Youth Philanthropy
2017 WEBINAR SERIES

YOUTH PHILANThROPY CONNeCT

YOUTH PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE OF INDIANA

Indiana Philanthropy Alliance
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The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy
Youth Philanthropy: A Social and Philanthropic Movement for Community-Based Change
The Sillerman Center

- Founded in 2008
- Mission: Inform and advance social justice philanthropy
- We are not a youth philanthropy program
- Youth philanthropy project
  - Convening
  - Brief
  - Social justice values
500 youth philanthropy programs across the United States that actively make monetary grants

Youth philanthropy programs can be based within:
- family foundations
- community foundations
- community-based
- school-based
- giving circles
- faith-based institutions
Since 2001, nearly 3,100 grants have been given by youth philanthropists in the U.S., totaling over $12 million.

About 40% of youth-driven grants go to human services.
Democratic Youth Philanthropy

Participatory Decision Making

Inclusivity

Adult Presence
“Young people don’t grow up in programs, they grow up in communities”
Theory of Youth Development

The theory of positive youth development focuses on developing leadership among young people by building on their strengths and offering autonomy which drives positive outcomes for youth participants and their communities.
Youth Philanthropy and Youth Development

• In 2014, the Foundation Center catalogued $183,475,264 grant dollars for youth development. This is equal to .9% of total domestic grants from 2014 (total domestic grants were over $20 billion in 2014)

• Youth Development falls under Human Services as categorized by Giving USA. In 2015 Human Services accounted for 12% of giving in the United States
Knowing how vital youth development is, it is clear there is a need for growth in giving to this sector.
Barriers to youth participation and longevity

- Transportation
- Need Jobs
- Scheduling and School related commitments
- Family obligations
- Intimidated to get involved
- Perceived validity and perceived impact
“You know most people that apply to our program are applying because they need a job and not because they are interested in philanthropy and we acknowledge that from the beginning. Most of them don’t even know what philanthropy is or understand the world of philanthropy because that’s not where they are coming from.”
“I am not going to lie, it’s really scary and intimidating when you’re a middle schooler or a freshman and people are asking you to join these things and you’re just new to stuff and you don’t want to get out of your shell yet but kind of want to so you’re on the fence about a lot of stuff, I just think that people need to be courageous and go for stuff ...because life’s too short not to do that.”
Best Practices

• Be flexible in your giving and program structure
• Build trust and support in the community using surveys, community tours and needs-assessments
• Be creative about communication within the group
• Inclusivity is vital
• Adults as supporters and facilitators, not decision-makers
• Ensure that youth philanthropy programs have the opportunity to collaborate with one another
• Provide resources to the youth such as food, transportation vouchers and team-building opportunities
Starting a youth philanthropy program

“Starting a youth philanthropy program is a pretty hard job, it’s not going to come easily but it’s going to be worth it in the end. I know the kids who really want to get involved in their community and make the difference, that they are there to support the person who facilitates that...just give [the youth] a little room to think and consider what they want to do...and really have their own opinion on things and give them a chance to give those decisions.”
Getting started as a youth philanthropist

“This is going to help you later in life and even if you don’t fully open up at first or you aren’t completely comfortable with the idea of giving away money, you just have to remember that this is all to make other people’s lives better and to assist others and everyone in most youth philanthropy groups really wants to encourage each other and build each other up.”
Self Reflection

“I think I found someone inside myself that I didn’t know was there. [I want to] do it forever because the sense of knowing that you are accomplishing so much and it’s in your community, that really helps because we are really community based where I live and it just makes me feel very proud that we get to keep everything here and local.”
Evaluation

“I always feel like we can do more. But I always have to check myself and be realistic about the amount of work we can put on young people who are managing life outside the program, they have school and then they have after school programs and they have families and it’s not a full time job for them, so it’s a balancing act and I think we do a very good job and we do assessments every year both internal and from our funders about the youth leadership component and we have always scored very well on the leadership portion and on how young people feel about the ownership of the program.”
Youth Voice and Youth Philanthropy

“The overarching value is authentic youth voice and bringing to the table the perspectives and decisions and voices of communities that have not always been represented... The other words of advice I would give, that there are people around you that may disagree, they may disagree with not only what you believe, but they may disagree with the validity of giving true economic power into the hands of young people, and that’s okay and it’s alright if people disagree; your point is to find common space, listen, learn and at some point, to make sure that your voice is heard at the table because we need it.”
NC Youth Giving - Program Facts

● Launched in 2005 with 25+ sites across NC over 10 years
● Students representative of communities, even those difficult to serve
● Intentional outreach: For example, in one program, \( \frac{1}{3} \) of youth were constituents of previous grant recipients
● Each program has 3 local partners: Community-based youth-serving organization, fiscal sponsor (typically community foundation), & training agency
What Ensures Program Functionality?

● Long-term funding source and grantmaking orientation within a partner
  ○ Most successful are in traditional environments (community foundations)
  ○ A committed funder can make a non-traditional environment work

● Dedicated adult ally, well-connected to the partner/host organization

● Great relationships with local nonprofits (possibly past grantees) for youth referral during recruitment
  ○ Takes time to build trust and prove authenticity & dependability with nonprofits & community
How Are Youth Supported?

- Meals and transportation are covered. (Uber and Lyft are helpful tools!)
- Training, encouragement, and one-on-one communication to support youth leadership
- Navigate individual barriers with youth (busy schedules are not always the issue!)
Insights

- The "Secret Sauce" is dynamic adults- committed and open.

