently incarcerated or on their way back into the community. 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. This is when they are most vulnerable and at risk of re-offending and need the help of the Centre and staff to re-integrate into daily life.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, the Centre has observed an increase of anti-social behavior in the Lower Falls and Divis and an increase in alcohol and drugs abuse due to lockdown as the young people lack the personal social development skills to help them cope with the effect of the imposed isolation. These young people have always felt isolation with in their families and community Covid 19 has magnified these 10 folds as the support network these young people depended on was taken away from them within a matter of weeks. The Centre has seen levels of violence & sectarianism with a number of young people being hospitalist over the lockdown. These behaviours have increased their risk of harm as they are left very vulnerable to local paramilitary elements in the community. The project will provide staff support, emotional motivational and nurturing approach through one to one mentoring to help to de-escalate their self-harming behaviours 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.

Sólás, Belfast

www.solasbt7.com

£5,000 has been awarded towards running the 'TAL' programme for 20 young people with disabilities. TAL is a composite programme including both physical and social development opportunities through trampolining, which is used to bring calm to the young people and get them to a frame of mind where they can engage in social development opportunities primarily based on arts and lego therapy. The programme has adapted as a result of the pandemic and moved to online support including Zoom quizzes, Zoom Pictionary and catch-up WhatsApp calls between youth leaders and individual youth members. Small groups are intended to resume with beach walks, forest walks and the resumption of trampolining with fewer young people per session and 2 staff ensuring social distancing. Online Zoom sessions will continue to evolve and integrate new activities. As restrictions lift greater numbers of young people will be brought together for social activities.

Sólás is a Special Needs charity which provides a range of services for children and young people aged 2 – 18 years of age with learning and physical disabilities, (mainly autism), and their families across Belfast and wider afield in Northern Ireland. The charity aims to make a difference and ensure that all children and young people have opportunities to grow and develop socially, educationally and emotionally, regardless of their ability.

Willowfield Parish Community Association, Belfast

www.willowfieldchurch.co.uk

£6,000 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% most deprived for Education, Skills and Training, and also for Crime and Disorder. The project aims to provide the following:

Schools work – to be a presence in a number of local secondary schools, leading assemblies, running various clubs

Detached work - undertaken in schools and on local streets on weekend nights in collaboration with other organisations

Cross-community projects - run alongside other organisations to build positive relationships and understanding between young people of opposing communities

Youth clubs - a Friday night club for 11-18s to provide an alternative to hanging out on streets and allow them to build relationships with staff and volunteers; a youth club for 16+ and a weekly youth gym to encourage young people to look after their health.

Personal development/leadership training: 'Leaders In Training', providing training and practical opportunities for young people aged 15-18 to volunteer with children, young people and hospitality, giving them skills and experience to enhance their CV, and small-group sessions focussed on personal development to deal with young people's issues as and when they arise.

Summer Projects: two summer residentials, one for 11-13s and the other for 14-18s, which allow young people to engage in positive activities and new experiences, while removing them from an interface area during a period of political tension. Personal development and self-reflection will be the focus to encourage young people to reflect on what holds them back in life and how to overcome this, to set goals and achieve them.

Following the Covid emergency, the youth and kids teams adapted the original programme and packed over 200 at-home activity packs and delivered them to all under-18s who attend WPCA's programmes to support parents who were having to entertain their children and teenagers at home as well as home-schooling them. Zoom chats were used to 'meet' online and continue with some of the personal development work with the young people. WPCA have kept in touch and supported all their young people with mental health issues or practical needs such as food parcels and provided exercise challenges and fun videos through social media to maintain their connection while not being able to meet physically. WPCA 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. WPCA 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, WPCA 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

£6,000 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. Much of the programme will be delivered online until such time that it is safe to engage young people in face to face youth work processes and activities including group work, outdoor education, field visits, residential, environmental and social justice project work and community celebrations of the learning achieved.

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 2020

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 in 2020/2021 to be used to help disadvantaged pupils and school projects at the Principal's discretion:

All Saints College, Belfast

Ashfield Boy's High School, Belfast

Belfast Boys' Model School

Brooklands Nursery, Belfast

De La Salle College, Belfast

Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh, Co Tyrone

Hazelwood Integrated College, Belfast

Lisneal College, Derry

St Cecilia's College, Derry

St Louise's Comprehensive College, Belfast

St Mary's College, Derry

Individual student grants will be decided later in the year.