



2022 GREATER
LAWRENCE
SUMMER FUND
IMPACT REPORT



POWERING SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Greater Lawrence Summer Fund (GLSF) focuses on closing the opportunity and achievement gaps for thousands of youth in Greater Lawrence by increasing access to enrichment and academic opportunities during the summer months. For more than 30 years, GLSF has supported hands-on, engaging summer programs that achieve key outcomes:

**Enhance social,
emotional and
academic abilities**



**Promote safety
and physical and
mental health**



**Advance skills
development and
reduce summer
learning loss**





GLSF INVESTS IN OUR GREATEST ASSET – OUR YOUTH

Summertime provides an opportunity for many young people to take part in new, enriching experiences and to build and strengthen skills and relationships. However, structured summer learning opportunities are not evenly and equitably distributed across communities. GLSF acknowledges these inequities and invests in creating greater access to opportunities that can reduce many of the life outcome disparities created by poverty.

Statistics tell us that Lawrence youth face many challenges. For example, thirty percent of Lawrence youth live in poverty and sixty eight percent of Lawrence third graders are not reading at grade level. Our partner schools and nonprofits offer a range of summer programs specifically designed to cultivate our youth's innate potential and develop skills that will serve them well in school, work and life.

GLSF 2022 | THE BIG PICTURE



48

programs supported

45

organizations represented

\$317,400

granted

4,682

youth served

youth ages

0-25

“THESE EXPERIENCES WERE SO ENRICHING FOR OUR ALUMNI, ESPECIALLY COMING OUT OF THE ISOLATION AND LOSS OF SOCIAL CONFIDENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC. THEY NEEDED SO BADLY TO BE WITH PEERS IN NATURE, WITHOUT THEIR PHONES OR TECHNOLOGY, JUST BEING KIDS AND GETTING COMFORTABLE BEING SOCIAL, EXPRESSING THEMSELVES, MEETING NEW PEOPLE, AND TAKING A CHANCE ON A NEW ENVIRONMENT. THEY RETURNED WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE AND AN EXCITEMENT FOR THIS YEAR, AND DOING BETTER IN SCHOOL AND LIFE. NO SMALL IMPACT.”

– A 2022 GLSF GRANT RECIPIENT



2022 SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

PARTICIPANTS SAY...

“IT WAS AN AWESOME FIRST JOB EXPERIENCE. I GOT TO MEET SO MANY NEW AND AMAZING PEOPLE, WHO WILL BE FRIENDS FOR LIFE.”

“I REALLY ENJOYED LEARNING ABOUT OUR ANCESTORS AND THE DANCES THEY LEFT US. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT MY FAMILY AND THE CULTURE.”

- Youth aged 7-17 participated in a new summer dance camp intentionally designed to increase awareness about the importance of preserving cultural identity, dance and rhythms representative of the Greater Lawrence community. In addition to engaging in games and lessons focused on teaching the history of Latinx culture, youth developed confidence, teamwork and leadership skills by learning, choreographing and performing.
- Elementary and middle school students attended a day camp in Salem, NH where they engaged in classic summertime activities including swimming, boating, team sports (basketball, volleyball, baseball, soccer), archery, and arts and crafts. Previously closed for two years due to COVID, the camp reopened at full capacity and offered expanded bus transportation.
- Students in grades 6-12 attended an in-person, on-campus, residential camp designed to increase STEM literacy and engage young people through interactive, hands-on, problem-solving activities. Students worked on projects focused on civil and environmental engineering, coding, forensics, gastronomy and more.
- Children ages 5-14 participated in a camp designed to inform the next generation of animal-rights advocates while also promoting academic and social development. Campers worked alongside barn and adoption center staff, participating in the care of animals. They also learned about important animal welfare topics in daily discussions and met a variety of animal care professionals who visited as guest speakers.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT



PROGRAMS BY FIELD OF FUNDING

42

OPPORTUNITY
GAP

31

ACHIEVEMENT
GAP

10

OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH

PROGRAMS BY IMPACT AREA

ARTS	31
COLLEGE READINESS TRANSITIONS	15
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS NATURE EDUCATION	20
FIELD TRIPS	29
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES	32
JOB & CAREER READINESS	19
LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY	24
OUTDOOR RECREATION	33
STEM	23

*Grantee programs may operate in multiple fields and/or impact areas.

OUR GRANT PROCESS

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

On behalf of GLSF, ECCF accepts grant proposals from qualified 501(c)(3) organizations that provide summer programs to Greater Lawrence youth. GLSF applications were due in March and grants were awarded in May.



A CLOSER LOOK INSIDE GLSF PROGRAMS

GIVING ALL YOUTH AN OPPORTUNITY

There are very real inequities in the educational and economic opportunities available to youth in Greater Lawrence compared to the majority of peers across Essex County. Summer programs offer greater access to resources like the internet or transportation beyond the city, providing engaging experiences that can advance young peoples' life outcomes.

REDUCING THE SUMMER LEARNING GAP

Lack of educational experiences over the summer months contributes significantly to learning loss and the growing achievement gap between children disadvantaged by poverty and their more affluent peers. Leveraging additional education and enrichment hours through summer programs goes a long way towards closing that gap, stemming – and in some cases reversing – learning loss.

PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

The Lawrence Public Schools, like many others, have outdated or inadequate physical education facilities to accommodate the ever-growing student population. Youth development programs that leverage activities such as sports and dance, counter these structural challenges by engaging Lawrence youth in ways that promote healthy living while simultaneously building confidence and leadership skills.

MANY THANKS TO OUR 2022 FUNDERS

82491 Fund
Kimberley Aalfs and Christopher
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Chris and Debbie Andrews
Richard Blain
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Sandra Cannella
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J. Linzee Coolidge
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N.A., Trustee
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Sandra Freitas
Kay Frishman

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The Van Otterloo Family Foundation
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The White Fund
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James and Anita Worden
Richard Yagjian
Pamela Yameen

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

Aaron's Presents, Inc.
ACT Lawrence
acting Out Theater
Beyond Soccer, Inc.
Blessed Stephen Bellesini, OSA
Academy, Inc.
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
Brooks School
Central Catholic High School
Communities Together, Inc.
Elevated Thought Foundation Inc.
Esperanza Academy
Essex Art Center
Family Services of the Merrimack Valley
Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts
Greater Lawrence Community Boating

Groundwork Lawrence
Jean Appolon Expressions
Lawrence CommunityWorks
Lawrence History Center
Lawrence Prospera
Lawrence Public Library
Lawrence Recreation Department
Merrimack College
Merrimack Valley Immigrant
and Education Center
Merrimack Valley Spartans Football
and Cheer
Merrimack Valley YMCA
Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc.
MSPCA at Nevins Farm
Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School

Phillips Academy Andover
Pingree School
ServingStars
Si, Se Puede
SquashBusters, Inc.
St. Ann's Home and School, Inc.
Suenos Basketball Inc
The Actors Studio of Newburyport Inc.
The Children's Center
The Community Group
The Governor's Academy "GovsPLUS"
UNH Tech Camp
Utopia Dance Company
Windrush Farm Therapeutic
Equitation, Inc.
Youth Development Organization, Inc.

GREATER LAWRENCE SUMMER FUND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

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