



Project Transformation

Transforming Lives Through Relationships

2014–2015 Annual Report





Last summer's theme, "Under Construction," conjures up all the wrong images – caution signs, delay, frustration. That is not what being "under construction" has looked like for Project Transformation. Rather, the summer

theme reflects the exciting and invigorating growth Project Transformation has experienced over the last year, which allows us to more fully and effectively engage college-aged young adults in purposeful leadership and ministry, support underserved children and families, and connect churches with communities in need. While there has been much forward progress, the three biggest areas of growth are in staff capacity, program curricula, and the launch of a national organization.

Over the last year, Project Transformation's staff has grown from seven to eleven—adding members to our program staff, who train and lead our young adults to delivery meaningful, high-quality afterschool and summer programming to children and youth; dedicating a full-time role to volunteer and partner church engagement, which allows us to better collaborate with our community; and enhancing our ability to connect with and nurture those churches who host Project Transformation sites with the addition of our Director of Site Church and Community Development position.

This summer, "Under Construction" was the theme of our brand new, proprietary curricula for our summer programs. The research-based curricula provide consistency to our programming and ensure that all of the activities in which our participants engage align with the mission of our organization. The curricula are based on our four, newly-developed program pillars: (1) develop literacy, (2) cultivate leadership, (3) celebrate diversity, and (4) serve community. The

curricula's success in its first summer was overwhelming. In fact, the updated, pillar-focused program design led to Project Transformation being chosen by the National Summer Learning Association as one of its elite 2015 Excellence Award winners.

After almost a decade of faithful leadership of the Greater Dallas chapter of Project Transformation, Eric Lindh accepted the honor of launching the national effort of Project Transformation as its Chief Executive Officer. In his role, Eric will build out the national organization, working with the four existing chapters (Greater Dallas; Oklahoma; Tennessee; and Rio Texas) to identify best practices and support efforts to create and develop new Project Transformation chapters in other annual conferences. I am honored to step into the role of Executive Director of the Greater Dallas chapter, and am thankful for Eric's continued support and guidance.

With our expansion has come the need to grow our infrastructure. Project Transformation is thrilled that in the next few months, we will finalize the steps necessary to facilitate our move into brand new office and leadership training space at University Park United Methodist Church ("under construction," quite literally). In our new space, and with our organizational foundation strengthened by staff expansion, new curricula, and the support of a national organization, we look ahead to more, incredible opportunities to deepen and widen the impact that Project Transformation can make.

Our progress—this past year and throughout our history—could not have happened without all of our myriad partners, for whom we are so grateful. We gain our confidence to continue "constructing" this work that we do—with children, college students, and churches—from your unwavering support and collaboration in ministry.

– Alyson Richter, Executive Director

Staff Leadership:

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If you have questions regarding any information included in this report, please contact Kristin Kelley at kelley@projecttransformation.org.

Project Transformation – Greater Dallas served 182 elementary-aged students in our Afterschool Program. Programming occurred Monday – Thursday, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. in seven low-income communities in Dallas and was delivered by our college-age AmeriCorps Members (PT Corps Members). Program components included literacy instruction, homework help, arts enrichment, nutritional assistance, and recreational exercise.

“They (the PT Corps Members) put a smile on my face.”
– Afterschool program child



“She is more active and talks more. She is doing better in school and her grades have improved.”
– Afterschool program parent



“Without the program, most kids would not receive one-on-one attention, mentoring, help on homework, even food and snacks. Most families also are relieved knowing their kids are at a reliable place getting the best possible help from college kids.”
– Afterschool program parent



Outcomes:



73%

of the children who regularly attended the program increased their literacy skills according to an online literacy diagnostic known as i-Ready



94%

of participants are more interested in reading and learning after attending the program



97%

of participants from the 2014–2015 Afterschool Program were promoted to the next grade level this fall



100%

of our participants' parents indicated that their children perform better in school since attending the Afterschool Program



