Youth Village

IMPACT 100 funds will help us to build a building with more space to serve more children. We are incorporating a state-funded, VPK program with 2 classes. VPK is an acronym for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. If you’re a Florida resident and your child turns 4 years of age by September 1, the child is eligible to participate in Florida's FREE Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program.

We will also be serving preschoolers (K3) because we feel in order to help children learn and grow socially and academically we must start before they enter elementary school. We currently serve students in grades K-8 and many of these Kindergarten students are not even ready for kindergarten, which causes them to fall behind later.

All K3 and VPK teachers will have their certifications. All VPK and K3 teachers will have their staff credentials through the Department of Children and Families and will have at least an associate degree in early childhood education.

We are seeking more buy-in from community stakeholders. We continuously seek business leaders to act as mentors and some employers will be asked to offer job-shadowing programs for our students. We also currently present "Career Days", where white-collar as well as blue-collar workers and members of our Armed Forces come out and make presentations to the children on various opportunities for future employment and what academic and social skills are necessary for each career. We strive to show the students the various opportunities that are available to ensure that the that they become better educated and find it attractive and worthwhile to stay in and give back to our community.

A substantial amount of our funding will come from our state-funded VPK and K3 programs, as well as income from our regular after/before school programs and our summer camp. We will continue to seek funding through state, federal and local grants, private donations, and in-kind donations as well as community organizations such as the Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation. Please see our “Proposed Operating Budget” enclosed with our 2 financial packages.