

Youth Network Initiative



In 2014, the Community Foundation launched the Youth Network Initiative, also known as You N'I. The initiative sought to address the growing issue of youth homelessness in the Reno area. Our region estimates that 300 youth lack a steady nighttime environment.

Through our convenings, we learned that homeless youth are unsure of where to turn when they find themselves in a bout of homelessness. Because of this uncertainty, the Community Foundation created Reno Youth Network, an online database unique to services for youth in the Washoe County region. Youth can find information on a wide variety of topics, from healthcare, to education, to steady housing environments. The Youth Network Initiative ultimately led to the creation of The Eddy House, a local nonprofit that serves as a central intake for homeless youth in our region that enables youth to access services needed for their situation. As of 2018, The Eddy House is open from 10:00am-5:00pm and provides youth with a safe place to rest, eat, and receive needed care. Eddy House staff is actively fundraising to open an overnight shelter to ensure that youth have access to a steady and safe nighttime environment. To learn more about the Youth Network Initiative or the Eddy House, please visit us online at nevadafund.org and renoyouthnetwork.com. In 2018, Reno Youth Network had 60 unique visitors per month on average. Starting in 2019, the Community Foundation will evaluate the long-term impact of the Youth Network Initiative.

IMPACT REPORT 2018

Creating a Network of Mentoring Agencies

Youth mentorship programs ensure that young people have a positive role model and someone there for them as they grow. The National Mentoring Partnership states that 1 in 3 young people will grow up without a mentor. Big Brothers Big Sisters found that children placed with mentors are 46% less likely to begin using drugs and 27% less likely to begin using alcohol.



During our initiative to address youth homelessness, affected youth emphasized the importance of having a positive adult role model. Despite there being many great mentoring organizations in Northern Nevada, there is often a shortage of mentors. This insight gave rise to the Nevada Mentors Network, a central online location for potential mentors to learn more about the organizations they can volunteer with.

In 2018, the Community Foundation assessed each organizations interest in growing the network to include a collaboration between organization meant to recruit more mentors. The organizations were overwhelmingly excited to collaborate with one another. Meeting monthly, the Nevada Mentors Network discusses different strategies to reach more potential volunteers while getting to know the volunteer requirements of other area organizations. Collaboration creates an opportunity for organizations to point volunteers toward other organizations whose volunteer requirements better fit what the volunteer can offer. It also creates a unified approach to demonstrate that mentoring is beneficial for both our youth and our community.

Nevada Mentors Members

360 Blueprint	The Children's Cabinet Mentoring +
Awaken	The First Tee of Northern Nevada
Big Brothers Big Sisters Northern Nevada	Youth First
Junior Achievement	

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