95%

of PT Corps Members will continue to serve their communities as a result of their experience at Project Transformation



This summer, Project Transformation served **621** participants, grades 1–5. The elementary students read for 40 minutes, one-on-one, with a volunteer each day to improve fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension as well as to increase confidence and attitudes toward reading. Additional literacy instruction was administered in the afternoon. Pre- and post-Summer reading assessments indicated that **96%** of elementary participants improved or maintained their grade level reading. Additionally, **98%** of students indicated they are confident in reading as they head back to school. Over **13,500** books were read in this summer’s elementary reading program with **6,831** hours donated by community volunteers who read to our children.



“I read with the same child for an entire week. She showed marked improvement in her reading skills by the end of the week. Truly amazing! Since I’m an educator by trade, I understand the crucial impact early literacy plays in a student’s long-term educational outcomes.”
– Summer 2015 community volunteer

“I love this volunteer project because children have an opportunity to read during the summer, an opportunity that many children don’t have. As a teacher, I am determined to continue to support this wonderful mission.”
– Summer 2015 community volunteer



“I love working with the kids and seeing them progress throughout the week. I enjoy getting to know the college kids working at PT also. They are all wonderful. Mostly, I love that this is a volunteer opportunity that I can share with my own children.”
– Summer 2015 community volunteer



Outcomes:



96%

of children maintained or improved their grade level reading, with **75%** increasing at least one level



98%

of elementary participants indicated they are confident in reading as they head back to school



