



FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Generational Change,
One Child at a Time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN AWARDS \$2.4 MILLION IN EXPANSION GRANTS

With support from a \$4.0 million Social Innovation Fund grant, Friends of the Children will launch in San Francisco and double the number of youth served in Seattle.

PORTLAND, OREGON – Today, Friends of the Children National—a scaling and capacity-building organization supporting the Friends of the Children Network—awarded \$2.4 million to launch a new chapter in San Francisco and double the youth served by Friends of the Children - Seattle.

Fueled by a \$4 million grant from the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a federal program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and a \$2 million match from Thrive Foundation for Youth, a division of King Philanthropies, the *One Child at a Time Expansion Project* will expand Friends of the Children’s evidence-based program to reach more youth in foster care and high-poverty, high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Specifically, over the next four years, the project will increase the number of children served by Friends of the Children by 50% nationally. Friends of the Children provides long-term professional 1:1 mentors to the most vulnerable children from kindergarten through high school graduation – 12.5 years – no matter what. The model, proven through rigorous evaluation, increases graduation rates, and decreases teen parenting and juvenile justice involvement while focusing on the growth potential of each child.

Friends of the Children - Seattle has a 16 year history implementing the Friends of the Children Model in Seattle/King County. SIF funding will enable Friends of the Children - Seattle to double the number of children served in low-income neighborhoods in the Seattle area, primarily in the Rainier Valley, Central District, and South King County.

In addition to the Seattle expansion, a \$1.2 million grant will support the launch of a new Friends of the Children – San Francisco Bay Area Chapter to begin serving its first class of children in the spring of 2017. Over the next four years, Friends of the Children - SF Bay Area plans to enroll local kindergarteners primarily from the Bayview Hunters Point (BHP) neighborhood of San Francisco, which was identified by the Brookings Institution as one of five “extreme poverty” neighborhoods in the city.

“Closing the opportunity gap for our nation’s most vulnerable youth isn’t easy, but we believe it can be done,” said Friends of the Children National President Terri Sorensen. “Our goal is to inspire, encourage and mobilize greater community support to address this critical problem and enable real progress toward a solution.”

“The Social Innovation Fund is an innovative program that invests in truly compelling solutions to the most persistent challenges facing our communities,” said Lois Nembhard, acting director of the Social Innovation Fund at CNCS. “Friends of the Children has a proven track record of changing the life-trajectories of youth facing the toughest challenges, and we are thrilled to support the expansion of their high-impact work to serve more young people across the country.”

Friends of the Children will be holding an additional open competition to award the remaining \$3 million in Social Innovation Funds to expand to an additional 3-5 new communities.

To learn more or participate, please visit friendsofthechildren.org/sif or email us at sif@friendsofthechildren.org. **Letters of Interest & Proof of Funding Secured must be received by June 30, 2017.**

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About Friends of the Children

Friends of the Children changes the story for our nation’s most vulnerable youth by providing them a salaried professional mentor (who we call a Friend) from kindergarten through high school graduation – for 12.5 years – no matter what. Our Friends support and guide our children in becoming healthy and contributing members in their communities. Today, Friends serves children in Harlem and the South Bronx, NY, Seattle, WA, Boston, MA, Portland, Gresham and Klamath Falls, OR, Tampa Bay, FL, and Cornwall, United Kingdom. Friends of the Children has been named the Most Admired Nonprofit in Oregon in 2016 and 2015 by the Portland Business Journal.

About the Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the nation’s volunteer and service efforts. SIF positions the federal government to be a catalyst for impact—using public and private resources to find and grow community-based nonprofits with evidence of results. The Social Innovation Fund focuses on overcoming challenges confronting low-income Americans in three areas of priority need: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development. To learn more, visit www.nationalservice.gov/sif.

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