



Ferguson  
Youth Initiative  
Ferguson, MO

-PRESS RELEASE-

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April 11, 2017  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **“Lift Up Our Youth”**

Help us build stronger communities, #SupportYouthPeople

The Ferguson Youth Initiative thanks everyone who supported our annual fundraising banquet on April 1, 2017. More than three hundred people attended the event, including representatives from the City of Ferguson, teachers and administrators from the Ferguson-Florissant School District and the local colleges/universities, members of the business community, and supporters from across St. Louis region. Through generous contributions large and small, we raised \$20,000 to benefit the FYI youth programs and community service projects.

Our special appreciation goes to Platinum sponsors Debra and David Humphreys; Gold sponsors OCI, Negwer Materials, and Emerson; and the many people who donated items for the banquet silent auction. For a complete list of sponsors, please visit: [www.fyiferyouth.org](http://www.fyiferyouth.org).

Youth speakers at the banquet all had a similar message. Brandon Pappert, a senior at McCluer High School and FYAB president, said the most important part of his FYI experience has been that “I have adults I can go to for support. All kids need someone like that.” Shawn Filer, another senior at McCluer who is on his way to Stanford University in the Fall, told participants that “the most impactful way to change young people’s lives is by investing time.”

Tyrone Griffith, a former FYAB member now pursuing his bachelor’s degree in music at Webster University provided the keynote speech: “As a young person and graduate of the Ferguson Youth Initiative, I see the need for all of us to unify, put all of our hands in to come together on one accord to for a brighter future for Ferguson. As a young person involved in FYI, I received the support that I needed. Being young is not easy. We need all of you to come together, work together, and yes, SUPPORT, SUPPORT, SUPPORT. I cannot stress that word enough. Lift up our youth. Show up to community events. Volunteer when needed. Let the youth know that they matter. Support means being available.”

As we move forward together in building a stronger community, FYI is hoping to forge enduring partnerships with local businesses, organizations and school districts to create more opportunities for young people to grow through active service and leadership. We also welcome and encourage volunteers to lend their talents, time, and expertise. To find out more about the work we do and how you can support us or get involved, please contact Aaron M. Harris, FYI Executive Director, at 314.749.5379.

The Ferguson Youth Initiative is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Established in 2010, it encourages the youth of Ferguson to be active members of our community. FYI works with local schools, the city of Ferguson and other community youth programs to develop safe, wholesome activities as well as college and job counselling for our teens.

Please join us through your financial contributions or volunteer service and #SupportYoungPeople.