



L.L. Foundation
FOR YOUTH

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**



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Introduction

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We recognize the pivotal ages of 13-26 as a transformative period filled with both questions and opportunities for growth, despite the inevitable hurdles along the way.

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Greetings,

I am honored to address you as the CEO of the L.L. Foundation for Youth, a role in which I am deeply privileged to continue the legacy of our founder, Leonard “Lenny” G. Leff. Our foundation is dedicated to championing the cause of youth empowerment in an era marked by rapid change and unique challenges. In today's dynamic world, it is imperative that we continually reassess how we can best support the younger generation. We recognize the pivotal ages of 13-26 as a transformative period filled with both questions and opportunities for growth, despite the inevitable hurdles along the way.

Our approach emphasizes authentic relationships with those we serve, enabling us to witness firsthand the profound impact of hope and the pursuit of a fulfilling life. Throughout the year 2023, we've worked to fund 39 grants for organizations committed to empowering youth across a diverse spectrum, ranging from mental health support to exposing youth to the arts.

I invite you to delve into our third annual report, where we highlight the remarkable achievements and progress made by our beneficiaries. Together, let us continue to pave the way for a brighter future for the next generation.

R. S. Kreger

Renate Kreger-Hochleitner, CEO
L.L. Foundation for Youth

Our 2023 Grant Contributions

\$2.5M
in cash distributions



Riding
Emphasizing
Individual Needs
and Strengths
(REINS)

39
total grants
funded

\$64k
was the average
amount of all grants
disbursed in the given
year

Our Impact:

Grantmaking Strategy in Action

We serve adolescents, youth, and young adults ages 13-26.



*A Place
Called
Home*

Supporting Research and Treatment

This year we committed to three one-year grants focused on medical treatment and research. We supported medical treatment and research ranging from kidney transplants to helping youth overcome cancer.

Youth Expression

This year we increased our investment in the arts. The arts are critical for youth empowerment and expression.

