

Three Pillars Initiative

It Takes a Village

Every Three Pillars program is locally organized and operated. Starting a new program takes the following group of community stakeholders to pull together, organize and launch the program.

1 – A Champion

The Champion is the guiding force behind the effort to start the program, someone whose passion, enthusiasm and leadership skills result in the creation and facilitation of a small Steering Committee whose members take responsibility for implementing each component of the program.

2 – A Sponsoring Organization

A local 501(c)(3) organization serves as the sponsor and fiscal agent for the program. The sponsor might be a community foundation, an operating foundation or a local nonprofit. The organization holds the TPI license, manages the program funds and promotes the program in the community.

3 – Startup Funders

A one-time investment of \$50,000 - \$60,000 is required to cover the first 3 years of program costs. This provides the funds needed for initial grants distributions, operating expenses and licensing fees.

4 – A Program Coordinator

The Program Coordinator directs the program, recruits and supports Program Mentors and leads the facilitation of all activities including monthly learning sessions, curriculum instruction, community outreach activities and program impact evaluation at the end of each year.

5 – Program Mentors

Program Mentors are adults who live in the community, have a passion for youth development and demonstrate life experiences in volunteer service to organizations in the community. Mentors are responsible for delivering the curriculum, leading community outreach activities and sharing life skills with the students.

6 – Local High Schools

The participation of local high schools is an essential program component. Close collaboration with junior class counselors, college prep and community service advisors helps to encourage applications by students. A program promotion plan is adopted at the beginning of each school year.

7 – Local Nonprofits

Local nonprofit organizations receive grants information and an RFP and are eligible to submit a proposal for funding. Students are solely responsible for making grants decisions. Local nonprofits can also provide volunteer opportunities for the students.

8 – Donors

Donors represent local individuals, foundations, businesses, religious organizations and social clubs, among others. Solicited exclusively by the students, these donors provide an ongoing source of program support and experience first-hand the impact of youth voice in the community.