



Presence

PROJECT RENEWAL

projectrenewal@revealed.net
563-324-0800

PROJECT RENEWAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOOK A TRIP TO CHICAGO THIS YEAR

2019 REPORT

Thank you for a great 2019!

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported Project Renewal! If you recall, last year at this time we were asking for support to *double* your donation to Project Renewal. This was to complete the Challenge Grant that we were awarded by the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend (now named the Quad Cities Community Foundation). We met this goal and completed the challenge! Between August 1 and December 31, 2018, Project Renewal raised \$15,000 in new donations or increases from current donors. THEN the Quad Cities Community Foundation matched it, giving Project Renewal a total of \$30,000!

Are you wondering what we did with this pool of money?

One third was used for our daily youth program operations, some of which provided enhanced opportunities for our kids as a group or for individualized experiences such as camps and band lessons. Another third was used to establish an endowed fund at the Quad Cities Community Foundation, expanding options for donors to give in a meaningful way, including qualifying for the Endow Iowa Tax Credit. The final third was applied to Project Renewal's Futures Fund (see more, page 4).



Beyond Homework Help

Sometimes, simple homework assignments become challenging when our kids can't relate to the scenarios being presented. Basic questions and problems are complex if kids lack the framework in which to relate. It's easy to assume all kids are exposed to teachings gained through family experiences, vacations, a parent's business or social circles. When your childhood lacks this kind of experiential learning, there are hurdles and challenges in youth development. Kids can become frustrated, leading to disinterest in school when they wonder, "Why do I need to know this?" Then negative feelings, loss of hope, loss of self-esteem and inappropriate behavior can create a downward spiral for our youth.

Instead, we want to build our kids up! Homework help and snacks are essential parts of our daily routine. Just as important, however, are the opportunities to learn through art, nature, exploration and play. Throughout each year, in large and small groups, Project Renewal kids participate in a wide variety of life experiences. These opportunities help them relate to things they learn in school, learn to build and nurture relationships, and communicate, ultimately leading to an increased understanding of how things work in our world and our community.

A 45-year legacy

As 2019 draws to a close, Project Renewal's tradition of excellence in serving our community and our students continues. For forty-five years Project Renewal has positively impacted students through a stable, loving environment where educational opportunities abound and enduring relationships are formed. Forty-five years of excellence does not happen by accident. Indeed, it is a testament to the commitment of supporters like you who take an interest in the well-being of our organization and the well-being of the students, families and community we serve. It is also a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of our Executive Director, Ann Schwickerath.

While this newsletter only captures a small portion of Ann's work, to witness her energy, compassion and love for our students on a regular basis is truly breathtaking. Finally, Project Renewal is blessed with the knowledge and resources of a strong and committed Board of Directors. Their time and service is often in the background, yet their impact on ensuring good governance and stewardship of Project Renewal's resources is immeasurable. For their service, I am truly grateful.

Thank you for your continued support and may your holiday season be filled with many blessings.

Alex Cahill, President, Board of Directors

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

FUNDERS

American Power Systems, Inc.
Amy Helpenstell Foundation
Birdies For Charity
Catholic Service Board
City of Davenport
Community Development Block Grant
Davenport Lend-A-Hand
Friendly Thrift Center
Futures Fund Donors
GlaskoSmithKline
Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District
Holy Family Parish
Hubbell-Waterman Foundation
Individual Donors
Jenkins Family Foundation
Lulac Council 10

Mary Iva Gittens Knouse Charitable Fund
Melvin McKay Trust
Notre Dame Club of the Quad Cities Our
Lady of Lourdes Parish
Quad City Bank & Trust
Quad City Community Foundation
QC Morning Optimist Club
Regional Development Authority
Rice Bowl Grant
RSM Foundation
Sears Manufacturing
St. John Vianney Church
St. Paul Lutheran Church
St. Vincent's Home Corporation
Theisen's More For Your Community
Tri-City Garden Club

BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Anderson, Alex Cahill, Tara Haiston,
Cathy Halligan, Victoria Keninger, Brett
Ketelsen, Elisa Klein, Eileen O'Brien,
Richard Pokora, Colleen Porter, Carole Six

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Carroll*, Meg Halligan*, Wilma
Hauser*, Msgr. Marvin Mottet*, Tom
Roederer, Steve Sears Rachel Serianz, Barb
Tinsman (* = deceased)

The Futures Fund

WHAT IS IT?

