

GREATER LAWRENCE SUMMER FUND IMPACT 2017 REPORT



a fund of
Essex County Community Foundation



Teens at Groundwork Lawrence.

POWERING SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OUR YOUTH

The Greater Lawrence Summer Fund (GLSF) focuses on closing the opportunity and achievement gaps for thousands of low-income youth in Greater Lawrence each year by providing enrichment activities during out-of-school time. For over 25 years, this fund has supported high-quality summer programs that achieve these three important outcomes:



1. Enhance social, academic and emotional abilities



2. Discourage unhealthy behaviors by providing safe alternatives



3. Reduce the summer learning gap between low-income youth and their more affluent peers

WHY LAWRENCE YOUTH NEED OUR SUPPORT...

39%
of Lawrence
youth live in
poverty.

44%
of Lawrence
youth are
overweight.

67%
of Lawrence
3rd graders are
not reading
proficiently.

BUT... GOOD THINGS ARE ALSO HAPPENING FOR OUR LAWRENCE YOUTH.

While the statistics prove that Lawrence youth face many challenges, there is good work happening by the schools and nonprofits that are improving the lives of our young people. Just visit any of our 47 funded programs and you will see vital work that is:

- 1) Improving learning scores.
- 2) Increasing physical activity and access to healthy foods .
- 3) Giving youth access to hands-on summer learning opportunities.

The Greater Lawrence Summer Fund is doing its part to help.

“ In truth, the most dangerous thing about Lawrence is its reputation. To those willing to look, amazing achievement can be witnessed every day. Contrary to the image of the City and of Lawrence Public Schools, there are many talented and motivated students in Lawrence who are passionate about participating in enriching academic activities. **”**

- A 2017 GLSF Grant Recipient
(shared during final report)

“ THE FUNDING FROM GLSF IS VITAL TO THE IMPACT OUR NONPROFITS CAN MAKE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH. THEY RELY ON US TO DO GOOD WORK. ”

- Carol Lavoie Schuster
ECCF's VP for
Grants & Services



Art created with nonprofit, Elevated Thought.



Youth finishing artistic masterpiece at Essex Art Center.



Teens exploring with Appalachian Mountain Club.

THE BIG PICTURE:

42
organizations
supported

\$306,400
granted

8,803
youth served

youth ages
0-28
engaged

AREAS OF IMPACT

Lawrence youth need support throughout the summer months and out-of-school-time, when they are often away from the guidance of caring adults.

The Greater Lawrence Summer Fund makes a wide range of high-quality summer programs possible. These programs keep kids safe, but also make an enormous impact in these key enrichment areas:

- **Summer learning gap**
- **Opportunity gap**
- **Healthy lifestyles**
- **College and career readiness**
- **STEM**
- **Writing**
- **Arts**

2017 SUMMER IMPACT IN ACTION

50 Lawrence High School students participated in one of a kind **music workshops** led by a Berklee College of Music graduate.

36 participants learned how to **grow fresh produce to sell at local markets** and bodegas throughout the city of Lawrence.

155 youth took advantage of the **top academic and extensive extracurricular program facilities** at St. John's Preparatory School and Pingree School.

18 inner city youth with diagnosed disabilities attended a **therapeutic riding center** to learn the basics of horsemanship and assist with the challenging physical work of a horse farm.

10 middle school students received the opportunity, support and guidance necessary to see themselves capable of **pursuing a future STEM career**.

450 school-aged youth learned the basics of soccer while building confidence and **embracing healthy habits** at a young age.

