
Rotary Club's program pushes youth wellness

By ALAN LEWIS GERSTENECKER
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'The Year of the Healthy Child' is latest effort by group

Rotary International for generations has provided humanitarian services, and the Montrose club is channeling its efforts toward children in Montrose and Olathe through an increased grant initiative.

Entitled "The Year of the Healthy Child," the Montrose Rotary Club has significantly increased its budget for

community grants to \$20,000 during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The club invites groups and organizations to apply for programs and/or special projects that fit within this initiative.

"We want to improve the grant program so it has the greatest benefit," said Melanie Hall, a Rotarian on the grant committee. "We began

this process in January with focus groups to specifically see how Rotary can have a greater impact on the community."

Hall said current efforts such as the High School Mentoring Program and Shoes for Kids program are "immensely good things," and the group is reaching out in other ways to aid youth, specifically

to create a smart-phone app to connect children and their parents to resources.

"(Rotarians) want to have a greater impact on helping the community," Hall said.

As part of "The Year of the Healthy Child," the Montrose Rotary Club has significantly increased its budget for community grants to

\$20,000 during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and it is inviting the public and organizations that serve the public to apply for programs and/or special projects that fit within this initiative.

"Specifically, we seek to fund organizations that are providing services to local youth in any of the following areas: physical health,

mental health, recreational or educational," Hall said.

Hall said the program is a competitive grant process, urging groups to apply through the bi-annual cycle where 80 percent of the funds will be awarded. Groups should complete the Colorado Common Grant Application available at www.montroserotary.org in its entirety and

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submit electronically to montroserotarygrants@gmail.com. The deadline for the fall cycle is Oct. 1. Recipients of those grants will be announced Oct. 30.

The deadline for the spring application is March 1, with the announcement of recipients on April 30.

Hall said understanding some projects are smaller in scope and do not fit easily into the competitive cycle, 20 percent of the granting funds are available through a rolling cycle on a first-come, first-serve basis. To request a Year of the Healthy Child Mini Grant, submit

a letter describing your project, the target population, the timeline, budget, and ways that Rotary's investment in your project will be recognized to montroserotarygrants@gmail.com.

Hall urged prospective grant applicants to review the grant guidelines at montroserotary.org to review the granting guidelines in advance of submitting your application.

Applications will be scored according to their relevance to the published guidelines. Questions regarding the Year of the Healthy Child Community Grants can be directed to the grants committee at montroserotarygrants@gmail.com.

Rotary International,

which was founded in 1905, is a worldwide service organization whose purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. It is a secular organization open to all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, or political preference. There are 34,282 member clubs worldwide, and 1.2 million Rotarians have joined these clubs.

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