

Introduction

The transition from youth to adulthood is challenging for all young adults – and for those with fewer advantages and limited resources, it can be particularly difficult. That's why our grants are geared towards programs and projects that support young people ages 13-26 who need extra support in order to meet their medical, educational or other needs.... and to achieve their dreams.

We're here to ease the transition to emerging adulthood by supporting access to mental health support, medical treatment, fertility protection during chemotherapy, funds for higher education, camp experiences and much more.

Our mission is to provide financial assistance to Southern California organizations that help disadvantaged and disabled young adults feel seen, heard and understood as they transition to adulthood.



ANNUAL REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Greetings,

In February 2020, I was honored with the role of CEO and the task of preserving the legacy of our Founder and donor Leonard "Lenny" G. Leff. Lenny left us with a simple wish: to help youth and young adults. He also left us with a question to answer: How can we best help? The COVID-19 pandemic demanded an urgency in our response to this question.

At L.L. Foundation for Youth, we believe that the period from the teens through the mid-20's is a critical time. It is a time of challenges and opportunities; a time filled with questions on identity and self, feeling "inbetween" and a "sense of broad possibilities" for the future. No matter what life throws at us, we remember that within every struggle lies an opportunity for growth. This has been so true during COVID. As the pandemic escalated, we entered into conversations with potential grantees, and we chose to focus on responding to what was needed and imagining what was possible. What joy and hope these conversations inspired in us and our grantees!

Throughout 2021, we developed partnerships with nonprofit leaders and organizations that are fully committed to using compassion and expertise to help young adults navigate this time and thrive. In reflecting on our first year of grantmaking and relationship building, I am filled with gratitude for all that our Board, team and partners have accomplished. Thank you.

I invite you to review the impact celebrated in our first ever annual report.

Sincerely, Renate Kreger-Hochleitner President/CEO



\$3.525 million

grants given in 2021



28 organizations

awarded grants



\$126,000 average grant amount







\$850,000 went to medical research that supports issues facing today's youth



22 programs serving Southern California

Los Angeles County
Orange County
Santa Barbara County Ventura
Riverside County
San Bernardino County
Imperial County
San Diego County

2021 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

\$3.525 Million given

14% of grants supported children of youth/young adult students

and/or working parents (0-12)

54% supported adolescents/youth (13-17)

43% supported young adults (18-26)

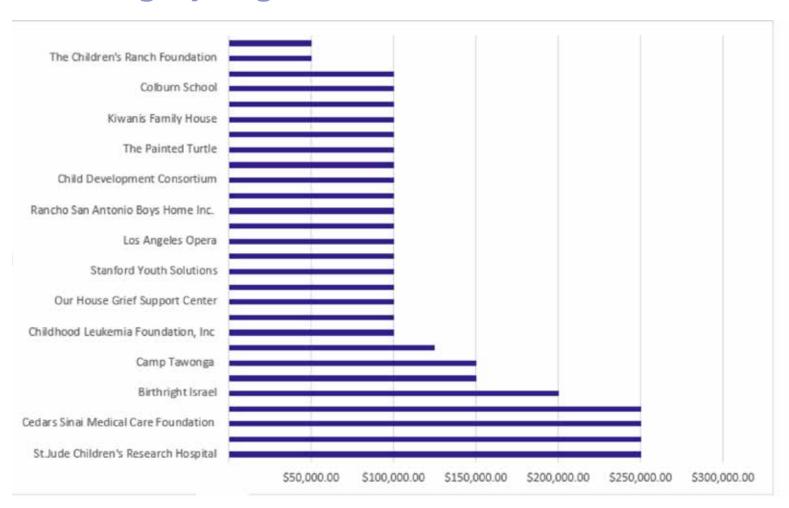
43% of programs targeted at-risk populations