Multi-Year Grants

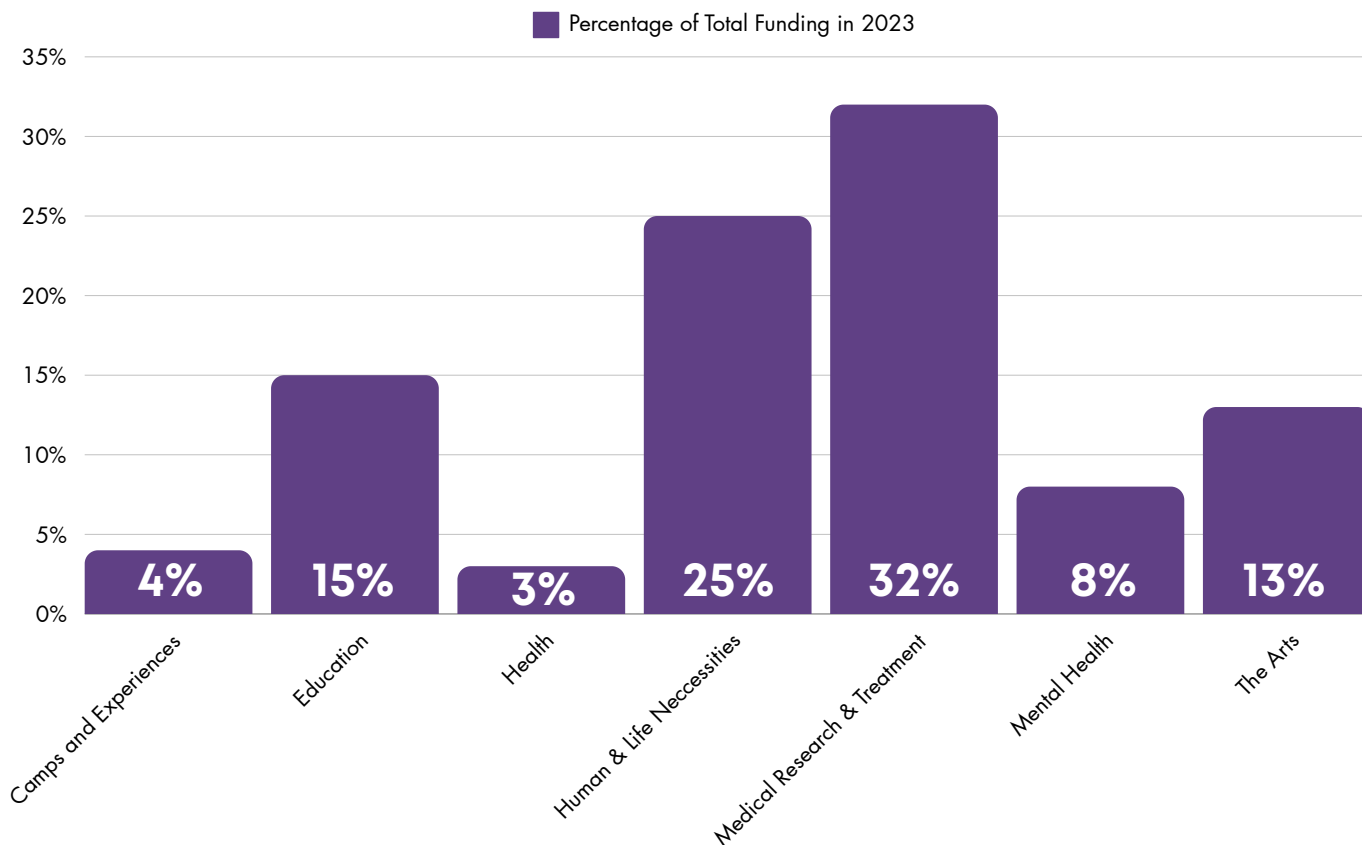
At LIFY, we and our grantees face a decision: larger one-year grants or smaller, but consistent and reliable, multi-year grants. This decision varies for each grantee based on multiple factors. Multi-year grants enhance sustainability and reduce reliance on individual funders.



*Lost
Angels
Children's
Project*

Funding by Program Area:

In 2023, we made significant strides in **Medical Research and Treatment**, **Human and Life Necessities**, and **Education**. These program areas are crucial, addressing the most pressing needs of the youth we serve. Through our efforts, we have been able to advance medical research and treatment options, ensuring better health outcomes. We have also focused on providing essential human and life necessities, guaranteeing that basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing are met. Additionally, we have enhanced educational opportunities, empowering young people with the knowledge and skills they need for a successful future.



Serving California

This year, we proudly extended our support to 39 organizations across the state of California. On a national level, we supported five grantees, ensuring they received the assistance needed to thrive. We reached all eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs) in Los Angeles, demonstrating our commitment to comprehensive and widespread support.



4 Grantees served in Northern California

1 Grantee served in Central California

34 Grantees served in Southern California

We covered all 8 SPA's in Los Angeles this year!

5 of our organizations serve grantees nationally!

A Bold Investment:

The LLYF Antelope Valley Initiative

Our community spoke, we *listened*.

The L.L. Foundation for Youth (LLFY) Antelope Valley Initiative represents a bold investment addressing the significant need for supportive services for youth in Northern LA County. Recognizing this critical need, we collaborated with our trusted grantee Lost Angels Children's Project to identify other organizations spearheading essential programs for young people. Lost Angels Children's Project introduced us to a local leader, Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH). Together we identified and considered other nonprofits with resources the community needed including Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters. These organizations were selected for their commitment to providing employment opportunities, vocational training, and mental health support to youth and emerging adults in the Antelope Valley community.



Lost Angels Children's Project

The Lost Angels Children's Project provided critical vocational training and employment pipelines.



Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters

The Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters made strides with innovative mental health support creating and using a mobile app for peer to peer support.



Antelope Valley Partners for Health

Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) provided supportive programming and services for at risk youth.

