

The Susanne Smith Purdon Fund – Seeking Grant Award Applicants

Did you know West Parish Church awards thousands of dollars annually in grants to help organizations carry out their mission of serving those in need in the Merrimack Valley?

The Ministry of Giving is seeking worthy applicants for our 2024 distribution.

History

The Smith Purdon Fund was created because of a bequest to West Parish Church of one-half million dollars from Susanne Smith Purdon in 1975. The Smith Family had been active members of West Parish for generations and were involved in the beginnings of West Parish Church in 1826. Susanne Smith Purdon carried on her family's tradition of interest and support of West Parish Church during her lifetime. The Fund has provided West Parish Church with a unique opportunity to respond to requests from numerous organizations in the Merrimack Valley, providing grants to programs directly impacting children, youth and family life. Over the years, seed money from the Smith Purdon Fund has benefited a variety of programs for Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership, Habitat for Humanity, Mission of Deeds, Neighbors in Need, A Better Chance, Ruth's House, Uncommon Threads, Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence and so many others.

Mission

The mission of the Smith Purdon Fund is to provide funding to innovative programs that support family life with a goal of positively impacting the lives of children and youth. The fund also supports programs that seek to meet the needs of low-income families, immigrants and mentally or physically limited residents of the greater Merrimack Valley. In the past the Fund has focused on new and innovative programs, especially those with broad impacts within the community. This will continue to be a primary focus but existing programs with new approaches and ideas will be considered.

If you know of any programs that could benefit from a grant, please reach out to Lisa O'Connell at lisaconnell32@comcast.net.