



National Guard Youth Foundation

Changing America's Future One Young Life at a Time™

Progress Report



WE BELIEVE IN SECOND CHANCES

WHO WE SERVE

The National Guard Youth Foundation (NGYF) is dedicated to addressing the nation's dropout crisis by giving troubled youth a second chance through the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, helping them graduate and continue their education or join the skilled workforce.

"The college credits, scholarships and hours of fulfilling community work meant more to me than I can express, but what resonated with me was knowing there are a group of people who pour their lives into making others' lives better."



Wesley Jones
2009 ChalleNGe graduate
NGYF scholarship recipient

"ChalleNGe changed my life. It is the best decision I have ever made. It transformed my life from failing school, and illegal activities, to a life of law enforcement, social, civic, and human rights activism."

Lena Illig
2010 Alaska Military Academy graduate
NGYF \$20,000 scholarship recipient



ABOUT CHALLENGE

Conducted at 35 academies across the country, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program (ChalleNGe) is operated in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau, state governments and local sites. The program consists of a 5 1/2-month residential phase framed around eight core components: academic excellence, responsible citizenship, physical fitness, leadership/followership, job skills, service to the community, health and hygiene and life coping skills, and a 12-month post residential phase during which mentors continue to provide guidance and support to graduates.

According to a study by MDRC:

- ChalleNGe participants are **29%** more likely to attain a high school diploma or GED than those who've dropped out and don't attend
- ChalleNGe participants are **86%** more likely to attend college
- Annual earnings are likely to increase by **20%** for ChalleNGe participants

8,831 young people got a second chance through ChalleNGe in 2013.

ChalleNGe has produced more than **130,000** graduates to date.

ChalleNGe is recognized as among the most cost-effective, highly rated programs of its kind for youth who have dropped out of school.



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Every year, nearly
ONE MILLION
students drop out of school, yet...
75% say they would have
stayed in school
if they could do it all over again.

Source: "The Silent Epidemic," 2006

There are many young men and women yearning for an opportunity to turn their lives around and get back on track. We believe every youth deserves that second chance. With ChalleNGe, we can give them a pathway to that **crucial second chance** and help them continue on their path of success well beyond graduation day so they become successful, confident and contributing members of our society.

"The ChalleNGe program was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. It gave me the self-confidence and discipline that I was lacking. I finally felt like I truly fit in with other people. I went from being kicked out of high school with flunking grades to graduating with Gold Phase and passing my GED with flying colors. I also met my best friend in ChalleNGe and we are still the best of friends to this day."

Lauren Anne

2005 Virginia Commonwealth ChalleNGe graduate
2014 NGYF ChalleNGe Ambassador



"I am very excited to be a college graduate. I dropped out of high school because I had so many family problems going on that I had let my grades drop past failure. Teachers thought I was "unteachable". To graduate from college with honors for me is amazing and I could not have done this without the National Guard Youth Foundation!"

Beverly Croxton

Mississippi Youth ChalleNGe Academy graduate
NGYF \$20,000 scholarship recipient



WHAT WE ARE DOING

Fulfilling our Mission

NGYF believes every young person should have the opportunity to achieve a future rich in possibility. **Our goal is to expand the ChalleNGe program so it can accommodate 20,000 young men and women a year by 2020.** While completing ChalleNGe is a significant achievement in and of itself, NGYF's work and our commitment to the young men and women of the program doesn't end there.

Workforce Development

A critical part of our efforts are dedicated to focusing on the graduates and helping them continue on their upward trajectory. Through our new Workforce Development Initiative, we've formed partnerships with companies and organizations to help ChalleNGe cadets and graduates continue developing through job skills training, apprenticeships, enrolling in technical schools, community colleges or universities, and job opportunities.

Scholarships

According to the MDRC study on ChalleNGe, participation in the program increases college attainment by 86%. The scholarships offered by NGYF help ChalleNGe graduates continue their education in college, vocational programs or technical schools.

Awareness

Through local and national events, panel briefs and PSAs, NGYF is striving to make the public aware of the dropout problem and the success ChalleNGe is experiencing in combating the issue. This also includes providing ChalleNGe programs guidance on social media, engaging local and national media, and making sure lawmakers and decision makers are aware of the benefits of the program.

This year, we've partnered with:



Through new partnerships and grants, we've been able to provide more resources to the ChalleNGe program and those who graduate from the program than ever before!



CBS EVENING NEWS AIRED A SERIES ON CHALLENGE



A production team from CBS Evening News is following cadets at the Sunburst Youth Academy in Los Alamitos, CA to chronicle the transformation that occurs at the ChalleNGe program. This footage is airing as a multi-part series on CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley.

