



# YOUTHROOTS



2020/2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

YOUTH IMPACTING YOUTH ISSUES

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Dear Community,

After six years of strategically focusing on growing our flagship program, we shifted from “expanding our proven model” to “bringing the power of youth philanthropy to new people and organizations in new ways.” While nine YouthBoards across three states exemplified the strength of our original program, we’re excited to share an expanded scope.

The challenges of 2020/2021 presented unique opportunities for the niche YouthRoots fills in the communities we serve, including the opportunity to engage young people in the decisions around issues that impact their lives, the opportunity to help advance equity in the philanthropic sector, and the opportunity to lift all youth voices, particularly those furthest from the decision-making table. This year allowed us to step back and ask how we can use our positionality to best serve our communities, resulting in many new and exciting initiatives:

- **GIV Fellowship:** A philanthropy internship program for youth from underserved and underrepresented communities to: 1) Provide youth and community insight into foundation operations, and 2) Give young people experience in the field. Eleven amazing Colorado foundations have signed on to pilot this program designed to increase equity in philanthropy.
- **YouthCharge:** An action-oriented version of our YouthBoard program with student groups guiding themselves through the philanthropic process remotely. Eight groups piloted this program during the 2020/2021 school year with impressive results. YouthCharge is an ideal opportunity for community action when in-person opportunities are limited.
- **The YouthScan Project:** An infrastructure to support communities in conducting their own needs assessments of youth issues while connecting youth insight to decision-making.
- **Youth Philanthropy Action Guide:** A step-by-step guide to support communities and organizations in creating their own youth philanthropy programming. 21 contributors helped craft this guide that is free and available online.

The last few months of this fiscal year allowed us to bring on new amazing team members to support this expanded programming. You can find more info about our growing programming and team on our website - [www.youthroots.org](http://www.youthroots.org).

I want to close this letter with a shoutout to all the young people who work to make a difference. I know it doesn’t seem like it, but the world depends on you - your energy, your passion, your drive, and your ideas. Thank you for your leadership in making the world a better place for all of us.

Lauren Czajka  
Executive Director



# THE BIG PICTURE

**MISSION** UNLEASHING THE POWER OF YOUTH TO CHANGE THE WORLD



## YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE AT THE DECISION-MAKING TABLE ON ISSUES THAT IMPACT THEIR LIVES.

YouthRoots uses philanthropy as a launchpad for youth-led community change. Through a variety of programs, we seek to 1) empower young people to become changemakers, and 2) elevate youth voice in philanthropy to better serve communities and impact youth issues.



A youth giving circle program to develop leaders (YouthCharge is the remote version)



A philanthropy fellowship program for youth from underrepresented communities



A statewide system to elevate youth voice on community issues and solutions



A school-based program to bring youth philanthropy to the classroom

# GRANTMAKING

YOUTH CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT, FUNDRAISE FOR THE ISSUES, AND GRANT OUT 100% OF WHAT THEY RAISE.

**17**

YOUTH GROUPS

**171**

PARTICIPANTS

**28,526**

AT-RISK YOUTH SUPPORTED

**\$69,278**

RAISED & GRANTED TO 31 NONPROFITS

**9,100 hrs.**

SPENT BENEFITING COMMUNITY WHILE BECOMING LEADERS & ACTIVISTS

YOUTHBOARD & YOUTHCHARGE PROGRAMS

# FOCUS AREAS

PARTICIPANTS SELECTED 40 UNIQUE NEEDS WITHIN THESE FOCUS AREAS:



MENTAL HEALTH



BASIC NEEDS



EQUITY



HEALTH & SAFETY



EDUCATION

# LOCATIONS

8 STATEWIDE (VIRTUAL PROGRAM)

6 ACROSS METRO DENVER, CO

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOULDER COUNTY, CO

SIoux FALLS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, SD

YELLOW SPRINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, OH

In addition to running youth giving circles in Denver metro, we partner with foundations and organizations nationally to support their youth philanthropy programs. Contact us to learn more!

# IMPACT



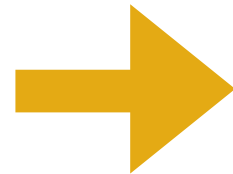
## INITIATIVE

98% of participants showed an increase in initiative (71% showed significant improvement).



## KNOWLEDGE

Participants showed increased knowledge in curriculum components 99% of the time.



