

District 6290 Grants Committee
District and Global Grants
Approved November 13,2018 for Rotary Years 2018-2019

DG-15

Grand Haven/Baker College Rotaract

District Local Grant

Grant Title: Community enCompass, YEP skill training project

Amount Awarded: \$2,500.00

As unemployment continues to affect millions of young people and businesses struggle to find qualified employees, the global community has become increasingly attuned to the need to prepare young people for the world of work. Skills development offers a key to smoothing that transition. Persisting in such high numbers, youth unemployment affects individuals, families, communities, international businesses, and whole economies. Put simply, it becomes a pressing issue for everyone, everywhere. At the same time, passionate and innovative young people around the world are showing the power of youth-led business and social change. The project proposed here can open doors of opportunity to more young people, who can become powerful sources of innovation and creativity and key advocates for sustainable change in their communities.

The mission of Community enCompass is to empower residents and build community in the core city neighborhoods of Muskegon. Community enCompass offers many programs to support this stated mission. One program of significant value to the community is the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) The mission of the YEP program is "Empowering youth to become leaders now, while forever changing their futures, as they become pillars of society." YEP students are youth leaders, ages 15-20, who are learning together and creating a better community through participation in the following activities: (1) leadership development, (2) work experience in lawn care, (3) home rehab, (4) summer camp, (5) academic coaches, (6) urban farming, (7) college readiness, (8) job readiness, (9) volunteerism/service projects, and (10) the arts.

Every student in the YEP program participates in a work experience. Students learn real life job skills and receive hands-on training to prepare them for the workplace. The work experience also gives YEP students a space to practice what they learn in leadership development as well as live out the YEP core values: character, initiative, demonstration, positive attitude, and training.

1. A significant portion of the YEP program is focused on training and work readiness skills. The proposed project is a partnership between the Baker College of Muskegon Rotaract Club and enCompass. This project would help provide funds through community engagement to support the mission and objectives of encompass and the YEP program. In addition, Rotaract Club members will be volunteering with enCompass to provide support by working with students and community members on a house being renovated by YEP and community members. The purpose of the renovation is to provide a hands-on

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training site for the development of a variety of leadership and work readiness skills, which include critical thinking, problem solving, communication, mathematical reasoning, literacy, and fiscal management. The skills learned by participants include the following:

2. Carpentry skills: the use of hand tools, such as a hammer, tape measure, speed square, cordless driver, and later, power tools, such as the miter saw, table saw, and circular saw.
3. Math skills: finding angles, figuring room dimensions for a materials list, learning to accurately read a tape measure to 1/16 inch.
4. Basic construction skills: demolition, framing, dry walling and finishing, finish carpentry, installing flooring, painting, installing siding, hanging doors and windows, window restoration, basic wood working By working on the house, YEP participants see the tangible results of their efforts and have the pride of accomplishment and increased access to opportunities within the community.