

FUTURE FOUNDATION

A HEART FOR FAMILY, A HEAD FOR CHANGE

Future Foundation (FF) is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides support to the underserved youth in Southwest Atlanta's Tri-Cities area of East Point, College Park, and Hapeville. They focus on five critical interdependent areas of young people's lives—relationships, health, life skills, academics, and family—and provide related resources for their families, as well, so that both generations can make progress together.

Organizational Structure

Since 2004, FF experienced tremendous expansion, growing from 15 participants to serving more than 1,500 youth and parents annually, 90 percent of whom live below the poverty level. FF recruits volunteers to assist with a variety of activities.

Population Served

Because FF focuses on a specific community—the low-performing schools that feed into Fulton County's Banneker High School—their partnerships and relationships are deep. School and district-level administrators identify potential students for their program based on certain qualifying criteria that put them at greater risk for dropping out. Developed by FF working in conjunction with the school district, these criteria include: (1) Eighth graders who are >15 years old; (2) Students who have repeated fifth, sixth, or seventh grades; (3) Below grade level English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math scores; (4) Discipline issues; and/or (5) Attendance problems.

Programs

FF provides academic enrichment and life skills through afterschool and summer programming. The organization takes a two-generation approach, offering programs for participants' families so they can help create an environment of loving support and lasting change. They see their afterschool programming as a vehicle for providing ready access to other community resources and services. When gaps in programming arise, FF works with credentialed and proven partners across sectors to create the additional interventions to meet the needs of their students and families. FF serves as a second family to their students, with passionate staff who look beyond service delivery to provide their students with a sense of worth, belonging, and unconditional love. They don't set out to replace a family, but rather help fill the space when family members are absent and offer necessary supports when they are present. In addition to this afterschool programming, FF also has begun a project called The Personal Responsibility Education Innovative Strategies (PREIS) Project.

The PREIS Project

This project is for 200 students entering grades 6-8 at McNair or Woodland Middle Schools. It consists of a mandatory, after school program during the school year, with direct academic instruction, homework support, social-emotional learning and sexual health education, and student advocacy workshops. It also includes an optional 4-week summer program addressing social-emotional learning, service learning, and project-based learning and enrichment as well as an optional parent engagement program, which will offer monthly workshops and quarterly family events.

FF is working with The Annie E. Casey Foundation to document their process and prove that their approach is effective. They aim to move from the micro to the macro level, replicating the model in other communities beyond Southwest Atlanta. Through a three-year randomized control trial with middle school students in the Banneker cluster, they are collecting and analyzing information related to program delivery, program dosage, and (3) outcomes.

The PREIS program is a large-scale study funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Family & Youth Services Bureau. In 2016, as one of 13 grantees, FF was provided financial support, federal training, and technical assistance to assess their year-round teen enrichment and life skills program and evaluate how well it is working in helping students avoid or reduce risky behaviors, graduate from high school on time, transition into adulthood, and succeed in college, career, and life itself.

Community Partnerships

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (G-SAN) is a public-private collaborative created to advance, connect, and support quality afterschool programs to promote the success of children throughout Georgia. FF is proud to be a member of the GSAN Strategic Leadership Team.

FF played an integral role in developing the Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development (ASYD) Quality Standards, created in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and the Governor's Office for Children and Families.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Expanding Evidence portfolio aims to strengthen the capacity of emerging programs for families of color to hone their service, their identity, and the processes that make them successful at what they do so they can systematize and measure the efficacy of their program. FF is one of just four organizations nationally supported by Expanding Evidence.