

Project Archive

2010-2020

The Allianz Foundation for North America (AZFNA) is dedicated to empowering young people to shape a secure future. Through major grants to support the creation and expansion of programs, AZFNA helps make possible diverse opportunities for personal and professional development, including programs for college and career-readiness, independent living, youth leadership, economic and social inclusion, entrepreneurial training, mentoring, and healthy living.

Breakthrough New York (BTNY) is a 10-year college success program committed to getting high-potential, low-income NYC middle school students to and through four-year colleges. AZFNA funding supported BTNY's College Bound Program, the college readiness component that works with students during the high school years to help gain acceptance and matriculate at 4-year universities. In an effort to increase the caliber of college matriculations, these services implemented a coaching model to increase support to over 100 hours annually. BTNY serves more than 500 young people each year.
[HTTP://WWW.BTNY.ORG/](http://www.btny.org/)

Larkin Street Youth Services' mission is to create a continuum of services that inspires young people who are homeless in San Francisco to move beyond the street. On any given night, more than 1,300 unaccompanied youth under age 25 sleep in shelters or on the streets of San Francisco. The agency promotes safety, stability, positive role models, and the ability to reach one's full potential. Each year, Larkin Street helps more than 2,500 youth, ages 12-24, invest in their future by focusing squarely on achieving stable housing, a solid education, career-track employment, and physical and emotional wellness. Consistently, three out of four youth who fully engage in Larkin Streets' programs exit homelessness. AZFNA funding supported the expansion of Larkin Street Academy (LSA), a continuum of education, employment, and leadership development services that closes the achievement gap for homeless youth, while also supporting a new career-track curriculum through the agency's Learning Centers, in both cases increasing total numbers served to 600 from 475.
[HTTPS://LARKINSTREETYOUTH.ORG/](https://larkinstreetyouth.org/)

INCLUDEnyc is the leading source of information for youth with disabilities and their families in New York City. The agency's mission is to promote positive futures by offering services that enhance the quality of life for young people with any disability, birth to age 26. AZFNA funding served to expand the Project Possibility program, which helps youth with disabilities from low-income neighborhoods. The program gives youth the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to navigate social service systems, and explore education **and employment options. The agency works with each youth to create a "person-centered"** plan that maximizes self-sufficiency based on his/her/their strengths, interests, and needs. Currently, the program is being expanded by working with 100 young people and adding an innovative series of activities designed to help youth with disabilities foster relationships in personal and professional contexts, while also developing critical life skills. [HTTP://WWW.INCLUDENYC.ORG/](http://www.includenyc.org/)

AZFNA is supporting the Boys and Girls Club of the Twin Cities, a not-for-profit organization that provides 12,000 at-risk youth from high-crime areas in St. Paul and Minneapolis with a secure adult supervised environment in which a diverse range of academic and recreational programs offer youth the opportunity to reach their full potential as productive and caring citizens. The AZFNA grant enabled the Girls and Boys Club of the Twin to enhance their Character and Citizen Program, encouraging young people to realize the importance of service to others and of giving back to their communities. The Character and Citizenship Program engages youth in different Club and Community service projects, based on varying factors of age and gender, that provide participants with a unique leadership development experience, granting them the prospect of acting on their humanitarian ideals while building character, self-respect, and strong links to both family and community. [HTTP://WWW.BOYSANDGIRLS.ORG/](http://www.boysandgirls.org/)

AZFNA supported the creation of an Upper School - 9th to 12th grade - for the Highlands School's community of special-needs youth in the greater Baltimore, MD, area. Each grade accommodates 12 students, bringing the Upper School to a total of 48. The expansion is based on the Highland School's philosophy of supporting hands-on learning and the exploration and questioning of surroundings, preparing students not only for college or a career, but for life. The Highlands School educates young people with dyslexia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other language-based learning differences. [HTTP://WWW.HIGHLANDSCHOOL.ORG/](http://www.highlandsschool.org/)

AZFNA supported the expansion of City Incite's daytime programming in Chicago-area schools, including the Noble Network Charter School system of 18 local schools. City Incite teaches students the fundamentals needed to think like, act like and become good citizens. Programs focus on promoting problem-solving, critical thinking, and dialogue around ways to stimulate the economy, build sustainable communities and prepare for the workforce before graduation. City Incite has a particular focus on raising graduation rates for at-risk, African-American young men.

