




**Start here.
Go anywhere.**

SyF[®]
simon youth foundation
syf.org

Hope

At Simon Youth Foundation, we have discovered that it is indestructible. Abuse, tragedy, attention disorders, disease, drugs, death of a loved one, teenage pregnancy, homelessness—none of these are capable of destroying it. We have watched young men and women overcome monumental difficulties and achieve incredible things, all because they had hope.

Education fuels hope. We've seen the power of it in the eyes of students who have rediscovered learning and the doors it can open for them. In fact, you could say hope is what started Simon Youth Foundation and what keeps it going strong today.



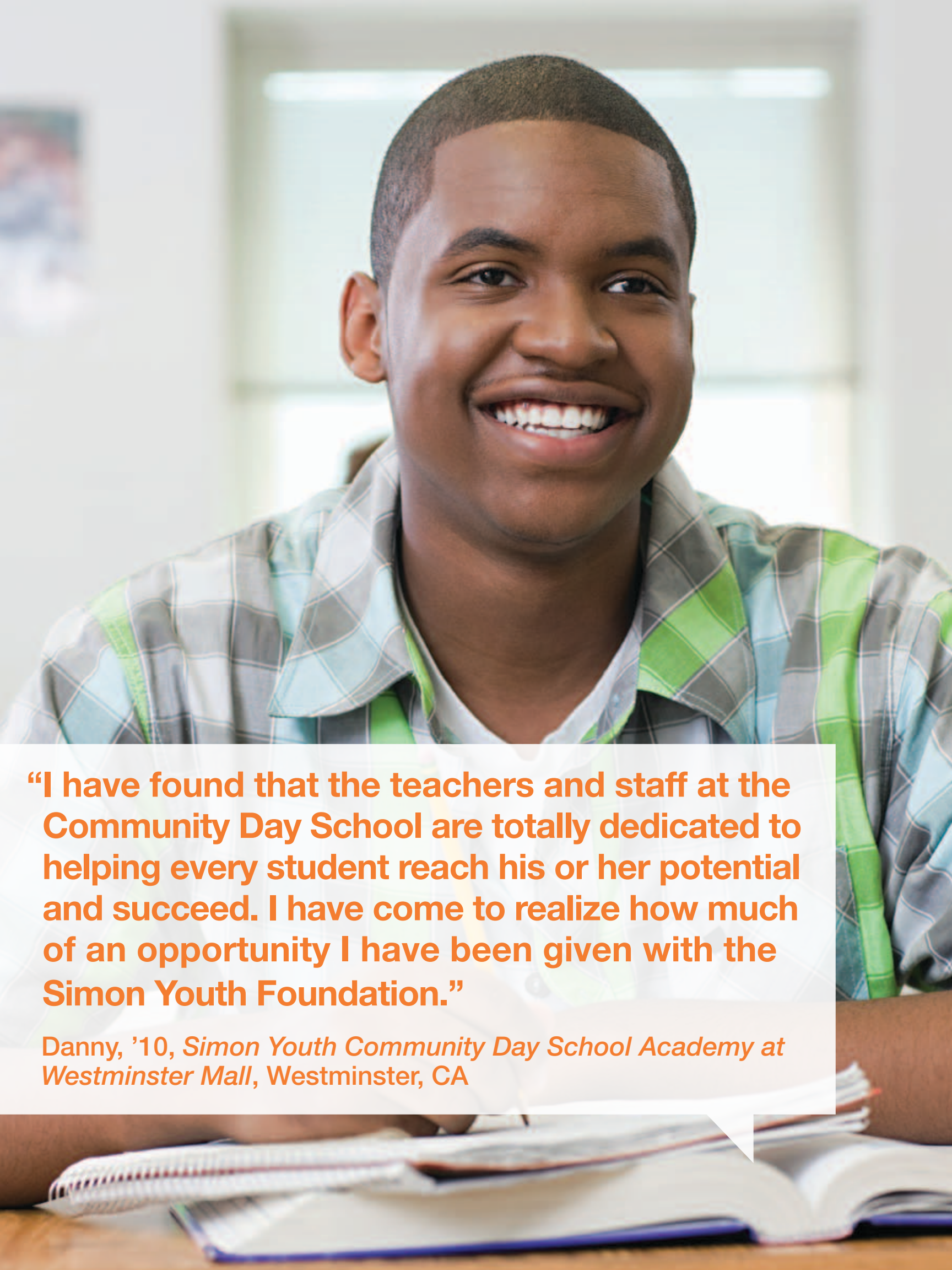
“From the day I started at my academy, I love being here. I enjoyed getting up and coming to school for the first time in my life.”

