

Directions for Youth & Families

Parker Lee Foundation

Support of Ohio Avenue Youth Center

March 2018 – February 2019 Report

“Without the support that the Parker Lee Foundation provides to our youth who attend the Ohio Avenue Youth Center, youth would not have had the opportunity to experience horseback riding, go-kart racing or other exciting adventures in their own city.” – Jose Guajardo, Program Manager

A COMMUNITY GEM

In a high-risk neighborhood (highest crime rate in the city) with few opportunities, Ohio Avenue Youth Center offers a safe and trusting environment where positive relationships are built and disadvantaged youth are given the opportunity to try new experiences and discover interests. During the school year the Center is open Monday through Friday 3 pm to 7:30 pm providing structured activities during a time of day when the risk for youth’s involvement in delinquent behavior is highest. Center activities are provided free of charge to youth, removing any financial barriers for families. Programming works to educate youth about the consequences of unhealthy lifestyle choices, teen sexual activity, substance use, and delinquency.

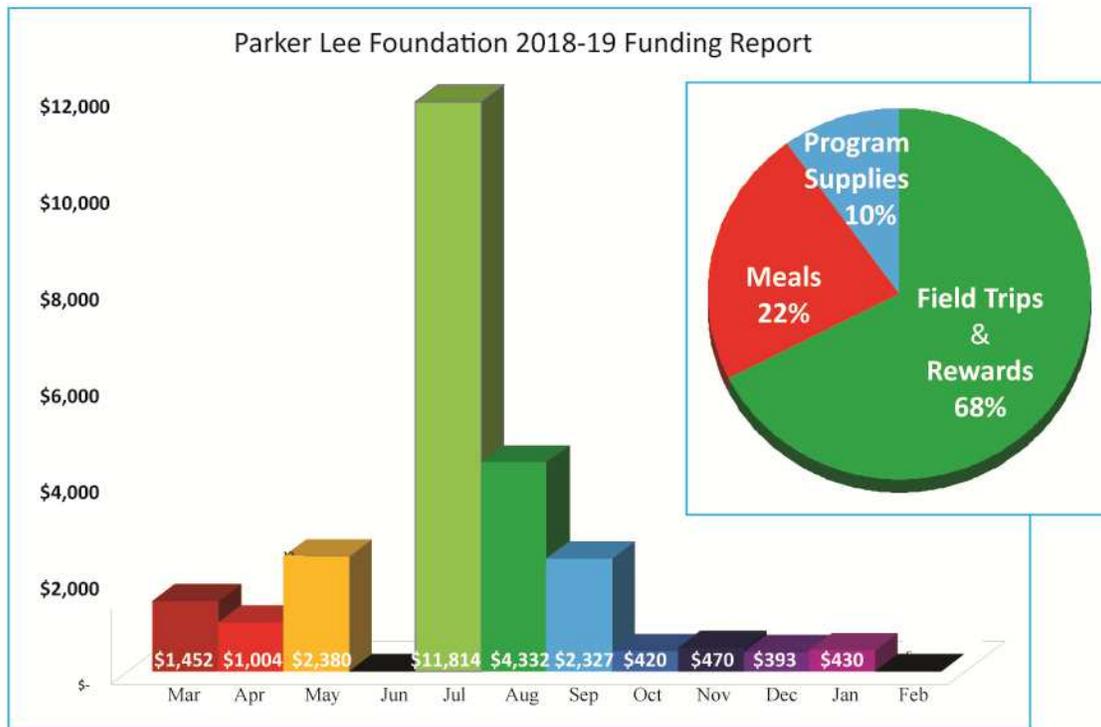


A WONDERFUL MANTRA: “WE’VE GOT THE PARKER LEE MONEY”

Directions for Youth & Families (DFYF) is so appreciative of the generous on-going support from the Parker Lee Foundation. The \$25,000 PBR10K'18 check presented to Duane and the Ohio Avenue Falcons basketball players has gone to great use.



As seems appropriate because of PLF's "caring and fun" reputation, your funds are used for the "extras", the fun stuff, that grant support from Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services and ADAMH do not cover. For instance, field trips need to be educational to qualify. Almost all of our field trips are educational, but there's that year-end trip that the kids, especially the ones whose behavior has them possibly not going, work towards and love. The trip is extra special because their family income would not allow such a trip in most cases. But - here comes the PLF money to cover this wonderful, end of year celebratory trip.



USE OF FUNDS

- ➔ **\$5,623 Food for the kids**
 OAYC provides a nutritious, warm meal for 60 to 80 youth each evening, Monday through Friday, fulfilling a basic, important need to youth ages 8-18. The average weekly food expense at OAYC is \$500 per week. We utilize free food programs when we can, but the need for healthy, fresh ingredients means we need to grocery shop each week. Thank you to PLF for providing us with funds to do so. Your funding purchased groceries for evening meals in addition to Snack Factory ingredients – part of our Nutrition Education program.

- ➔ **\$2,486 Program Supplies**
 Your funding helped support activities such as Fall Festival, Parent Appreciation Night, Family Night, Black History Celebration, Winter Fest, Field Day, and International Food Night. You provided supplies for service learning projects (see the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) pictures), craft and art supplies, and drum set repair. You handled some basic needs for our youth – haircuts right before Christmas, hygiene and personal care products, and school uniforms for a few youth whose families were not able to afford those.



TOP Youth
Serving as Mentors
facilitating activities
with community
preschoolers



➔ \$16,913 Field Trips & Rewards

Rewards can be a real motivator! PLF funded reward programs for attendance, good behavior, Stride Academy hours spent on math and science, a United Skates of America rewards trip, and the coveted year end trip to King’s Island for those kids who had good attendance and demonstrated consistent behaviors. You funded \$50 gift cards for high school graduates and took care of the stipends to our tutors that exceeded the grant amount – giving high school students excelling in school the opportunity to have a job and learn personal responsibility. Field trips included Zoombezi Bay, Columbus Zoo, COSI, Local Metro Parks, Columbus Museum of Art, and the Arnold Classic (our Fitness Club kids competed). You fully funded, at \$907, quite an excursion to the Wilds and.....a new adventure – horseback riding!

Many of our youth have not had many encounters with a horse let alone ridden one. Our summer camp youth had the opportunity to not only pet, groom, and learn the ins and outs of horses, but also ride a horse. We heard, “I never thought I would ride a horse, it’s scary but exciting at the same time”. Seeing kids interact with horses for the first time is a good reminder that we are here for the kids. To expose them to new experiences and adventures; to help them overcome their fears and expand their confidence; and to show them the world is bigger than their backyard. Thirty minutes of horseback riding will be a hiccup in their lifetime, but we hope that thirty minutes will help these young men and woman seek new adventures on their own. And we thank the Parker Lee Foundation for making this possible.



→ A grand, wonderful total of \$25,022 spent “for the kids”



→ An additional \$1,500 spent for the Ohio Avenue Falcons Three-Time Champion Basketball Team

Thank you for sponsoring our team again this year. Your funds purchased basketballs, trophies, warm-ups, referee costs, pre-game snacks, other team essentials, and a team bonding experience attending an OSU basketball game. The team has been part of the Schiller Park Recreation League since 2017. This year the team of 11 players, 5 who have never played on an organized team before, went on to win the championship for the third year in a row! The coach’s words, “What they lack in experience is made up in hard work and determination.” The players proudly wore their uniforms bearing The Parker Lee Foundation logo, their sponsor!



THANK YOU

On behalf of the kids, thank you Parker Lee Foundation!