

DAVIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Article #5

By Jane Simpson, President & CEO

THIS is the fifth article about the Davie Community Foundation and our work in the community. In this article, I will focus on the SURF Board Youth Grantmakers. What is it? Why was it created? What does it do?

In 2005, the Davie Community Foundation organized the **S.U.R.F. Board Youth Grantmakers** to have a positive impact on young people in the county. SURF stands for Students Understanding Real Futures and was named by the first group of high school students involved. Members of the SURF Board learn about philanthropy (giving of their Time, Talent and Treasure); develop leadership skills; and raise money to make grants.



Applicants applying for SURF grants describe their project in a grant application complete with a coordinating budget. They are interviewed by the SURF Board and questioned for more details about their projects. Following the interviews, SURF discusses each project and makes decisions about the grants they will award. Young people enjoy being the decision makers, but they often find it challenging to come to consensus about the use of their grant money.



The 2015-2016 SURF Board is comprised of twenty-one fantastic high school students from Davie County High School. In May of each year, students may apply for any open spots on the board. Applicants are interviewed by the board, which makes the selections to fill the openings. In August, the new board participates in a team building day to help all members learn to trust one another and begin to work together.

Monthly discussions are held about important qualities for leaders. In September and October of this year, discussions focused on ethics/integrity and accountability and their importance in the business world and life.

SURF also plans their fundraising event, the POPSICLE 5K, held in February. Net proceeds from their 5K run are used to award grants for youth-led projects that positively impact young people in Davie County.

In 2015, SURF used the profits from the POPSICLE 5K to support a Bike Safety Project; a Hair Drive; a Science Camp for middle school students; stockings of school supplies for distribution at Christmas; Easter baskets for children who had suffered abuse; and toiletries and supplies to put in drawstring bags for homeless youth. They presented "big checks" for projects totaling \$5,930!



Every decision made by the board is youth led with guidance from Foundation staff and their advisor, Tami Daniel. SURF members enjoy being the leaders, but often find that making difficult decisions is challenging – another good experience for future leaders!

To learn more about the SURF Board Youth Grantmakers, visit the Foundation website at www.daviefoundation.org or contact the Davie Community Foundation office.



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