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Parents' Independent School Network, Inc.

Upper School Community Service Awards & Grants

School Name	US MS LS	Project Name	Project Description	Grant /Special Recognition Award
Belmont Hill School	US	Camp Starfish	<i>National Service Day Trip:</i> Camp Starfish is a residential camp program for children ages 7 to 14 with emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities in New Hampshire. The camp combines recreation and education into a fun camp experience for kids who struggle to find success in normal social environments. With a camper to counselor ratio of 1:1, they struggle with staffing and budget. Over 90 Belmont Hill students and teachers work camp at 9am to 3pm to prepare camp in a day. They help clear the trails by cutting back and gathering branches, paint and sweep the cabins, clean the grills and ovens, clear the entire campgrounds, and build fences to divide the camp from the parking lot. Grant award will be used to support supplies: paint & brushes, shovels, saws, work gloves, rakes, cleaning supplies, etc.	Grant Award
Belmont Hill School	US	Belmont Hill-sponsored Pan Mass Challenge Kids Ride in Belmont	<i>Local Community Project:</i> For 3 years, Belmont Hill students have volunteered to organize, plan, and run the annual Kids Ride to raise funds for cancer research at Dana Farber Cancer Institute inspired by the passing of a beloved teacher after his long fight with cancer. To date, these events have been very successful, raising an average of over \$20,000 dollars for Dana-Farber. This year, the project is hosting more than 200 riders with 30+volunteers and has set a target of raising \$30,000 dollars for research. The event raises money through participation fees, gifts, fundraising from bikers themselves, and raffles. May 18, families will come to Belmont Hill to ride their bikes through the nearby streets, enjoy the spring day, and raise money for cancer research. After the ride, families stay for a cookout, raffles, and games, all while enjoying the music from the live DJ of a local radio station. Overall, the event is a great day for the local community and the school itself, and presents a fantastic opportunity to raise money for a great cause and make a difference.	Special Recognition

Belmont Hill School	US	South Carolina Gullah Geechee Tribe Service Trip	<i>National Service Trip:</i> Annual March Spring Break, school organized, six day community service trip for 75 boys, 7-12 grade. This year they are traveling to South Carolina to experience the culture of the Gullah Geechee tribe and to work on activities such as gardening, landscaping, painting, building, and anything else that needs to be done. They strive to improve the lives of the community a bit through these various activities. For each trip, the equipment and resources they bring and leave with the tribe are an essential part of our service to the community such as landscaping and gardening tools, building supplies, installing fencing and more. Grant award will help with purchasing these supplied for use in their service.	Grant Award
Brimmer and May School	US	CAP Creative Arts Diploma Program (CAP)	<i>Local Community Project:</i> Brimmer and May's CAP Program students participate in a community outreach project with the Sumner School, an arts-centered elementary Boston Public School. Brimmer students bring weekly art enrichment activities into the before-school program for Sumner's elementary children. Four Sumner School students are selected to perform in the Upper School theatre productions in November and March. Fifty Sumner students, parents and teachers are bussed to Brimmer and May to attend the Upper School performances and the Middle School Musical in May. Brimmer sponsors two busses to take the Sumner Lower School to a Valentine's Day Breakfast at IHOP. The purpose of this project is to connect students from the two schools in a meaningful way. CAP students have an opportunity to experience teaching and sharing their love of the arts in an urban setting and it brings more personal attention in arts to interested students from the Sumner.	Grant Award
Brimmer and May School	US	Upper School Community Service Club (CSC)	<i>Local, National & International Projects:</i> Founded in 2014 by Brimmer Upper School students, in response to students' interest in creating ongoing community outreach projects. The CSC strives to help members of the Greater Boston, national, and global communities, and to connect students with hands-on service as a means of being truly engaged with the world around them. The CSC also serves as a positive presence around the School, empowering students to generate their own community service projects under the umbrella of the CSC. Current Projects: Toiletries Drive for Rosie's Place: students in grades 6-12 donated approximately 2,000 items, including shampoo, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, clothing, hats, gloves, etc. St. Jude's Candy Cane Drive: The CSC purchased 400 candy canes to sell during students' daily breaks, which were delivered with personalized messages to recipients. \$480 was donated to St. Jude's. Loose Change: Wayland, MA, organization supports schools in Peru, on the premise that "one penny equals one pencil" People donate loose change from their pockets, wallets, backpack, jacket, etc. The funds are used to purchase school supplies for isolated villages in Peru. Make-A-Wish Foundation Talent Show: The CSC will hold a talent show in April to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation featuring Middle School and Upper School students and staff.	Special Recognition

