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

Twelve students from Boulder County joined this year’s 15 Forever board. They collectively spent 720 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, spread awareness of the issues with the community, and raised $6,550 for local nonprofit organizations benefitting Boulder County youth.
THE PROGRAM

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.

PARTICIPANTS
Facilitator: Tierney Lain

Gabriela Aguijosa*  
Fareed Ahamed  
Cynthia DeLuna*  
Adam Heilbronner*  
Lauren Hirschhorn*  
Hilary Jaime  

Palpasha Karki  
Nicole Kerschner  
Vikas Muralidharan*  
Lindsey Slama*  
Maya Thompson  
Hallie Wong  

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

Youth Homelessness
The 15 Forever YouthBoard decided to focus their attention on youth homelessness because it disproportionately affects LGBTQ youth and contributes to food insecurity and education inequality. According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, there were 23,014 homeless students in Colorado in 2018, 2,034 of whom were unaccompanied. The 15 Forever students worked to respond to this homelessness crisis and to ensure that homeless youth in the area get access to basic resources and support.
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: $6,550**

Thank you to our Impact Partners!

Leslie Allen
Dee Andrews
Lauren Conley
Peggy Driscoll &
Rob Keeley, MD
Susi Gardner
Daniel Hassan
Jeff Hirota
Kevin Kelley

Cindy Lindsay &
Steve Sheafor
Katherine McIntyre
Mark Mikkelsen
Ashley Rumble
Alden Sherman
Lillian Sutcliffe
Jeremy Wilson

Interested in volunteering?
Contact info@youthroots.org
The following organizations were awarded a grant based on their ability to meet the funding priorities of the 15 Forever YouthBoard:

The Inn Between of Longmont - $3,000
The Inn Between of Longmont’s mission is to provide supportive housing and promote stability to diverse homeless families and individuals by utilizing community resources, advocacy, and life skills training. They have a student incentive program that offers at-risk, homeless youth a safe, stable, and supportive environment. They also have an Education Center Program for youth, and provide skills classes and enrichment opportunities for resident youth.

Attention Homes - $3,550
Attention Homes’ vision is a world in which every young person has a safe place to live and the attention they need. Established in 1966, Attention Homes has served over 12,000 young individuals as they become healthy, productive members of the community. Attention Homes offers youth ages 12-18 of any gender a Qualified Residential Treatment Program, an overnight emergency shelter, and a daytime Drop-In Center, and they also operate Attention Homes Apartments.

“15 Forever taught me how to identify needs in my community, and it connected me with some amazing teens who share a passion for community service.” - 2020 participant
STUDENT IMPACT

EMPOWERMENT
100% of participants said 15 Forever improved their ability to identify an issue and take action.

COMMUNITY
Students raised awareness and funding (over $6,500) for pressing issues.

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

KNOWLEDGE
100% of participants gained knowledge in 15 Forever curriculum topics.

EMPATHY
100% of participants said 15 Forever improved their empathy skills.

LIFE SKILLS
Participants showed improvement in non-cognitive skills 100% the time.

“[15 Forever] opened my eyes to the broader [issues in] Boulder because sometimes we forget that there are struggles outside of our [own] lives.”

“I met really smart and interesting people, [and] I made a significant change in my community.”
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 come out of my shell, and has shown me the true power youth have to positively impact their communities when they work together.” - 2020 participant