

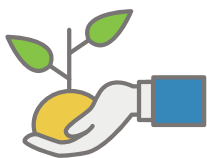
Caring. Community. Connections.

Serving as the bridge between community resources and community needs focused on children and youth



2019 Annual Report | YouthBridge.org

How we make a difference in St. Louis



Nonprofits:
Strengthening
capacity to serve



Donors:
Aligning purpose,
values and resources
to create impact



Businesses:
Helping businesses
do well by doing good
in the community



Professional Advisors:
Improving client outcomes
by serving as a partner
in philanthropy

388

Number of organizations
receiving a grant from
YouthBridge in 2019

\$2,419,422

Total value of grants
awarded by YouthBridge
in 2019

65%

Percentage of total
grant dollars awarded
to children and youth
organizations in 2019

\$25,667,423

Total value YouthBridge
has invested in the
community through grants
and programs since 2005

\$86,602,000

Assets under Administration

YouthBridge Offers:

- ✓ Donor-Advised Funds
- ✓ Private Foundations
- ✓ Philanthropy Advice
- ✓ Endowment Building
- ✓ Succession Planning with Philanthropy for Family Businesses
- ✓ Corporate Philanthropy Programs
- ✓ Professional Advisors Program
- ✓ Grants
- ✓ Giving Cards

Investing for Community Impact

YouthBridge Community Foundation has made the first investments of our 25x25 *Impact Investing Initiative*, which we expect to total \$5-6 million over the next five years. We have committed \$250,000 each to two longstanding, local Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), **IFF** and **Justine PETERSEN**, with the intent of investing more capital into strengthening the St. Louis community.

"CDFIs are a meaningful way for us to invest our resources, and IFF and Justine PETERSEN were easy first choices, with proven track records in delivering outcomes," says **Michael Howard**, **YouthBridge CEO**, adding, **"It's our goal to invite our donor clients to invest with us."**

IFF is a 30-year-old nonprofit lender and real estate consultant serving the Midwest, providing more than \$118 million in financing for 178 community projects in the St. Louis area. As one of the nation's largest small business microlenders, Justine PETERSEN provides access to safe and affordable capital for historically under-served populations, assisting over 5,000 residents in purchasing a home and deploying over \$100 million to businesses.



Investing in Community



City Academy, a top YouthBridge donor supported nonprofit, fosters high performance, creative thinking and a love of learning. (Photo: City Academy)

Connecting Donors with Local Causes

"Giving back to the community – looking out for those in our own backyard – is just as important as anything else we can do," says **Byron Caskey**, a financial advisor for **Wells Fargo**. In helping his clients build, manage and give from their wealth, he takes the time to understand what is most important to them and very often, he says, it's keeping their contributions local. "The issue for many is that they don't know how exactly, because they aren't familiar with local nonprofits. This is where YouthBridge brings such value."

Caskey says educating his clients about the YouthBridge Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is a regular topic of conversation. **"Through the DAF, YouthBridge can help clients identify community needs that are a good fit, and organize their giving with a very simple online platform. Their local expertise also is a huge draw."**

"There is no comparison to the level of local service provided by YouthBridge," echoes **DAF client Tom Goldberg**. A former financial planner and partner at Plancorp, Goldberg has plenty of experience with DAFs on which to draw this conclusion. **"YouthBridge has a wealth of knowledge about charitable organizations in the community, and I know that if I'm looking for information, I can get someone on the phone. That doesn't happen with the large DAF programs,"** he says.

Caring Begins Early for YEP Participants

Paul Spearing admits that he was knocked off his seat the first time he met with the YouthBridge YEP (Youth Engaged in Philanthropy) committee. **"I was blown away by how connected they are with the world and the issues of other young people. They have a much broader perspective than I did in high school,"** says Spearing, **Commercial Banking Relationship Manager at First Bank**, presenting sponsor of the YEP program. Spearing has served as a mentor to the group, which averages 15-20 area high schoolers and meets once a month at YouthBridge during the school year to select youth-focused nonprofits for monetary grants.



