

Making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and young people throughout the National Capital Region



PORTFOLIO II : 2014 FALL / WINTER

Inspiring Hope.

Like so many other young African American men in our city, Antoine Tate had big dreams for his future but grew up in a tough neighborhood. He didn't have a clear path to making his dreams a reality. He feared winding up in jail, living in poverty, and even dying at a young age. In his words, college was the key - as well as the *hope* - to escaping these fears.

Antoine's story is not unique. Here in the National Capital Region, more than half a million low-income youth don't have the skills, resources, or opportunities they need to become healthy, productive adults.

Throughout Venture Philanthropy Partners' (VPP) second portfolio, we've worked with high-performing nonprofits to help them become more effective and collaborative with others to create positive change for low-income youth across the region.

We're proud to see the progress that our investment partners have made in providing the region's young people with the tools they need to succeed.

From schools and educational programs such as AppleTree's Early Learning Public Charter School and the KIPP DC school system that help students thrive, to Urban Alliance's thought leadership around the importance of youth employment, our partners are constantly striving to improve upon their successes and achieve better outcomes for our youth.

Our partners will continue to help the National Capital Region's next generation receive the quality education, health care, and career training they deserve - setting them on the right path for a brighter future.

Direct Investments



With VPP's investment, AppleTree is giving more preschool students access to quality education.

VPP's investment in AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation will enable AppleTree to serve 1,200 students at its Early Learning Public Charter School by 2017, doubling its current reach.

AppleTree will also be on track to finalize *Every Child Ready* (ECR), an innovative and award-winning early childhood education instructional program that offers a robust curriculum for preschoolers as well as targeted support for teachers and students. The program is accessible to classrooms throughout the region.

Achievements:

- 748 preschool students are currently enrolled in AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter Schools for the 2014 - 2015 school year.
- At AppleTree's partner schools, 883 additional preschoolers are benefiting from AppleTree's curriculum and professional development support - a 52% increase over the previous year.
- AppleTree increased the number of Every Child Ready professional development videos in its searchable database to more than 800 videos.
- AppleTree opened its newly relocated Southwest campus which achieved the highest re-enrollment rate in the Appletree network.

AppleTree continues to be recognized for its leadership in the field of early childhood education. Senior staff are invited to share their expertise at events nationwide, and their model was profiled in *Moneyball for Government*, a compilation of evidence-based approaches that are poised to scale.

OVERVIEW

AppleTree develops and provides proven early childhood education programs to preschoolers from low-income families. The organization has developed a comprehensive instructional model for early childhood education called *Every Child Ready*, which is currently in practice at AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter Schools and six other public charter schools in the region.

VPP committed \$3.2 million in December 2013 to enhance its innovative preschool model and increase the number of preschoolers AppleTree directly serves to 1,200; doubling its current reach.



AppleTree is partnering with



to bring the ECR instructional model to their preschool and pre-kindergarten programs.





Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection

With support from VPP, Hillside Work - Scholarship Connection is helping more at-risk high school students graduate.

VPP's investment is helping Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) more than triple the number of students it serves in Prince George's County, Maryland, by 2017. The investment is also supporting HW-SC to:

- Expand its internal capacity to attract and retain the talent required for expansion;
- Grow the network of local employers participating in the program;
- and
- Use performance management system investments to ensure real-time learning.

HW-SC's mission is to help at-risk students in Prince George's County, successfully graduate from high school. The program provides them with academic support, mentoring, skills training and the opportunity for part-time work. HW-SC pairs students with a professional youth advocate for up to two years after they leave high school. That youth advocate works closely with students to address their individual needs and obstacles impeding their success.

