



## **Giving Youth a Voice - A Unique Perspective**

Imagine the best spy organization in the world. They have agents in every field- every case gets solved as soon as it's opened. Basically, it's perfect. Now imagine that there is a new group of people discovered who speak an entirely different language than anything anyone's ever heard before. Then, the biggest case of the century opens up, and it is connected to this new culture. The problem is the spy agency doesn't have anyone who speaks the people's language. They have to adapt to their needs, finding a translator who is able to go and communicate in the new tongue. Just like a spy agency, the Fundy Community Foundation needs to be able to communicate with and identify the needs of every group of people in Charlotte County, including the youth. This is where Youth in Philanthropy or YIP comes in. They serve as the agents in the younger population, looking out and identifying the needs of their peers.

YIP recruits members from schools throughout Charlotte County. Once or twice a year, depending on the availability of funds, the group reviews grant applications from youth-related organizations. They take the time to learn about the proposed projects, ask questions and make site visits when they can. With limited funds available they are challenged to make some tough decisions about which projects will be funded. While they can't fund them all, they do their best to pick the ones that are most likely to have lasting benefits for youth in Charlotte County. Between grantmaking sessions, the YIP members also participate in community leadership initiatives and fund raising.

Members of Fundy Community Foundation's first Youth in Philanthropy group raised enough funds to start a Youth in Philanthropy endowment fund. Income from this fund will be used each year for YIP members to disburse. Anyone can contribute to this exciting fund for youth.

Right now, YIP is waiting for approval of grants, which will be announced later this spring. If your youth-related organization would like to apply for a grant or if you would like to learn more about Youth in Philanthropy, you can contact Sandy Thurber, Executive Director, Fundy Community Foundation at 529-4896.

-30-

For more Information Contact:  
Sandy Thurber, Executive Director  
Fundy Community Foundation  
(506) 529-4896  
E-Mail: [fundycf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:fundycf@nb.aibn.com)