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Brooksie Way mini grants support 14 Oakland County projects

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Fourteen Oakland County projects ranging from a martial arts program for kids with cancer to a bowling league for developmentally disabled adults received checks this week from the Brooksie Way Minigrant program.

The awards were handed out by County Executive L. Brooks Patterson during a news conference in the Oakland County Executive Office Building. The 14 minigrants totaled \$17,204.

"In little more than a year, the Brooksie Way Minigrant program has put more than \$50,000 back into Oakland County communities, touching thousands of lives along the way" Patterson said.

"With the continued support of our sponsors and the runners and walkers who compete in the Brooksie Way Half Marathon races, we're making a real difference in our communities."

Patterson created the minigrant program to use proceeds from the Brooksie Way Half Marathon to improve the quality of life for Oakland County residents by promoting healthy, active lifestyles. Minigrants are awarded three times a year. Grant guidelines and applications are available on the Brooksie Way website, www.thebrooksieway.com. The applications are accepted and reviewed three times a year — April 1, Aug. 1 and Dec. 1.

Support from HealthPlus of Michigan, the presenting sponsor for the Brooksie Way Half Marathon helps make the minigrant program possible.

The race is set for Oct. 2 at Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

Since its inception in 2010, the program has given out more than \$50,000 in minigrants to various groups.

The awards were given to the following organizations:

- Centro Multicultural La Familia Inc. — The Pontiac group is offering a program, "Mothers and Children Staying Active," for its clients. The goal of the program is to teach families the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. Grant amount: \$1,300.
- Rochester Downtown Development Authority — Fire & Ice Fest is the premier winter activity for families in Oakland County. The three-day family event features winter activities including ice skating, tube sledding, broomball, dog sleds rides, cross-county skiing and snow shoeing, all free of charge. Grant amount: \$2,000.
- Orion Township Parks & Recreation — Orion Township Parks & Recreation is partnering with the Lake Orion DDA and Oakland County Parks and Recreation to present the "Doggie Dash & Pet Expo." Dvog lovers of all ages are invited to walk with their pets on Saturday, Oct. 8. Grant amount: \$1,000.
- Great Lakes Cancer Institute — "Managing Cancer through Health & Fitness" The institute is hosting a 12-week workshop series that focuses on the benefits of health and fitness for people diagnosed with cancer. The program will be held at the McLaren Physical Therapy Sports Medicine and Fitness Center in Clarkston. Grant amount: \$1,200.
- HAVEN — "Fun with Food, Fitness & Family Project" will be offered to adult and child clients staying at HAVEN's domestic violence shelter and to nonresidential counseling clients from other HAVEN programs. The project will feature a series of exercise classes accompanied by cooking demonstrations featuring low cost, healthy foods and drinks. Grant amount: \$975.
- Houston Fitness Consultants — Houston Fitness Consultants is developing a program to "combat" childhood obesity, Childhood Obesity Prevention Squad (C.O.P.S. Fitness). The program includes production of a video exercise program and development of a website to be made available free to Oakland County school teachers and coaches. Grant amount: \$1,000.
- Catholic Social Services of Oakland County — Hispanic Outreach. The grant will support a soccer league for children in Pontiac. Grant amount: \$1,000.
- Oakland Family Services — Oakland Family Services will use grant funds to purchase play equipment for their Children's Learning Center, a nationally accredited child-care center service working with children from birth to age 5. Grant amount: \$1,873.
- Holly Academy — The "Fitness Run/Walk" program at Holly Academy is focused on getting the students, faculty and local neighborhood residents active and more physically fit. The grant will enhance the school's walking path with several exercise stations. Grant amount: \$500.
- Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve — Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve will purchase 12 sets of children's cross county skis and poles for its program, "Winter Recreation Rocks!" It introduces children to the many outdoor recreational activities available during the winter months. Grant amount: \$1,000.
- New Passages — New Passages operates seven residential homes for developmentally disabled adults. The grant funding will be used to create a bowling league for the residents, providing physical activity and community integration. Grant amount: \$1,334.
- Eagle Creek Academy — The academy is sponsoring an after school gymnastics club called "Fantastic Gymnastics!" The grant funds will be used to purchase equipment including gym mats and a balance beam. Grant amount: \$1,400.
- Judson Center — The Judson Center will purchase adult tricycles and biking helmets for each of their six group homes. Grant amount: \$1,722.
- Kids Kicking Cancer — The grant will help fund the "Kids Kicking Cancer" martial arts therapy program at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland. Grant amount: \$900.