[HTTP://CITYINCITE.ORG/](http://CITYINCITE.ORG/)

AZFNA supported Keystone Community Services, a not-for-profit organization focused on improving the quality of life of underserved individuals and families in greater St. Paul, MN, in expanding their Youth Express program. Youth Express develops the talent and potential of at-risk youth from low-income families (ages 14-18), by engaging participants in a social-enterprise model of employment training and apprenticeships at two youth-directed enterprises, Express Bike Shop and Express Yourself Clothing. Participants receive a combination of training, coaching and hands-on experience in which they learn key entrepreneurial and business concepts, while simultaneously learning how to operate and develop a business. The AZFNA grant made it possible for an additional 50 adolescents to take part in the program, created new opportunities for paid apprenticeships at existing businesses and not-for-profit organizations, and allowed for the development of an additional youth-directed enterprise.

[HTTP://WWW.KEYSTONESERVICES.ORG/](http://WWW.KEYSTONESERVICES.ORG/)

AZFNA supported the expansion of At the Crossroads, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering the most disconnected homeless youth in San Francisco to create safe and healthy lives. At The Crossroads aids homeless youth who have experienced repeated trauma, painful transitions, and minimal support by helping them identify goals and accomplish major life transitions. The AZFNA grant facilitated the **launch of the organization's On-The-Spot Counseling** program, which enables the most experienced At The Crossroad counselors to offer homeless youth on-the-spot meetings within its outreach neighborhoods. The Foundation also supported At-The-Crossroads in expanding its Incarcerated Youth Services and One-to-One Counseling Services, providing more homeless youth with the support needed to build stable and successful lives.

[HTTPS://ATTHECROSSROADS.ORG](https://ATTHECROSSROADS.ORG)

AZFNA supported Girls For A Change (GFC) – a not-for-profit organization in Richmond, VA, and designed to empower at-risk girls to realize their full potential as change agents and women – in strengthening the organization's core program, Girl Action Team. The Girl Action Team program is a 12-week, after-school community and civic engagement program in which low-income, ethnically diverse girls (ages 11 -18) come together in teams and implement a project focused on an issue or community problem they have identified. Through the process of identifying, designing and implementing girl-led solutions to challenges they face in their own neighborhoods, Girl Action Team instills participants with a sense of critical leadership, problem solving, resourcefulness, failure recovery, and teamwork. The support of the AZFNA grant made it possible for Girls For A Change to incorporate five new action teams, enabling GFC to serve as many as an additional 100 girls per year.

[HTTP://WWW.GIRLSFORACHANGE.ORG/](http://www.girlsforachange.org/)

AZFNA supported Girls Incorporated – a not-for-profit-organization in the United States and Canada dedicated to empowering young women to grow into educated, independent and successful individuals – in expanding its Eureka! program. Eureka! is an intensive high-school educational program that provides at-risk girls from underserved backgrounds with preparation and opportunities for higher education and careers. The AZFNA grant enabled Eureka! to update and extend the original three-year program to a five-year program, incorporating new educational, professional and personal development activities that greatly increase participants' opportunities for post-secondary education and rewarding careers. The Foundation also supported efforts at Eureka! to develop and disseminate the Girls Inc. Job Readiness Seminar, a workshop series which prepares up to 1,200 participants for summer internships and subsequent employment opportunities.

[HTTP://WWW.GIRLSINC.ORG/](http://www.girlsinc.org/)

AZFNA supported Junior Achievement of New York, an educational program for K-12 students from underserved communities in New York City and Long Island, in expanding its High School Heroes program. High School Heroes trains volunteer corps of high school students (ages 13-18) to teach elementary students of their local communities real world concepts and age-appropriate information on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workplace readiness. The AZFNA grant made it possible for High School Heroes to launch JA Job Shadows, a program designed to bring students out of the classroom and into the workplace in academically enriching experiential learning sessions on work-readiness

education and career perspectives. The Foundation enabled High School Heroes to recruit and prepare 100 high school students to become Junior Achievement Heroes and to engage 25 corporate and community volunteers to serve as role models and job shadow hosts.