Buckingham Browne & Nichols School	US	Cheryl Tessler Solit Foundation: Lymphedema Awareness & Sleeve Distribution	<i>National Service Project:</i> The Cheryl Tessler Solit Foundation (CTSF) is a foundation established this winter by a BB&N student to honor her mother who passed away after being diagnosed at age 36. CTSF has two purposes: it gives money to further research on early stage cancer and also provides lymphedema sleeves to women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer to lessen the financial burden they face. In addition, this student leader hopes create a network of student leaders across different schools in the Boston area through presenting and sending out flyers to attract students whose lives have been affected by breast cancer, encouraging them to join her efforts. Quality of life for cancer survivors is significantly affected by lymphedema from a practical day-to-day perspective, and lymphedema is often under-diagnosed, overlooked, and under-treated. CTSF has partnered with, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, who will help me get the word out about CTSF when it is officially launched. Also partnering with CTSF is LymphEDIVAS, a lymphedema sleeve company that makes its sleeves fashionable, thus empowering women who have had breast cancer to still feel normal and beautiful. Since CTSF will manage shipping hundreds of sleeves to women nationally, student volunteers will be needed to help. The Grant Awards will go toward support of Operational Fundraising Costs, Printing Educational materials.	Grant Award
Buckingham Browne & Nichols School	US	Chess For All Ages: BB&N Student Led Chess at the Banneker Charter School afterschool program.	<i>Local Community Service:</i> The co-presidents of the Buckingham Browne & Nichols chess club teach chess every Tuesday afternoon at the Banneker Charter School for the past two years. The 15 students range from age 7 to 12. They start by splitting into small groups and teach new material based on their levels, then pair the students and circulate the games, helping each student individually. population. The PIN Grant Award will support material costs for the creative arts project. They have been also leading bi-monthly “Chess Days” at Banneker for a couple of years now, and hope to start bringing in new BB&N volunteers to Banneker more often this Spring. Now that many of the young students have a good foundation to build upon, we can start teaching and practicing openings, tactics, and more complex end-games. One of our goals is to bring the kids to the level that they can compete as a school in tournaments. They are collaborating with the administration at the Banneker School, to arrange a school wide chess tournament in the early summer (2015). Wish list includes: Additional portable chess sets to allow more students to participate. New teaching materials: clocks, tactics books, and software tools to allow competing successfully. The PIN Grant Award will be used to support some of these purchases.	Grant Award

