



Frequently Asked Questions

Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County 2011-12 Youth Philanthropy Initiative

An application for membership in the 2011-12 Youth Philanthropy Initiative is printed on the back of this form; however, we recommend using the PDF version of the application available at www.mvkcfoundation.org.

What is the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County Youth Philanthropy Initiative?

Modeled after similar youth organizations at community foundations around the nation, the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County's new Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) will provide a unique opportunity for high school students to recommend grants – with a youth focus – from a special fund being established for this purpose by the Community Foundation. Youth Philanthropy Initiative members will also become better acquainted with Knox County non-profit organizations, will conceive and execute their own community fundraising projects, and will gain valuable leadership experience. During its inaugural years the Youth Philanthropy Initiative will be ably assisted by Kenyon College student Ellen Blanchard, who has several years of youth philanthropy leadership experience at the local and state levels.

Who will be eligible to receive grants recommended by the Youth Philanthropy Initiative?

To safeguard the Community Foundation's tax-exempt status, all grants must be made through a partnering charity, such as United Way, the YMCA, Interchurch Social Services, or to school or government entities, that agree to serve as the "fiscal agent" for a special project conceived by the YPI. Additionally, the Youth Philanthropy Initiative may invite grant applications from other high school organizations, or from qualifying charities themselves. *The main criterion for YPI-funded projects is a focus on youth.* For 2011-2012, the Youth Philanthropy Initiative will be provided a grant-making pool of \$5,000, with an additional \$5,000 available on a dollar for dollar match basis, should YPI members elect to undertake fundraising projects of their own.

How much time will be required to participate in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative?

It is anticipated the YPI will meet monthly, from September to May, at a convenient day and time to be determined by a majority of the members. Typically, meetings will be about two hours in length, and some meetings may be convened on-site at one of Knox County's non-profit service providers. Special projects undertaken by the organization may add somewhat to this time commitment. There is also a possibility that representatives of our YPI will have the opportunity to attend an out-of-state summer conference with youth funders from around the nation.

Is academic credit provided for participation in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative?

No. Participation in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative is a completely voluntary community service. A record of participants' hours spent working as a member of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative will be kept by the Community Foundation, and will be made available with a letter of recommendation to those students requiring verification of community service as a high school graduation requirement or for college admission applications.

Why is now a good time to consider applying for membership in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative?

Organizing during the final months of the 2010-2011 school year, and beginning grant-making activities in the Fall of 2011, the Youth Philanthropy Initiative is a "ground-floor" opportunity for current-year juniors, sophomores and freshmen to shape the mission of an exciting new collaboration with the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County. The Community Foundation board of directors is eager to identify and work with Knox County high school students, who possess leadership skills and the desire to build a stronger community through volunteer service.

How many students will be selected for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative? What is the selection process?

Initially the YPI will be limited to 24 members, selected in a competitive application process. All Knox County high school-age youths, including those attending private schools or those who are home-schooled, are eligible to apply for selection to the Youth Philanthropy Initiative by completing a one-page application and providing a letter of recommendation from someone other than a parent or relative. A committee of the Community Foundation will review all applications and, if necessary, conduct telephone or in-person interviews with finalists. A PDF version of the application, which is greatly preferred over a hand-written application, is available at the Community Foundation website (www.mvkcfoundation.org) and allows for easy completion and printing on your computer. *The application deadline is Friday, February 4, 2011. The founding members of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative will be announced no later than March 7, 2011.* All applications and letters of recommendation should be mailed or hand-delivered to: Sam Barone, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County, 1 South Main Street, P.O. Box 1270, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Prospective applicants may address any questions to Sam Barone by email at sbarone@mvkcfoundation.org or by phone at 392-3270.



Membership Application

Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County 2011-12 Youth Philanthropy Initiative

*Application and letter of recommendation must be submitted to Community Foundation by **February 4, 2011.***

Name _____ Email Address _____ Phone _____

Street/Box _____ City/Village _____ Zip _____

High School (or "Home Schooled") _____ Graduating Class of _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) name(s) _____

Person (other than relative) who will submit a letter of recommendation on your behalf _____

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided.

Please indicate what extra-curricular activities (school related or otherwise) you have participated in the past three years:

What personal strengths or special skills would you bring to the Youth Philanthropy Initiative?

What aspects of the Youth Philanthropy Initiative concept appeal to you most, and why?

If you could award \$1,000 to a non-profit organization for the benefit of Knox County youth, which would you select, and why?

Student's Signature _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____

By signing above I acknowledge that being a member of the Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) requires a time commitment involving attendance at monthly meetings from September to May, periodic field trips to non-profit agencies within Knox County, and additional projects to be determined by members of the YPI. I also acknowledge all information provided above is accurate.