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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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With help from a Leadership Johnson County class, Youth Connections, The Johnson County Community Foundation, the Purdue Extension 4-H, and United Way of Johnson County founded the Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Johnson County (YPIJC) in 2003. Youth Connections has hosted the program since 2003. Youth Connections has been going through a Capacity Building process and has focused its efforts on “serving at-risk youth through crisis intervention, community education and mentoring to foster positive relationships and self-worth” (mission statement adopted July 2009). Youth Connections is excited to announce that starting in January of 2009 the Johnson County Community Foundation will be taking the leadership role of hosting the Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Johnson County. Youth Connections will still be involved on the partnership level. Both agencies are excited to see the program the result of the current grant cycle (proposals were due yesterday).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

YPIJC was the first countywide youth leadership program focused on inspiring excellence in young people. The program equips young people with opportunities, resources, mentors and tools to solve serious community issues while developing a lifelong commitment to philanthropy.

In this program, youth and adults work together as equal partners to govern the program. The youth and adult Action Board is charged with responsibility of

- Promoting the Learning to Give curriculum to all Johnson County Schools
- Conducting several educational grant workshops for youth and not-for-profit organizations
- Motivating youth from all walks of life to take action and better their community.
- Funding and monitoring grants for youth-led service projects

- Coordinating 2 Kick Off Events and a year end celebration

The YPIJC founding partners are: Youth Connections, Johnson County Community Foundation, United Way of Johnson County, Johnson County 4H Program, Leadership Johnson County and youth from six school systems.

Typically grants range between \$50 to \$500 dollars. Grants are awarded to a not-for-profit organization including youth groups, community organizations, schools, classrooms, religious organizations, and other 501(c) 3 non profits for projects that:

- √ Are youth-led from writing the proposal to implementation of the project
- √ Address a serious community need in Johnson County
- √ Bring together diverse people and organizations
- √ Have a learning component on philanthropy
- √ Increase the developmental assets of young people

Those who get involved in the YPIJC will not only change our community for the better but will also gain valuable experience. The grant process will teach you about community assessment, grant writing, budgeting, project management, evaluation and celebration. By being a philanthropist, you will have an opportunity to put your ideas into action while developing skills in leadership, service, grantmaking and citizenship.

The community foundation makes it possible for people of all means to act philanthropically, regardless of the size of their donation, and provides leadership to improve Johnson County forever. Donations may be made anytime to YPIJC endowment a component fund of the Johnson County Community Foundation.

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