



NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS 2019

A collaborative grantmaking program of

HomeStart and



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Details in this report are current as of May 22, 2019.



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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

946 N. Second St., Rockford, IL 61107 | 815-962-2110

www.cfnil.org

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS 2019

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) and NW HomeStart are proud to announce the recipients of the 2019 Neighborhood Grants Program. CFNIL has operated a neighborhood grants program since 1995. This is the fourth year CFNIL and HomeStart are collaborating in order to expand the availability of funds to neighborhood-based groups throughout Northern Illinois. **Since its inception, the Neighborhood Grants Program has distributed 467 awards totaling over \$719,000.**

The Neighborhood Grants Program exists to:

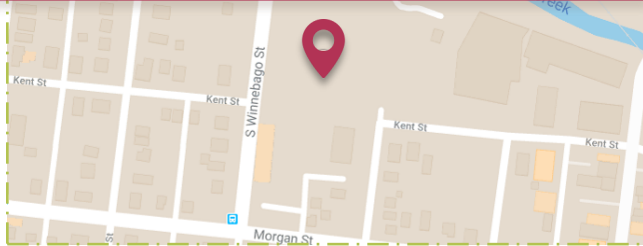
- Encourage and support the work of neighborhood-based groups and organizations working to preserve and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods;
- Promote resident participation and leadership in neighborhood-based groups/organizations;
- Invest in and build on the existing strengths and assets of the region's neighborhoods; and
- Promote civic pride in the community.

This report provides details about the 13 organizations that received a total of \$24,998.69 in grants in the 2019 cycle, and the projects they are undertaking to improve quality of life for their communities.



African-American Resource Center at Booker

Rockford - 61102



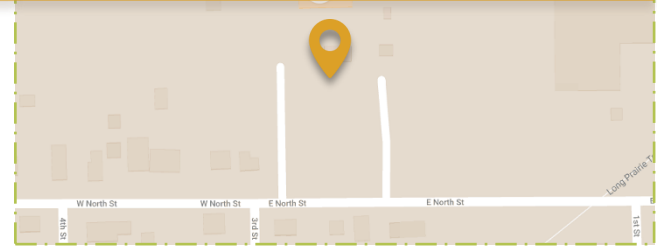
Raising the "Roots": \$2,158.69

The Booker Washington Community Center campus has been an important resource for African-Americans for over 100 years. Our goal is to make it a place to be proud of for not only its history but as a model to neighbors to encourage other beautification projects. People are very affected by their surroundings - we want to make our customers, participants and neighbors feel proud of our campus.

The project will bring the "family" together to paint the interior and exterior of AARC at Booker's historic campus. Besides providing program services to over 400 children, adults, and seniors, the campus is used by five organizations, three churches, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and hosts most of the community informational events for the west side of Rockford.

Capron Lions Club

Capron - 61012



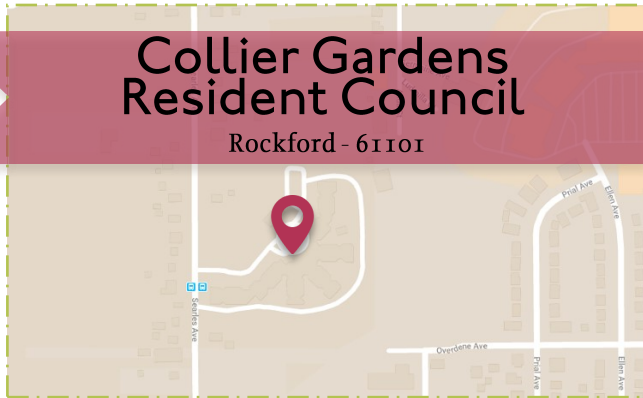
Parking Resurface & Upgrades: \$2,500

Capron Lions Club is an active club with activities that include Free Family Movie Nights, monthly Senior Meet and Greet, a Holiday dinner for area widows/widowers, free model train show with a visit from Santa, annual free Easter Egg hunt, free summer lunch program, story hour each Monday during summer, youth baseball and men's softball league, and fundraisers such as Pancake Day and the annual Capron Lions & Capron Fire Dept. Chicken BBQ.

