Making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and young people throughout the National Capital Region

PROGRAMS LIKE THESE ARE AN ANSWER IN SO MANY WAYS TO STEMMING THE TIDE OF VIOLENCE FOR KIDS IN SO MANY COMMUNITIES.

"Impact. That is what you, as investors, have come to expect from Venture Philanthropy Partners and what we are delivering through our investments.

As we wrap up our third year of the youthCONNECT network, we celebrate the successful launch of youthCONNECT’s pilot project to provide coordinated services at the Career Academy. Partners are already reaching 150 young people at the charter school. To date, cross-sector investments from VPP, the Social Innovation Fund and youthCONNECT match partners are resulting in a $28.8 million investment in the region.

Our investment partners are thriving. KIPP DC is exceeding benchmarks as it grows to 13 schools serving more than 3,600 students from underserved communities. And as our direct investment with Year Up National Capital Region comes to a close, we celebrate a now-robust college preparation program and its expansion to another 100 students per year.

The impressive work of our investment partners is also attracting national attention. First Lady Michelle Obama visited Urban Alliance’s new site in Chicago to underscore the need for programs like it that lift young people up and offer the tools they need to launch a successful career and a healthy life. Moreover, Year Up is tackling the opportunity divide at the national level through expansion, federal policy changes and a national perception campaign in partnership with the Ad Council and Arnold Worldwide.

Thanks to your support and commitment, more than 10,000 young people from some of our region’s most troubled communities are already making healthier lifestyle choices, finding success at school, and are attending college, factors that contribute to overcoming systemic issues like poverty, early parenthood, and violence. By gaining marketable career skills or attending college, these students are carving a path to success.

- First Lady Michelle Obama at Urban Alliance Chicago

(photo credit: www.cityofchicago.org)
VPP has helped KIPP DC become stronger and more sustainable.

VPP funding has enabled KIPP DC to attract and retain strong operational and school leadership and extend its reach with the addition of a new elementary school and the expansion of its high school to a new location that will allow it to serve more students.

Since VPP’s investment, KIPP DC has increased the number of students it serves from 1,550 to more than 3,600 students across 13 schools. KIPP DC surpassed its end-of-investment milestones two years ahead of schedule, all while maintaining high performance. They are currently on the path to reaching 4,000 students.

VPP’s Investment Practice Group has worked closely with KIPP DC’s leadership to help maintain a laser focus on the goal of ensuring students are on the path for academic success.

Results:

- In 2012, 87% of 8th grade students scored proficient or advanced in reading and 99% scored advanced or proficient in math standardized tests at DC Key Academy, KIPP DC’s flagship middle school.

- 80% of the class of 2011 matriculated to a two or four-year college within 20 months of graduation.

- 86% of KIPP DC alumni who completed one year of college to date enrolled for a second year.

National educators are taking note of KIPP DC’s results. Its successful Capital Teaching Residency program, which grew out of the VPP-funded strategic planning process, is growing with a $10 million award from the Department of Education’s Race to the Top District competition.

With help from VPP, KIPP DC has more effectively engaged and begun strengthening relationships with parents and community stakeholders. In 2012 over 90% of parents reported being satisfied with KIPP DC – an all-time high parental satisfaction rating.

KIPP DC College Preparatory School will nearly double the students it serves at its new campus, bringing enrollment to 850.

OVERVIEW

KIPP DC is a network of high-performing, college-preparatory charter schools in Washington, D.C., that serves the city’s under-resourced communities. KIPP DC is building on its strong track record of preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life as well as changing the face of public education in DC. VPP has committed $5.5 million over four years to increase the number of students KIPP DC serves, from 1,550 to at least 4,000 students by 2015.
VPP is helping Urban Alliance better support youth in the search for meaningful employment from the inside out.

VPP funding is helping strengthen Urban Alliance's capacity in the areas of operational support, finance, development and marketing. With VPP support, Urban Alliance created and filled two new key senior management positions.

As Urban Alliance grows its capacity, VPP will work with it to take its opportunities for paid work and mentorship to even more young people. Urban Alliance will also use its results as a platform to become a leading voice on youth employment policy locally in the region and nationally across the country.

To date, Urban Alliance has achieved significant results for the youth it serves:

- Programs have served over 10,000 youth.
- 99% of interns graduate from high school on time.
- 88% of program graduates enroll in college.
- 8 out of 10 participants significantly increased critical job skills during the program year.

