

Students Helping to Actively Promote Ethics



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEEN GRANT-MAKERS AWARD \$75,000 TO EIGHT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS SERVING YOUTH IN NYC AREA

SHAPEfund, led entirely by high-school students in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, extends service-learning lessons from the classroom to grant making & philanthropy

Bronx, NY, May 24th, 2013—On Tuesday, May 28th, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., high-school students from SHAPEfund, a non-profit, grant-making organization, will award eight grants totaling \$75,000 to youth-serving programs and organizations in the New York City area. Since its founding in 2003, SHAPEfund has awarded \$149,820 in 47 grants to 39 different organizations.

SHAPEfund is a one-of-a-kind youth organization. It is one of the only teen-managed, grant-making funds in the country. Each year, with the help of two adult advisors, the board of directors (comprised of high-school students from the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in Riverdale) raises money, conducts site visits, and selects grant recipients – all in the belief that teen voices and leadership are vitally important to the philanthropic world.

Operating within the five boroughs of New York City, SHAPEfund provides economic assistance to community-based organizations that serve children. SHAPEfund helps to enrich and improve children's lives by funding initiatives that provide direct services in the following six issue areas: Education; Health & Safety; Economic Empowerment; Leadership; the Environment; and Arts & Culture.

“SHAPEfund’s impact is twofold. It provides the funding necessary for grassroots youth-serving organizations to continue operating or to grow to new heights, and it also trains a group of future leaders in philanthropy,” said Hana Bendy, a senior on the Board. “By providing funds to support civil initiatives and community activities, SHAPE aims to promote excellence in individuals who in turn strengthen their families, schools, communities and the world as a whole.” Bendy continued, “SHAPEfund has given me the opportunity to truly make a difference in many people's lives. It has also given me an appreciation of the hard work organizations must go through in order to continue doing community-based and fund-raising work. I am amazed by every one of our grantees, and I am so thankful that I have had the opportunity to visit and fund programs within these organizations. SHAPEfund has taught me that teenagers do have the ability to make a mark, and that kids are quite capable of helping each other.”

The check-presenting ceremony on May 28th, which will be the organization's tenth and final one, marks an important day in youth philanthropy as SHAPEfund will close after this year. On this day SHAPE will award more money than it has in all previous years combined, aspiring to spark other teens, both city and nationwide, to engage in civic-minded activities. The Board hopes other teens might be moved to start grant-making organizations in their own local communities.

"SHAPEfund serves as an innovative tool to educate the next generation of young people and to ensure leadership positions for high-school students in their communities and the philanthropic world," said Celine Arar, Class of 2015. "As a solely teen-led and operated organization, SHAPEfund seeks to create a better New York City by empowering its youth through thoughtful fundraising and grant making." Arar also learned many new skills by sitting on the SHAPE Board, "SHAPEfund has given me the opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of under-served children. Through SHAPEfund I have been able to acquire vital communication skills. I am so grateful to have helped supply kids my own age with resources that I often take for granted."

On May 28th, SHAPEfund will award grants to eight organizations that will make presentations at the Check Presenting Ceremony. These organizations are:

- **Turning Point for Women and Families (Queens, NY)** - \$7,000 to support a range of culturally and linguistically sensitive services and leadership programming for Muslim children and teenage girls. Turning Point serves Muslim women and children through crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, advocacy, education, and training. The grant will support counseling for children who have witnessed and/or been victims of domestic violence and teenage girls who are survivors of sexual abuse. It will also support the Young Women's Leadership Program which includes a weekly peer support group for Muslim teenage girls (Mecca to Manhattan) and ARISE NY!, a youth-led campaign to stand up to anti-Muslim hate crimes and bullying of Muslim youth - www.tpny.org.
- **Camp Good Grief of Staten Island (Staten Island, NY)** - \$9,000 to fund a project which will introduce the topic of bereavement in the public, private and parochial schools on Staten Island. Working with IlluminArts, a well-regarded, nonprofit which produces dramatic works by, with and for students, Camp Good Grief, a weekend camp for children and teens who have experienced significant loss, will work with its alumni campers to craft an original script which can be used as a catalyst for discussion both while camp is in session and as a freestanding performance throughout the year - www.campgoodgriefsi.org.
- **Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership (New York, NY)** - \$15,000 to start a new girls program at P.S. 149 Sojourner Truth School in Harlem. Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership, a youth organization that builds leadership skills and social responsibility through lacrosse, will hire a Head Coach and Assistant Coach for the girl's team, purchase equipment, and provide travel accommodations for scrimmages, clinics, games and field trips for the 2013-2014 school year - www.harlemlacrosse.org.
- **Fresh Youth Initiatives (New York, NY)** - \$12,000 to support the efforts of FYI to provide quality youth engagement for young people ages 10-18 in Washington Heights. The grant will be used for the purchase of materials and supplies needed for their youth engagement and community service projects (beautification, graffiti, removal, murals, community gardening etc.) A portion will be used to purchase furniture and revitalize our learning center space to illustrate the absorption of Cornerstone learning center, and dedicate the space to our new tutoring services, the grant will also enable FYI to provide enrichment activities, and exposure to new experiences, through educationally