Mariah, '10, *Simon Youth Clark Pleasant Academy*, Whiteland, IN

History

In 1998, after seeing far too many kids in malls instead of classrooms during school hours, the employees of Simon Property Group rolled up their sleeves and went to work to help the public education system reach at-risk kids on the verge of dropping out of high school. We felt that given support, the public school system could retain and serve those students. We wanted to help create a program that did more than just turn out graduates. We wanted to be part of a program that would offer at-risk kids real opportunities for their futures.

We knew the program would have to offer students a different education model than what was currently available through public high schools. We needed academies with flexible hours and schedules that work with students' lives. Our teachers needed to be willing to push kids to succeed and to be available to give students individual attention and guidance. We also felt this program could and should promote scholarship, helping students go beyond earning a high school diploma to pursue a post-secondary degree. With these key initiatives in mind, Simon Youth Foundation was created.



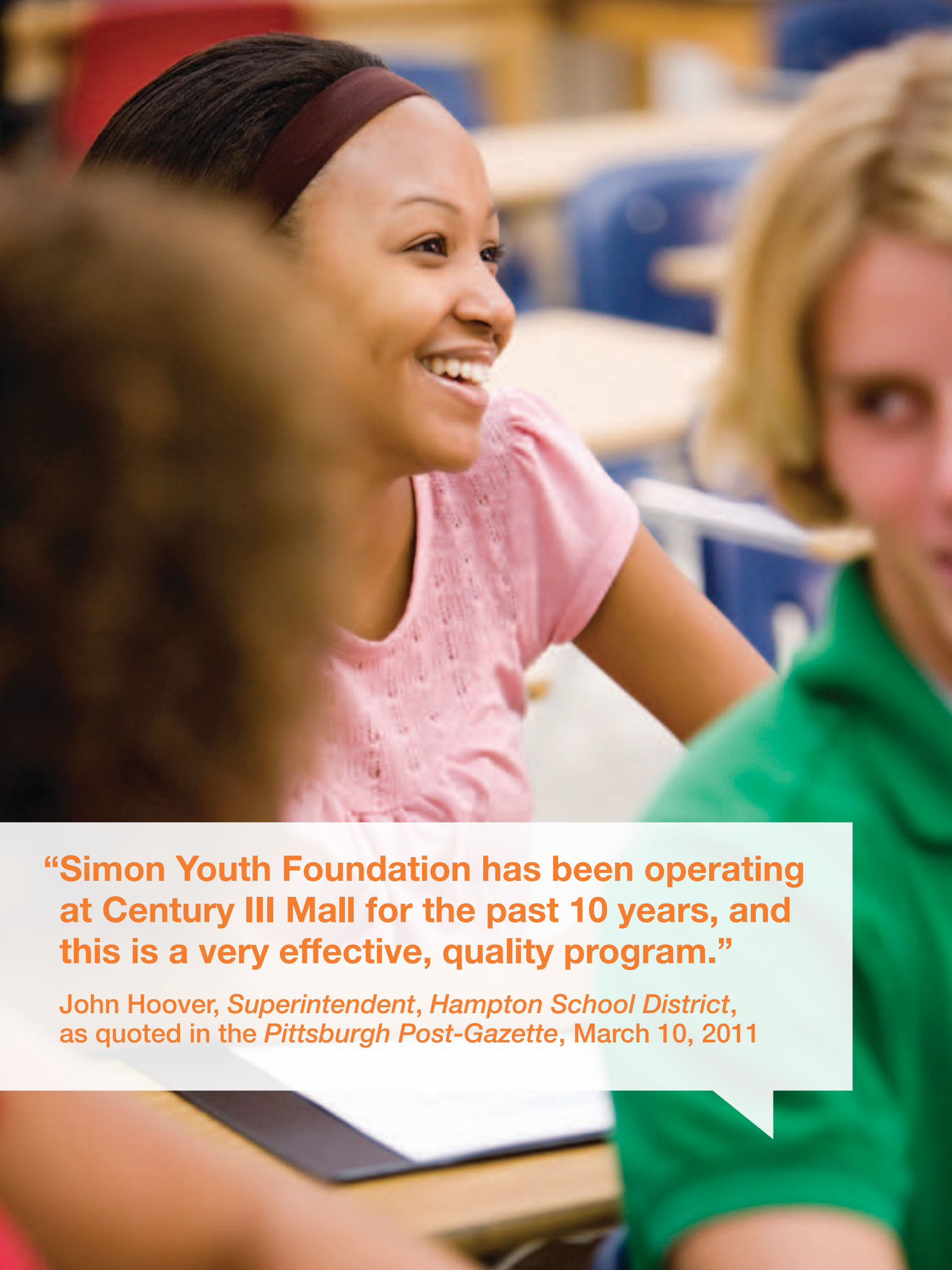
“I have found that the teachers and staff at the Community Day School are totally dedicated to helping every student reach his or her potential and succeed. I have come to realize how much of an opportunity I have been given with the Simon Youth Foundation.”

