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# Grant in works for local youth initiative

*HC-HY could receive \$45,000 for three years*

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Of The Free Press

If all goes well, the Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth Initiative of the Quakertown Area could receive a total of \$135,000 over three years to fund community programs.

Community mobilizer, Lee Rush, of justCommunity [that oversees HC-HY of Quakertown], is writing a grant under a June 30 deadline to the state in an effort to get the funding for HC-HY.

"The amount of the grant looks real good. It's a three year grant, and it looks as if we'll be awarded about \$45,000 a year," Rush said.

Half the funding, from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, will help to support the area's forming parenting center, after school activities connecting youth, intergenerational programming and other community programs. The other half will be used to pay Rush's salary as mobilizer.

"We've set strategic goals for the use of the money," Rush said.

## School district, bank calendars to feature assets

The 40 developmental assets or opportunities, skills, relationships, values and self-perceptions HC-HY believes can increase a young person's chances of having success and happiness in life despite their backgrounds, will be featured in the Quakertown Community School District's 2001-2002 calendar and parent handbook. In addition to photographs from the previous school year and a listing of school events, each page of the calendar will contain a list of the assets.

The Quakertown National Bank has also chosen the assets as its 2001-2002 calendar's theme.

Since the assets are being includ-

ed in both calendars, they will be in tens of thousands of area homes, Rush said.

The bank calendar will feature artwork by students from the Quakertown and Souderton school districts. The students entered a contest to have their work included. Out of 74 entries, 14 student artwork was chosen - one for each month of the year, and for the back and front of the calendar. The winners were awarded \$100 youth certificates of deposit, and their original art will be displayed in the bank's seven branches when the calendars come out in November or December.

"This will be our sixth year of holding the contest," said Carol Edge, of Quakertown National Bank. "Every year there is a different theme. This year, Lee Rush approached us about the assets, and we thought it would be a good theme. But it was kind of difficult to use, because there are so many assets."

Edge said she had to narrow things down a bit.

Instead of having the students draw pictures related to all 40 assets, she had them work with eight external assets under the headings of support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and constructive use of time, and eight internal assets under the headings of commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity.

Last year's theme was 'Bridging the Gap.'

"The kids use their imaginations [to make creative sketches related to the theme]," Edge said, "and they really come through. The quality of their pictures is extremely good."

Edge said the bank is beginning production of the new calendar now.

"We give the calendars away," she said. "We print about 4,000 of them, and they go like hotcakes."

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Comments or ideas:

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