

## **“KEYS TO THE FUTURE” Youth Project Grants**

by Lizzie Mann, Chair

All VFGC clubs are encouraged to apply for a one-year grant of up to \$1000 for projects working with and helping youth realize the rewards and life lessons from gardens and habitats, becoming good stewards of the earth.

The “Keys to the Future” Youth Project Grants Program, with a simple application procedure, is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing youth-centered programs.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** SEPTEMBER 15 of each year.

Must be submitted by a VFGC member garden club.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Please fill out the application form, include a budget and mail as indicated on the application.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of “Keys to the Future” Youth Project Grants is to provide financial support for clubs working with youth on a specific project.

### **PROGRAM CRITERIA:**

In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements:

- number of youth participating/reached.
- benefits to the community
- environmental awareness/education
- horticulture educational focus or curricular/program integration
- plant-to-food connections
- social aspects of gardening, i.e., leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning
- club member support and participation

Grant funding *will not* be provided for projects in which the club does not participate in some aspect, for example: political action programs; Eagle Scout projects; capital drives and building funds; scholarships; endowments; lawsuits or litigation; overhead costs; consumable one-time giveaways such as T-shirts, tote bags, food, admission fees or tuition.

**Note:** The same project cannot be considered for both *Youth Project Grants* and *Beautiful and Restore Grants* in the same fiscal year.