This project involves resurfacing a crumbling parking area and adding an additional 20 foot approach to the main entrance so that our Community Building is totally handicap accessible. This will provide safety and easier access for programs and so that more members of the public may use our newly certified kitchen.

Collier Gardens Resident Council

Rockford - 61101



*Apartment Complex
Community Garden: \$1,050*

The Resident Council acts as a liaison between Winnebago County Housing Authority and residents, provides workforce opportunities, maintains security and public safety programs, promotes education, recreation and social services, informs residents of rights and responsibilities as tenants, pursues economic development, and cooperates with WCHA efforts. They are constantly working to meet the needs of residents with diversity and inclusion in mind when making their plans.

This funding will be used to create a community garden to increase beauty in the complex, offer healthy food options to the complex and increase community bonding.

Greater Freeport Partnership

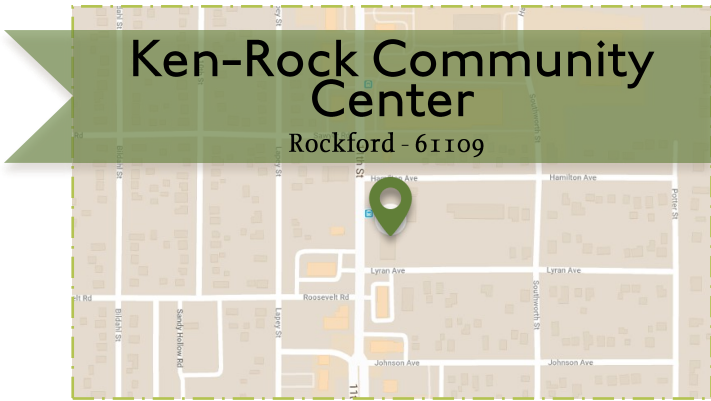
Freeport - 61032



*Downtown Street
Furniture Refresh: \$2,500*

Greater Freeport Partnership is leading a partnership with a downtown business owners group and the City of Freeport in a multi-year, multi-phase Downtown Beautification Initiative that, at its conclusion, will remake the appearance of our historic Downtown. In year 2019, our goal are highly visible improvements that show residents and visitors that new investment is being made in our Downtown.

With these funds GFP's Downtown Beautification Committee in conjunction with downtown business owners and the City of Freeport will purchase and install new benches and trashcans in the Downtown Freeport shopping district to enhance the appearance of the Downtown and demonstrate that there is new reinvestment in the City's core.



Community Ground Beautification: \$1,200

The Ken-Rock Community Center provides organized sports, community recreation activities, year round youth services, adult technology education, senior citizen activities and social service opportunities for citizens of our community. Through these services, we strive to impact the family structure.

The center is an iconic building within the 11th Street corridor. This project will help Ken-Rock vastly improve the look and condition of the grounds around Ken-Rock Community Center.



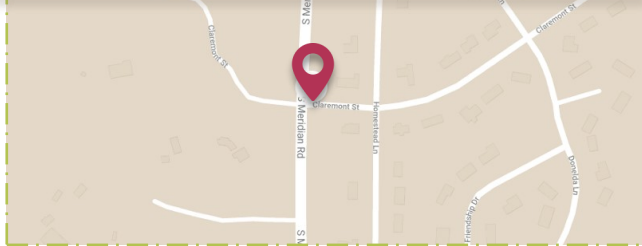
Community Garden: \$1,800

This neighborhood association exists to preserve, protect and further improve North Highland Square while encouraging the growth of neighborhood community spirit and involvement within North Highland Square and neighboring community organizations.

For this project we will create a neighborhood community garden at 1811 Crosby Street. The community garden will encourage neighbors to work together to grow their own vegetables on an empty lot from the city.

Park-er-Woods Community Association

Rockford 61102



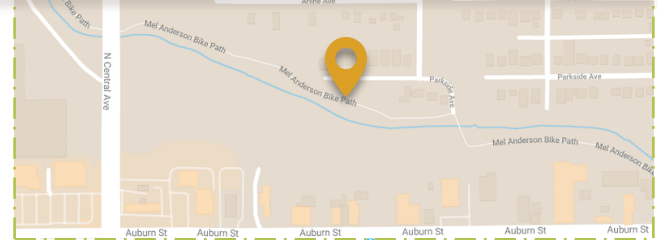
Westside Pride: \$2,500

The Association was formed to promote and maintain the community know as Park-er-Woods Subdivision, a residential development in Winnebago County, and to engage in such activities as will benefit the mutual interest of the owners and residents in the subdivision.

