Our Mission:

Project SUCCESS motivates and inspires young people to dream about the future, helps them take steps to get there and gives them the tools they need to achieve their goals.

The moment you start living

As adults who care about education and the outcomes of youth, we often discuss potential solutions to the challenges facing our current educational systems. Many people give advice and make suggestions, but they frequently forget to include the most important voices in the conversation: the voices of the young people themselves.

Over the last 20+ years, Project SUCCESS has found that young people have answers and need to be heard. We believe in the power of kids to define and achieve success, and we seek to empower all kids in our community to do just that. Our work isn’t easy, but it is rewarding, because we know that by giving kids a voice we are empowering them, and in turn, bettering our world.

When a young person is asked to share their hopes, dreams, thoughts, and goals, Project SUCCESS has found that the gratitude, genuineness, and sheer brilliance of their thoughts will inspire and enlighten. The following quote is one example of what can happen when kids put words to their own experiences:

“I remember one time that I forgot about the world. It was 6th grade. To a lot of people, 6th grade … well, I don’t know. I can’t speak for a lot of people. I’ve never really been the loudest person, or the social butterfly with the biggest wings. I’m what the dictionary would call an introvert. I’m the calculative, careful person who considers all of the elements in an equation, while others just change up the variables spontaneously and see what happens. It was 6th grade. It was around May, and I had just finished an event where I sang for possible donors of Project SUCCESS. We all loaded into the bus, and I was just dreading math class. I sat near the front and all of the people who I hung out with during the show sat near me. I’m not sure whom, but someone started singing. And I’m not sure what they sang, and I’m not sure what order we added in, but I remember the feeling. All of the kids in the front joined into an imperfect chorus of remembrance. It was almost like the world gave me that moment. There were kids in the back, but the world was so loud and bright that I forgot that they existed for a minute. The muted, scratched color of the bus got a little brighter that day. I think that everybody is born, but there’s a moment when you start living.”

– Alejandro, 7th grade student

Thank you for enabling Project SUCCESSS to provide students with the tools, support, and inspiration to achieve their goals. Our continued commitment to innovation and excellence will ensure bright futures for our students and families. With the opportunities we provide, kids are allowed to find their own voice, speak their truth, and in turn do amazing things!

Gratefully, Adrienne & Darryle
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2013-14

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Our Vision:
Every child entering middle school will graduate high school with a plan for their future and have the skills and confidence that will take them through the rest of their lives.

Our Program:
Each year, Project SUCCESS serves nearly 12,000 students continuously, from 6th through 12th grade, in 16 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools. Our program complements the work of teachers and counselors by enriching the core curriculum and creating long-term relationships with students over seven years.

Goal-Setting Workshops are held monthly, from sixth through twelfth grade, in each Language Arts classroom, for each student in every school, led by highly trained Project SUCCESS facilitators using our proven, grade-specific, cumulative curriculum, integrated with the academic curriculum and designed to help students create, set and achieve short- and long-term goals.

Professional Theater Experiences are offered to inspire and challenge students, increase their community engagement, and act as a springboard for discussion. We invite students and their families to eight performances annually at no cost to them, thanks to our Twin Cities theater partners who donate tickets. The performances enrich students’ shared family and community experiences, leading to more positive relationships and improved academic achievement.

Enrichment Experiences outside the classroom offer students more opportunities to refine their goals, build relationships, and gain confidence in creative thinking, decision making, and resourcefulness while developing the skills to plan their futures. Activities include college tours, artist residencies, student performances, BWCA canoe trips, one-on-one support for college and career planning, and transition/orientation events for incoming freshmen.
Our Activities 2013-14:

WORKSHOPS
3,900 Workshops led by 10 Project SUCCESS Facilitators
118 Classrooms
16 Minneapolis and St. Paul Schools
12,000 students

THEATER EXPERIENCES
165 Evening and weekend performances for
14, 212 students and family members
13 Field trips for 1,600 students
Tickets donated by our 35 Twin Cities Theater Partners

COLLEGE TOURS
39 tours in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa,
North Dakota and Wisconsin
501 high school students exploring college options
Special tour day for 433 South High 10th graders

BWCA EXPERIENCES
179 middle school students
From 9 schools
For 7 days each

STUDENT MUSICALS
Featuring 231 middle school students in cast and crew
4,000+ student, family and community audience members
At Anwatin, Sanford and Marcy Open Schools

9TH GRADE TRANSITION EVENTS
At 2 different high schools
For 500+ 9th graders

Our Goals:

- Students develop and take steps to achieve short-term and long-term goals.
- Students’ engagement with school improves.
- Students connect their goals and dreams with their academic behavior.
- Students demonstrate more connections with family, teachers, students, and their community.
- Students demonstrate a better understanding of themselves.

