

Bank of America Grant Supports Chicago Public School

A grant awarded by Bank of America to Lions Quest is supporting positive youth development at Edward Tilden Career Community Academy High School, located in Chicago, Illinois. The division of Bank of America in Chicago gave the \$10,000 grant earlier this year based on the positive, established presence of Lions Quest in Chicago Public Schools (CPS).

Currently, CPS has a high school graduation rate of just over 50 percent. More than 83 percent of students are low income, and less than two-thirds of high school students met or exceeded standards for their grade level in 2008 and 2009, according to statewide testing.

The grant provided Tilden with the Lions Quest “Skills for Action” program, which fosters important life skills for youth in high school. Tilden, located on Chicago’s south side with a student population of 1,350, has a high drop-out/low graduation rate and the majority of students come from low-income families.

Today, students and teachers alike are engaged in Lions Quest at Tilden. The program is taught in nearly 60 percent of the classrooms. Funds trained 36 teachers and provided curriculum materials to 500 students.

Lions Quest, a program of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), entered Chicago schools in recent years as part of a movement to develop students’ social-emotional learning. The youth development program is present in nearly ten schools throughout CPS.

Lions Quest and Bank of America both have a long-established commitment to supporting youth. By reaching out to high-risk students, negative trends and behaviors can be reversed on a school-by-school basis. The collaboration brings to the forefront the importance of programs in schools that teach students life skills and create healthy, responsible citizens for the future.