September 2019

Dear Non-Profit Agency,

The Richfield Foundation is accepting applications for grants from Richfield organizations and those that serve Richfield residents. Enclosed is an application for funds. In 2019, the Foundation will award approximately $20,000 total in grants, ranging up to $2,000 each.

The priorities of the Richfield Foundation remain:

**Successful Kids – Secure Families – Strong Community**

Most applications meet this basic standard; for additional insight into a successful application, we encourage you to see the attached document: “How Does the Richfield Foundation Decide How to Award Funding?”

If you wish to apply for funds from the Foundation, please fill out the application and return it and a cover letter to Susan Rosenberg. **The deadline for receiving the application is November 1, 2019.** Applications will be reviewed by volunteers, so it helps to be as succinct and complete as possible.

Please send all applications electronically to info@richfieldfoundationmn.org.

If you cannot send electronically, please mail to:

Susan Rosenberg  
Richfield Foundation  
6633 Thomas Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423

Grant determinations will be made in November. Notice with status of your proposal will be sent to your organization by November 29, 2019. The checks will be given to grantees at the December 10, 2019 Richfield City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Richfield City Hall, 6700 Portland Ave. South, Richfield. If a grant is awarded to your organization, we ask that a representative attend this meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns about the grant process, please do not hesitate to call me at 612-203-9138 (cell).

Thank you,  
Susan Rosenberg, Chair  
Grants Committee  
Richfield Foundation
How Does the Richfield Foundation Decide How to Award Funding?

The Richfield Foundation usually receives requests for at least twice as much money as is available to give. It is unfortunate that we must turn down worthwhile applications, and we know that every rejection represents a cost to an organization that is stretched for time and energy. We hope additional information will help you decide if it makes sense to apply to the Richfield Foundation, and if so, to craft an appropriate application.

Every successful proposal must meet the basic criteria of benefiting people in Richfield, and fit with our three priorities: Successful Kids - Secure Families - Strong Community

Almost every proposal we receive meets these basic criteria, so we often must choose on relative terms (how well does the proposal meet these criteria, compared to other applications), and/or additional criteria.

The Foundation has a growing Board with different perspectives. All members have equal opportunity to review and rate the proposals. It can be difficult to predict exactly which application will be chosen for support. However, the following questions or considerations have often surfaced as important:

- Is this project/organization uniquely part of Richfield, or part of a larger mission/service area?
- How much difference will a grant from the Foundation (typical size $500-$2000) make?
- What other funding opportunities does this applicant have available to it? Note that there are foundations designed to specifically support Richfield athletics (Spartan Foundation) and public education (Richfield Public Schools Foundation), and we often don’t support requests that seem more appropriate to those funding sources.
- Has this proposal identified an important new or emerging need in our community, which could benefit from the additional attention that a grant might bring?
- How likely is it that the applicant will actually achieve the results they are striving for?
- How unique is the proposed activity?
- Is this project/organization connected to other Richfield community services, resources or institutions?
- Does this proposal create/strengthen ways for people to participate in community life?
- Will support from the Foundation help grow this idea/activity into something of greater benefit?

We recognize that our grants are relatively small. We tend to favor proposals that can have a larger impact than just the modest dollar amount. We hope that our unique role in Richfield can provide additional benefits beyond the funds awarded – attention, endorsement from civic leaders, connections to other community resources.

A list of organizations that received funding last year is available online at www.richfieldfoundationmn.org.

Note also that the Foundation now has a grant opportunity that provides matching funds for grassroots groups in Richfield. The grants are smaller, but there tends to be less competition. That application is available in the spring/summer. It is highly unlikely a group would receive funds from both grantmaking mechanisms at once.

Thank you for your work in making Richfield better, and your interest in working with the Richfield Foundation.