

ABOUT THE 2015 IMPACT100 PHILADELPHIA GRANT FINALISTS

ARTS & CULTURE: Philadelphia Youth Orchestra

The **Philadelphia Youth Orchestra (PYO)** fosters the appreciation of the musical arts and education in the greater Philadelphia region and throughout the world. Currently celebrating a milestone 75 years, PYO uses extraordinary music education and the pursuit of music excellence to build a strong sense of character, discipline, commitment and maturity in a diverse student population. The organization is composed of six ensembles: Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, Bravo Brass, Philadelphia Region Youth String Music, PRYSM Young Artists, and Tune Up Philly, an after-school program modeled after Venezuela's highly regarded El Sistema, which will be expanded with a grant from Impact100.

Tune Up Philly (TUP) was initiated in the fall of 2010 to address the growing need for accessible arts education in Philadelphia. TUP's mission is to nurturing children ages 6 to 14 who are living in challenging social and economic conditions, by keeping them engaged in success through weekday after school intensive music instruction. TUP believes that music education is a powerful vehicle for children to master skills that will enable them to acquire valuable tools for cooperative learning, teamwork, academic success, and self-esteem. Entering its fifth year, TUP has eight program sites in collaboration with local charter, independent, and public schools and is looking to expand to include two new sites and increase enrollment by 20% for a total of 350 students. With Impact 100's funding, TUP would expand their program to include Saturday orchestral sessions during the school year and throughout the summer, for students from all program sites to practice and perform together. www.pyos.org

EDUCATION: Community Learning Center

Community Learning Center (CLC) is an adult literacy nonprofit organization that has been serving low-income adults in Philadelphia since 1987. CLC seeks to help adults develop literacy, math, and life skills using a supportive and holistic approach, so that they can realize their fullest potential at home, in the workplace, and in the community. The organization provides free adult basic education, general educational development (GED®) exam preparation, English as a second language, and beginning literacy classes. For CLC learners, passing the GED is *the* critical stepping-stone toward achieving economic self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. In 2014, the GED Testing Service released a new four-part exam that is entirely computer-based and emphasizes critical thinking and writing skills. The effect, nation-wide, has been a dramatic drop in the number of learners taking and passing the new exam.

With the Impact100 grant, CLC would create, test and revise instructional programs and individual lesson plans for each of GED 2014's four subject areas. After successfully testing the curriculum within its population of low-income adult learners, CLC intends to share the toolkit with other adult literacy providers. CLC expects to directly reach 600 learners within its own organization during the first year of using the new materials. The impact of this project will be amplified across the ten-year lifespan of the materials and their adoption by other organizations. www.communitylearningcenter.org

ENVIRONMENT: Awbury Arboretum

Awbury Arboretum is a 55 acre arboretum located in the Germantown neighborhood of Northwest Philadelphia. Described as a "hidden gem" of green space, the arboretum is free and open to the public, without fences or gates, 365 days a year. It has a long history as a provider of education and outreach programming to its local community, and the greater Philadelphia area. Awbury has developed an Agricultural Village on the property that includes a farm-kitchen classroom, a greenhouse, and a community orchard. These resources and additional underutilized land on the property would be used by and for the Teen Leadership Corporation (TLC), which Awbury would expand with Impact100 funding.

TLC's mission is to create a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to learn about food, farming, entrepreneurship and each other. The community creates urban agricultural based products and services to learn essential business skills, providing youth leadership opportunities and a place for teens "to learn and to earn." TLC prioritizes recruiting teens who live in or attend schools in the arboretum's neighboring low-income zip codes. With 25 students involved in the TLC pilot, Awbury's goal now is to expand the program to approximately 100 students. The Impact100 grant would partially fund student stipends during the school year and add infrastructure for the farm-to-table component including seed- start shelving and lights, a dishwasher, kitchen storage, two laptops, an outdoor storage and work shed, and transportation money to farmers markets for resale. www.awbury.org

FAMILY: The Center for Grieving Children

The Center for Grieving Children helps children and teens grieving a death to heal and grow through their loss and grief, while supporting the understanding of families, communities and professionals about how best to respond to their needs. Founded in 2000, The Center has found that children who participate in grief support activities with their peers experience reduced levels of problematic grief, fewer mental health problems and aggressive behaviors, and increased self-esteem and resilience. The Center provides free peer support groups at their locations in East Falls, West Philadelphia and the Lower Northeast, and through community-based satellite groups in Philadelphia schools. In addition to working with children and their caregivers, The Center provides a training and resource center for school counselors, teachers, and caseworkers who interact with grieving children and teens.

With the Impact100 grant, The Center for Grieving Children would expand their community-based programming to serve an additional 100-150 grieving children in two underserved neighborhoods, South/Southwest Philadelphia and Lower Northeast Philadelphia, where poverty and crime rates are extremely high and many children experience loss due to homicide, suicide or drug overdose. The Center will also train an additional 50-100 front-line professionals and community leaders throughout Philadelphia to improve crisis response services to grieving families. Responding to this persistent need in the city with a successful satellite model of dedicated locations and partnerships with schools and communities, The Center is changing the ways communities and the city as a whole view and process grief.

www.grievingchildren.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS: Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA)

For the past 25 years, **MANNA's** small staff and multi-generational army of volunteers have been utilizing food as medicine to help nurse people back to health throughout the greater Philadelphia region. MANNA prepares and delivers three warm, nourishing meals a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year to individuals at acute nutritional risk due to life-threatening illness. With improved nutrition and counsel, individuals are empowered to battle illness and improve their quality of life. Of MANNA's clients who reported income, 95% are at or below 200% of the poverty level.

With the Impact100 grant, MANNA proposes to implement an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to efficiently capture client demographics, coordinate meal delivery and nutrition counseling, and create reports to track program outcomes. This EMR system will increase their ability to prove "food as medicine" outcomes, enabling them to capitalize on opportunities available as part of the Affordable Care Act. MANNA's work on collaborative projects with both health care systems and private insurers will allow for the cultivation of additional reimbursement programs and off-site distribution partnerships, resulting in both an improvement and an expansion in the individuals they are able to serve. As a result of Impact100 funding, thousands more low-income individuals would gain access to MANNA's service and experience improved health, reduced medical costs, and increased quality of life. www.manna.org