[HTTP://WWW.JANY.ORG/](http://www.jany.org/)

AZFNA supported CITYarts' Hamilton Grange School Mural Project in New York City's Harlem neighborhood. Located in a former elementary school that is decorated with the colors and mascots of that school, the students was empowered to feel a sense of ownership of their surroundings. The two-year Hamilton Grange mural project included art education workshops, the creation of an indoor mural and the restoration of CITYarts' first Peace Wall in Jacob H. Schiff Park – the school's backyard. Students created a safe, welcoming, and inspiring learning environment and established a sense of belonging in their community. The students also developed the tools to realize their full potential and create strong local and global communities.

[HTTP://WWW.CITYARTS.INFO/](http://www.cityarts.info/)

AZFNA supported Fiver **Children's Foundation's** College Access and Job Training programs for high school students. Fiver students have substantial academic, financial, and social service needs that put them at risk for not completing high school. Program enhancements made possible by the grant ensured students have the knowledge and skills needed for college and career success, while empowering them to successfully complete high school. Students received individual support, College Access Programs (workshops, college tours, SAT prep, advising) and Career Readiness Programs (workshops, job training programs, internships during school break). As part of the program, a full-day seminar with Allianz's own New York Network of Women reinforced curriculum and focus on resume development, goal setting, interview skills and financial literacy.

[HTTP://WWW.FIVER.ORG/](http://www.fiver.org/)

AZFNA supported Soliya – a not-for-profit organization with offices in New York and Cairo that uses internet technology to improve inter-cultural understanding between the West and Muslim-majority countries – to expand their Connect Program. The Connect program, Soliya's flagship initiative, is a semester-long, web-based, cross-cultural dialogue and educational program, which has been integrated into the curricula of accredited courses at more than 100 universities in 27 countries. Through the medium of videoconferencing,

Connect provides an online forum for education and cross-cultural communication that is unrestrained by national, cultural, religious and ideological boundaries. Participants of Connect establish a deeper understanding for the perspectives of others and cultivate 21st Century skills such as critical thinking, cross-cultural communication and media literacy expertise. The AZFNA grant was used to integrate Connect at 4 new partner universities in New York, Chicago and Washington D.C. and to establish partnerships with 3 new facilitator pipeline institutions. The support of the Foundation enabled Soliya to triple its program size by 2017.

[HTTP://WWW.SOLIYA.NET/](http://www.soliya.net/)

AZFNA collaborated with The Atlantic Council, a nonpartisan institution that promotes transatlantic cooperation and international security while tackling modern global challenges, to extend the Emerging Leaders in Environmental and Energy Policy Network (ELEEP). ELEEP is a transatlantic network which connects and facilitates discussion between 60 young leaders from seventeen different nations, who engage key policy makers with actionable solutions in the fields of energy and environmental policy. The AZFNA grant funded the expansion of the ELEEP Network by supporting a recruitment process in which a diverse range of young leaders from existing networks throughout the United States and Europe were selected. Furthermore, the development of a micro-grant program and the launch of an ELEEP publication allowed ELEEP to extend their outreach in local and larger communities throughout the United States and Europe.

[HTTP://WWW.ECOLOGIC.EU/6871](http://www.ecologic.eu/6871)

The Foundation supported Lawrence Hall Youth Services, a child welfare agency located in the Chicago metropolitan area, in expanding its Workforce Development Program. The Workforce Development Program prepares agency youth from at-risk backgrounds to obtain and maintain employment, by offering a variety of job skills development programs and multifaceted opportunities for hands-on employment training in local businesses. Participants cultivate personal and professional development, receiving a combination of counseling, vocational training, and job coaching that instill the social and professional skills necessary for successful employment.

