

Youth Philanthropy Connect

Grant Type: Dollar, convening and youth advocacy

Grant Amount: Special project of The Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation (personnel/programming) and grants for related projects to partners (\$100,000 in 2014)

Organization: The Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation



What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

The Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation was founded in 1999 and, from the start, the board has engaged the children and grandchildren—as well as staff members’ children—in board meeting discussions.

Once we started a formal “junior board,” we quickly learned that the next generation was capable of conducting site visits, sponsoring grants, and holding their own meetings. Eventually, the youths wanted to form a network of philanthropic youths, and our foundation undertook a lead role in creating a summer retreat for four foundations.

The energy and passion of these youths were the driving force for us to begin fostering a greater network, which became Youth Philanthropy Connect.

What was your approach?

To better understand, educate, and work with the next generation, Youth Philanthropy Connect relies on a team of youths in leadership positions. In addition to our two staff members, we work with a youth leadership team, a group of 12- to 21-year-olds who meet monthly to define the strategies and approaches that develop our educational content and programming.

Our approach has always been to include and listen to youth voices and perspectives, and by practicing what we preach, we have created opportunities for youths to make an impact and leverage their strengths.

What were the outsized results?

Youth Philanthropy Connect provides philanthropic youths with educational programs and peer networks that advance their involvement in philanthropy. By providing

educational programs and resources, including an annual conference, topical readers, and a webinar series, Youth Philanthropy Connect is developing the personal and professional skills of the next generation of philanthropic leaders.

We have been able to create a place for the next generation of philanthropists to learn and train so that when it’s time for them to become board members, they are not only prepared but also motivated to make a difference. As one of our leadership team members said, “Start philanthropy young so it’s embedded in your DNA.”