## FUTURE SUCCESS

100% of participants said they are on their way to a happy and successful future.



## NON-COGNITIVE SKILLS

Students improved their non-cognitive skills 98% of the time (71% being significant improvement).



## COMMUNITY

100% of students said they spend time doing things to make their school, neighborhood, or community a better place.



## COLLABORATION

98% of participants said their experience with YouthRoots improved their ability to work with a diverse group of people.



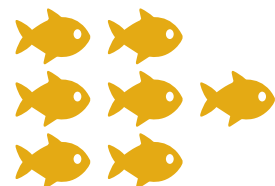
## SERVICE

Participants spent 9,100 hours improving communities while becoming leaders and activists.



## EMPOWERMENT

83% of students improved their ability to identify an issue and take action.



## LEADERSHIP

98% of students said that YouthRoots improved their leadership skills.

# QUOTES

**CONFIDENCE** “Now I am the person I have always wanted to be, a confident leader with goals and a vision to support my community. I do not fear putting my name and my ambitions out there for the world to see. I know the impact I can make now. Thank you to the entire YouthRoots community for giving me something I have always lacked - confidence.”

**VOICE** “Somewhere in the weeks of the program, I found I was able to take charge of my voice and find my spark to begin making a real impact.”

**CONNECTION** “Unlike the online courses I was taking at college, YouthCharge was a small group without a teacher which allowed us to act as adults, interact, and lead for ourselves... I felt more connected to these youth I met online than to the people I was taking college courses with for multiple hours every week.”

## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

“We learned important leadership skills that will no doubt set each and every one of us up for lifetimes of success trying to make the world a better place.”

**FOREVER CHANGEMAKERS** “This on its own is changing the world. At the same time, it is just a small fraction of time compared to what I have left. If I can do something like this now, who says I can’t do something even greater later?”

**YOUTH POWER** “I have always been told that youth have the power to change the world, but YouthRoots is one of the first places that truly demonstrated that belief.”

## PURPOSE

“I did not realize how meaningful YouthCharge would be to me during a time of such chaos, but it has made me passionate about equity in my own community and it has let me have purpose once again.”

## NONPROFIT CAREERS

“I learned about the inner workings of a real nonprofit organization. I never knew how non-profits worked and learning about them made me realize that I could have a career in something like YouthRoots.”

# THE YOUTHSCAN PROJECT

## YOUTH KNOW COMMUNITY ISSUES THREE YEARS BEFORE ADULTS.

The YouthScan Project is a statewide system to keep youth voice front and center on the decisions that impact their lives. It's an infrastructure to:

- Elevate youth voice on community issues and highlight youth solutions
- Support schools and communities in responding to the needs of local youth
- Identify emerging needs in real time
- Highlight how issues are experienced differently depending on demographics and location

Any organization, school, classroom, or community that believes youth voice should be front and center on youth issues can participate in the YouthScan Project.

More at [www.youthscanproject.org](http://www.youthscanproject.org)





# OUR TEAM

## STAFF

Aaron Earley (Facilitator, North Denver, CO)  
 Alyssa Chavez (Administrative Assistant)  
 Alyssa Hornyak (Program and Admin Coordinator)  
 Amy Navvab (Facilitator, North Denver, CO)  
 Ann Kolbrek (Facilitator, Sioux Falls, SD)  
 Christymarie Jackson (Facilitator, Aurora, CO)  
 Corey Mastroianni (Facilitator, Douglas County, CO)  
 Emily Dandaro (MSW Intern)  
 Erin Button (Program Manager)  
 Javon Brame (Facilitator, Central Denver, CO)  
 Jennapher Ragain (Program Coordinator)  
 Jeremy Katz (Guide, Immigrants/Refugees Board)  
 Lauren Czajka (Executive Director)  
 Maria Alsubhi (Guide, Race/Equity A Board)  
 Roshini Kumar (Program Manager)  
 Susie Roman (Program Lead)  
 Tierney Lain (Facilitator, Boulder, CO)  
 Zach Booz (Facilitator, South Denver, CO)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Andrea Leyva  
 Brian Gonzales  
 Dele Johnson  
 K.C. Matthews  
 Katie Payer (Chair)  
 Katie Peterson (Vice Chair)  
 Kevin Graff  
 Lacey Books (Founder/Secretary)  
 Lisa Rucker  
 Miguel In Suk Lovato  
 Steven Szymanski  
 Varunavi Battula

