

## The Good Foot Arts Collective

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**Organization Mission:** The Good Foot Arts Collective mission is to prevent youth violence through arts education and to equip youth to end relationship violence before it begins.

**What are the compelling reasons for Impact 100 to partner with this organization?** Good Foot has launched smart, preventative solutions to relationship violence which impacts *at least* 1 in 3 women, 1 in 4 men, and 1 in 5 high school students. Good Foot is combining in-school health programming with hip-hop street credibility to drive a culture shift of NO tolerance for violence, sexual misconduct, toxic behavior or abuse among South Seattle youth and beyond— preventing relationship violence before it starts and creating the culture change to make this acceptable. As Good Foot says about its work, *“Youth are living it and we are helping them name it.”* Their health programs have already shown significant impact:

- Students wanting safe and positive qualities in future dating partner increased from 44% (pre-intervention) to 99% (post-intervention)
- Students understanding healthy vs. unhealthy love increased from 55% to 100%
- Students knowledge about sexual harrassment increased from 40% to 98%
- Students confidence about supporting someone in an abusive relationship increased from 36% to 91%

Research shows that acceptability is a key factor in the success of prevention programs for any public health program. The Good Foot engages BIPOC youth in their prevention interventions and camouflages these interventions in music, dance, and comic book style reading materials, making their violence prevention messages not only acceptable but fun and engaging for youth. They address both the root causes of domestic violence through their work with youth as well as their advocacy work with the larger hip-hop community to address messages in music that may inadvertently support partner violence.

Multi-year funding is a pillar of trust-based philanthropy. Good Foot has expanded programs, added staff and acquired new space since the initial Impact 100 grant, making additional support both warranted and extremely meaningful.

**What does the organization do?** The Good Foot Arts Collective uses arts education to promote domestic abuse awareness and advocate for youth violence prevention. Current programming includes:

1. **CLAY (Creative Leaders Affirming Youth)** - This 10-session healthy relationship, social/emotional support and violence prevention curriculum is taught in 9th-grade health classes, part of required and graded curriculum at Franklin and Rainier Beach High Schools.
2. **The NO EXCUSES CAMPAIGN**, a campaign to advocate for safety and to empower youth to build an environment of NO tolerance for violence, sexual misconduct, abuse in BIPOC youth communities and in the hip-hop dance community. With this campaign they created a flipbook as a tool for community education. The flipbook contains personal stories contributed by youth who participate in their programming and curriculum. They aim to reach 60% of national hip-hop artists with this campaign.

3. **Mentorship programs** - this paid 8-month program trains scholars in the CLAY curriculum, helping them create activities and lead interactive and honest discussions on topics like sexual harassment, implicit bias, gender equality and mutual respect in their schools. In May 2022, Good Foot will launch mentorship for NO EXCUSES and arts mentorship, pairing scholars with teaching artists who mentor them in an art medium they select (photography, illustration/design, dance, spoken word) to develop artistic skills and create new 'artist' work, where they can use their art as a platform to voice their activist messages.
4. **Summer programs** - Good Foot teaches a 4-week program to more than 100 scholars in partnership with area high schools. The focus is social, emotional and behavioral health and leadership development to support 9th-grade scholars with their middle-school-to-high-school transition.
5. **Dance classes and competitions** - held in Good Foot's new space, youth and young adults will participate, learn and cultivate a positive, supportive community vibe.

**Who does the organization serve?** Good Foot has served more than 600 South Seattle "scholars" – BIPOC youth and young adults, ages 14 to 24 and is increasing programs with its new space. The org provides a health curriculum for all 9th graders at Franklin and Rainier Beach high schools and is working to bring its programming to Cleveland High School and Alki Middle School. 92% of the youth at these schools are BIPOC, coming from diverse, multiethnic, multilingual communities in neighborhoods with large populations of marginalized youth and immigrants and refugees. Good Foot also serves the local and national hip-hop community.

**How does the organization reflect, maintain proximity to and stay accountable to the community it serves?** All staff are BIPOC, and the CLAY initiative recruits teens who have successfully completed the program to be mentors, teachers and leaders. They are not only being accountable to the community they are serving but are also bringing the community in to be essential collaborators. As Louie (co-founder) said during our call "*we have to get out of the way for the next generation rise up.*" Having the teens they serve ultimately be the voices of the prevention program increases the likelihood that the program will stay relevant and that other teens will find the program acceptable and meaningful. Youth mentors receive a stipend because BIPOC youth are often taken advantage of by being asked to intern or volunteer for free and many of these teens are responsible for supporting their families.

**How is the organization addressing the root causes of social issues?** Good Foot is connecting the dots to ensure that its successful, prevention-based violence programs drive broader change to positively impact BIPOC youth throughout the Puget Sound and nationally. Louie has recently left his job at Franklin to work full time and lead policy efforts at Good Foot. Good Foot is addressing the root cause of relationship violence by:

1. Supporting youth to identify and end cycles of violence;
2. Engaging in policy work at the local level for example, ensuring Washington State legislation continues to protect women facing domestic violence from eviction;
3. Campaigning among youth and the entire Hip-Hop street dance community with a campaign called "No Excuses." This campaign was built by and for its audiences with

colorful, easy-to-relate to stories about elements of relationship violence. It is empowering youth to build an environment of NO tolerance for violence, sexual misconduct, toxic behavior or abuse in BIPOC youth communities and Good Foot is intending for 60% of the Hip-Hop community to engage with the campaign.

**How is the organization collaborating with other community-based organizations?** Good Foot has created unlikely allies, partnering with teachers, legal advocates at the King County Prosecutors office to hip-hop artists and artist collaboratives. They are actively working with community stakeholders to gather thoughts and dreams about how to use their new space to benefit the community and want to deepen collaborations as they increase youth programming.

**What is the vision for the organization in 5 years?** The vision includes implementing the CLAY program in a broader range of Seattle high schools and creating a middle school curriculum; further developing mentorship programs to raise up the next generation of leaders to prevent youth violence; and changing the culture of violence in the global hip hop community through advocacy and education. They are developing robust protocols for reporting violence, streamlined access to support for victims, and implementing safe spaces at all event venues.

**What is the organization's area of greatest need?** Good Foot is capacity building through people and place. They recently signed a two-year lease on a building in the Rainier Beach neighborhood where the majority of the youth they serve live and they will begin youth training arts and mentorship programs this summer. This space is a stepping stone to secure capital for a larger, permanent space that will support continued growth. Another need is for more high-quality mentors, which are paid a stipend to support the work of Good Foot.

**Highlight a story of impact.** Kymberli Owens, a Franklin senior, became a CLAY facilitator this March. Testimonials from 9th graders in the classes Kym facilitated shows her impact: (1) "You provided comfort in knowing we could share how we felt and our experiences. I hope to be an example to people like you guys. Your lessons help widen my perspective on life. With these lessons I learned how to teach others about dealing with trauma or issues they might have. This experience, for me, was educational and important. Thank you for being open with your past and telling us it will be okay. I admire your courage and bravery." and (2) "Thank you for teaching us about things that aren't usually talked about. You created a safe space. Now I know things to look out for and stop when I see them happening. I appreciate your dedication to us, and making sure we are aware. You all were easy to talk to, and made us feel safe."