

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 S.U.R.F. 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. S.U.R.F. stands for **S**tudents **U**nderstanding **R**eal **F**utures and was named by the first group of high school students involved. Members of the S.U.R.F. Board learn about philanthropy (giving of their Time, Talent, and Treasure); develop leadership skills; and raise money to make grants.

The 2019-2020 SURF Board is comprised of twenty-one fantastic high school students from Davie County High School and Davie County Early College. In May of each year, students may apply for any open spots on the board. Applicants are interviewed by the board who 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. S.U.R.F. 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.



Applicants applying for S.U.R.F. grants describe their project in a grant application complete with a coordinating budget. They are interviewed by the S.U.R.F. Board and questioned for more details about their projects. Following the interviews, S.U.R.F. 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.

This year, S.U.R.F. granted \$8,050 to four projects benefiting Davie County Foster Care; Project Sunburn through Davie County High School Motorsports Club; Stockings for Schools through Davie Hunger Fighters;

and Bundles of Love for the Dragonfly House through the Early College NHS.

Every decision made by the board is youth led with guidance from Foundation staff and their advisor, Tami Daniel. S.U.R.F. 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 S.U.R.F. Board Youth Grantmakers, visit the Foundation website at www.daviefoundation.org or contact the Davie Community Foundation office.