



*For Immediate Release*

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THRIVE FOUNDATION COMMITS \$2.1 MILLION TO U.S. MENTORING PROGRAMS  
WITH LINKS TO SCHOOLS AND INTEREST IN SCALING

Seven organizations receive funds to expand innovative models  
for positive youth development

MENLO PARK, CA– The Thrive Foundation for Youth announced a grant commitment of \$2.1 million to seven organizations across the U.S. working to further the Foundation’s mission of guiding disadvantaged young people to reach their full potential by strengthening the presence of caring adults (mentors) in their lives. The new grantees will each receive unrestricted grants of \$300,000 over the next two years to accelerate their work in the field of positive youth development.

“We are extremely excited to bring on another cohort of exemplary grantees that are guiding disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential,” said Kelley Gulley, Interim Managing Director. “Each of these organizations has caring adults (mentors) at the core of their strategy to ensure that young people are supported, heard and challenged to reach for and realize their purpose in life, no matter what! We look forward to connecting this group of grantees with our initial cohort to create a community of practice that can learn from each other. There is a unique and sustaining partnership with schools across our portfolio of grantees that will yield lessons for the entire positive youth development field.”

Thrive evaluators will study and learn how these organizations are developing lasting partnership with schools, how youth’s lives are changing as a result of these partnerships and how Thrive Foundation can build tools/innovations to help them be successful in their growth and scaling.

*The Selected Grantees:*

*Intentional, long term, connections with youth.*

The selected organizations offer youth, ages 10 -18, long term connections with paid staff mentors (or caring adults). The presence and impact of caring adults in the lives of

disadvantaged youth has extremely positive results when these relationships are long-term and last from early adolescence through high school and beyond.

*Strong working partnerships with schools*

In addition, the selected organizations all have strong, working partnerships with their local schools. Some provide services during the school day, some implement intensive afterschool programming, while others have center-based school programming in the community which serves as a home base.

*Place-based growing and scaling*

These organizations seek to collaborate more with schools and school districts to serve more youth – growing in place rather than broadening reach to other places.

Grants for the following organizations will begin on December 1, 2015:

1. [Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula](#) (East Palo Alto/Menlo Park/Redwood City, CA) provides low-income youth with the expanded learning time opportunities they need to graduate from high school, and be ready to succeed in college and career. In addition to providing young people a safe place and positive relationships, they partner with schools to have greater impact on their participants' academic success.
2. [Community Youth Center of San Francisco](#) (San Francisco, CA) empowers and strengthens high-need Asian youth and their families by providing comprehensive youth development through education, employment training, advocacy, and other supportive services. They seek to empower youth to reach their highest potential as individuals with a positive self and cultural identity.
3. [Harlem RBI](#) (Harlem, NY) uses the power of teams to coach, teach and inspire youth to recognize their potential and realize their dreams. They offer a unique brand of youth development in which every child plays on a baseball or softball team while engaging in academic and enrichment activities.
4. [LA Brotherhood Crusade, Inc.](#) (Los Angeles, CA) helps low-income youth improve their quality of life through the provision of trauma-informed youth development mentoring programs, remedial education and wrap-around social services. Their services extend to high-risk, low-income, underserved and disenfranchised youth and their families.
5. [Project GRAD](#) (Sylmar/San Fernando/Mission Hills, CA) works to raise the high school graduation, college acceptance and college retention rates for first-generation, low-income, Latino students. They work to instill the social-emotional competencies, college knowledge, and academic tools students need for college success.
6. [Reality Changers](#) (San Diego, CA) seeks to transform lives, schools and communities by providing youth from disadvantaged backgrounds with the academic support, financial assistance and leadership training to become first

generation college students. Their programs help low-income youth become 1st generation college students and guide high-performing 12th graders to the nation's top colleges.

7. [Wyman Center, Inc.](#) (Ferguson, St. Louis, MO) enables teens from disadvantaged circumstances to lead successful lives and build strong communities. They use a three-pronged approach to achieve this mission: they empower teens, equip adults and change communities. Wyman uses an evidence-based prevention program that builds social-emotional skills, and decreases risk behaviors in at-risk youth by using a positive development approach.

These seven, well-established organizations will join Thrive's current cohort of eight grantees to form a learning community. Thrive works with this community of practitioners to understand, learn from, and share their respective best and promising practices and co-designs innovations to address key needs and challenges. This unique foundation-grantee relationship combines design-thinking principles and technology with scientific research and on-the-ground knowledge to study and promote the frameworks of successful caring adult models and to inform and strengthen grantees' plans for growth and scaling.

## ABOUT US

Founded in 1995 by Silicon Valley investor Bob King and his wife Dottie, the Thrive Foundation for Youth supports young people during pivotal years of their lives – ages 10 to 18 – in reaching their full potential. Our mission is to guide disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential by strengthening the connection and impact of caring adults in their lives. Thrive believes in the combined power of applied research and on-the-ground practice to make a tangible difference in the lives of young people. Our research is dedicated to answering the question: "What helps a young person to thrive?" Our active partnerships with youth-serving organizations are dedicated to putting that knowledge into practice, and to changing as many lives as possible throughout the country.

For more information, visit [www.thrivefoundation.org](http://www.thrivefoundation.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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