

Project Harvest Hope Grants Funding for 14 New Projects JUNE 2011

In partnership with the [Székelyudvarhely Community Foundation](#) (SzKA), Project Harvest Hope is pleased to announce the award of 14 grants to Unitarian community organizations in the Homorod Valley of Transylvania.

This is the first round of grants to come out of the new Unitarian Community Fund, a donor-advised fund established by Project Harvest Hope in March 2011. The grant application process was managed by SzKA, a community-driven grant maker founded in 2007. SzKA has an impressive record of work with youth and young adults, of environmental activism, and of renewing philanthropic culture in the Homorod valleys.

Fourteen Unitarian communities (villages and organizations) were selected from 29 applications for funding. The initial funding was \$40,000. Applicants were required to provide a match, often labor, and to assure sustainability. Involvement of youth was a priority.

Here is a sample of projects to be funded:

- Several of the projects involve providing materials for the renovation of public space (community houses, parks, playgrounds), in line with our mission of renewing civil society. Public space and civil society go hand in hand. The public space in many villages is either in ruins or non-existent.
- One project seeks to help the Unitarian congregation in Korund and Palpatka provide employment skills to orphans from Romanian group homes. The grant will add heating and lighting to a room so that socially marginalized youth may learn a trade from local craftspeople during the dark and cold months of the year.
- ODFIE, the David Ferenc Youth organization, was awarded a grant to help it complete renovations on a guesthouse for youth in Szind.
- In Benced, a grant will help the community improve its successful local newspaper by providing a higher quality printer and the hardware to begin an online edition.
- Building on the existing network of Local Development Agents (LDAs), another project will engage 25 youth in 5 villages in designing and leading small projects. Training and team building are at the center of this initiative.
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We expect that these projects will be completed by mid-October and that, after a full evaluation of our work with SzKA, PHH will engage another round of funding for Unitarian communities.

PHH is excited about this new phase in our work and believes that our partnership with SzKA is a logical next step in honoring and respecting our co-religionists in their efforts to design and manage their future.

Project Harvest Hope has a 20-year history of support for community and economic development projects in the Unitarian Homelands of Transylvania. We seek your support of these initiatives. Please contact us with questions. And (of course), your contributions are always welcome.