

**Deschutes County
Board of County Commissioners
Discretionary Grant Program**

Board Meeting Date: January 25, 2016

Organization: Younity

Project Name: Challenge Days at Cascade Middle School

Project Period: March 8-10, 2016

Amount of Request: \$1,500

Previous Grants:

3/25/2013	\$	1,000.00	Challenge Days in Bend-La Pine Schools
7/9/2014		\$1,000.00	Challenge Days

Approved: _____

Declined: _____



Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
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**DESCHUTES COUNTY
DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Today's Date: Project Name:

Project Beginning Date: Project End Date:

Amount Requested: Date Funds Needed:

Name of Applicant Organization:

Address:

City & Zip Code: Tax ID #:

Contact Name(s): Telephone #:

Fax #: Email Address:

On a separate sheet(s), please briefly answer the following questions:

1. Describe the applicant organization, including its purpose, leadership structure, and activities.
2. Describe the proposed project or activity.
3. Provide a timeline for completing the proposed project or activity.
4. Explain how the proposed project or activity will positively impact the community.
5. Identify the specific communities or groups that will benefit.
6. Describe how grant funds will be used and include the source and amounts of matching funds or in-kind contributions, if any. Itemize anticipated expenditures*.
7. If the grant will support an ongoing activity, explain how it will be funded in the future.

Attach:

Proof of the applicant organization's non-profit status.

* Applicant may be contacted during the review process and asked to provide a complete line item budget.

Younity

Proposal to Deschutes County Commissioners Discretionary Grant Program

Questions

1. Describe the applicant organization, including its purpose, leadership structure, and activities:

Younity (formerly Serendipity West Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Bend, Oregon. The organization was created in 2007 by Arlene Gibson and Carol Oxenrider, a retired school teacher, with the goal of bringing programs to the youth of Central Oregon that help empower them to create positive change for themselves and their communities. To this end, Younity sponsors day programs and experiential workshops for youth that focus on issues such as teasing, bullying, stereotyping, racism, violence, suicide and drug and alcohol abuse. Youth participants focus on addressing these issues through lessons of diversity and truthful expression with themselves and their peers. Beyond the scope of its programs and workshops, Younity supports long-range teen leadership by providing support for students to create community-based projects. To date, Younity has sponsored programs that have reached over 6,800 Central Oregon middle and high-school students and 2,000 adult volunteers in 17 schools. It is the goal of the organization to reach more youth in the 2015-2016 school year and to continue to support them as they become leaders for positive change in their schools and communities. Younity has also developed a program for elementary schools, Younity Inspiration Day, for 4th, 5th and 6th grades and will be bringing the program to the Central Oregon elementary schools.

2. Describe the proposed project or activity:

Based on previous success sponsoring Challenge Day and other provided workshops for middle and high schools throughout Central Oregon, Younity is focusing on increasing its efforts to bring this program to all of the youth and schools in Central Oregon. Younity also provides post-event, follow-up programs to schools to continue the positive changes following workshops and events. These have included a Bullying Prevention & Bystander Empowerment program, as well as presenting peer pressure and self-esteem films like Fat Boy Chronicles and Bully with accompanying author/panel activities and open-discussion forums. Challenge Day is a nationally-recognized youth program that focuses on creating change through intensive daylong workshops in which middle and high-school youth and school staff learn positive ways to interact with one another and deal with the issues surrounding their lives. As mental health issues, substance abuse, and violence increase in schools, it is critical that students are provided with the skills needed to deal with these situations without succumbing to negative outcomes. After attending the program, students and adult volunteers are able to set and move toward achieving goals that positively impact their lives and the lives of those around them. Among the outcomes achieved by participants are realizations of self-limiting thoughts and behaviors, a greater understanding of the impact of their actions on others, a greater respect for all diversity, and the desire to lead service-oriented lives. Younity has witnessed the results of the Challenge Day workshops and wants to expand its reach throughout Central Oregon. Younity is seeking \$1,500.00 in funding support from Deschutes County for program costs to bring two Challenge Days to Deschutes County's Cascade Middle School on March 8th and 10th, 2016. These workshops will reach an expected 200 teens and 60 adult staff.

3. Provide a timeline for completing the proposed project or activity:

Challenge Days are scheduled at Cascade Middle School on March 8th and 10th, 2016.

Younity

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4. Explain how the proposed project or activity will impact the community's economic health:

The Challenge Day workshop and other provided workshops are not simply programs that provide youth with the skills needed to manage their lives and confront the struggles that face them daily. Challenge Day is also centered on building an inclusive and cooperative community and instilling in youth a sense of service toward those around them. Developing these skills and sensibilities at an early age will allow the young people of Central Oregon to be better prepared to transition into roles as productive, committed members of their neighborhoods and communities. The skills that young people learn from participation in the Challenge Day workshop are the very same skill sets that will make them successful in their careers. Having a workforce-ready generation of young people is critical to the sustained success of the Central Oregon area. As the economic health of any community is directly linked to the ways in which it seeks to serve and develop its younger generations, it is certainly in the best interest of Deschutes County to support programming such as Challenge Day which fosters the growth of youth into future leaders and community supporters.

5. Identify the specific communities or groups that will benefit:

Through the Challenge Day events carried out to date in Central Oregon schools, the wide-ranging effects and impacts for a number of groups have already been seen. Obviously Challenge Day has directly impacted students and their schools. Following the workshops, school officials and safety personnel have reported fewer incidences of conflict among students. While the immediate impact of this result is evident in a safer, more accepting school environment, a reduction in violent and non-violent conflict among young people has the added benefit of decreasing the burden on community juvenile justice departments and personnel. A safer community is also beneficial to the economic vitality of the area. In fact, community business owners have also experienced the positive outcomes of the workshops. These businesses have reported decreases in crimes committed by teens during school breaks, lunch periods, and afterschool hours. Challenge Day workshops also incorporate the use of adult volunteers who participate alongside students. These volunteers represent a cross-section of the community and have consisted of parents, business owners, police officers, therapists, and school administrators. Adult volunteers are able to bring the mission of Challenge Day back with them into the community to support young people and add to the value of the program. Giving young people the ability to understand the ramifications of their actions on others and providing them with ways to positively deal with adversity is of benefit to the entire community, as these young people will soon make their way into the community. To ensure that these young people are community supporters, rather than a community burden is of the utmost importance and should be the goal, not only of Younity, but of all of the citizens and leaders of Central Oregon.

6. Describe how grant funds will be used and include the source and amounts of matching funds or in-kind contributions, if any. Itemize anticipated expenditures.

The Challenge Day program cost is \$3,325 per day and directly supports 100 teens and 50 adult volunteers. Grant funds from Deschutes County will directly support the cost of upcoming scheduled Challenge Day workshops at Cascade Middle School on March 8th and 10th, 2016.

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Below is a listing of current and anticipated funds and in-kind donations for the Cascade Middle School workshops:

U.S. Bank	\$ 2,000.00
Dent Instruments	\$ 500.00
Subaru of Bend	\$ 200.00
Deschutes Brewery	\$ 2,500.00
	\$ 5,200.00

In-Kind Donations:

Hotel	\$ 800.00
Total -	\$ 800.00

Expenditures:

2 Challenge Days	\$ 6,650.00
Total -	\$ 6,650.00

7. If the grant will support an ongoing activity, how will it be funded in the future:

Future Challenge Day workshops are supported by committed funding from corporate sponsorships, grants, school collaborative fundraising, and annual fundraisers.