

High School/High Tech Funding Bulletin, February 2002
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1. Public and Private Funding Sources and Grant Announcements

This month highlights private funding sources that have an interest in Youth. All of the foundations listed below are also in the High School/High Tech funding database located on the HS/HT web site, www.infouse.com/highschool-hightech. Once you log in as a coordinator, go to "funding" and search on the name of the foundation. The profile that comes up highlights pertinent information about the foundation and offers a link to the foundation's web site.

Handspring Foundation

Handspring, a manufacturer of personal digital assistant products, established the Handspring Foundation in June, 2000. Their mission states, "The Handspring Foundation reflects the values, orientation and commitment of Handspring to be exemplary corporate citizens within the global community. This commitment seeks to serve as a catalyst for change in the areas that reflect our company's values and culture through charitable contributions and employee volunteerism." Source: www.handspring.com/company/foundation, January 2002.

The Handspring Foundation makes product and cash grants to non-profit organizations that focus on issues directly related to Children and Youth at Risk. Funding targets organizations that reach underserved youth. Of particular interest are initiatives that are directed toward high-risk youth that utilize the arts or technology for children's health, for victims of abuse or neglect, children in foster care, and assistance programs for homeless families with children. One recent grant recipient is Via Rehabilitation Services, Inc. of Santa Clara, California. \$7,500.00 was given to help expand the services provided by First Step Early Intervention Program, a series of services for children with disabilities or developmental delays.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Originally called the W.K. Kellogg Child Welfare Foundation, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation is now one of the largest foundations in the world. It's mission has been guiding the foundation since its inception: "To help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations." The current program development areas of interest are Youth and Education, Health, and Food Systems and Rural Development. Part of the special focus for Youth and Education through 2008 is to prepare young adults for meaningful work. Source: www.wkkf.org, December 2001.

One example grant funded Juma Ventures to help at-risk minority youth to return to school and acquire responsible work-skills training. \$ 130,000 was given to the National Organization on Disability to improve employment opportunities for high school students with disabilities through school-to-work

transition programs. And \$ 95,500 went to the Northern Michigan University to create innovative employment opportunities and help create and expand jobs for young people in the region. Source: www.wkkf.org, December 2001.

Best Buy Children's Foundation

School-age children are the focus of this foundation's grantmaking activities. Funding is given to non-profits that use innovative methods to build life skills for youth living in Best Buy market areas. The foundation's mission states, "Best Buy is dedicated to making a meaningful and lasting impact on the quality of life in the communities we serve...We're committed to forming partnerships that make a difference in people's lives, from helping kids develop job skills to funding outreach activities." Source:

www.bestbuy.com/about/communityrelations/childrensfoundation.asp, September 2001.

Some of the nationally funded programs for youth are YMCA, Communities in Schools and Big Brothers & Big Sisters. Grants typically range from \$2,000-10,000 and emphasis is placed on programs that encourage personal achievement through mentor relationships, help develop life and leadership skills, and that create educational opportunities in the classroom. Best Buy Foundation is accepting proposals for it's next grant cycle until May 15.

Adobe Community Relations

Adobe makes desktop publishing software and was instrumental in launching desktop publishing in 1982, Through its Community Relations program, Adobe intends, "...to positively impact, strengthen, and make our local communities better and healthier places in which to live, work and do business..." Source: www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/philanthropy/main.html, July 2001.

According to its mission statement, "Adobe invites proposals for programs and services that develop self-reliance, character or self-esteem, and eliminate dependency; strengthen or support the family and individuals; address prevention as well as treatment; eliminate duplication of services and encourage collaboration; are model projects with a strong possibility for replication, or have demonstrated success elsewhere; test highly promising new ideas for greater program- or cost-effectiveness; offer the promise of demonstrating new and effective ways to meet community challenges."

Adobe partners with K-12 schools and non-profit organizations to help reach its community relations mission. Some recent grants relevant to HS/HT are Downtown College Prep in San Jose for the Role Model Program and the Technology Access Foundation in Seattle. Source: www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/philanthropy/main.html, July 2001. Adobe does not have a minimum or maximum grant amount; however, cash grants generally range from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

Established in 1985 through a donation of common stock from Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc., this foundation seeks, "... to make the world a better place by empowering Ben & Jerry's employees to use available resources to support and encourage organizations that are working towards eliminating the underlying causes of environmental and social problems." Source: www.benjerry.com/foundation/index.html, September 2001.