Over 13,500

books read in eight weeks of programming



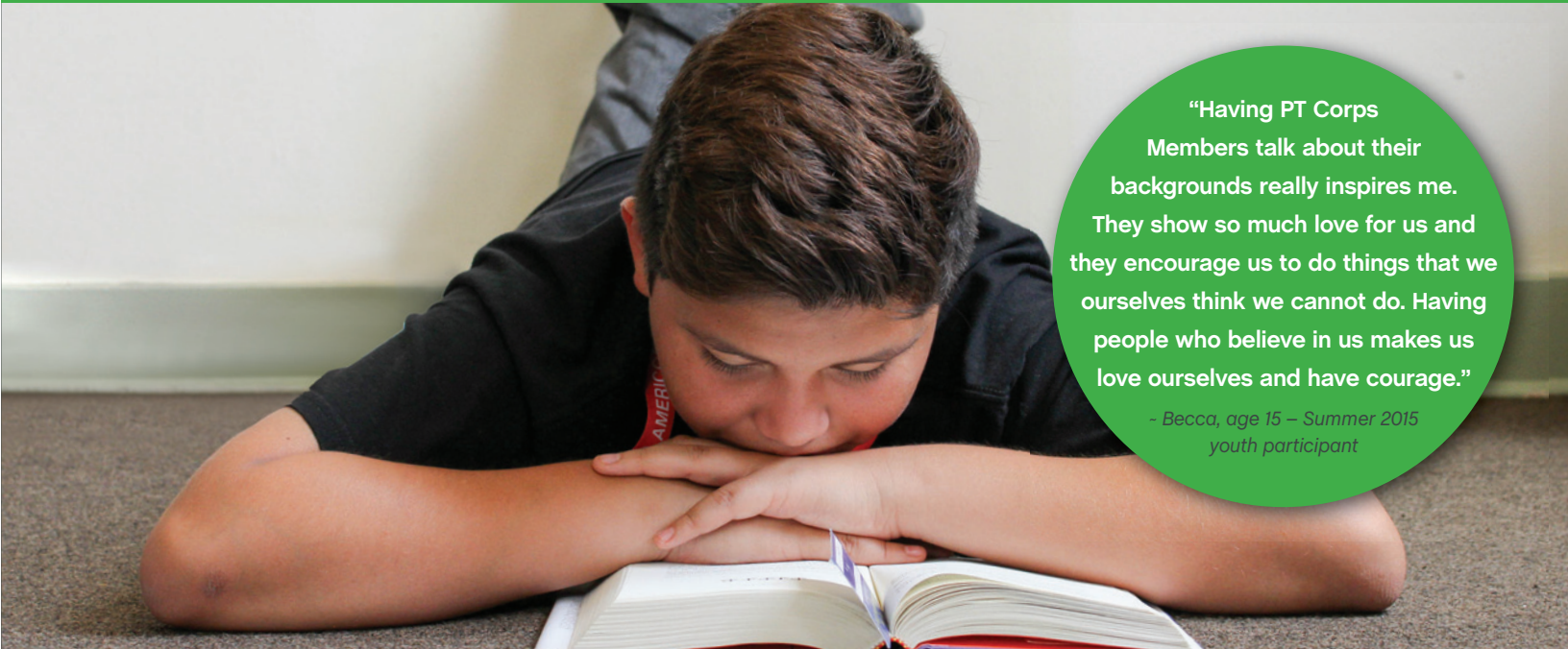
6,831 hours

donated by reading volunteers



1,368

community volunteers served in the Elementary Reading Program

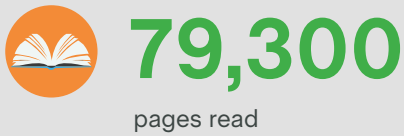
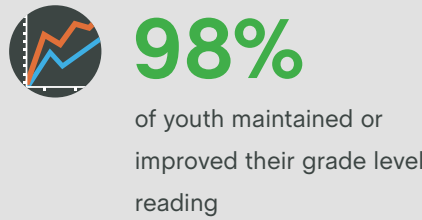


“Having PT Corps Members talk about their backgrounds really inspires me. They show so much love for us and they encourage us to do things that we ourselves think we cannot do. Having people who believe in us makes us love ourselves and have courage.”
- Becca, age 15 – Summer 2015 youth participant

Project Transformation served 304 participants, grades 6–9. In the summer youth program, a daily book club allowed students to practice their reading fluency and comprehension. Students selected book titles in their reading level based on their interests, with a focus on individual reading. These students would complete projects on the books they read, through interactive presentations with their peers. Book club became the most popular component of this summer’s youth program! This summer, the youth read over 79,300 pages during the book clubs resulting in 98% of participants improving or maintaining their grade level reading. Additionally, the youth defined and wrote sentences using 2,547 grade-level vocabulary words.

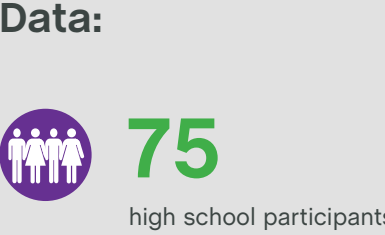


Outcomes:



This summer, 75 high school students participated in the LITE (Leaders in Training Experience) at five site locations across Dallas. The overall aim of the LITE program is to provide high school students with the knowledge and skills they need to become well-rounded citizens and to pursue higher education or fulfill employment following graduation. A focus of the LITE experience is service. LITE students read one-on-one with elementary students in our program, support other components of the summer daycamp, and plan and implement their

own service projects. Over the course of the summer, these LITEs volunteered a total of 3,342 hours. The 2015 LITE program featured a curriculum focused on college/career readiness, writing workshops, critical thinking, ethics, diversity, and global awareness. Following the eight-week program, participants embarked on a college tour, allowing them to explore multiple options for higher education in Texas and Oklahoma. On post-program surveys, 80% of participants indicated they were very likely to apply for college or university.



“Meeting the LITE Coordinators and hearing their experiences in college really helped me develop a sense of security in being able to attend college. Exploring different colleges helped me so much by allowing me to feel like I belong there.”
- Lindsey, age 17 – Summer 2015 LITE participant

Urban Camp at Camp Bridgeport

Following eight weeks of summer day camp, Urban Camp is a weeklong sleep-away camp for our youth participants, grades 6–9. Youth are assigned to a cabin with PT Corps Members that have been their mentors during the summer. Many of these youth boast Urban Camp as the best week of their life, as this program gives participants access to an experience they may not otherwise have. Urban Camp had 146 campers participate this summer, ranking camp satisfaction as a 9.1 out of 10.

