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## NKU gives money to nonprofits Highland Heights

**By Howard McEwen**  
Enquirer contributor

Classes from Northern Kentucky University designated a group of 20 organizations to receive up to \$3,664 at the fall 2005 Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project Award Ceremony.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Manuel D. and Rhonda Mayerson Foundation, NKU students to date have awarded more than \$300,000 in 193 projects involving about 150 nonprofit agencies over 5½ years," said sociology professor Joan Ferrante, the foundation's faculty coordinator.

Organizations receiving awards this year include the Girl Scouts of Licking Valley and Elementz: The Hip Hop Youth Arts Center, which uses hip-hop, dance and rapping to provide a safe and empowering place in Over-the-Rhine.

Other groups receiving awards: Children's Home of Northern Kentucky, Imago Earth Center and Senior Service of Northern Kentucky.

The Mayerson project started during a conversation between NKU President James C. Votruba and Dr. Manuel Mayerson.

"Both men shared a passion for finding ways to foster civic responsibility and engagement among college students. Dr. Mayerson agreed to fund a program integrating philanthropy into the college curriculum with the hope of advancing the development of competent student-citizens who seek to play vital roles in their community and who are committed to the pursuit of the common good," Ferrante said.

Each semester, the NKU faculty selects five to seven classes and instructors that use the project as a catalyst for teaching the subject matter, demonstrating that all subject matter can be used to help the community.

The students identify a community need, learn about it and select a group that will receive the funding.

Students also can raise money for their organization. This year, students raised \$3,914 of the \$31,828 awarded at the Dec. 4 ceremony. Since the program's inception, students have raised \$35,000.

The Mayerson Foundation's seeks to "invest, not only its financial resources but its human resources as well, in efforts that are effective, broad reaching, and that are driven by people with a passion for making a significant difference in the areas of interest to the trustees," according to its mission statement.

Those areas include support for the arts, improving the lives of children, strengthening community bonds, improving the lives of the disabled and fostering Jewish culture.



**ZOOM** The Enquirer/Patrick Reddy  
Exterior of the University Center, which houses the student union at Northern Kentucky University.

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