**Friends of Young Adult Ministry, Inc. (FOYAM)**

**GrantRequest@FOYAM.org**

**www.FOYAM.org**

*The mission of Friends of Young Adult Ministry is to offer financial support to creative young adult outreaches and programs to the Churched, the Not-So-Churched, and the Unchurched*.

* Young Adults are defined by FOYAM as women and men in the twenties and thirties, married and single.
* FOYAM will not fund salaries or any existing programs. Nor will it fund ministry to people who do not fall within the definition of young adults.
* Those ministering to young adults can apply for financial support for their creative ideas by following the guidelines developed by FOYAM.
* Grants can be renewed if the creative program exhibits successful results.
* FOYAM has established a Grant Committee that will review all proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
* The emphasis for seeking a grant from FOYAM rests with the word creative. This is an opportunity for young adults and those who minister to them to try new things, incarnate some dreams, and reach beyond what already exists.
* Creativity does not guarantee success. It simply means trying new things. FOYAM wants to support those efforts.

**Who are these Friends of Young Adult Ministry?**

They are friends of the Young Adult Ministry Office in the Archdiocese of Chicago from 1988-2013. Some of these friends personally benefitted during their young adult years from young adult ministry. Other friends have been supporters of the work both personally and financially. FOYAM has seen the value of what an effective and creativity ministry can accomplish. Now in some small way FOYAM wishes to assist others in their creative attempts to connect young adults with one another and with their religious tradition.

**How did FOYAM begin?**

FOYAM was asked to become the fund-raising arm of young adult ministry in Chicago. As activities continued and new ideas were being developed, it became clear that the allotted money for young adult ministry could not support those efforts. FOYAM was created to raise the necessary funds to keep moving forward, keeping dreaming of what could be, and prevent this sentence from being uttered: “We cannot afford to try that.”

**2015 and Beyond**

FOYAM now wants to support the creative efforts and new ideas in young adult ministry beyond Chicago and beyond the immediate future.

**Why is FOYAM** **so insistent on creativity?**

The single largest segment of the Catholic population that is less present than ever before is young adults. That statistic is not decreasing. It is increasing. One need only cast a glance around almost any Catholic Church during the weekend Masses. It will reveal fewer people present than 10 years ago and also reveal that a large number of those present are older people. Where are the young (adult) people?

Business as usual is achieving declining results.

Therefore, it is time to try new things. FOYAM wants to support that.

**The Churched, the Not-So-Churched, and the Unchurched**

We believe that as the number of church-going young adults continues to decline, greater efforts are needed to outreach and invite the middle group, the “Not-So- Churched”, into greater participation with our parishes, young adult activities, and other inter-generational ministries.
Friends of Young Adult Ministry is inviting people to put on their thinking caps and expand the comfort zone of young adult outreach and to dream big.
Very often young adults on either end of the Catholic spectrum are the recipients of some wonderful young adult ministry activities for themselves and for their like-minded peers. Yet all those people, as active and passionate as they are about their Faith and the mission of the Church, pale in comparison to the vast number of young adults whose relationship to the same Church is "not-so."

Friends of Young Adult Ministry would like to offer some limited financial assistance to changing the status quo.

**Sharing the News, Both Good and Bad**
FOYAM will require that a grant recipient submits a quarterly report, or in some cases, a one-time project report on the financed activity or project. An outline of questions and issues will be found on the Friends of Young Adult Ministry website. Upon receipt of each report, it will be posted on the website. This will allow others in Young Adult Ministry to learn from others' experience and, perhaps, devise plans of their own.

Reports to FOYAM will not reveal that all is successful. It is quite possible, since these are creative activities, they might not work, might have minimal lasting results, or might not turn out as well as expected.  Learning from mistakes and failures can produce great successes in the future for everyone dedicated to young adult ministry.

**Friends of Young Adult Ministry**

**Our Meaning of Creative**

What do we mean by creative?