While he is there to steer and moderate discussions, Spearing explains that the students lead the process of researching organizations, requesting and reviewing applications, conducting interviews and ultimately choosing the winners. "They definitely have personal convictions but collaborate well and aren't indecisive when it comes to narrowing down the applicants," he says, adding that mental health, early childhood and helping youth less fortunate are common areas of interest for the group. In 2019, the YEP presented grant awards totaling \$10,000 to nine organizations.



Laura Horwitz, co-founder of We Stories, a 2019 YEP grant recipient, shares stories that encourage stronger race relations. (Photo: YEP)

Think Big for Kids Grantee Sharing New Way of Thinking

think
BIG
FOR KIDS

"Children with significant trauma don't expect better from people," says **Rachel Neukirch, Chief Program Officer for FamilyForward**. "We're working to change that, while better understanding the other personality characteristics inherent in children born into abuse and chaos." Neukirch leads programming for **FamilyForward**, including the **Developmental Trauma Center**, which was supported with a \$100,000 YouthBridge Think Big for Kids grant in 2019.

The Developmental Trauma Center, which refers to the services provided more so than a physical location, says Neukirch, is realizing improvements in relational health, or the interpersonal interactions children have with others. "We're achieving great day-to-day results with the interventions and tools we're providing," she says. Neukirch explains that the agency's overarching philosophy is derived from the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) – developed by Dr. Bruce Perry and based on the clinical correlation between a child's early history and their current functioning. "Much of the behaviors we're seeing in our clients are a function of where they've come from. If you understand that, you're better able to address their difficulties."

FamilyForward is collaborating with Dr. Perry and the Neurosequential Network on research projects and sharing their success utilizing NMT with the community and nationwide, says Neukirch, adding that the YouthBridge grant has helped to elevate its capabilities. **"We've been able to significantly expand service delivery to about 350 families each year, spread awareness of NMT, provide advanced levels of training to staff and add services."**

Family Forward therapists may use child-centered play therapy for children experiencing social, emotional and relational disorders. (Photo: FamilyForward)





Fornier Family. Children find temporary and forever homes through CFS. (Photo: Christian Family Services)

Endowment Client Focusing on the Ties that Bind

"My experience working with endowments funds was zero when I first met with YouthBridge, but I was fairly certain they weren't your typical advisor," says **Steve Awtrey, Executive Director of Christian Family Services (CFS)**. Awtrey, who oversees the nearly 50-year-old child placing and counseling agency, says he felt an immediate trust in YouthBridge.

"They're a nonprofit like us – with a history of providing homes for children; it seemed a perfect fit. I also was encouraged by how they became immediate cheerleaders for us and were excited to spread awareness of CFS within the financial community," he says, adding that he looks forward to building on the YouthBridge endowment fund to drive some important initiatives.

"In our early days, much of the emphasis of CFS was on adoption," he says. "That has shifted to a focus on family reunification and strengthening the ties that bind us as a family unit; these are areas where we are looking to bring further support."

Jumpstarting Revenue Growth for Artist Collective

"Four years ago, I really didn't know where our next dime was coming from, so to speak," says **Susan Colangelo, President, CEO and founder of Saint Louis Story Stitches Artist Collective**. That changed with the introduction of an annual fundraising event in the summer. Now, a YouthBridge Jumpstart grant in 2019 is helping her think about new development strategies and audiences to target, she says. **"Honestly, having a personal coach to walk me through organizing, reconnecting and leveraging the contacts we've made through the years has been the greatest asset."** Story Stitches's 2019 year-end appeal exceeded the targeted goal by 80%.

Building a nonprofit is a continuous learning experience, admits Colangelo, but says it's worth the effort "when you're working towards bringing hope to the community you love."

Story Stitches is a collective of local professional artists and urban youth, working together to collect local stories and then reframe and retell them through art, writing and performance. Their projects and performances create a platform for community engagement and addressing issues, like gun violence, head on with an artistic lens, says Colangelo, adding that their annual audience has reached close to 9,000.



Youth artists of Story Stitches share their message of peace across St. Louis. (Photo: Story Stitches)

YouthBridge Community Foundation partners with individual and community donors on how to turn their passions into philanthropy and works with nonprofits serving children and youth on how to be more successful and sustainable. Together, we are realizing the potential of our region.



www.YouthBridge.org | 314.985.6778

Donor-Advised Funds | Private Foundations | Endowments | Charitable Trusts | Planned Giving