It’s no secret – nonprofits desperately need our help right now. Summer is a critical time for organizations serving youth, and the effects of the pandemic have only increased that.

For the last 15 years, Young Philanthropists’ mission has been to build a network of community leaders to join together, learn about and donate to local charitable causes, and have fun meeting others in the community who feel the same way. For our 15th year, we’re ready to double down on that mission.

Thanks to an incredibly generous gift from the Hanson Family Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, up to $12,000 will be matched for this year’s membership contributions. Right away, your donation will go even further to help local children.

And we’re looking to provide relief for agencies now. This year, 100 percent of contributions received will be awarded in two rounds of operational grants to past YP grant recipients. The first round will be announced on July 23 through a virtual Facebook Live event that will feature a special pre-show from Springfield-based trio The Deep Hollow in advance of their nationwide Levitt AMP Music Series concert happening the following night. The second round of grants will be announced in December.

We recognize the daunting challenges nonprofits are facing in 2020. When hands-on summer programs would typically be in full swing, when face-to-face mentoring is so crucial to prevent summer learning loss, these nonprofits are redeveloping what they do to recreate that same impact. That’s why, in YP’s 15th year, we’ve decided to support all previous recipients by funding their general operations.

Now, more than ever, nonprofits are adapting to serve their kids. Grants should allow them the maximum flexibility to make sure they are able to fulfill their missions.

Whether it’s providing new parents with essentials for their infants, helping young men realize their paths to becoming first generation college students, improving kindergarten readiness, or helping girls develop their physical and emotional health, Young Philanthropists bolsters nonprofits’ work across Sangamon County.
I hope you will join us! Becoming a member is easy:

- Make a tax-deductible membership contribution of $125/person to the Future Fund online at CFLL.org (click on Giving – Make a Donation).
- Ask a friend to join you!
- Join us for Young Philanthropists’ Facebook Live event on July 23 for our first grant announcement of the year.

Young Philanthropists is a way to make a bigger difference than one person or a family could on their own. It’s culminated in $100,000 awarded so far, and we want you to come onboard. Let’s make sure local youth have a continued opportunity to succeed.

Dan Pietroburgo serves as chair of the Young Philanthropists Steering Committee. To join or learn more, visit CFLL.org, call 217.789.4431 or email info@cfll.org.