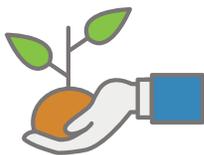




We Carry On. We Carry Each Other.

2020 Annual Report | YouthBridge.org

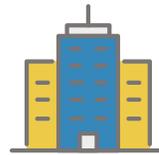
We are committed to partnerships that support a better St. Louis for all of our children and families.



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

Our mission is to partner with donors to help charities in the St. Louis region, especially those focused on children, through leadership, grants and donor services.

Immigrant Fund a Stopgap for Unserved Families

The pandemic and its casualties have brought to light the vulnerabilities of many of our neighbors. **“For some of our immigrant and refugee families, lost jobs and wages have pushed them to the edge without a safety net,”** says Claire Hundelt, Executive Director of Marillac Mission Fund. Hundelt helped lead the creation of the **Immigrant Family Emergency Response (IFER) Fund** to assist COVID-affected immigrants in financial distress.

Fiscally managed by YouthBridge, Hundelt says the IFER Fund has been an all-volunteer, collaborative effort unlike any other. “Others across the country were developing similar funds in the early days of the crisis, but I don’t believe any mobilized an effort of this scale or as quickly,” she says. “We were organized within a week.” **In 2020, the Fund provided \$372,000 to 731 immigrant families in the St. Louis region.**

Hundelt says the Fund also is unique in that it has provided assistance in the form of direct cash. “We trust that families know best how to use financial resources for their own lives, so we have given them the independence to do so,” she says, adding that overwhelmingly applicants stated they intended to use the funds for rent or mortgage, utilities, food or child care.

[Read more at youthbridge.org/immigrant-fund](https://youthbridge.org/immigrant-fund)



IMMIGRANT FAMILY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- ◆ **Total 2020 COVID-19 Relief: \$472,000**
- ◆ **IFER: \$372,000; Nonprofit Relief: \$100,000**



Dream Builders 4 Equity Co-founders
Michael Woods and Neal Richardson

The Courage to Dream, the Skills to Build, the Resources to Own the Future

Equity, as in ownership, can build social equity, says Michael Woods, co-founder and Executive Director of **Dream Builders 4 Equity**. **“When you give people ownership of their communities, they realize the power they have to change the systems holding them back,”** he says. It’s the philosophy on which Woods and co-founder Neal Richardson have developed programming aimed at giving high school and college students the opportunity to work alongside minority contractors in the rehabilitation of vacant properties in North St. Louis.

“Without exposure to these vital things – knowledge, skills, role models – young people can feel trapped and hopeless,” says Sarah Kaufmann. Kaufmann is a director for the **Wayne C. Kaufmann Charitable Foundation** (named in honor of her father), a family foundation managed by YouthBridge. The foundation has supported Dream Builders 4 Equity since 2019 and recently awarded a \$50,000 grant toward its strategic plan to renovate 25 homes – concentrated in the Hyde Park neighborhood – by 2025. “My hope has always been that as more community members buy into this mission with their resources, we can make a big difference in how these neighborhoods are perceived and valued as part of the city as a whole,” she says.

[Read more at youthbridge.org/courage-to-dream](https://youthbridge.org/courage-to-dream)

\$3,304,079

Total value of grants awarded in 2020

92%

Percentage of total grant dollars awarded in the St. Louis region in 2020

\$29,657,246

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

\$96,765,432

Assets under administration (Includes charitable administration of private foundations)



City Academy students, with Don Danforth III, founder (top)

- ◆ Total 2020 Heritage Grants: \$150,000
- ◆ City Academy, Crisis Nursery, Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls, One Heart Family Ministries, Ready Readers, The Child Center

When Risks Become Reality

Nonprofits surviving the pandemic will hopefully emerge wiser, stronger and better prepared for the next time. "It's critical, because you have to be there for your beneficiaries when they need you," says Steffani Lautenschlager, Chief Development Officer at **City Academy**. City Academy transforms children, families and our community through exceptional education and bold expectations that empower children to overcome barriers. As a 2019 **YouthBridge Heritage Grant** awardee, City Academy has taken part in comprehensive risk assessment and resiliency training during the second year of its three-year grant.