While the mission of the Ben & Jerry's Foundation is quite broad, grants have been given to many youth programs. One example grant went to the Youth United for Community Action (YUCA). Led and run by young people of color, YUCA provides youth with a vehicle to empower themselves and develop productive life skills through community organizing. Another grant went to the Young Women's Work Project, who's mission is "to creatively instigate new economic, educational, spiritual and leadership organizations around the country." Created for young women who live in poor and working class communities, this organization is working to end poverty. Source: www.benjerry.com/foundation/2000q3.html, September, 2001. Deadlines for grant applications are March 1, July 1, and November 1, annually.

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Youth development is one of the major program areas of interest for the Kauffman Foundation. "The Youth Development division of the Kauffman Foundation is committed to helping children and youth become fully prepared for the future. Our Youth Development grants focus on the goal of helping all youth develop to their full potential." Source: www.emkf.org, September 2001.

Although the majority of the funding provided by the Kauffman Foundation goes to programs within Kansas City, Missouri, funding requests for regional and national youth programs that match the foundation's objectives are also considered. Grant size ranges from a few thousand to several million dollars, depending on the size of the organization and the scope of the project. One funding recipient in 2000 was Jobs For The Future, a program that helped to develop the potential of youth in the Kansas City, Missouri School district. The Learning and Training Center, Inc. was another grantee who used the funds to implement a new workforce training curriculum.

William G. McGowan Charitable Fund

This charitable fund was established by William G. McGowan, who founded MCI Telecommunications Corporation in 1968. "The McGowan Charitable Fund was established to realize--and to enlarge--the magnificent potentials which Mr. McGowan foresaw in the future of the young, as well as the rewarding promises of medical research and the critical need to enhance the role of American business by providing scholastic assistance to promising students." Source: www.mcgowanfund.com, August, 2001.

Examples of funded programs are not given, however this grantmaker has dedicated resources to "Helping Today's Youth," and describes the goals of its funding programs. "The Fund supports...established programs that assist the young in achieving their potential through educational and training programs...special attention is given to programs for the indigent, those who attend under-funded inner city schools and those with physical or mental disabilities." Source: www.mcgowanfund.com, August 2001. Employment, education, and mentoring are specific characteristics of programs this fund seeks to support.

2. Tips on Fundraising: Foundation Center Proposal Writing Short Course

The Foundation Center is a free resource for the philanthropic community and was highlighted in last year's April/May funding bulletin. The mission of the Foundation Center is "to support and improve institutional philanthropy by promoting public understanding of the field and help grantseekers succeed." Source: www.fdncenter.org, December, 2001. To this end, it conducts research on funding trends, offers education and training in the grantmaking process, and collects and disseminates information on philanthropy in the U.S.

If your program relies heavily on funding from grant sources, writing a solid funding proposal is imperative. To help non-profit organizations succeed, the Foundation Center has a free, on-line course that provides step by step instruction. Access the short course at: <http://fdncenter.org/learn/shortcourse/prop1.html>. The course begins with an introduction that describes the role the funding proposal plays in the overall process of cultivating corporate and foundation donors. In two parts, the main components of a quality proposal are discussed.

Other topics addressed in the course are: gathering background information, how to craft the executive summary, statement of need, project description, budget, organization information, and conclusion. The course also provides helpful advice and accepted industry practices. Knowing when to use a letter format and when a full scale proposal can make or break your organization's chance for receiving a grant. Navigating these and other funding proposal norms and the contents of a good letter proposal are all addressed in this on-line course.

Although the Foundation Center has staff to provide training and guidance for the library materials at five locations throughout the United States, the on-line training resources are available 24 hours per day and are accessible to anyone via the internet. You can find more of the Center's resources by visiting <http://fdncenter.org>. Choose the Virtual Classroom from the Learning Lab drop down menu.

3. Successful and Innovative Funding: Marshalling Resources in Georgia

This year, Georgia High School/High Tech sites are eligible for funding through the Georgia Department of Labor's Rehabilitation Services Program.

According to Lee Miller, President and CEO of the Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a proactive way to ensure funding for High School/High Tech sites is to tap existing resources at the state level. Establish relationships with local state officials and develop a collaborative approach to funding. This can be done with state agencies that provide services to students who would benefit from High School/High Tech: Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education and Business Leadership networks are examples.

