City grants provide positive summer experiences for youth

INDIANAPOLIS – More than 800 Indianapolis youth will participate in a variety of recreational, cultural, and educational activities this summer thanks in part to grants awarded by the City of Indianapolis, Department of Metropolitan Development in conjunction with the Summer Youth Program Fund.

The city is providing $104,000 in community development block grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to local non-profit organizations that provide summer programming for youth.

The Summer Youth Program Fund, a collaboration of 14 local funders, awarded more than $1.7 million to 124 organizations that will serve nearly 30,000 Marion County youth this summer. The activities are intended to provide safe, positive experiences for youth 4 - 19 years old at little or no cost. Grants are awarded to programs in four areas: residential, daily, enhancement and youth employment.

“The partnership created through the Summer Youth Program Fund plays an important role in enhancing the lives of our city’s youth during the summer months,” said Mayor Bart Peterson. “Many young people in this city will experience a host of new opportunities because of this partnership."

The partnering Summer Youth Program Fund organizations, including the City of Indianapolis, are: The Clowes Fund; Annie E. Casey Foundation; Christel DeHaan Family Foundation and Project E; Efroymson Fund; Hensel Fund; Hoover Family Foundation; The Indianapolis Foundation; The Indianapolis Foundation Library Fund; Irwin Financial Foundation; Irwin Mortgage Corporation; Lilly Endowment, Inc.; Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust; and the Women’s Fund of Central Indiana.

The Summer Youth Program Fund is the only collaborative fund dedicated to youth programs in the country. It has steadily increased its support for youth-service providers in Marion County since the fund was established in 1995 by The Indianapolis Foundation and Lilly Endowment, Inc.

The city’s 10 award recipients are listed below:

**Children’s Bureau of Indianapolis, Inc. ($15,000)**
Grant will support the “Pro 100” program, which will provide employment training and intermediate computer skills for local teens.

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East 10th Street United Methodist Church  ($10,000)
Grant will support a summer day camp program that provides youth with the opportunity to participate in field trips, music, art and drama.

Kaleidoscope Church and Community Partnership  ($11,000)
Grant will support a summer day camp focusing on educational, social, cultural and recreational enrichment.

Project Seed  ($15,000)
Funding will support a summer intern program that will employ low-income teens. Program participants will learn to teach advanced mathematics to elementary school students and complete a personalized college preparation plan.

Hispanic Education Center  ($15,000)
Grant will support the “Summer Discovery 2004” program geared toward youth 5 to 10 years old. The camp focuses on a multicultural program of educational, recreational and arts-related activities.

Interfaith Hospitality Network  ($2,000)
Funding will be used to send homeless youths to the Old Centrum Summer Enrichment Series Camp for ages 7 – 12 and the Indianapolis Urban League Summer Camp for ages 12 - 14.

Young Audiences of Indiana  ($15,000)
Grant will help fund a summer arts enrichment program for youth, which includes creative movement, music, storytelling/drama, and visual art.

Little Bethel Baptist Church  ($7,000)
Grant will support a summer youth outreach program that provides a safe, affordable day camp for children of low-to-moderate income families.

Life Line Community Center  ($7,000)
Funding will go towards a summer day camp that will teach youth math, reading, science and music skills.

New Light Christian Church  ($7,000)
Grant will fund a youth summer day camp that focuses on character building, improving behavior and teaching life skills.