



## Local youth grantmaking board funds 14 projects by and for young people in area schools and communities

### **Minnesota Power Foundation Youth In Philanthropy awards \$8,185**

Northeast MN – A group of 13 high school students from northeastern Minnesota schools have recently approved 14 grants to support youth-led school and community projects. The Youth In Philanthropy Board, a program of the Northland Foundation’s KIDS PLUS Program, is guided by four volunteer adult mentors. The pool of grant dollars they have available to award over the course of the school year is generously provided by the **Minnesota Power Foundation**. The students on the 2016-2017 Board are from **Aitkin, Chisholm, Cloquet, Duluth, Ely, McGregor, Superior, and Wrenshall**. Each year, potential members are identified by school and community contacts and invited to apply. The students may serve multiple terms on the board up until high school graduation, gaining valuable experience in philanthropy, volunteerism, teamwork, and leadership along the way.

An executive board elected by their peers leads the Board in grant application review, discussing the merits of each proposal, and voting to award grants **up to \$1,000 for youth-driven projects**. There are three rounds of grantmaking each year: October, January, and April.

“Youth in Philanthropy has been such a lasting success by offering diverse young people—not necessarily students who have held visible leadership roles before—from all different schools and communities, a unique way to learn and exercise leadership,” said Lynn Haglin, Northland Foundation’s Vice President/KIDS PLUS Director.

“The experience empowers them to give back, not only as students, but also once they become adults. Many graduates over the years have come back and shared how meaningful this experience was for them,” Haglin added.

Since it was established in 2000, Youth In Philanthropy has resulted in more than 300 grants totaling over \$250,000 within the region to support projects such as peer mentoring programs, community beautification, afterschool opportunities, STEM learning, and much more.

**These grants are made possible thanks to key support from the Minnesota Power Foundation**, a longtime partner of the Northland Foundation in establishing and continuing this special youth development opportunity in the region.

The 14 grants awarded October 2016 are as follows:

*(contd.)*

<b>McGregor Schools – ISD #097, McGregor</b>	<b>\$450</b>
In support of a youth-run program in which students plan activities and projects for the school that gives them opportunity to lead and be role models for younger students.	
<b>Denfeld High School – ISD #709, Duluth</b>	<b>\$500</b>
To support the DNA First Robotics team through the planning and implementation stage of competition.	
<b>Superior High School, Superior</b>	<b>\$350</b>
To provide an opportunity for at-risk teens to gain valuable hands-on service learning and mentoring experiences in the school forest setting.	
<b>Moose Lake Schools – ISD #097, Moose Lake</b>	<b>\$350</b>
To create benches constructed and designed by students that will create gathering spaces at their new school.	
<b>Virginia Public Schools – ISD #706, Virginia</b>	<b>\$650</b>
In support of a project to help build school spirit among students, staff, and community.	
<b>Superior Middle School, Superior</b>	<b>\$300</b>
To create a day that connects 5th (mentees) and 8th grade (mentors) to better prepare the students for middle school.	
<b>Vandyke Elementary School, Coleraine</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
To support the creation of a rainy day recess program that gives students and staff options for the days they are unable to go outside.	
<b>Superior High School, Superior</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
In support of high school science students developing and implementing an activity at the Superior School Forest for area 5th graders.	
<b>Ely Knight Hawks 4-H Club, Ely</b>	<b>\$708</b>
To support the expansion of the club by creating dog training agility equipment that will be used to train for competitions.	
<b>Vaaj XauvKaub Foundation, Poplar</b>	<b>\$700</b>
To support the Hmong New Year celebration that brings all generations together to learn culture and traditions.	
<b>Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Northeast MN</b>	<b>\$500</b>
To provide an opportunity for students to create monthly campaigns which promote the social and physical health of all people.	
<b>Cherry Schools - ISD #2142, Iron</b>	<b>\$350</b>
To allow the students an opportunity to explore the educational opportunities in the region.	

**Ely Knight Hawks 4-H Club, Virginia**

**\$560**

To support a day of leadership and learning for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, that will be led by students and will have a service learning component.

**Cherry School – ISD #2142, Iron**

**\$767**

In support of a printing project that gives students the ability to design, create, and print 3-D images.

