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 greater access to enrichment activities during out-of-school time. For 30 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
LAWRENCE YOUTH FACE A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES...

27% of Lawrence youth live in poverty.

46% of Lawrence youth are overweight.

65% 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, area schools and nonprofits are doing good work that is improving their lives. Just visit any of our 46 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 invests in Greater Lawrence’s greatest asset – our youth.

While working as a summer coach mentor, I was able to gain so much valuable experience... As one of the older girls, it was an honor to help out and teach the younger coach mentors how to become coaches and assist them in learning the proper way to speak and help out younger children. I look forward to using all the skills I learned in plans of bettering myself in the future and those around me.

- Yasmin, 2021 GLSF Program Participant
We were extremely pleased with how this program ran this summer: we felt that students regained confidence in themselves, especially after having spent the previous year dealing with COVID restrictions.

– A 2021 GLSF Grant Recipient (shared in final report)
Middle school students took part in an intensive creative and expository writing program anchored in Lawrence history and designed to bolster student academic skills. Using “Our Strength” as their theme, students reflected on their ability to cope, adapt, self-reflect, and share. They also recognized that strength could be found in their history, their many cultures, and community.

Children ages 6 to 13 living in Hancock Courts and Stadium Courts had the opportunity to make a number of field trips outside of Lawrence. Highlights included visits to the New England Aquarium and Smolak Farms. They also took part in STEM projects led by a volunteer scientist from the Museum of Science.

Youth ages 5 to 18 engaged in a new, formalized high level tennis program for Lawrence youth combining tennis training with mentoring, conditioning, health and wellness education, leadership development, and community service. For the vast majority of participants (96%), this was their first experience with the sport.

Middle school students participated in a program that bridged interest in engaged citizenship with writing, speaking, and team-building skills and supported their sense of empowerment, efficacy, and ownership over their communities’ goals and priorities. After a visit by their State Representatives, students followed up by sending them testimonials on issues that mattered to them, such as access to swimming pools (given the number of drownings across Massachusetts this summer), school lunch, and recycling.

Youth ages 6 to 13 took part in premiere camping experiences in New Hampshire designed to promote cognitive development, physical well-being, social growth, character development, leadership skills, and an appreciation for the environment.

AREAS OF IMPACT

Summer out-of-school time provides Lawrence youth with an unparalleled opportunity to prevent learning loss, build and strengthen skills and relationships, and take part in engaging experiences. Creating more equitable access to summer opportunities can reduce many of the life outcome disparities created by poverty.

The Greater Lawrence Summer Fund helps increase access to a wide range of high-quality summer programs that keep kids safe and make an enormous impact in these key areas:

- Summer learning gap
- Opportunity gap
- Healthy lifestyles
- College and career readiness
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
- Writing
- Arts

2021 SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Middle school students took part in an intensive creative and expository writing program anchored in Lawrence history and designed to bolster student academic skills. Using “Our Strength” as their theme, students reflected on their ability to cope, adapt, self-reflect, and share. They also recognized that strength could be found in their history, their many cultures, and community.

Children ages 6 to 13 living in Hancock Courts and Stadium Courts had the opportunity to make a number of field trips outside of Lawrence. Highlights included visits to the New England Aquarium and Smolak Farms. They also took part in STEM projects led by a volunteer scientist from the Museum of Science.

Youth ages 5 to 18 engaged in a new, formalized high level tennis program for Lawrence youth combining tennis training with mentoring, conditioning, health and wellness education, leadership development, and community service. For the vast majority of participants (96%), this was their first experience with the sport.

Middle school students participated in a program that bridged interest in engaged citizenship with writing, speaking, and team-building skills and supported their sense of empowerment, efficacy, and ownership over their communities’ goals and priorities. After a visit by their State Representatives, students followed up by sending them testimonials on issues that mattered to them, such as access to swimming pools (given the number of drownings across Massachusetts this summer), school lunch, and recycling.

