



Woodside Community Action Grants

2015-2016 Funded Projects

Arizona Living Classrooms

Student Lead: Virginia Coco

Project Overview: This project supports the implementation of an experiential and adventure learning program that teaches academic and life skills to eighty 4th and 5th grade students in an urban public elementary school. There are four stages of project implementation. In Stage 1, the Newbery honor book, *My Side of the Mountain*, by Jean Craighead George, and the *Pocket Guide to the Outdoors*, by the same author, will be presented with an accompanying curriculum to teachers in 4th and 5th grade classes to increase the students' awareness of community assets, understanding of the environment, and the use of books to embark on adventure. Stages 2 and 3 of the project focus on facilitating service learning opportunities for the students. Students will complete four service projects, and each will allow the students to apply a theme that they have learned about in the classroom. The Projects are: (1) "Keep the Community Clean," where students will clean up the school grounds and surrounding area, (2) "Be Responsible," where students will put in a day of service at an animal rescue, (3) "Show Appreciation," where students will make Valentines and visit a senior center, and (4) "Good Stewardship," where students will help with a forest service project. Parents will be involved in helping the students work through some of the educational material related to this unit at home and will assist with the field trips. The students will then complete a project to show what they have learned from the unit as a whole. The students will vote for each other's projects, and the thirty students with the most votes and highest grades on the unit will then be selected to go to Camp Colley, an experiential learning camp in Happy Jack, Arizona, for three days.

Funding Amount: \$1500

ASUPHS'I

Student Lead: Abigail Graham

Project Overview: ASUPHS'I is a part of the Project Humanities program here at ASU. ASUPHS'I is hoping to continue the 'Building Bridges Film Series' into 2015 with three Veteran-focused films. Their goal would be to foster community conversations between selected Veterans groups and the ASU community. They hope to prompt and promote awareness around the struggles veterans often face, such as transitioning back to normal life after war, homelessness, and mental health care. The film series events would each be roughly two hours long, with an hour to an hour-and-a-half for the film and the remaining time for discussion. They hope to create a safe space where the ASU community where Veterans can discuss and possibly propose solutions regarding the above-mentioned issues. The funding would be used to

purchase the rights to the films they would like to show, and they would then be able to do additional screenings of the films if so desired.

Funding Amount: \$1000

Designing Micro Air Vehicles

Project Overview: The Micro Air Vehicle club at ASU will be overseeing this project, which involves 3D-designing, building, testing and analyzing mechanical flapping birds and Arduino robotic cars in a 6-week engineering outreach program for middle and high school students. The project connects local youth with ASU engineering students. The students will be exposed to ASU student organizations (e.g. Micro Air Vehicle (MAV) club, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), etc.) and engineering alumni. The intent of the program is to spark imagination through hands-on learning by using the principles of flight, physics and engineering concepts. The project's focus will be on engaging youth in high-need Hispanic communities that are typically beyond the reach of similar educational outreach programs.

Funding Amount: \$1500

First Gen Scientists

Student Lead: Eugene Chung

Project Overview: First Gen Scientists (FGS) is a multidisciplinary initiative to broadly promote awareness of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields to local at-risk and underprivileged youth. FGS, an Arizona State University student organization, forms partnerships with local schools and provides an opportunity for students (grades 6-8) to explore a wide-range of STEM fields through an interactive and mentor-based, after school program as to help them find a self-inspired niche. FGS ultimately plans to develop a 3-year program that can be implemented in new sites across Arizona. The students would like to use the funding to develop an after-school curriculum and purchase materials for activity testing to use in local schools. After initial implementation, quality of the curriculum will be evaluated using retrospective pre-post surveys and grouped data including attendance, grades, and benchmark scores. FGS has an ultimate goal to develop a 3-year program package that can be seamlessly implemented in new school sites.

Funding Amount: \$1,500

Greenlight Solutions

Student Lead: Jake Savona

Project Overview: Greenlight Solutions is a student-led venture at ASU whose focus is on sustainability education. They would like to implement a new sustainability project a local elementary school, Shaw Montessori. The project's first phase focuses on the school courtyard, transforming it into a shaded, water efficient living laboratory, which will empower learning through exploration, natural landscape manipulation, and sustainable education. This learning environment will include a pollinator garden comprised of desert adapted vegetation which will serve the students as an opportunity to learn how to maintain a garden and how urban heat island effects can be mitigated, which is a serious issue currently experienced on the Shaw campus. Phase 1 also includes the implementation of a succulent wall, a bug hotel, and a butterfly terrarium to teach about biodiversity and sustainability.