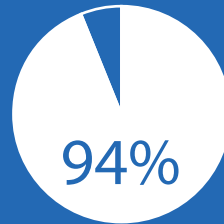
Achievements:

- HW-SC has increased youth served from 253 to 487 since the beginning of VPP's investment.
- With support from its headquarters in Rochester, New York, HW-SC is building capacity, locally, to support expansion within Prince George's County by hiring several new positions including a chief operating officer and a data analyst.
- HW-SC hired 10 additional youth advocates, bringing the total number of advocates working with Prince George's County students to 17.
- Major local philanthropies, including the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the Freddie Mac Foundation, and the United Way of the National Capital Area have funded HW-SC.

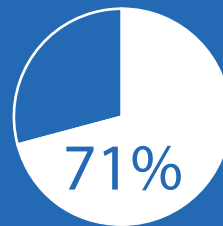
OVERVIEW

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) is a youth-development program that for nearly three decades has helped at-risk students stay in school and successfully graduate. HW-SC identifies promising middle and high school students at risk of dropping out and provides them with academic support, mentoring, skills training and the opportunity for part-time work.

VPP's \$1.95 million investment in Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection made in February 2014, will give 870 more middle and high school students in Prince George's County, Maryland, access to these services.



of HW-SC students graduated on time in 2013.



of low-income students graduated from high school on time in Prince George's County in 2013.





VPP has helped KIPP DC become stronger and more sustainable.

KIPP is a national network of high-performing, college preparatory public charter school systems serving 58,000 students in 162 schools. KIPP DC joined the national network in 2001 with the establishment of KIPP DC KEY Academy. When KEY opened, it had 80 students and only 5 staff.

KIPP DC has grown significantly since those early days. The school system currently serves more than 4,600 students at 15 schools on six campuses across Washington, DC; and will serve more than 6,000 students at 16 schools by 2020. While KIPP DC has grown, its approach to education has remained consistent: figure out what works and do it well. Above all, KIPP DC strives to fill its schools with the best possible educators and create learning environments where students feel safe and encouraged.

VPP's investment has enabled KIPP DC to increase the number of students it serves from 1,550 to 4,603 without compromising the caliber of the education it provides. Today, KIPP DC is one of the largest and highest-performing school systems in Washington, DC.

Achievements:

- In early 2014, KIPP DC successfully acquired the Arts and Technology Academy, a failing public school, making it the first school system in the national KIPP network to take charge of a school in need of a swift turnaround.
- 30% of KIPP DC teachers hired for the 2014-2015 school year were Capital Teaching Residency participants, a KIPP DC teacher training program that trains and certifies teachers.
- KIPP DC now operates five early childhood schools, five elementary schools, four middle schools, and one high school.
- 95% of KIPP DC's class of 2013 received a high school diploma, and 84% of the class went on to college.

VPP's investment in KIPP DC ended in 2013 - you can read more about our work in our case study online at:

www.vppartners.org/portfolio/portfolio-ii-kipp-dc



“ KIPP DC'S MISSION AND GOALS DRIVE EVERYTHING THEY DO IN THEIR SCHOOLS. MY DAUGHTER'S TEACHERS ARE COMMITTED TO HER ENTIRE WELLBEING, AND THAT IS REFLECTED IN THE EDUCATION SHE IS RECEIVING ”

Mignon Pinson, mother of a KIPP DC student



OVERVIEW

KIPP DC is a network of high-performing, college-preparatory charter schools in Washington, DC, that serves the city's underserved communities. KIPP DC is building on its strong track record of preparing students for success in college and beyond, as well as changing the face of public education in DC.

VPP committed \$5.5 million over four years to increase the number of students KIPP DC serves from 1,550 to at least 3,600 students by 2015.



VPP is helping Urban Alliance better support youth by preparing them for the world of work and offering them meaningful employment.

With VPP's investment, Urban Alliance is growing to scale in the National Capital Region by expanding core direct services in Northern Virginia. Annually, Urban Alliance's High School Internship program will serve at least 65 youth, and its Curriculum Services Outreach program will serve at least 300 youth.

VPP's support is also helping Urban Alliance strengthen its capacity in leadership positions in finance, development and marketing. Eshauna Smith, Urban Alliance's former president, recently assumed the CEO role. The enhanced depth of the senior leadership team helped the organization make a smooth transition.