With an eye to expanding upon its successes, Urban Alliance is beginning to scale its program. It successfully launched its high school internship program in Northern Virginia with a cohort of 30 youth, and is exploring growth opportunities in suburban Maryland.

Urban Alliance is gaining national attention through its national expansions. In July 2013, First Lady Michelle Obama visited with students at Urban Alliance Chicago with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago First Lady and Urban Alliance Chicago Board Co-Chair Amy Rule. Mrs. Obama sat down for an intimate conversation with students about the successful model of Urban Alliance and programs like it.

“PROGRAMS LIKE THIS ARE AN ANSWER IN SO MANY WAYS TO STEMMING THE TIDE OF VIOLENCE FOR KIDS IN SO MANY COMMUNITIES, GIVING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENVISION A WORLD OUTSIDE OF HANGING ON THE STREETS, DROPPING OUT.”

- First Lady Michelle Obama at Urban Alliance Chicago

OVERVIEW

Urban Alliance places high school students into internships with local employers and the federal government. VPP committed $2.8 million over four years to expand Urban Alliance into Northern Virginia, serving an additional 200 youth and 70 alumni. It will also provide its workforce skills training to more than 1,000 youth in the region and explore continued growth opportunities in suburban Maryland.
VPP has helped Year Up expand and make important inroads with key stakeholders including the federal government.

VPP funding enabled Year Up to increase enrollment in its year-long education and internship program from 144 to 240 students per year in the National Capital Region.

Year Up strengthened its college preparation component with help from Northern Virginia Community College President and VPP Board member Dr. Robert Templin. Students receive college credit for a variety of technical courses.

Part of VPP's investment is helping Year Up National implement a national "influence strategy" to inform and influence the nation's approach to closing the Opportunity Divide through systemic change. Through close collaboration with other organizations, Year Up is reframing the national perception of out-of-school and out-of-work youth from liabilities to assets.

Some influence strategy successes include:

- Creating new opportunities for federal funding in the CAREER Act to promote pay-for-performance workforce development programs.
- Securing paid federal government internships at federal agencies.
- Partnering with the Ad Council and Arnold Worldwide to implement a national Public Service Announcement campaign to expand career opportunities for young adults.
- Launching the Million Person Model, a pilot to expand Year Up into community colleges across the nation.
- Strengthening its alumni involvement, actively engaging with more than 600 program graduates a year.

In July 2013, Year Up NCR graduated its largest class ever, with 92 students. 82% are already in school or employed in full-time jobs, making at least $30,000 per year.
youthCONNECT aims to directly improve the education, employment and healthy behavior outcomes for up to 20,000 low-income youth ages 14-24 in the National Capital Region by 2015.

Over the past dozen years, VPP has made investments that have helped or are helping 16 organizations broaden their reach and effectiveness throughout the National Capital Region. While we are pleased with what has been achieved through our unique model of philanthropy, we seek to have even greater impact. We came to recognize that our investments in individual nonprofits, no matter how worthy, will not solve the most intractable and complex problems affecting the region’s most vulnerable children and young people.

With that understanding, we identified an urgent need to advance our work beyond individual philanthropic investments toward a coordinated investment approach that leverages the collective power of the government, business, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors throughout this region.

From this thinking came the concept of youthCONNECT, a VPP initiative in which high-performing nonprofits with complementary missions were challenged with collaborating to deliver a range of services to a targeted group of at-risk youth, helping them transition successfully to productive, self-sufficient adulthood. VPP’s theory of collaboration received important validation in 2010 when we received a multimillion dollar commitment for youthCONNECT from the Social Innovation Fund, a signature program of the Obama Administration. Capital from SIF, VPP, and youthCONNECT match partners will result in a $36 million investment in the region over five years.

Through youthCONNECT, these six nonprofits have developed mutually agreed-upon outcomes, leveraging the power and synergy of the network to achieve greater impact.

youthCONNECT is advocating for more accessible & affordable transportation options for youth in the region, reaching out to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board.
youthCONNECT @ Career Academy launched in September 2013 as the pilot for youthCONNECT’s place-based model.

The network offers the almost 150 students at the charter school a portal to resources helping them become successful students, employees, parents, and community members.

See the power of the Network for two students at the Career Academy:

David* moved from Bolivia just one year before he began classes at the Latin American Youth Center Career Academy Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. He came to the school still striving for fluency in English and is still adjusting to a new country and culture. He had dreams of going to college to study computer science.

