



# THE GREG JENNINGS FOUNDATION

## BE GREAT After School Program Grantees Programs & Descriptions 2015-16



### Greater KALAMAZOO:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kalamazoo - High School Bigs \$7,500**

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-on-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. With the full support of superintendents and principals in the Parchment, Kalamazoo and Schoolcraft Public School Districts, 90 high school students will be interviewed, trained and intentionally matched with 90 elementary school students based on common interests, needs and expectations. The matches will meet once a week during the school year to provide students with the skills and experiences necessary to improve their academic and social-emotional competence in order to reach their potential. *GJF Funded: 2012 (\$10,000), 2013 (\$7,500) and 2014 (\$7,500)*

- **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra - Kids In Tune \$7,500**

The mission of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra is to engage the community in compelling musical experiences. KIT is an "orchestra immersion" program that infuses after-school programming with accessible, intensive, and ongoing ensemble-based music learning. Activities include a daily nutritious meal, small group music lessons, orchestra rehearsals, choir, musicianship training, and dance classes. Daily homework help is also provided along with one-on-one tutoring when needed. The kids also give routine "informances" to share their work with the school and community. *GJF Funded: 2012 (\$5,000), 2013 (\$10,000) and 2014 (\$7,600)*

- **Kalamazoo Junior Girls Organization – The “Promise” Pathway to Success \$5,650**

The Kalamazoo Junior Girls Organization recognizes that young girls have unique challenges requiring special attention to help ensure they make successful transitions into adulthood. Their mission is to teach girls and young women to make healthy lifestyle choices while exposing them to social, cultural, educational and civic responsibility opportunities that will help nurture their self-esteem, character and intellectual growth. *GJF Funded - 2012 (\$6,500)*

- **Community In Schools of Kalamazoo – Literacy Buddies \$4,350**

The mission of Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo is to surround students with support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. The Literacy Buddies program works to improve school success for students with identified risk factors thereby increasing college/career readiness by selecting ten high school “Big Buddies” to each work with 2 elementary “Little Buddies” for 2 days per week. The program will culminate with a celebration of their accomplishments with their families. By offering academic assistance, CIS believes that students can overcome barriers giving hope and confidence for success. *GJF Funded: 2012 (\$10,000) and 2013 (\$7,500)*

*“To Whom much is given, much is required”*

- **Community Healing Center – STREET Program \$3,500**

S.T.R.E.E.T is an acronym for an approach to helping homeless and at risk youth. It stands for **S**urvival, **T**rust, **R**esources, **E**ducation, **E**mpowerment and **T**hey. The Community Healing Center provides immediate support to survive, helps to build relationships based on mutual respect and trust, gives resources they need to achieve, offers education and opportunities to rebuild self-esteem, and empowers them to move forward; and as a result students become productive and positive role models for their peer group and neighborhood. The goals of the program are to enhance life skills, influence positive behavior and attitude change, support higher academic achievements, reduce violence and decrease underage drinking and drug use.

### **MINNEAPOLIS:**

- **Boys & Girls Club of Twin Cities - STARS Program \$9,000**

The Boys & Girls Club of the Twin Cities “Striving to Achieve Reading Success” (STARS) Program serves children enrolled in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade who are at-risk of performing below grade levels in reading. STARS is a year-round educational component that encourages academic success by utilizing the same developmental reading assessments used by public schools to match youth with appropriate reading material; and trained staff utilize the online curriculum to ensure that each child builds the fundamental literacy skills necessary to progress to the next grade level. *GJF Funded: 2014 (\$10,000)*

- **Hospitality House Youth Development - Urban Learning Center \$7,500**

Hospitality House Youth Development is a faith-based outreach focused on the spiritual, intellectual and physical development of urban youth and their families. The Urban Learning Center serves K-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth in North Minneapolis. Students from 23 different schools participate as a partner with Minneapolis Public Schools to provide educational assistance. Each student has an Individualized Education Plan designed to improve their academic performance. HHYD's focus is on academic enrichment, cultural, spiritual, and recreational activities that guide learning and engage children and youth in healthy & beneficial activities. *GJF Funded: 2013 (\$5,000) and 2014 (\$12,500)*

- **Minds Matter of the Twin Cities, Inc. –Summer Enrichment Program \$5,000**

Minds Matter invests the time and resources in talented, lower-income students to help them successfully navigate the challenges on the path to college. Their emphasis is to prepare 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in a three year program by providing individualized attention from mentors and group instruction to focus on test preparation, writing and math skills. As a result students gain confidence, receive academic and social enrichment and strengthen their college applications. The goal of Minds Matter is to radically alter the trajectory of talented students' lives. *GJF Funded: 2014 (\$2,500)*