

The Youth Leadership Academy of Madison County has selected their 2018 grant recipients! Designed to benefit the youth of Madison County, the Youth Leadership Academy Grant Cycle is open to any Madison County nonprofit organization which oversees programming benefiting youth. YLA raises money with their Dance Marathon in order to fund these programs that benefit youth in Madison County.

### **Alternatives Inc.**

Alternatives Inc. is one of twenty-nine domestic violence shelters serving Indiana's ninety-two counties. Alternatives philosophy is all persons have the right to live in a loving, caring, safe and secure environment. We support victims through the initial crisis with the ultimate strategy of helping them achieve abuse-free and financially independent lives. In recognition of the complex needs of victims, we draw upon the resources of local communities to support victims in their quest for peace and security. Our agency's primary service area is the counties of Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Madison, Marion, and Tipton in East-Central Indiana.

### **Program: Learning and Exploring**

Kid Connection is an after-school and weekday summer program for school aged children is provided for children residing within Alternatives. This funding allows the children to go on educational and recreational field trips to keep them engaged during the summer months. In the past, they have visited Imagination Station, Nature Valley Ranch, and the Indianapolis Zoo.

Visit their website at: [www.alternativesdv.org](http://www.alternativesdv.org)

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### **Anderson Public Library-Children's Department**

Established in 1905, the Anderson Public Library serves Anderson, Anderson City, Stony Creek and Union townships in Madison County, Indiana. Anderson Public Library informs, connects, engages and empowers. They also have a Lapel branch library.

### **Program: #getreading**

The Children's Department of the Anderson Public Library will create a special library card that can be obtained without requiring a parent's signature, which is often an obstacle for many older school-aged children. This library care will allow children to checkout book bags with books and games with no fines attached. The goal of the #getreading program is to provide this opportunity on the weekly outreach visits to places in the community; this program will be introduced during the annual Summer Reading Program.

Visit their website at: [www.and.lib.in.us](http://www.and.lib.in.us)

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### **Aspire Indiana**

Aspire Indiana is a fully integrated health system that addresses behavioral health, primary care, substance use disorders, and the social determinants of health, including housing and employment. We also provide HIV services, deaf services, veterans programs, and advocacy for abused and neglected children in Madison County.

### **Program: Kids Talk-Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program**

Kids Talk is an accredited Child Advocacy Center in Anderson which serves children and families in Madison and Tipton counties. Our professionals work with law enforcement, prosecutors, and the Department of Child Services to provide forensic interview and advocacy services for abused, neglected, and at-risk children. Kids Talk staff also presents abuse prevention programs to kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Madison County schools.

Kids Talk's presentations are designed to help children understand what is appropriate and what is not, in age appropriate ways, and who and to whom they should talk to if they think something inappropriate has occurred.

Visit their website at: [www.aspireindiana.org](http://www.aspireindiana.org)

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### **CASA of Madison County (Court Appointed Special Advocates)**

East Central Indiana CASA recruits, trains and supports CASA volunteers as advocates to get to know the abused or neglected child and determine their needs and what is in the child's best interest for their future. The CASA volunteer communicates this information about the child to the court so the child's voice can be heard and so the child does not become "lost" in the system.

The CASA volunteer helps the child to understand what is going on in the case and provides a friendly face, support, stability, and consistency for the child during legal proceedings amidst a sea of unfamiliar people – including police, doctors, child welfare workers, and lawyers. By presenting the best interests of abused and neglected children to the court, advocates help judges to make better informed and timelier decisions about children so they can be returned home or placed in a safe and permanent home as quickly as possible.

#### **Program: Child Visit Program**

This program allows advocates to visit children who are placed outside of Madison County for their safety. By providing this support to volunteers, we will retain them longer and be able to utilize them further to serve more children in the future. Children placed outside of Madison County will at some point return to the community, it is important that we help ensure their best interests are met and these children lead safe, healthy and productive lives.

Visit their website at: <http://eastcentralcasa.org>

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### **Gateway Association, Inc.**

The mission of Gateway Association, Inc. (Gateway) is to help young children of all abilities reach their highest potential through education and other support systems. Our goals in the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) are to provide high-quality, effective care and education; to provide developmentally appropriate activities and materials that help children learn; to have a play based learning environment where children are engaged and enjoy learning; to prepare children for school and life; and to meet and maintain requirements set by state licensing standards for child care centers, the Paths to QUALITY (PTQ) child care rating program, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

#### **Program: Toddler Developmental Playground Equipment**

This funding will allow Gateway to purchase equipment and materials needed to meet and maintain state licensing and national accreditation standards for child care centers. Many of the outside toys and equipment no longer meets the required standards. They will purchase a Peek-A-Boo caterpillar climbing structure to replace the aging 14-year old one. They will also purchase a new scooter trike and large plastic play vehicles as well as a new storage shed to protect their investment to ensure the equipment is protected from the elements.

Visit their website at: <http://gatewayassociationin.wixsite.com/gateway>

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### **More than Conquerors**

More than Conquerors mission is to provide safe places to empower generations. During our past two years we did this by running a free after-school program, hosting free activities and dinners for families, offering a quality low-cost summer program. We serve primarily families in southern Madison County with at least one child in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Program: Camp Victorious**

Camp Victorious is a safe place for kids entering 4th-8th grades to spend their summer. We will be taking trips, having water fights, learning life skills, impacting our community, and conquering the entire summer. This funding will provide supplies for arts and crafts, life skill lessons, science lessons and camp shirts.