Danny, '10, Simon Youth Community Day School Academy at Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA

Mission

Simon Youth Foundation exists to help youth—who are at-risk of dropping out of high school—graduate, develop life skills, and pursue post-secondary education and career paths.

To positively impact the lives of youth, Simon Youth Foundation has developed two major initiatives: Simon Youth Academies and Simon Youth Scholarships.



“Simon Youth Foundation has been operating at Century III Mall for the past 10 years, and this is a very effective, quality program.”

*John Hoover, Superintendent, Hampton School District,
as quoted in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, March 10, 2011*

Simon Youth Academies

Simon Youth Academies are alternative high schools located primarily in Simon® malls. The academies give at-risk students the same education they would receive in a traditional classroom, but in a flexible environment. Each of our schools represents a partnership with one or more public school districts and is an extension of the local systems. Academy graduates receive accredited high school diplomas and are graduates of their public school district.

We know that the unique partnership of committed school systems, generous corporate and private donors, compassionate teachers, and courageous students works. We've seen how small classes and one-on-one learning raise grades and confidence in young men and women. In graduation speech after graduation speech, we have heard the hope return to students' voices, and their commitment fuels hope in others.

Scholarships

Our work does not stop at high school graduation. Scholarships are awarded to Simon Youth Academy graduates and students in every community that is home to a Simon property. The awards are primarily targeted at first-generation college students, and recipients also are selected based on financial need, academic performance, leadership skills, school participation, and community activities.



“My character changed, my values changed, and my whole perspective changed. The teachers at Metrocenter Academy are by far the best.”

Jacqueline, '10, Simon Youth Metrocenter Academy at Metrocenter

Impact

If Simon Youth Foundation can change the life of just one student, then we've made a difference. But the full scope of our impact comes into focus when you consider all the numbers. They tell the story of our commitment and the desire our students have to succeed—dozens of communities touched, thousands of diplomas earned, and millions in scholarship dollars handed out. When you add it all up, Simon Youth Foundation and our partners are positively impacting lives and communities.


We now operate **24** Simon Youth Academies in **14** states.

We have a **90%** graduation rate among senior students.

More than **8,000** students have earned their high school diplomas with us.

More than **\$9.7 million** in scholarships has been awarded to more than **3,200** students from **42** states.

We are just getting started.



“Walking that stage to receive your diploma is like walking into a new life with a chance to go to college and start a meaningful career.”

Lauren, '10, Simon Youth Judson Learning Academy at Rolling Oaks Mall, San Antonio, TX

Goals

Our standards are high, but our expectations are even higher. For every goal and objective we create, a leader is assigned and outcomes are measured.

We have two overarching goals for Simon Youth Foundation. The first is to grow and enhance our alternative education model through innovative programs designed to support our students in attaining their degrees. Our objectives in reaching this goal cover everything from minimizing teacher turnover to anticipating trends in alternative education. We offer our teachers and districts added value and enhancement through funding and professional development.

Our second goal is to extend the reach of career and college access opportunities. Our objectives include building national partnerships and collaborations with well-respected corporations that share our passion for serving at-risk and economically challenged youth.

“At a time when many people are clamoring for high school reform, Simon Youth Foundation is actually doing something about it.”

Jonathan A. Plucker, Ph.D., Director, Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at the Indiana University School of Education

Awards

The **Education Commission of the United States Corporate Award** was presented to Simon Youth Foundation® for its “sustained commitment to and substantial investment in improving public education in the United States.”

We earned the **Mutual of America Community Partnership Honorable Mention Award** as an outstanding nonprofit that has shown exemplary leadership in facilitating partnerships with public, private, or social sector leaders for the greater good.

We’ve been named an **Exemplary Alternative Education Program** by the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and were awarded the group’s **Crystal Star Award of Excellence**.

Simon Youth Foundation, along with Simon Property Group, was recognized as the first-ever **U.S. Community Support Award Winner** by the International Council of Shopping Centers Foundation. Later that same year, the council awarded us its **2009 Albert Sussman International Community Support Award**.

“One-third of public high school students don’t graduate; the kids become lost in the system. We want to ignite hope in them and are humbled to be nationally recognized for our efforts.”

Deborah J. Simon, Chair, Simon Youth Foundation



Simon Youth Foundation fosters and improves educational opportunities, career development, and life skills to transform the lives of at-risk youth through focused programs and initiatives with our public school and post-secondary education partners.

SYF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.
syf.org