# VOLUNTEERS

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Aimee Yan	Eliza Lanman	Kevin Welner	Partners*
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Amy Reece	in Pediatrics*	Kristie Petrie	Rick Doucet
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Andrew Ramunno*	Eyana Geda	Kyle Malnati - Calibrate	Financial Group*
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Creek Ranch*	Garret Hommel - Moody	Kyrie Moriarty	Ryan Neary
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Beth Armijo*	Gregg Vanourek - Gregg	Lisa Rucker	Scott Chrisbacher - Strato-
Bhavya Surapaneni	Vanourek LLC*	Lisa Schilling*	sphere Group*
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Brandon Johnson -	Heidi and Brad Gassman -	Maria Alsubhi	Stephanie Schroeder
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Bre Donnelly - Joy as	Isha Parikh	Matt Huelskamp - Hyder	County Commissioner*
Resistance*	Jackie Fobbs	Construction*	Steven Szymanski
Brian Gonzales	Jade Romero	Matt Ruhland - Colins	Sue Reilly - Group14
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Colin Stone - Hyder	Jeremy Katz - Rocky	Michelle Sykes	Group*
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Damon Balcerak - Hyder	Jim Button	Sundown*	Tony DeSimone -
Construction*	Jonathan Cappelli	Mike Kromrey - Together	Confluence Co.*
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Douglas Carlson*	Consulting*	Nathaniel Hornyak	
Dwayne Meeks*	Katie Peterson	Neha Patel*	
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Ed Harvey - Harvey	Kevin Clary - Hyder	Palpasha Karki	
Economics*	Construction*	Pamela Strauss - ViaSat*	

\* Impact Partners  
 (Volunteers who meet with youth participants in a mini mentor/mentee session to learn about the issues and consider a fundraising pitch.)

# THANK YOU DONORS

## \$10,000+

Adolph Coors Foundation  
Community Foundation Boulder County  
Cornerstone Apartment Services  
FirstBank  
Matt Turner  
Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation  
The Anschutz Foundation  
The Denver Foundation  
The Mistler Family Foundation  
Tom and Barb Everist Family Fund

## \$3,000 - \$9,999

AJL Charitable Foundation  
Andrew and Ashley Ramunno  
Caring for Colorado Foundation  
Craine Architecture Inc  
Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation  
Gates Family Foundation  
Johnson Family Foundation  
Katie Peterson  
Kevin and Brooke Graff  
Lauren Czajka and Grant Garstka  
Lyra Colorado / Innovation Education Fund  
Palisade Partners  
Paul and Lacey Books  
Polsinelli  
Ridley Group Realty  
Schlessman Family Foundation  
Summit Sky Ranch  
Thomas W. Bean Foundation  
Yellow Springs Community Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$2,999

Adam and Amber Sands  
Anonymous (1)  
Brian, Katie, Caroline, and Blake Payer  
Cathi Cox  
Craine Architecture Inc  
Cushman Family Foundation  
Dan Lagerborg  
Derek and Kiki Nelsen  
Drew Brownstein  
Firman Fund  
Great West Financial  
Greg and Heather Segal  
Grit and Grace Fund  
Group14 Engineering  
Hyder Construction  
Jim Lorenzen  
John and Ann Henkhaus  
Judd and Stephanie Thompson  
Lisa Rucker  
Miguel In Suk Lovato  
Mike and Rachel McCubbin  
Peter Li  
Rob Lawrence  
Robin Thurston  
Sandy and Bill Czajka  
Steve and Cyd Szymanski  
The Colorado Health Foundation  
The Warrington Foundation  
Timothy Belber

## \$250 - \$999

Abby and Morgan Reynolds  
Abigail Manurung  
Alicia and Duane Rosenfield Layton  
Amanda Wall  
Andrea Sowitch  
Andrew Feinstein  
Andy Carlson  
Angela Shetzer

Anonymous (3)  
Barb and Tom Everist  
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Beth Armijo  
Brad and Heidi Gassman  
Brandon Rosen  
Brent & Kathryn Hubbell  
Brent Morse  
Brian Trujillo  
Caroline Miner and Jameson Koeppel  
Casey and Carrie Tynan  
Catherine Rollhaus  
Charles Crichton  
Cody Truitt  
Conor Smith  
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Daniel Metzger  
Dave Cicchinelli  
David and Cathie Tilman  
David Deveau  
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Derek Roos  
Douglas and Jane Carlson  
Douglas Pluss  
ECDC The African Community Center  
Ed Harvey  
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Elizabeth Hioe  
Elizabeth Ledoux  
Elizabeth Nugent  
Elizabeth Riggs  
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Gregg Vanourek  
Haley and Derek Figueroa  
iD Tech  
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Janae Aasen  
Jeanne Atkinson