* Creative means beginning with your dreams that exist within and formulating a process to incarnate those dreams into everyday life and practice.
* In church ministry in general and young adult ministry in particular, creative means dismissing the demons that say, "we can't afford that" and "that will never work" and unleashing the power of the possible.
* If money was not an obstacle, negative thinking was not an anchor, and a person had the authority to do new and bold things for others, what would you do?
* How do we reach out and beyond the same people and invite the spiritually hungry into activities and programs with and for their peers?
* How can we gather those who are spiritual yet unchurched and truly listen to them, their hopes and what, if anything, could make religion more relevant?
* How can we convince local parishes that the presence of younger people, single and married, can bring new and fuller life to the parish? How can we help them do that?
* How can we speak with clergy and lay leaders and help them understand that the only response to younger, and often loosely connected, younger people is not just a legal one?
* If younger people are not coming to us, then what are some inventive ways to go out to them?
* Can websites and social media be used more successfully than announcing another program?
* How can we answer their questions, when they don't have a platform to ask them?
* These and many other questions are the basis for church ministry today. They are the issues of our own younger people who truly are seeking answers and direction for their own lives. Apparently a lot of what they are hearing and reading from the church and about the church has not been helpful.
* What do we mean by creativity? How can we be more helpful in connecting people to the life, the practices and the spirituality of our church?
* Creativity means thinking, dreaming and trying.
* Creativity means responding to what we know, what we have learned, and what we have have been told. It does not mean trying only what we think or feel.
* Creativity is not equated with success. It means we can try and maybe fail. It does not mean we won't try, even a great idea, because we might fail.
* Often creativity is found in our mistakes and failures, more than it is in our wildest dreams.
* Not everyone is creative. Some people are doers; others are organizers. But it takes the creative people to allow them to organize new ideas and get them done.
* In too many organizations and systems today there is no room for creativity. Budgets are extremely limited. They will not fund new and unproven ideas.
* “Friends of Young Adult Ministry” wants to fund new and unproven ideas.
* Christ was amazingly creative. He wanted his apostles and followers to see the same things they all saw every day, with a new set of eyes and possibilities. When people saw an adulteress woman, Jesus saw a daughter of God. When they chase a leper to the edge of the city, Jesus embraced the man as a son of the Most High.
* Christ knew what was. He wanted so much more for the children of God.
* When the world held people in the sins, He offered them unlimited forgiveness. When people knew clearly what was expected of them in their popular culture, He told them, "I have come that you may have life and life in abundance."
* Creativity builds a better world.

**GRANT GUIDELINES**

Friends of Young Adult Ministry supports qualifying charitable organizations programs and/or projects that further our mission:

The mission of FOYAM is to offer financial support to creative young adult outreaches and programs to the Churched, the Not-So-Churched, and the Unchurched.

FOYAM does not fund individuals, endowments, capital campaigns, political activity, private foundations or administrative costs and/or salaries. FOYAM also does not purchase tickets or tables for fund raising events.

FOYAM GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Legal Name of Your Organization: \_Click here to enter text.

Street Address: Click here to enter text.

Suite: Click here to enter text.City: Click here to enter text.State: Click here to enter text. Zip Code: Click here to enter text.

Contact Person: Click here to enter text.

Phone Number: Click here to enter text.Fax Number: Click here to enter text.

E-mail Address: Click here to enter text.

[ ] Check here if your Organization is tax exempt under Section 501 – C – 3 of the Internal Revenue Code and provide the FEI number: Click here to enter text.

[ ] Check here if you will run your Program/Project through another entity that is tax exempt under Section 501 ( c ) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code and that will allow you to run your project through them in order to be funded by FOYAM and provide their Name: Click here to enter text. and FEIN: Click here to enter text.

Name of the program you are asking for support: Click here to enter text.

Amount of your grant request (between $500 & $5,000): $Click here to enter text.

Please indicate the time period in which the grant will be spent:

From Click here to enter a date. through \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_.

DATE OF APPLICATION: Click here to enter a date.

**FOYAM GRANT APPLICATION**

Please submit the following information:

⚫ The attached Application Cover Sheet.

⚫Answers to the following questions:

1. Please share with us a **BRIEF** history of your organization. Click here to enter text.
2. Tell us **BRIEFLY** about the program/project you want us to fund. Click here to enter text.
3. Why do you want to mount this program/project? (I.E. – Is there a problem, a challenge or a need you are addressing? If so, tell us what it is.) Click here to enter text.
4. What are you trying to achieve with your program/project? (I.E. – What is your objective?) Click here to enter text.
5. What excites you and is **CREATIVE** about your program/project? Click here to enter text.
6. Please give us a **BRIEF** description of the person(s) in charge of your program/project, and why they were chosen to lead it. Click here to enter text.

⚫Please submit a budget of your program/project and how a grant from FOYAM will be used.

You must submit your proposal via email to GrantRequest@FOYAM.org

If your project/program is funded by FOYAM, you will be required comply with the requirements set forth by the Grant Committee which will include but not be limited to progress reports, as well as, sharing the results, whether a success or failure.

GOOD LUCK! WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!