Urban Camp's purpose is to provide skills development activities to these youth, such as archery, horseback riding, high ropes course, zip line, fishing and swimming, with 20 total offerings. Girls and boys attend meals and activities separately for the entire week, giving participants the opportunity to open up to their cabin and to share the challenges they may be facing at home or school, such as bullying, eating disorders or gang or drug influence.

Adventure Week at Chapel Hill UMC

Each summer, one elementary site is selected for Adventure Week, an optional 9th week of field trip experiences once summer day camp ends. This summer, 37 students attended this 4-day program at Chapel Hill UMC, exploring the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, the Dallas Museum of Art, Legoland and Ripley's Believe It or Not. Seventeen of our PT Corps Members served as "Adventure Buddies," helping connect the experiences with educational learning for our elementary students. Without Adventure Week, some of these students may not have access to these educational, interactive and enriching experiences.



"This is a wonderful place; my children have really enjoyed coming here."

- Waples parent



"Thank you all for the great job you do. My kids love the program. They really enjoyed and learned a lot from it."

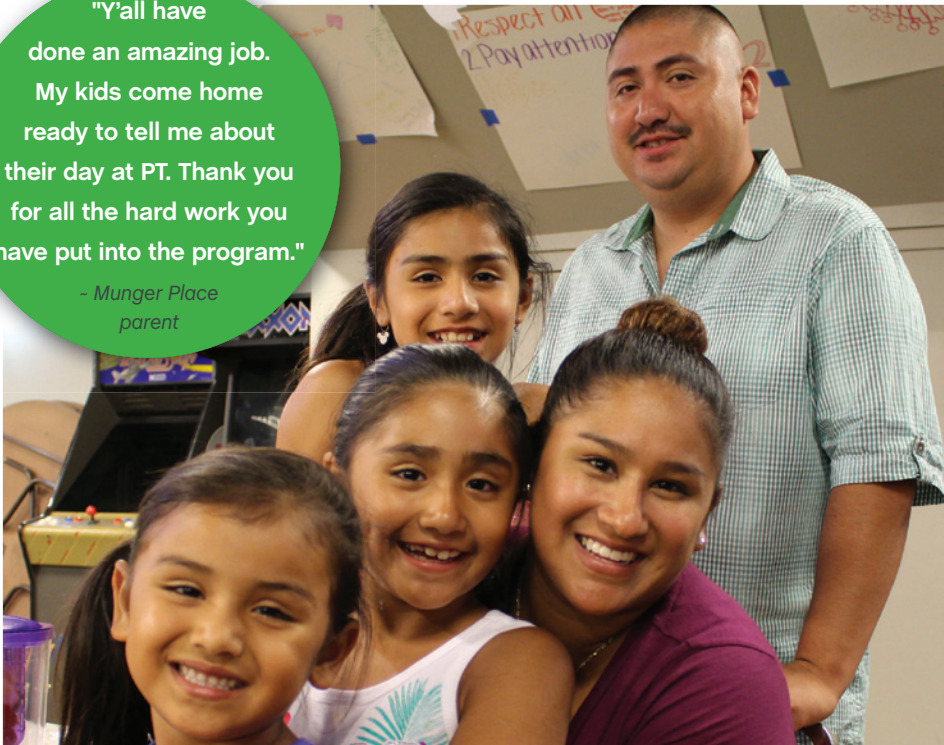
- Chapel Hill parent

End-of-program parent evaluations showed that parents overwhelmingly feel that our program is essential to their children's health, spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social development. Parents value the academic component of our programming, with 98% of parents agreeing or strongly agreeing that Project Transformation helped to improve their child's reading skills. Additionally, parents value the nutrition information provided, with 95% of parents reporting that Project Transformation taught their child to make

healthier food choices, and 96% of parents reporting that Project Transformation taught their child the importance of regular physical activity. Overall, 98% of parents were satisfied with our summer program and the activities provided, with many parents noting positive changes in their children.

