



LIFEDRIVEN FOUNDATION INC.

LifeDriven Foundation Inc. (LFI), a 501 c (3) established in September 2006, is deeply committed to supporting cancer research and ensuring access to resources and information for cancer prevention, awareness, and screenings. LFI's mission is to provide solutions to social problems that help to enhance the lives and circumstances of children in disadvantaged communities.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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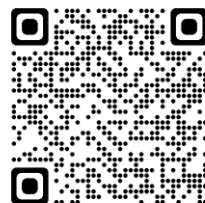
Be Lifedriven



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Lifedriven Foundation



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Since its inception, LFI has provided a host of services to children and their families from underserved communities impacted by cancer. Through the organization's Lifedrive Miracles Project (LMP), the Lifedrive team has worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer. Through LMP, children experiencing cancer from underserved communities can participate in unforgettable experiences and memorable family outings. Through its extensive network of community partners and volunteers, children can participate in experiences that make their dreams a reality. Additionally, programming includes working with a vast network of community partners to provide wraparound services and support to the families of children impacted by cancer. Chris Words, the Founder/CEO, understands the importance of a smile firsthand. During his battle with colon cancer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, he witnessed the pain of children suffering from cancer. This experience inspired him to create LFI, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of those impacted by cancer, especially youth from underserved communities.



PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (P2S) PROGRAM

In recent years, based on feedback from community partners and the interest of the governing board, LFI has expanded its reach and expanded its services to include programming designed to serve youth and families experiencing trauma and traumatic events, especially from underserved communities. The Pathways to Success (P2S) program is designed to provide at-risk youth ages 14-25, from underserved communities in Los Angeles County, primarily those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), with access to a host of wraparound services that promote lifelong health and wellbeing. Grounded in the theory of action that sports can be used as a catalyst to reduce conflict and increase confidence and comradery amongst participating youth, the planned approach, aligned with the evidence-based Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model, is designed to ensure participants have access to a host of wraparound services and evidence-based interventions that promote physical and socio-emotional wellbeing.

Grounded in the principles of The Restorative Youth Sports Model, the P2S is designed to use sports as a catalyst to implement a holistic and empowerment-based program that prioritizes the development of personal and social skills in sport-participating youth and young adults that are transferable to a host of settings beyond sports (Holt, 2017). As noted in the Journal of Youth Development published by the University of Pittsburg, the Restorative Youth Sports Model uses sports to intentionally expose youth and young adults to restorative practices that teach health, wellness, and personal and social responsibility.



TEAM WATSON – LIFEDRIVEN COLLABORATING PARTNER

The P2S initiative, born from a collaborative effort with "Team Watson," reflects the deep-seated community commitment of Sam Watson and his sons, Brandon and Marcus. Team Watson's legacy in sports and entertainment has been instrumental in shaping the lives of numerous youths and families in underserved communities. Sam serves as the boxing ambassador for Premier Boxing Champions and has earned national recognition for his philanthropic work, demonstrated by the honor of receiving keys to multiple cities such as Las Vegas, Houston, and Memphis. His innovative "Gloves Up" initiative leverages the discipline of youth boxing not only to promote physical well-being but also to impart vital life skills. This initiative is centered around building healthy physical habits and fostering effective communication and peaceful conflict resolution among youth. With Team Watson's direct and personal engagement, they stand as catalytic forces for good, moving towards a brighter future for the communities they serve as demonstrated in the organization's work in [Memphis-Shelby County Schools](#).



PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ALKEBU-LAN CULTURAL CENTER

The mission of Alkebu-Lan is to AWAKEN, INSPIRE, MOTIVATE + DEVELOP the multi-dimensional young minds of the underserved students through culturally informed educational activities, which cultivate individual abilities and build confidence in social and artistic expression. Established in 1989, the goals of Alkebu-Lan are to provide an educational outreach program that promotes academic excellence through tutoring, mentoring, and peer counseling, and encourage creativity through music, theater, drama, oratory, dance, and other mediums of artistic expression.

TODAY'S PROMISE FOUNDATION (TPF)

TPF is a 501 (c)(3), not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting community-based organizations build their capacity to secure public funding at the local, state, and federal levels. Services include assisting with program audits, fiscal compliance reviews, marketing, funding plan development, infrastructure capacity building, and staff compliance training. Additionally, TPF also supports the implementation of career and technical education (CTE) and entrepreneurship programs for underserved youth and young adults.

HIGHLIGHTS – PROGRAM COMPONENTS



* **EDUCATION**

Upon entry into the program, the educational status and attainment level will be reviewed and discussed with participants. Educational support will be provided based on individual needs identified. School-age attendance will be monitored by an education specialist. Youth will be supported in obtaining GED or high school diplomas as needed. Upon successful completion of a high school diploma, GED or high school equivalency, participating youth will be invited to participate in the CTE coordination program.

* **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

To further promote self-sufficiency, all participants will be encouraged to participate in the financial literacy/entrepreneurship planning sessions. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about budgeting, business planning and small business development. Using the extensive network of community partners and businesses, feedback on individual concepts and business plans will be provided.

* **PEER PODCASTING**

In addition to participating in sports and gaming activities, participants will have access to a podcasting resource room and support. Participants will be able to learn the intricacies of podcasting, develop a podcast, and host their podcasts.

* **SPEAKER SERIES**

A monthly speaker series will be hosted to expose participants to bring awareness of opportunities available to them as they move towards greater self-sufficiency. The speaker series will include employer engagement and peer empowerment sessions. Speakers chosen will be based on the needs and interests identified by participants upon enrollment.

* **SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT**

As a catalyst to encourage participation, all participants will have access to a host of sports entertainment activities available at no cost to the grant such as strength training and conditioning, boxing, and gaming. Participants will be able to drop in at various times of availability and participate in youth-based sporting activities.

* **WELLNESS**

The Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model is designed to a) engage youth in their future planning process; b) provide youth with developmentally appropriate, non-stigmatizing, culturally competent, trauma-informed, and appealing services and supports; and c) involve the young people, their families (of origin or foster), and other informal key players, as relevant, in a process that prepares and facilitates their movement toward greater self-sufficiency and achievement of their goals. Youth and young adults are guided in setting and achieving their own short-term and long-term goals across relevant Transition Domains, such as: employment/career, educational opportunities, living situation, personal effectiveness/well-being, and community-life functioning.