

Status as of: Feb 18, 2024

Project Name: Red Brick School - Village Center Gym Renovations

Requesting Organization:

Friends of Youngstown (FOY), Inc.
A 501c3 Organization (EIN 93-1554181)
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Opportunity

The Village of Youngstown has identified a need to improve the community’s physical, social-emotional, and cognitive benefits (mind/body/soul building activities) of our youth, provide a safe and engaging environment for families, and become inclusive (ADA compliant). A five-year plan has been developed based on youth and community feedback to address these key needs.

This grant request focuses on improvements to the village gym and stage at the Red Brick School (aka Village Center Building), 240 Lockport St, Youngstown, NY 14174.

Community/Target population:

Youngstown, New York is a quaint historic village with ~1,935 residents in the Town of Porter located just 11 miles north of Niagara Falls. Situated at the mouth of the Niagara River, where it meets Lake Ontario. The village is a vacation destination for thousands of visitors each year to learn about the history, water sports, amazing sunsets, world class fishing and to visit Fort Niagara. We have seen a significant growth in young families moving to the village and a declining senior population.

Description of project:

The Red Brick Schoolhouse was built in 1892 with the gym and two additions in 1932 and 1939. The gym has had normal maintenance over the years but no substantial updates. Several of the organizations that reside in the building had begun to use selected spaces in the gym/stage as storage, thus taking away play space. The renovation project is to update the gym/stage to ensure a safe play and activity space and to enhance the physical activity offerings. The project consists of the following:

1. Initial clean-up: Remove items from the gym and stage areas and either dispose or relocate to a proper storage facility. (Complete)
2. Sealed the gym floor. (Complete)
3. Painted the wood basketball backboards. (Complete)
4. Installed padding on the stage. (Complete)
5. Purchased all new gym equipment (balls, floor hockey, etc) (Complete)
6. Paint the gym. (Target completion September 2024)
7. Replace aging/deteriorated gym wall padding. (Target completion Fall 2024)
8. Upgrade basketball backboards with modern safety glass boards. (Target completion Fall 2024)
9. Install a movie projector for movie nights, interactive play and events. (Target completion Winter 2024)

Goals/Strategies

The Village Recreation Department has established several goals with renovating the gym and stage in the Red Brick School as follows:

- Double the utilization of the gym in the next year by local families, youth, teens, adults, and seniors for:
 - Physical activity
 - Social-emotional connections
 - Cognitive benefits (mind/body/soul building activities)
- Provide a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Introduce interactive games with today's projector technologies to learn why playing.
- Be able to offer family movie nights.
- Expand the utilization of the gym by the residents for events, birthday parties, gatherings, book fairs, etc.
- Begin offering activities for seniors to promote physical, mental and social activities.

Financials:

The remaining project budget is as follows:

| <u>Expense</u> | <u>Estimated Budget</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Gym wall padding | \$11,500 |
| Interactive projector & installation | \$11,000 |
| Glass basketball backboards | \$7,000 |
| In-kind support – painting gym & installation of wall padding | \$1,500 |
| Total | \$31,000 |
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Community support

The following is a list of current recreation activities that occur in the gym with an average number of attendees per week or event. The list is not all inclusive of all activities or events.

| Activity | Toddlers/Youth/Teen | Adults |
|--|---------------------|--------|
| Toddler time (weekly) | 20 | 10 |
| Open gym/family night (weekly) | 18 | 9 |
| Basketball fall/winter programs (co-ed 2 nd -8 th grade) | 20 | 2 |
| Boys indoor floor hockey program | 16 | 2 |
| Girls indoor floor hockey program | 12 | 2 |
| Friends of the Library book sale (3 days) | 50+ | 200+ |
| Christmas in the Village – vendor program (1 day) | 120+ | 200+ |
| Village Halloween Party & Parade (1 day) | 120+ | 150+ |