Idyllwild Youth Grantmakers

Who are they? What do they do?

Idyllwild Youth Grantmakers (IYG) program was officially launched with the first student session and parent orientation meeting on February 14, 2013. The IYG program was developed from a collaborative partnership with the Advisory Committee of the Idyllwild Community Fund and The Community Foundation. The IYG is a unique philanthropic program that actively engages middle school students in a series of rigorous hands-on learning sessions. Through their involvement with IYG, the students develop leadership skills while also expanding their knowledge of community through needs assessment and service learning activities. The IYG students learn how to approach community challenges by making grants to projects that address the concerns of their peers. By reviewing grant proposals and allocating money to selected nonprofit organizations, students are able to experience the behind-the-scenes process that helps nonprofit organizations function. IYG members are exposed to many nonprofit organizations, learning first-hand from the leaders in the Idyllwild community. Each individual Youth Grantmaker brings with them a unique background and perspective that when combined with other members, creates an atmosphere that welcomes diversity, ethical debates, and in the end forms true bonds of solidarity and friendship.

A special thank you to Trish Tuley and Jayne Davis of the Idyllwild Community Fund Advisory Committee for your spirit of philanthropy and commitment in making IYG a success.

A note of thanks to Idyllwild School staff, Principal Matt Kraemer, Donna Mercer, and George Companiott for your support, hard work, and dedication to the Idyllwild Youth Grantmakers program.
2014 - 2015 Idyllwild Youth Grantmakers Members

6th Grade
Sophie Carver
Madison Collis
Bryan Jimenez
Jimmy Lande
Litzy Pimentel
Leslie Pimentel
Sophia Tilley

7th Grade
Meixing Hunt-Babcock
Alex Isaac
Cecile Laundre
Fernando Lopez
Kevin Posey
Belle Rodriguez
Alia Teeguarden
Lainey Wilke

Teacher Sponsors:
George Companiott
Donna Mercer

Grantees

2015
Idyllwild Garden Club $ 500
Friends of San Jacinto Mountain County Parks $1,000
Idyllwild School Outdoor Education Booster Club $1,000
PAC for San Jacinto Mountain Community Center $1,000
Total $3,500

2014
Art Alliance of Idyllwild $ 500
Friends of the Idyllwild Library $ 750
Idyllwild School Outdoor Education Booster Club $1,000
Idyllwild School PTA SmARTS Program $1,000
PAC for San Jacinto Mountain Community Center $ 750
Total $4,000

2013
Art Alliance of Idyllwild $ 475
Fourth Grade, Idyllwild School $ 538
Idyllwild School PTA Haunted Ghost Town $1,000
Idyllwild School PTA SmARTS Program $ 900
SJMCC/Idyllwild Community Recreation Ctr. $ 800
Total $3,713
Nonprofit Presentations

As part of the Youth Grantmakers experience, students are introduced to various nonprofits that serve the Idyllwild Community. Nonprofit leaders are invited to speak to the group about their organization. This helps the Youth Grantmakers get a broader understanding of how nonprofits are linked to the community, learn about the vital services they provide, how the organization functions as a “not for profit” entity and what that means. This year the students heard presentations from The Idyllwild School Outdoor Education Booster Club, Friends of San Jacinto Mountain County Parks, CASA: Center Against Sexual Assault, and Idyllwild Community Center. Youth Grantmaker Litzy Pimentel enjoyed the presentations “because they said that they are wanting to help or improve the community.” Meixing Hunt-Babcock enjoyed “the passion they had for their organizations.”

Youth Grantmakers respond:
What does being a Philanthropist mean to you?

“Someone who works hard to make a difference in the community.”

“Giving to the community without expecting anything in return.”

“It is caring for others, helping the community, and overall just being a great A Volunteer.”

“Helping others and not expecting the same in return.”

“It means doing something for the good of the community and not for

“Being someone who tries to improve their community.”

“Helping!”
Site-Visit
The Help Center of Idyllwild

On Thursday, November 20, 2014, the Idyllwild Youth Grantmakers had the opportunity to conduct a site-visit at the Idyllwild Help Center. The students were graciously greeted and taken on a tour of the facilities by Colleen Meyer, Client Services Manager. Ms. Meyer talked to students about the services the Help Center provides in the community and how they function as a nonprofit organization. The students were able to ask questions and engage in a thoughtful conversation about the important work of The Help Center.

