



# INTRODUCTION

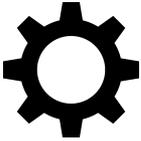
Beacons uses philanthropy, reflective practice, and leadership to teach teens how to change the world.

Five students from the Denver Metro area joined this year's Beacons board. They collectively spent 300 hours exploring reflective practice, working to improve their communities, and becoming leaders and activists in the process. The team completed a community needs assessment on the most pressing issues facing youth in Denver Metro, raised awareness of the issues with the community, and fundraised \$10,253 for local nonprofit organizations benefitting Denver Metro youth.



# THE PROGRAM

Beacons is the youth-led arm of Hemera Foundation. Every year, students conduct a grant cycle and explore reflective practice.



## 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: Sean Kloppenburg

Jayleen Cortez

Max Hauer

Leyla Martinez

Keith Martinez, Jr.

Delaney Muro

# FUNDING PRIORITIES

After many hours of research, the Beacons board decided to focus on the following funding priority:

## Youth Homelessness

The Beacons board sees homelessness amongst youth as a prevalent issue in the community. Data shows that there were over 1,800 homeless students in Denver in 2020, and 18-24 year olds made up the highest percentage of Denver's homeless population in 2016 (denvervoice.org). These numbers have a big impact on everyone in the community. Moreover, COVID is greatly impacting youth homelessness in Denver as many unemployed residents and their families have lost their homes during the pandemic and have become homeless as a result.

*“[Beacons] improved my ability to work with other people and make decisions, and it improved my ability to be mindful, giving me more ways to calm myself and think clearly.”*

*- 2022 Participant*



# GRANT WINNERS

The following organizations were awarded a grant based on their ability to meet the funding priorities of the Beacons board:

## Movement 5280 - \$4,626

The mission of Movement 5280 is to provide a "family of support" to homeless youth who have aged out of foster care and other at-risk young people lacking guidance as they transition to adulthood. Funds from Beacons will support programs to assist youth with everything from basic needs to resume creation.

## Raise the Future - \$4,626

Raise the Future's mission is to connect youth waiting in foster care with the adults who become stable forces in their lives, and to support those relationships so that they last a lifetime. Funding from Beacons will support their Integrated Permanency Model, which is comprised of recruitment and family support programs that work together to decrease the number of youth who exit foster care without a safe place to call home or family to guide them through the difficult transition to adulthood.

## Urban Peak - \$1,000

Urban Peak ignites the potential in youth to exit homelessness and create self-determined, fulfilled lives. Their vision is for all Colorado youth to have safe housing, supportive relationships, and the opportunity for self-sufficiency and success.

# STUDENT IMPACT



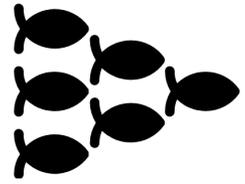
## EMPOWERMENT

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



## COMMUNITY

Students raised awareness and funding (over \$10,250) for pressing issues.



## LEADERSHIP

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



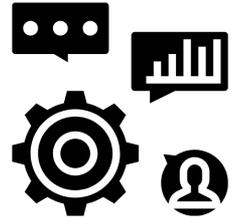
## KNOWLEDGE

100% of participants gained knowledge in Beacons curriculum topics.



## EMPATHY

100% of participants said Beacons improved their empathy skills.



## LIFE SKILLS

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

*“[Beacons has made me] more thoughtful and patient not only with myself but with others.”*

*- 2022 Participant*

# PARTNERSHIP



HEMERA  
FOUNDATION



The Beacons program is a joint project between Hemera Foundation and YouthRoots, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to unleash the power of youth to change the world. Hemera Foundation uses the YouthRoots curriculum to teach teens how to impact their community through philanthropy, reflective practice, and leadership skills. Together, they are cultivating the next generation of leaders and change-makers.

Learn more at:  
[www.hemera.org](http://www.hemera.org)  
[www.youthroots.org](http://www.youthroots.org)

*"I now know that I can make a change if I really try and [Beacons has] given me so many skills to do so."*

*- 2022 Participant*