

Report on Grant to Urban League Summer After School Program:

The mission of the Urban League of Southwestern Ohio is to transform generations by promoting personal empowerment and economic self-sufficiency. Committed to improving education, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to lift individuals out of poverty, the Urban League has partnered with Woodward High School to provide after-school programming Monday through Friday (all year long) with a goal of improving the lives of youth. This school has been chosen because more than 99% of the students are from households that below the poverty line. The school has the highest number of homeless children in the city. As well, 98% are children of color. The school is described as a “trauma-informed school,” providing for social and emotional learning as well as academic achievement. While only 40% of Woodward High School students on average graduate, 100% of the students in the after-school program last year are ready for graduation.*

I spoke with the Executive Director of the Urban League: Civil Rights lawyer, Chara Fischer Jackson JD and the supervisor of the after-school program: Deborah Brock Blanks, as well as with Shannon Rokey on April 30.** A grant for \$8,025 will make it possible for the summer program for 2019 to go on. The Urban League will send us the updated program for 2019 when it is completed by June 1. They will send us a letter requesting a grant of \$8,025 for expenditures for the summer program: STEAM. Noted that the Grail is not a grant-funding organization.

We expect to receive a program/financial report that includes, program description/activities, participant demographics, evaluation and results, and use of donated funds by August 31. Photos and/or examples of student work are welcome. Report will be submitted to Terrie Puckett, E.D. of the Grail in the US. As well, Shannon Rokey will send a two-three page reflection on her experience with the program, which we can publish in our national and or international news.

There will be a student showcase by after-school program participants on May 15. Grail members will be invited. Here is a link to a youtube video made by previous students in the summer program: https://youtu.be/g-s_hQKpwmY. It is of note that the ratio of boys to girls in the summer program is about equal.

Additionally, with the help of the Urban League of Southwestern Ohio, 300 area youth attained summer employment in the region in 2018, each of them having the chance to interface with their local communities and to experience working with people with successful careers.

*See US News and World Report statistics on Woodward High School:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/ohio/districts/cincinnati-public-schools/woodward-career-technical-high-school-15142>

** Because Urban League funding from United Way was decreased by 20% this year, the summer program was going to have to be cut. Note that related to a weak United Way campaign in 2018, all Cincinnati programming grants were cut by 20% for 2019. See article in Cincinnati Enquirer:

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2018/12/18/weak-united-way-campaign-means-20-percent-less-cincinnati-area-social-services-agencies/2347940002/>

F/U: On May 5, Ms. Deborah Brock-Blanks, with Loretta Rokey, Shannon Rokey and Beth Rosen met at our home for a few hours to learn more about the afterschool program.