

3 South Shore schools receive foundation grants

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SUN CITY CENTER - The Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center recently announced the recipients of its April grants. Totaling \$13,950, two gifts were awarded to the journalism programs at Lennard and Riverview high schools, and a third went to the Wimauma Elementary School Safety Patrol program.

Lennard sought a \$10,000 grant and received \$7,500 from the Hazel Bryson Fund. The money will benefit students working on the school's newspaper, The Longhorn Roundup. At least \$5,000 of the grant will be spent on equipment, including cameras, printers, computers and a copier.

Riverview High received the 5,000 it requested from the same fund, and the money will be used to support the high school's newspaper and yearbook.

"The board of the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center thought it important to support students at these schools as they pursue their interest in an ever-changing field," said Chairwoman Evelyn Lunsford. "Hazel Bryson was a teacher who left money to promote literacy for pre-kindergarten and elementary school students, with an emphasis on parents reading to their children. She also earmarked her endowment to promote journalism."

In a bit of a twist, Wimauma elementary asked for, and received, \$1,450 to help pay for the cost of sending students in its Safety Patrol program to Walt Disney World as a reward for their service and volunteerism.

"We were so impressed that these kids came up with activities - like selling snow cones, cotton candy and popcorn - to try and fund their own trip," Lunsford said. "They raised \$1,150, and the foundation wanted to recognize those efforts and the leadership practiced by the patrol members."

"The children are thrilled to be able to go, because for most, it'll be the first time," said Lana Saffold, a fifth-grade teacher who wrote the grant request. "We were so excited to get the grant because without it, we would have had to cancel the trip."

Lunsford said money for the grant came from the Carlyle and Elizabeth Steiler Fund, which stipulates unrestricted use, as long as the funds benefit South Shore area residents.

The foundation's grants can range from \$250 to as much as \$100,000 over three years, Lunsford said. The money comes from interest earned on the foundation's estimated \$30 million principle, which includes money bequeathed or donated.

Some of the money given to the foundation is restricted, which means the donor specifies where it must go. These funds are processed by the administrative staff of the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, the Sun City Center foundation's parent organization.

Other donations are designated as field-of-interest funds, or money that must be used for a specific purpose, but the decision on who gets it is left to the foundation. The John and Elizabeth Crawford Arts Fund, for example, earmarks money for arts programs in South Shore, and the foundation decides how that money will be spent.

Unrestricted funds are those the foundation may grant to any nonprofit organization for any purpose.

Nonprofit groups interested in applying for the May grant cycle are encouraged to call (813) 633-6677.

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