- “The right team of advisors, also reflective of the community and the youth you are looking for, who are comfortable in their own skin and are an adult ally (not a teacher, not a preacher, not a wise sage)- who are able to realize sometimes, you have to hold the spotlight and hold the young person accountable.”
Insights

- “You must hold the young person's philanthropic DNA in mind!”
- It takes time and attention to support diverse youth.
- Need to show youth the power they have in their lives!

NC Youth Giving is coordinated and facilitated by Leading to Change.
Learn more at ncyouthgiving.org
Adam Kingston
Program Officer

Kyle Tharp
YAC Member
The Youth Alliance Committee (YAC)
Youth Philanthropy in Battle Creek
Shock & Awe - Program Facts

- Launched in 2008, funded by Dekko Foundation, a family foundation
- Covers Norman County - a large rural county in Minnesota with 3 large population centers
- 21 students: 7 students from each of large population areas
- Diversity, especially gender diversity, has not been an issue
Establishing Legitimacy: Reputation & Credibility

- Funded proactive grants across funding area to ensure dollars and youth represent the communities served
- Adults have seen benefit across community from grants & impact on youth engaged
  - Initial grants supported every county fire/rescue department
  - Family Carpooling: Alumni relatives provide transportation if needed
  - School Buses: Schools (sometimes past grantees) allow bus use
Creating Systems

Have adult allies in each of the three larger regions of county.

● Youth Support:
  ○ Youth held accountable (no emails to parents), responsible for decision-making and outreach
  ○ Older youth give younger members rides & mentor younger youth
  ○ Texting and closed Facebook group: youth check-in with other students for accountability & due to logistical challenges with tech

○ Youth build community with peers
  ■ When youth experience a family crisis or personal crisis, other youth lend support & connect to community resources
Creating Systems

- Ask-a-Thon campaign:
  - Many groups serving youth locally aren’t formal nonprofits
  - There is not a culture of asking for help and grants
  - The ask-a-thon allows groups and the community to identify needs
Voltz, a Subgroup of Shock & Awe

- More students from each part of the county wanted to be involved than could join the YAC or fit into a car
- Provides opportunities for more students to participate in service projects and for team/relationship building- most activities are during school breaks
- Past projects include a community mural, work in a courtyard in a living center, raking yards, serving in a food bank, etc.

Learn more at shock-awe.org
Sarah Shugrue
Program Officer
Greater Worcester Community Foundation
Lauren Walsh
YCI- 2nd Year Participant
Senior at Tahanto Regional High School
Youth for Community Improvement

- 18 Years!
- Non-school based programming
- Youth Driven
Worcester County

- 2nd most populous County & largest in area
- 60 cities and towns
Who are our young people?

- 15-18 years old
- 2017 Class represents 13 high schools and 5 towns.
- 2016 Class represented 12 high schools and 7 towns

Activists
Volunteers
Passionate
Affluent
Immigrants
Resilient
Athletes
Curious
Philosophy: Reducing Barriers

• Transportation
• Being responsive to needs
• Open hours at the foundation
• Managing commitments
  – School & Family
Philosophy: Youth Driven

• Leadership roles

• Accountability to each other

• Peer mentoring
Recruitment Strategies

• Relationships & Partnerships
• Going beyond the schools
• Current participants as recruiters
• Intentional language in marketing materials
• Working with coaches
Participant Insights

- Personal support from YCI
- Benefits and impact of YCI
- Adult mentor support
- What keeps you engaged & committed?
Youth Funding Youth Ideas (YFYI) – Program Facts

- Youth grantmaking program, part of CHALK (a community-based nonprofit)
- Granted over $1.5 million to 200+ organizations since 2003
- Engages economically disadvantaged youth ages 14-20 from underserved, marginalized areas of San Francisco County

- Recruitment process
  - Outreach in areas where youth already are
  - In-person, group interviews of each applicant
    - Not everyone is great on paper
    - Consider individual perspectives not currently represented in cohort
YFYI – Youth as Staff

• Hire students as part-time paid program officers

• Work 6-10 hours a week during school and up to 15 during the summer

• Integrated youth and adult supervision

• Offices open later in the day (12-8 p.m.)

• Youth program officers involved in entire project: researching, interviewing, advocating, and follow-up.
YFYI – Unique Engagement

• Engagement with grantee organizations
  – Youth must complete YFYI grant application
  – YFYI offers support even for non-funded projects, such as feedback, advice, etc.
  – Also offer capacity-building grant for current grantees
  – Discussions with other local youth grantmaking programs to support each other’s funding decisions
YFYI – Ensuring Youth Presence

- All youth trained a minimum of 80 hours before going “into the field”
- Transportation assistance
  - Some youth have areas through which they cannot travel safely
  - Students in local high school receive free transportation system pass
- “Food. You always have to have food. They’re always hungry!”
YFYI – System of Continuous Youth Support

• Individualized support and flexibility is key!
  – Meet youth where they are without judgement
  – Open conversations encourage meeting youth where they are in life.
  – At times permit remote work (may need to babysit, etc.)

• Additional CHALK community support- from career coaching to in-house therapy

Learn more at YFYI.org
May 23  Not Your Mother’s Meeting
July 25  Discovering and Engaging Diverse Philanthropic Youth
Oct 3  Overcoming Obstacles: Successful Media Strategies to Share Impact
Dec 5  Celebrating the Top Resources for Youth Philanthropy

www.inphilanthropy.org/2017-YPII-Webinars