



For Immediate Release

Girls IGNITE! Grantmakers Announce First-Ever Grants

Youth-Led Program Awards Seven Organizations Funding for Social Programs

New York (June 20, 2017) -- In its first-ever round of grants, the Girls IGNITE! Grantmaking Fellows, a group of racially and culturally diverse teenage girls and gender-fluid youths, have awarded \$30,000 to seven community-based organizations to help address some of the most pressing social issues faced in their community.

The Girls IGNITE! Fellows spent months learning how nonprofits work, reviewing grant proposals, conducting site visits, and ultimately, as a team, recommending the organizations to be funded. They worked under the guidance of The New York Women's Foundation (The Foundation), who founded the initiative, and the YWCA of the City of New York (YW).

"The aim of our program was to nurture the next generation of philanthropists by giving teenagers the opportunity to become benefactors within their communities and areas of interest, and learn the process of effective grant-making," said **Ana L. Oliveira, President and CEO of The New York Women's Foundation.**

The first-ever Girls IGNITE! Grant recipients include:

- [The Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Service Corps](#) of Brooklyn was awarded \$5,000 to help establish a program where teenage girls can meet with their peers to speak about topics typically unspoken within their conservative households.
- [The Shine Foundation](#) was awarded \$2,500 to help victims of domestic abuse overcome their limited financial literacy – a leading reason why many survivors stay or return to abusive relationships.
- [The Knowledge House](#) of the Bronx received \$2,500 for a partnership with Destination Tomorrow, through which they intend to provide Intro to Tech instruction to the young LGBTQ community in the South Bronx.
- [The Young Women of Color Health Advocacy Coalition](#) of Queens received \$5,000 to support stipends for young women of color to create and disseminate a minimum of 10-12 public service announcements (PSA) on issues impacting the health of young women ages 13-18 via social media.
- [The Center for Anti-Violence Education](#) of Brooklyn was awarded \$5,000 to help finance its Social Justice Youth Leaders Summer Program.
- [Girl Vow](#) of the Bronx received \$5,000 to finance its mentorship program for girls who have been in foster care, non-secure placement, and/or juvenile system.
- [Sauti Yetu](#), a Bronx organization which provides assistance to African immigrant women, was awarded \$5,000 for its "Hands On" Project, which involves creating a video on genital cutting.

Dr. Danielle Moss Lee, President of the YWCA of the City of New York said, “Having the opportunity to join forces with The New York Women’s Foundation and to witness a group of young women take leadership with philanthropy and have their voices heard has been a great privilege. We look forward to the next class of fellows in the years to come.”

[About The New York Women’s Foundation](#)

The New York Women’s Foundation is a voice for women and a force for change. We are a cross-cultural alliance of women catalyzing partnerships and leveraging human and financial capital to achieve sustained economic security and justice for women and girls. With fierce determination, we mobilize hearts, minds and resources to create an equitable and just future for women, families and communities in New York City.

[About the YWCA of the City of New York](#)

Established in 1858, the YWCA of the City of New York (YW) is one of the nation’s oldest nonprofits committed to **eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**, through community-based programs and advocacy efforts that partner with community members to produce results. While independently operated, the YW is connected to a network of sister YWCAs serving 25 million people in more than 120 countries. The YW serves over 2,500 women and families across 13 New York City locations, through Early Learn programs; after-school services for elementary, middle and high school students; STEM and Leadership programming; and High School, College and Career Readiness programs. The YW reaches incalculably more people as a movement, with a long history of shifting culture for the most disenfranchised.

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