stimulating trips - www.freshyouth.org.

- **VOICE Charter School of NY (Queens, NY)** - \$8,500 to purchase materials for a keyboard laboratory and to develop a curriculum that meets the needs of VOICE Charter School's rigorous music and choral program - www.voicecharterschool.org.
- **Doing Art Together (New York, NY)** - \$10,000 to provide 10-week hands-on visual art residencies for 1 hour per week to 15 lower grade classrooms (Pre-K to Grade 2) at PS 5 Port Morris in the South Bronx and PS 194 Countee Cullen in Central Harlem during the 2013-2014 school year, as well as family programs in-school, after-school and on the weekend. DAT, an arts education organization that serves under-served youth, will also use the grant to fund teaching artists, teaching artist assistant interns, and art /exhibition supplies - www.doingarttogether.org
- **The Bubble Foundation (New York, NY)** - \$5,000 to help expand Bubble Eats to an additional 5 schools. Bubble teaches nutrition and fitness at NYC charter schools that do not have these programs embedded in their curriculum. The grant will help cover supplies, food, and travel expense for their volunteers, effectively doubling their impact to reach more than 1,000 students across The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Harlem - www.welcometobubble.org.
- **Change for Kids (New York, NY)** - \$8,500 to support the 2013-2014 expansion of CFK's Change Club program, a tutoring and enrichment program that unites elementary school children from under-resourced New York City public schools with high school and college student tutors. Change for Kids partners with NYC public elementary schools to provide programming in literacy, arts, healthy living, and classroom support - www.changeforkids.org.

Please join us to celebrate this event and honor our 2013 grant recipients.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 28th, 2013— 4:00pm-6:00 pm

WHO: SHAPEfund students, advisors, friends and family; community leaders from the eight grantees

WHAT: SHAPEfund's Tenth and Final Check Presenting Ceremony

WHERE: The Ethical Culture Fieldston School (HS campus on corner of Delafield Avenue and Manhattan College Parkway), 4400 Fieldston Road Bronx, NY 10471-3997. **Check presenting will take place in the Student Faculty Center in the 100s Building, which is wheelchair accessible.** Signs and student guides will be strategically located around campus for directions. Light Refreshments will be served.

HOW: Subway, bus, and car directions are located on www.shapefund.org.

RSVP: info@SHAPEfund.org

SHAPEfund is a donor-advised fund of FJC (www.fjc.org). FJC is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, EIN# 13-3848582. Although operationally independent from Ethical Culture Fieldston School, SHAPEfund and the school share a common belief in the importance of youth philanthropy and leadership in managing a grant-giving board. Donations made to SHAPEfund do not go to, or through, the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. They are directly deposited into the SHAPEfund account at FJC.

SHAPEfund is committed to creating a better New York City by empowering its youth. We hope to create a city where children succeed in taking leadership positions within their own communities; and where children become involved in actively protecting and preserving their environment. The SHAPEfund seeks to maintain and support the line between children and their communities by engaging them in civil initiatives. By providing funds to support such activities we hope to promote excellence in individuals who in turn strengthen their communities and the world as a whole. By empowering children with the power of responsible ethics and positive action, we will build a better New York City.

For more information about SHAPEfund, please visit
www.SHAPEfund.org or email info@SHAPEfund.org