



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018**

# contents

**03**

Letter  
from  
staff

**04**

After  
School  
Program

**05**

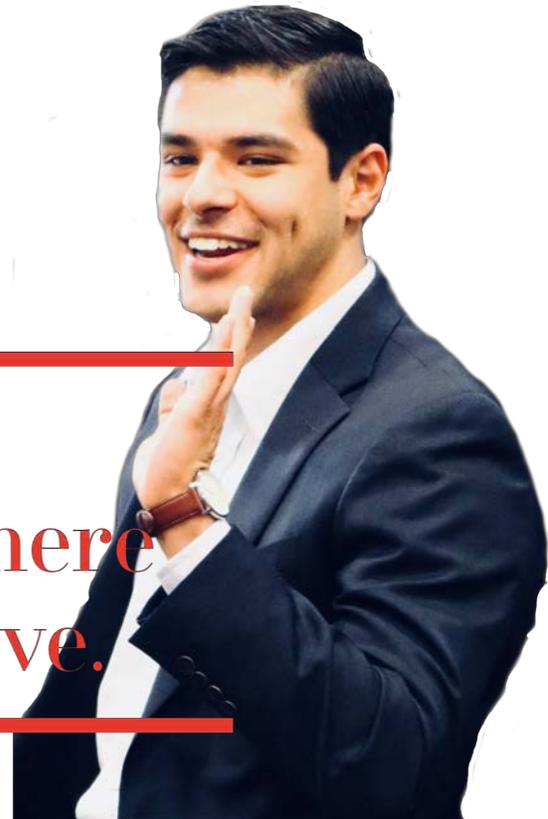
Ambassador  
Program

**06**

Family  
Promise of  
Lubbock  
Partnership

**07**

Meadow  
ISD  
Partnership



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**Creating  
environments where  
all leaders thrive.**

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2018 was full of challenges and opportunities. We stepped out to places both near and far in our mission to develop young leaders. Our team solved problems creatively and never wavered in giving their best. Some notable highlights include the addition of two new partnerships – thousands of miles apart.

Meadow is a small rural community located approximately 25 miles southwest of Lubbock in Terry County. Meadow ISD has 300 students in grades K-12 and, with full support from their school board, invited UFL to collaborate with them in equipping students for lifelong learning. We strategically work with 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders as they prepare to enter middle school, high school and college and/or workforce. This is the first school district where we have an opportunity to work with 100% of enrolled students.

Travel even farther south about 2500 miles and you will find UFL at two secondary schools in the city of Medellin– Colombia’s second largest city with over 4 million people. Our strong relationship and collaborations with faculty at Universidad CES in Medellin brought this unique opportunity to us when we exchanged faculty visits and conducted research with students, teachers, and school counselors in 2016-17. Dr. Sara Dodd and I traveled to Medellin in August 2018 to consult with educators, train youth practitioners, and observe students experiencing a UFL lesson translated into Spanish and adapted for the Colombian culture. It was a great learning experience confirming once again that UFL themes are universal.

*Gloria Gonzales, Director*

*It was exciting to see students gain confidence in themselves and their ability to impact others as they progressed through the program.*

*—Tyler Weathers*

*I really enjoyed seeing the kids that I worked with as fifth graders last year blossom into sixth graders. — Kourtnie Newton*

*2018 was a year of new opportunities and new programs helping more adolescents grow into the great leaders that they are.*

*— Kathryn Cude*

# AFTER-SCHOOL

Since the inception of the United Future Leaders program, the heart of the organization has been the after-school program for youth in grades 5-6. The UFL team is focused from August through the first week of March to make sure each participant has the best experience and can grow in their leadership skills. Without the support of college student volunteers, the program could not function. Over 50 Texas Tech students volunteered their time to learn the UFL curriculum and show up to program delivery. We are so grateful for their time and dedication to the program and investing in our youth across the South Plains.



**J.T. Hutchinson Middle School**



**Miller Elementary School**

225

Youth in Grades 5-6

12

Campuses

(Brownfield, Lubbock, Meadow & Shallowater)

# AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



**Ambassadors serving at Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest**

The Ambassador program gives after-school participants an opportunity to put their leadership into action. Ambassadors may participate in service opportunities, leadership trainings and more. In order to facilitate successful service events and leadership trainings, the UFL team is proud to partner with various nonprofit community organizations and the always amazing UCrew team from United Supermarkets.

A grant awarded by the Helen DeVitt Jones Foundation enabled UFL to host the 2018 Ambassador Leadership Conference on the Texas Tech campus on February 10, 2018.

**UCrew volunteers & TTU student volunteers at the Leadership Conference**



**135**

Active Ambassadors

**5**

Events

In January 2018, the UFL program Family Promise of Lubbock (FPL) began. The pilot group consisted of 15 students between grades 5-12. During 2017, both teams from UFL and FPL discussed goals, program delivery adaptations and the registration process for participants. Although the program is facilitated at the FPL Hope House, the UFL team considers the location like any UFL host campus and requires a registration form, provides adequate staffing, training and program supplies.

#### A Success Story

“Homeless children tend to experience many behavioral problems including depression, hopelessness, lack of self-confidence and self-esteem. They face the risk of becoming homeless as adults.

Our FPL children as well as the parents embraced this program from the start. The children have in fact requested to meet more frequently. At the very first UFL leadership meeting at Family Promise, the children were bashful and found it difficult to open up and participate. However, by the end of the meeting they were pumped up and excited to belong to a group and to learn new ways of accomplishing goals.

One child in particular gave us concern because he was extremely shy and introverted, but he surprised us all. The UFL staff worked wonders with this 13-year old boy, encouraging him to have fun while strengthening his communication skills and strategies, thereby building relationships and learning teamwork. At the end of the session his mom dropped by to pick him up and after a few minutes of observing the children, she exclaimed, “What did y’all do to my child?” “I don’t know this person!” The reason for her amazement was that her child who previously had stated, “I’m shy”, was laughing, participating in one of the fun games, and was offering his input in what they were doing. The mom was thrilled at the change that had overcome her son.”

# FAMILY PROMISE OF LUBBOCK



## 22

Youth in Grades 5-12

## 12

Sessions

# Meadow

In the summer of 2018, the UFL team and the principal at Meadow High School met to discuss how UFL could serve the students in Meadow ISD. This initial conversation led to the Meadow School Board approving a budget to facilitate the UFL after-school program and a program for students in grades 8th and 12th. It has been a wonderful first fall semester at Meadow and the students have embraced the UFL program and committed to giving 110% to their leadership development.

## 55

Youth in 5th, 8th & 12th Grade

## 45

Hours of Leadership Training

The 8th and 12th grade program was a new component for the UFL team. The after-school and Ambassador program is the heart of the organization and this new opportunity allowed for innovation, creativity and collaboration. The program was built on the same UFL themes, however, more focus was put on the practice of leadership skills and helping students transition into the next phase of their lives: high school and college/careers. It's been a memorable year and the UFL team plan to finish the school year strong!



**8th & 12th Grade Leaders worked together for a session.**



**12th Grade students spell the word 'Lead'.**



**8th Grade students accepted the challenge of getting everyone across the "river".**

# 2018 STAFF

Gloria Gonzales, Director  
CiCi Nunez, Assistant Director  
Jameson Dowell, Student Assistant  
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Kathryn Cude, Student Assistant  
Kourtnie Newton, Student Assistant  
Tyler Weathers, Student Assistant

