



**Strategies to Youth Empowerment for Philanthropy**

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**“We could talk many a thing about how youth empowerment affects positively the diversity and inclusion in Philanthropy. However, said strategies to reach these goals means to be effective and sympathetic with youth roles and skills”**



## Overview

Much has been said about the important role that young people play in philanthropy, as agents of change and participation. Certainly, every day young people have more to contribute in each of the areas of community life. The curious thing is that young people face barriers that prevent their full integration as leaders in philanthropic projects in their respective communities. Young people are at a disadvantage when compared to their adult counterparts. Young people have the capacity and the potential to support causes in different ways: contributing dynamism and push, implementing their technology management skills, making use of their curiosity and passion to implement new ideas.

The website [www.youthempowerededsolutions.org](http://www.youthempowerededsolutions.org) suggest a youth empowerment model definition

The Model is a three-pronged approach that effectively engages young people in work that challenges them to develop skills, gain critical awareness, and participate in opportunities that are necessary for creating community change.

- **Skill Development:** The process of strengthening the skills of youth so that they know how to effectively make decisions, positively interact with their peers, and act as community advocates.
- **Critical Awareness:** The process of providing youth with the information and resources necessary for analyzing issues that affect their lives and environments as well as strategize on ways to act as change agents in their communities.
- **Opportunities:** The process of providing youth with platforms for decision-making and encouraging their active participation in creating community change.

From this model emerges the idea of implementing a pilot project that promotes a three-way approach, effectively involving young people in philanthropic causes that promote diversity and inclusion in their communities. Young people will play a fundamental role in the social and economic development of their community. At the same time, these young people would become multiplier ambassadors in inducing other young people with similar leadership potential.



Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth\\_empowerment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_empowerment)

Youth empowerment is beyond just giving responsibilities or tasks. In Philanthropy is essential to work with three youth empowerment aspects: skills acquisition, academic and morals.

If we add others' considerations to the mentioned before; as they are foreign education, income level and sociocultural aspects inherent to newcomers in Canada. Selection, encouragement and promotion of the process of this project could modify to adapt itself to the need of training.

# **ACTION PLAN**



Empowering the youths is like saving in bank that cannot be affected by any theft of any kind. The good outcome of the investment cannot all be consumed in totality.

<http://hubpages.com/politics/importance-of-youth-empowerment>

**TECH SKILL**

**PEER ROLE-MODELLING**

**YOUTH IN ACTION**

**YOUTH WITH POSITIVE MESSAGING**

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

## **Project Outline**

Diverse approaches to philanthropy seek to achieve benefits for specific sectors (health, education, citizenship, etc.) and underrepresented sectors in the society as are communities, children, young and older adults. Strategies for youth empowerment must always be considered in the context of the society in where youth live. Social barriers to involvement are a reality for many young people and include:

- Lack of civic knowledge/skills
- Adults' negative perceptions of youth
- Lack of communication between youth and adult groups
- Insufficient opportunities for youth to participate in a meaningful way
- Social marginalization of some youth
- Sense of hopelessness among some youth

To continue replicating the beneficial effect of philanthropic work, Youth are called to become agents of change within their own communities. This is the case of young people who can be and should be active participation in social projects that seek paradigm's changes and social enterprises' development. But, when engage youth to participate, knowing there may be barriers of cultural, family and social types, taking them away to feel able to play major roles. For many of us is clear that young people should be guided, motivated and supported to start the journey to become in social entrepreneurs and change's factor; However, it is not clear to those around to these young people, as should be the treatment and incentives to push them into the challenge. The path is simple, begins from the family, continues at school and finally it's consolidates by society. The problem arises when the family has no resources and motivation, denying to young people opportunities to grow, as beings with a sense of belonging. Then, school lacks customize strategies to identified young skills. Additionally, adult society does not feel comfortable to admit to news members. As a result, all of these leads to young confidence's declination to undertake new projects.

## **Importance and impact**

This report suggests three important strategies to encourage young people to play an important role in philanthropy, increasing diversity and inclusion within their organizations.

Young people develop the sense of belonging in their missions, strengthening confidence based on their skills and increasing their own attitude to take risks. In consequence, they dare to take important roles as philanthropic citizens in the community in which they are involved.



When young people are joined in philanthropic activities, they tend to be more sensitive on the project that they want to participate. Youth discover how to engage with the organization and finally, they feel motivated when they get recognition.

## **Implementation Plan**

Phase	Plan	Resources	Objective	Time	Status
1	Choose a pilot group of 5 young to create pilot group	List interesting topics, search tools, questionnaire	Identifying the sociocultural aspects that affect them	November-December	In progress
2	Identify educative and training needs in young people	Courses, Workshop, online training on leadership tools	Lead to young people to acquire skills to become confident on themselves assuming responsibilities in any community project	January-April	In Schedule
3	Young people taking action and control over the tasks related to projects in their neighborhoods	Projects of different complexity and responsibility. Volunteering opportunities	Create leadership sense on pilot group to transfer to other groups	April	In Schedule

### **Phase 1**

Create a pilot group in this phase, selecting profile of youth with interest in develop skill to reach purposes. Create a questionnaire to identify skills group and gaps to face for this young in their communities. Choose a pilot group of 5 youth. Generate a confidence circle to make a relaxing environment where they can express ideas. Use interesting topics and search tools familiar to youth. Identify common barriers facing young people to get involved in the community. Identify the sociocultural aspects that affect them. Promote and publish these results to make information accessible.

### **Phase 2**

Through training tools as Workshops, Volunteering, Fairs and software, provide skills identification in interesting area groups. Through educative websites allocate online training in areas that interest the youth. Lead them to acquire skills to become confident on themselves assuming responsibilities in any community project. Promote events data and opportunities designed to develop skills identified.

### Phase 3

Young people acting and assuming control over the tasks related to projects in their neighborhoods. Proposing projects of different complexity and responsibility, within the group. Introducing youth to get experience as volunteering in diverse projects in the communities around. Create leadership sense on pilot group to transfer to others groups. Finally, recognize their contribution and value to the philanthropic project underway.

### Limitation

1. Gathering data from more youth groups was necessary to contact with youth-serving organizations.
2. Limited pilot group size. We interview 20 youth to select only 5 participants.
3. Time constraint. Unable to complete activities' schedule during scope of AFP Fellow
4. Access limited to software, equipment and resources deployed.
5. To get access to a facility building to use it as interview room

### Reference

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