Members of the Park-er-Woods Community Association are trying to ensure that our subdivision remains a "gem of the Westside of Rockford" by replacing the deteriorating entrance signs that are over 40 years old and are causing our subdivision to look run down. We will replace one entrance sign with a sign that shows "Westside Pride".

Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity

Rockford - 61101



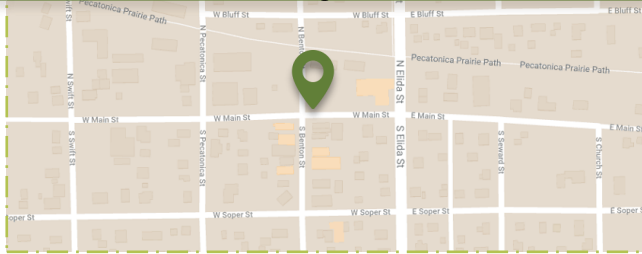
Beverly Park Garage Sale: \$1,000

The purpose of the Habitat Homeowners Club, who spearheaded the idea for a garage sale, is to bring homeowners of Habitat homes together to support one another and execute projects for the benefit of all. Because a majority of Habitat homeowners live in Beverly Park, that is their neighborhood of focus.

With support from the Neighborhood Grants program, residents of the Beverly Park neighborhood, led by Habitat Homeowners Club members, will organize a neighborhood-wide garage sale.

Winnebago Community Historical Society

Winnebago - 61088



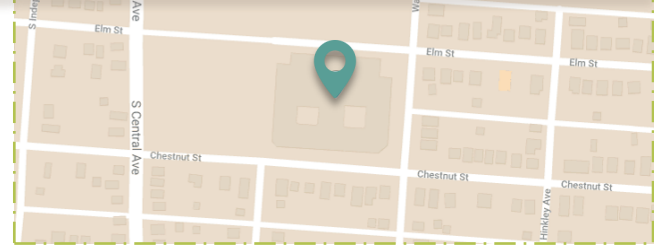
Veterans Memorial Park: \$2,500

With the acquisition of the Town Hall building in the Village of Winnebago in 2018, the Winnebago Community Historical Society also became the owner of the adjacent green space which has been dedicated for a number of years to a park honoring Veterans. This project will rejuvenate this space and make it a centerpiece of the downtown Village area.

This project will benefit the Village of Winnebago and all citizens that have an interest and desire to honor and remember Veterans from the nearby communities who have served our country. Our existing park needs rejuvenation and will be attractive to the general public that pass by or stop and choose to reflect at this memorial park.

Youth Services Network

Rockford - 61102



Parenthood Promise Beautification Project: \$1,040

The Parenthood Promise Advisory Group is made up primarily of parents and students who attend Ellis Elementary, Kennedy and West Middle Schools.

This Parenthood Promise Ellis Heights Beautification Project will use the funds awarded to continue the transformation that began in Ellis Heights neighborhood near Ellis Elementary School by placing a planter and planting flowers in 2018. This project promotes community involvement and inclusivity, as well as improving the community's perception of the Ellis Heights Neighborhood.



ZION OUTREACH

Rockford - 61104



*Buddy House and Blackhawk Farm and
Garden Support: \$2,000*

Zion Outreach's mission is to provide uplifting programs supporting the education, economic development, nutrition, recreation, social development, health, safety and spiritual development for residents served by Zion Lutheran Church.

Zion Outreach requests funds for our Buddy House program that coordinates and hosts neighborhood events and supports the Blackhawk farm and garden program, located on the grounds of Rockford Housing Authority's Blackhawk Courts. Through neighborhood events, Blackhawk Courts residents will gain skills, build social ties with neighbors, and feel that Blackhawk Courts is a good place to live.



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Learn more about this program at www.cfnil.org/grants/neighborhood



HomeStart

Creating choice in housing, community in neighborhoods, and empowerment in personal finance throughout Northern Illinois.

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Serving as a catalyst for giving in order to attract, preserve, and grow an endowment for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois.

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