This grant would expand the Link Crew Program at Bay City High School. Link Crew selects upper classmen student leaders, or “Link Leaders,” and pairs them with a group of freshman, their “crew.” Link Leaders organize an orientation for incoming freshman and host several events throughout the school year to help students transition and succeed in school. ($5,722.80)

This grant would fund scholarships for 4 Jackson County youth to attend a camp that meets their specific needs as youth with Muscular Dystrophy. This camp offers training and opportunities for other youth to work at the camp as counselors and learn acceptance and understanding of their peers who have physical challenges. ($3,650)

This grant would fund the WP Schools Food Pantry, which is run by a volunteer group of students at the school. Iosco County - particularly the Whittemore area - has many families living beneath the poverty line. Many students from their school, as well as other community members are greatly in need of assistance for their basic food needs. ($1,250)

This program would fund an after-school programs for 5th and 6th graders at the Ogemaw Boys and Girls Club. This program provides opportunities for outdoor and seasonally appropriate recreation after school hours for students that might not have opportunities to engage in productive activities after school like sports or jobs. They might be too young to have a job or be on a sports team. ($2,000)

This grant is for funding for Inland Lakes Schools' Delta Force Robotics Team to purchase kits for their robotics creations, as well as to provide assistance for sending the team to competitions. This team has been a great source of pride for the community. ($800)

This program would pair 8th grade students with students with challenges from another school. The 8th graders receive leadership training, and in turn mentor the special needs students. The goal is to increase understanding and compassion, and in turn reduce bullying. This program promotes respect and tolerance and develops leadership skills. ($440)

This grant would pay for 20,000 pounds of food and hygiene products to be packaged by volunteers and distributed by the Helping Hands delivery trucks. The food and hygiene products will go to needing families in the county to over 500 people, 137 of whom are children. ($1,200)

The Language Links tutoring program targets 1st-3rd grade, free or reduced lunch, at-risk children who are significantly below grade level in reading at inner city schools. Students are paired with a specially trained mentor who uses unique, innovative, and proven approaches to improve reading skills. In the process, the program teaches students to appreciate oneself, build self-esteem, explore the imaginative mind, establish lifelong language and writing skills. ($1,000)

The goal of the project is to raise awareness of hunger in our community. Students in kindergarten and first grade will learn about philanthropy, hunger, and homelessness. Students involved in the program carefully craft beautiful bowls in art class and sell them for a nominal fee to raise money for a local food bank. The idea is kids helping kids. ($1,000)

SADD members from the High School will continue to provide a transitional bridge for 5th graders in how to handle social issues in middle school, and will begin a transitional bridge for 8th graders in how to handle social issues in high school. The 5th grade program focuses on: finding your voice, bullying, substance abuse (tobacco, alcohol, drugs), being a good citizen. The 8th grade transition program: teen pregnancy, cyber bullying, substance abuse, depression, and finding your voice. ($760)

Provide advanced leadership, advocacy, civic engagement and cultural training for a cohort of 25 "at risk" youth in the Supporting Our Leaders (SOL) Program via the SOL Peer Leaders (SPL) Cohort, as a way to increase Hispanic youth voice and activism in city, state and national education policy issues identified by the Cohort. ($6,000)

Central School's playground is in real need of repair. About 300 children use the space daily, in addition to an incalculable number of families in the community who visit the centralized downtown neighborhood playground. ($5,000)

There are children who come to school on Monday mornings hungry, for a variety of reasons. Their behaviors are difficult to manage and disruptive to others. This grant will support the "Food 4 Kids Backpack Program". The program works with schools to distribute backpacks containing 10-12 food items in a zip-lock bag, on Friday afternoons as the children go home for the weekend. The children return the backpack to the school on Monday so it is available for refilling. ($5,000)

This grant will fund resources for the organization to continue running weekly meetings, special events, and an emergency baby pantry, for pregnant & parenting teenagers. Resources included curriculum, videos, craft materials, prizes and incentives. Emergency baby pantry included items such as diapers, food and formula. ($1,500)

The Global Ambassadors: Celebrating Cultural Differences is a program to develop a positive environment to explore different ethnic groups through a three day experience. The program includes a summit, field trips, exhibits, exploring ethnic foods, community service and a flash mob dance. ($2,900)

This grant will help local youth participate in a National Relief Network Mission Trip. 40 Youth and adults will travel to Indiana to help rebuild an area devastated by tornados. ($2,500)

This grant will provide scholarships to underprivileged girls who want to participate in the Girls on the Run program. Girls on the Run is a non-profit organization that aims to use the power of running to teach the girls self-respect and healthy habits. The curriculum is designed to develop the girls physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. ($4,000)

Major Chords for Minors is an organization created to teach children to play music by providing at no cost instruments, teaching tools, and a structured environment of both professionals and mentors. They provide a mentor supervised safe haven for children to go after school along with private music instruction taught by local professionals. They are asking for $3,350 to establish a music library within Major Chords for Minors for instructional and performance pieces. ($3,350)

To offer programming to our Menominee-Marinette area leaders that concentrate on preventing child abuse and neglect. To increase awareness of at-risk behaviors that can lead to child abuse and maltreatment. Community leaders will be engaged to ensure safe communities for children and families. ($1,500)

The Marquette Skatepark Committee has been working for 10 years in the community to see that a skate park is built for our youth to use for free. Approximately 60 youth use the unfinished skate park weekly, though half of it is closed because it is unfinished, we anticipate more youth to be served when it is entirely complete. They need $2,500 to complete the project. ($2,500)

Wheels for All is a team of trained volunteers who teach mentally handicapped youth to ride a two wheel bike. Riding a bike gives them confidence, and teaches them a skill that they can use as they become independent adults. ($500)

Provided EBT/Snap Bridge Card children with a backpack filled with nutritious, local, and fresh fruit from the local Farmers Market during the summer. ($930)

This neighborhood-based program provides youth an opportunity to participate in twice weekly fitness and healthy living activities at no cost and just steps away from their homes. This neighborhood has a lot of low-income housing and has experienced a number of violent incidents and crimes so it can be a challenging place for kids to have fun and safe summer experiences and stay active. The program includes team sports, running, dance, yoga, and martial arts along with cooking, baking and nutrition activities. ($5,500)

This organization has a shelter that supports providing safe, adult supervised homes for 8 homeless teens. The students are given a mentor, a counselor and are required to remain in school while a part of the program. The adults are volunteers and are also trained to facilitate a daily study hall for the youth. ($4,000)

Funding to support homeless youth - Roadmap to Graduation - to provide help to families who shelter homeless teens to help with extra expenses such as food, school supplies, and hygiene products and college application support. ($1,000)

Students in Mrs. McKenzie's Kindergarten class wanted to help future students adjust to starting school. They will use this grant to purchase supplies to make no-sew fleece blankets that they will present to new students at Kindergarten Round Up as nap time blankets. ($1,300)

This grant would purchase a smart board for the special needs classroom to enhance their educational opportunities. The smart board will also be used by general education students also. ($1,600)

The grant is for a pilot robotics program at the Educational-Technical Center. The ISD strives to offer challenging and cutting-edge curriculum that prepares our young people for the future. ($6,000)

To encourage early reading enthusiasm, book totes are filled with age appropriate books and loaned to preschoolers for their parents or siblings to read to them at home. The books are then part of a library and can be loaned out on a revolving basis. ($1,500)