[HTTP://WWW.LAWRENCEHALL.ORG/](http://www.lawrencehall.org/)

AZFNA supported Project for Pride in Living, Inc. (PPL) – a Minneapolis/St. Paul- area not-for-profit dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals develop the tools

needed to achieve self-sufficiency through a broad range of housing, educational and employment services – in expanding its Youth Development program. Youth Development focuses on cultivating literacy and leadership, incorporating families as partners in learning, and granting participants the opportunity to give back to the community through service-learning projects. The AZFNA grant made it possible for PPL to enhance its Family Literacy program by intensifying the focus on family engagement. The Family Literacy program engages preschoolers, school-aged children, parents and other adults in simultaneous, age-appropriate literacy and education programming, in a tandem approach that reinforces the role of parents as their child's first teacher. Additionally, the Foundation facilitated the piloting of a new model of staffing at a PPL permanent supportive housing location that offered individuals flexible, one-to-one tutoring, and gave youth opportunities for more focused and encompassing learning experiences.

[HTTP://WWW.PPL-INC.ORG/](http://www.ppl-inc.org/)

AFZNA partnered with One Million Degrees (OMD) – a not-for-profit located in Illinois that empowers low-income, highly motivated community college students to succeed in school, in work and in life – to update the OMD Scholar Development curriculum. The Scholar Development program provides OMD scholars with personalized and innovative supports, which include academic advising, tutoring, financial aid, one-on-one professional coaching, and ongoing staff support. The AZFNA grant enabled OMD to pilot the Career Readiness component and new group coaching sessions. This initiative gave participants the opportunity to receive professional-skills training, while allowing coaches to improve their ability to assist scholars in achieving both short and long-term goals. The Foundation also funded the launch of Wisdom of the Workplace, a unique event series that offers OMD scholars the valuable opportunity to visit and interact with employees from local businesses that provides youth with previews into prospective careers and clear understandings of how to attain them.

[HTTP://WWW.ONEMILLIONDEGREES.ORG/](http://www.onemilliondegrees.org/)

AFZNA supported teacher-training program expansion at the Virginia Council on Economic Education (VCEE), a Richmond, VA, not-for-profit, whose mission is to have all Virginia K-12 students graduate with the economic knowledge and financial skills needed to thrive in our dynamic economy by means of teacher education. VCEE's work is based on the premise that educating one teacher has the potential to reach hundreds of students over the span of the teacher's career and presents educators with professional

development opportunities through a statewide network of economic education services. AZFNA support enabled VCEE to offer professional development programs for teachers new to teaching economics and personal finance through VCEE's affiliated university-based centers for economic education, addressing all content covered in the new Economics and Personal Finance Standards of Learning. The AFZNA grant made it possible for VCEE to proffer curriculum resources with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and personal finance institutes and provide teachers with recertification and college credit opportunities.

[HTTP://WWW.VCEE.ORG/](http://www.vcee.org/)

AZFNA supported Pro Niños de la Calle – a Mexico City not-for-profit that empowers male street youth (age 10-21) to build healthy and socially integrated lives – in enhancing their Transition to Independent Life program. Transition to Independent Life provides male street youth (ages 16- 21) with living accommodation staffed by licensed social workers, nurses and psychologists, to create a structured and supportive environment in which youth can develop the responsibilities and skills needed to accomplish social integration and an independent lifestyle. The support of AZFNA enabled Pro Niños de la Calle to **strengthen the program's volunteer support and to focus on enriching recreational opportunities for youth.** The Foundation also collaborated with Pro Niños de la Calle to launch a promotional awareness campaign that amplified the **organization's** international outreach.

[HTTP://WWW.PRININOSDELACALLE.ORG.MX/](http://www.proninosdelacalle.org.mx/)

AZFNA supported AchieveMpls – a not-for-profit partner of Minneapolis public schools, which prepares young people from Minneapolis to succeed in school, work and life – in launching the AchieveMpls Young Alumni Network. The AFZNA grant enabled AchieveMpls to construct a Young Alumni Network of ca. 100 alumni from all seven Minneapolis public schools, allowing recent graduates to connect with the next generation of Minneapolis students to provide them with valuable guidance through the challenging transition from high school into careers and further education. The support of AZFNA made possible the development of a network website, social media, and mobile applications. These facilitated community conversations, educational events, school visits, social activities, and ultimately drew alumni into closer contact with Minneapolis schools.

