YOUTH GRANTMAKERS
A Program of The Community Foundation

Growing Philanthropy

SAN BERNARDINO
2017-2018 Youth Grantmakers
YOUTH GRANTMAKERS...“You Grow, We Grow”

Celia Cudiamat – Executive VP of Programs

It has been nine years since The Community Foundation launched the Youth Grantmakers Program in Riverside to encourage philanthropy among our local youth. Through this program, our young people become active agents of change, preparing them for responsive community leadership and practical hands-on service.

The Youth Grantmakers Program has truly grown over the years. We now have a Native Youth Program made up of students awarding grants to nonprofits serving the Temecula Valley. Established with an initial gift of $25,000 from the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, the program empowers Native youth leaders to participate in grantmaking. It further represents the interests and passion of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) to build a cadre of influential youth leaders and raise awareness of Native youth in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, Youth Grantmakers (YG) across our two-county region strengthened their leadership skills as they participated in philanthropy. They learned about the issues youth face within their local communities and beyond through presentations and needs assessments; increased their knowledge on prevention/intervention practices via reviewing grant proposals and conducting nonprofit site visits; and practiced philanthropy by recommending grants to nonprofits who proposed effective and impactful solutions to youth issues.

Awarding a modest amount of money, average of $10,000 per YG program, to multiple nonprofit organizations is the capstone of the program. Since inception, over 250 Youth Grantmakers awarded over $324,000 to over 135 nonprofits that serve young people!

Thank you to Bank of America for their generous ongoing support of our year-end recognition ceremonies. Many thanks, as well, to our donors and the myriad of supporters of our YG programs.

Congratulations to our Youth Grantmakers!
Denisha Shackelford – Youth Grantmakers Program Advisor

As the Youth Grantmakers Advisor for all four programs this year (Riverside, Coachella Valley, San Bernardino and Native Youth), I’ve been given the opportunity to plant and instill within this fast-paced generation the principles of philanthropy. It’s such a rewarding feeling to see this generation start to think of the needs of mankind, their peers, and the communities they reside in.

I also had the opportunity to participate and witness firsthand this year these amazing young people in action. They participated in multiple community service activities, including:

- Senior Holiday Gift Giving Campaign in Indio
- Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Coachella Valley
- Ice Cream Social at the Ronald McDonald House in San Diego

It was in those moments, I knew the seed of service had been planted.

I would also like to congratulate our Youth Grantmakers on another successful year of giving and growing. Your spirit of philanthropy, engagement, and hard work is a true testament of greatness that resides within each of you.

Also, to our graduating seniors, I am so proud of you and wish you well as you matriculate to the next academic phase of your life. You are the future of philanthropy and we rest with assurance in knowing that we are in good hands.
On behalf of Bank of America, I congratulate you on completing your service as a Youth Grantmaker. The knowledge you have gained about the nonprofit sector; their roles and responsibilities and the grantmaking process and decision making will prove to be invaluable as you develop into passionate and caring adults as volunteers, board members and philanthropists. You will open your heart to those in our community who need you and need your voice.

As our next generation of leaders Bank of America supports and celebrates your accomplishments. It is our hope that this program has been a turning point in your development. Whether you recognize it or not, today you are different person than you were just a few months ago, with a different and broad perspective about society and our communities. We are counting on you to forge ahead with foresight and determination. Real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination who understand the complexities of serving our community.

Once again, congratulations for dedicating your time to such a worthy program and best of luck on your future endeavors. I hope to see you in the board room of a local nonprofit someday.

Al Argüello
Senior Vice President
Market President, Inland Empire
Enterprise Business & Community Engagement
Bank of America
Who We Are

The Youth Grantmakers are a group of students who identify issues throughout the community that directly impact the youth. We are involved in the grantmaking process and are able to decide which issues need to be confronted immediately. We are an important voice that reflects the thoughts and needs of the community.

We hope to change the community for the benefit of those in need of help, one grant at a time. However, this doesn’t fully describe who “we” are. We are thoughtful, outgoing, and cooperative individuals who serve our community. We are those who go the extra mile to be the tools to create a thriving community for our loved ones. We strive to make a better world through cooperation with other programs and organizations. We are the voice of the youth in our community.

WHO WE ARE  by Michael Gallegos
VOLUNTEERING: Joint YG Community Service Project

As part of an annual tradition of the Youth Grantmakers program, students from all four programs participated in a joint community service activity this year. Last December the Youth Grantmakers partnered with the Riverside Office of Aging in Indio for their Senior Holiday Gift Drive. They collected blankets, socks, gloves, scarves, and gift cards that were given to local seniors during this holiday season.

