



Swift Youth
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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Friends,

2021 was an exciting year for Swift, we took the opportunity to evaluate the impact we were making and began a rebuilding process to ensure we remain relevant and serve our community today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.



Our first camp took place in 1980 pioneered by a group of teen volunteers who had a dream of providing a camp experience for those who otherwise may never get the opportunity, something they took for granted.

They envisioned a program where teen mentors would pair up with elementary kids to provide mentorship, friendship, self-confidence, self-awareness, kindness to oneself and others.

Over 40 years later, the mission has not changed.

We have three staff members supported by 9 Board Members and over 100 volunteers. We have heartfelt appreciation for all our passionate volunteers.

We are excited to share with you our 2021 accomplishments, and we are looking forward to an exciting, fun-filled 2022.

Swift Youth Foundation ignites dreams, inspires learning and instills hope. Fun is just the start!

Jo, Kristi and Hannah

Jo Sumner, Co-Executive Director

Kristi Henry, Co-Executive Director

Hannah Dowd, Program Director

What was Swift's impact during 2021?

2020 and the start to 2021 was a tough time for many charities, and Swift Youth Foundation was no exception.

Our leadership was strengthened and enhanced by the addition of Jo Sumner (a previous board member) and Kristi Henry as Co-Executive Directors, and Hannah Dowd as Program Specialist, along with the addition of 3 new board members: Mona Desai, Lauren Bostick, and Malia Sperling.

We continued some in-person programming for the first part of 2021 and moved some to online delivery. Our high school and college clubs hosted all our virtual Swift Saturday events, including planting seedlings, making pudding dirt and worm parfaits to celebrate Earth Day. We also held an online Carnival, which was a lot more fun than it sounds. We delivered all the materials through the school district to the children.

From September we returned to in-person after-school programming in three locations across the valley on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.



We conducted three in-person Swift Saturdays with 100+ participants and 80 volunteers.

The kids have been experiencing all kinds of STEAM-based FUN activities, such as egg drop to learn about force and energy, candy marshmallow towers to teach engineering, and making ice cream to teach chemistry, to name a few.

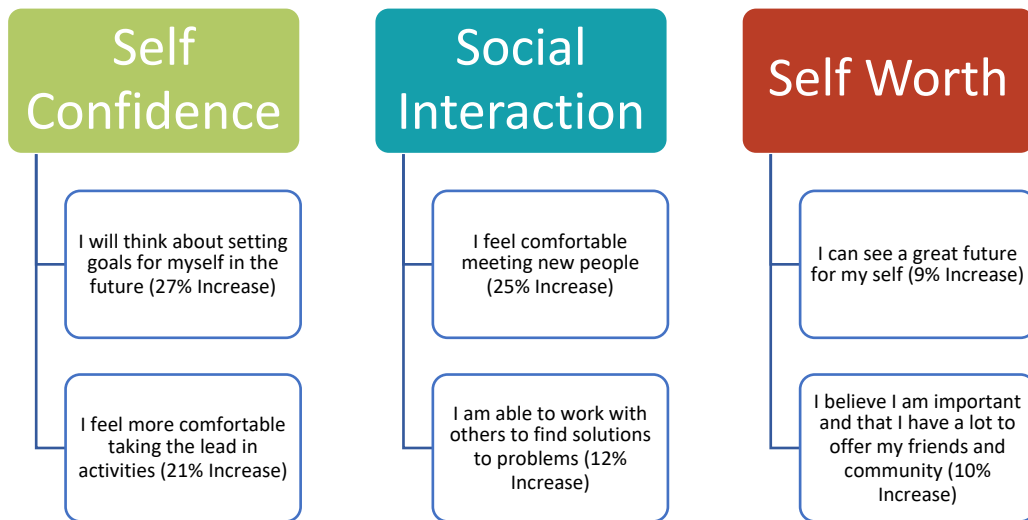
We sponsored two classrooms with Holiday parties at Palomino Elementary and Wilson Elementary – we had fun making gingerbread houses and playing bingo. The children were so happy and grateful for the gifts they received.

Our High School teens are the lifeblood of Swift, and we could not do what we do without them; they volunteer their time and energy – we are so thankful to them. We reactivated the Teen Leadership Board and are excited to see what these 12 teen leaders can contribute to Swift for 2022.

We also hosted two Influencer Happy Hours in November and December – these events aim to build awareness for Swift Youth Foundation and spread our story throughout the valley and beyond.

After a break in 2020 due to Covid, we are ecstatic to have hosted one camp session at the end of July. We had 68 campers, 40 teen counselors, and 30 support staff. As always, the kids had a terrific experience and expressed so much gratitude! The stories of triumph that the kids shared are heart-warming and energizing.

Part of our process is measuring outcomes. Below are some of the statistics as measured by pre and post-surveys. Of course, none of this takes into account the life-changing experience of all participants, of which you will get a taste in the testimonials you can read over the following few pages.



