GIAC: Effective Community Support and Powerful Relationships: Celebrating 45 years of Achievement

Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC) is a multicultural community center in the City of Ithaca. GIAC has a unique and very successful public-private status. It is now bursting at the seams, utilizing every square inch of its original location, a school facility, which was sold to the City of Ithaca to be used by GIAC.

The agency has grown over 45 years providing educational, recreational, multicultural and social development activities offered through a variety of programs for people of all ages who reside in the Greater Ithaca community.

Programs include: youth, teen, and senior (age 60+), programs, Hospitality Employment Training Program (HETP), Summer Camp, Chet Cashman Boxing Program, Alex Haley Municipal Pool, Conservation Corp Program, Bitty Box Screen Printing teen-run micro-business, Teen Catering program, Summer Adult and Teens Basketball Leagues, Urban Art Program, GIAC Jumpers Step and Double Dutch Program, GIAC Navigators Track & Field and Soccer program, Skate Board Program, Summer Day Camp, 50-Served daily feeding program, a computer skills literacy program, Teen Girls Empowerment program, Teen Employment program and several community special events.

My Brother’s Keeper Ithaca program was recently added; and addresses the opportunity gaps faced by, particularly, young boys and men of color in our community.

Changing Lives

One story: “This young lady was working for us through Workforce who places teens into summer employment positions based on their ability to qualify for DSS subsidies. Over the course of the summer she learned the value of cooking, serving others, taking pride in feeding young people good food and what working was all about. You could see her open up to new ideas and gain self confidence as she learned more skills. She was able to get into another job training program so she could work at GIAC this Spring. Her one request was to be back in the kitchen because she felt like the skills she was learning would help her with job opportunities down the road. This program is about more than addressing hunger, it’s about changing lives.”

Travis Brooks, Deputy Director, GIAC

GIAC provides services and programs to residents who are low-to-moderate income and those often marginalized. Historically 80% of participants are from Ithaca, with 20% from the surrounding municipalities. Approximately 80% of the total participants served are low-to-moderate income. Further, 85% of the youth and teens served qualify for free or reduced meals at school. GIAC’s values and people-first mission drive its ability to meet local community needs while at the same time serving as a global partner in sustainability and social justice efforts.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

From serving on grant review teams, office filing, board service, committee work, and much more; you are ambassadors of community philanthropy.

Joys of “Hands On” Learning

Investing in our future. Grants total more than $200,000 for local summer youth programming.

Community Education and Events

We share insights and expertise alongside others, as we work to improve the quality of life in Tompkins County. Find out more online, at www.cftompkins.org, under News/Events.

You can get involved with your Community Foundation, call us, or visit www.cftompkins.org
By The Numbers (6/30/2017)

$15.7 Million Assets
$10.4 Million Endowed Funds
$5.3 Million Non-Endowed Funds

Fund Types (104 Funds)
6 Community Impact Funds
10 Field of Interest Funds
28 Agency and Designated Funds
60 Donor Advised Funds

2017 Grant Cycles ($ Granted)
$165,500 Library Grant Cycle
$93,251 Spring Grant Cycle
$47,420 Out of Cycle Requests

In our 17th year with over $12 million in almost 3,000 awards, Community Foundation is a leading grantmaker in Tompkins County.

CFCU Community Credit Union, Eric Schillinger and Community Foundation board member announces another collaborative GreenStar Community Project at The Esty Street Garden which provides opportunities for people to grow their own food, share tools and techniques, and meet neighbors. Stop by to see it, next to CFCU’s Meadow Street Branch.