

2025 NEWSLETTER

My 180 Youth Program

Stronger Together: 2025 Impact Newsletter

Showing Up Beyond the Storm: Demetrius' Story



Fountain Park – St. Louis, MO



Demetrius First Apartment – St. Louis, MO



Fountain Park – St. Louis, MO

In 2025, our work continues to be shaped by one simple truth, strength is found in community, we are stronger together, and that truth became especially clear on May 16, 2025, when an EF3 tornado struck the St. Louis metropolitan area. Among those impacted was Demetrius, a longtime member of the My 180 Youth Program community who has been connected with us since 2016 and remained engaged as an alumnus after graduating from Northwest Academy of Law in 2020.

When Demetrius lost his home in the storm, My 180 Youth Program stepped in to support his recovery, helping salvage belongings, secure new housing, and provide move-in support, furniture, and essential supplies to make his new apartment home. Reflecting on the experience, Demetrius shared, "While it's unfortunate it took a storm to make the change, it also pushed me to take a bold step, moving into my first apartment and building something new."

Demetrius' story reflects what Stronger Together means at My 180 Youth Program, our commitment doesn't end at graduation, and our youth always remain family. The stories that follow show how this same commitment continues across our work and community.



Tapping Our Parental Power Workshop – St. Louis, MO

Strengthening Families From the Inside Out

Through our Empower Families Project, My 180 Youth Program partnered with Bricks, Mortar, Broom, and Shield to host Tapping Our Parental Power workshops, empowering parents and caregivers to build thriving family relationships, strengthen school-home connections, and deepen community support. These workshops provided space for parents to reflect, learn, and share experiences while gaining practical tools they can use in everyday family life. By bringing caregivers together in a supportive environment, this work helped reduce isolation and reinforced the power of collective growth. When families are empowered, entire communities grow stronger together.

Meeting Youth Where They Are

Our Empower Leadership program has expanded our reach by allowing My 180 Youth Program to engage youth across a variety of schools and community settings. Through this work, we are meeting young people where they are and creating meaningful connections in diverse environments. This approach has supported school and site-based mentoring, allowing youth to engage at different levels. By offering flexible pathways for participation, our sessions strengthen connection and growth.



Family Fun Night – St. Louis, MO



MERS Goodwill – St. Louis, MO

Connection Beyond the Program

Our Family Fun Nights provide a consistent way for My 180 Youth Program to stay connected with youth and families beyond the timeline of individual grants or programs. These gatherings allow youth to remain engaged with our community even as their level of participation changes, creating multiple pathways for connection and belonging. By offering a welcoming space with varying levels of engagement, Family Fun Nights help youth stay connected to our community, reinforcing that relationships, not funding cycles, are what sustain lasting impact.

Learning Through Real-World Experience

From Bean to Business – Empyr Coffee Co.



Empyr Coffee Co. – Afton, MO

Through our partnership with Empyr Coffee Co., My 180 Youth Program provided youth with hands-on work experience that exposed them to the full scope of operating a small business. Youth learned backend operations such as roasting, packaging, and shipping coffee, while also developing skills in marketing, branding, and label design for customers. By engaging in both production and marketing roles, youth explored different strengths and career interests while building confidence, teamwork, and a clearer understanding of real-world workplace expectations.

Foundations for the Future – Paradigm Builders

Through a partnership with Paradigm Builders, My 180 Youth Program provided youth interested in construction careers with hands-on work experience that built confidence, practical skills, and career awareness. This real-world exposure allowed youth to see the day-to-day realities of the construction field, learn directly from professionals, and better understand construction pathways and workplace expectations. By engaging in meaningful, hands-on work, youth were able to explore career interests and gain insight into opportunities within the construction trades.



Paradigm Builders – St. Louis, MO

Celebrating the Class of 2025



Dorian – Clayton High School



Roy – Sumner High School



Mikayla – Sumner High School

This year, we are proud to celebrate our high school graduates who have reached an important milestone through perseverance, growth, and support. Each graduate represents more than an academic achievement, they reflect the power of encouragement, community, and believing in young people as they take their next steps. As our graduates move forward into college, career pathways, and new opportunities, they carry with them the relationships and lessons built through My 180 Youth Program. Their success reminds us that when youth are supported every step of the way, we are truly stronger together.

Be Part of the Community!

Join us as we continue building connection, opportunity, and support for youth and families across St. Louis.

Here's how you can get started:

- **Volunteer:** Share your time and talents by mentoring a young person or assisting at our events.
- **Donate:** Help us expand our programs and reach even more families in 2025, every contribution makes a difference.
- **Connect:** Follow us on social media to stay up to date with our work and impact.

Visit www.my180yp.org to learn more and get involved today!



The Center of Clayton – Clayton, MO

2025 Results in Review

Total # Youth Served: 60 youth

Community Based Mentoring: 21 youth
School and Site Based Mentoring: 5 youth
Community Network: 34 youth



96% of youth feel happier and more supported.



100% of youth graduate high school.



100% of alums hold part-time or full-time jobs.



www.my180yp.org

