

## Door Creek Church

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# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

March 7, 2017

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A teen club to promote academic success alongside mental wellbeing and healthy character development for girls, field trips and career exploration opportunities for Latino and Spanish-speaking youth, and one-on-one mentoring for youth to bridge the gaps between school, home and community are among the 11 grants awarded by Door Creek Church (DCC) through its 2016-2017 Advent grantmaking cycle.

As a church, DCC places a high value on the importance of education. The church also values collaboration, community engagement and sustainability. That is why \$35,000 given by the congregation was put back into the hands of organizations that have dedicated their entire mission or an organizational project to addressing the opportunity gap in Dane County in hopes of one-day gaining educational equality for all.

Grants awarded include:

1. **Aldo Leopold Nature Center** - \$1,500 to support the *Learning Naturally* program in collaboration with Badger Rock Middle School, which integrates outdoor experiences and field sciences.
2. **Centro Hispano** - \$3,200 to support the *Juventuras* program, which empowers Latino and Spanish-speaking youth through community engagement, field trips, and career exploration opportunities.
3. **Creekside Elementary School** - \$1,000 to support *Homework Club* and *Camp Tuesday*, afterschool programs aimed at reaching at-risk elementary youth to strengthen their math and reading skills.
4. **Goodman Community Center** - \$3,000 to support *TEENworks College Readiness*, which provides opportunities for career exploration, employment training, campus visits and application support.
5. **Intentional Mentoring** - \$3,000 to support one-on-one academic and social mentorships for middle school students to bridge the gaps between school, home and community.
6. **Kennedy Heights Community Center** - \$5,000 to support *KHCC Summer Camp*, which engages children in structured activities, social enrichment and field trips that encourage individual growth.
7. **Madison Reading Project** - \$2,500 to support their goal of reaching 25,000 children with new and diverse books, especially written in the Spanish and Hmong languages.
8. **Performing Ourselves** - \$3,500 to support dance programming across socioeconomic lines to bring therapeutic dance and the artistic craft of choreography and performance to all children.
9. **Simpson Street Free Press** - \$4,200 to support *Literacy Partnership*, a rigorous afterschool journalism program that enhances reading and writing skills to help youth succeed in the classroom.
10. **Vera Court Neighborhood Center** - \$3,000 to support a new club for middle school girls that promotes academic success alongside mental wellbeing and healthy character development.
11. **Westside Elementary School** - \$5,000 to support the expansion of the *Kids Achieve Together* program, which provides students with one-on-one mentoring to focus on reading and math.

"Door Creek Church has been a generous supporter for the last several years," said Kelley Van Egeren, Director of Development at Aldo Leopold Nature Center, "I am grateful that we can continue to work with the church for the benefit of the community."