It was during a joint meeting held in Banning where the students brought in their donated items. Two representatives from the Youth Grantmakers Coachella Valley Program presented the gifts to the Riverside Office of Aging who expressed their desire to team up with the Youth Grantmakers again. It was a great feeling for the Youth Grantmakers to know that their generosity brought a smile to a senior’s face during the holiday season.

SITE VISIT: Highlanders Boxing Club
by Michael Gallegos

Highlanders Boxing Club is a community development corporation that builds young men and women into healthy adults and teaches them life skills, discipline and respect – in addition to boxing. With their mentorship and supportive relationships they hope to provide a gang free environment.

The Highlanders Boxing Club was a 2017 grantee of the San Bernardino Youth Grantmakers. They were awarded $2,500 for their Youth to Youth Leadership initiative that empowers young people to make better life choices through athletic training, boxing and education. In March we conducted a site and met with Mr. Toni Cifuentes who is the founder and CEO. During our tour we learned that the club offers multiple sessions and the evening sessions are geared more for the younger boxers so they can train after school.

To some, boxing may seem like a brutal sport, but to the community it’s an opportunity to change lives for the better. It teaches respect, strength, and leadership – three words the Highlanders Boxing Club lives by. It was confirmed upon leaving that evening that we had made the right decision and we congratulated the club on a successful year of programing.
On December 3rd, members of The Community Foundation’s Youth Grantmakers Program met in Beaumont for a joint session focusing on “Diversity and Inclusivity.” The Foundation hosted the session as part of its ongoing work to engage young people in philanthropy. The session kicked off with welcome remarks from Mayor Pro-Tem Nancy Carroll of Beaumont and Councilmember Art Welch of Banning. The students also heard from current board members, Gloria Macias-Harrison and Lynn Bogh Baldi. The conversation was facilitated by guest speaker Dr. Anthony Silard, President of The Center for Social Leadership and Assistant Professor of Nonprofit Management and Leadership at California State University, San Bernardino.

The group participated in several activities that required them to think about the impact and importance of diversity and inclusivity in both public and private spaces. One activity asked participants to share their personal experiences of being mistreated or times when they mistreated someone else because of their differences. Another activity had participants engage in a presentation exercise in which they had to take on the role of a Divisional Director for a clothing store in Los Angeles. Participants had to choose and build an argument for why the clothing store should diversify and were given two minutes to deliver their presentation. The students then discussed what they learned after the activities.

“I was pleased to see all the YG programs working together to reach a common goal of understanding, and respect for the differences we all possess.” said Denisha Shackleford, Program Coordinator and Youth Grantmakers Advisor.

This year, 101 Youth Grantmakers make up the Riverside, San Bernardino, Coachella Valley, and Native programs.
Operation New Hope (ONH), was founded in 1980. It is a unique program focused on personal growth, changing lives one step at a time. ONH opens the eyes and minds of its participants causing them to reflect on the “I, Self, and Me”. Operation New Hope’s unique teaching concepts and methods highlight the importance of accountability, responsibility, and dependability. ONH serves individuals by creating an atmosphere where one does not feel judged or accused, but accepted.

It is their mission to teach essential life skills that will help to bring balance into the lives of the participants. The end result is lifestyle change rooted in personal responsibility.

Operation New Hope has partnered up with John Muir Charter Schools to help young adults achieve job readiness skills and a high school diploma. In 2015 Operation New Hope was a grantee of the San Bernardino Youth Grantmakers. They were awarded $1,086 for their Dress for Success Program. They provided professional attire to 28 high school graduates through the program.
2017-2018 SENIOR MEMBERS

Cameron Ceballos
Aquinas High School
Accepted to: California State University, San Bernardino
Participating in the San Bernardino Youth Grantmakers has broadened my knowledge on different non-profit organizations within the region and it has inspired me to give back to my community. It has also taught me the importance of philanthropy and the effect it has on the youth within our community. I have become more aware of different obstacles/issues that the youth in San Bernardino face on a day to day basis.

Michael Gallegos
Aquinas High School
Accepted to: University of California, Los Angeles
The Youth Grantmakers program has had a tremendous impact on how I view society and the world around me. It has allowed me to work with my fellow peers to accomplish something amazing for the wider community. I have come to enjoy learning about charities, non-profit organizations, and overall youth philanthropy. The surveys that I took with my fellow classmates at school combined with the monthly meetings allowed for me to understand the challenges and risks at stake for our youth in society. The Foundation has allowed for me to become a better leader in youth philanthropy and work hard to help address issues and challenges facing youth in our society today.

