**Setting Goals and Achieving Them**

Urban Alliance DC hosted its annual culminating event, the Public Speaking Challenge, at the World Bank on July 31, 2015. One hundred fifty interns arrived at the bank dressed professionally and ready to meet the challenge of delivering their first formal PowerPoint presentation to a large and daunting audience. The audience included local business leaders, mentors, school counselors, funders, Urban Alliance Board members and other stakeholders. The interns’ presentations were judged on content, diction and professional presentation.

VPP helped judge the Public Speaking Challenge, and we, as always, were impressed with the students who competed. The competition provided a tangible goal and expectation for the students to work towards. Students left motivated and validated for their hard work. That is why we are proud to partner with nonprofits like Urban Alliance to help make the future brighter for young people in the National Capital Region.

We are inspired to witness the achievements and milestones that our investment partners have made to ensure more young people have the support they need to succeed through school, graduate and obtain the skills that will enable them to get good jobs and thrive as adults. Our partners will continue to work every day to help all young people achieve their dreams and thrive at every stage leading to successful adulthood.

October 2015
Local Success, National Model

VPP’s broad goal for its investment in Year Up National Capital Region was to build the organization’s capacity at the site level. The investment achieved this several times over, resulting in significant increases in the number of young adults served annually, retention rates, employer partners, staff capacity and public funding, among other successes.

But the investment also served as a regional laboratory to test and create innovative models and ideas that would benefit other Year Up sites – and influence broader systems change – across the country. This was particularly true in the areas of staff development and partnerships.

Download the Year Up Case Study here: http://bit.ly/YearUp-VPP

Strengthening the Organization

VPP’s investment enabled KIPP DC to increase the number of students it serves without compromising the caliber of education it provides. Today, KIPP DC is one of the largest and highest-performing school systems in Washington, D.C.

VPP’s funding allowed KIPP DC to hire the right people, not just the people they could afford to hire. KIPP DC was able to put top-notch experts in place in the organization’s central office. Hiring skilled managers and experts has allowed KIPP DC’s leadership to focus on the organization’s strategic growth and allowed teachers and principals to focus exclusively on the students.

Download the KIPP DC Case Study here: http://bit.ly/KIPPDC-VPP
AppleTree develops and provides proven early childhood education programs to preschoolers from low-income families. The organization has developed a comprehensive instructional model for early childhood education called *Every Child Ready*, which is currently in practice at AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School and six other public charter schools in the region.

VPP committed $3.2 million in December 2013 to enhance its innovative preschool model and increase the number of preschoolers AppleTree directly serves to 1,200—doubling its current reach.

**Direct Investments**

With VPP’s Investment, AppleTree is giving more preschool and pre-kindergarten students access to quality education.

VPP’s investment in AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation will enable AppleTree to serve 1,200 students at its Early Learning Public Charter School by 2017, doubling its current reach.

Achievements:

- AppleTree exceeded its enrollment target, thus providing 748 children access to its comprehensive *Every Child Ready* instructional model at its Early Learning Public Charter Schools; and
- It expanded internal capacity by hiring a Chief Financial Officer, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Director of Development to meet growing organizational demands.

**Small group at AppleTree**

**AppleTree visits the Capitol**
OVERVIEW

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) is a youth-development program that for nearly three decades has helped at-risk students stay in school and successfully graduate. HW-SC identifies promising middle and high school students at risk of dropping out and provides them with academic support, mentoring, skills training and the opportunity for part-time work. HW-SC pairs students with a professional youth advocate for up to two years after they leave high school. That youth advocate works closely with students to address their individual needs and obstacles impeding their success.

Achievements:

- Exceeded its youth enrollment target by serving 528 youth and expanded the number of school partnerships from five to eight;
- Ninety-seven percent of the 36 students who completed the HW-SC program graduated from high school. Eighty-nine percent of participating youth were promoted to the next grade;
- Achieved staff growth targets. Made 22 new hires, including 13 youth advocates, developing the programmatic and administrative infrastructure to support growth. Grew from 14 FTEs in 2013 to 32 FTEs; and
- Raised more than $2M to support its growth.

With support from VPP, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection is helping more at-risk high school students graduate.

VPP’s investment is helping Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) more than triple the number of students it serves in Prince George’s County, Maryland by 2017. The investment is also supporting HW-SC to:

- Expand its internal capacity to support growing organizational demands;
- More than triple the number of youth served to 870;
- Grow the network of local employers participating in the program; and
- Use performance management system investments to ensure real-time learning.