[HTTPS://WWW.ACHIEVEMPLS.ORG/](https://www.achievempls.org/)

AZFNA supported Chicago City Lights – a not-for-profit organization that addresses education, illiteracy, poverty, hunger, homelessness and healthcare through 8 outreach programs – in expanding its Chicago City Lights Tutoring program. Chicago City Lights Tutoring serves some 400 students in grades one through twelve in Chicago's Near North, Near West, Austin and Lawndale neighborhoods and encourages economically disadvantaged youth in underperforming public educational programs to graduate from high school and to pursue higher education. Students attend weekly one-to-one sessions with adult tutors, who provide youth with college preparation, job readiness programs, and academic and social guidance that foster individual success. The support of AZFNA enabled Chicago City Lights to enhance job readiness training classes, while expanding summer internship and high school scholarship opportunities for youth. The AZFNA grant additionally facilitated the expansion of the financial literacy curriculum and of student leadership programming.

[HTTP://CITYLIGHTSLTD.COM/](http://CITYLIGHTSLTD.COM/)

Greater Richmond Fit4Kids

Fit4Kids is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving children's wellness and reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity in the Richmond, VA area. With a grant from AZFNA, **Fit4Kids launched "Game On, Girl!"** – an innovative, out-of-school-time program to engage adolescent girls in physical activity. The program was designed as a response to compelling research that paints a bleak picture regarding girls and physical activity. **For example, girls' activity level drops by as much as 83% as they transition through adolescence.** The program has three, core components: after-school physical activity programming for middle-school girls, leadership and community engagement programming for female high school athletes, and a three-day leadership summer summit targeting adolescent girls.

www.grfit4kids.org

Youth Frontiers

Founded in 1987, Minnesota-based Youth Frontiers' mission is to partner with schools to build positive school communities where students thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. With a grant from AZFNA, Youth Frontiers expanded its programming to reach 1,800 additional 9th grade students with Respect Retreats in Minneapolis public high schools. **YF's Respect Retreats help students understand how their actions and words can contribute both positively and negatively to their school community's climate. Retreat activities reflect research showing that to improve social climate, the social-emotional-learning (SEL) of students needs to be supported. The retreats work to increase the SEL competencies of empathy and social awareness as students experience what school could be like if everyone were respected. Students are empowered to respect themselves, to respect others, and to stand up for respect to build a positive school community.**

www.youthfrontiers.org

Next One Up

Next One Up engages 'high-risk' middle and high school students confronting significant barriers to achievement by providing long-term mentoring and coaching in the classroom and on the field. In 2019, Next One Up fundamentally redesigned its enrichment offerings to focus on core academic and life skills, implementing a focused, year-long curriculum in three broad areas: STEM, Professional Writing, Leadership and Career Development. The organization shifted its focus to equipping young men (beginning in middle school) with enhanced academic knowledge and life skills, deepening its impact and better preparing students for academic and lifelong success. The AZFNA grant supported the hiring of a Deputy Director for Academic Programming, retention of content experts to lead instruction in key areas, and services for a growing corps of participants.

www.nextoneup.org

SOS Children's Villages (USA)

SOSCV is the world's largest not-for-profit dedicated to children who have lost – or are at risk of losing – parental care. Their mission is to build families for children in need, help them shape their futures, and share in the development of their communities. In the U.S., child victims of abuse, neglect or family conflict are often placed in foster care. The system intends to safeguard futures, yet 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a foster care history. Without proper wraparound supports, these young adults remain at high risk of being left behind. Despite more than 70% of US foster youth expressing a desire to pursue college, very few enter, and even fewer (3%) complete post-secondary school. **AZFNA's support expanded program capacity to allow 150 foster youth to enroll in SOS's College Bound & Beyond program** and empower them through academic support, vocational training, and mentoring. Resourced and mobilized to build bright futures for themselves and their communities, 100 percent of CB&B youth graduate high school, continue their education, secure a job and are six times more likely to graduate college.

www.sos-usa.org