Jeni Halingstad  
Jennifer Harris  
Jerry Biehl  
Jesse and Allyson Jacoby  
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Katie Bailey  
KC and Mary Matthews  
Kevin McClintock  
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Kristin Keffeler  
Kyle Malnati  
Laleh Mehran and Chris Coleman  
Luke and Nicole Davidson  
Marshall Burton  
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Michael Takac  
Michaela Prescott  
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Nick Job  
Pamela Strauss  
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Ron Ramey  
Ryan Good  
Sabatier Family  
Sandra Cook  
Sara Reister  
Stratosphere Group  
Sumit Sitole and Neha Patel  
Tad and Wendy Kelly  
Thaddeus and Laura Anderson  
Todd and Beth Hoffman  
Tom and Debbie Graff  
Tom Messina  
ViaSat Inc.  
Zaback Consulting

## < \$250

Aaron Earley  
Aidan Craine  
Alex Hess  
Alyssa Hornyak  
Amanda Gonzales  
Amber Shearer  
Amelia Gieschen  
Amy Flor  
Amy Hegarty  
Ann Anderson  
Anne Klaus  
Anne Krause  
Anonymous (14)  
Anthony DeSimone  
Anthony Navarrete  
Ariana Willis  
Badereddine Ezzarkani  
Balaji Sundararajan  
Ben Katz-Moses and Kirsten Suddath  
Bhavya Surapaneni  
Braden Mark  
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Cynthia Carnes  
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Jim Westerberg  
John Knowles  
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Jonah Berger  
Josh and Pamela Gold  
Josh Pruy  
Josh Wysack  
Joshua Siefing  
Julie and Adam Cohen  
Julie and Rick Kornfeld  
Julie Milliken  
K Sullivan

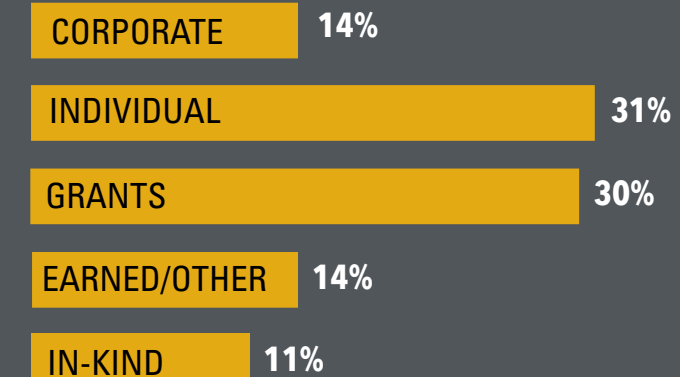
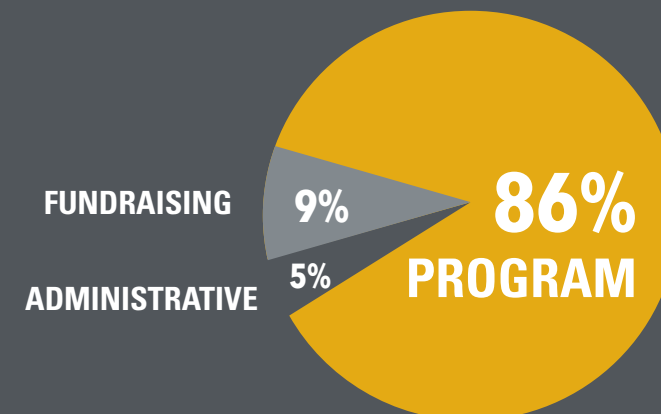
Karen Carr  
Karen Dean  
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Krissey Alberti  
Kristin Leclair  
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Vikram Sharma  
Vivek Ramaswami  
Whitman Dodge  
Wilkosz Family  
Zach Booz

# FINANCIALS

EXPENSES: \$354,558

REVENUES: \$393,876







[WWW.YOUTHROOTS.ORG](http://WWW.YOUTHROOTS.ORG)