

Youth Engaging their Parents to Grow Neighborhood-based Youth Organizing

This project was inspired by years of lovely encounters with parents and other family members of former youth organizers who would share details of how TE had impacted their child and/or the wider community. As TE looks inward to understand more fully our role in culturally responsive community and outward as we work to expand to multiple neighborhoods in Rochester, parents can play a central role in these endeavors.

Perhaps more than we had imagined, sitting with parents, a grandfather, a step-father and an older sister was enlightening and inspiring. We ended up deciding that since we were trying to make short videos and each interview ran 30-40 minutes, that we would limit the number of videotaped interviews to 12. Half of those were conducted by former youth organizers with their own loved one.

Several themes emerged, which we are working to put into 5 short (up to 5-minute) videos:

- Parents spoke passionately about how TE supported them as parents in dealing with some of the fears they had for their children and the hope that came from their child being part of TE.
- They spoke about TE's role in strengthening the community and thus, the role their own child played in that effort.
- They spoke about the profound demonstrations of leadership skills that they discovered in their children.
- They spoke of the impact of having had a job where their child learned skills that they were now transferring to other job opportunities.
- They spoke about the impact that would be spread across the city if TE were to expand to more neighborhoods.

Each of these topics will eventually get their own video. Editing is very time-consuming, particularly in the midst of other responsibilities.

Here is a link (<https://youtu.be/S2E47u5N2HI>) to the 15-minute combined version that we put together for our ***Inspire! Community Luncheon*** where 920 people gathered, including 6 tables sponsored by Downtown United Presbyterian Church (60 people!) on May 3, 2018. We received feedback from multiple people about how unique and insightful they found the angles that parents were able to fill in. The video will give a taste of what these interviews were like. We will share the future shorts series with you when they are ready as well.

Meanwhile, The Children's Institute has agreed to help us translate our interview questions into a simpler parent survey, which we will decide when/how to administer to parents. This will take some time since we are currently engaged in an intensive effort to survey and interview as many as possible (at least 100) of TE's 154 former youth organizers about the role TE has played in their adult lives thus far.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. It was at least as rich an experience as we had imagined it would be.

