INTRODUCTION

15 Forever uses philanthropy and leadership to teach teens how to change the world.

Seventeen students from Boulder County joined this year’s 15 Forever board. They collectively spent 1,020 hours working to improve their communities while becoming leaders and activists in the process. The team completed a community needs assessment on the most pressing issues facing youth in Boulder County, raised awareness of the issues with the community, and fundraised $10,030 for local nonprofit organizations benefitting Boulder County youth.
15 Forever is the youth-led arm of Community Foundation Boulder County. 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.

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**PARTICIPANTS**
Facilitator: Tierney Lain

Fareed Ahamad*
Belisa Alptekin
Annika Aumentado
Kat Croft
Ellen DeRoche
Sarada Gundavarapu
Atiya Hasan
Evan Hassan
Palpasha Karki*

Mandy Lieng
Juan Mendez
Vikas Muralidharan*
Alma Nielsen
Paige Russell
Shreya Senthilkumar
Layla Steinbock
Natalia Salazar

*Executive Committee Member
After many hours of research, the 15 Forever board decided to focus on the following funding priorities:

**Food Insecurity**
Food insecurity often goes unnoticed but plays a big role in the lives of youth. After learning about Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, 15 Forever members understand that basic needs - especially food insecurity - must be addressed before addressing needs such as academic learning and building healthy relationships with others. By combating food insecurity, 15 Forever members are prioritizing an issue that is key to accessing all other opportunities for happiness.

**Gender-Based Violence Education**
15 Forever members recognize the negative impacts of gender-based violence among youth. They have identified a need for greater understanding of the root causes of gender-based violence on youth and the need to build awareness among youth of how to recognize the signs, intervene, and find help.

“15 Forever greatly impacted my confidence and strength. It’s given me a lot of valuable skills that I can use in future programs… It is easy to come up with creative ideas but putting those into practice and making sure everything works out… is very difficult. Through 15 Forever I developed a lot more ideas about how I can impact my community through nonprofit work.” - 2021 Participant
The 15 Forever board 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 Boulder County to talk about their funding priorities and ask community leaders to invest in their work.

RAISED: $10,030

Thank you to our Impact Partners!

Linda Bachrach
Amy & Steve Carpenter
Peggy Driscoll & Rob Keeley
Susi Gardner
Daniel Hassan
Steve & Christina Ihnot
Caroline Landry
Cindy Lindsay

Julie Maier
Katherine McIntyre
Paul Orbuch
Sophia Rickard
Ashley Rumble
Steve Sheafor
Tom Spier
Jeremy Wilson

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 15 Forever YouthBoard:

**Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence - $3,500**
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) is a human rights organization committed to ending violence against adults, youth and children through advocacy, support, education and community organizing. Funds from this year’s 15 Forever YouthBoard will support SPAN’s gender-based violence prevention for LGBTQI+ youth.

**Boulder Valley School District - $3,350**
Boulder Valley School District serves more than 30,000 children and youth in Boulder, Gold Hill, Jamestown, Lafayette, Louisville, Nederland, Superior, and Ward. Funds from 15 Forever will support their COVID-19 emergency food distribution program, which serves 4,000 students and their families weekly to combat food insecurity in Boulder County.

**Colorado FriendShip - $3,180**
Colorado FriendShip delivers food and clothing to low-income and poverty-stricken children and families, and the homeless and indigent in Boulder County. Funds from 15 Forever will support their IncrEdibles Food Backpack Program, which provides quality, healthy, kid-friendly food to 700 students.
100% of participants said 15 Forever improved their ability to identify an issue and take action.

89% of participants said 15 Forever improved their empathy skills.

Participants showed improvement in non-cognitive skills 99% of the time.

Students raised awareness and funding (over $10,000) for pressing issues.

100% of participants said they would be more likely to take on a leadership role because of 15 Forever.

“I've learned to become a better leader by leading through my actions. I have become a more balanced leader, knowing when to use my words, and when to get work done.“ - 2021 Participant
The 15 Forever program is a joint project between Community Foundation Boulder County and YouthRoots, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to unleash the power of youth to change the world. Community Foundation Boulder County uses the YouthRoots curriculum to teach Boulder-area teens how to change the world through philanthropy and gain valuable leadership skills. Together, they are cultivating the next generation of Boulder County leaders and change-makers.

Learn more at:
www.commfound.org
www.youthroots.org

“[15 Forever has] helped me to take the initiative to do things. It's caused me to bit a little more bold, better in my decision-making, more willing to do things even if there's a strong chance of rejection, and improved my professional skills.” - 2021 Participant