



**2017-18 NBA Ministry and Mission Grantees**  
**Impact Report:**  
**Young Change Makers**  
**Houston, Texas**

**Young Change Makers** is a ministry outreach of Just Love Church, designed to prepare local low-income, high school seniors on the margins, for a self-sufficient future that will allow for economic and political parity. The objectives of this ministry include college and vocational preparation, financial empowerment, enhanced civic participation and the promotion of managing responsible adult lives.

**Mission Area:** At-Risk Children and Youth      **Catalyst Grant:** US \$10,000

**Goals, Outcomes, and Learnings:**

*From March 2018-September 2018 establish recruitment initiatives at 12 Title 1 schools within 10 miles of the church, in conjunction with connecting our mission with other faith communities. We recruited participants from nearby Title 1 schools and we were able to exceed this goal by recruiting more students than we budgeted for. In addition, we built relationship with school leaders and parents. We now have relationship with schools to continue to recruit new students to our program.*

*Increase the participation of civic engagement within high school seniors by 50% by the end of the 2017-18 calendar school year. We took 10 seniors to the polls for the first time to vote in March of 2018. 2 of the seniors went on to be deputized to register voters for the upcoming gubernatorial and midterm elections. These were students whose household had not participated in any election outside of the 2008 election. Surveys suggest that students will most likely be regular voters. Surveys also suggest a clearer understanding of the election process and the democratic privilege of voting.*

*Increase financial management within high school seniors by 50% by the end of the 2017-18 calendar school year. Through personal financial mentoring relationship, we saw first-hand an increased understanding in how money works and the importance of saving. We also explored how the cycle of poverty works in underserved neighborhoods. Surveys suggest participants have an increased sense of management of finances.*

The grant that we received from the National Benevolent Association was a great start to the work we set out to do. We received more participants than we budgeted for, but this was seen as a positive problem. We were able to receive additional funds from the Houston area United Church of Christ association. This enabled us to cover stipends and additional supplies for the additional students. We wish we would have planned a little more wiggle room into our budget, which could have allowed us to pivot to meet needs that arose from our youth. We learned from these experiences and we are grateful for the outpouring of generosity for our project.

We would share with like-minded projects to, of course, budget for the unexpected and be flexible to pivot. Listen to the needs of the people you are serving as you go through the process; do not become rigid. Expand your view of outcomes as we often are caught up in metrics that we fail to see how impact is often shaped through relationship and listening for how your ministry impacts the narrative of others and how the people you serve impact your ministry. Lastly, if working with youth, get their parents and educators involved from the start.

Parents were so pleased that many of them helped to raise additional funds for the upcoming year through their generosity. These are low income families who rallied together within their network to contribute to the continuation of Young Change Makers.

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*As the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Benevolent Association partners with congregations, regions, general ministries, and a variety of Disciples-related health and social service providers to create communities of compassion and care. Founded in 1887 by six women responding to the needs of the day and on their doorsteps, for more than 130 years the NBA has continued to serve "the least of these." Learn more at [www.nbacares.org](http://www.nbacares.org).*