The site visit made a lasting impression on Madison Collis. Madison said, “I enjoyed learning about what they do for people in need and then helping out. The visit made a huge impact on my life.”

Community Service

As part of the 2014 - 2015 Idyllwild Youth Grantmakers program students are encouraged to give back to others in the community through the use of their time, talent, and treasures — exemplifying what it means to be a philanthropist. “I also know sometimes a nonprofit organization needs more volunteers,” said Alia Teeguarden. To further emphasize the importance of Community Service, the YG students combined their site-visit to the Idyllwild Help Center with time for volunteer service. Prior to the site-visit, the students participated in a canned food drive held at their school and the collected food items were delivered to the Idyllwild Help Center. During the site visit the YG students sorted the items and helped to stock the food pantry shelves so items are easily available and ready to distribute to those in need. Sophia Tilley enjoyed the visit and “liked learning how something so easy could be so helpful.” Youth Grantmaker Cecile Laundre said she “enjoyed visiting the Help Center because it let me do some hands on stuff.” Students are encouraged to continue their volunteer help in the community, such as the volunteer work Meixing Hunt-Babcock does in her free time for the Idyllwild Library.
“My community has benefited from the volunteer work we have put in.”

“Participating in Youth Grantmakers made a difference in my life because we are helping the community.”

“Participating in Youth Grantmakers has given me more of an appreciation for nonprofit organizations and for what they do - which is important in our community.”

“My community has benefited from the volunteer work we have put in.”

“I was able to learn more about our community, understand more about nonprofits, and was able to help.”

“Youth Grantmakers has given me a chance to help improve my community.”

“Participating in Youth Grantmakers made a difference in my life because we are helping the community.”

“Youth Grantmakers has helped me understand more about money and how we can give to people who need it through grants.”

*Not pictured: Bryan Jimenez and Belle Rodriquez*
“Youth Grantmakers has taught me about philanthropy. It has taught me about doing things for the greater good.”

Sophie Carver

“Youth Grantmakers has taught me about philanthropy. It has taught me about doing things for the greater good.”

Leslie Pimentel

“I feel this opportunity has made a difference in my life. I feel more involved in the community.”

Madison Collis

“Youth Grantmakers made a difference in my life because I got the chance to do something I’ve never done before.”

Jimmy Lande

“Youth Grantmakers helped me understand what it means to be a philanthropist. I also learned how I can help my community.”

Litzy Pimentel

“Participating in Youth grantmakers has made a difference in my life by helping the community. I got to help and improve the community.”

Sophia Tilley

“Participating in Youth Grantmakers showed me I can help anybody! It makes me proud to help.”

6th Grade
The Community Foundation

Here for Good

Vision
A vibrant, generous, and just region – with unlimited opportunities.

Mission
Strengthening Inland Southern California through Philanthropy.

We achieve this by:

**Raising assets:** We partner with exemplary individuals, families and others who care passionately about improving the community and create permanent charitable funds.

**Stewarding assets:** We invest and administer charitable assets based on a set of rigorous national standards.

**Distributing assets:** We make grants to nonprofit organizations that are doing important work in health and human services, youth and families, arts and culture, education – and for civic and environmental benefit.

**Community leadership:** We serve as a convener by bringing together key stakeholders to determine community needs; we facilitate the development of collaborative solutions to important community issues; and we act as a catalyst for positive change.

Values
The Community Foundation is committed to the following as essential to our success. To our donors, stakeholders and to one another we make the following commitments:

**Integrity**—An abiding pledge to trust, honesty, professionalism, civility and respect.

**Inclusion**—We believe that philanthropy should mirror the people whom we serve. Diversity and equity are essential to the fullest realization of our ideas and endeavors.

**Excellence**—In our every endeavor.

**Collaboration**—Working together as a team, for no one person or organization can address the community’s many needs.

**Knowledge**—We strive to be a source of knowledge for the regions we serve. To exemplify this we consistently train and educate our Board and staff in order to better serve our donors and constituents.