

Building better lives through extraordinary relationships!



Students Play an Active Role in Shaping Their Future

The theme for the 2021-22 Ambassador Leadership program was youth philanthropy. Research shows that when youth are afforded the opportunity to get involved in their community, children and adolescents are given the control and reassurance needed to build their self-worth (Garza & Stephens, 2002). Philanthropy gives youth the power to become valuable contributors now, and essential leaders for the future (Crestinger, 1999). Research shows that youth involved in philanthropic deeds continue to give or serve in a variety of ways as adults (Agard, 2002). Youth philanthropy programs aid teens in discovering how their diversity, leadership, and service can impact their future and the future of the communities in which they live (Sheller, 2018).

This year RMFY Middle and High School Ambassadors learned about engaging in philanthropy as they created a “Campaign for a Cause”. Working as five collaborative committees, Ambassadors effectively planned and executed an awareness campaign event on May 11 for a cause or organization of their choosing. Students showcased causes from human trafficking to mental health. These causes were on display as teams presented their findings on each issue, described how the audience can help, and then provided opportunities for guests to donate to an organization tackling each issue. Some students exuded confidence on stage while others displayed courage as they spoke in front of a crowd for the first time. This empowers students to be effective leaders both in and out of school and creates a myriad of opportunities for impactful community engagement. This program is meant to sustain positive behaviors and continue to steer students away from risky and delinquent behaviors as they continue to navigate the challenges of adolescence.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SERVED

16

COLLEGE AND CAREER
BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

5

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE
AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

21

STUDENTS WITH NO SUSPENSIONS

84%

AVERAGE QUARTERS 1-3

“ I am bettering myself towards my career and college path. ”

- Cailyn, Ambassador Leadership Program participant



Letting Futures Take Flight: Reflections from our RMFY Executive Director

Upon reopening of schools, RMFY was there serving students in-person at 16 sites while continuing to serve a set of students from over 30 different schools virtually. We elevated the recruitment and placement of volunteers to re-engage our students with law enforcement and community mentors. As such, we are on the road to getting back to our baseline of 150 volunteers leveraged to serve 1,000 students. To date, RMFY is serving approx. 600 students with 50 volunteers. Students participated in several field trips, such as the Aviation Institute of Maintenance (shown above).

Our mission remains and we continue to reach for our goal of providing high-quality, high-impact programs for increased student support and positive youth development through group work. The need for this type of support and opportunity has increased significantly because of the effects of the pandemic.

Both 2020 and 2021 served as years of assessment, adaptation, and strategic milestones toward making RMFY better and responsive to the shifting needs of our community. We bravely commit to continuing our evolution as a valuable organization within the spectrum of youth services and student support.



“ RMFY is synonymous with solutions for the next generation! ”

- Sabrina N. Gilchrist,
RMFY Executive Director