In the 2014-2015 school year, Urban Alliance will serve almost 50 students from Northern Virginia, nearly double the number served in the program's first year.

Achievements:

- ▶ 100% of the inaugural cohort of students in the year-long High School Internship Program graduated from high school on time.
- ▶ Developed a significant partnership with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in Alexandria, Virginia, resulting in 20 new internships for young people.
- ▶ Launched a dual enrollment program with Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). Successful completion of the Urban Alliance program satisfies the college requirement for Student Development 100, a course required for all incoming NVCC students.

OVERVIEW

Urban Alliance is a year-long employment program for under-resourced high school seniors. Urban Alliance places high school students into paid internships with local employers and the federal government while providing students with professional development workshops. After graduating the program, students have access to Urban Alliance alumni services.

VPP committed \$2.8 million in November 2012 to help Urban Alliance expand the program into northern Virginia to offer its High School Internship Program, Alumni Services, and Curriculum Outreach services to an additional 1000 youth, and to explore growth into Maryland.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MATTERS!
High-Quality Solutions and the Role of Corporate Engagement
OCTOBER 3, 2014

Urban Alliance is becoming a strong voice for stronger youth employment policy. This fall, Urban Alliance sponsored Youth Employment Matters! - a policy discussion at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The program included a keynote address from Vice President Joe Biden and resulted in strengthened relationships with corporate partners and several additional intern sponsors.

In conjunction with the event, Urban Alliance released its well-received position paper, "Youth Employment Matters! Strengthening the Youth-to-Work Pipeline Through High-Quality Youth Employment Opportunities"



VPP helped Year Up expand and make important inroads with key stakeholders including the federal government.

When VPP invested in Year Up National Capital Region (NCR) in 2009, the organization was at a critical juncture: it had emerged from its start-up phase and was running full speed ahead to being fully operational, which raised questions about the organization's programmatic growth, leadership transitions, board development and financial sustainability.

In 2009, VPP launched its work with Year Up to scale and strengthen the impact of Year Up NCR while also providing Year Up's national headquarters in Boston with the capacity to engage employers, the federal government, and other stakeholders on the importance of closing the Opportunity Divide.

Over the course of the four year partnership, VPP invested \$3.5 million in building the capacity of Year Up NCR to serve more youth and to ensure that those who entered the program completed it successfully. As Year Up NCR established itself in the DC region, VPP provided financial assistance and strategic guidance to help the organization successfully navigate a leadership transition. In addition, VPP's support was available to build overall staff capacity, enabling Year Up NCR to forge partnerships critical to the organization's success.

Achievements:

- During VPP's investment period, 760 youth enrolled in Year Up NCR, a 67% increase.
- During the investment period, Year Up NCR achieved a 95% program completion rate, the highest completion rate within Year Up's national network.
- On average, 83% of Year Up NCR graduates secured full-time employment at \$15 per hour, or enrolled in full-time postsecondary studies within four months of graduation.

VPP's investment in Year Up NCR ended in 2013 - you can read more about our work in our case study online at:

www.vpppartners.org/portfolio/portfolio-ii-year-up-national-capital-region

“ THE IMPACT OF VPP'S INVESTMENT IN YEAR UP EXCEEDED OUR WILDEST EXPECTATIONS.

WE ARE SERVING MORE YOUNG ADULTS AND PUTTING THEM IN LIVEABLE WAGE CAREERS. VPP APPROACHED THE INVESTMENT AS TRUE PARTNERS AND WERE ALWAYS WILLING TO ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES AND GET INTO THE TRENCHES WITH ME.”

Ronda Thompson, Executive Director, Year Up NCR



OVERVIEW

Year Up National Capital Region puts urban young adults on a path to living-wage careers and opportunity. The year-long workforce-readiness program includes six months of job skills training with an IT focus, and a six-month paid internship with local corporate partners.

