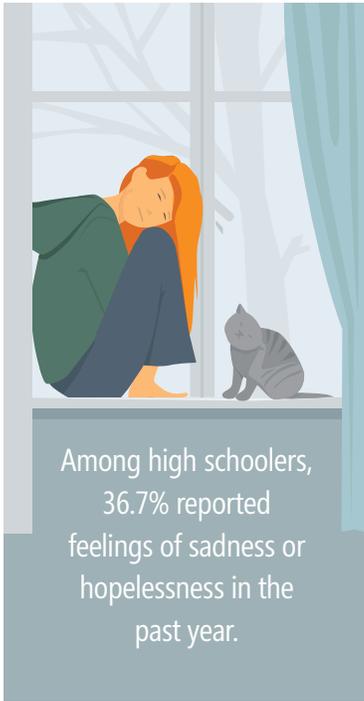


Future Philanthropists Program is an educational program sponsored by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation



“By working with leaders and mentors in the Future Philanthropists Program, I found a source of foundational information that can be hard to locate anywhere else and I think that speaks to something special about FPP.”

FPP Takes Steps to Help Make a Difference

by Ezekiel Wells, FPP '23



Too often, mental health remains a touchy, unspoken subject, in which too many disengage; yet when it comes to the people around us, its effects are very real. As a senior at OPRF High School and a member of the FPP's class of 2023, I can confidently say that almost every classmate deals with, or knows someone who deals with such struggles. Among high schoolers, 36.7% reported feelings of sadness or hopelessness in the past year.

Roughly 1 in 5 students (18.8%) seriously considered suicide. Although grim, these statistics point to work that must be done.

Two years ago, I walked 100,000 steps with a friend to raise money for NAMI Metro Suburban and Thrive Counseling Center in an event called A Step in the Right Direction. After seeing their tremendous use of this community donation, I decided to create a community walkathon in 2022, as a way to continue supporting a cause I care about. Setting the date for September 25th, my team and I planned for an evening of walking near the high school. With this, A Step in the Right Direction was reborn.

At its initial stages of planning, some of the first people that came to mind were the staff of the Future Philanthropists Program. When I requested their support at the end of my junior year, they were eager to help, hopping on Zoom calls in the midst of our summers. As the project continued, they gave me more direction, more guidance, and more resources to which I could tap into. As a result of brainstorming and planning with these leaders, I was able to recruit more business sponsors than I initially anticipated. Hoping to spread the word, we expanded into California, where some college students walked in unison with those in Oak Park.

Finally, the day arrived. We walked and raised, and at the conclusion of September 25th, we raised roughly \$6,000. This money went towards rehabilitation centers, counseling resources, and educational programs. By working with leaders and mentors in the Future Philanthropists Program, I found a source of foundational information that can be hard to locate anywhere else and I think that speaks to something special about FPP. When kids have ideas, it can be hard to translate them into reality because specific knowledge is often required along with connections to community leaders. Through their mentorship in and outside of our monthly meetings, high school students are given an incredible opportunity.

In the future, there are many things to improve upon. Although the inclusion of one city was a great way to spread the message, I hope that further ideas will incorporate a greater number of cities as a way to include new people into the folds of the work. I also learned the importance of messaging in a fundraising campaign. While plans for the future of A Step in the Right Direction remain uncertain, I hold steadfast in my belief that our work is just the beginning, and that organizations like FPP allow us as students to make a difference.



Editor's Note

Now in its 13th year, the Future Philanthropists Program has provided teens with a uniquely-designed, hands-on philanthropy learning experience for hundreds of students from OPRF, Fenwick, Trinity and St. Ignatius. For a long time we have been saying that there was no other program like it in the U.S. Well, we will have to change that message now, because in the past few years there have been 9 FPP-like programs launched around the country, thanks to the Three Pillars Initiative (TPI).

You may recall that a group of FPP alumni, mentors and parents incorporated TPI right before the pandemic started. Not a great time to launch a new venture of any kind, but its mission was and is solid: To help communities across the country bring this innovative model program to their teens. At the end of 2022, TPI model programs were operating in Elmhurst, St. Charles and Wilmette-Winnetka in Illinois; Grand Island and Hamilton County in Nebraska; Buffalo, New York; Houston, Texas; Beckley, West Virginia; and Wausau, Wisconsin. The different demographics representative of these locations seems to support the claim that a TPI-modeled program can be replicated in a wide variety of communities for a wide variety of teens. It also demonstrates that Gen Z is ready and eager for such a program, one that is about caring, inclusion, respect and doing good to change the world.

