



Stories That Spark Innovation: Youth Philanthropy Strengthening Rural Communities

Ashley Fleming

Director of Community Impact, Community Foundation of the Ozarks

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What is the Community Foundation of the Ozarks?

Ashley Fleming

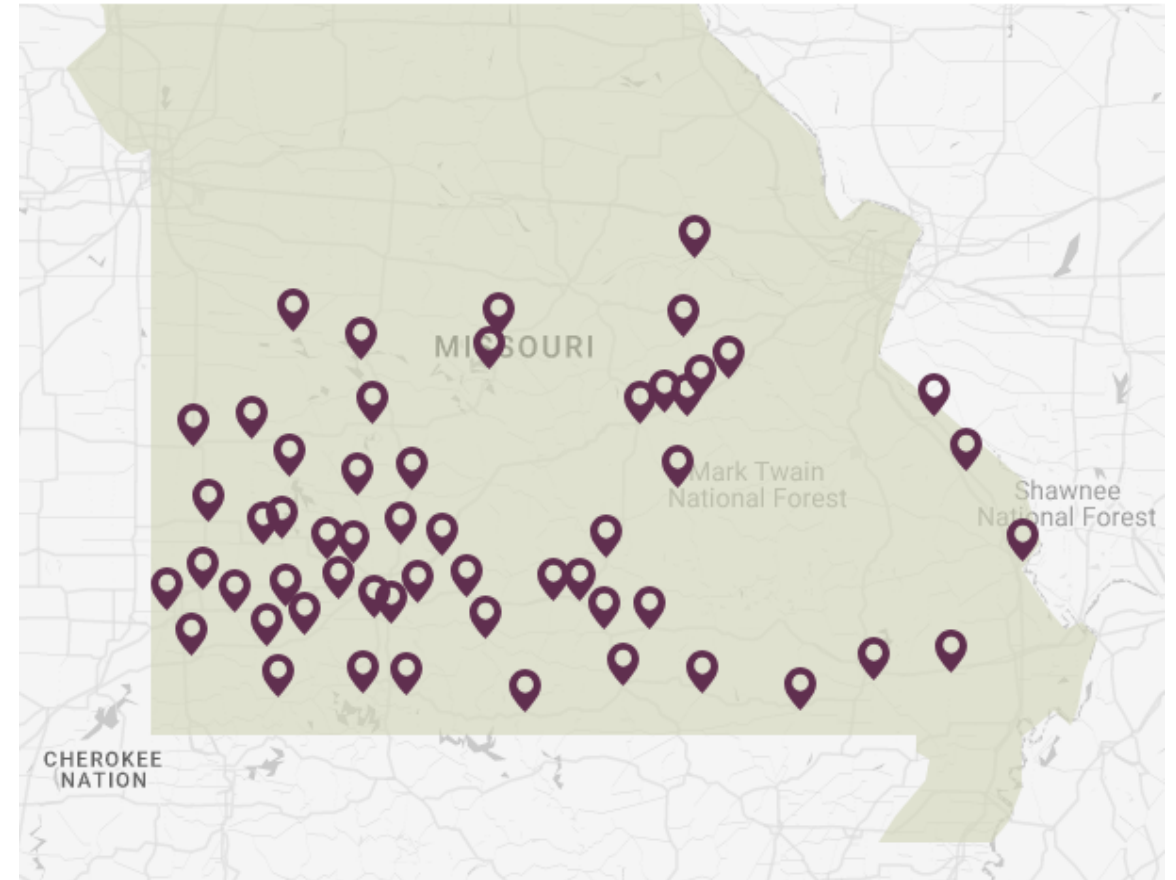
Director of Community
Impact, Community
Foundation of the
Ozarks

What is the CFO?

Our mission: To enhance the quality of life in our region through resource development, community grantmaking, collaboration and public leadership.

What is the CFO?

- Established in 1973
- 55 affiliate foundations across central and southern Missouri
- About 700 agency partners
- More than 3,700 charitable funds



Youth Philanthropy: Strengthening Civic Engagement & Local Leadership in Rural Communities

Ashley Fleming

Director of Community
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Youth Empowerment Project

- Youth philanthropy and community engagement program.
- Focus areas include community engagement, philanthropic education, fundraising and grantmaking.
- Established in 2001 and now includes 10 active chapters.
- Over the past 5 years, YEP chapters have granted over \$200,000 to tax-exempt organizations and school districts.



Community Engagement

Springfield City YEP chapter members volunteer at Ozarks Food Harvest.



