



Simon Youth Foundation
CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION IMPACT 2022



Simon Youth Foundation's (SYF) impact across the country is broad and deep, supporting more than 26,000 students and families since inception in 1998. Simon Youth Academies maintain an average graduation rate of 93%, ensuring at-risk youth who come from low- and moderate-income families earn their high school diploma. Simon Property Group (Simon) employees founded SYF as a way to give back to the community by meeting students where they were – in the mall instead of school – through the creation of alternative education Academies inside Simon Malls. To this day, despite a global pandemic that has impacted philanthropic support from companies and the education space nationally; Simon and its employees continue to support the success of SYF. Simon donates more than \$1M of in-kind space for Academies located in Simon Malls. The 2022 SYF Annual Campaign raised a total of \$3.08M to expand programs and services, \$265,000 from SYF's National Sponsors – to support 40 Simon Youth Academy program services, scholarships, and capacity building for teachers.

A Solution with Real Impact

For over 20 years, SYF has empowered thousands of students each year to create better futures for their families through education. SYF's work is changing the way students who seek alternative education pathways are perceived and served – we believe all students deserve to be seen, heard, and met where they are with access to a meaningful education. SYF will seek out partnerships with credentialing organizations, national and local employers, and education organizations to expand and enhance our mission. Adults who have achieved a high school diploma earn, on average, 35% more annually – knowing this, SYF celebrates how our graduates are transforming the workforce, economy, and communities in which they live for generations to come.

SYF Academies

SYF has robust educational partnerships with 29 local school districts in 16 states. For more than 20 years, SYF has made an educational commitment to students, families, and communities in which these school districts operate – positively impacting more than 26,000 students and families through the power and major accomplishment of earning a high school diploma. Engaging local school districts across the country extends SYF's annual reach to more than 3,200 students and families who might otherwise never achieve a high school diploma or feel worthy and able to consider college and career opportunities. These students do not lack academic promise or drive; indeed, they must choose to attend an Academy. Instead, personal challenges and circumstances, such as economically supporting their families or managing chronic illness, prevent them from succeeding in a traditional high school setting. As a result of the pandemic, some students are stepping up to fulfill family roles beyond those of a typical teen to ensure their parents and siblings are safe, warm, and fed.



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SYF Academy Scholarships

Each year, SYF's national scholarship program serves students who were at risk of dropping out of high school, but whose personal initiative enabled them to persevere and earn their high school diploma. To date SYF has awarded over \$21M in scholarships. SYF Academy scholarships remove financial barriers for students, 63% of color, who might not consider post-secondary education absent financial support. In 2022, SYF awarded 41 Academy scholarships valued at \$395,000, averaging \$9,634 per scholarship. SYF also invests in Simon Mall communities to support more students through community and employee scholarships; 2022 awards to 146 students, were valued at nearly \$164,000. Students attend Community Colleges, Historically Black Colleges & Universities, and Ivy League institutions.

SYF Educator Capacity

In 2022, SYF invested over \$103,000 in capacity building grants for 500 Academy educators; it has invested \$1.2M in this program since its inception in 2006. These grants allow SYF Academies to address the specific needs of their Academies that are not covered through other federal, state, or local funds. As teacher needs continue to grow and communities are challenged with attracting and retaining talented teachers, SYF stands firm in our commitment to providing ongoing professional development and continuing education credits for our teachers. Through annual surveys, teachers identify issues and content for continuing education. SYF uses their feedback to host an annual conference, through which teachers participate in workshops from national and content experts and their Academy peers. In 2022, this also included a focus on self-care resources for teachers who have selflessly navigated the delivery of meaningful education and connection with students for the past two years of a pandemic.

Follow SYF on Social Media

Facebook	@simonyouthfoundation
Instagram	@simonyouthfoundation
LinkedIn	@simonyouthfoundation
Twitter	@simon_youth
YouTube	@simonyouthfoundation

CREATING BIG OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIG DREAMS

In 1998, Simon employees founded Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) to give back to their communities by meeting at-risk youth where they were—in the shopping center instead of in school. Since then, SYF has profoundly impacted more than 24,000 students and families through its program services, scholarships, and capacity building for teachers at 44 Simon Youth Academies in 16 states.

Simon Youth Academies—operate in partnership with local public school districts to ensure that at-risk students from low- and moderate-income families earn their high school diplomas. Our mission also encourages students to consider post-secondary education by removing the financial barriers to attend college through our scholarships to Academy graduates, 63% of whom identify as a person of color.

Students choose to attend an SYF Academy. The choice isn't because these students lack academic promise but due to their personal challenges and circumstances, such as the need to economically support their families or to manage chronic illness, preventing them from succeeding in a traditional high school setting. By providing them with the personalized support they need and deserve, SYF is creating a talent pipeline for local communities, including our Simon Centers.

Through the 2021 annual Employee Contribution Campaign, Simon corporate and field employees collectively donated \$566,000 to SYF. Customers also contributed to the success of SYF. By shoppers dropping coins in the local Wishing Wells and Fountains, we raised nearly \$150K in 2021. Wishing Wells are at most Simon regional Malls, a few Premium Outlets, and The Mills. In 210 properties, we have more than 468 wells.