"Y'all have done an amazing job. My kids come home ready to tell me about their day at PT. Thank you for all the hard work you have put into the program."

- Munger Place parent



Outcomes:



98%

of parents agreed or strongly agreed that Project Transformation helped to improve their child's reading skills.



95%

of parents reported that Project Transformation taught their child to make healthier food choices



96%

of parents reported that Project Transformation taught their child the importance of regular physical activity



98%

of parents were satisfied with our summer program and the activities provided, with many parents noting positive changes in their children



Summer Day Camp Program

Project Transformation engaged 113 college-age young adults through “summers of service” at 10 site locations across the greater Dallas area. These PT Corps Members represented 43 different college and universities throughout the United States. Post-program surveys indicated that 79% of PT Corps Members are likely to be involved in service with low-income communities as a result of serving with Project Transformation. Additionally, 63% of PT Corps Members indicated their desire to pursue non-profit work following graduation.

Children and Youth

Trained by program staff, PT Corps Members deliver weekly curriculum at each of the ten site locations served. All curriculum is focused on educational and social-emotional learning objectives, with a holistic approach to nurturing the mind, body and spirit. For PT Corps Members with a vocational interest in working with children, it gives them opportunities to mentor children and lead curriculum activities.

Community Living

PT Corps Members live in Christian community on campus at either Southern Methodist University (Dallas sites) or Austin College (Texoma site), and share meals, worship experiences and social events. In this environment, PT Corps Members share program ideas and feedback, form lifelong friendships and have a forum to share how this 10-week experience shapes their lives. These young adults share that relationships formed at Project Transformation in ten weeks are sometimes stronger than the relationships built in 4 years of college.

Friday Experiences

Programming for children and youth runs Monday-Thursday, with Friday as an intentional day to allow PT Corps Members to process their weekly experience in underserved communities, as well as explore vocational calling through the lens of ministry and service. This occurs through

collaboration with other for- and non-profit organizations, where leaders provide an overview their work, as well as share their call to ministry and service. This summer, PT Corps Members selected from more than 20 offerings, ranging from urban education to public policy. Some of our collaborative partners for Friday Experiences are New Friends New Life, Momentous Institute, Perkins School of Theology, Methodist Health Systems and the Dallas Regional Chamber.

“While I have known for years now that I want to pursue some sort of educational career in a low-income community, PT has helped me solidify that and opened my eyes to deeper issues surrounding underserved communities. I have been an Elementary Education major with a Spanish minor since entering college, and I do not plan on changing this. However, working almost entirely with Hispanic kids and families has increased my interest in pursuing a career with an ESL focus and working more directly with Spanish-speaking children on language in a classroom setting.”

- Caroline Hoffman – Summer 2015
PT Corps Member

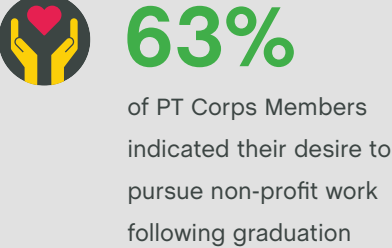
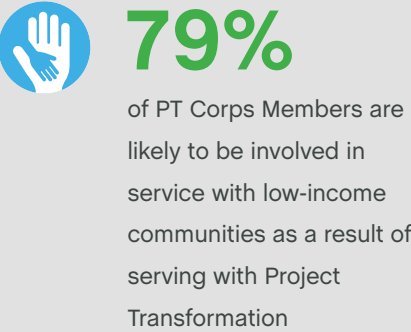
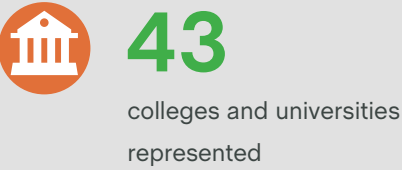
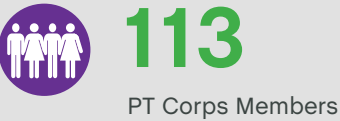


