Welcome to the Funders Network for Youth Success newsletter! Here we share various ways you can connect and learn alongside your Funders Network for Youth Success colleagues investing in solutions to end youth homelessness.

Meet Michael Durham, Funders Together's new Director of Networks

I started as Director of Networks at Funders Together in May and my responsibilities include leading our youth homelessness work, which means I'll be working alongside you as part of the Funders Network for Youth Success. I am so delighted to be here!

I come to Funders Together after nearly a decade at the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, a national membership organization pursuing healthcare justice in the movement to end homelessness. In addition to healthcare access in general, I focused on street medicine/outreach, alternatives to law enforcement, decriminalization, and workplace racial equity education.

On a personal note, I'm a single parent of two daughters living in East Nashville, not just my hometown but the specific neighborhood where I lived since middle school. I'm an avid cook, embarrassed soccer fanatic, and nature-documentary devotee. I was partially raised in Europe, which means for me that I can’t help but situate our work for housing justice in the global movement to heal the wounds of colonization and racialized capitalism.

As an outsider to youth homelessness specificity, I observed that it was the most progressive subsector of our field, often disrupting toxic assumptions that infect other parts of the larger movement. I am humbled to help support such disruption in this new role. You can reach me at michael@funderstogether.org

Youth Homelessness Programming

Building off the February 2022 convening on the prevention of youth homelessness, Funders Together is organizing follow-up webinars to dive deeper into the intersecting issues affecting young people's stability. Join us in September for webinars on two related topics:

**The Role of Employment Services**
**Wednesday, September 14, 2022 | 2:00pm ET / 11:00am PT**

**The Role of Education**
**Tuesday, September 27, 2022 | 12:00pm ET / 9:00am PT**
Stay tuned for upcoming editions on the role of health care, eviction prevention services, and other issues essential for preventing youth homelessness. Send feedback here.

November is National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness month! Tell us how you’re recognizing it.

**Youth Homelessness News**

**My Brother’s Troubling Story Shows Why Philanthropy Should Avoid Investing in Institutional Care**  
*Chronicle of Philanthropy | June 22, 2022*

**ACLU says minor curfews in Milwaukee and Chicago could target people of color and 'escalate tensions' between police and homeless residents**  
*Yahoo News | May 18, 2022*

**How programs for homeless youth pivoted in the pandemic**  
*Crosscut | February 7, 2022*

**Network Member and Partner Spotlight**

Think of Us

We know that the work of preventing and ending homelessness for youth necessitates that we disrupt toxic systems that rob young people of autonomy, power, and resources. Few systems deserve such disruption more than child welfare. Enter Think of Us, whose work Funders Together highlighted in the April edition of our Prevention webinar series. Founded in 2017 by luminary CEO Sixto Cancel, Think of Us is “a research & design lab for foster care, driving equitable systems change so that the youth and families most impacted by foster care have the greatest power and opportunity to reshape it.” That effort starts with Sixto himself, whose story of enduring the foster system as a child shapes his organizing and leadership strategy. Think of Us launched the Center for Lived Experience in May, a new approach to catalyze systems change, positioning the people closest to the foster care system at the center of reshaping it today and for generations to come (watch highlights from their launch event!).

Among other distinct contributions to the child welfare movement (and youth homelessness by extension), Think of Us’ niche is data, which richly supplements data provided by states and the federal government. Their numerous research projects are powered by a vast network of people with lived experience in the foster system whose contributions have elevated key findings scarcely witnessed in other datasets. These
relationships with young people place Think of Us on the forefront of informing and advocating for these issues.

Reflecting on how philanthropy can support their priorities, Cancel shared in July that he was especially concerned about the lack of awareness of HUD’s Foster Youth to Independence voucher program. This program requires a MOU between child welfare and public housing authorities but is offered on-demand, unlike Section 8 vouchers.

Funders Together is grateful for our relationship with Sixto and his team. Learn more about their work [here](#).

---

**Funders Together Strategic Framework**

In July, we released our new [strategic framework](#) which is a roadmap for how Funders Together to End Homelessness wants to show up and contribute to the collective work for housing justice. This framework codifies the work we have already been doing while offering a foundation for our work to elevate Pro-Black and Pro-Indigenous solutions that realize housing justice as racial justice, carry out our unapologetic justice stance, and move with intention to uplift our well-being and model wellness and liberation.

**Funders Together Youth Homelessness Resource Page**

These resources provide a snapshot of the current youth homelessness landscape for funders and support funders in identifying the role they can play in advancing the working happening both nationally and locally. From upcoming programming to partners in the work to policy updates, we will be updating this page with timely resources as they become available, so bookmark this page and check back often!

- **Rapid Re-Housing Handbook**
  
  *Point Source Youth | August 2022*

- **A Solvable Problem: Preventing Youth Homelessness**
  
  *Chapin Hall | July 2022*

- **Weaving a Collective Tapestry: A Funder's Toolkit for Child and Youth Participation**
  
  *Elevate Children | June 2022*

- **Recordings of Point Source Youth Virtual Conference**
  
  *Point Source Youth | June 2022*

- **Leveraging Medicaid to Reduce Youth Homelessness**
  
  *Manatt Health | May 2022*

- **Perceptions: Exploring Youth Homelessness Prevention and Diversion in the United States**
  
  *True Colors United*

---

*Have upcoming programming, resources, or news to share? Let us know so we can include it in our next Funders Network for Youth Success e-news!*