Buckingham Browne & Nichols School	US	Community Service Afternoon Murals & Other Paintings to Aid the Homeless.	<i>Local Service Project:</i> Partnering with Heading Home, an organization that strives to eliminate homelessness in Greater Boston, students worked to create art to brighten homeless family shelters during an afternoon of service. This activity takes place twice a year, during BB&N's US Afternoons of Service. Murals have been created to improve urban outdoor play spaces; canvases have been painted to enliven children's spaces and gathering areas in family shelters. This is one of many activities BB&N students participate in to support Heading Home, Inc. The Grant Award will be used to buy canvases for the next activity.	Grant Award
Buckingham Browne and Nichols School	US	Skate for School	<i>International Service Project:</i> After being inspired through writing a research paper on the Taliban's impact on the education of young women in Afghanistan, a BB&N student was inspired to raised money for Razia's Ray of Hope, which provides funds for Afghan girls' education. The BB&N student founded a program called Skate for School, utilizing her skill and passion for ice hockey to teach power-skating lessons to girls in her home town ranging in age from nine to thirteen years of age. Her main goal for the participants was to improve their skating skills whether that was tight turns, stopping, backward stride, or forward stride. She explained to parents the issues that Afghan women face every day with their struggle to receive a proper education as well as her goal of sending two girls to school through the support they were able to provide. This goal was reached as the proceeds of Skate for School resulted in sending two Afghan girls to school through Razia's Ray of Hope.	Special Recognition
Buckingham Browne and Nichols School	US	United States Coast Guard Auxiliary	<i>National Service Project:</i> During the spring and summer of 2014 a student completed a BB&N-monitored service project of tangible benefit to the local community and nation as well as having positive environmental and international impacts. This student approached the Coast Guard and together developed a position assisting United States Coast Guard Sector Boston, through volunteering with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, both onshore with equipment maintenance and administration, and at sea with the repair and installation of maritime navigational aids. He applied his nautical skills to perform multiple tasks freeing staff to focus on other higher priority issues. He is hopeful that formal recognition of the value of this project by PIN will inspire other students at New England area independent elementary and secondary schools to propose and undertake individual and/or group projects in public service and specifically national defense.	Special Recognition

Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School	US	Sox for Socks	<i>Local Community Project:</i> Witnessing homeless people outside in Boston's freezing cold New England weather, two BB&N sophomores wondered what they could do to help. They found Sox for Socks; an organization where new socks are donated to the homeless through shelters in order to save feet and possibly lives. Toes and feet are often lost as a result of ulcers and lack of clean socks, or socks all together. They hosted joint sweet sixteen party and asked for money as a donation for the Sox for Socks organization in place of gifts and raised awareness along with over \$300 dollars to purchase warm socks to help the homeless. This project is coordinated with the Boston Health Care for the Homeless. They plan to create a Sox for Socks club, and create a network of support for a sustainable effort at BB&N across all three campuses. Their next activity will be a fall sock drive at BB&N, in which every student would be encouraged to donate one or more pairs of brand new clean socks, to be donated to the Sox for Socks organization. Being recognized with a PIN Award for this effort would help raise their profile with peers, teachers, and parents as well as attract others interested in helping out.	Special recognition
Groton School	US	A Helping Hand for Children of Akanksha	<i>International Service Project:</i> Student has a two-week teaching internship at a Mumbai-based non-profit known as, The Akanksha Foundation provides low-income students with an after-school enrichment program. Akanksha strives to change the lives of children and give them benefits that they would otherwise never have such as better job opportunities, assistance with college applications and building entrepreneurial skills. Student plans to do a clothing drive prior to the trip and to raise awareness & interest upon return through presentations at school. Grant will be used to purchase educational games and books supplement current offerings as well as going toward an afternoon snack for these children in need.	Grant Award
Groton School	US	Education of Oral Health & Medical Services for Families	<i>International Service Project:</i> Student led initiative within annual larger non-profit service trip to a small fishing village in Mexico. This effort will focus on Oral Health, expanding from local students last year to include their parents and teachers as well. They stress the importance of prevention (which is cheaper for families to deal with than a cavity) is key. Student intends to print posters and manuals to leave at this school and other nearby schools. They will also give the kids dental supplies which have been donated by US physicians in a bag with a coloring book teaching kids how to maintain healthy teeth. Another student from MA wrote the text in Spanish. For the older kids the bags will contain dental supplies and a notebook and pen to take notes with the first page being a printout of proper mouth hygiene. Grant will be used to support printing of educational materials used in this effort.	Grant Award