Whether you are an alumna of FPP, regardless of where you live, or if you are still earning your college degree, consider reaching out to your community and beginning a conversation about starting a program. It only takes a group of dedicated people to make a commitment. After all, that's how FPP started.

Rick King
FPP Program Chair

Fundraising As a Career Choice

By Sarah Finnegan, FPP Mentor



"I'm motivated to join this program because I want to give back." Now in my third year as a Future Philanthropists Program mentor, I've heard countless students share this sentiment during their initial interview. Still, at this juncture, students have a limited understanding of how they can actually shape change in their own communities and beyond. FPP

was designed to provide students the framework for making a difference – as volunteers, donors and decision-makers to help ensure funds will be spent in the most effective way possible.

So, while FPP teaches the art, science and business of philanthropy, we recognize that we haven't done a great job building awareness of non-profit service as a career. After 30 years in the sector, I know that charitable organizations need results-oriented team players as much as any other entity. They rely on people skilled in planning, communications, finance, data analysis and relationship-building among other abilities to execute their missions. For a young person who wants to spend their working hours in support of a cause they believe in, the opportunities are endless.

Thankfully, we can dispel the notion that competitive salaries can only be found at private companies. According to recent surveys, the median base compensation for a Chicago director of development was \$122,000, with large organizations paying significantly more. A college graduate with just three years of experience will find ample openings in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range with room to grow.

The student participants in FPP are smart, curious and motivated to make a difference. It is likely that a key driver in career choice – even more important than salary – will be the pride and satisfaction that comes from helping people overcome barriers and thrive. When a young person devotes their time and talent to addressing the real needs of underserved children and families, there is no question they are making a difference. They are giving back in what is arguably the most satisfying way possible.





Nonprofit Employment Post-COVID is Encouraging

Excerpt from George Mason University Nonprofit Employment Data Project, January 2023

As we approach the 3-year anniversary of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic recovery led nonprofit organizations to a significantly better place than where they stood at the end of 2021 in terms of overall employment. As reported in the Johns Hopkins University NED Project's 2020 Nonprofit Employment Report, during the first three months of the pandemic (March, April and May 2020), it was conservatively estimated that nonprofits lost at least 1.64 million jobs from 2017 baseline levels, reducing the nonprofit workforce by 13.2% as of May 2020. As of December 2022, however, it appears that all of those lost jobs, and more, have been restored. The nonprofit sector represents 12.6 million employees, which is more employees than the entire current U.S. manufacturing sector.

Nonprofits have faced unique challenges in attracting workers in a highly competitive employment market. For instance, a long-term nurse shortage, further exacerbated by the pandemic, may in fact be a key reason for the lagging recovery in the nursing and residential care field. Other factors may be in play as well – both positive and negative – including 1) the significant history of resilience demonstrated by nonprofits during previous economic downturns, 2) increased demand for services, and 3) the unique constraints nonprofits face in terms of paying competitive wages, access to growth capital and the need to keep overhead low to conform to funder requirements and grant restrictions.



FPP is now on LinkedIn!

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12709081/>

Join Today...Start Networking

News From FPP Grads

Matt Clarkson , FPP '17



I graduated from Indiana University Kelley School of Business with a degree in Finance.

Currently, I live in Austin, Texas working for Dell Technologies. My job is Enterprise Account management, basically I work with fortune 500 clients to help build their datacenter, cyber security, etc.

For work, we take one day a month and volunteer for things such as picking up trash, helping at the animal shelter, etc. On my own time I am part of a mentorship program for highschool and middle school students, starting last August.

Isabelle Picciotti , FPP '17



Following a good 18 year stint in Oak Park, I moved across the country to Washington State to pursue a bachelor's degree in International Relations and Religious Studies from Gonzaga University.

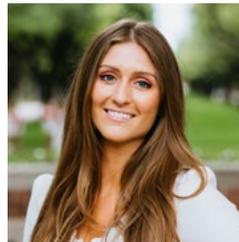
In between cheering on our Zags in March Madness, I had the opportunity to study abroad in France and Denmark and gain first hand experience with international political organizations.

