High School Giving Circle

Engagement
High School Giving Circle is a program dedicated to developing the next generation of philanthropists. Since 2005, more than 200 students have participated and a fundholder continues to contribute $10,000 annually for the High School Giving Circle to award in grants to local nonprofits. In 2018, the High School Giving Circle program expanded to two Circles. Students from area high schools met once weekly for ten weeks to learn about philanthropy, nonprofits and community needs. They learned about the various facets of grantmaking, including topics such as how to review tax forms and differentiating between rescue and transformational philanthropy.

Action
After receiving background information, the students researched local nonprofits and interviewed executive directors from their selected organizations. When asked about interviewing this year’s nonprofits, Annabelle Choi said “It was almost surreal. I feel like I could be doing more, especially now that I see all these incredible people, I was really impressed by the people at all the organizations. I would like to be more like them.” After completing their interviews, the students deliberate and select which organizations will receive $10,000 in grant funds. This year’s two Circles collectively awarded $20,000 to the following organizations:

- Arts for All
- Casa De Vida
- The Children’s Cabinet
- Communities in Schools
- The Eddy House
- Family Counseling Services of Northern Nevada
- Nevada Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence
- Northern Nevada International Center
- Note-Able Music Therapy Services
- Sierra Association for Foster Families

Evaluation
- 96% will list their participation in college applications
- 75% will list their participation in job application
- 74% said they now talk more with their family about philanthropy as a result of their participations
- Students’ knowledge of community needs increased 72% on average
- 95.65 % are more likely to volunteer
- 82.6% % are more likely to donate money or make in-kind contribution

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