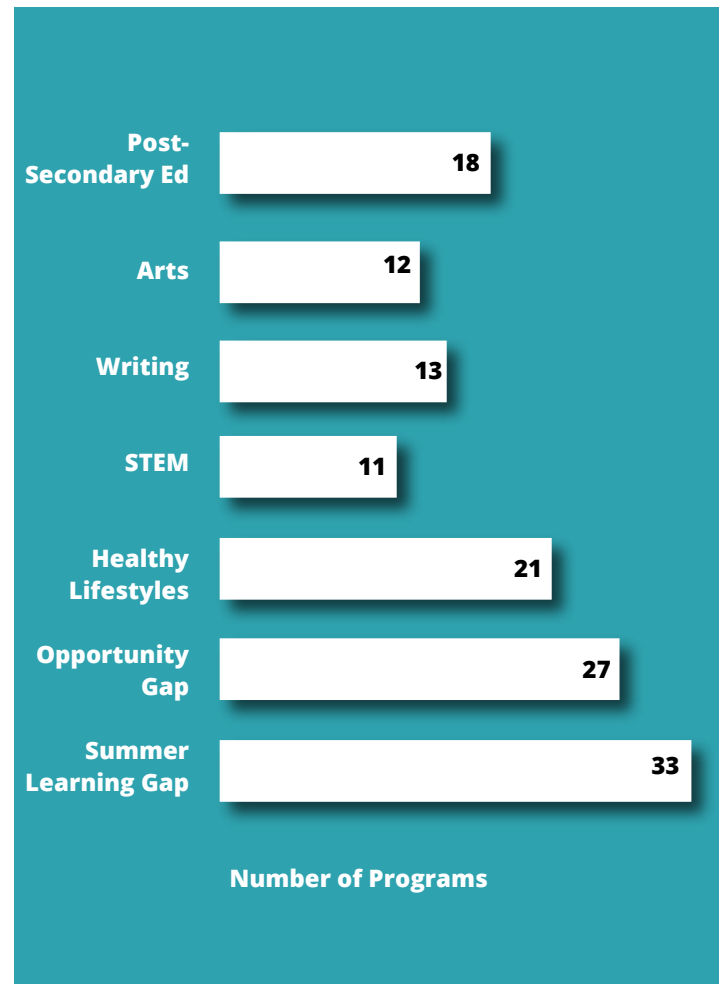




First-time riders at Windrush Farm.

WHERE OUR SUPPORT MAKES DIFFERENCE

GLSF funds are awarded to ensure that many areas of programming are covered. The programs we support address these needs:



OUR GRANT PROCESS & REVIEW

Essex County Community Foundation, working with an all-volunteer grant committee, raises funds annually and distributes grants to those organizations which best meet the Fund's program priorities.

ECCF accepts grant proposals from qualified 501(c)(3) organizations to support their summer programs serving Greater Lawrence youth. GLSF applications were due March 15, 2017, with grants awarded in mid-April.

A CLOSER LOOK INSIDE OUR PROGRAMS

OUR WORK IN REDUCING THE SUMMER LEARNING GAP



Hands-on learning at Lawrence Family Development.



Teens gain skills at Teach For America.

Lack of educational experiences over the summer months contribute significantly to learning loss and the growing achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers. Coming mostly from low-income families, youth in Lawrence are already behind academically and cannot afford to lose any more ground while out of school for the summer season.

OUR WORK IN GIVING ALL YOUTH AN OPPORTUNITY

There is a very real difference between the educational and economic opportunities available to youth in Lawrence versus the majority of their peers living in Essex County. Many do not have access to resources like Internet or transportation to seek out opportunities beyond the city, leaving them with little to no control over their personal growth.



A river day at Greater Lawrence Community Boating.



Bongo players at Lawrence Boys & Girls Club.

OUR WORK IN IMPROVING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



Blueberry picking with Lawrence YMCA.



Soccer enthusiasts warming up at Beyond Soccer.

Lawrence Public Schools lack adequate physical education facilities to accommodate the ever-growing student population and there are limited private sports organizations in the city for healthy living programs. Our children suffer the consequences with higher rates of childhood obesity and diabetes.

47 PROGRAMS FUNDED

Acting Out! Theater Company, Inc.
 Appalachian Mountain Club
 Arlington Community Trabajando
 Beyond Soccer, Inc.
 Blessed Stephen Bellesini, OSA Academy, Inc.
 Boy Scouts of America, Spirit of Adventure Council
 Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
 Challenge Unlimited, Inc.
 Children's Center of Faith United Methodist Church
 Communities Together, Inc.
 Community Day Charter Public Schools
 Elevated Thought Foundation Inc.
 Esperanza Academy
 Essex Art Center
 Everyone's A Player, Inc.
 Family Services of the Merrimack Valley
 Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts
 Greater Lawrence Community Boating
 Groundwork Lawrence - Green Team
 Groundwork Lawrence - Urban Adventures
 Lawrence CommunityWorks
 Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund
 Lawrence History Center
 Lawrence Public Library
 Let's Get Ready
 Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center
 Merrimack Valley YMCA Adelante
 Merrimack Valley YMCA Camp Otter
 Merrimack Valley YMCA
 Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc.
 NECC Foundation, Inc. - College for Kids
 NECC Foundation, Inc. - STEM Bridge Academy
 Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School
 Phillips Academy Andover PALS
 Phillips Academy Andover Bread Loaf
 Pingree School
 Si, Se Puede, Inc.
 SquashBusters
 St. Ann's Home and School, Inc.
 Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Riding Center
 Teach For America - Massachusetts
 The Governor's Academy
 uAspire Inc.
 UNH Tech Camp
 Windrush Farm Therapeutic Equitation, Inc.
 Youth Development Organization (YDO)
 YWCA of Greater Lawrence, Inc.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 FUNDERS

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

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Agnes Lindsay Trust
The Andover Group
Ash Charitable Corporation
Brad Gatlin Family Fund
C. Pringle Charitable Foundation
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Tory Family
Isabel Vargas

*indicates more than one donor gave anonymously



Youth expressing themselves at Essex Art Center.

THANKS TO OUR GLSF VOLUNTEERS

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Essex County Community Foundation

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