



Young Philanthropists Recruiting New Members

This article appeared in The State Journal-Register on September 2, 2018

If you're looking for a way to help make a difference in our community and connect with others who have the same passion, Young Philanthropists is ready to have you onboard.

Thirteen years ago, the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln created this giving circle to introduce community members to the idea of philanthropy and help them create greater impact by working together. Our focus is on supporting and growing programs that effectively serve local children and youth.

Giving circles like ours make philanthropy easy for people who are at different stages of their careers and lives.

Members pool together annual, tax-deductible contributions, and a portion of those dollars goes back to the community each year through grants to local charities. The remaining portion goes into the Future Fund endowment at the Community Foundation to ensure that our community has a permanent resource for children and youth for generations to come.

We get together three times each year – at a spring kick-off, a fall social (which is coming up soon!) and a grant reception in December – and members are invited, but not required, to volunteer to serve on steering and grant committees.

Since it was founded, YP grants have addressed critical needs of local children and supported new opportunities.

In 2013, our grant to Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery not only covered costs for purchasing formula and diapers, but it also covered transportation costs for families needing the nursery's emergency services.

We have also been able to support the launch of a new initiative through Compass for Kids called the "Parent Teacher Home Visit Project." This evidence-based program is designed to engage less advantaged parents in supporting the educational development of their children.

And last year, we funded a program called "College Ready" through The Outlet. It's a program helping guide boys through high school, whether it's choosing the right classes, opening their eyes to higher education opportunities around them, helping fill out financial aid forms, or working with them to create



Jenna Davlin



strong applications for those institutions. Many of the youth served would be the first in their family to make that jump to higher education, and College Ready lays out a long-term plan to make that happen.

There's so much more to be done, and that's where you come in!

If you are looking for a fun way to make a real difference in our community, I hope you consider joining Young Philanthropists this year. To join or learn more, please visit the Community Foundation's web site at CFL.org or call 217.789.4431.

Jenna Davlin is the Steering Committee chair of Young Philanthropists. To learn more about the giving circle, visit CFL.org or call 217.789.4431.