THE HISTORY

Founded in 2000, the Andy Roddick Foundation (ARF) provides children from underserved communities with high-quality learning and enriching experiences during afterschool, spring break and summer — times when children often need the most support. The pivotal experiences that take place during these programs include collaborative opportunities in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM), literacy, arts and sports. ARF has served more than 115,000 youth since 2012 and in the past 20 years, ARF has invested more than $30 million across Central Texas to transform students, their families and their communities.

THE VISION

Working hand in hand with communities, ARF increases and expands opportunities for students to learn, thrive and succeed, as ARF's mission envisions a world where all young people have endless chances to realize and achieve their utmost potential. At its core, ARF brings children together in a positive and transformative environment, giving them the chance to thrive within an uplifting community of peers, and under the influence and supervision of caring and committed adults. Additionally, ARF’s donor base is almost exclusively families themselves, and the support cycle for ARF is most easily described as “families supporting families.”

THE ARF MISSION

Through highly engaging and authentically uplifting programs, ARF helps young people become more connected to school, build relationship skills, develop self-management, foster growth mindsets, increase learning engagement, develop personal responsibility, and improve reading scores and school attendance. The ARF ultimate focus is on the children and families it serves, and how it can continuously serve them better. Through this, ARF meets children wherever they are—in their school and in their community—with high-quality learning and enriching experiences outside of the classroom.

THE DIFFERENCE

ARF recognizes some children and families lack access to opportunities for more than one reason, and that’s why it ceaselessly works to assist underserved communities on multiple fronts. ARF supports communities in a multitude of ways: It provides services to children and families directly; it partners with organizations to implement programs to further support students and their families; and advocates for the importance of high-quality, out-of-school learning and enrichment at the city, state and federal level, with the goal of increasing program funding from all public sources.
Services & Programs
SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

Every summer, ARF provides a free Summer Learning Program for students located in Central Texas. In 2021, ARF’s Summer Learning Program worked with Thomas G. Harris, Bernice Hart and Pecan Springs elementary schools in Austin. Program initiatives focused on reducing summer learning loss, summer weight gain, and building resilient students who possess the skills and traits needed to reach their potential, all while providing students with a fun and memorable summer experience. In 2019, the program garnered national recognition as it received the 2019 New York Life Foundation Excellence in Summer Learning Award.

In 2020 and 2021, the Summer Learning Programs continued virtually in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The curriculum for 2021 focused on activities around literacy, health, SEL, art, STEM, and more. It also included lessons on social justice through hands-on learning that helped children recognize and take pride in their identity, explore and celebrate diversity, understand justice and the impact of injustice, and move to action to change their world.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

ARF also hosts a Spring Break Camp each year. The Spring Break Camp was virtual in 2020 and 2021, but in 2019, fourth and fifth grade students from Harris and Pecan Springs elementary schools participated in three days of physical activities, team building and group challenges while simultaneously building lasting friendships. The Spring Break Camp’s program goals align with ARF’s year-round goals, including improving social-emotional learning skills, self-awareness and confidence. Additionally, the program strives to challenge students to try new experiences; encourages them to obtain new skills and knowledge at camp; thrive individually and as a team in a supportive, inclusive environment; build peer-to-peer relation skills; and transfer skills learned at each year’s camp into their daily lives to promote success in and out of school.

AFTERSCHOOL GRANTS & OST PROGRAMS

Learn All the Time (LATT) is an initiative of the Andy Roddick Foundation and is Central Texas’ Out-of-School Time (OST) intermediary. As an OST intermediary, ARF serves as the hub for high-quality OST in the community, connecting program providers and other stakeholders around afterschool and summer workforce development, program quality improvement, and data collection and evaluation.

Every year, ARF partners with Austin Independent School District (AISD) and external organizations to provide afterschool programming at three elementary schools. During the 2021-2022 school year, ARF is supporting afterschool programs at Harris, Hart and Pecan Springs elementary schools and classes include art, science, creative writing, dance, coding and music.

In addition to providing funding for the Afterschool Programs, ARF also conducts quality assessments; administers constructive feedback and quality coaching; offers engaged program staff to take part in professional development sessions; provides actionable and supportive program evaluation, and helps create regular communication channels to develop consistently impactful and inclusive approaches to students and their families.
The World of Whatchamafeelit

Whatchamafeelit is a curriculum aimed at helping parents, youth and educators understand, process and express emotions. Realizing the impacts of the pandemic, ongoing racial injustice, and the Texas winter storms, Whatchamafeelit was launched in July 2021 to address the growing need for additional mental, emotional and social wellness support. The curriculum includes 16 lessons and access to activities and videos to work on stress management and foster communication around mental health. Through Whatchamafeelit, ARF is prioritizing social, mental, and emotional health by providing families with effective tools and exercises to process jumbled thoughts into clear emotions.

Whatchamafeelit’s lessons and activities were developed using the proven SAFE framework, meaning that they are sequenced, active, focused and explicit, as well as equipped with the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) core competencies. This results in the marriage of dance, art and reading with positive self-talk and reflection that fosters personal growth and encourages healthy stress management. Although Whatchamafeelit provides sequenced prompts, exercises and learning materials to guide families through these emotions and expressions, the program emphasizes that there is no right or wrong way to navigate these lessons.

One order of Whatchamafeelit includes a workbook with 16 lessons, instructional videos, a guide for parents and guardians, a backpack, a T-shirt, pencils and pencil case, A-to-Z emotion cards, stickers, prints and a wristband. Each purchase of Whatchamafeelit comes with a matched donation to a family in need, meaning 100% of the proceeds benefit the students, families and programs of ARF.
The Andy Roddick Foundation

Since 2000, the Andy Roddick Foundation has provided children from underserved communities with high-quality learning and enriching experiences during afterschool time, spring break and the summer months. Through afterschool activities, as well as an acclaimed six-week summer program, investing in innovative summer activities and other joint initiatives with key groups throughout the city, ARF is creating new chances for all young people to grow in social emotional learning, literacy, STEM, art and sports. As ARF envisions a world where all young people have endless opportunities to realize their potential, it works with local communities to expand opportunities for young people to learn, thrive, succeed, build self-management skills, develop growth mindsets, increase learning engagement, and form lifelong friendships and relationships.

The Andy Roddick Foundation’s mission is to work with their community to expand opportunities for young people to learn, thrive and succeed. They envision a world where all young people have endless opportunities to realize and achieve their potential. They create high-quality, nationally recognized programs; inspire and invest outside the classroom; and foster a community of families supporting families. www.arfoundation.org

MEDIA INQUIRIES
Sabrina Núñez | lookthinkmake | sabrina@lookthinkmake.com | 512.765.9543 o | 915.630.5513 c