After graduation I moved to DC and worked in campaign consulting, before joining the Center on Faith and Justice at Georgetown University. I now live just over the river in Old Town Alexandria, and belong to the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center. JFCC focuses on fundraising and volunteering in our local community, and I get to flex my old fundraiser muscles from

FPP with our various events. We work with Head Start and afterschool programs, and everytime I interact with these groups I'm reminded of the work we did as Juniors in FPP to improve the lives of youth in the OPRF area.

The older I get, the more I realize how useful FPP lessons are. I frequently write grant applications in my role at Georgetown, and being on the giving side has helped me to craft the best applications because I know exactly what donors are looking for. On the flip side, the skills I learned as a Senior have helped me to engage with local donors and groups and bring in fantastic contributions to our work with the JFCC. I am so grateful for my time in FPP in high school, and can't believe how far I've come since!

Andrea Schuler , FPP '17



I received my undergraduate degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas Texas. I did a bachelor's in International Relations and a minor in History.

Right now I live in Dublin, Ireland. I am in the middle of a master's program in International Peace Studies at Trinity College Dublin. I am looking to join the NGO (Non-Government Organization) space after receiving my graduate degree. Throughout my undergraduate degree I volunteered with a Dallas-based organization called Metrocrest Services. Metrocrest is a holistic support provider for low-income individuals and families in the Dallas community. In Dublin, I will soon be volunteering with a program run called Trinity English Conversation Classes for refugees and asylum seekers. Trinity is a member of the Places of Sanctuary network, and each week I will meet with refugees based in and around Dublin to engage in conversations aimed at facilitating English practice, cross cultural interaction and

simple human-human connection!

New Moms is an organization that I have followed and contributed to since being introduced to it during my time with the Future Philanthropists Program. This summer I became an approved volunteer, and once I am based in Oak Park/Chicago again I look forward to giving my time to New Moms.

Anneliese Vukotich, FPP '17



I did my undergraduate at the University of Missouri and attained a Bachelors of Science in Communication and I am currently a Masters of Communication Sciences student at Northwestern University.

I love to move and experience new states and immerse myself within the rich culture that every city has. Since leaving high school at OPRF, I have lived in Columbia, Missouri, Spokane, Washington, San Francisco, California, and have recently made my way back to Chicago!

A big charitable activity I was involved in during undergrad was an organization called Little Sister of the Gold Rose and it is a non Greek service sorority that serves the mid Missouri region. Since graduating in December of 2020 I have served as their Alumni Advisor. I also recently have been asked to serve on the Board of Trustees for Sigma Lambda Gamma Multicultural Sorority that focuses on fundraising and scholarships for those who are looking to advance their chapters or receive financial assistance while attaining a degree or developing further as a professional.

I am always looking to build my network and would love to connect on LinkedIn with FPP advisors, alumni, and current participants: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anneliese-m-vukotich-88672b14a>.

more Grad News next page

News From FPP Grads

continued from page 4

Paul Cederoth, FPP '18



I completed my undergraduate degree in History at the University of Virginia, with minors in Economics and Astronomy. I also completed my Masters in Public Policy at UVA in May of 2022.

I'm living in Washington, DC and working as a federal consultant at KPMG.

I've started helping out with digital transcription for the Smithsonian museum – they have over a million pages of handwritten notes and records from the Freedmen's Bureau, many of which still need transcription. This enables historians and curators to access and locate valuable historical information to a depth and speed which was previously impossible.

During my time at UVA, I hosted for a community radio station (WTJU) for over three years. I'm currently looking into similar public radio stations in the DC area where I can continue to get involved.

Tulane's President and Title IX Office to implement victim-centered approaches to the university's sexual misconduct investigation process, and held the nation's first undergraduate Black Survivors Week. I also served as President of numerous service clubs throughout undergrad, and volunteered as a humanities and ESL tutor with various New Orleans nonprofits.

My current teaching role is at a non-profit school, so that's my big nonprofit involvement right now!

Samantha Neilson, FPP '18



I got my undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After hopping around a bit, I landed with a bachelor's in Communication, Pre-Law.

Currently, I live in Chicago, working for Northwestern University's Medical School

in the Office of Development and Donor Relations. I work on the Donor Relations team, and in part with Dr. Eric Neilson, who is the present Dean of Northwestern Medicine. My job is very centered on donor relationships, and making sure we are handling large gifts, and all gifts, appropriately.

