WITAN is .....



Our Civic Allocations awarded last fall from our Community Projects Fund are already making a difference.

The Civic Committee is proud to share with you the work being done by Limitless Ambition and Rec2Connect with the WITAN funds they received.

Ladies of WITAN:

Tis the season for giving to WITAN as we prepare to support our two major fundraisers, the French Market and Imagine Ball.

As you are contemplating how you might support these efforts, ***please keep in mind the many organizations representing a wide variety of needs that have and will be benefiting from your efforts.***

I'd like to share just a few comments from two of the organizations that received Allocation funds earlier this WITAN year.

Limitless Ambition is a local non-profit that works within the Akron Public Schools to **assist young women in overcoming the barriers to their success.** Their mission is to preserve and promote the visions of young girls and women who may have been discouraged from pursuing their long-term goals.

By providing resources, training, and support, this organization assists young women in developing limitless ambitions. With permission, I share with you this note we received from founder Alicia Robinson:

- *“ We at Limitless Ambition are grateful for WITAN's commitment to making an impact within our community through your meaningful donation! Your funds will be used to support our Teen Enrichment Program. This initiative equips young girls with the tools they need to overcome adversity and achieve their goals. Thanks to you, Limitless Ambition can continue to enact its mission of nurturing emerging women by shaping their confidence in their ability to lead where authentic leadership is critically needed. Our focus is on teens to women of all ages from economically disadvantaged areas across Northeast Ohio. Every aspect of our organization builds on the tenets of empowerment, leadership, integrity, and self-development.* ***Thanks to your contribution, we will be able to continue to empower women to dream, believe, and achieve without limits!! Thank you so much for believing in our mission!”***



Rec2Connect is a non-profit organization focused on **serving special needs individuals and their families in Summit County.** This organization fills a need for affordable, accessible, consistent, and properly planned recreational programming. These activities help children to maintain and enhance muscle tone, muscle memory, range of motion, overall body strength, balance, and gait, and also provide sensory stimulation, leisure skill development, and social skills.

This organization requested funds to purchase weighted lap pads, which are sensory tools that promote regulation, calming, and refocusing. When used in combination with a sensory therapeutic plan, these lap pads are able to assist children with seated posture and seated attention. One of the goals of these sensory tools is to provide a more positive experience for children that have been learning at home due to COVID-19.

Below are comments and photos, with permission, from Jen Knott, executive director, regarding the impact of these blankets.

"Here are comments, along with photos, from several of our parents regarding the new weighted blankets:

- *“Attached is a picture of our friend Henry, one of the first recipients! His mom Theresa expressed such gratitude for the blanket and how calming it has been for Henry since he received it. He is a very active kiddo and this will be great for him over break to enjoy!”*

- *“Very excited to try it out with her. I feel like this will help with her port flushes when the home care nurse comes because she always gets nervous and anxious. "*

- *"Charles received his lap weight and was so excited he started using it immediately after opening the box. Charles' response to the lap weight was priceless. Charles said this is so awesome. Thank you"*

- *"Alexander loves his lap pad! He uses it patiently while I read him a story or while he watches a movie. It's perfect! Thank you so much for taking the time to drop one off to Alexander. I appreciate your time. Thank you all so very much!!"*



Henry and his new weighted lap pad



Alexander enjoying his new weighted lap pad

Gianni loves his new weighted lap pad



Ladies, your efforts DO matter and every dollar raised for Community Projects is making a difference in the lives of so many in the Akron area!

The past year has been especially difficult for many of our community non-profits as they struggle to meet increased needs brought on by the pandemic.

How fortunate we are to be able to make a difference in such practical and much needed ways to so many. Thank you ladies of WITAN!!

Karolyn Sedlacko
Civic Director

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