“I discovered truly how important it is that each child knows how to read, and has some sort of mentor to encourage and teach children how to read. I realized how important it is to me to continue to be a mentor to kids learning how to read.”

- Tracie Shippy – Summer 2015
PT Corps Member



Data:



Project Transformation – Greater Dallas is proud to be an AmeriCorps organization, supporting young adults in service to their community.



“I love working with the kids and seeing them progress throughout the week. I enjoy getting to know the college kids working at Project Transformation also. They are all wonderful. Mostly, I love that this is a volunteer opportunity that I can share with my own children. They love working with the kids and feeling like they have made a difference. Project Transformation is a win-win for both participants and volunteers!!”

- Summer
2015 Volunteer

Over **1,800** volunteers dedicated their time and talents to serve with Project Transformation this summer, volunteering **11,600** hours reading with children, serving dinner to PT Corps Members and hosting Family Fun Nights at our ten site locations. The **6,831** hours spent reading one-on-one with elementary-age children have led to considerable academic gains that have helped to close the achievement gap for the students we serve.

We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their support this summer and throughout the year. For many, serving with Project Transformation is a life-changing experience; **99%** of volunteers reported that they would serve with Project Transformation again, and **99%** would tell a friend about our ministry.



We appreciate those who ensure our programs continue; thank you for your investment in this ministry! If you feel there is an error in your reported giving, please contact Kristin Kelley at 214-946-3600.

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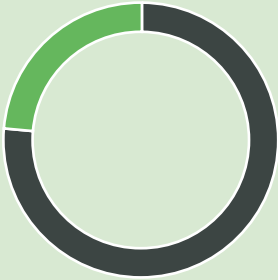
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Harold Simmons Foundation
Hesta Stuart Christian Charitable Trust
Interfaith Housing Coalition
Jubilee Park Community Center
Maverick Capital Foundation
The McKenna Group
Methodist Children's Home
Methodist Health System
Momentous Institute
National Charity League
North Texas Conference – UMC
North Texas Food Bank
The Peace Corps
Peggy Sue BBQ
Perkins Prothro Foundation
Perkins School of Theology
Pastoral Counseling Center
Rees-Jones Foundation
REI
Society Bakery

Soupmobile
Southern Methodist University
SMU Wesley Foundation
Starbucks Youth Leadership Foundation
The Stewpot
Strategic4sight
Strickland Endowment Fund
Teach for America
Texas Methodist Foundation
Texoma Council on Governments
UMC Global Mission Fellows
Union Coffee
Volunteer Center of North Texas
WFAA News Channel 8
Whispers of Hope
Young Men's Service League