Project Renewal's Futures Fund is a permanent support account that increases Project Renewal's financial stability. With this fund we can offer more opportunities and experiences for older youth in grades 9-12 to prepare for meaningful careers after high school. We can also continue the strong support provided to youth in grades K-8.

WHY?

Realizing more high school students remain connected to Project Renewal through graduation, we began a cohort known as the Futures Group four years ago. Many of our kids are now participating in band, show choir, theatre, athletics and other extra-curricular activities, or they have jobs. To meet their schedules, we get together evenings or in-service days to foster that connection. Together, we work on life skills like goal setting, positive risk-taking, perseverance, and organization. We also help them create a plan for life after graduation. Everyone has different goals, talents and interests, so we explore certifications, 2- and 4-year colleges, and skilled trade programs. Adult mentors, including some Treat House kids who are now adults, provide guidance and support.

While this all sounds very serious, we manage to imbue it with some fun and challenging activities. Over the past year, we have sailed on Lake Michigan and kayaked West Lake. We tackled the high- and low-ropes courses at Camp Shalom, watching the kids spontaneously create a network of support and encouragement for each other. Some kids learned to blow glass at Hot Glass and created amazing, functional works of art. We've had taco bar and pancake dinners and cooked out to celebrate our 2019 graduate and welcome the new freshmen. On our radar are a STEM day at University of Iowa, camping and a visit to our state capitol.

HOW

In July, we began the final year of fundraising for our Futures Fund. We set a goal three years ago to increase donations and grant funding by \$80,000 each year. The resulting \$240,000 will generate income to fund our Futures Group activities going forward and serve as a backup for daily operation. In the meantime, we were fortunate to receive a Regional Development Authority Grant to fund two years of activities for our high school cohort. Many of you generously increased your support, and we have had success in establishing new business partnerships and grant opportunities. Just like our kids, we have a plan and the confidence to go after it. That's how we make a brighter future for everyone at Project Renewal.

WHAT WE NEED TO COMPLETE PROJECT RENEWAL'S FUTURES FUND

As of this fall we have \$172,810 committed toward our goal. Project Renewal is promoting another challenge to benefit our Futures Fund and raise the remaining \$67,190 by June 30, 2020. We continue to seek out grant support, business partnerships and individual donors for this specific goal. While we still need funds to support our daily operating expenses, please consider a gift toward the Futures Fund. A new donation or increases from current donors will help make it happen!



A few thoughts from the people Helping at Project Renewal

Growing up in the Quad Cities, I was aware of the fact that not everyone grew up as privileged as I did, but I rarely experienced it firsthand. Working at Project Renewal gave me this opportunity, and I am so grateful for what I learned from working there last summer. I made unforgettable memories, had the opportunity to see the kids grow both academically and socially, and realized that helping out in your own community is one of the most rewarding things you can do. Project Renewal truly changes the lives of the kids who go to the Treat House, and I can't wait to see them succeed.

Emma Horsfield

2019 Project Renewal Summer Staff

There are sparkling gems at the Project Renewal Treat House. I feel privileged to be able to participate in this wonderful project. Kids are able to get their homework done, hone up on math and reading skills, have fun with computers and daily treats and outdoor activities. Perhaps even more importantly they learn to respect themselves and each other, socialize with other kids and adults in a positive way, and get out and see more of the world through well planned field trips. As a volunteer I don't go to "work" with kids, I go to be part of this very meaningful association, and I too, have learned along the way! Thanks, Project Renewal.

PJ

Project Renewal Volunteer

I am a senior studying psychology and art therapy at St. Ambrose. I've worked at Project Renewal for the past three summers. Over these three years I have seen every child grow positively towards their goals. Witnessing how much the kids have grown has been inspirational to me because the growth is exponential. Being able to listen to a child read who could not read my first year is a constant reminder of just how important what we teach at Project Renewal is. This past summer I had the opportunity to lead high school students through art therapy exercises. The students learned what art therapy is and how they can apply these skills to their lives. This was an amazing opportunity for me and the kids involved because it taught me leadership skills and taught the kids coping skills that they can take with them throughout their lives!