Youth ages 6 to 13 took part in premiere camping experiences in New Hampshire designed to promote cognitive development, physical well-being, social growth, character development, leadership skills, and an appreciation for the environment.
Essex County Community Foundation, working with an all-volunteer grant 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 to support summer programs serving Greater Lawrence youth. GLSF applications were due in March and grants were awarded in May.

**OUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

GLSF funds are awarded to ensure that many areas of programming are covered:

**Programs by Field of Funding:**

- **36** OPPORTUNITY GAP
- **32** ACHIEVEMENT GAP
- **14** OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

**Programs by Impact Area:**

- **13** College Readiness/Transitions
- **18** Job & Career Readiness
- **22** STEM
- **20** Environmental Awareness / Nature Education
- **25** Healthy Lifestyles
- **29** Outdoor Recreation
- **21** Field Trips
- **26** Language Arts / Literacy
- **31** Arts

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

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. Leveraging additional education and enrichment hours through summer programs go a long way towards closing that gap, stemming – and in some cases reversing – learning loss.

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. Summer programs offer greater access to resources like the internet or transportation beyond the city, opening youth up to engaging experiences that can advance their life outcomes.

A CLOSER LOOK INSIDE GLSF PROGRAMS

OUR WORK IN REducing the summer learning GAp

Lawrence Public Library

Esperanza Academy

OUR WORK IN GIVING ALL YOUTH AN OPPORTUNITY

Youth Development Organization

SquashBusters

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. Leveraging additional education and enrichment hours through summer programs go a long way towards closing that gap, stemming – and in some cases reversing – learning loss.
The Lawrence Public Schools lack adequate physical education facilities to accommodate the ever-growing student population. At the same time, there are limited private sports organizations in the city offering healthy living programs. Though our children suffer the consequences with higher rates of childhood obesity and diabetes, sports-based youth development programs work to counter this by engaging Lawrence youth in ways that promote healthy living while simultaneously building confidence, leadership skills and academic achievement.
MANY THANKS TO OUR 2021 FUNDERS

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher B. Andrews
Ash Charitable Corporation
Brad Gatlin Family Fund
Ms. Dianne Brand
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Caffrey
Mr. and Ms. Wayne R. Cannella
Mr. and Mrs. Nat Chamberlin
Charles G. Pringle Charitable Foundation
The Charlotte Home
Cornelius A. Wood & Muriel P. Wood Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Mr. and Mrs. John Dodge
Dusky Fund
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Enterprise Bank and Trust Company
Mr. Vincent Errico
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Flanagan
Foundation M
Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Francis
Ms. Kay Frishman
Gable Family Foundation
Mr. Frederick and Mrs. Constance Glore
The Glore Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Gore
Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Heersink
Helen & David Tory Fund
Highland Street Foundation
Ms. Debra J. Hilbert and Mr. Andrew G. Knapp
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Hines
Horne Family Foundation
Ms. Diane J. Huster
Mr. & Mrs. Jenkins
Mr. and Mrs. Hooks K. Johnston, Jr.
Mr. Russell R. Karl
Ms. Holly Langer
Lawrence Development Fund
Louis S. Cox Trust u/w, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Lyman
Mr. and Mrs. John H. MacMillan IV
Ms. Susan Malloy
Margaret Collins Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Martin
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Mercer
Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Miner
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Nagle, Jr.
Nellie Mae Education Foundation
Ms. Marianne Paley Nadel
The Quaker Hill Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Richards
Robert M. Birmingham Trust
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Rogers
Rosman Family Fund
Ms. Lisa Sevajian
The Stevens Foundations
Ms. Kathy Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Sumberg
Ms. Lisa Torrisi and Mr. Juan Bonilla
The Webster Family Legacy Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander W. White
The White Fund
Mr. and Mrs. James Worden
Ms. Pamela Yameen
The van Otterloo Family Foundation

GREATER LAWRENCE SUMMER FUND

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Sandi Cannella
Holly Langer
Josh Miner
Francisco Paulino
Pavel Payano
Dick Purinton
Arinelli Villa
Pamela Yameen

Greater Lawrence Community Boating