



## **#GRSummerProject Launched to Connect City Youth to Opportunities for Solving Real Problems in the Community**

*Participating Students Pledge to Identify Problem, Work in Teams to Find Solutions*

GRAND RAPIDS - A local radio group is teaming up with local organizations and businesses to provide Grand Rapids students with funding, resources and mentors to “implement the change they want to see in their community.”

The #GRSummerProject will be open to area students in the 6th grade to college freshmen age group. It is a collaboration led by Townsquare Media, includes the support of Level One Bank, Start Garden, Experience GR, Amplify GR and Grand Rapids Schools.

Participating students will be required to sign a “pledge” to be actively involved in collaborating with other participants to identify problems in their neighborhoods they would like to help solve, then working in teams throughout the summer with assigned coaches, find real solutions to these problems. Teams will receive \$1,049.00 to use on their efforts to address and solve their adopted problem/issue and will share their progress via blogs, video and updates through radio and social media, with the help of Townsquare Media’s urban contemporary station, Magic 104.9.

“These youth will be challenged to spend June 12th thru August 3rd impacting the change they want to see in their neighborhoods and community,” said Stephanie Gonda, general sales manager of Townsquare Media. “With so many negative things happening in communities all over the country, including here in our own city, we wanted to create a summer initiative that would empower our kids to take action for positive changes they wanted to see.”

According to Gonda, by engaging businesses and community organizations as financial partners and mentors/coaches in this initiative, it will allow us to “give our community and business professionals a fresh perspective from our the students involved, and in doing so encourage us all to maybe think a little differently...everyone wins.”

Teams will provide bi-weekly updates on their respective projects. An end of summer concert featuring a national artist will bring all the teams together for a celebration and to share their accomplishments with the entire community. An August date is being planned.

#GRSummerProject is also giving musicians sixth grade through college freshmen the opportunity to create their original music for a chance at a \$2,500 cash award and the opportunity to perform at the end of summer celebration. The winning musician(s) will also be featured on Magic 104.9 radio.

More information on the #GRSummerProject, taking the “pledge” and entering the music competition can be found at [mymagicgr.com](http://mymagicgr.com). The deadline to register is June 3rd

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# #GRsummerPROJECT

community advocacy • business • music

## #GRsummerProject Pledge:

I \_\_\_\_\_ pledge this summer, to be the change I want to see here in our local community. As my part as both leader and team member of #GRsummerProject, I agree to be an active participant on my team thru the following ways.

- Working with my team to brainstorm, plan, implement and give feedback to problems we are focused on solving in our local community
- Agree to participate in special programs and onsite opportunities provided thru #GRsummerProject to help our team in advancing our ideas
- Use the \$1049.00 scholarship fund to drive forward progress, in solving the problem our team sees in our local community and report that progress to our community
- Attend monthly round ups with my coach and team this summer
- Ensure our team is providing bi-weekly updates on how we are impacting change thru out summer to Magic 104.9. Including, blog posts, social posts, video updates, pictures, etc. posted to Magic 104.9 and #GRsummerProject website. GRsummerProject.org
- Agree to participate in radio and media coverage related to my team’s work this summer
- Be the voice for myself and my community in solving problems this summer

**STUDENT: Signed/Dated**

**TEAM COACH: Signed/Dated**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I understand by signing this commitment, I am responsible for the change I want to see and following thru. I will make sure I am working with my coach and team to decide on how funds are used and share our progress with the community this summer.