VPP committed \$4.5 million over five years to increase the number of Year Up students and serve over 800 alumni in the region. In addition, the investment more than doubled the internal capacity of Year Up for serving students and employer partners. Year Up used \$1 million of the investment to implement a national influence strategy to leverage its model as an example for workforce development programs across the country.



With VPP's investment, the youthCONNECT network was created, and is testing how collaboration can transform the way organizations serve young people.

In 2010, VPP launched youthCONNECT, a pioneering initiative to create a network of nonprofits working collectively to improve education, employment, and healthy behaviors for 20,000 low income youth, ages 14-24, in the National Capital Region (NCR). With VPP as the backbone organization, youthCONNECT brought together six local high performing organizations to develop a shared plan to more effectively address the complex issues affecting the young people they serve.

This year, youthCONNECT partners are continuing to integrate their services in the network's first school-based pilot program at the Latin American Youth Center Career Academy. This allows the organizations to work with a specific cohort of youth to provide a comprehensive suite of services-such as college preparation, internship placement and health education-in a more holistic way. youthCONNECT demonstrates value by expanding the range of services any single organization can provide to its youth through network collaboration. This leads to more students receiving more supports.

Achievements:

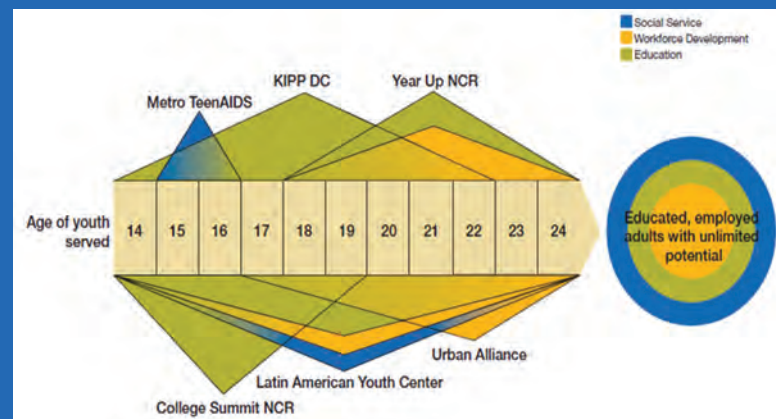
- Network partner College Summit-NCR worked with the DC's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services to launch a pilot program to help youth ages 15-21 bridge the gap between college and career. College Summit-NCR based the program on its work with the Career Academy's non-traditional students with multiple risk factors.
- In its fourth year, the network served more than 17,000 youth and is on track to reach its five year target of 20,000 served.
- 84% of the high school seniors that network partners served graduated in 2013, surpassing the DC Public School graduation rate of 64%.
- 85% of youth receiving workforce training from network partners gained applicable skills.

VPP is helping the youthCONNECT partners expand the model to Suitland High School in Prince George's County, Maryland. The network is focused on developing the program model, building network relationships and designing a performance management system for the expansion.



“ BEING A PART OF THE NETWORK HAS ALLOWED US TO THINK MORE STRATEGICALLY AS A GROUP...WE'RE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON BEST PRACTICES FOR WORKING TOGETHER, CONNECTING STUDENTS TO SERVICES AND TRACKING THE SUCCESS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. ”

Susana Martinez, Director of Youth Development
Latin American Youth Center



OVERVIEW

youthCONNECT is a network of nonprofits that seeks to help young people successfully transition to adulthood. Over five years, the network aims to directly increase the education and employment outcomes of an estimated 20,000 low-income youth ages 14 to 24. The youthCONNECT network provides youth with a continuum of support, while network partners gain valuable experience collaborating with one another.

VPP created the youthCONNECT model in 2010 with support from the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a signature program of the Obama Administration. Capital from SIF, VPP and youthCONNECT match partners will result in a \$36 million investment in the region over five years.



www.vppartners.org