

## GETTING THE JOB DONE: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST FISCAL YEAR

We provided services to a record-number 602 youth during our past fiscal year, July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. We want to thank our tremendous donors, volunteers and staff for your investment in our young people providing them a chance for a future of limitless possibilities.



218 youth received mentoring and support services. Volunteer mentors contributed 6,445 hours of service, and first-year Partnerships spent an average of

3.25 hours together per week. We sponsored many educational and recreational activities throughout the year including: diversity training, Georgetown railroad and mine tour, camping, bowling, arts and crafts, ceramics, Dave & Buster's, tours of Arapahoe Junior College and the Auraria campus, board games, Colorado Rockies game and our Annual Family Picnic. Partnerships also participated in community ser-

vice projects such as food basket preparation and delivery and assistance with volunteer recruitment at various community fairs.

The Adolescent Females

Program began its second year of a five-year grant from the Office of Behavioral Health of the Colorado Department of Human Services. In addition to being matched with a volunteer, youth meet weekly to participate in life-skills training with a focus on conflict resolution, sexuality and pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, educational options, non-traditional careers, parent trainings, and community service projects. The program utilizes the BrainWise curriculum which assists the young women in developing cognitive skills rather than responding on a purely emotional level.



## ASAP & JOSEPH KINSTLINGER SCHOLARSHIPS

Through a grant from the McCormick Foundation, we were able to implement our new program, the Academic Summer Academy at Partners (ASAP).



The goal of ASAP is to mitigate the loss of academic skills experienced by youth, especially low income, over the summer months. We collaborated with Save Our Youth, a local nonprofit mentoring

program, who designed the program seven years ago. Beginning in June 2015, youth met for six hours daily for six weeks. Components included pre and post assessment of academic skills, computer-based lessons based on each individual's level, daily enrichment activities, community service, breakfast and lunch and a small stipend upon successful completion of the

program. Post evaluations indicated that 100% maintained their skill levels and several increased either their math or language arts skills. Due to the success of the program, we expanded it to serve 20 youth beginning in June 2016.

\$6,500 in Joseph

Kinstlinger Scholarships were awarded to the following youth for post-high school colleges and special enrichment activities: **Dasani** for use for basketball gear; **Juan** for RAPP cheer team; **Chase** for Warrior Youth Sports; **Akeri** for summer lacrosse camp; **Russeana** for a volleyball team, computer & tuition assistance; supplies for **10 girls** to attend a week-long Girl Scouts summer camp, **Tim & Zak** for Boy Scout camp; **Fernando** for Cub Scout membership; and **Dasia, Naya, and Samone** for college scholarships.



## GRASP & GRASP ENTERPRISES

GRASP served 384 youth during the year. The core of GRASP is its weekly support group which meets every Thursday except for holiday weeks.



GRASP introduced the nationally recognized El Joven Noble curriculum during the year and utilizes the healing circle and cultural teachings from this program in addition to cognitive/behavioral skills and techniques. In addition to the Thursday groups, GRASP conducted ten-week El Joven Noble classes at four secondary schools: Compassion Road Academy, Arvada K-12 and Montbello Noel Community Arts High School and Middle School. GRASP participants enjoyed many cultural/recreational activities including five sweat lodges, Eastside Peace March, Aurora Peace March, two fishing trips, Dia de Los Muertos Celebrations at Strive Prep in Westwood and Escuela Tlatelolco, Café Cultura, two Rockies games, and two Game-works activities.



During the year, GRASP also had two full-time Outreach Workers in Aurora. Their jobs consist of case management of gang involved or at-risk of gang involvement youth in targeted areas of Aurora. Staff attend community events and resource fairs, work within the schools and neighborhoods and conduct community awareness presentations and train-

ings. Additionally, GRASP had three staff member working at the emergency department at Denver Health overnight on weekends. Their role is to intervene at the hospital with youth who have been injured through violence. This time is viewed as a “teachable” moment to offer the youth resources and case-management support to leave the dangerous gang lifestyle. Staff also mediates with the families in an attempt to prevent retaliation.



Through a capital grant from the Adolph Coors Foundation and a start-up grant from The Denver Foundation, we were able to launch our social enterprise project called GRASP Enterprises (GE) in June 2015. GE is a silk screen and embroidery business that trains and employs high risk youth and young adults. One of the major impediments to youth staying out of the gang lifestyle is the ability to find and keep a job. Many employers are hesitant to hire them due to their past history. Before beginning to work in production, the youth attend a ten-session workshop entitled Work for Success. Some of the topics covered include: job applications and resume, cover letters, interview skills, job search, mock interviews, communication skills, appearance, and financial literacy. The goal is to employ youth for 20 hours per week for 3-4 months and then transition them to the corporate workforce or develop them as trainers for new youth entering the program. During its first year of operation, 24 youth participated in GE.