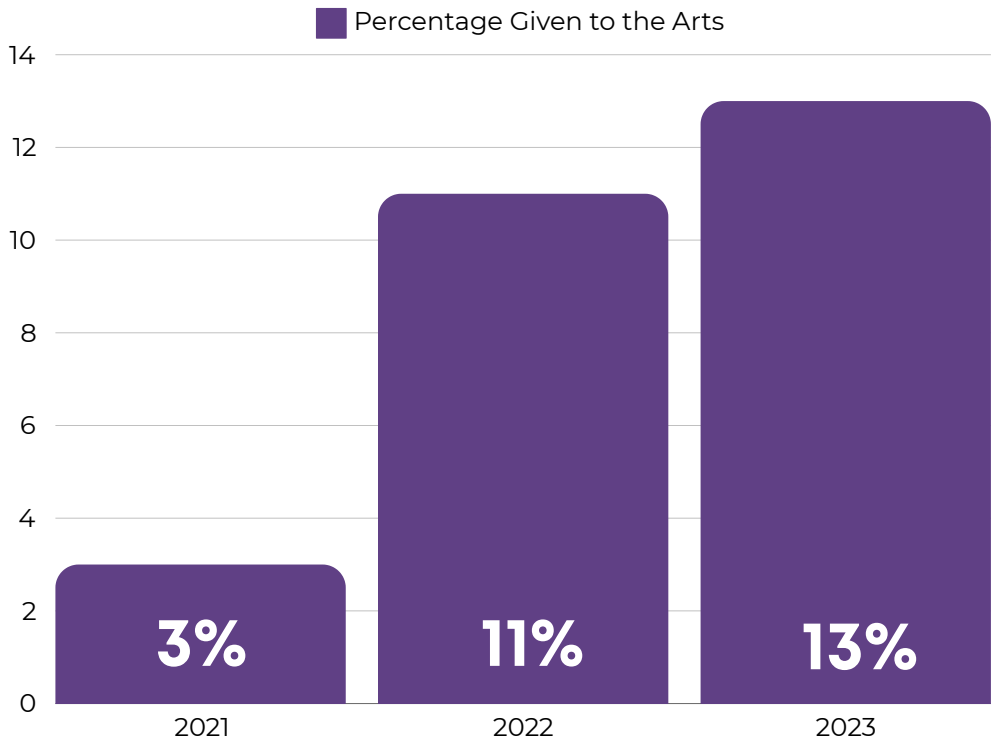
Lost
Angels
Children's
Project

The Colburn School



Supporting Youth Expression

Across 2021, 2022, and 2023 we've seen notable increases in the percentages of our funding in the Arts. In 2023, 13% of our funding supported programs focused on the arts. After our 2021 self-evaluation and annual reporting process, the board made a commitment to increase funding to the arts. This aligned beautifully with LLFY's belief that the arts are essential for youth expression and development!



Supporting Critical Research

This year, we continued our commitment to organizations advancing critical research focused on adolescents and young adult health.

Cedars-Sinai

Cedars-Sinai conducted research in pediatric nephrology, focusing on the early detection of renal transplant rejection in adolescent/young adult patients. This age group is vulnerable to transplant rejection due to noncompliance with medication and protocols. This research aims to improve long-term graft survival through medication and behavior changes.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles

The Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children's Hospital Los Angeles offers comprehensive medical and mental health care and conducts pioneering research to improve health care outcomes for transgender and gender-diverse youth.

City of Hope

City of Hope's Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) program addresses the unique needs of Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer patients and survivors. A Patient Navigator addresses the psychosocial needs of AYAs with cancer through counseling, advocacy, and provision of supportive resources, including oncofertility. This program improves AYAs' ability to manage their cancer experiences and improves long-term well-being.

Multi-Year Grants & Private Funding



Grant Reliance

Our grantees are highly dependent on grants in general. Our multi-year grants tend to be smaller annually than one-year grants. These multi-year grants increase sustainability and decrease grant reliance on any single funder.

