

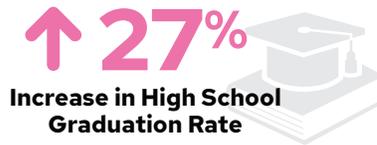
## Our current reality.

2020 was the most violent year for Kansas City's young people<sup>1</sup>, and COVID has limited the number of youth activities, including reduced capacity of summer camps, programs and jobs.<sup>2</sup> The past year has also presented our region's youth with tremendous opportunity in digital spaces, utilizing their voice to affect social change.

*There's never been a more critical time to unite in support of the next generation.*

## Proven model of success.

When the Empowerment Network, a Nebraska-based grassroots nonprofit mobilized in 2008 to align diverse, cross-sector public and private partnerships, they successfully expanded opportunities for youth who had been historically marginalized resulting in:



Derived from that program, Working For Youth is an evidence-based model expanding employment opportunities for young people in Kansas City. *Hire KC*, *Entrepreneurship KC*, and *KC Common Good* are collaboratively growing our city's capacity to train, coach and employ 500 youth this summer (10% of Kansas City's 5,000 youth, ages 14 to 18, living east of Troost). Imagine a community where each one of these 5,000 young people are safe and employed.

## Make your mark.

Working For Youth is uniting the community—from businesses to government, nonprofits to philanthropy organizations—to create a more diverse, inclusive and equitable workforce, and a stronger, safer and more prosperous community for all.

*There are three ways to get involved:*

**1** Youth can apply for an employment opportunity

**2** Employers can post opportunities for 14- to 18-year-olds

**3** Anyone can financially sponsor an 8-week youth employment and mentorship opportunity (a \$2,000 investment)

Our youth need to the opportunity to thrive, and we're the key to their success. Together we can address the root causes of violence to instill hope and ensure a successful future for every young person in the Kansas City region. To support this cause, please donate to the Working For Youth Fund with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (fund ID: work02).



**Sources:** (1) 17.4 percent of Kansas City's 612 non-fatal shooting victims in 2020 were between the ages of 14 and 18.  
(2) Millions of young adults are out of school or work. We need an Education and Employment Promise (brookings.edu)