Katie Binkley

Project Renewal Summer Staff



Summer staff

The 2019 summer staff were simply outstanding. Thank you to all of the college students who made the Project Renewal summer program a successful one. Some students tested higher in reading and math when returning to school this fall.

2019 SUMMER STAFF:

- Bernard Buhake, St. Ambrose University, Sociology major
- Kaitlyn Binkley, St. Ambrose University, Psychology & Art Therapy major
- Sarah Hammond, St. Ambrose University, Music Education major
- Emma Horsfield, Oxford College of Emory University, Business & Spanish major
- Terrence Shubert, St. Ambrose University, Elementary Education major
- Valentino Cesar, St. Ambrose University, Forensic Psychology major
- Yuna Xing, Notre Dame University, Chemistry & Art Studio major

Fit-Fest Fun

Thank you to all of the people who made Fit-Fest an awesome event. Save the date for next year: **Saturday, April 18, 2020!**

FIT FEST Contributors:

- ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY
- PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC GROUP O
- GOLD COAST - HAMBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
- REDSTONE CONTENT SOLUTIONS
- ASTRA FURNITURE CLEARANCE CENTER
- EDWARD JONES - TIMMONS
- WHBF, KGCW
- RUSSELL
- CITY OF DAVENPORT
- ROCK VALLEY PHYSICAL THERAPY
- MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SURGERY CENTER
- ANDERSON, LOWER, WHITLOW, P.C.

- ASCENTRA CREDIT UNION
- GREATEST GRAINS
- ADVANTAGE ADVERTISING
- SODEXO
- OAK HELM PARTNERS
- ELLIOTT AVIATION
- BRIAN FRITZ, DDS
- HALE PRINTING & VINYL GRAPHICS
- RIVER CITIES SOUND
- MOLYNEAUX INSURANCE
- FRIENDS OF PROJECT RENEWAL
- MEDIC-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- HYVEE

FIT-FEST Special Thanks:

- *St. Ambrose University athletic department, campus recreation, campus ministry, club members.
- *Davenport Police Department.
- *Our neighbors.
- *Project Renewal youth & family members.
- *Energetic volunteers, Zumba Instructors and DJ.

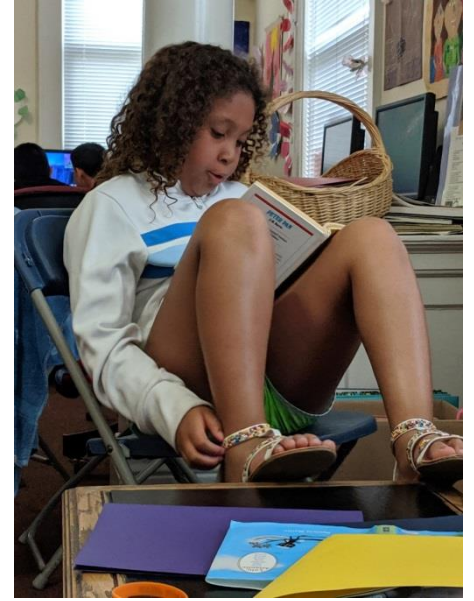
FIT-FEST Door Prize Donors:

- Gold Coast-Hamburg Historic District Association
- Sippi's American Grill
- Whitey's Ice Cream
- Tommy's Café
- Chocolate Manor
- Oh So Sweet
- Running Wild
- Greatest Grains

OUR MISSION

Project Renewal acts in the neighborhood as a loving presence, which will empower children and families to realize their dignity, reach their potential and address the root causes of poverty and powerlessness.

“At Project Renewal, my children get help in a way that meets their needs. My child has raised his math and reading goals. They keep learning fun for the children. My children create friendships, new interests, and have positive role models.” – Anna, parent



906 West 5th Street
Davenport, IA 52802