

KEY CLUB

Youth Opportunity Fund

Youth Opportunity Fund Helps Key Clubs Serve the World

The **Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF)** is an endowed fund for Key Club held within the Kiwanis International Foundation. This fund, utilizing the interest earned, helps Key Clubs and Key Club members serve the world through grants for service opportunities. The fund is established through a portion of your Key Club International dues and through the purchase of G. Harold Martin Fellowships.

YOF grants can help you take action. Look around and identify the things that need to get done in your school, your community or world. Individuals and Key Clubs have applied for grant funds to support many kinds of service projects. A couple of examples are:

- Whitney High School Key Club, California-Nevada-Hawaii District - assist the Tijuana Project: three orphanages in Baja, Mexico. The club took basic necessities such as shampoo, undergarments, soap, and other items for the orphans in three orphanages. They also purchased toys and school supplies for the orphans and put them inside of backpacks and delivered them to approximately 150 children in the three orphanages.
- Brockton High School Key Club, New England District - build a playground for children at Keith School. The Key Club worked with the Keith School Improvement Council and the Brockton Kiwanis Club for over two years to raise the money and support for the project in order to have it started by June 2006, the 100th Birthday of the school building. So far, the three organizations have raised over \$10,000 and the Key Club portion of the grant has purchased and installed its portion of playground equipment, while they still continue fundraising and are awaiting news on an additional grant. They hope to have the remaining playground approved and built by June 2007!

The YOF funds are granted only to Key Clubs and/or club members. **The application is included in the Key Club Guidebook or on the Key Club Website at www.keyclub.org. The YOF Grant application is included in the Form section of the Guidebook.** Guidelines for filing the YOF Grant applications are also in the Guidebook under Board Policies. Please review them before completing the application.

There is only one funding cycle for the YOF. **The postmark deadline is May 15.** The application must be submitted to the Youth Funds Specialist at Kiwanis International, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268; or via fax at 317/471-8323.

In any one funding cycle, the Grant Review Committee may award up to, but no more than ten percent of the balance of the YOF Account available at the convening of the committee. Clubs may request funding assistance from US\$200 to US\$2,000. The committee typically funds those clubs who are asking for a portion of the total cost of the project, and clubs who are working with other organizations to fund and complete the project.

A few suggestions are:

- The committee judging your application does not live in your community, so the better you clarify the project, the better the committee can understand the project
- Write legibly, or enter the application on a computer utilizing the application format in the Guidebook.
- Follow the directions. The only attachment can be the budget.
- The timeline should be accurate and well-prepared.

The postmark deadline is May 15. The notification of Key Club's decision will be mailed in mid-August.