

Youth Initiative Grants: Projects funded 2009

1. Big Brothers & Big Sisters Mentoring Brochure – Williams Lake

A grade 9 student at Williams Lake Secondary School who is particularly interested in graphic design will create a new brochure for the Big Brothers & Big Sisters Teen Mentoring Program. The brochure will be designed to recruit new volunteers from the high school level to mentor elementary school students, to support and encourage them to become confident, self-reliant individuals who are engaged in their community and in their school. The brochure will be use in conjunction with the Big Brothers & Big Sisters annual Recruitment Drive.

2. Boys and Girls Club Media Relations Development – Williams Lake

Under supervision of a youth worker, youth involved with the Boys and Girls Club of Williams Lake will create a PowerPoint/video of archived photos as well as a documentary/interview style film to be presented at the 15th Anniversary Street Party, as well as at future events. The intent of the project is to demonstrate the positive impact of the Boys and Girls Club in the community, help youth develop new skills and encourage engagement, and to recruit more youth to become involved with the Club.

3. Kay Bingham Courtyard Beautification Project - Kamloops

Students from K-7 will clean up and prepare the courtyard at their school, Kay Bingham Elementary, and plant and maintain a flower and vegetable garden. The bulbs, flowers, and vegetables from the garden will be sold yearly in the community. The project will promote healthy eating, sustainability, community involvement, and foster respect for the environment and the property of others.

4. I'm A Star! – Photography and Video Documentation – 100 Mile House

With this project, youth will be creating a scrapbook of their memories with digital photos and video recordings. This scrapbook will be the basis of a documentary of their lives with the aim to share their story with family and friends. This will be a resource for them as they move towards adulthood and serve as a reflection tool. The youth will be connected to other members of the community such as drama teachers, camera technicians, scrapbook enthusiasts and other role models that would support their goals and possibly create opportunities for them.

5. Teen Night Out - Logan Lake

This is an innovative program to give alternative recreation and to support youth in the community. The project will be implemented by 2 high school students to which the funding is going for their honorariums. Teen Night Out will run every Friday evening from October 2009-May 2010. Weekly workshops will include creating positive identities and values, resisting peer pressure, creating self-esteem, responsibility as well as providing fun activities such as movies, reality games, outings and team sports.

6. Canoe Journey Life Skills Program – Canim Lake Indian Band

The Youth Initiative Grant will support 8 life skills sessions with the intent to provide Native youth with the opportunity to develop skills to help them make choices that motivate positive actions while avoiding the hazards of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The program will emphasize Native cultural traditions and participants will discover more about the Medicine Wheel and how to incorporate it into daily living.

7. Nicola Valley Youth Celebration Day - Merritt

This one day celebration will have music, art and information booths from community members, designed to promote positive relationships and to help youth become active assets to themselves and the community. The day will showcase fun activities, volunteering, employment, summer camps, and various other opportunities for youth engagement. The day will celebrate youth and develop a directory for youth for years to come. Students will be transported to the celebration site and encouraged to learn more about their community and how much they are valued as members.