

July 20, 2012

Youth Group Donates Funds to Local Environmental Projects

Local environmental projects are benefitting from the \$1000 in funds raised by youth during the 2012 Earth Week Film Festival.

The City's Youth Action Committee, consisting of thirteen students in grades 9 to 12, chose to allocate the money they raised during the annual event to three diverse local environmental projects.

The youths established a new environmental bursary by allocating \$400 to School District 72 for presentation to a graduating student enrolled in post-secondary. The bursary will be available in 2013 for a student that has demonstrated community involvement and an interest in environmental studies.

"Bursaries provide the opportunity for a better future for students interested in pursuing an academic career," said Tulsa Masee, a recent high school graduate and Youth Action Committee member.

A youth-driven community garden at Robron Centre also received \$150 in funds to help with the garden start-up and maintenance.

"It is important to support youth projects around the community. The Robron Community Garden is a great opportunity for youth to learn about gardening and get outside," said Claire Billings, Youth Action Committee Member.

The Committee made their final donation of funds this week to the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS), who received \$450 toward their educational program and building a screen around one of their wildlife enclosures. MARS's mission is to conserve and protect native wildlife and its natural habitat through education and rehabilitation.

"This donation from the Youth Action Committee will really help with our wildlife care, rescue and release efforts," said Maj Birch of Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society.

"We thought that it would be good to support organizations people might not know about because we know smaller organizations like MARS do great work and need the help to fund their projects," said Mariah Carpenter, Chair of the Youth Action Committee.

The Youth Action Committee is now on summer break and will reconvene in the fall. The Committee provides youth an opportunity to get involved in their community, advise the City on a youth perspective on community issues, and learn leadership skills.

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Photo: The Youth Action Committee presents Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society with a cheque for \$450 of funds raised during Earth Week. From Left to Right: Mariah Carpenter, Chelsea Masters, Tulsa Masee, Maj Birch of MARS, Claire Billings and Paige Derouin.