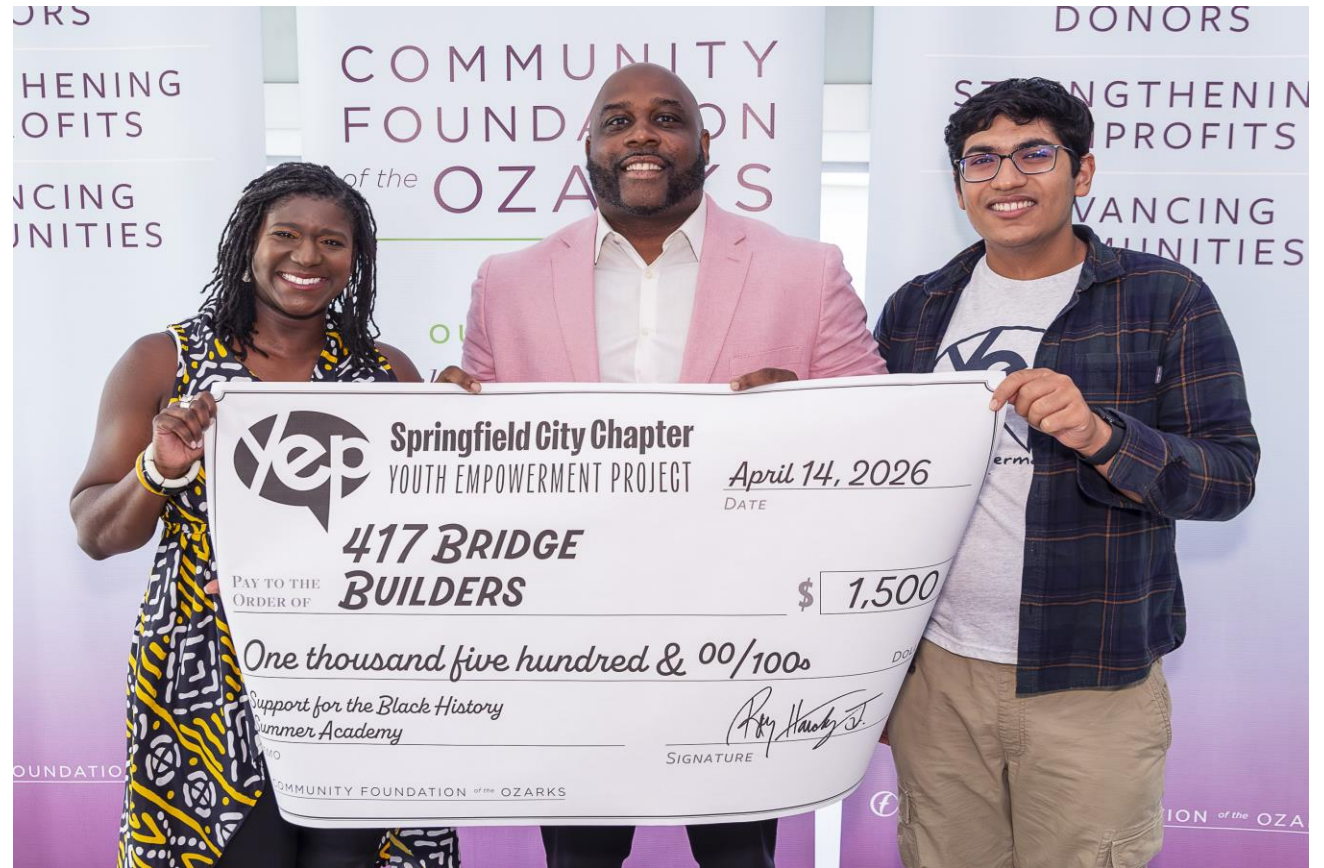
Philanthropic Education

CFO Program Coordinator Rachel Tripp, far left, facilitated a panel on community advocacy with, from left to right: Kim McCully-Mobley, Aurora High School; Daniel Ogunyemi, Ozarks Technical Community College; Brandy Harris, Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield; and Brandon Jensen, Springfield City Council.



Fundraising & Grantmaking

The Springfield City YEP chapter presented its annual grants on April 14.



Annual Conference

Dr. Marcos Silva speaks to YEP conference attendees.



Other Youth Philanthropy Programs

- Three Pillars Initiative
 - <https://www.threepillarsinitiative.org>
- Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
 - <https://philanthropy.indianapolis.iu.edu/academics/youth-philanthropy-initiative/index.html>



Youth Philanthropy Deepens Sense of Place, Elevates Youth Voice & Strengthens Community Identity

Kim McCully-Mobley

M.Ed., English/Language
Arts & A-Tech for
Success, Aurora High
School; Affiliate
Coordinator, Aurora Area
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Sense of Place

- “Storytellers create moments of unexpected change.” —Will Storr, *The Science of Storytelling*
- “The stories we love best live in us forever.” —J.K. Rowling
- “Live the story you want to tell.” —Simply Topaz



Kim McCully-Mobley & RYLA

Sense of Place

Activities

- Civil War Lineup
- Silent Birthday
- Mystery Bag
- Childhood Reflection
- Looking Out My Window

Sense of Place

Aurora Youth Empowerment Project

- Preserve, Protect, and Promote Stories
- Chartered in 2012
- Raised more than \$200,000



Sense of Place

Aurora Youth Empowerment Project

- Hygiene & Food Bags
- Murals
- All Roads Lead Home pavilion
- Flag poles
- Veterans Honor Garden
- Planting Trees
- Drury University Leadership Classes
- Rotary Speech Program
- Annual YEP conferences in Springfield



Sense of Place

Aurora Youth Empowerment Project

- Murals
- Community Partners
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp



Want to Launch a Youth Philanthropy Program in YOUR Community?

Ashley Fleming

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How to Start a YEP Chapter at the CFO

- Support from school district
- Designate a chapter sponsor
 - School staff member (counselor, teacher, club sponsor)
 - Community member (with permission from school)
- Gather a group of interested students
- Establish a regular meeting schedule (once a week, once a month, etc.)
- Establish a philanthropic focus
 - Raise funds for classroom supplies/projects
 - Raise funds and manage a school/community garden
 - Downtown revitalization project
- Set up a meeting with the CFO
- Set up a YEP fund at the CFO

Youth Philanthropy Best Practices

Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy

- Designate an adult mentor (chapter sponsor)
- Adult mentors (chapter sponsors) should guide, not control
- Ensure a diverse (variety of community partners) or a stable source of funding for youth programs (endowment)

Source: <https://johnsoncenter.org/blog/a-comprehensive-field-scan-of-youth-philanthropy-to-inform-its-support-and-development/>

[All Roads Lead Home V5](#)

Questions?

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COMMUNITY
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