



YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

Sperry S. and Ella Graber
PACKARD FUND
for Pueblo



2022 GRANT & IMPACT
REPORT



INTRODUCTION

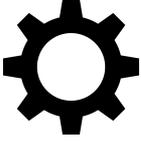
The Youth Action Council uses philanthropy and leadership to teach teens how to change the world.

Nine students from across Pueblo joined this year's Youth Action Council. They collectively spent 540 hours working to improve their community while becoming leaders and activists in the process. The team completed a community needs assessment on the most pressing issues facing youth in Pueblo, raised awareness of the issues with the community, and fundraised \$18,500 for local nonprofit organizations benefitting Pueblo youth.



THE PROGRAM

Youth Action Council is the youth-led arm of Packard Fund for Pueblo. Every 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: Brianna Apodaca

Evelyn Alanis

Venecia Allen

Briana-Kay Betts

Darian Frazier

Madison Gonzales

Audra Jacobs

Devin Klock

Zora Malone

Elaine Tennant

“In many ways [Youth Action Council] changed my perspective and helped me become a better leader.”

- 2022 Participant

FUNDING PRIORITIES

After many hours of research, the Youth Action Council decided to focus on the following funding priorities:

Mental Health

The Youth Action Council chose this need because of the impact mental health has on other issues youth are facing, as well as the number of youth struggling with mental health. According to Mental Health Colorado, "One in five Americans — more than 40 million people — has a mental health condition. The most common mental illnesses are depression and anxiety, but one in 17 Americans will suffer from a more serious disease". According to the 2016 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, 11.5% of students in Pueblo attempted suicide one or more times during the prior 12 months.

Sexual Health Education and Resources

The Youth Action Council chose this need because of the lack of sexual education for young people. Sexual health has been highly stigmatized and, as a result, isn't talked about as much as it should be. Youth need ample access to sexual health education so that they can feel like they are in control of their lives and improve their livelihoods. Lack of sexual health education and resources can also lead to mental health challenges.

Substance Use Disorder

The Youth Action Council saw substance use disorder prevention and treatment as a high need among youth in Pueblo. Even though substance use disorder education focuses on just "not doing it", youth have to make a choice every day of whether or not to try different substances. This choice can inevitably change their lives and, if they partake, can create further mental health and sexual health challenges for youth.

FUNDRAISING

The Youth Action 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 Pueblo to talk about their funding priorities and ask community leaders to invest in their work.



RAISED: \$18,500



Thank you to our Impact Partners and donors!

5G Pizza Ranch LLC

Audri Cornwell

Black Hills Energy

CFC Centennial Fund

Chipotle (Pueblo)

El Pomar Foundation

Barbara Jo Hadley

William Hybl

Panda Express (Pueblo)

Pueblo Opportunity Fund

Linda Reiner

Steel City Eagles #3367

Interested in volunteering?
Contact info@youthroots.org

GRANT WINNERS

The following organizations were awarded a grant based on their ability to meet the funding priorities of the Youth Action Council:

Colorado Health Network - \$5,000

The Colorado Health Network engages youth in HIV/STI education and comprehensive sexual health education. Funding from the Youth Action Council will support sexual education resources for youth and recruiting local experts in the field of sexual education to educate Pueblo youth.

Health Solutions - \$5,000

Health Solutions exists to assist those in need of healthcare services to support recovery and to successfully achieve their healthcare goals. Funding from the Youth Action Council will help support the organization's youth programs by funding youth therapy, art activities, structured recreation, and equine therapy.

Pueblo Rape Crisis Services - \$5,000

Pueblo Rape Crisis Services offers services free of charge to survivors of sexual violence and loved ones of survivors. Funding from the Youth Action Council will support their prevention education program to educate youth on sexual health, healthy relationships, consent, dating violence and sexual violence prevention.

Spark the Change Colorado - \$3,500

Spark the Change's mission is to spark change and inspire a movement of good through the power of volunteerism, service and civic engagement. Funding from the Youth Action Council will support programming in Pueblo District 60 high schools and middle schools focusing on providing mental health support for students.

STUDENT IMPACT



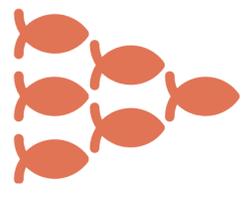
EMPOWERMENT

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



COMMUNITY

Students raised awareness and funding (\$18,500) for pressing issues.



LEADERSHIP

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



KNOWLEDGE

100% of participants gained knowledge in YAC curriculum topics.



EMPATHY

100% of participants said the program improved their empathy skills.



LIFE SKILLS

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

“I loved making a difference in my community and connecting with other youth in my town. I am so excited to hear about what the grant recipients do in the upcoming months.”

- 2022 Participant

PARTNERSHIP

Sperry S. and Ella Graber
PACKARD FUND
for Pueblo



The Youth Action Council is a joint project between Packard Fund for Pueblo and YouthRoots, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to unleash the power of youth to change the world. Packard Fund for Pueblo uses the YouthRoots curriculum to teach Pueblo teens how to change the world through philanthropy and gain valuable leadership skills. Together, they are cultivating the next generation of Pueblo leaders and change-makers.

Learn more at:

www.caringforcolorado.org/pueblo-grantmaking
www.youthroots.org

“The Youth Action Council... showed me that it's ok not to be good at everything because our weaknesses can be someone else's strengths. [It] also showed me that work and passions can last a lifetime and I can change the world during my entire life.”

- 2022 Participant