



# What is In Youth We Trust?

*In Youth We Trust* is the youth philanthropy program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. It teaches young people leadership skills and the importance of community involvement and philanthropy.

## **What is *In Youth We Trust*?**

*In Youth We Trust*, made up of adult advisors and youth from across the region, is a program that engages young people in community service and philanthropy by giving them resources and opportunities to help solve problems affecting their peers and their quality of life. Members are directly involved in the *In Youth We Trust* Grant Program. They help set grant policy, review youth inspired service project proposals, and recommend distribution of \$20,000 a year in grants to selected youth projects.

## **When and why was *In Youth We Trust* started?**






In 1993, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois was one of 20 community foundations selected by the Ford Foundation to be part of a program called **Changing Communities: Diverse Needs**. The Foundation suggested to Ford that the best way to bring a community together was to bring youth together.

In the summer of 1994, the Community Foundation gathered a diverse group of youth inspired by the notion that youth could partner with other youth to improve their community. The grant program began in 1995 and since then, *In Youth We Trust* has recommended the distribution of over \$350,000 to local youth led organizations.








## **What do members do?**

As part of the grant process each year, members of *In Youth We Trust* review grant applications for youth projects, evaluate the applications, and interview the applicants. In addition to participating in the grant review program, members take part in many community-building activities including volunteer work and planning community events for youth.

### **What are some of the grants funded by *In Youth We Trust*?**

-  Bilingual Literacy Program.
-  Auburn High School Courtyard Renovation
-  Prom for Senior Citizens.
-  L.O.V.E. Violence Prevention Program.
-  High School Peer Mediation Program.

### ***In Youth We Trust* Member Responsibilities:**

-  Attend meetings.
-  Learn and understand the purpose of *In Youth We Trust* and the mission of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois.
-  Learn grant making guidelines and procedures.
-  Prepare for and participate in grant review meetings.
-  Evaluate applications based on guidelines, community impact, and budget.
-  Identify and inform *In Youth We Trust* of the needs of youth in the community.
-  Be an advocate for the *In Youth We Trust* program.

### **What is the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois?**

As the area's primary provider of philanthropic services, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois stewards more than 400 charitable funds established by caring individuals, families, businesses and service groups who want to give something back to their community. During the last 10 years, the Community Foundation has awarded over \$35 million in grants and scholarships to cultural, educational and humanitarian programs, exactly as the donors intend.

If you have any questions, please contact James Patterson, Program & Scholarship Officer, 815-962-2110 ext 11 or email: [jpatterson@cfnil.org](mailto:jpatterson@cfnil.org).

**Visit our website: [www.cfnil.org](http://www.cfnil.org)**

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