

## S. Murray Rust and Mary H. C. Rust Student Philanthropy Project

*The Project honors the principles of encouraging youth philanthropy  
which were of high importance to Mr. and Mrs. S. Murray Rust during their lifetimes.*

### Student Steering Committee Information

This is a permanent grant-making program advised annually by students. Please refer to the one-page summary of the project for program overview.

Operating body is the Steering Committee made up entirely of students who meet with Foundation staff once a month to produce the student grant-making program and select advised grants.

**Space available:** Slots are open for two students from each high school. Home school students are allotted four openings in Loudoun County and two openings in Fauquier County. Home school students should contact Foundation offices for entrance registration information. All other students will contact their school's guidance counselor (s).

**Acceptance into the project:** Schools are responsible for the "fit" and choice of students representing their school. Home school students apply directly to the Foundation and will be evaluated for acceptance into the program using the student criteria.

#### **Student Criteria:**

**The two over-all success indicators are passion for the project and time to do it.**

<b>Requirements</b>
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**1. Must be a student enrolled in Loudoun County or Fauquier County public, private or home school grades 9-12.\***

\*Prefer one sophomore and one junior level student from each school because a sophomore could be on the committee two years (and we hope they will) to give continuity from their school and mentor the new member on the second year. Seniors have a lot on their plate and this program may not fit for them in the senior year. However, we are very happy to have seniors in the project and most seniors are returning student grant-makers who have been in the program one or two years. Freshmen have much to assimilate about high school life. They may not have enough experience in the first weeks of school about their ability to commit to the program when so many other new avenues will open to them throughout the year, and without a driver's license they may have difficulty attending a central location meeting.

**2. Students are required to have reliable transportation to attend the meetings.** If coming from the same school students might consider car pooling. However, be aware that each student is responsible for their own attendance. Students should not put themselves in the position of being compromised by another student's transportation or attendance unreliability.

<b>Program compatibility indicators:</b>
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3. **Students must have a history of attendance responsibility.** There will be a strong attendance policy agreed upon by the students. The committee will work through a different work topic on each of the nine meetings throughout the year and each session is important to the task as a whole. If unable to attend, excused absences will be accepted in limited number as set by the students. If that limit is exceeded the student will be dropped from the program and the school notified. If an absence is anticipated the student must give Foundation staff prior notice.

**Students should have more than a passing interest in making a difference in our community.** No specific charity work experience is required but a history of dedication to community service or dedication to an activity is a key indicator of a good candidate for this program.

**Students should have a schedule that easily accommodates a mid-morning Saturday meeting time once a month.** We are anticipating the meetings will be on the second Saturday of each month for about an hour in length. Athletes may have difficulty with availability.

**Students who easily stay on task, who would enjoy some committee leadership, work easily in groups, and who like to express their own creative ideas while respectfully listening to others are well suited for the project.** There will be leadership opportunities to chair the entire committee or lead smaller groups. Recording duties will be needed in both instances.

**Students who enjoy examining information, digging for complete disclosure and debating different avenues of action should have a good fit with the project.** Give and take, the art of persuasion and compromise, will be key elements of the experience. Some site visits to interview applicants and give informed feedback to the committee will be part of the grant-making process. There is room for the quieter student who can critically assess information and room for those who readily converse.

**Students should expect the group to come from diverse backgrounds and school experiences.** We will have ice breakers at every meeting. Those who enjoy new people and like creating a group bond will enjoy the camaraderie. Students work in several different work groups throughout the year. Students will be able to design a project T-shirt and possibly have some contact with student grant-makers in other geographic areas.

**Students should be eager and ready to shoulder responsibility.** This is a student driven project. Adults provide teaching and training, but the work of grant-making is carried out by the students. They have a great opportunity to make significant decisions that will innovate and have impact on youth in our area. They will have the occasion to build the program capacity after their successful grant giving experience in the debut year of the project.

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**Future project concepts:**

Add community service projects at the pleasure of the students (maybe build on a Habitat for Humanity house together as a work team)

Summer internships made available for students to work at local nonprofit organizations.

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**Purpose: Encourage and empower permanent strategic student philanthropy**

**Goal: Create an on-going grant-making program, advised and self perpetuated  
by students in Loudoun and Fauquier counties.**

- **Why** Develop skill sets of philanthropic leadership and stewardship in each generation of students.
- **Who** Steering Committee of students. Members are invited from public, private or home school Grades 9 –12 in Loudoun and Fauquier counties; Slots reserved for 2 students from each participating High School. Return rate of students participation is high—many are in the program until they graduate!
- **What** **Students have access to advising a minimum of \$5,000 in grants annually** for local charitable programs that are youth driven or youth serving. All grants require final approval from the Piedmont Community Foundation board of directors. **Projects must involve young people in planning, implementing and evaluating the project.**
- **How** The Steering Committee determines funding priorities. Current grant areas in 2009/2010 for this project are: Encourage More Community involvement, Promote Positive Lifestyles, and Cooperate to Address Universal Issues. The Piedmont Community Foundation staff oversees and leads the student project with the help of adult mentors from the community. A curriculum is followed to teach grant-making.
- **Committee Work**  
 Assess the needs of their community, as perceived by their age group  
 Determine how and where to advertise the Student Philanthropy Project to attract proposals from youth  
 Act as spokespersons for the Project, report back to their own schools about their work  
 Reviewing and discussing grant proposals submitted by school clubs, youth groups and nonprofits  
 Conduct site visits and interview applicant youth and their affiliated organizations  
 Making appropriate funding decisions on proposals submitted ( PCF trains students on process)
- **Where** Committee meetings at a mutually agreed upon location; usually meet at Piedmont Community Foundations offices in Middleburg. Around 20 to 25 students involved annually with the Project; regional from Fauquier & Loudoun.
- **When** Monthly Saturday meetings— agreed upon time and attendance required via student generated policy. Currently meeting on the third Saturday of each month October through May. First meeting is 2 hour orientation, then meetings are usually 1 hour in length. Some home work and site review visits.
- **School involvement—**  
 There is no other participation needed from the schools other than to help locate students at the beginning of the school year who they feel would have the capacity to lead and the passion and time to make this a priority. A **student criteria description**, a registration form and photo release can easily be emailed.  
  
 Some club advisors have been involved as the adult sponsors to guide grant applications being done by that school's club if their club is requesting grant money from this program for one of their projects.
- **School benefits —**  
 Students learn a unique hands on skill set not taught anywhere else.  
 PCF is an excellent reference for those who are college bound.  
 Schools of the students may receive funding for youth projects if their youth clubs apply for a grant.  
 PCF provides a quality experience that dovetails with “Character Counts”; charitable leadership.