39% supported disabled groups

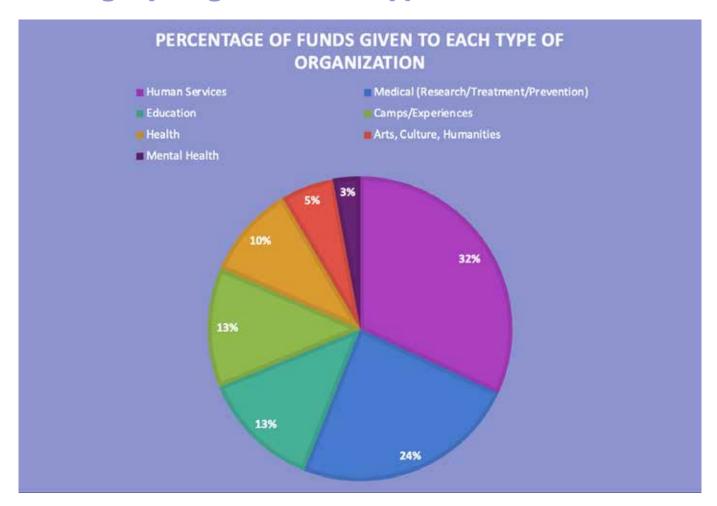
36% supported families

32% supported poor or economically disadvantaged youth

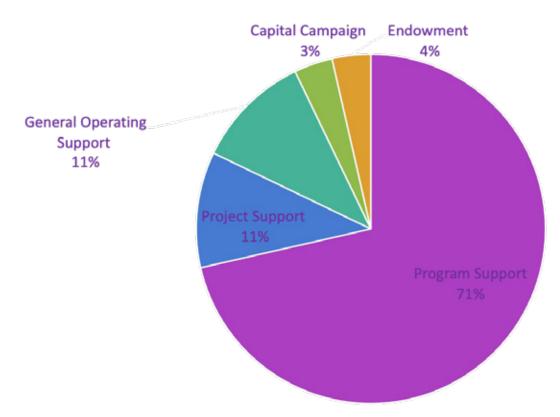
Funding By Organization



Funding By Organization Types



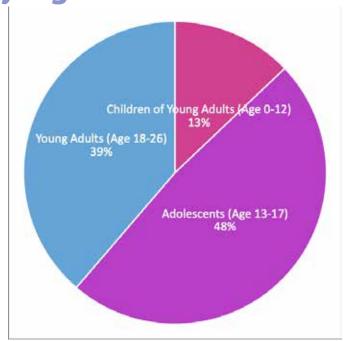
Funding By Type of Support



Funding By Regions Served



Funding By Ages Served



GEOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY

What is a SPA?

A Service Planning Area, or SPA, is simply a specific geographic region within Los Angeles County. Due to the large size of LA County (4,300 square miles), it has been divided into 8 geographic areas.

These distinct regions allow the Department of Public Health to develop and provide more relevant public health and clinical services targeted to the specific health needs of the residents in these different areas.





LOS ANGELES COUNTY



22

grantees serving all or part of LA County.



4

grantees serving San Fernando Valley and the Santa Clarita Region (SPA 2).



100%

of LA County SPAs served.

2021 TOTAL INVESTMENT

\$2.78 MILLION



Transforming lives

56 adolescent patients with Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) continue to receive outstanding care at Cedars-Sinai Pediatric IBD Program

Adolescent and young adult cancer patients at high risk of infertility have access to 2 oncofertility specialists at City of Hope

A Teen Village was reconstructed to serve 200 additional teen campers at Camp Tawonga

2,722 underserved foster youth in Northern California have access to mentoring and Pathways to Permanency Programs with Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

19 17- and 18-year-old campers with serious illnesses who are hoping to grow their leadership and professional skills attend custom training workshops with The Painted Turtle

34 BIPOC and transgender young adults have received individual or group level pychotherapy services with Children's Hospital Los Angeles Transyouth Program

The Ava Grace Counselor Scholarship Fund enabled 6 counselors to return to camp despite financial constraints, and COVID- safe camping experiences were offered to those in need with United in Harmony

Thousands of young adults with disabilities were brought access to a variety of mental and physical health care services and supportive communities with Special Olympics So. Cal

In 2021, L.L. Foundation invested in:

300 adolescent victims of domestic violence were supported with education, housing, health and mental health resources through the YWCA San Gabriel Valley WINGS Program

500 young adults were provided college advisement, academic support, and vocational/job readiness opportunities at A Place Called Home

9 American Indian students received life-changing college scholarships through American Indian College Fund

American Jewish young adults will continue to have access to their ancestral homeland thanks to an endowment of Birthright Israel

500 young adult sex trafficking victims were supported through the completion of their high school diplomas, enabling them to leave the streets, enter the military or work in support positions in medicine or law, attend vocational or trade school and receive higher degrees with Children of the Night

7 young adults with special needs had their rehabilitative work supercharged on a private Ranch space with horses, chickens, rabbits, and staff support with The Children's Ranch Foundation

An additional outreach coordinator was hired to train Certified Service Providers, supporting hundreds of teenagers experiencing cancer-related hair loss with Wigs for Kids

40 children and 10 infants were provided with free childcare services and resources, enabling 37 young adult parents and an untold number of other supportive family members to afford to stay enrolled in school or focus on professional development with Child Development Consortium

3 leadership academies developed a future diverse artistic workforce among 200 high school and college students, honing their professional and life skills in the process with Los Angeles Opera

37 high potential, low income youth who demonstrated excellence on an orchestral instrument were supported through the Herbert Zipper Scholars program with Colburn School

16 young adults between the ages of 18 and 23, all of whom lack family support, resources, money and a place to live, were supported and found belonging in the Transitional Housing Program and Education program at Rancho Antonio Boys Home Inc

40 children, 21 teens, 4 young adult volunteers, and 38 guardians attended an in-person grief camp where they learned strategies to support themselves and each other through the grief process in a safe space with Our House Grief Support Center

285 iPads were distributed to young cancer patients for emotional, mental, and educational support during their cancer treatment process through Childhood Leukemia Foundation, Inc

