

Mini Grant Recipients

Glendale Elementary School, The playground at Glendale Elementary School is approximately 20 years old. At the beginning of the last school year a committee was formed to help raise money for a new, safe, ADA (Americans with Disabilities) compliant playground. The school has a classroom of special needs children that currently do not have full use of the playground. This playground is not only for the school children but for the children of the neighborhood. During the summer months, the Town of Tonawanda Youth, Parks & Recreation Department puts a trailer next to the playground. The kids in the neighborhood play games make crafts and do many fun, safe and organized activities with the kids.

Cardinal O'Hara High School, One of the main goals of the Cardinal O'Hara High School library media center is to engage readers on all levels providing a relevant and current collection of fiction and non-fiction books. The library media center needs an update to its collection. They have a student body of over 240 and staff and faculty over 40 that are all in need of materials. The students have stated that they do not borrow books from the library for several reasons: they can find the information online, they don't like to read or the school does not have books they enjoy. With the help of the Ken-Ton Friends of Youth Foundations they will add materials to supplement the curriculum, stimulate student interest and their desire to learn and grow.

The Literacy Empowerment Action Plan of WNY (L.E.A.P. of WNY), LEAP of WNY located in the Town of Tonawanda has dedicated itself to serving the literacy needs in this area. They are especially committed to serving the needs of underserved children residing in the high need Sheridan Parkside community. To help meet this challenge, LEAP has established a new Powerful Literacy Center in the Sheridan Parkside Center. This center will be a source of reading programs for children and their families, professional development for teachers and include not only a library collection for children and adolescents, but also a unique curriculum and book collection supporting Powerful Literacy. The Ken Ton Friends of Youth Foundation grant will provide Library Memberships to children unable to afford it on their own. These memberships would allow many children and their families to begin a journey of learning that will continue for the entire year.