

PHILANTHROPY

Under this program, students administer grants

This story marks part three of a four-part series featuring the Foundation for MetroWest Youth in Philanthropy program.

This week, we will be learning more about Nashoba Brooks School and the impact this leadership program has on the students and the Concord community.

Founded by Foundation for MetroWest, our region's community foundation, the Youth in Philanthropy program (nicknamed "YIP") was introduced in 2006 in five Concord middle and high schools with one simple goal: empowering youth to impact their communities.

Throughout the program, YIP participants learn about community needs, fundraising, grant requests from nonprofit organizations and work alongside Foundation staff and partnering school advisors to award grants to selected nonprofits. Not only do they develop these practical skills, they also gain important life skills such as working as a team, respecting themselves and others, and positively affecting their communities.

"I'm always amazed by the growth our YIP participants experience throughout the program, as they gain an understanding of the needs in the commu-

nity, how to identify the organizations most effectively meeting those needs, and how they can have an impact through the Foundation's grant-making process," said Jennifer Ubaldino, Youth in Philanthropy Coordinator at Foundation for MetroWest.

Since 2006, the Foundation for MetroWest YIP program has had a significant impact on both the youth and the community of Concord. In a recent survey conducted by the Foundation and sent out to Concord YIP's 500 alumni, results revealed that "64 percent of respondents confirmed they currently hold a leadership position in a group or organization they are involved with." In a nutshell, this is what the program is all about: instilling community and philanthropic leadership in our youth.

At Nashoba, the youth program is part of the school's service learning curriculum and is offered to interested students grades five to eight. YIP participants approach area nonprofits and offer them the opportunity to submit grant applications. Students then award grants to nonprofits that follow through with the grant application process.

Polly Vanasse, Service Learning Coordinator

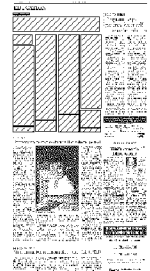
and onsite YIP teacher at Nashoba Brooks School, shared her thoughts about the youth program: "The kids go on to be leaders at their next schools. They stretch their wings in eighth grade by finding their own causes and working on them."

The program's teacher and advisor added that "kids are at their best when they are giving to others and thrive when they are given responsibilities at school. Making decisions that affect the lives of others is a deep responsibility."

Vanasse said the most exciting outcome of the program at Nashoba is that the seventh grade now participates in an "Up and Out Move" each year and moves a family out of a shelter into their first home.

Since the youth program's integration at Nashoba Brooks, the school has awarded grants to local nonprofits such as Minuteman Arc for Human Services and Open Table, Inc, among others.

"Minute Man Arc is grateful to the Foundation for MetroWest and its Youth in Philanthropy program for helping to fund critical programs for individuals with developmental disabilities," said Stephanie Parish, director of development for Minute-



man Arc Human Services.

Peter Hilton, president of Open Table, Inc, commented, "I think the program enables the participating students to learn a lot about how to assess the work of a nonprofit - something that will help them be more informed donors and participants in nonprofits when the are older." Hilton added, "We are also moved by children working to support other children in needy families."

Founded in 1995 and based in Natick, Foundation for MetroWest provides philanthropic leadership and helps create and promote efforts among residents to improve the quality of life in their community. The community foundation supports the needs of 33 cities and towns across the MetroWest region.

The Concord Commonwealth Fund endowment - established to run YIP programming in Concord - does not fully cover the costs of keeping the program running, which is why donations are sought to ensure its legacy. To find out more about supporting the Youth in Philanthropy program or about enrollment, visit the foundation's website:

www.foundationformetrowest.org or email info@foundationformetrowest.org

Stay tuned for the fourth and final part of this series, coming to you in next week's issue. We'll be focusing on two perhaps lesser-known boarding schools in Concord exposing youth from all over the world to the rich, philanthropic na-

ture that exists within our community.