HW-SC’s mission is to help at-risk students in Prince George’s County successfully graduate from high school. The program provides them with academic support, mentoring, skills training and the opportunity for part-time work. HW-SC pairs students with a professional youth advocate for up to two years after they leave high school. That youth advocate works closely with students to address their individual needs and obstacles impeding their success.

VPP’s $1.95 million investment in Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, made in February 2014, will give 870 more middle and high school students in Prince George’s County, Maryland, access to these services.
OVERVIEW

Urban Alliance empowers under-resourced youth to aspire, work and succeed. Through a year-long employment program, Urban Alliance places high school students in paid internships with local employers and the federal government while also providing students with professional development workshops. After graduating high school, Urban Alliance’s Alumni Services department provides on-going support and resources to help students transition to college or careers.

VPP committed $2.8 million in November 2012 to help Urban Alliance expand the program into Northern Virginia to offer its High School Internship Program, Alumni Services and Curriculum Outreach services to an additional 1,000 youth and to explore growth into Maryland.

Direct Investments

VPP is helping Urban Alliance better support youth by preparing them for adulthood and offering them meaningful employment.

With VPP’s $3.2 million investment, Urban Alliance is growing to scale in the National Capital Region by expanding their core direct services program into Northern Virginia. Annually, Urban Alliance’s High School Internship program will grow to serve at least 65 youth, and its Curriculum Outreach services program will serve at least 300 youth.

Achievements:

- The initial group of 17 students who completed the High School Internship program in Northern Virginia met or exceeded the goals for high school graduation and college acceptance. Additionally, each student also earned college credit as a result of a partnership launched with Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC);

- With their Social Innovation Fund evaluation partner, Urban Institute, Urban Alliance hosted an all-day Data Camp for 50 nonprofit and research professionals. The event allowed participants, including Urban Alliance, to brainstorm solutions to their collective data challenges and also generated the report, The Missing Pieces in Youth-Employment Data Collection and Assessment, co-authored by Urban Alliance’s Daniel Tsin; and

- Secured 20 U.S. Patent and Trade Office sponsorships in Alexandria, VA., a product of their “Youth Employment Matters” event with the US Chamber of Commerce.

Many young people in the Region continue to experience the conditions Eshauna faced growing up. Unfortunately, far too few are able to share her story of hope, healing and triumph. That is why we are proud to partner with nonprofits like Urban Alliance to help make the future brighter for young people in the National Capital Region.

Eshauna Smith gave a captivating speech at TEDx-Pennsylvania Avenue entitled “The Lucky Ones” where she chronicled her odyssey growing up in a challenging urban environment to becoming the CEO of Urban Alliance.
OVERVIEW

YouthCONNECT is a network of nonprofits that seeks to help young people successfully transition into adulthood. Over five years, the network aims to directly increase the life outcomes of an estimated 20,000 low-income youth ages 14 to 24. The YouthCONNECT network provides youth with a continuum of support, while network partners gain valuable experience collaborating with one another.

VPP created the YouthCONNECT model in 2010 with support from the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), 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.
A continuation of the youthCONNECT model, youthCONNECT at Suitland High School is a transformative, cross-sector partnership among nonprofit organizations in the public and private sectors in Prince George’s County, MD.

Collectively, these organizations aim to help young people at Suitland High School successfully transition to adulthood. With the support of key leaders, youthCONNECT at Suitland has the opportunity to help change the trajectory of life outcomes for Suitland High School students.

Achievements:
- Implemented a pilot program that served 300 students;
- The full model launched on August 26th with five nonprofits and Suitland High School working together to serve over 700 youth through SY2016; and
- A majority of the youthCONNECT at Suitland services are integrated into courses at the request of school leadership. This level of integration strengthens youthCONNECT’s ability to have a positive and direct impact on students served, and indirectly contribute to a positive college and career readiness school culture.

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection hosted a summer academy at Suitland High School.

It helped 54 rising 9th graders prepare for the transition to high school.

Students benefited from a curriculum that included English, math, study skills and character development. They enjoyed positive and horizon-expanding outings during weekly field trips.

They also built relationships with their future 9th grade teachers before the school year began.

OVERVIEW

youthCONNECT at Suitland builds a supportive and enduring community that prepares our students to seize college and career opportunities and create a legacy of success. With Venture Philanthropy Partner’s leadership and support, youthCONNECT at Suitland will offer a variety of services to collectively improve life outcomes for Suitland High School students.