During 2019-2020 FY, Swift received \$172,161 in donations and approximately \$25,500 in in-kind donations. Our program expenses were \$121,065, management and general expenses were \$57,557, and fundraising expenses were \$10,001. At Sept 30th, 2021 our Total Net Assets were \$364,769.

Our fundraising revenue was about 50% of pre-covid figures. As we re-engage our programs, we expect finances to return to pre-covid levels by 2023.

Our Federal 990 filing will be available on our website in the Spring 2022.

I feel like the 1st day I was not sure what to expect but once the kids got there it felt natural, really good time watching the kids grow. I learned how to be a better role model through the kids. I was in youngest unit, making sure they brushed their teeth and got dressed was a responsibility for me and taught me how to take care of someone other than myself. (A)

One of my best moments was when a kid told me, "This is the best week of my life!" Another kid, who was pretty rowdy, wanted to go home at the beginning but by the last day, he wanted to stay. When I said, "Goodbye" to him and he hugged me so hard and was squeezing me so tight. I felt tears in my eyes. He went to the bus, turned, then ran back and hugged me again so hard. (A)

*My favorite moment was in the flashlight pass game when **** said, "I've never had a family love me this much before." (G)*

Experience was awesome. I learned how good I have it, some of the kids have crazy backgrounds. My biggest take away is how privileged I am - many of the kids don't have too much.

I think that it was the best week of my life. Meeting the kids changed my life, made me think about how pure happiness is the most powerful thing in the world. (W)

I learned a lot about myself. I'm better at dealing with situations I'm not used too, and I've learned that taking care of others is a balance between fun and safety. I learned it takes time to build trust. (A)

Some of the kids didn't know how to use soap so we had a shower party, and it was the most fun thing we ever did. Some said, they've never had so much food in their lives. They loved canoeing. One girl was terrified and in tears, but we sang songs and played games and it turned out to be her favorite activity. She lives apart from her siblings and wants to be adopted. (C)

I had a great time. I came back to make a difference and I know I did. I had a girl come up to me and ask if she could take a sweater. She said, "Everyone is so nice here and now I can have things of my own. I've never had a sweater before."

Camp is so worth it. 1) Go in with understanding they have different upbringing than us. 2) Be warm-hearted. They're kids and they look up to us. (I)

The best thing about camp was: horses back riding

The best thing about camp was: everybody

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) Rock wall
- 2) Making new friends

The best thing about camp was: SOCCER

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) Sometimes it can be fun without video games.
- 2) be the person you want to be.

The best thing about camp was: That I went swimming

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) I learned that we listen
- 2) We say Thank you to people

The best thing about camp was: The best thing about camp was MEETING NEW PEOPLE and Having fun!

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) NOT TO SLEEP ON THE TOP BUNK!
- 2) SLEEP ON BOTTOM BUNK!

The best thing about camp was:

Meeting the kids and the horses,

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) Black magic (a game)
- 2) its ok if someone doesnt like you.

The best thing about camp was: was meeting new people and making new friend

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) how to make lanyards
- 2) how to swim under water

The best thing about camp was:

BASKETBALL

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) No Woking on hard the pool
- 2) Stay a way from gets

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) Friendship
- 2) Shower w/ shoes on

The best thing about camp was: My counsilers

The best thing about camp was:

I made a group of friends that I can trust.

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) Hannah & Carter look the same

Two things I learned at camp are:

- 1) camp made me happy
- 2) I woudnt cry (I still did though)

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

Adding to the Swift community is our primary objective for this year! This includes volunteers, individual donors, corporate sponsors, teen mentors, and youth.

We will continue our community outreach with Influencer Happy Hours, social media, radio and print media, and fun community events to share the Swift story.

Engaging our volunteers more fully is our mission. As we are out in the community, we connect with so many people who have a heart for elevating youth through connection and mentorship. It is one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences in the lives of our volunteers!

Club Swift is a way for high school-aged volunteers to stay engaged to Swift through their schools, enhancing our mission of supporting youth participants. Club Swift provides a positive, supportive community, mentorship, education, leadership training, and self-confidence building for all participants to create better-equipped role models and mentors for our youth. We are currently operating at seven different Valley high schools.

Program Enhancements:

We were thrilled to host one session of summer camp in 2021 and plan to host two sessions in 2022!

- Session 1: 5/25 - 5/31/22
- Session 2: 8/1/ - 8/7/22

We plan to increase our after-school programs in the metro Phoenix area. To do this effectively, we plan to add a part-time program specialist to our team.

Being a part of the Swift community helps you to extend your values to others, make a difference in our community, and ignite Club Swift youth to follow a path to their full potential. Join us in this powerful and impactful mission!

If you are interested in applying to be a teen counselor or an adult volunteer, please contact us at info@swiftyouth.org.

Ignites Dreams
Inspires Learning
Instills Hope

John Owens, President
City of Chandler, Redevelopment Specialist

Mark Kaplan, Treasurer
Republic Services, Financial Analyst

Roger Cohen, Vice President
Jaburg & Wilk, Partner Attorney

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