Margaret Kumler
Aquinas High School
Accepted to: University of California, Santa Cruz
Since being in the Youth Grantmakers program, I have developed a drastically different sense of the word philanthropy, and now strive to incorporate it into my life. As a sophomore attending high school in a relatively rough neighborhood, I entered the program with, what I thought was, a good idea of what the needs in my community were. I was wrong. After the first needs assessment survey, I was astounded at the vast amount of problems that the youth in San Bernardino faced on a daily basis. From this point on, I was overwhelmed by the number of nonprofit organizations that were developed specifically to combat these problems and saddened by the fact that we couldn't fund all the programs. I realized though that I was incredibly lucky to be a part of an organization that is able to fund deserving nonprofits, and I hope to continue my journey as a philanthropist into my life beyond high school.

Haven Watts
Mother of Divine Grace
Accepted to: Loyola Marymount
Being in Youth Grantmakers has been a mind-opening experience for me. It's made me much more aware of the struggles that kids my age in my area are going through, and it's given me hope that there are people and organizations in place that can help them. I've realized that there are ways that every individual can help, and if we all work together, we might be able to eradicate these issues entirely. Youth Grantmakers has left a positive impact on my life.
2017-2018 JUNIOR MEMBERS

Anissa Dominguez
Indian Springs High School
Participating in Youth Grantmakers has made me more aware of the issues and obstacles our youth face on a regular basis. Having the opportunity to fund worthy nonprofits that help address those issues is a rewarding feeling and lets me know as a youth I can make a difference.

Brielle Dowdy
Cajon High School
Participating in the Youth Grantmakers Program has inspired me to give back to my community. I want to see San Bernardino thrive, and as a youth I believe I can make an impact.

Adrian Garcia-Sanchez
Pacific High School
It has given me insight to the problems that our youth face these days. Not simply showing me problems but, nonprofits who are helping communities with these problems.

Drew Holder
Citrus Valley High School
The Youth Grantmakers Program has given me an in-depth look into the grant review process. It’s great that youth are given a platform to come together and make real life decisions about the needs of our community and give back in a financial way to those programs that support those needs.

Isabella Kehl
Aquinas High School
Youth Grantmakers has helped me to understand that there are many needs in our community and I can help make a difference.

Samantha Long
San Bernardino High School
Youth Grantmakers has impacted my life so much. It has opened my eyes to new things that I don’t think I would have ever experience on my own. It’s opened my mind to try my best to help others who need help in the best way that I can.
2017-2018 JUNIOR MEMBERS

**Junior Members**

**2017-2018 Junior Members**

**Rocio Robles**
Youth Grantmaker Assistant

Throughout my experience in The Riverside Youth Grantmakers program I learned so much about my own community, giving, philanthropy, and grant making. The program made such a great impact on my high school life that I jumped at the opportunity to return as a mentor to San Bernardino’s Youth Grantmakers committee. It has truly been a privilege to meet and guide the next generation through such an amazing program.

The power to help others and make a positive impact in their lives is such a gratifying experience and I’m honored that I was able to mentor the students throughout the course of the year.

To the graduating students, it is my hope that the lessons about diversity, inclusivity, consensus, and philanthropy resonate with you for the rest of your lives. Always remember the people as well as the community that watched you grow and thrive, regardless of where life may take you.

Thank you to Denisha for leading us through yet another successful year and to everyone for making it such a memorable one!

**Charly Ortiz**
Pacific High School

The Youth Grantmakers Program has allowed me to meet other youth from surrounding high schools and help make a difference in our community.

**Pia Portea**
Aquinas High School

Participating in Youth Grantmakers impacted me in a positive way. Reading about the work being done to make the world a better place has been really encouraging, in turn fueling my desire to serve my community. I leave meetings with a sense of hope knowing that we are improving the community and the lives of our fellow youth.

**Genesis Vasguez**
Indian Springs High School

The Youth Grantmakers Program has helped me to realize you can make a difference no matter how big or small the difference is. It has helped me to realize any act of good can cause a chain of wonderful events to happen. I have learned through the Youth Grantmakers that philanthropy thrives in a community because of the acts of kindness people do.

**Fabrisio Lopez**
Aquinas High School

Youth Grantmakers Program has shown me the importance of giving back to my community. And with the help of our granting opportunity we are able to make an impact.

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Sophomore Members

2017-2018 SOPHOMORE MEMBERS

Yaharia Angulo
Cajon High School
Participating in Youth Grantmakers has impacted my life by helping me get more involved with my community and actually doing something about the problems we’re facing, not just ignoring them.

Evelyn Chavez Ramirez
San Bernardino High School
Participating in YG has helped me better understand the benefit and purpose of philanthropy in our communities.

Gianna Daniel
Cajon High School
The Youth Grantmakers Program has solidified the importance of being involved in my community. I am motivated to continue my efforts of volunteering and giving back in a greater way.