Visit their website at: <http://www.weareconquering.com>

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### **Operation Love Ministries**

Operation Love Ministries, Inc. reaches out as the hands and feet of Christ in Madison County to provide tangible goods and services to those in need. OLM is specifically structured as a vehicle whereby the collective Church may fulfill its call to serve the lost, poor, and hurting in our community. While many churches struggle to address the great breadth of needs before them, Operation Love Ministries serves as a pathway to connect churches as a collective body, assist with administration and strategic development of outreach programs, share best practices in ministry, and pool resources to best reach out to the hurting and broken.

#### **Program: Back to School Assistance**

Operation Love helps over 100 children in need receive clothing, book bags, and school supply assistance each year. Items matched to the need for each child, given the school supply list provided, children also receive a special clothing pantry shopping experience for back-to-school clothes. We utilize partnerships with several area organizations to provide supplies and/or backpacks to pre-qualified participants.

Visit their website at: <http://operationloveministries.org/>

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### **Pendleton Community Public Library**

The mission of the Pendleton Community Public Library is to provide traditional library services, creative initiatives, and up-to-date technology in a comfortable facility with friendly, helpful staff. The library holds a collection of nearly 70,000 titles, and our librarians are always working to make sure that the collection is fresh and relevant to the needs of our patrons. We have books, movies, and magazines, a copy and fax machine, and even a notary public on staff.

#### **Program: The Learning Kitchen Project**

The objective of The Learning Kitchen project is to present programming to the general public, which is designed to improve overall health. By installing a food preparation island and kitchen range, the library will be equipped with a full

kitchen that can be used for cooking demonstrations. These demonstrations will show how easy it is to prepare healthy food at home using simple ingredients.

Visit their website at: <http://www.pendleton.lib.in.us/>

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### **Safe Families for Children**

Safe Families for Children of Central Indiana is committed to serving families in crisis by partnering with the local church, where host families open their homes and hearts to vulnerable children. We are a volunteer-driven nonprofit that provides hope and support to families in our local communities. The three objectives of Safe Families for Children are: Keep children safe during a family crisis such as homelessness, hospitalization, or domestic violence in an effort to prevent child abuse and/or neglect. Support, and stabilize families in crisis by surrounding them with caring, compassionate community. Reunite families and reduce the number of children entering the child welfare system.

### **Program: Family Coach Program**

Family Coaches provide support and case-management like work to the families in crisis who face life stressors such as: loss of employment, homelessness, domestic violence, medical crisis, substance abuse, etc. They are responsible for visiting host families regularly to complete home visits, monitoring the safety and care of the children, they work alongside the parents on their goals, and provide support and maintain regular contact with all parties. This funding is to help support the family coach program with training and travel expenses.

Visit their website at: <https://indianapolis.safe-families.org/>

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### **The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army Anderson Citadel is a ministry dedicated to giving a 'hand-up', providing basic life resources that create self-sufficient and spiritually-centered individuals in Madison County, Indiana. The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

### **Program: Baby Blessing Bags**

Baby blessing bags will provide basic needs to Madison County's most vulnerable residents. By providing infants and new moms with diapers, wipes, blankets, and needed baby care items we are relieving a source of stress for the family and in turn helping prevent abuse and neglect.

Visit their website at: [www.saanderson.org](http://www.saanderson.org)

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### **Second Harvest Food Bank**

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana was founded in 1983 and we haven't stopped fighting hunger since. As a non-profit organization, funded by philanthropic and community support, we're devoted to feeding the hungry, advocating for those with food insecurity and providing nutrition education. We fight hunger by working with partner agencies, local schools, corporate partners and a wide network of volunteers to serve hundreds of people each week.

### **Program: School Food Pantry at St. Mary's School**

Our goals with the School Pantry program is to help raise parent engagement by strengthening the relationships between the school and the families. We do this by providing families in need a safe and convenient school environment to receive one of their basic needs: food. The School Pantry programs are designed to distribute enough food to fill a family's food insecurity gap for a week.

Visit their website at: [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org)

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### **Team Roboto 447**

Team Roboto 447's mission is to inspire high school students in Madison County to be science and technology leaders and innovators, by engaging them in exciting Mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, leadership, and communication.

### **Program: 2018 Robot Season**

This funding will allow the team to build a second robot that can be used for testing, practicing, and development of new features and functions. This will allow the team to follow better design, development, and implementation practices by being able to test and promote their changes from the test robot to the competition robot.

Visit their website at: [www.teamroboto.org](http://www.teamroboto.org)

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### **YMCA of Madison County**

The Madison County YMCA focuses on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. We believe strongly in the importance of nurturing the potential of every child and teen; improving the nation's health and wellbeing; giving back and providing support for our neighbors.

### **Program: Elwood YMCA Swim Lessons**

The Elwood YMCA has partnered with Elwood Community Schools to use the pool located at the junior/senior high school to offer swim lessons. This funding will provide swim supplies to get the program started.

Visit their website at: [www.ymcamadco.org](http://www.ymcamadco.org)