INTRODUCTION

The SFACF Youth Advisory Council uses philanthropy and leadership to teach teens how to change the world.

Nine students from the Sioux Falls area joined this year’s Youth Advisory Council. They collectively spent 540 hours working to improve their communities while becoming leaders and activists in the process. The team completed a community needs assessment on the most pressing issues facing youth in Sioux Falls, spread awareness of the issues with the community, and raised $9,200 for local nonprofit organizations benefitting youth across the Sioux Falls area.
THE PROGRAM

Youth Advisory Council is the youth-led arm of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. Each year, students conduct a grant cycle.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**
Youth dive deep to find the most pressing issues facing children and youth in their local community.

**FUNDRAISING**
Youth meet with community members to raise awareness about and funding for the biggest issues.

**GRANT MAKING**
Youth decide which nonprofits are doing the best at meeting the needs and give away 100% of the funds raised.

PARTICIPANTS
Facilitator: Ann Kolbrek

Elena Anton
Allison Harr
Madilyn Hurst
Riley Johnson
Gabriel Lima

Grace Mortensen
Success Suehne*
Benjamin Sweetman
Claire Thornton

*Executive Committee Member
After many hours of research, the Youth Advisory Council decided to focus on the following funding priorities:

**Under-served Youth**
Council members acknowledged that there are a number of under-served youth communities within the Sioux Falls area that are in need of additional programming or non-profit support. Examples of these communities include (but are not limited to): Native American youth, refugee youth, LGBTQAI+2S.

**Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault**
While Council members understand the wide range of community support youth victims of domestic abuse/sexual assault already receive, it was clear even more support was needed. The Youth Advisory Council sought to fund fresh, innovative programming to address this group of youth in addition to supporting continued successful programming.

**Mental Health**
The Council continued to identify mental health as a growing issue affecting youth in the Sioux Falls community. They were eager to see new programming to support those impacted by mental health challenges.
The Youth Advisory Council created a fundraising plan to raise as much money as possible to support their chosen priorities. They met with local business, community, and nonprofit leaders (known as “Impact Partners”) from across the Sioux Falls area to talk about their funding priorities and ask community leaders to invest in their work.

RAISED: $9,200

Thank you to our Impact Partners!

Brad Archer
Amange Aware
Mary & Nate Dally
Stacy Erdmann
Gregg Gohl
John Henkhaus

Dan LaRock
Bill Lindquist
Sarah Madison
Steve Sarbacker
Matt Tobin

Interested in volunteering?
Contact info@youthroots.org
The following organizations were awarded a grant based on their ability to meet the funding priorities of the Youth Advisory Council:

**Furniture Mission - $5,100**
The Furniture Mission provides those in need with gently used furniture and household items. They collect and distribute gently used furniture to the Sioux Falls community free of charge. The Youth Advisory Council’s grant will supply 104 toddler beds for local Sioux Falls children.

**Transformation Project - $3,600**
The Transformation Project’s mission is to support and empower transgender youth, young adults, and their families while educating communities in South Dakota and the surrounding region about gender identity and expression. Their vision is a world where every young person knows they are loved, valued, and empowered to make their dreams a reality.

**Bishop Dudley Hospitality House - $500**
The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers a safe, secure and warm place to start the road back to a more stable, long-term way of living. In 2019, they served 1,723 individuals, 57 families, and 107 children in Sioux Falls.
STUDENT IMPACT

EMPOWERMENT
100% of participants said YAC improved their ability to identify an issue and take action.

COMMUNITY
Students raised awareness and funding (over $9,000) for pressing issues.

LEADERSHIP
100% of participants said they would be more likely to take on a leadership role because of YAC.

KNOWLEDGE
94% of participants gained significant knowledge in curriculum topics.

EMPATHY
100% of participants stated YAC significantly improved their empathy skills.

LIFE SKILLS
Participants showed improvement in non-cognitive skills 100% the time.

“[YAC] helped me improve my communication and leadership skills. I noticed these differences at school, in other extra curricular activities I’m in, and at my work.” - 2020 participant
The Youth Advisory Council program is a joint project between the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation and YouthRoots, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to unleash the power of youth to change the world. The Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation uses the YouthRoots curriculum to teach Sioux Falls area teens how to change the world through philanthropy and gain valuable leadership skills. Together, they are cultivating the next generation of Sioux Falls leaders and change-makers.

Learn more at:
www.sfacf.org
www.youthroots.org

“[In YAC] I learned how to be a leader in an effective way, how to learn about the needs of others, and take action to improve the community” - 2020 participant