## **How Does the Richfield Foundation Decide How to Award Funding?**

Each year the Richfield Foundation receives more grant requests than we can fund and must turn down worthwhile applications. We know that every application we receive represents a cost to an organization that is stretched for time and energy. We hope additional information will help you decide if it makes sense to apply to the Richfield Foundation, and if so, to craft an appropriate application.

Every successful proposal must benefit people in Richfield and fit with our three priorities:

***Successful Kids - Secure Families - Strong*** ***Community***

Almost every proposal we receive meets these criteria, so we often must choose on relative terms (how well does the proposal meet these criteria compared to other applications). The Foundation has a growing Board with different perspectives. All members have equal opportunity to review and rate the proposals.

The following questions guide our review process:

* Is this project/organization uniquely part of Richfield, or part of a larger mission/service area?
* How much difference will a grant from the Foundation make to the organization and the Richfield community?
* What other funding opportunities does this applicant have available to it?
* Is this project/organization connected to other Richfield community services, resources, or institutions?
* Does this proposal create/strengthen ways for people to participate in community life?
* Has this proposal identified an important new or emerging need in our community, which could benefit from the additional attention that a grant might bring?
* How creative is the proposed solution?
* Will support from the Foundation help grow this idea/activity into something of greater benefit?

We recognize that our grants are relatively small (typical size $500-$2000). We tend to favor proposals that can have a larger impact than just the modest dollar amount. We hope that our unique focus on Richfield, and our role in the community, can provide additional benefits beyond the funds awarded – such as additional attention, endorsement of civic leaders, and connections to other community resources.

A list of organizations that received funding last year is available online at [www.richfieldfoundationmn.org](http://www.richfieldfoundationmn.org).

If you believe this opportunity is not a good fit, check our website next spring or summer. The Foundation now has a grant opportunity that provides matching funds for grassroots groups in Richfield.

Thank you for your work in making Richfield better, and your interest in working with the Richfield Foundation.