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Community Foundation Awards \$135,000 in Youth Grants in Lewis County

As part of its \$200,000 collaborative funding partnership with the Dyson Foundation the Northern New York Community Foundation Board of Directors approved \$135,000 in grants in support of their Youth Development and Empowerment Program at their quarterly board meeting today. An additional \$65,000 will remain available for the second year of the program. “The primary goal of this initiative is early intervention, both in the form of providing supportive resources for youth who are struggling and in offering a broad array of positive experiences that can set a positive and optimistic direction in the lives of area young people. Ultimately, we all benefit from this type of proactive investment.” said Rande S. Richardson, Community Foundation Executive Director. The Community Foundation accepted proposals over the summer and a Lewis County advisory committee prioritized and made recommendations for funding. The allocations approved were:

- **Mountain View Prevention Services - \$50,000** to enhance their Youth Advocate Program in Lowville, Beaver River and South Lewis Schools and expand the program to include Copenhagen and Harrisville schools.
- **Double Play Sports Community Center - \$50,000** to expand and enhance their programming as well as provide accessibility scholarships for those may not be able to afford enrollment fees.
- **Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association - \$35,000** to expand their youth mentorship program and develop additional youth programming. The grant will also provide scholarships for those who may not have the resources to pay for any participation.

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The Board also approved a grant to seven non-profit organizations looking for collaborative shared service opportunities. The \$3,777 grant will partially fund the cost of an operational needs assessment for Jefferson Rehabilitation Center, Credo Community Center, Children's Home of Jefferson County, Children's Clinic, Volunteer Transportation Center, Transitional Living Services and the Watertown Family YMCA. Areas of commonality might include shared staff, training, human resources, public relations and marketing, information technology, accounting, billing and physical space. The goal is to provide a program that would eventually be available to all non-profits to help strengthen the sector and increase organizational efficiency and overall sustainability. "In both the near and long terms, this type of formal collaboration is something that needs to happen and tangible steps toward that end should be encouraged, especially by funders," Mr. Richardson said.

The Northern New York Community Foundation works with donors to make grants to support the work of non-profit organizations and provide scholarships to individuals in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. This work is made possible by those who have established permanent, named charitable funds with the Foundation during their lifetimes or through their wills.

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