

The Virtues Project and Curriculum

The Virtues Project, founded in 1988 by Dr. Dan and Linda Popov, began with a simple idea, that all children are born with virtue and that when parents and educators awaken these gifts of character, we can empower children to change the world.

Through the teaching of virtue we can not only raise kinder kids but also equip youth with the skills needed to become truly compassionate and caring adults.

Love. Kindness. Justice. Service. Virtues are the very meaning and purpose of our lives, the content of our character and the truest expression of our souls. For people of all cultures, ethnicities and beliefs, they are the essence of authentic success.

Virtue means power, strength, inner quality. Virtues are the content of our character and the elements of the human spirit. They grow stronger whenever we use them. As a six year old once said, "Virtues are what's good about us."

The mission of The Virtues Project is to inspire people of all cultures to remember who we really are and to live by our highest values.

**For more information on the
Virtues Project please visit:**
www.virtuesproject.com

Sponsors

Parks & People Foundation

Since 1984, the Parks & People Foundation has worked to improve the quality of life in Baltimore's neighborhoods. Our staff, volunteers and partners in the community have developed innovative solutions to issues facing our city including the restoration of our neighborhoods and their natural resources as well as the academic enrichment and motivation of our children.

Baltimore Interfaith Coalition

The Baltimore Interfaith Coalition was formed in 2009 as a means for faith communities to collaborate in their efforts to bring hope to a hurting city. The Interfaith Coalition is the first ongoing and cooperative effort of interfaith leaders of Baltimore since the Civil Rights Movement. The pervasive violence in many Baltimore neighborhoods is the context that moved interfaith leaders to seek a forum for cooperation.

**For additional information or to make a
contribution, please contact:**
Parks & People Foundation
800 Wyman Park Drive Suite 010
Baltimore, MD 21211
(410) 448-5663
www.parksandpeople.org

The Youth Opportunity Fund

Empowering Youth
Changing Communities



Sponsored by:



What is the Youth Opportunity Fund?

The Youth Opportunity Fund is a partnership between The Parks & People Foundation and the Baltimore Interfaith Coalition, funded in part by the Maryland Department of Education and local faith communities. The Fund endeavors to increase the number of positive activities for young people, while connecting them with caring adults.

The Fund is designed to support small innovative organizations which provide services to Baltimore City youth. Grants range from \$250–\$1,000 and will be distributed in two rounds, one in the fall and one in the spring.

Based in the core teachings of the Virtues Project, The Youth Opportunity Fund strives to create city-wide recognition for the need to educate young people in the core values of good character and citizenship.



Eligibility and Section Criteria

Eligibility Requirements

In order for your program to be eligible for a grant through The Youth Opportunity Fund, your program must:

- Be or be affiliated with a faith community (i.e. church, synagogue, mosque, etc.) or a registered 501 © 3 non-profit with a budget of \$25,000 or less.
- Attend a grant application workshop
- Apply for a program designed to serve youth in Baltimore Area.
- Use grant expenses for: supplies, transportation, background checks, printing, refreshments, awards and incentives, t-shirts, educational materials, recreational equipment, including uniforms, cultural enrichment costs and facility rental. Staff time is ineligible.

Selection Criteria

- Project feasibility
- Reasonable budget
- Organizational and staff/volunteer capacity
- Parent and community engagement
- Experience in the field of youth development

Grant Application Process

Pre-Application Process

Applications will be made available through the Parks & People Foundation's website at www.parksandpeople.org during each grant cycle. All applicants are required to attend one of two grant workshops during which they will:

- Learn about the purpose of the grant program
- Receive a one hour orientation to the Virtues curriculum
- Vet project ideas
- Learn about other resources available in the Baltimore area

Grant Award Distribution

Grant awards will be distributed as follows:

- Amount required for background checks will be distributed upon return of the signed grant agreement.
- The remaining funds up to 90% of award distributed upon receipt of completed background checks
- The remaining 10% of funds will be distributed upon receipt of the final report including financial accounting.
- Final reports are due within three months after the grant is expended but no more than one year after the grant is awarded.