[▶ VIEW CBS CHALLENGE SERIES VIDEO PAGE](#)

300

CHALLENGE GRADUATES WERE awarded NGYF scholarships

Nearly
\$500,000
WAS AWARDED
in scholarships

WE LAUNCHED A NEW CHALLENGE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM!



2014 ChalleNGe Ambassadors

To help tell the ChalleNGe story, **CHALLENGE GRADUATES** are serving as Ambassadors to represent the program and NGYF at national and local events.

NGYF AND CSIS HELD A BRIEFING to discuss the dropout crisis

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and NGYF held a discussion with national experts on disengaged adolescents and the high school dropout crisis. This conference also examined the evidence-based practices that lead adolescents back to mainstream society.



[▶ VIEW PANEL DISCUSSION](#)

NEW CHALLENGE SITES OPENED



Washington, DC



Idaho





NGYF ASSISTED FUNDING OF NEW GYM FLOORS AT IDAHO PROGRAM

The Idaho Youth ChalleNGe program is off to a great start - they now have brand new gym floors! NGYF provided funding to help cover refurbishing of the previously unusable gym floors, providing Idaho cadets with an indoor space to do physical training.



WE WERE THE FEATURED CHARITY AT CONGRESSIONAL NIGHT WITH THE NATS!



DC cadets with Reps. Grace Napolitano, David McKinley and Diana DeGett

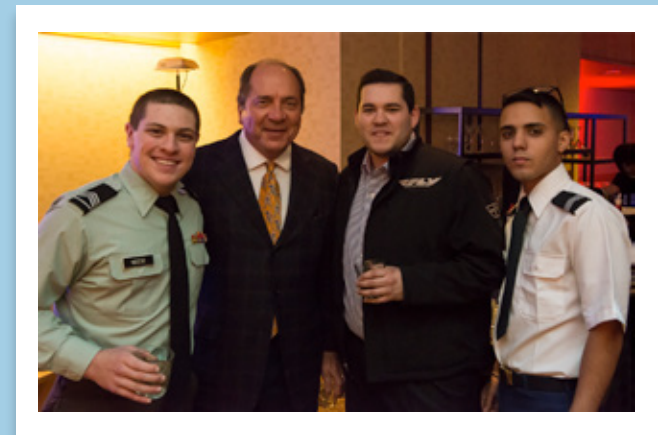


DC cadets with Nationals Manager Matt Williams

NGYF was able to raise awareness on Capitol Hill by being the featured charity at the Congressional Night with the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park. Cadets of the Capital Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Academy represented ChalleNGe at the game.

JOHNNY BENCH ATTENDED OUR 9th Annual ChalleNGe Champions Gala

Major Baseball League Hall of Famer Johnny Bench attended our 9th Annual ChalleNGe Champions Gala in Washington, DC. and raised money for scholarships.



2013 & 2014 WERE EXCITING YEARS FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH FOUNDATION

DALE EARNHARDT JR

CONTINUED TO SUPPORT AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM



[VIEW VIDEO](#)

We participated in a GradNation breakout session

As a new partner of the America's Promise Alliance, we were invited to participate in a breakout session at its annual GradNation event to discuss ChalleNGe as a proven option for teens who have dropped out of school but want to get back on track. Two of NGYF's ChalleNGe Ambassadors shared their ChalleNGe experiences at the summit.



Mrs. Alma Powell & NGYF ChalleNGe Ambassadors Humberto Palacios and Tatiana Zambrano

WE HOSTED BRIEFINGS WITH GEN. FRANK GRASS AND NATIONAL GUARD LEADERSHIP



ChalleNGe cadets & graduates with General Grass

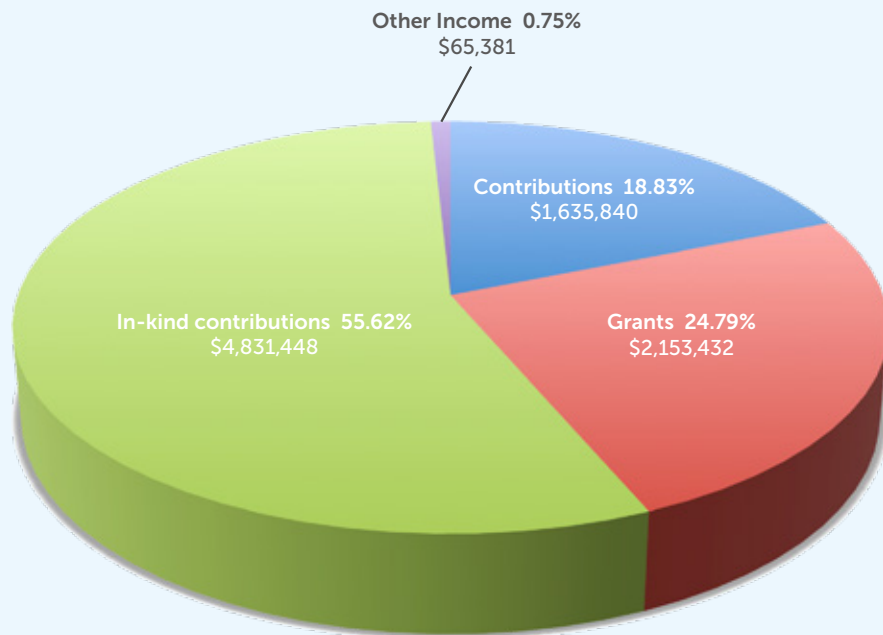
This year, NGYF held two briefings with National Guard Bureau Chief General Frank Grass on the successes and challenges facing ChalleNGe programs.