Funding Amount: \$1250

Healthy Urban Gardens

Student Lead: Nari Miller

Project Overview: The applicant is a doctoral student here at ASU in Geological Sciences who studies toxic metals and pollutants. The project focuses on the spread of urban gardening here in Phoenix, and how it has put people in close proximity with soil potentially contaminated by toxic metals and pollutants. The project funds would go towards soil quality and toxin (lead, heavy metals) testing of local soils to help urban communities choose healthy soils, to provide a strong foundation for future urban gardens. This group will network via the local urban gardens (Clark Park, Tempe) and offer to test soils from local homes as well. This project provides people with the power to grow their own healthy food with the assurance that the soil it is being grown in is safe. Importantly, it also will provide them with important information about their local environment and soils. Knowing the levels of pollutants in the soils may dispel fears of people who assume city soils are toxic, and may prevent damaging neurological and health effects from overexposure. This project would help Clark Park and other urban gardens continue, and also help instigate more shared gardens where they are needed and where there is interest. With the money this grant provides, the student would also be setting up gardening lessons for school-aged children, after-school opportunities for teens, and volunteer (and harvesting!) activities for families and seniors. Gardens are not exclusive -- often the issue is providing the impetus to bring people there.

Funding Amount: \$1500

Iron City Magazine

Student Lead: Natalie Volin

Project Overview: Iron City Magazine is a literary journal devoted entirely to writing and art from the prison world. This group of ASU students would like to establish themselves as a non-profit organization, collect submissions, and design a magazine, all with content from incarcerated individuals. To do this, they have recruited an editorial board consisting of two undergraduate students, two graduate students, and two professors. They will work as a team to see their project realized, with a publication date of March 1, 2016.

Funding Amount: \$1500

Life Renewed

Student Lead: John McCrea

Project Overview: The project focuses on the adult refugee needs in the local Phoenix Community, primarily those that are experiencing culture shock. The student plans to purchase necessary supplies to coordinate lessons and seminars to help these people start a new life. This would include writing supplies, hygiene supplies, reading education books and other supplemental educational materials, and more.

Funding Amount: \$400

Light Up The Garden

Student Lead: Stephen Annor-Wiafe

Project Overview: The ASU-Poly campus has an on-campus community garden, where students frequently volunteer. ASU-poly students, via GlobalResolve, would like to set up a wind turbine to power lights for the community garden at night. GlobalResolve is a program in the Ira. A Fulton Schools of Engineering at ASU that would be overseeing the project. Their goal is to make community gardening at the ASU Polytechnic campus easy and possible at any time

of the day, since intense heat during the day can prevent people from wanting to spend time in the garden. The project implementation would occur over nine working weeks between November 30, 2015 and March 7, 2016. Each of the weeks would have a specific goal to be achieved, ranging from constraints and criteria identification to product testing. At the conclusion of this period, the turbine would be installed and functional. Periodic monitoring would be carried out after installation to ensure its safety and functionality. The budget was very detailed and showed the exact costs of each of the parts needed to construct the turbine.

Funding Amount: \$1350

Local Community Renovation Project

Student Lead: Audrey Elms

Project Overview: Audrey Elms was a 2014-2015 Woodside Recipient. She would like to continue her sustainability training with local elementary school aged training. This project will be a continuation of the community garden project she began last year at Nevitt Elementary. Nevitt is an underserved, local elementary school that currently does not have funding for extensive science programming. Over the past year, they have renovated their school's garden and planted a variety of vegetables. Throughout this program, the students were able to learn more about plants and how to create a sustainable garden. Audrey plans to use these funds to further expand and maintain the vegetable garden, fund sustainability programming and continue their role model program with ASU students.

Student Committee Feedback: Given the success of last year's trainings, and the continued support from USG (Undergraduate Student Government) Tempe, we feel this project will continue to be successful.

Funding Recommendation: \$1200

New Look for New Roots

Student Lead: Breanna Gonzalez

Project Overview: This project is supported by the Peace Corps at ASU club, whose focus is on the refugee population in Phoenix. The students are active volunteers and partners with the IRC (International Rescue Committee) and their New Roots Program. New Roots is a community garden where refugees from all over can come together, grow food to feed their families, and even sell produce for a profit. At first sight the New Roots garden appears to be a large lot with a humble shed and a few rows of crops but lacks a strong sense of community. The students would be using their Woodside funding to revive this community garden, a main source of income for the refugees. Their additional plans include: painting inspirational murals, installing shaded seating areas for the refugees as a conversational space to share experiences, and installing a community bulletin board to feature families, share gardening tips and promote IRC services.