EDUCATOR STORIES/CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMS

To enable Simon Youth Academy educators to best serve their students, SYF invests in ongoing professional development and continuing education for Simon Youth Academy educators. This enables teachers to reach and support their students while growing and thriving professionally. In 2021, SYF invested over \$120,000 in building the capacity for 500 Academy educators, with a total investment of \$1.1 million in our communities' teachers since its inception in 2006.

SYF provides additional professional support through its annual national conference for Academy educators to participate in workshops led by national and content experts and their Academy peers. At this conference, SYF also named its Administrator and Teacher of the Year, including stipends to each winner to pursue personal or professional development opportunities.



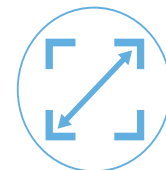
\$43.2M

Invested in SYF Since 1998 ⁶



\$1M+

Direct SYF Funding from Simon in 2021



41,875

SYF Dedicated Sq Ft in Simon Centers



\$566K

SYF Donations from Simon Employees in 2021



44

SYF Academies



\$1.2B

Value of SYF Dedicated Sq Ft in Simon Centers



24,048

SYF Total Graduates Since Inception



3,533

SYF Students Enrolled



63%

Simon Youth Academy Students That Are Non-White

6. Cumulative support - lifetime employee, mall, family, corporate giving including Gift-in-Kind-add prior lifetime.

Would you like to support SYF? Please click [here](#).

AN SYF STUDENT'S STORY



“My entire life I was told, I wasn’t going to be anyone successful,” she says. “When you get those things ingrained in your brain, you start believing them.”

Johana Saravia is one of these students. The daughter of a single mom, Johana worked two jobs to help support her family while taking care of her younger brother and juggling her schoolwork. Johana was overwhelmed, and when she enrolled at Simon Youth Academy at Opry Mills in Nashville, Tennessee, she didn’t even care if she graduated.

Yet with the support and encouragement of her teachers, Johana’s aspirations grew. She excelled in her academics and earned a Simon Youth Scholarship upon graduation. Today, she is simultaneously working to earn a master’s degree in teaching—and working side-by-side with the teachers and the principal who inspired her as the Secretary of Simon Youth Academy at Opry Mills!

“Simon Youth changed my life entirely,” Johana said. “Sometimes, I think about what would have happened if the Academy did not provide me a second chance. Every outcome in that scenario would have led me down a very dangerous path. It may sound cliché, but this program is the best opportunity for success. When you feel like you have absolutely no one, the Academy is there for you. We are here to help. I include myself in that now because I want to help others see that there is a second chance to a better you. That person has the opportunity to succeed here at the Academy.”

[Learn more about Johana’s journey.](#)

50%

Qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch

25%

Will be First Generation College Student

16.6%

Will be First Generation High School Graduate

7.6%

Pregnant and/or Parenting Students



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

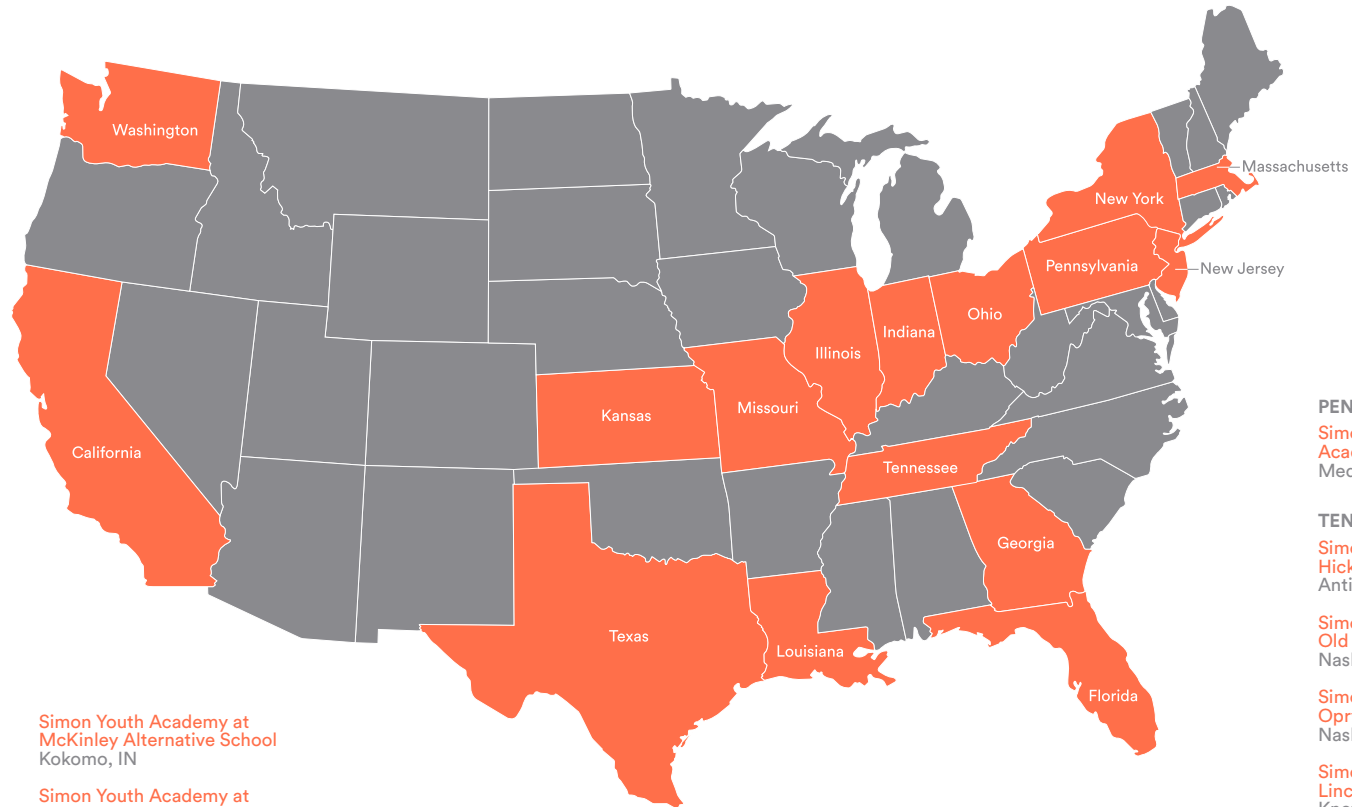
SYF’s 2021 Teacher of the Year is Jennifer Blanchette, the lead teacher at Simon Youth Academy at Port Charlotte Town Center, in Port Charlotte, Florida. Jennifer is known for connecting with students who are close to graduation but need extra encouragement to finish. She pours her heart and soul into making graduation special and memorable for everyone.



ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

SYF’s 2021 Administrator of the Year is Jasmin Lee, Academy Supervisor at Simon Youth Academy at The Mills at Jersey Gardens, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Jasmin is a passionate educator who cares deeply about her students, over 90% of whom identify as students of color. She spends countless hours reaching out to students, families, nonprofits, local community members, and center teams to help keep students on track and celebrate their successes.

SIMON YOUTH ACADEMIES



CALIFORNIA

Simon Youth Academy at The Shops at Mission Viejo
Mission Viejo, CA

Simon Youth Academy at Union High School
San Juan Capistrano, CA

FLORIDA

Simon Youth Academy at BETA
Orlando, FL

Simon Youth Academy at Orlando Outlet Marketplace
Orlando, FL

Simon Youth Academy at Port Charlotte Town Center
Port Charlotte, FL

Simon Youth Academy on Cochran
Port Charlotte, FL

GEORGIA

Simon Youth Academy at Phoenix High School
Lawrenceville, GA

Simon Youth Academy at Sugarloaf Mills
Lawrenceville, GA

ILLINOIS

Simon Youth Springfield Learning Academy
Springfield, IL

INDIANA

Simon Youth Academy at Circle Centre Mall
Indianapolis, IN

Simon Youth Academy at Greenfield-Central Schools
Greenfield, IN

Simon Youth Academy at Lawrence Township Schools
Lawrence, IN

Simon Youth Academy at McKinley Alternative School
Kokomo, IN

Simon Youth Academy at Options Noblesville
Noblesville, IN

Simon Youth Academy at Richmond High School
Richmond, IN

Simon Youth Academy at Shelbyville Central Schools
Shelbyville, IN

Simon Youth Center Grove Academy
Greenwood, IN

Simon Youth Clark-Pleasant Academy
Whiteland, IN

Simon Youth Hope Academy
Indianapolis, IN

KANSAS

Simon Youth Academy at Towne East Square
Wichita, KS

Simon Youth Chester I. Lewis Academy
Wichita, KS

LOUISIANA

Simon Youth Academy at Prien Lake Mall
Lake Charles, LA

Simon Youth Calcasieu Parish Academy
Sulphur, LA

MASSACHUSETTS

Simon Youth Academy at Burlington
Burlington, MA

Simon Youth Academy at Northshore Mall
Peabody, MA

Simon Youth Academy at Peabody Community High School
Peabody, MA

MISSOURI

Simon Youth Fort Osage Academy
Buckner, MO

NEW JERSEY

Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery High School, a Simon Youth Academy
Roselle, NJ

Simon Youth Academy at The Mills at Jersey Gardens
Elizabeth, NJ

NEW YORK

Simon Youth Academy at Baldwin
Baldwin, NY

OHIO

Simon Youth Mahoning County Academy
Canfield, OH

PENNSYLVANIA

Simon Youth Rose Tree Media Academy
Media, PA

TENNESSEE

Simon Youth Academy at Hickory Hollow
Antioch, TN

Simon Youth Academy at Old Cockrill
Nashville, TN

Simon Youth Academy at Opry Mills
Nashville, TN

Simon Youth Kelley Academy at Lincoln Park Center
Knoxville, TN

TEXAS

Simon Youth Judson Learning Academy
San Antonio, TX

WASHINGTON

Seattle Public Schools Bridges Program at Simon Youth Academy
Seattle, WA

Simon Youth Academy at North Seattle College
Seattle, WA

Simon Youth Academy at Seattle University
Seattle, WA