PARTNER CHURCHES

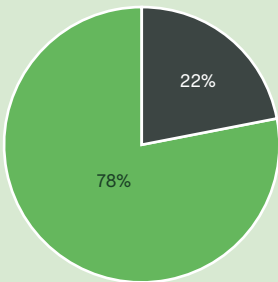
Casa Linda UMC
Chapel Hill UMC
Christ UMC Farmers Branch
Christ UMC Plano
Christ's Foundry UMM
Church of South India – Dallas
Church of the Resurrection
Church of the Risen Savior
Cochran Chapel UMC
Custer Road UMC
Elmwood UMC
Faith United Presbyterian Church
Fellowship UMC
FUMC Allen
FUMC Coppell
FUMC Dallas
FUMC Denton
FUMC Duncanville
FUMC Flower Mound
FUMC Garland
FUMC Hurst
FUMC Jacksboro
FUMC Leonard
FUMC McKinney
FUMC Plano
FUMC Richardson
FUMC Rockwall
FUMC Rowlett
FUMC Sachse
FUMC Sherman
FUMC Whitesboro
Good Shepherd UMC
Grace UMC Dallas
Grace UMC Sherman
Hamilton Park UMC
Highland Park UMC
Lake Highlands UMC
Liberty Christian Fellowship
Lovers Lane UMC
Munger Place Church
New Covenant UMC
Northaven UMC
Oak Cliff UMC
Pleasant Mound UMC
Pleasant Valley UMC
Plymouth Park UMC
Pulaski Heights UMC
Ridgewood Park UMC
Royce City UMC
SMU Wesley Foundation
Southwestern Oklahoma State Wesley Foundation
St. Andrew UMC
St. Luke Community UMC
St. Paul UMC
Stonebridge UMC
Suncreek UMC
Trietsch Memorial UMC
Tyler Street UMC
University Park UMC
Walnut Hill UMC
Waples Memorial UMC
White Rock UMC

2015–16 Budget

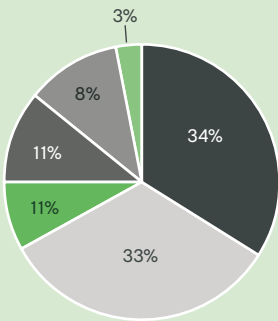


\$2,138,238,
which includes
\$502,000
in-kind
contributions.

2015–16 Projected Expenses



2015–16 Projected Revenue



AmeriCorps
Grants
Individuals
Events/
Corporations
Churches
Earned
Revenue

Project Transformation Wins National Summer Learning Award!



Project Transformation is honored to have been selected as a 2015 recipient of the Excellence in Summer Learning Award, presented by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) and the New York Life Foundation. This honor was bestowed upon three organizations nation-wide, and in October, our Programs Team accepted the award at NSLA's annual conference and led a breakout session on our program strategy.

Upcoming Events in 2016



After-School Program: September 2015 – May 2016

Our after-school program runs through May 7, at seven site locations in Dallas. We would love for you to volunteer as a homework helper or serve a meal at our Family Fun Night/parent engagement events. We also have special volunteer projects, suitable for groups. For more information, contact Lynne Rhodes, Volunteer and Church Engagement Manager, at rhodes@projecttransformation.org.



Partners in Transformation Luncheon: March 10, 2016

Join us for our 8th annual luncheon event, which features stories and testimonial from our participants and highlights the impact Project Transformation makes in our community. If you are interested in chairing a table, or attending as a guest, please contact Kristin Kelley at kelley@projecttransformation.org.

4 Pillars of Project Transformation

Research shows that literacy development is important given summer reading loss, and also that social-emotional development helps build crucial non-cognitive skills often only learned in our unique program milieu of out-of-school time. These program pillars guide our program outcomes and curriculum development and keep holistic learning through ownership, action and reflection and are at the heart of all we do with children and PT Corps Members.



Develop
Literacy



Cultivate
Leadership



Celebrate
Diversity



Serve
Community

In Project Transformation's 18-year history:



8,000

children and youth have been served



Over
1,000

college-age young adults have been part of the PT Corps Member experience



29

former participants have grown up through our programs and have returned as college Corps Members, to serve in our program



770,000

meals have been served in partnership with the North Texas Food Bank



Over
10,000

volunteers have served in our programs, reading one-on-one with children, providing meals at Family Fun Nights and in various projects at site locations



Over
250

churches have partnered with Project Transformation, to provide funds and support of our programs

Thank you for your support; please join us in 2015-16 to further impact the children, college students and churches Project Transformation serves.



**Project
Transformation**

547 E. Jefferson Blvd. • Dallas, TX 75203
Phone: 214-946-3600 • Fax: 214-946-3651

www.ProjectTransformation.org/dallas