



Simon Youth Foundation's (SYF) impact across the country is broad and deep, supporting more than 28,000 students and families since its inception in 1998. Simon Youth Academies, operated by local public school districts, maintain an average graduation rate of 91%, ensuring that at-risk youth who come from low- and moderate-income families earn their high school diplomas. Simon Property Group (Simon) employees founded SYF 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, 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 2023 SYF Annual Campaign raised \$3.04M to expand programs and services in our Academies, of which \$278K came from SYF's National Sponsors, and \$200K came from our new partners, **JCPenney Communities Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, IU Health, Old National Bank Foundation, One America and LiveView**, among others, which supported our 32 Simon Youth Academies, student scholarships, and capacity building grants.

## **A Solution with Real Impact**

For more than 25 years, SYF has empowered thousands of students each year to create better futures for their families and communities through education. SYF's work is changing the way students who seek Alternative Education pathways are perceived – we believe all students deserve to be seen, heard, and met where they are with access to a meaningful education. SYF continues to seek out partnerships with credentialing organizations, national and local employers, and education organizations to expand and enhance our mission. Adults who have earned a high school diploma earn, on average, 25% more annually than students who have dropped out of school. 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 25 local school districts in 12 states. For more than 25 years, SYF has made an educational commitment to students, families, and communities in which these school districts operate – positively impacting over 28,000 students and families through the power of earning a high school diploma. Engaging local school districts across the country extends SYF's annual reach to support an average of 3,100 students and their 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; they must choose to attend a Simon Youth Academy. Students come to our Academies because they have had personal challenges and circumstances, such as the need to be employed to help support their families, managing a chronic illness, or contending with other factors that prevent them from succeeding in a traditional high school setting. 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.



### **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 \$21.1M in scholarships. SYF Academy scholarships remove financial barriers for students, many of whom are minorities. In 2023, 61% of color, who might not consider post-secondary education absent financial support. In 2023, 35% of our Academy students identified as non-white, and 34% of our students identified as Hispanic or Latino. SYF awarded 49 Academy scholarships valued at \$337,000, averaging \$6,877 per scholarship. SYF also invests in Simon Mall communities to support more students through community and employee scholarships; 2023 awards to 95 students, were valued at nearly \$95,000. Students attend community colleges, Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), Ivy League institutions, and local colleges and universities for post-secondary education.

### **SYF Educator Capacity**

In 2023, SYF invested more than \$154,000 in capacity-building grants for over 400 Academy educators. Since the inception of the program in 2006, SYF has invested \$1.4M in educators and Academies. 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 experts and their Academy peers. In 2023, this also included a focus on self-care resources for teachers who have selflessly navigated the delivery of meaningful education and connection with students.

### **Follow SYF on Social Media**

- |           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Facebook  | @simonyouthfoundation  |
| Instagram | @simonyouthfoundation  |
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| X         | @simonyouth            |
| YouTube   | @simonyouthfoundation_ |

# SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION

## CREATING BIG OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIG DREAMS

In 1998, Simon employees founded Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) to give back to the community through its most important assets: educated students by meeting at-risk youth where they were – in the mall instead of in school. Since then, SYF has profoundly impacted more than 26K students and families through its scholarships, experiential learning programs, and capacity building grants for teachers and students at 40 Simon Youth Academies in 16 states.

Since 1998, SYF has established a network of Academies across the country in partnership with 29 local school districts and Simon Malls to ensure that at-risk students who come from low- and moderate-income families earn their high school diploma. To encourage post-secondary education and remove financial barriers, SYF provides scholarships to Academy graduates, 63% of whom identify as a person of color.

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. By providing them with the personalized support they need and deserve – each graduate has strengthened their local community by earning a high school diploma and graduating with the skills they need to take their next step, whether that be enrollment in post-secondary education, employment, or enlistment – SYF is creating a pipeline of talent.

Through the 2022 annual Employee Contribution Campaign, Simon Corporate and Field employees donated ~\$571K to SYF. In addition, customers contributed ~\$119K through our 235 Wishing Well and Fountains located throughout our 210 properties.