After FPP, I was involved in a number of philanthropic opportunities that U of I campus had to offer. I joined a sorority, where we fundraised money to combat child illiteracy, and volunteered every Wednesday night at a homeless shelter at UniPlace Church in Champaign. Now, I have joined the OPRF Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni Association through Karen Tardy, and am looking forward to some great opportunities to get involved with the community under their guidance.

My career goal at this point is to, first, master the position I am in right now. Entering the workforce can come with a lot of unknowns and a tremendous amount of learning opportunities. At this point, I would like to stay involved in the philanthropic side of the workforce, and hopefully someday run a Donor Relations team of my own.

Lauren Flowers, FPP '18



I received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy from Tulane University in May 2022. I also studied at London School of Economics, University of Notre Dame, and University of Copenhagen over my four-year degree.

I live in Nablus, Palestine, where I am a high school history teacher at Pioneers Baccalaureate School.

In my last year of undergrad studies, I co-founded a collective for Black sexual violence survivors. We collaborated with



Chris Hedrich, FPP '22

During his winter break from UW-Madison, Chris was one of the key speakers at a January 16th gathering of community leaders in Naperville to hear about the benefits of an FPP-like program for teens in the high schools there. The meeting was co-chaired by Nina Menis, CEO of KidsMatter, and Mark Trembacki, a consultant with Busey Bank. In attendance were

representatives from Naperville Central, Naperville North and the Indian Prairie School District, several high school students, local service clubs like Sunrise Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce, business and nonprofit leaders and the Naperville Park District who served as the host. Chris presented his own slide presentation highlighting the work of FPP during the past two years including the Ukraine Aid project in which they collected nearly 3 tons of supplies for refugee families. He fielded many questions from the audience and stayed afterwards to talk with many who wanted to learn still more. The group concluded with a commitment to form a steering committee and begin working on a program launch for the 2023-24 school year. Thank you, Chris, for enabling the Three Pillars Initiative to scale this program to other communities.

Joeisms

Aggressive Patience is more effective than pure aggression.



Joe Smith, FPP Mentor

“Never hate your enemies. It clouds your judgement.”

– Don Vito Corleone

Humor, Irony and Oxymorons are sociologic cousins. Each component requires engagement, absorption and the connecting of disjointed synapses and positions.

Not all humor is funny. The snicker of having been exposed to the irony of a situation is never a source of laughter when one is on the receiving end. O. Henry’s classic short story “The Gift of the Magi” is as excellent an example as is the conclusion of the movie “The Usual Suspects”. Irony depends upon the failure to anticipate the outcome.

Oxymorons are gentle in their humor and more proactive in their nature. Think of some of the most famous members of the herd:

- Plastic Glass
- Metal Wood
- Tight Slacks
- Fun Run
- Family Vacation

Aggressive Patience falls squarely into the Oxymoron universe. The Latin root of the word Aggressive is *infestantibus*, whose English cognate is more frequently associated with head lice. It is wedded to

speed. Patience is defined by docility. What connects these terms?

They are fundamental components of the relationship between thinking (Aggressive) and acting (Patience). In the arena of private thoughts and the keeping of one’s own counsel there are no boundaries to options. Once those thoughts enter the world of reality the failure to provide temperance can be catastrophic. You are both the parent of your actions and the heir of their consequences.