Why does L.L. Foundation for Youth take the **risk** of being the only **private funder** of a program?

Taking the risk of being the only private funder on innovative programs and research projects was a strategic decision for LLFY. This investment enables critical research, training opportunities and progress that would otherwise remain unfunded and have potential to move the needle on causes or treatments.

For example, in the case of medical research, the potential outcomes include significant publications and subsequent funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) or other private sources. We undertake this risk because we believe in the team's capabilities, support the cause, and recognize the immense rewards that can follow, such as increased funding and recognition in the scientific community.

The Youth We Serve

Populations We Serve

The youth our grantees serve come from a wide range of diverse backgrounds, each bringing their unique experiences and perspectives.

26%

At-Risk
Populations

3%

Families

8%

Health or
Disabilities

5%

Homeless

37%

Poor/ Economically
Disadvantaged/
Indigent

2%

Victims/
Survivors

16%

Students

3%

Foster Care or
Post Foster
Care

Camp
Tawanga



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Autism Partnership Foundation

In 1994, Drs. McEachin and Leaf founded Autism Partnership to address the need for comprehensive services for families with children and adolescents diagnosed with autism. Drawing from their extensive experience, they developed the Autism Partnership Method, a progressive approach to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) treatment.

A multi-year grant from the L.L. Foundation for Youth allowed Autism Partnership to expand its online programs, **reaching over 600,000** participants. This grant enabled them to offer ABA certification at no cost and automate their Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) program, enhancing efficiency and scalability.

The RBT course, a critical resource during the pandemic, ranks #1 in the field and is among the top 10 in pass rates according to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Surveys show 94% of enrollees felt the training covered all necessary content, and 89% found it useful for their future roles. The program continues to grow, with over 500,000 registered users as of November 2023.

Autism Partnership received NCCA accreditation for their Certified Progressive Behavior Analyst-Autism Professional (CPBA-AP) certification on July 31, 2023, ensuring high-quality training for professionals. The online RBT training allows students, even those without college experience, to advance their careers.



Many enrollees come from households without bank accounts, often first-generation immigrant families. Stories include siblings of children with autism taking the course to better communicate with their brothers and sisters, and young teachers improving their classroom communication skills.

Autism Partnership aims to provide the highest quality and most comprehensive training available. Their exceptional progress in 2023 exemplified the power of possibilities that multi-year grants provide.

Quick Facts

- During the pandemic their reach was at 150k users, and skyrocketed to 600k+
- 84% of users enrolled were ages 18-24
- 94% report that the training covered all the content on the RBT Task
- 89% believe the information contained in Autism Partnerships course will be useful in their future roles

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Center Theatre Group

Center Theatre Group (CTG) is a vibrant hub where artists, audiences, community members, students, and educators connect through the transformative power of storytelling. Their programs support artists at all career stages, engage audiences, integrate theatre into daily life, and inspire future theatregoers and artists.

In 2023, CTG served over 3,000 students from 103 schools, 80% of which are Title 1 Schools. Traditionally focused on high school students, their Student Matinee program now includes middle school students.

L.L. Foundation for Youth supported CTG's Student Matinee Program, which introduces students to world-class theatre, equips educators with arts education tools, and provides equitable opportunities for marginalized communities. This program is vital to CTG's mission of accessible arts education. In order to make the magic of theater accessible to all, CTG offers ASL translation and Audio Description services.

Post-pandemic, CTG is excited to be back in person with students. In 2023, their production of "A Christmas Carol" received enthusiastic feedback from students. Youth have expressed gratitude for CTG's impact and the power of seeing young artists from diverse backgrounds on stage.

“
(my) dream of
becoming a
Broadway
actress is possible!

-A student after
watching a CTG
performance



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Our House: Camp Erin

Our House is dedicated to supporting grieving children, teens, and their families. In partnership with L.L. Foundation for Youth, they hosted two sessions of Camp Erin LA in 2023: a three-day sleepaway camp in June and a day camp in September. This funding ensured the program was completely free for campers and guardians.