## EDUCATOR STORIES/CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAM FOCUS

To enable Simon Youth Academy educators to best reach and support their students, SYF invests in ongoing professional development and continuing education credits for Simon Youth Academy educators, enabling them to grow and thrive professionally. In 2022, SYF invested over \$103K in capacity building for 500 Academy educators; it has invested \$1.2M into the program since its inception in 2006.

Additionally, the annual SYF National Educator Conference (SYF NEC) is hosted for Academy educators to participate in workshops from national and content experts and their Academy peers. In 2022, this also included 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 the pandemic. A highlight of the SYF NEC is the naming of the SYF Administrator and Teacher of the Year, which includes stipends to pursue personal or professional development opportunities.

SYF celebrates how its graduates and educators are transforming the workforce, economy, and communities in which they live for generations to come. Thanks to the generous support of Simon and its employees, as well as partners like the Indiana Department of Education and SYF's National Sponsors, SYF will seek out partnerships with credentialing organizations, national and local employers, and education organizations to expand and enhance its mission. Learn more or donate at [syf.org](https://syf.org).



**40**  
SYF Academies



**26,126**  
SYF Total Graduates  
Since Inception



**36K+ SF**  
Dedicated Square Feet  
in Malls



**\$570K+**  
SYF Donations from  
Simon Employees in 2022



**\$14.3M+**  
Invested in Simon Youth  
Foundation Since 1998

## 25 YEARS OF SYF

2023 is an important year in the history of Simon Youth Foundation. All year long, SYF will be celebrating its 25th anniversary as an organization supporting high-quality Alternative Education programs. In 25 years, SYF Academies have graduated more than 26K students. Each of these graduates has strengthened their local community by earning their high school diploma and graduating with the skills they need to take their next step, whether that be enrollment in post-secondary education, employment, or enlistment.

In its first 25 years, SYF has also supported students and communities through their scholarship programs. Over \$21M in scholarship funds have been awarded through three scholarship programs. These students have gone on to attend over 500 different colleges and universities in 32 states. The largest scholarship program we provided is for the Academy network students. Over the years, the Academy scholarship has evolved to meet the needs of its students. Once limited to two- or four-year renewable scholarships that had to be used at colleges or universities, Academy scholarships may now be used for other post-secondary educational options that result in an industry-recognized certification.

Students have earned certificates in welding, emergency medical services (EMS), cosmetology, and other programs that will enable them to meet their academic goals, find employment that is meaningful to them, and become engaged members in their communities.

## ACKNOWLEDGE SYF LEADERS



### 2022 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: ADRIENNE MEEKS FROM SIMON YOUTH ACADEMY AT ORLANDO OUTLET MARKETPLACE

Adrienne, an English teacher, created “Starbooks Café” at her Academy. As barista, she serves coffee and tea while recommending “book tastings.” The Food Truck Book Project showcases students’ independent reading. Adrienne added a Shakespeare competition, resulting in several students signing up for the English-Speaking Union Shakespeare competition, earning cash prizes and a trip to New York. Students gain valuable skills, engaged in learning toward graduation from such experiences.

