

A New Fiscal Year....Think “Matching Grants”

We have completed our second year of the revised Matching Grant program. Some still have questions about it or are wondering how they can be a part of it. We on the Outreach Commission have seen positive benefits in the way the fund has been utilized, but also feel that there is additional potential as persons of all ages become aware of needs in their neighborhoods or places of work.

This past year, \$18,000 was budgeted for the grant program. Even though it was anticipated that applications might be spaced throughout the year, former patterns take time to change. It was not until the spring of this year that most of the requests were received. We ended up with a budget surplus of \$7,100 which does not carry over to the following fiscal year. Consequently, the budget for the present year has been cut to \$13,000.

In 2013, the total distribution through this program was \$55,499 in support of 9 community agencies. Fifty percent, or \$27,750, was contributed from the CMC budget, and this was matched by supporting individuals. In 2018, the change was initiated that instead of supporting the operating budget of agencies in our community, we would support specific projects. Though these may benefit an organization, they also should be a stand-alone project. One consequence of the change is that there has been a decrease in utilization of funds, perhaps because a project takes planning as opposed to allowing an organization to decide how to spend the donation.

Matching Grants is indeed a valuable outreach of College Mennonite, contributing to the well being of our Goshen community, supporting agencies that serve those with special needs, and preserving our environment. Recent recipients include:

- 1) CCYC at Arbor Ridge for Music Together Program for preschoolers
- 2) Goshen High School Marine Biology to enable participation of needy students
- 3) Safety Networks for Asylum and DACA clients
- 4) Chain Reaction for installation of energy efficient windows
- 5) Love Shack which provides free groceries and produce anonymously
- 6) Goshen Tree Education Project, providing T-shirts for Middle school students
- 7) The Post for purchase of a new scoreboard
- 8) Purchase of gifts for a community Christmas program for Hispanic children
- 9) Kerry’s Playground fund raiser for a park that is disabled friendly
- 10) Assistance for an individual in the Re-entry Program

As we begin our new fiscal year, our greatest needs in the Outreach Commission are your suggestions and initiative in ways that we can engage with our community, serve important needs, be a witness for Christ, and also invite others to Christian fellowship at College Mennonite. In the Matching Grant program, the issue is not generally one of finding financial support (though this may also take some effort and commitment), but one of being aware of needs and thinking of creative ways that we can respond to them. We invite you to brainstorm along with your friends or associates, then if you need help in developing or promoting a program, bring it to a member of the OC (Weldon Friesen, Stan King, Jan Yoder, Mary Leichty, or Nancy Miller). It would be great if we would reach our budgeted limit for Matching Grants before the end of this fiscal year in May of 2020. Applications can be received at any time in the year, so don’t wait until next spring.

Grant applications and guidelines can be obtained through the Church Office, or contact Weldon Friesen.

Weldon Friesen, Chairman

Outreach Commission

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