3 emotionally, physically, and psychologically healing retreats at Canyon Ranch in Arizona were facilitated for young adults grappling with chronic and life-threatening illnesses with Dream Street Foundation

1,800 families of adolescents and young adults were provided with temporary supportive housing at Kiwanis Family House

136 young adults at-risk of falling into a cycle of poverty were provided with hands-on training in high-demand industrial arts "shop" skills, workshops in communication, resume building, mock interviews, professionalism, barrier assessment wrap-around supportive services, and job search and placement assistance, with Lost Angeles Children's Project

170 students with special needs at Kayne Eras School were prepared for post-secondary studies or competitive employment with Exceptional Children's Foundation

44 visually-impaired students were offered an Expanded Core Curriculum to teach functional mobility, social, and independent living skills with Braille Institute

A study of 1000 young adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder who are also experiencing anxiety, depression and/or trauma will bolster the medical community's understanding of and response to Autism thanks to Autism Partnership Foundation

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: Children's Hospital Los Angeles Center for Transyouth Health & Development (CTYHD)



Transgender youth experience disparities in violence, substance abuse, suicide risk, and sexual risk, contributing to lifelong health inequities. Since 2021, L.L. Foundation for Youth has developed a strong partnership with The Center for Transyouth Health and Development to mitigate these issues. LLFY's grant of \$250,000 focused on supporting the expansion of behavioral health as well as closing critical gaps in funding for gender affirming medical care.

The program's nationally-renowned director, Johanna Olson-Kennedy, MD reports that "the generous support from the L.L. Foundation for Youth has allowed us to expand services, particularly mental health services. We have been able to hire an additional master's level clinical social worker as well as launch a new trainee program to build the capacity of psychiatrists to provide gender affirming psychiatric services." Community engagement activities are also a focus. During the pandemic The Center shifted to virtual programming and was able to expand its geographical reach and admit patients who would have never come in otherwise. As a result, the program has bolstered its staff of medical professionals. The waitlist for admittance into the program has been reduced from 6 months to 3 months, and The Center continues to seek additional resources and staffing to scale their growing clientele.

The Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) is the largest transgender youth clinic in the United States. Its fearless and compassionate commitment to gender care has served as a beacon of hope to hundreds of gender diverse children, adolescents, young adults, and their families. CHLA works tirelessly to advance the field through innovative practice, training, and research, guided by the collective voice of the trans community.







The generous funds from the L.L. Foundation have provided critical support to expand behavioral health, support access to gender affirming medical care, provided a foundation for new initiatives to enter BIPOC adolescents and young adults and supported building the capacity of new providers to enter this growing area of medical and psychiatric healthcare."

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: LA Opera's Youth Leadership Academy



L.L. Foundation for Youth proudly supports LA Opera's Leadership Academy with a grant of \$100,000. The Academy creates access to the powerful and inspiring art form of opera for young Angelenos experiencing geographic or financial constraints. Its dedicated staff works to ensure that the opera company reflects the diversity of the community both on and off stage, and showcases the many different career options available in supporting the performing arts. The program often serves as participating adolescents' first professional development opportunity.

LA Opera's trained facilitators have honed their methodology, visiting local schools in underserved communities to provide resume workshops and encouraging students to use their new professional skills to apply to LA Opera's Leadership Academy. Applicants are formally interviewed, further bolstering a sense of professionalism and achievement. This theme of empowerment is consistent throughout the program, allowing participants to set their own pace and goals. Students who express interest in the arts are welcomed, gaining access to years of mentorship and career motivation.





As a result of this grant, the Academy has fully implemented the Russell Thomas Youth Artist Training Academy with four high school vocalists, welcomed two new high school Leadership Academy interns, and will initiate a Tech Academy workshop in Spring."

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: Camp Tawonga



L.L. Foundation for Youth proudly supports Camp Tawonga with a grant of \$150,000. Camp Tawonga has served as a leader in Jewish youth camping experiences for 95 years. Running programming for children, families, and young adults at their stunning residential campsite next to Yosemite National Park, Camp Tawonga provides an exemplary space for youths to build self-esteem, find value in their truest selves, build life-long friendships an appreciation for nature.

The Camp is "building a new teen village with the generous support from the L.L. Foundation for Youth that will be a beautiful home for the teens to deepen their community, support their development and growth, and provide nature-based Jewish experiences that deepen their spiritual depth," says Development Director Lisa Wetheim.

In response to residual effects of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, Tawonga provides both campers and counselors with various mental health services, including group therapy and one-on-one private sessions with Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) and Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT). Therapists are on staff at all times. The camp has also hired Trauma Specialists for Group Trauma Work.



A space such as this is incredibly freeing for me, and has been truly life-changing. As a teenager, life can be stressful and difficult. The dual pressures of school and social life are hard to manage. Tawonga gives me an opportunity to leave those pressures behind for a while, which allows for time to work on myself."



