Empowering young people during the COVID-19 pandemic by the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), a programme of The Wood Foundation, in Scotland

The Wood Foundation believes in the passion and determination of #GENERATIONCHANGE to make a difference in their communities. During these unprecedented times, empowering youth voice and action is more important than ever.

Through our YPI network we are putting young people at the heart of local decision making as we aim to award up to 50 local charitable grants focused on supporting the COVID-19 response at a community level.

Your Community Fund

We are proud to launch the Your Community Fund to give all eligible students the opportunity to advocate on behalf of their communities in support of targeted local grant making.

Although school buildings are closed, school communities remain connected.

We need the time, talent and insight of #GENERATIONCHANGE to champion social issues and charities in their local communities during this time of acute hardship in order to direct charitable grants of £4000 where they are needed most.

Applications for this fund will be accepted from Wednesday 22nd April to Wednesday 3rd June, with awards announced on Wednesday 17th June.

All entries must be submitted digitally and must not breach social distancing guidance in their development.

Full details for entries are on the next page.

Charities must be informed about a submission on their behalf. Additional contact with charities should be avoided or limited to an appropriate level, respecting demands facing services at this time. The level of charity involvement or contact will not be judged within the selection criteria.
Working in pairs or small teams with peers, young people are encouraged to develop a collaborative submission.

Home learning support, alongside platforms such as Glow, Teams or Google Classrooms, can be utilised for these purposes.

Each submission must deliver on four components:

1. **Provide** insight on the impact of COVID-19 in their community.
2. **Explore** in greater detail a specific local social issue that has faced significant pressure due to the crisis.
3. **Identify** a local OSCR-registered charity doing valuable work to address this issue and how the grant could potentially support their activities during the current crisis.
4. **Present** the above with style, creativity and conviction.

The challenge, which will address several learning outcomes typically associated with the YPI experience, is to present the above information in a way that is compelling, creative and impactful.

This might include spoken word to camera; creating an animation or video package; production of an infographic or poster; or the narration of a concise presentation.

We ask your school to present a maximum of three submissions that best deliver on the above guidelines. Each submission should be sent via WeTransfer to ypi@thewoodfoundation.org.uk accompanied by a complete ‘Submission information sheet’.

- Submissions must be focused on an OSCR-registered charity, delivering clear local support.
- This opportunity is initially available to YPI schools who did not complete their 2019/20 YPI programme.
- School’s YPI Leads, or a nominated colleague from the school, will be responsible for submissions on behalf of their school.
- Following the closing date, all submissions will be judged by a panel. Winners will be notified, and the funds will be awarded directly to their chosen charities via BACS payment.

See Appendix 6: Eligibility criteria and terms & conditions