



Overview

The ViaPath Foundation exists to break the generational cycle of incarceration and drive down recidivism by giving at-risk youths the resources they need to live purpose-filled lives. As part of its commitment to supporting and strengthening the families of the incarcerated, the Foundation provides support to existing programs designed to cultivate strong support networks.

In 2022, the ViaPath Foundation issued grants to nonprofits dedicated to improving the lives and opportunities of at-risk youth. The four grant winners – Amachi Pittsburgh, Comfort Cases, Foster Love and U.S. Dream Academy – have provided six-month updates on how the grant money has been used to generate meaningful change in the lives of our nation’s young people.

Amachi Pittsburgh

Amachi Pittsburgh works to empower, nurture and protect those most vulnerable to the criminal justice system through a range of programs including mentoring, family strengthening and Amachi ambassadors. Amachi Pittsburgh engages youth and families in empowering activities while also educating and raising awareness within the community.

Some highlights include:

- Doubled the number of youth and families enrolled in Amachi Pittsburgh programming compared to last year
- Served 58 mentees in community- and school-based mentoring
- Hosted monthly community engagement events for more than 100 youths

Comfort Cases

Comfort Cases provides backpacks and duffels filled with comfort, educational and hygiene supplies to children in foster care. By replacing the all-too-common trash bag with the proper equipment, Comfort Cases seeks to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care.

Some highlights include:

- On track to meet or exceed the 2023 goal of distributing 40,000 Comfort Cases and 18,000 Comfort XL Duffels
- Distributed 9,334 Comfort Cases and 3,872 Comfort XL Duffels in only four months

In 2022, the ViaPath Foundation issued grants to nonprofits dedicated to improving the lives and opportunities of at-risk youth.

- Met 100% of requests from partner agencies such as underfunded child-serving agencies, police stations, schools, foster care agencies and more

Foster Love

Foster Love's mission is to provide love, dignity and support to some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. The organization allocated the ViaPath grant to their STEM Boxes and Rapid Response program.

Some highlights include

- Distributed 2,419 STEM Boxes to high-risk youth in foster care
- Supported 22 transition-age youth who were at imminent risk of dropping out of school, suffering from food insecurity and/or becoming homeless
- On track to distribute an additional 1,200 STEM Boxes in November

U.S. Dream Academy

The U.S. Dream Academy exists to invest in the lives of children affected by incarceration or systemic inequalities. They utilize mentors, after-school programming, tutoring, and more to inspire these youth to actualize their full potential.

Some highlights include:

- Provided 60,978 hours of after-school and school-day programming
- 85 students received a total of 1,141 hours of high-impact tutoring
- Designed a virtual support group to increase behavioral health support for children impacted by parental incarceration

Conclusion

The ViaPath Foundation is honored to play a part in the immense impact these organizations are having on the lives of countless children. Breaking the cycle of incarceration starts by caring for at-risk youth, and that is exactly what these programs are doing. To learn more about their work with the ViaPath Foundation, view the mid-year summaries below:

- [Amachi Pittsburgh](#)
- [Comfort Cases](#)
- [Foster Love](#)
- [U.S. Dream Academy](#)