

## 2015-2016 Annual Report

### What is the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program?

The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program awards grants of up to \$1000 each to young people to fund their environmental sustainability projects in Carmel, Indiana. This grant program is unique in that it is administered by a volunteer board comprised primarily of middle and high school students who inspire and mentor youth, ages 19 and under, to identify environmental needs within our community and to design, fund, implement, and evaluate appropriate projects to address those needs. Projects funded through our program must be youth-led and serve to reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, save energy, or reintroduce native species or habitats in Carmel, Indiana. This program is sponsored by the City of Carmel, Carmel Utilities, and the Carmel Clay Schools' Green Team. Since inception in 2009 **fifty-one** youth-led environmental projects have received funding, engaging over 1000 young people and saving Carmel citizens an estimated \$120,000 and over 250 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

### Youth-led Projects Funded in 2016 by the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program:



**Tree Planting Cubs** - \$425.00 – Orchard Park Elementary School Green Cubs students planted a Tulip Poplar tree on campus this year to help everyone remember the many benefits of trees and their role in a healthy environment. The Green Cubs have learned and taught other students about how trees benefit our environment by providing habitats for insects and animals, protecting the soil from erosion, cleaning our dirty air, and providing shade and beauty.

**Woodbrook Butterfly Garden** - \$428.00 – Scouts in Boy Scout Troop 109 replanted a long neglected Teaching Butterfly Garden in a Woodbrook Elementary School courtyard area. The area now contains a mix of hardy annual and perennial flowers that will create habitats for Indiana's native butterfly populations and pollinator insect and bird species. Second grade students use this garden as part of their curriculum, learning about the life cycle of a butterfly.



**It's in the Reuseable Bag** - \$800.00 – Smoky Row Elementary Green Team students promoted and distributed reusable shopping bags during 2016 Earth Week. Students learned how reusable bags save resources and produce less waste. Students created an educational brochure distributed to each student in his or her free reusable shopping bag, and video announcements described the benefits of using reusable rather than disposable bags.

# Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program

## Projects Funded in 2016 by the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program - continued

**Turn Up for Compost** - \$243.00 – Members of Boy Scout troop 202 built a large, wooden, 3-compartment compost bin system at the CCS Plots to Plates Organic Community Garden. Educational signs were added to the bins to teach gardeners how to use them and to enhance student field trips to the garden. The community garden generates lots of organic waste, and composting will allow the garden scraps to be broken down and utilized to feed future garden plants, reducing the need for purchasing compost. This project is co-funded by United Way of Central Indiana's Youth as Resources and the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program.



**Millbrook Nature Trail**- \$700.00 – Members of Boy Scout troops 120 were joined by community members to enhance and expand a nature trail near the Millbrook neighborhood in Carmel. Improvements included clearing the existing trails and expanding the trail along a creek to enable residents to enjoy easy access to nature and wildlife. Scouts also created and installed simple post-markers to guide trail goers.

**Project Poultry** - \$988.78 – Students in University High School Biology classes have found a unique way to use chickens to connect with nature, to learn food responsibility, and to understand various complex ecosystems. Students acquired a small chicken coop to keep chickens on campus to help them teach and understand various aspects of animal husbandry, including trying to reestablish the disconnect most suburban residents have regarding eating meat. Waste from the chicken coops is used to fertilize the UHS vegetable and pollinator gardens, both of which were funded by the Carmel Green Teens in previous years.



**CCS Garden Self-Guided Tour** - \$631.39 – Scouts in Boy Scout troop 576 created a self-guided tour of the CCS Plates to Plots Organic Community Garden. The garden tour consists of seven educational stations describing the areas of the garden with environmental benefits. Highlighted areas include: Pollinator Garden, Teaching Stage, Compost Bins, Rain Garden, Healthy Eating Mural, Rain Barrel area, and Food Pantry / Field Trip Garden Plots. The Scouts designed and installed an educational sign at each station and a created a hand held educational map leading a visitor from one station to the next.

**OLMC Tree Replacement** - \$1000.00 – Scouts in Boy Scout Troop 125 noticed that many Indiana Ash trees in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church public areas had been destroyed by the invasive insect pest, the Emerald Ash Borer. These large trees had provided habitat for many animals while helping purify the air. This group replaced ten of the removed Ash trees with a variety of healthy, drought tolerant and disease resistant shade trees which are native to Indiana, including Elm, Maple, Honeylocust, Oak and London Plane, and will help reduce pollutants and be enjoyed for a long time.









# Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program

## Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program 2015-2016 Board Members:

Our program awards grants of up to \$1000 each to young people to fund their environmental sustainability projects in Carmel, Indiana. The grant program is unique in that it is administered by a volunteer board comprised primarily of middle and high school students who inspire and mentor youth, ages 19 and under, to identify environmental needs within our community and to design, fund, implement, and evaluate appropriate projects to address those needs. Board members maintain our website, promote projects in their schools and in the press, review grant applications, and award funds.

<p><i>Aaron V.</i></p> 	<p><i>Eden S.</i></p> 	<p><i>Ilsa S.</i></p> 
<p><i>Shiva V.</i></p> 	<p><i>Sitha V.</i></p> 	<p><i>Natalie C.</i></p> 
<p><i>Laasya M.</i></p> 	<p><i>Simon Atkinson</i></p> 	<p><i>Nancy Dietmeyer</i></p> 
	<p><i>Sue Maki</i></p> 	<p><i>Joan Duwve</i></p> 

### **Publicity:**

-  [Smoky Row Green Team provides reusable bags for school](#) – Current in Carmel - May 2016
-  [Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots - 25 Stories for 25 Years](#) – Roots&Shoots.org - May 2016
-  [President's Environmental Youth Award Winners Focus on Gardening and Micro-Grants](#) – EPA.gov - April 2016





# Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program

## Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program Numbers

Grant Period	Grants Awarded	Funds Distributed	Youth Participants	Total Beneficiaries
2015-2016	8	\$5226.17	176	32,360
2009-2015	43	\$23,756.98	831	231,302
Total	51	\$28,983.15	1017	263,662 (entire community)



## Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program Awards and Recognition - 2016



### United States Environmental Protection Agency's President's Environmental Youth Award

– The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program was chosen as a recipient of the 2015 President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) which recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has joined with EPA to recognize young people for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology. It is one of the most important ways EPA and the Administration demonstrate commitment to environmental stewardship efforts created and conducted by our nation's youth. Youth board members of the Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program were chosen as PEYA award winners for EPA region 5 and received a Presidential plaque and were invited to a recognition ceremony at the White House.

For more details about The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program visit [carmelgreenteen.org](http://carmelgreenteen.org)  
To create a Green Teen Micro-Grant Program in your community visit [yourgreenteen.weebly.com](http://yourgreenteen.weebly.com)