Alexis* came to the LAYC Career Academy carrying her young daughter on her hip, unable to afford childcare but determined to find a path toward a solid job for her family.

They, like their peers at the school, were disengaged from their community, came from diverse backgrounds, and were looking for another route to success. They needed a range of resources to make that transition possible.

youthCONNECT network partners are helping students like David and Alexis take those steps toward a successful future. The network offers its extended wraparound services to students within the school itself, addressing needs that range from college and internship skills training to sexual health services.

*Names changed

David is working toward earning every IT certification the school offers. He has participated in a health class through Metro TeenAIDS, and will soon be able to prepare for IT internships with resources from Urban Alliance. If he wants to attend college, College Summit can help David with applications, financial aid, and the search for the right school. Students like David would also be eligible to participate in Year Up’s program, which provides a post-graduation option through its competitive year-long training and IT internship program.

Meanwhile, Alexis is working towards her medical assistant certification, aided by an LAYC case manager who helped her find stable daycare. That case manager will serve as Alexis’ advisor and advocate, coaching and working with her while she attends school.

KIPP DC is also providing professional development opportunities to Career Academy teachers through the Capital Teaching Residency training program developed with VPP’s investment, giving students like David and Alexis a strong network that will help them transition successfully into their careers.

Targeted, thoughtful resources through youthCONNECT network partners mean David, Alexis, and their fellow students will have better access to the tools they need to complete college, find meaningful employment, and lead productive, healthy and safe lives for them and their families.

Network Investments

- **College Summit** offers workshops for students that provide support for college applications, SAT and ACT preparation, college search services, and FAFSA/financial aid workshops.
- **KIPP DC** offers training and professional development services for teachers and student support specialists.
- **Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)**, in addition to managing the Career Academy, offers case management support for each student, and when further intervention is needed, a Promotor: a long-term mentor, case manager and advocate.
- **Metro TeenAIDS** hosts “Being a Responsible Teen” workshops and office hours, as well as HIV testing and counseling support services.
- **Urban Alliance** holds pre-internship training sessions and career preparation support, including mock interviews and resume workshops.
Through your support for VPP’s work over the past 13 years, around 15,000 additional young people annually throughout the region are gaining a better chance for a brighter future.

But while we are proud of these achievements we are not resting on our laurels. VPP remains a leading edge organization, committed to finding and funding the most innovative strategies in our relentless quest to create even more impactful and sustainable change.

The initial results of our networked approach have been so encouraging that youthCONNECT has become the prototype for VPP’s future investment strategy. We will take what we have learned through this process and use it to drive a new model for collaborative social investing throughout our region, creating partnerships and alliances across sectors to deliver results that would be otherwise impossible.

As we prepare to take our work to the next level, we are actively seeking investors to help us carry out this bold vision for the future to fruition. Once again, we thank you for your continued support and your belief that VPP is the right partner to enable you to make investments that are making a real difference in the lives of children in this region.

“RETURNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”
Tyreeasha is part of one of the first KIPP DC classes to graduate from college. She, like many of her former classmates, is now working to make a difference in her own community. She is working in the classroom as a part of the Capital Teachers’ Residency Program, honing a passion for teaching that first began when she was a student at KIPP. Now, her own determination inspires her work with students from similar disadvantaged backgrounds at Grow Academy.

“PURSUING HER DREAM”
For Sydnee, the College Summit class at Largo High School in Prince George’s County her senior year was a wake-up call. For a successful career and life after high school, she realized she needed to start taking school seriously. The class also taught her to self-advocate: Sydnee visited and fell in love with Morgan State University, and became determined to attend. Sydnee’s transcript told a story of struggling grades, but her dedication to building a competitive application, strong personal statement, and unfailing pursuit of her dream helped her land an acceptance letter. This fall, Sydnee began her freshman year at Morgan State.

“PROUD OF WHERE SHE IS GOING”
When Clarissa first came to Latin American Youth Center, she was homeless and out of school after being disowned by her parents for coming out as transgendered. LAYC quickly referred her to a Promotor. With the resources, care and motivation of her Promotor, Clarissa attained temporary and then transitional housing designed specifically for LGBT youth. She also enrolled in a GED program and passed with a strong score. Now with a savings account, stable housing, and on a path toward a computer technician certification, Clarissa is proud of where she is going. “Without my Promotor, I would be on the streets like most of my friends,” she says.