In response to Covid and post-Covid issues, Our House and Camp Erin found unexpected success with the implementation of the Day Camp format. This structure allows parents and guardians to participate in separate programming related to but separate from the teens, helping guardians better support their young adults. The day camp program proved highly impactful for immediate and long-term grief support. As a result, more families are now participating in the Family Support Program (FSP), which primarily serves older kids and teens.

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The L.L. Foundation for Youth grant has been instrumental in allowing us to provide comprehensive grief support to children, teens, and their families. The addition of the day camp format has significantly enhanced our ability to reach and support more families."

Our House Director

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Camp Erin LA is named in memory of Erin Metcalf, who wished to help other children navigate grief. A highlight of each camp session is the Luminary Ceremony, where campers create luminaries to honor their deceased loved ones. This ceremony fosters a sense of community and healing among participants.

The impact of Camp Erin LA extends beyond the campers. Many volunteers are under 26 years old, and several are alumni of Camp Erin. One volunteer, who attended the camp at age 9 after her father's death, is now studying to become a social worker and requested to work with 9-year-old campers. Her story illustrates the power of Camp to heal and the desire to “pay it forward.”

With continued support from L.L. Foundation for Youth, Camp Erin aims to expand its programs and make a lasting difference in the lives of grieving families.

Transforming Lives

Our Grantees



A Place Called Home's Teen & Young Adult Services (TYAS) department provided vocational preparation, career and college guidance, scholarships, mentoring and life skills classes to support a positive transition to adulthood.



ALS Golden West Chapter utilized discretionary funds to support the L.L. Foundation for Youth Fund for teen and young adult family members impacted by ALS.



American Indian College Fund was able to support Native American students by providing scholarships for colleges and vocational schools in California.



Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) focused funding on their Youth Mental Health & Wellness Program.



Autism Partnership Foundation was able to facilitate a free registered behavior technician training program which benefited both the young adult trainees and the youth they served.



The **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor (BGCLAH)** funded the new Workforce Development Center which helped expand their Career Bound/Workforce Development Program from high school students to include young adults ages 18-24.



The **Braille Institute** was able to hire additional staff and facilitate a dynamic college tour for participants. This tour empowered students to "dream big".



Camp Tawonga was able to support hundreds of teens of Jewish faith whose families are unable to afford full camp fees. These teens and young adults were given the tools to navigate mental health issues, find their footing and become their best selves.



Cedars-Sinai Pediatric Nephrology department was able to evaluate new methods to detect early-stage transplant rejection and develop a protocol to help prepare patients in transitioning to adult care.



Center Theatre Group funded their Education & Community Partnerships program, introducing thousands of students to world-class theatre, equipping hundreds of educators with arts integration tools, and offering equitable opportunities for marginalized students.



Challenged Athletes Foundation distributed grants to Southern California athletes aged 13-26, providing adaptive sports equipment, prostheses, coaching, training, clinics, and travel expenses for athletes with permanent physical disabilities.



Childhood Leukemia Foundation continued their Keeping Kids Connected iPad Program which has distributed iPads since 2011 to educate, empower and elevate the spirits of pediatric oncology patients.



Children's Hospital Los Angeles was able to continue services and training that address critical gaps in mental health care for transgender youth and related research.



Children's Ranch Foundation was able to fully fund their Lulu Xochi Calderon Program which provided young adults impacted by developmental, social/emotional and learning challenges with the opportunity to work at the Ranch.



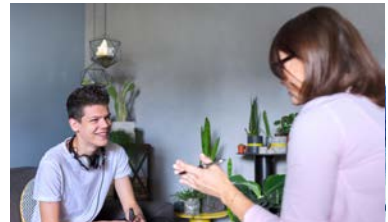
City of Hope's Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Program and Patient Navigation offered therapeutic and psychological interventions for AYA from diagnosis through survivorship, including oncofertility treatment, resource navigation, and support activities.



