



1004 Farnam Street, Suite 200 | Omaha, NE 68102
P: 402-930-3000 | F: 402-930-3006 | www.p4k.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Lori Lundholm, Development and Communications Coordinator
402-930-3002 office/402-290-1893 mobile
llundholm@p4k.org

United Way of the Midlands Awards Year Two of \$50,000 Grant to Partnership 4 Kids to Fund P4K Pathway Program

OMAHA, Neb. – Partnership 4 Kids is pleased to announce United Way of the Midlands has renewed the two-year funding agreement with the local youth service agency, awarding P4K with \$25,000 in funding to support the P4K Pathway program for 2017. Thanks to the generosity of the United Way donors a total grant award of \$50,000 is helping provide Omaha Public Schools (OPS) students in need with the skills and mentor support that are needed to succeed in the classroom and to be workforce ready upon graduation.

Partnership 4 Kids is working to turn Omaha's cycle of poverty and failure into one of achievement and prosperity, by partnering with our community and providing low-income and at-risk students with a foundation rooted in goal setting proficiency, and the consistent support of a mentor. The P4K Pathway Program not only provides the tools, experiences and networks of support necessary for students to achieve success, but at the heart of these efforts it is also building hope.

With the help of this two-year grant, Partnership 4 Kids will be able to offer 5,700 low-income and at-risk students in 22 OPS schools the tools and support they need to achieve academically, graduate from high school and pursue some form of post-secondary education. The impact P4K programs have experienced include results like a 92% graduation rate among participants, as well as higher levels of school engagement than their non-P4K classmates.

One particular student who has benefitted from the P4K Pathway is Central High School student, Francisco Lopez, or "Paco" as he is known by his friends. As a middle school student, Paco started to act out and disrupt class more to impress his friends. Starting down the road of being known as the class clown held some immediate appeal for Paco, but because of the mentor support and guidance he received from P4K, he soon realized that getting a few laughs from his friends ultimately wasn't going to take him where he wanted to go. As a result, Paco made the choice to follow the P4K pathway of success and is extremely involved in P4K, leading by example and motivating his fellow classmates to do better.

"We are extremely proud to be a part of United Way because all of us working together will make a stronger impact on classroom readiness and college preparation" said Partnership 4 Kids President, Deb Denbeck.

About United Way of the Midlands:

We focus the efforts of many to help our neighbors stand strong-by addressing basic needs, and fostering success in the classroom and the workplace. www.UnitedWayMidlands.org

About Partnership 4 Kids:

For 27 years Partnership 4 Kids has been serving disadvantaged youth, each with their own story of survival, endurance, and a desire to succeed. P4K's mission is to mentor these children for college today, and careers tomorrow. P4K is currently helping 5,400 young people to believe in themselves and in a future rooted in education and opportunity. P4K programs are supported in part by a grant from the United Way of the Midlands. Together we will build a better community by inspiring hope, engaging minds, and preparing our children for college and careers.

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For more information on Partnership 4 Kids, call Lori Lundholm at 402-930-3002, or email llundholm@p4k.org

Partnering with kids from kindergarten to careers