Our Results:

“Project SUCCESS works. It helps support our efforts in closing the achievement gaps. We see statistically significant positive gains in on-time graduation rates, attendance and, most importantly, grade point average.”
— Eric Moore, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, Minneapolis Public Schools

In one year alone, Project SUCCESS helps 12,000 middle and high school students dream, plan and succeed.

African-American boys who participate in Project SUCCESS classroom workshops increase their grade point average over 4 years.*

67% of all students who attend Project SUCCESS college tours are more likely to graduate on time.*

Students who participate in a Project SUCCESS-produced musical increase their grade point average after only one year.*

90% of teachers report that Project SUCCESS helps students to be better problem solvers, be more self-aware of their strengths, be more motivated to succeed in school, and set goals for the future.**

90% of high school students report that Project SUCCESS helps them think about their future, set goals and create a plan for after graduation.**

*Analysis of Project SUCCESS participation data by Eric Moore, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment for Minneapolis Public Schools.
**As reported by an independent, large-scale evaluation conducted by the University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI). Evaluation reports available upon request.
**FY2014 School Partners**

**Minneapolis:** Anne Sullivan Communication Center, Anwatin Middle School, Edison High School, Jefferson Community School, Marcy Open School, North Community High School (Founding Partner), Northeast Middle School, Olson Middle School, Patrick Henry High School, Roosevelt High School, Sanford Middle School, South High School, Southwest High School, Washburn High School

**Saint Paul:** Battle Creek Middle School, Humboldt Middle School.

**FY2014 Theater Partners**

Ballet of the Dolls, Bloomington Civic Theatre, Cedar Cultural Center, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Children’s Theatre Company, Cowles Center, Minnesota Public Radio’s Fitzgerald Theater, Guthrie Theater (Founding Partner), Hennepin Theatre Trust (State, Orpheum, and Pantages Theatres), History Theatre, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Illusion Theatre, The Jungle Theater, Minnesota Dance Theater, Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Mixed Blood Theatre, Mu Performing Arts, Northrop Auditorium University of Minnesota, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, The O’Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University, Penumbra Theatre Company, Pillsbury House Theatre, Sabes JCC, Saint Paul City Ballet, Stages Theatre Company, SteppingStone Theatre, Ten Thousand Things, Theater Latté Da, Theatre Unbound, University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, Vocalessence, Walker Art Center, Xelias Aerial Arts, and Youth Performance Company.

**Founding Partners**

North Community High School, Lifetouch Inc., Guthrie Theater

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**Financial Report:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6/30/14</th>
<th>6/30/13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>$1,882,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$88,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance - unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance - temporarily restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</strong></td>
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**Revenues**

- Corporate: $224,026
- Foundation: $1,921,973
- Individuals: $395,646
- Schools: $368,479
- Special Events: $32,081
- Program Service Fees: $63,010
- Government Revenue: —
- In-Kind Contributions: $963,724

**Total Revenue:** $3,968,939

**Expenses**

- General Operations: $335,342
- Program Services:
  - Goal-Setting Workshops: $349,051
  - Theater Experiences: $184,422
  - Enrichment Experiences: $571,911
  - In-Kind Program Expenses: $963,724
- Fundraising: $295,787

**Total Expenses:** $2,700,437

**Fund Balance:**

- Beginning of Period: $524,977
- End of Period: $1,793,479
- Change in Fund Balance: $1,268,502

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**Revenue and other support**

- 48% Foundation
- 6% Corporate
- 24% In-Kind Contributions
- 10% Individuals
- 9% Schools
- 1% Special Events
- 2% Program Service Fees

**Expenses**

- 77% Program Services
- 12% General Operations
- 11% Fundraising
Thank you to our donors:

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS

**DREAMMAKER $50,000**
- Aroha Philanthropies
- Carlson Family
- Destination 2010 Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
- General Mills Foundation
- Lifetouch Inc.
- Target
- West Fork Foundation

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- Minnesota Vikings
- Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable
- on behalf of
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- United Arts Fund, including contributions from hundreds of employees at companies throughout Minnesota
- University of Minnesota*
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- John Cullen
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William Fetzer
Mary Fisher*
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Lindsey Frey
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Jennie Kratz
Darren Kray
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Todd Kuehn
Connie and Larry Larson in
memory of Skip Nelson
Debra Larson
Patrick Larson
Jonathan Lien
Laurie and David
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Ben Oll and Kris Bergren
Leah Olim
Karin Omae
Jeffrey Oscarson
Sarah Parker
Stephanie Payne
Dorothy Peterson in
memory of Skip Nelson
Mary Cardinal Peterson
and Thomas Peterson
Terra Peterson
Mary E. Pickard
Joleen Pierce
We also want to thank the many parents who donated treats for our concessions at our student performances!

* Includes Matching Gifts

Today I am where I want to be in my life. I am living my dream. And I wouldn’t have that success without Project SUCCESS.”

– Christina Oey, Project SUCCESS Alumna