The Colburn School's Herbert Zipper Scholars program successfully offered highly motivated students from low-income families the opportunity to enroll, tuition-free, in a comprehensive music education at the Colburn School, one of the nation's premier arts organizations.



Deep Springs College was able to continue their instructional work and their signature Summer Program, welcoming new students. They were able to add writing tutors which further engaged and challenged students.



Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services was able to facilitate their Mental Health Services' Teen Line that provides support, resources, and hope to youth through a hotline of professionally trained teen counselors.



East West Players expanded their Theater for Youth program, which reached over 11,000 youth and families and brought a touring production into schools, community colleges and community centers.



Exceptional Children's Foundation supported a Music Program at Kayne Eras School for students in grades 9-12. This school offers special education, therapeutic services, and experiential learning activities that promote the academic success of students with special needs.



The **Flintridge Center** was able to receive support for their vocational program curriculum and supplies which included trade-specific tools needed to be job-ready. They were also able to provide weekly stipends and additional support for needs such as transportation and personal protective equipment.



Foundation for Women Warriors provided emergency financial assistance stipends and child care stipends to women veterans and active-duty servicewomen ages 18-26 to prevent homelessness and enhance their personal and economic well being.



Hathaway-Sycamores Child & Family Services was able to provide a range of services through their Family Resource Center in Antelope Valley. Services included counseling, after-school tutoring, a college readiness program, and support for families through resources like a food pantry.



Hillsides received funding to help cover expenses for their Youth Moving On (YMO) program in Pasadena and expand key YMO workforce development services into East Los Angeles. Funds served transition-aged youth (TAY).



The **Japanese American Cultural & Community Center** was able to waive fees for a cohort of 25 young adults studying various Japanese art forms. Over the course of two years, this group is set to learn from community elders how to cultivate skills and arts-based leadership as they transition into adulthood.



Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles's Teen Talk Program addressed teen suicide prevention via their peer-to-peer support app. Youth were trained to provide peer support through text, with training and services highly targeted in Antelope Valley. Certificates were offered following training.



LA Opera was able to support the development of the future generation of a diverse artistic workforce by creating opportunities for high school and college students to learn and work alongside professionals through its Leadership Academy and its Russell Thomas Youth Artist Training Academy.



Lost Angels Children's Project, Inc. utilized a multi-year grant to facilitate their 12-week vocational training program and to provide financial assistance with life necessities in Antelope Valley.



Motivating Our Students Through Experience supported a college tour program for young women from low-income backgrounds. The program included local and extended overnight tours and helped students from 7th-12th grade set college goals and roadmaps.



New Directions for Youth, Inc. continued to utilize funding for its "bridgefund" to cover mental health counseling, gang intervention, and other program costs while awaiting LA County reimbursements.



Notre Dame High School was able to continue the successful role of a designated learning specialist who coordinated all of the support services and accommodations for students with learning differences.



Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services received funding for facility improvements at its Woodland Hills campus. Onsite services focused on wellness, education, relationships, and careers to help young adults develop independent living skills and social support systems.



Our House Grief Support Center focused on adolescent campers at Camp Erin ages 13-17 who were experiencing grief. All the campers had experienced the death of a parent, sibling, best friend, grandparent, or someone else significant in their lives.



Pacific Asian Counseling Services was able to provide youth across LA with mental health counseling, individual rehabilitation, and targeted case management.



Rancho San Antonio was able to update their existing garage to build out a state of the art music studio and creative healing arts treatment facility for youth who have been involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems.



Riding Emphasizing Individual Needs and Strengths (REINS) provided equine therapy and mental health support for youth and young adults ages 13-26, focusing on those in foster care, post-foster care, and transitional age youth (TAY).



Stanford Sierra Youth & Families was able to facilitate the placement of youth into stable and caring families. Highlights of their program focused on providing permanency and life skills training for transition age youth in foster care.



The Water Buffalo Club was able to provide backpacks filled with school supplies, pleasure reading books, necessities, clothing, and shoes at the start of the school year. WBC supported former foster youth attending college.