

ASF doles out \$600K for youth-focused programs

By SKYLER FRAZER
@SFRAZERNBH

NEW BRITAIN — The American Savings Foundation's Board of Directors recently announced almost \$600,000 in funding for the school district's after-school and youth development programs.

The ASF's board this month primarily reviewed education-related programs scheduled for the upcoming school year. It then approved \$596,450 to 16 programs.

"This gives the nonprofit agencies time to finish planning their programs for when school begins in the fall," said Maria Sanchez, director of grantmaking and community investment at the American Savings Foundation.

ASF's Board of Directors announced the following grants:

- \$34,500 to the Boys & Girls Club of New Britain for the SMART Girls program, a youth development program that helps girls develop self-esteem and confidence to help them make healthy choices.

- \$150,000 to the city for Exercise the Right Choice, an after-school program for middle-school youth, focusing on academic assistance, recreation, and cultural arts.

- \$5,000 to the Connecticut Storytelling Center. Through this program, professional



Staff file photo

The ASF will be providing funding for 16 programs in the 2018-19 school year.

storytellers use multicultural folk tales to engage students in reading and language-skills development activities in the classroom.

- \$10,000 to the school district for the New Britain Ventures program, a summer STEM program at Slade Middle School that uses a simulated business model based in science, technology, engineering, and math along with manufacturing design and product development.

- \$16,000 to the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra for an in-school music education and appreciation program.

- \$50,000 to the Human Resources Agency of New Britain for a financial literacy program for high school students.

- \$40,000 to support Junior Achievement, in which volunteers from local businesses help students to develop financial literacy, workforce preparedness, and entrepreneurial skills.

- \$18,550 to New Britain ROOTS to operate garden clubs at Lincoln, Gaffney and Vance elementary schools and Pulaski and Slade middle schools. In partnership with STRIVE and Exercise the Right Choice After School Programs, the clubs teach students about botany, measurement, gardening and food entrepreneurship.

- \$23,000 to the New Britain Youth Museum for the Sisters in Science after-school program, which encourages girls to explore STEM careers at DiLoreto School.

- \$80,000 to the Opportunities Industrialization Center for the Moving Mountains Sullivan Academy, a comprehensive youth development program that helps middle-school students develop the skills they need for high school.

- \$25,000 to the Pathways/Senderos Center for its comprehensive youth development program, designed to guide and support students from middle school through to high school graduation.

- \$30,000 to the the Police Athletic League of New Britain for its Becoming

PALS program, which combines homework time, physical wellness, career exploration and technology with promoting mentoring relationships between youth and local police officers.

- \$10,000 to the Queen Ann Nzinga Center for a cultural arts and theater program that encourages self-esteem and builds life skills.

- \$14,400 to Shakesperience Productions for a classroom-based language arts curriculum enhancement, which brings stories from literary works to life through performance.

- \$20,000 to the YWCA of New Britain for the House of Teens program, which helps high school girls develop the self-esteem and confidence needed to make healthy choices.

- \$70,000 to the YWCA of New Britain for the STRIVE program, which focuses on teen pregnancy and school drop-out prevention for middle-school girls.

The American Savings Foundation is accepting grant proposals under the general funding categories of education, human services and arts and culture, with a special emphasis on the needs of children, youth and families. The deadline for review is July 13.

More information and proposal guidelines are available at www.asfdn.org.