



United Way  
Central & South  
Okanagan Similkameen



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Central and South Okanagan Similkameen Region

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Grants up to \$2,000 available for youth-led projects**

United Way's Gennext and the Central Okanagan Foundation for Youth (COFFY) have partnered again this year to offer Youth Initiative Grants. Youth who are improving their communities have a chance to receive project funding of up to \$2,000.

These grants are available to young people up to age 25 who are partnering with an organization to create positive change in their local community. The partner organization can be a school, church or charity and youth must reside in either the Central or South Okanagan Similkameen in order to apply. Applications are available until the March 3rd, 2017 deadline.

"We are excited to help youth-led groups carry out their bold ideas for shaping their communities. It is a chance for local youth to build skills and effect positive change in a cause that matters to them." said Ian Gerbrandt, Interim Executive Director of United Way Central and South Okanagan/ Similkameen.

"It is inspiring to see the drive and passion today's youth have to make meaningful differences in our community," says Molly Raposo, Coordinator for the Central Okanagan Foundation for Youth, noting that previously funded project topics span from financial literacy to mental health awareness to a cooking club for youth with unique abilities.

Application packages are available at [www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/grants/youth-initiative-grants/](http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/grants/youth-initiative-grants/), or by calling the Central Okanagan Foundation office at 250-861-6160 or the United Way CSO office at 250-860-2356.

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