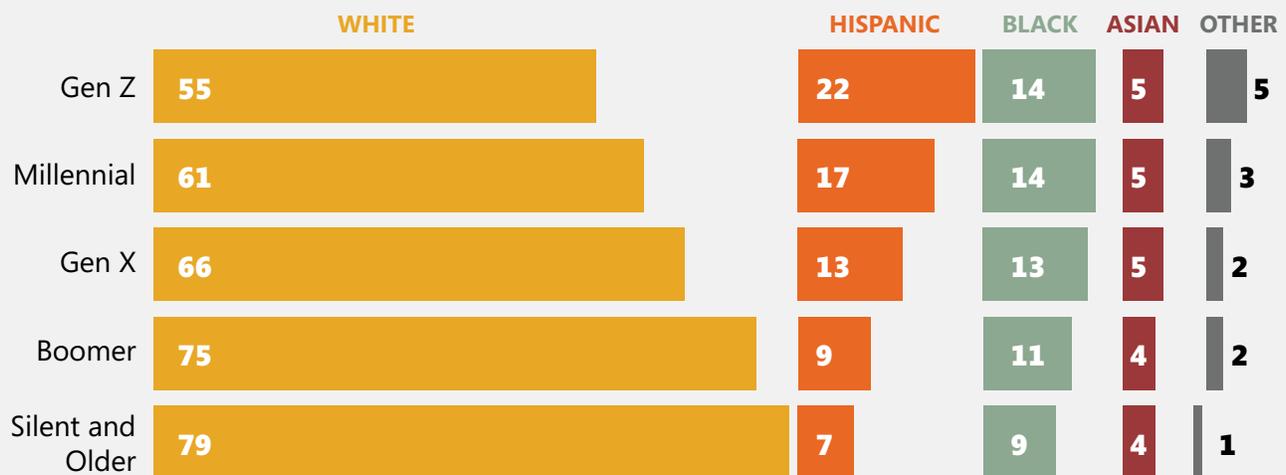
We will always be your Mentors.

“Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.”

– Noam Chomsky

About one in five Gen Z voters are Hispanic

% of eligible voters in each generation who are in each racial and ethnic group in 2020



Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Other includes those who identify as more than one race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2020 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS).



Remembering Peter Salvino

FPP Class of 2015
(1997-2022)

That Peter Salvino's life has been cut short is pain enough to bear. That the Future Philanthropists Program must say goodbye to our first alum-

nus before we celebrate our first alumni wedding or child compounds the sorrow.

Let us try to take counsel in the fact during his short time in the mortal coil, we joined with Peter in the journey of trying to make the planet a better place. As part of the FPP Class of 2015 he helped countless others by his thoughtful grant making and by raising the funds that earned FPP the Manaki Foundation matching grant, allowing the program to continue to make a difference in the community. We shared a time with him when he made a difference that will survive his passing.

We must look upon the mystery of death with the eyes of faith so that we shall believe what we do not see and shall bear with fortitude the evils to which we are unjustly subjected. Admittedly, it is not in our power to determine how our death may come about. However, it does lie in our power to determine how we live, so that we may die without fear."

– Saint Augustine

Our deepest condolences to Peter's family, friends, and colleagues. We join with them in rejoicing for our time with him. The world is a better place for his existence and we are better for having known him.



No man is an island,
Entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of
the continent,
A part of the main.

– John Donne

Peter Secondo Salvino, of Chicago, IL, passed away unexpectedly on December 18, 2022, at the young age of 25. His family and friends are shocked by his loss.

Peter was born on June 10, 1997 in Park Ridge, IL to Martin Salvino and Mary Lukancic. He grew up alongside his older sister, Emma, in River Forest, IL attending Willard and Roosevelt schools. He followed his father and sister's footsteps to Fenwick High School in Oak Park. At Fenwick he was active in a wide range of activities including math team, orchestra, football, and rugby. He was also a regular in the annual Banuavariety show playing his guitar and trying his hand at comedy.

Peter went on to attend Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, where he double majored in Electrical Engineering and Neuroscience. In his free time, Peter played rugby, was an officer in his fraternity and eagerly sought out new bands, music, and food. Following his graduation, he spent the next year pursuing his passion by doing research at Yale Medical School in the department of neuroscience.

He happily returned to his home turf of Chicago to pursue a PhD at Northwestern University in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience program. There he found work that truly excited him and a great network of like-minded colleagues. Being back in his hometown he continued to seek out new foods and eclectic music while exploring the city in the company of his boyhood friends and long-term girlfriend, Alex. He only ever mentioned two disappointments, the White Sox and the Bears.

Peter has been described by many as a brilliant and kind person, leaving an impact on everyone he met. Through all of his successes and endeavors, Peter remained humble. He will be remembered for his generosity with his time, empathy for others, and dry, sometimes sarcastic humor. He was a bright light to everyone he met, spreading joy with his contagious smile, and frequently went out of his way to support those he loved.

Source: Chicago Tribune

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a GoFundMe page dedicated to Peter. The proceeds will be given to the Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience program to further research in areas related to Peter's interests.
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/neuroscience-studies-at-nu-for-peter-salvino>