WE RECEIVED A \$4.7 MILLION GRANT FROM MICROSOFT

in software and technical resources which was distributed to all ChalleNGe programs.



Total Revenue: \$8,686,101



**Percentage rounded to nearest hundredth*

Breakdown of Revenue

In-kind contributions

NGYF's largest in-kind contribution was provided by Microsoft's YouthSpark initiative to strengthen the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program's job training and skill development resources.

Contributions

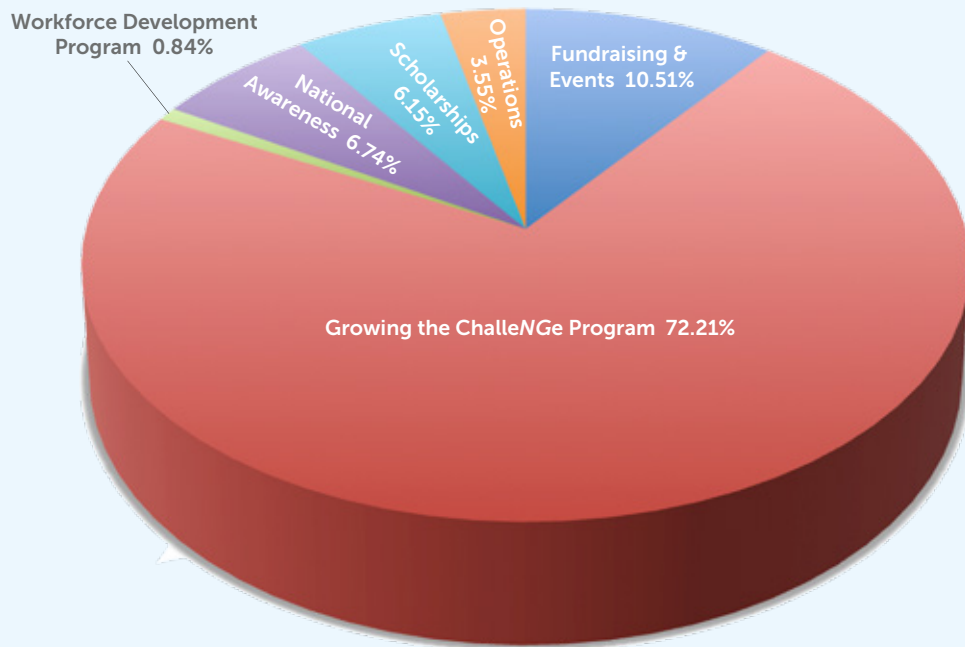
NGYF is very appreciative of the many private donors and companies who support ChalleNGe through the Foundation.

Grants

NGYF cannot operate without the support of generous grantors such as the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and Dollar General.



Breakdown of Investments



**Percentage rounded to nearest hundredth*

Growing the ChalleNGe Program

While ChalleNGe is located in 27 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, there are many more young men and women who can benefit from the program. Working with public and private partners, our goal is to grow ChalleNGe so it can serve 20,000 kids per year by 2020.

Fundraising & Events

NGYF works diligently to raise necessary funds and further our mission.

National Awareness

ChalleNGe can be a life-saving program for many youth who need it. NGYF invests time and resources into raising awareness of the ChalleNGe program –among the general public, youth, law enforcement and judicial communities and lawmakers - so that more are aware of its benefits.

Scholarships

For many ChalleNGe participants, continuing education in community college, vocational, trade schools or at a four-year university was once an unattainable goal. This funding is critical to opening the door for many of the graduates of the program.

Workforce Development Program

Providing career exploration and work-based learning opportunities, as well as training and job opportunities for graduates of ChalleNGe helps them take their next steps to a self-sustaining and successful adulthood.

Operations

NGYF's operations funds cover all operating costs that enable our staff to continue providing opportunities for ChalleNGe graduates.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT!

Our efforts would not be possible without the support we receive from our corporate partners and sponsors - and people like you. Together, we can have an even greater impact on the lives of those who need a second chance.



“Because of support from the ChalleNGe staff, the Foundation, and people like you, I believe in myself.”

-Katrina Duvall, 2011 Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy graduate