



Durham Congregations in Action

Seed Money Awards

1) Durham Technical Community College, Career Readiness Certification Program

This money will go to support the city's ongoing efforts to prepare and support a workforce with credentials that may help them overcome workforce barriers and stand out from other jobseekers. DTCC's ability to leverage our community contacts and networks will allow us to offer scholarships for participants to effectively gain skills and the certification needed to competitively seek employment.

With a grant of \$2,000, we would be able to offer 200 assessments to participants. At \$30 per set, this would allow us to test at least 60 people, along with offering participants to ability to retest if they want to increase a score level. At \$30 per set, without allowing for retests, we could test 66 participants.

Award: \$2,000

2) Covenant Presbyterian Church Men's Council Invest N Kids Program

Young boys (8 to 14) in the Cornwallis community of Durham , NC are at high risk of being exposed to potentially negative societal situations that could hamper their opportunities for growing up to be productive citizens. These situations include single parent home environments, poverty, low health care, low self-esteem, gang activity, role models with low goals, etc. The Invest-N-Kids Program is designed to help participating boys discover their role at home, at school, and in the community through positive guidance and personal development. This program is focused on exposing these young boys to alternative environments which temporarily (several hours per week) remove them from the Cornwallis community and hopefully to motivate, assist, mentor, and nourish attributes that will steer them to be more productive citizens.

Currently there are seven active boys in the program, and one younger boy who participates on age appropriate activities. These boys represent a small fraction of the boys in their age group who could benefit from this program.

The grant money will be used to expand our mentoring activities beyond the numbers of current participants and beyond activities within the immediate Durham, NC area. For 2009, the proposed activities include a train ride, NC Zoo trip, and a trip to Washington, DC and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. The grant money would also be used to obtain

professional input and participation to argument the skills of the volunteer staff in addressing behavior and self-esteem issues that surface periodically during mentoring sessions.

Some of the funds may be used to promote self-esteem. As an example, each mentee received a bike for Christmas after a bike tour in October 2008 revealed that only 2 boys had bikes and that those bikes needed major repairs and were basically unsafe. Through gifts and donations from the congregation and other church committees, eight bikes, helmets, and bike locks were purchased and given to the boys at a Christmas party. The results were “tears of joy” from both the mentees and their parents (see photos below).

Award: \$2,000

3) Peace Ambassadors

The purpose of *Peace Ambassadors* is to support the development of skills by students and school staff in (1) building community, (2) conflict resolution, and (3) restoring relationships after a harmful incident. The model is structured to address three stages of violation and violence: prevention, intervention, and restoration.

Peace Ambassadors raises awareness and empowers students to change the culture of their school. Since January 2009, we have worked with 42 students in three elective classes at Chewning Middle School. We have incorporated 6 students who had been in-school-suspended multiple times (ISS) into these classes. Next school year, our goal is to provide Peace Ambassador training in up to six classrooms.

Award: \$1,950