



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION**

## **WE BUILD CHARACTER AMONG YOUTH OF OUR NATION'S CAPITAL.**

The Youth Leadership Foundation [YLF] was founded in 1997 to give promising youth in Washington D.C. an opportunity to have a relationship with positive adult role models.

Our signature programs – the **Program for Academic & Leadership Skills [PALS]** for young women and the **Tenley Achievement Program [TAP]** for young men – train young professionals and college-aged men and women to build character and mentor 3rd-12th graders .

YLF has served well **over 4,000 students in two decades**. Our students outperform their District area peers:



**97** of 100

YLF students will graduate high school compared to 69 of 100 among their peers.

**80** of 100

will be educated beyond high school compared to 48 of 100 among their peers.

**16** of 100

will become leaders in the workforce compared to 7 of 100 among their peers.

### **OUR PROGRAMS**

#### **High School Leadership**

In 2017, YLF inaugurated the Spirit of Service Challenge for High School Leadership as part of its Vision for 2020: to be the best high school mentoring program in the District. The program challenges youth to make a year-long commitment to becoming a better leader through a summer business plan competition, Saturday seminars on personal development, volunteering, and mentorship.

#### **Summer Enrichment**

Our flagship summer camp leads students through an energetic exploration of the humanities to prepare them for the academic year and for life. Students partake in History, Literature, Mathematics and Logic, Natural Science, Team Sports, weekly excursions, and the annual "Ed Smith Summer Showcase".

#### **After-School Mentoring**

YLF students learn the value of diligent study alongside a personal mentor through sports, chess and friendly competition. We have strong partnerships in the Brookland, Columbia Heights, Congress Heights and Highland Park neighborhoods.

[www.helpingkids.org](http://www.helpingkids.org)  
**(202) 365-3511**

Youth Leadership Foundation  
1015 15th Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20005

EIN: 52-2016259  
United Way # 8875  
CFC # 32181



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**YLF successfully continued its Spirit of Service Challenge for high school students.** The Spirit of Service Challenge is a yearlong commitment to becoming a better leader through a Summer Business Plan Competition and yearlong volunteering alongside a dedicated mentor. In 2019, 43 students presented creative solutions to increase high school graduation rate before a panel of C-Level judges at Howard University Law School.

**YLF enrolled an organizational record-breaking 174 students in SY 2018-9.** In FY16, we launched clubs at four schools and served 98 students aged 7 to 14. By FY19, the number of students served has grown by 74% and broke organizational records. We have strong partnerships in the Brookland, Columbia Heights, Congress Heights and Highland Park neighborhoods.

**YLF students outperform peers across measures of future leadership.** In SY 2016-7, YLF conducted a study measuring the leadership development of our students compared to peers. YLF students outperform peers across 8 measures predictive of future leadership, including focus, effort, judgment and preparation.

**YLF has been named "One of the Best" Non-Profits in the Greater Washington Catalogue for Philanthropy.** YLF was chosen out of 200 for our organizational excellence. We are counted among just seven organizations featured by the Catalogue to provide substantive mentoring in the District out of a sea of 341+.

## GET INVOLVED

To learn more about how to get involved or to see our programs in action, contact Janaiha Bennett [jbennett@helpingkids.org](mailto:jbennett@helpingkids.org), or by phone (202)365-3511.

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## 2020 PROGRAMS: BY THE NUMBERS

**90** percent of mentors return year on year

**20** percent of mentors are former program participants

**66** percent retention from in-person to virtual platforms in 2020

**9** schools in a YLF target need area have partnered with us; 2 of which are new this school year