In the midst of COVID, City Academy began working with consultants hired by YouthBridge to evaluate and rank risks, both known and unforeseen. "Of course, the pandemic was a focus – certainly an example of an unforeseen risk – but we really did a top-to-bottom review," she says. **A customary assessment examines financial structure and revenue sources, safety and compliance, staff and volunteer training, succession planning, public relations and more.** In the end, Lautenschlager says staff communication stood out as an area in need of improvement. "We're now looking at ways to ensure our people feel 'a part of, rather than apart from' the direction we're moving and decisions we're making. **We also understand that risk assessment is not an event, but a process you do over and over."**

Read more at youthbridge.org/risks

Engaging Communities to Lead the Change – A Big Idea

Change happens with awareness, action and, according to Charli Cooksey, "the audacity to sustain radically different behaviors and beliefs together."

It's the reason she started **WEPOWER** in 2018 with a mission of activating community members to redesign systems to be just and equitable.

EST. 2018



- ◆ Total 2020 Think Big for Kids grants: \$210,000
- ◆ WEPOWER: \$150,000; MO Child Development Account Coalition: \$35,000; Youth in Need: \$25,000

It is also why YouthBridge routinely funds bold, innovative and ambitious initiatives that have transformative potential, says Barbara Carswell, YouthBridge CEO. "2020 enlightened more of us about the inequities that persist in our education, healthcare and economic systems, particularly for people of color," she says. "At YouthBridge, we have always taken risks to support new solutions that we believe may lead to systemic change – especially through our **Think Big for Kids grant** – so that all within our community can realize their full potential."

Read more at youthbridge.org/big-idea



SLU High School senior and YEP board member Evan Carroll

Students See Tangible Impact of Nonprofits through YEP STL!

"I read every word of the grant applications we receive, because I respect the work that goes into them," says Tyler Ray. The senior at Marquette High School has fed his interest in community engagement during his four years on the **YEP (Youth Engaged in Philanthropy) STL!** board, a youth-led grantmaking group organized by YouthBridge and funded by **First Bank**. **Mentors from both organizations "take you under the hood of grantmaking," he says, "and allow you to see the tangible impact of nonprofits."**



Whitfield senior Agha Haider agrees that the YEP STL! has been an invaluable learning experience, especially for a young social entrepreneur. As an eighth grader, Haider founded the **Literacy Initiative**, which provides books and after-school programming for disadvantaged youth through volunteer high school students. "I've gained a lot of skills and insight through YEP STL! and, in general, learned so much about other people," he says, adding that his favorite part of the process is interviewing the nonprofit finalists. **"The biggest thing I'm looking for is whether I can see the passion in the people behind the organization."**

[Read more at youthbridge.org/student-impact](https://youthbridge.org/student-impact)

- ◆ **Total 2020 YEP Grants: \$10,000**
- ◆ **Asthma and Allergy Foundation, Center for Hearing & Speech, Duo Dogs, Faith Walk, Room at the Inn, Operation Food Search, United Services for Children**

Advisor Turns Passion into Purpose

David Foster has turned a personal journey into a specialized service. The founder of **Gateway Wealth Management** says the company was born in 2014 out of his personal interest in philanthropy and "using my excess to help others." Investigating the financial advisory landscape and failing to pinpoint one with deep expertise in philanthropic planning, he realized he'd found a niche and set about educating himself on all the logistics of philanthropy. This included seeking the advice of YouthBridge.

"YouthBridge has been a very helpful resource in the conversations I have with clients, and I really love that the fees on their donor-advised fund – as inexpensive as I've seen – are redistributed into the community," says Foster.

Each day more fluent in the language of philanthropy, Foster is not only able to help his clients develop charitable giving plans, but also be confident that they are having a meaningful impact on the causes they care about.

"Many don't realize what a significant difference they can make, and it's incredibly rewarding to set a family or business owner on the track to helping others."

[Read more at youthbridge.org/passion-into-purpose](https://youthbridge.org/passion-into-purpose)



David Foster with family

You can check out the 'Gateway Giving' podcast interview with YouthBridge's CEO, Barbara Carswell, hosted by David Foster, CFP, CAP. tinyurl.com/yg2cw82c



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