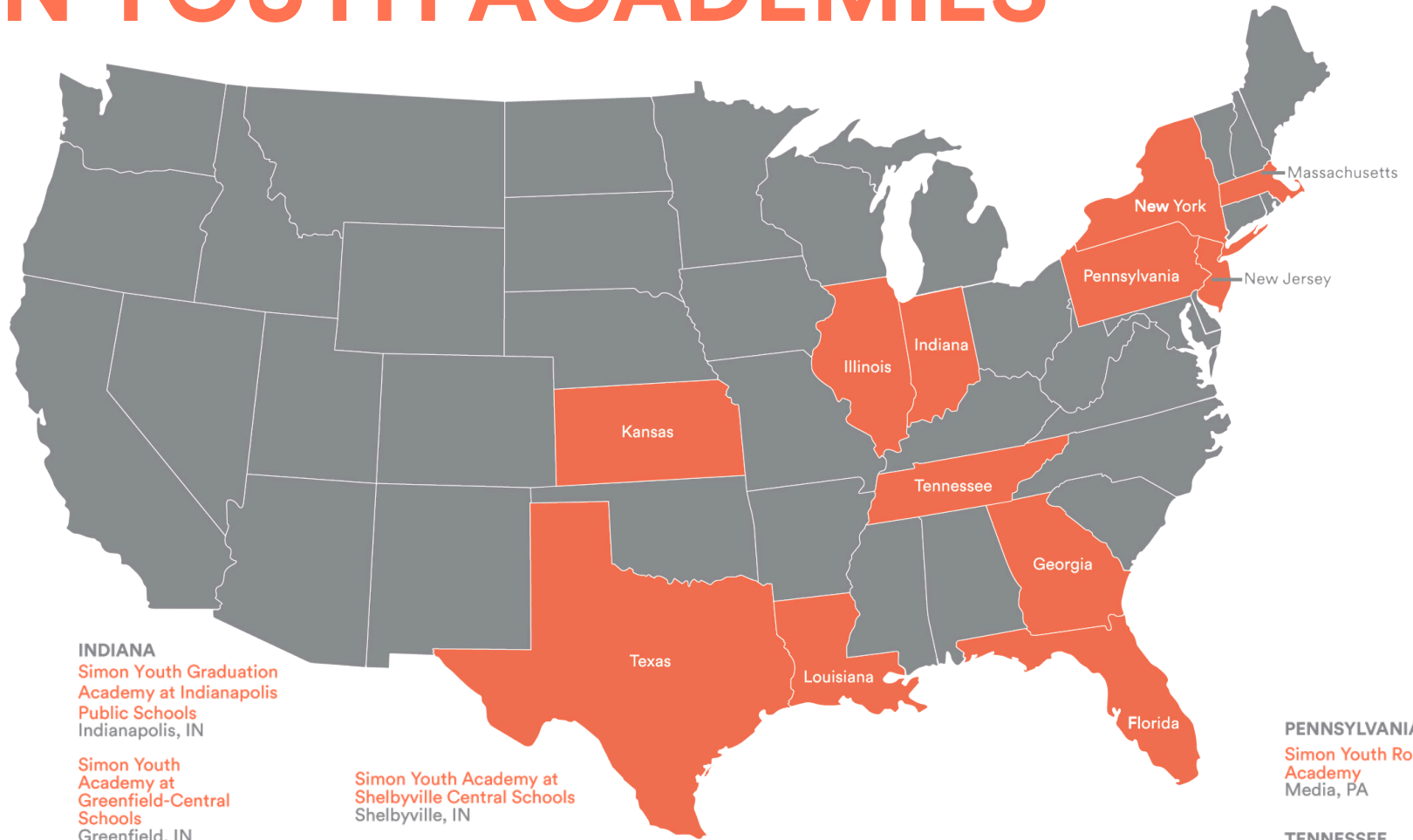


### 2022 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR: TAMMI BROADUS FROM SIMON YOUTH ACADEMY AT GREENFIELD-CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Tammi, a social worker at the Greenfield, Indiana Academy, meets students daily to set and evaluate their daily, weekly, quarterly, and yearly goals. She creates support groups that meet three times a week to positively impact students’ lives. Tammi prioritizes relationships, creating a safe and welcoming environment for students to focus on graduation requirements. Additionally, she organizes a community fair for students to explore employment and trade school opportunities.

# SIMON YOUTH ACADEMIES

33 Academies in 12 States  
As of August 2024



**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 Graduation  
Academy at Indianapolis  
Public Schools  
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 Academy at  
Avon  
Avon, IN

Simon Youth Center Grove  
Academy  
Greenwood, IN

Simon Youth Clark-Pleasant  
Academy  
Whiteland, IN

Simon Youth Hope Academy  
Indianapolis, IN

Simon Youth True North  
Academy  
Indianapolis, IN

**KANSAS**  
Simon Youth Academy at  
Towne East Square  
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

**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

**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