Groton School	US	Finding Your Inner-Artist: Bundong Koinonia Center for the Intellectually Disabled	<i>International Service Project:</i> Art Project with the Bundong (Indonesia) Koinonia Center for the Intellectually Disabled. Student introduced 10 people to a variety of art mediums help foster and interest and to possibly help them find their passion through art. The project will take place again this summer between August 3 rd to the 28 th and include twelve, 4 hour art workshops. At the end of the session, we will hold an exhibit displaying their art work and print postcards with a few selected works that will be used to raise awareness about the potential of the intellectually disabled. Grant will be used to support cost of art supplies.	Grant Award
Groton School	US	Kids of Newark, NJ	<i>National Service Project:</i> Newark, NJ has a high population of children who receive an inadequate education for a variety of reasons. Groton student will be volunteering at a summer school for elementary to middle school aged children in Newark to help them brush up on what they learned during the school year, retain this information through fun activities, and prepare them for the upcoming school year. Multiple days a week, from 4-6 weeks over the course of this summer. Grant will be used to purchase educational games and books supplement current offerings.	Grant Award
Newton Country Day School	US	Easter Basket Service	<i>Local Community Project:</i> Newton Country Day School has worked for 8 years with the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, an organization that supports girls attending the Rotenberg School and South Hadley Program in Westborough and South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Rotenberg School is a secure treatment facility for adjudicated girls in Westborough, Massachusetts, while the South Hadley Treatment Program is a staff-secure program for girls in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The girls who are enrolled in these programs have often suffered from traumatic incidents, abuse; poverty. The girls receive education, therapy and residential counseling through the support of the R. F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps. By partnering with the R.F.K. Children's Action Corps, NCDS aims to support vulnerable girls in Massachusetts and to promote greater social awareness and empathy among its students. NCD student prepare personalized, thoughtful care packages for specific students in need at one of these programs. NCD students receive in return plants, grown in their greenhouses. This year NCD partnering with a third school for this program, the Germaine Lawrence School in Arlington.	Special Recognition

Noble and Greenough School	US	Common Fire Site: "Fruitful Offerings" Part of the Day of Service on April 14, 2015 for the whole school called "Common Fire"	<i>Local Community Project:</i> Fruitful Offerings is a healthy food project in Dedham that brings produce and fruit to the Dedham Food Pantry, and educates clients on how to cook them. This multi-year project, in partnership with Fruitful Offerings, is to design and build a garden for the residents of Dedham who use the Dedham Food Pantry as their primary source of food. We have received permission from the City Council and the Parks and Rec Association for the use of public park space, to construct the garden and build a deer proof painted fence. Individuals will have their own personal garden to grow fresh food for their families. This is an ongoing project; grant award will be used to purchase plants.	Grant Award
St. Sebastian's School	US	St. Sebastian's Haiti Project	<i>International Service Project:</i> March Break of 2014; 6 students, 4 fathers, and 2 teachers traveled to the Fond De Blanc region of Haiti, a rural community four hours south of Port-Au-Prince. Worked with the St. Boniface Foundation which seeks to bring quality health care, educational opportunities and community development to the people of Fond De Blanc. The majority of our work days were spent working in the paraplegic rehab facility of the hospital making 14 wheel chair accessible garden boxes. The goal of the project was for the patients to acquire gardening skills, and ultimately being able to bring the garden boxes to their home. Patients will be able to sell produce at their local markets.	Special Recognition
Thayer Academy	US	M5 Regatta: The Million Meter Marathon for Matt & the Military	<i>Local Community Project:</i> M5 Regatta is an annual community-building event run and promoted by Thayer's student chapter of Operation Support the Troops where activities take place over three days and nights near Veterans Day. Rows and rows, of indoor rowing machines are set up in the gym. Thayer uses both their rowing machines and ones donated for the day by local gyms. Participants include students, faculty/staff, parents, and alumni who get pledges for rowing over the course of three days and evenings. The community works together to attempt to row more than One Million Meters to celebrate the memory of Matthew Healey '09, and to raise money for the Matthew C. Healey Fund, the Wounded Warrior Project and The Fisher House Foundation, best known for a network of 64 comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. In 2014, over \$8,000 was raised and divided among the charities. You can find M5 at www.facebook.com/M5.Regatta for more information.	Special recognition