

## 2023-24 DISTRICT GRANT PROJECT FINAL REPORT

Grant # P-  Progress Report  Final Report  Date

Project Title:

Club Name:

### Project Description:

1. Describe the project. What was done, when, and where did project activities take place? If this is a progress report, what remains to be done?

Students in the Black Diamonds group toured a variety of colleges during spring break in April 2024. They visited Temple, Cheaney, Villanova, La Salle, Morgan State, Georgetown, and Howard Universities. Travel was by chartered bus, with two chaperones, and included stays in hotels. The students also able to visit cultural and historic sites during this week and unwind at an amusement park.

2. How many people benefited from this project?

3. Who were the beneficiaries, how were they impacted by this project, and what humanitarian need was met?

13 students were the immediate beneficiaries, who gained a better understanding of requirements for college admissions and got a feel for different campus environments. The trip will impact decisions they make re their future goals and aspirations, and will undoubtedly shape their career paths.

4. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

5. What did they do? Please give at least two examples, not including financial support provided to the project.

The executive director of BDAS is Peekskill Rotarian Martin McDonald. Martin is responsible for planning the tour, arranging for payments, and was one of the two chaperons on the trip. Many other Rotarians have been involved with the student group overall, but were not directly involved with this tour.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

## Financial Report

(Your Club & District must retain receipts of all expenditures for at least five years)

Income (7) & Expenditures (8) must be equal

### 7. Income

Sources of Income	Currency	Amount
Peekskill Rotary Club	USD	\$5,000.00
Peekskill City School District	USD	\$5,000.00
Westchester County Board of Legislators	USD	\$5,000.00
Students and their families	USD	\$5,376.00
Rotary District 7230 matching grant	USD	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Project Income</b>	USD	<b>\$22,376.00</b>

### 8. Expenditures (please be specific and add separate page as needed)

Budget Items	Name of Supplier	Currency	Amount
Charter bus Charter bus	<del>B&amp;S Group Transp.</del>	USD	\$9,315.00
Hotel D.C.H. D.C.H. 2 nights	<del>Silver Spring Hotel</del>	USD	\$3,503.00
Hotel Philadelphia Philadelphia 3 nights	Doubletree	USD	\$4,503.00
Meals Meals	Various	USD	\$1,948.00
Recreation & cultural	Various	USD	\$2,942.00
Misc. - Umbrellas	Rite-Aid	USD	\$165.00
<b>Total Project Expenditures</b>		USD	<b>\$22,376.00</b>

### Certifying Signature:

By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items indicated in the Project Application and in accordance with Rotary Foundation approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights in the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or at any time in the future, throughout the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or later developed. This includes the right to modify the photograph(s) as necessary in RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of RI and TRF.



**Final Report Documents:**

- This report with signature and date.
- All proofs of payment and invoices uploaded to website

One or more of the following:

- Checks – copies of the front and back
- Credit Card statements
- PayPal receipts
- Bank statement showing check having cleared

- We have uploaded photographs of the project to the project website
- We have entered at least 15 goals for our Club on Rotary Club Central
- Our Club is Grant-Certified
- Our Club has paid July 2023 and January 2024 RI and District Dues
- We have entered our Club Officers in the Club Executives Section of our Club on the District website.
- Our Club is current on all due Global Grant and District Grant reports
- We have entered our Project on Rotary Showcase.
- All our promotional and publicity materials for the project are in compliance with Rotary Brand guideleines.

Certifying Signature Lynne Nayman Date: May 28, 2024  
Print Name: Lynne Nayman Rotary Title: Member  
Club President Signature: [Signature] Date: 5/28/24  
Print Name: Richard Swann

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Complete this form and upload to your Project Documents area on [matchinggrants.org](https://matchinggrants.org)  
Verifiable Electronic Signatures are acceptable.



Black Diamonds Academic Success, Inc. - PO Box 506 - Peekskill, NY 10566

May 24, 2024

Dear District 7230 Rotary Foundation,

On behalf of the Black Diamonds Academic Success Program, I am writing to acknowledge the receipt of the \$4000 in funds generously provided by your foundation. We are delighted to inform you that these funds were utilized specifically for a college tour, which greatly benefited 13 high school students, the majority of whom come from low economic backgrounds.

This educational trip is a vital component of our initiative, aimed at helping young men of color to graduate from high school and pursue higher education. The opportunity to visit various colleges has inspired and motivated our students, broadening their horizons and reinforcing the importance of academic achievement.

We deeply appreciate your support and commitment to our cause. Your contribution has made a significant impact on the lives of these young men, and we are grateful for your partnership in our mission to foster academic success and empowerment... and your mission to Create Hope in the World

Thank you once again for your generous support.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin McDonald", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Martin McDonald

Executive Director & Founder

Black Diamonds Academic Success Program

845-490-4931

[mmcdonaldbdas@gmail.com](mailto:mmcdonaldbdas@gmail.com)





Black Diamonds Academic Success - PO Box 506 - Peekskill, NY 10566

## **Executive Summary on College Visits in Philadelphia and DC**

The trip to visit colleges in Philadelphia and Washington DC with 13 members of The Black Diamonds was a transformative experience. The students had the opportunity to visit a variety of colleges, including Temple University, Cheaney University, Villanova, La Salle University, Morgan State University, Georgetown University, and Howard University. Additionally, the students were able to visit cultural and historic sites such as Mother Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, Terminal Market, the Museum of Illusions, and enjoy themselves driving Go Karts and going to Kings Dominion.

The trip was made possible through generous donations from the Rotary Club of Peekskill, Peekskill School District, Westchester County Board of Legislator Colin Smith, and contributions from the students themselves. The total cost of the trip was approximately \$24,000. The purpose of the trip was to help them understand the college admissions process, expose the students to different college options, and allow them to explore campuses and determine what types of schools they prefer.

The potential impacts of the visit to the colleges include helping students gain a better understanding of what it takes to be admitted to colleges, providing them with a feel for different campus environments, and helping them decide if they want to attend college in or outside of New York State. Additionally, the trip allowed students to bond with their peers, share their thoughts and experiences, and learn from each other.

Overall, the trip had a significant impact on the students. They were able to expand their horizons, explore new opportunities, and most of all, envision themselves attending college. The experience of visiting colleges with their peers helped them gain confidence in their future goals and aspirations. The trip not only provided valuable information about college admissions and campus life but also instilled a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the students. It was an unforgettable experience that will undoubtedly shape their future educational and career paths.

We look forward to doing this again next year.

MVM: 5-16-24