Previously, Georgia received funding by searching for state and federal government grants and applying for them as they became available. The sites did get money from NASA and other agencies. Volunteered time from Vocational Rehabilitation staff, Goodwill, Albany A.R.C., and county school districts allowed Georgia High School/High Tech to operate without paying for site coordinator salaries. However, the uncertainty and time commitment with this approach to fundraising is what pushed Georgia to find a more stable flow of resources.

Lee says, "The key is to involve students and establish eligibility for Georgia's program requirements. Place them on the caseload of Rehabilitation Services, which allows High School/High Tech to be written into student's individualized plan for employment. In addition, including High School/High Tech in each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) will open up opportunities for funding from the State Department of Education."

While Georgia has coordinated this linkage with the Department of Labor at the state level, individual sites can also use this strategy by making contacts and building relationships at the local level. By enrolling High School/High Tech students in the Rehabilitation Services program, individual sites can benefit from this type of funding. This proactive approach to fundraising "does take a lot of personal time, but establishing these important relationships and connections pays off powerfully," says Lee. "This gives you a sustainable, non-competitive flow of resources. At the same time you are working on this, you can also apply for other grants that become available." Through this approach, the Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities plans to run a successful High School/High Tech program for approximately 300 students this year.

Georgia High School/High Tech was initiated by the Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. The Georgia Committee administers the program in Georgia, developing funding sources and promoting recruitment of businesses to the program. Supported by a structure of Regional Initiatives Coordinators in the Department of Labor, Georgia offers training, guidance, leadership, program planning and general assistance to the local HS/HT sites.

4. High School/High Tech Program News and Announcements

New on the High School/High Tech web site:

Site profiles:

How do other High School/High Tech sites get funding? Who are their business partners? How do they make time to do it all? Find out by reading High School/High Tech site profiles in the library on the High School/High Tech web site, www.infouse.com/highschool-hightech. After signing in as a coordinator, choose the Library from the list of options at the top of the page. The site profiles are listed by name in the list of library contents. Each profile provides a short history of the initiative, lists its goals, successes, challenges, resource materials and highlights local business partnerships. Spokane is the most recent posting and profiles for 19 other sites are available as well.

New Funders added to Funding Database

Check out the new additions to the private funders section of the funding database. Three new entries have been added: Handspring Foundation, The Roberts Foundation, and the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

Funding Bulletins for December and January

The December and January funding bulletins are posted on the web site in the library for your reference.

NCSET Teleconference

NCSET TELECONFERENCE

February 20, 2002

The New Freedom Initiative: Linking with the Workforce Investment System to Support Transition Goals

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Central Time

This teleconference will provide an overview of federal support of technical assistance efforts to promote better transition outcomes. It will highlight the efforts of the Workforce Development Collaborative for Youth with Disabilities, funded by a technical assistance grant and operated by the Institute for Educational Leadership. The call will feature Paul Hippolitus, Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor, and Joan Wills, Workforce Development Center, Institute for Educational Leadership.

<http://ici.umn.edu/ncset/events/teleconferences/feb02.html>

Feedback

Your input and ideas will help support of all the sites' fundraising efforts. Any feedback on the bulletin format and content is welcome. Specifically we'd like to know:

Did you use any of this information for fundraising at your site?

What foundations have you contacted?

What techniques did you use?

Were you successful?

Did the topics in the bulletin introduce you to new ideas, or would some other information be more useful?

Please contact Monica Slater of InfoUse to have your funding news and announcements included in this newsletter. She can be reached at (510) 549-6520 or via email at m Slater@infouse.com. Your comments, contributions and suggestions for useful topics and bulletin content are welcomed.

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Contact The Collaborative

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The Workforce Collaborative for Youth with Disabilities is working to ensure that youth with disabilities can access high quality services that will result in future employment and independent living. The Collaborative will help to build the capacity of the nation's workforce development system and its workers to assist youth with disabilities. The Collaborative is part of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative goal to integrate Americans with disabilities into the workforce.

As part of the Collaborative, InfoUse will email a funding bulletin to the High School/High Tech sites each month. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide the latest information on funding opportunities, offer tips on grant or foundation proposal writing, profile successes and innovations in fundraising, and inform sites about significant program news and announcements.