Brianna Lopez
Pacific High School
Youth Grantmakers has definitely impacted my life for the better, not only in learning how to read a grant and deciding whether it’s reliable or not, but giving me the opportunity to discuss amongst others the main issues in our community. It gives us a chance to give do good through the grant. Participating in Youth Grantmakers has also motivated me as a young philanthropist to further my journey down this road and continue to seek similar opportunities.

Norma Nava
San Bernardino High School
Youth Grantmakers has allowed me to make a difference in my community through our grantmaking opportunity. As a youth this program it has given me a voice and a new found passion for philanthropy.

Dulce Powell
San Bernardino High School
This has been an awesome experience! I have really enjoyed the program and it feels great to know we are helping nonprofits.

Anise Tyehimba
Cajon High School
Participating in Youth Grantmakers has impacted my life by opening me up to more opportunities, as well as giving me the chance to explore my community even more, and letting me be able to help make a change in San Bernardino.
My participation in the Youth Grantmakers Program has proven to be one of value and lifelong impact. I initially started in the Riverside program and when I was told of the expansion of the program to San Bernardino I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural class that started back in 2014. It was great to see the representation of the various high schools within the San Bernardino Unified School District coming together for one purpose, to do something great. During my last year in the program I served as co-chair along with my Aquinas High School alumni Miriam Cohn.

I’m in my junior year at Gonzaga University and presently backpacking through Spain – Camino de Santiago (hence the photo you see). This pilgrimage has been an experience of a lifetime.

While at Gonzaga I’ve continued to work in philanthropy with my university’s advancement department as a student caller for our telefund program. So I raise funds from alumni, family, and friends of the university, mostly to support scholarship programs but also to keep them involved with the Gonzaga community.
When I first entered the Youth Grantmakers program in my sophomore year, I was unsure of what to expect. I had no idea that in just a few short years I would exit the program with a newfound respect for philanthropy and many new friends that share a similar desire to better the community in which we live.

Throughout the duration of this program, I learned many new things, including skills that are impossible to learn in a classroom. I learned the basic components of nonprofit organizations as well as how to read/write a grant. I also learned how to collaborate with my peers on sometimes controversial topics, and how to facilitate conversation. I can’t even begin to describe the indelible effect that these past three years in the Youth Grantmakers program have had on my life.

I am extremely grateful for being given the opportunity to lead my peers through this process as co-chair and I would like to express my gratitude to everyone that has helped me along this learning curve. Thank you to Denisha, who dedicated all her time and effort into every meeting to ensure that we were well-cared for, to Rocio, who gladly assisted with anything we needed this past year and to everyone at The Community Foundation for their continued support of this incredible program. And to my fellow seniors, I hope you continue doing amazing things and striving to help those in need as we venture out into the world.

To those juniors and sophomores in the program, I hope you are able to get as much out of this program that I was, and that you learn that the voice of the youth is a moving force in the world today, particularly those who want to make a change. Embrace your voice and continue striving to help your community.
Being a member of the Youth Grantmakers for the past three years has been an experience that I will always remember and cherish. This program has humbled me. It has made me realize that there are many underprivileged children in the city which I live in. I am content knowing that I am making a difference in someone’s life by granting money to a non-profit enabling them to support those in need.

Ever since I went to my first meeting during my sophomore year, Denisha was the most energetic and vibrant leader who made me feel more than welcome. The atmosphere had always been one that was exciting. I never showed up to a meeting having any regret, or wishing that I did not have to be there. I genuinely enjoyed my time with my friends and peers while discussing the needs of those in my community.

It is an overwhelming feeling knowing that there is a new wave of faces assembling within the San Bernardino Youth Grantmakers. For the past two years, the representation of members has primarily been from Aquinas High School. Now, there are new high school members from Pacific, San Gorgonio, Cajon, and San Bernardino High School!! This is exciting news, and it is one of the best things that could have happened to this program. This will help broaden the spectrum of issues to be discussed in the needs assessment survey and at meetings. Furthermore, the members of YGC will be able to help impact more youth regarding these issues that aren’t discussed as often.

Youth Grantmakers has connected me to many generous and compassionate students who all have the same goal in mind. Every member involved in this program want to help those within the community of San Bernardino. I am proud to have helped those who are struggling in my community. I am more than excited to see the expansion and impact of the future San Bernardino Youth Grantmakers.
### GRANTEES 2017-2018

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### CHARITY OF CHOICE 2017-2018

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<td>Haven Watts</td>
<td>Family Service Association</td>
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OUR DONORS

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Harns Family Donor Advised Fund

JUNIOR LEVEL GIFTS $5,000 + $9,999
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Mr. Sean S. Varner

"If you don’t think one person can change the world, you should get to know a Youth Grantmaker."

Diane S. Valenzuela
Senior Vice President - Wealth Management
Merrill Lynch Global
For more info on the YG Program, please contact
Denisha Shackelford at dshackelford@thecommunityfoundation.net