Funding Amount: \$1500

Partners in Empowerment

Student Lead: Sierra Morris

Project Overview: Partners in Empowerment is a new organization at Arizona State University with goals to develop a mentoring program and curriculum to help at-risk community youth, raise awareness of exploited and trafficked children, and improve the health programming and nutritional quality of the food that group homes, shelters, and other organizations deliver. The goal of their Greener Futures project is to promote sustainability, agriculture, and the

importance of proper nutrition to at-risk youth. They will be building a greenhouse and planter boxes at Tumbleweed in Phoenix, which provides a safe place to live for homeless or runaway youth. They will teach the residents of the facility (males, ages 13-17) about the importance of nutrition and sustainable gardening. Students at Arizona State University will come every other week to help with upkeep of the greenhouse. The food produced will be used in the kitchen at the facility where the boys will all learn about proper nutrition.

Funding Recommendation: \$1400

Recycling Inspired Murals

Student Lead: Trinity England

Project Overview: The student would like to have a large mural painted in the trash and recycling room at Native American Connections' Devine Legacy affordable housing complex. The colorful mural will create a greater sense of place, educate and encourage the residents to recycle. This mural project aims to strengthen community connectedness and overall sense of place. Murals will be painted by community members at three Native American Connections affordable housing complexes using the grant money to buy the supplies. The murals will be strategically placed in the recycling rooms at each site to encourage residents to visit the colorful space often. Educational posters regarding recycling will also be present in the rooms, which will increase the lack of recycling knowledge.

Funding Amount: \$1000

Refugee Youth Summer Program

Student Lead: Lindsay Dusard

Project Overview: This student project focuses on working with refugee children in Phoenix during the summer 2016 months. Summer offers a vital opportunity for refugee students to develop their social, emotional and academic skills. However, due to lack of funding and priority, these summer months have gone to waste in the past. The student will be partnering with two refugee resettlement agencies in Phoenix, the International Rescue Committee and Refugee Focus, to provide a summer program at Serrano Village Apartment Complex. Serrano Village houses newly arriving refugee families. The student is a current active volunteer in this community. She would like to use the funding to purchase supplies for fun and interactive programs (e.g. games, books, arts and crafts supplies, etc.). Additionally, the student will also be conducting her undergraduate honors thesis research based on this project, which demonstrates a high level of commitment to the project's success, and that she will have the academic support of her thesis committee.

Funding Amount: \$1500

TigerMountain Foundation

Student Lead: Maryam Dehghan

Project Overview: TigerMountain Foundation (TMF) was legally established in 2005 to help underprivileged youth and adults, particularly former prisoners, in south Phoenix gain job experiences in gardening and landscaping. TMF currently maintains three large community gardens on formerly vacant lots where TMF grows vegetables without the use of chemicals. With Woodside funding, TigerMountain's team of student interns + staff would like to carry out a beautification project. The Garden of Tomorrow Beautification project will consist of painting and hanging murals around their tool storage container, turning it into a beautiful piece of

artwork. They will also be hanging multiple murals around the exterior of the garden to draw more attention to the presence of the garden in the community.

Funding Amount: \$1500

Worldly Kids

Student Lead: Nicholas Stevenson

Project Overview: Worldly Kids is a nonprofit founded by a current ASU student to provide resources and support to underserved K-12 children in Title 1 schools. Their Woodside project is a beautification project that will occur at PT Coe Elementary. PT Coe Elementary is currently rather dismal looking, and the applicants are committed to making school a more enjoyable experience for the students by addressing some of the aesthetic issues on the campus. They will be painting the internal and external parts of PT Coe's campus, such as the three playgrounds, forty-nine classroom doors, and walls that have completely faded in color; as well as working on a community flower garden. The focus of Beautification Project for PT Coe is to help incentivize the PT Coe students to appreciate and actively engage in their learning environment. The applicant is leading a team of students to PT Coe on one of Changemaker's upcoming Service Days to clean up trash around the campus, sweep, and rake, sanitize classrooms and playgrounds, and power-wash exterior walls and walkways, and would use the Woodside Grant to purchase supplies to further these beautification efforts.

Funding Amount: \$1200