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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 11, 2019

**Young Writers Project receives national grant from**

**USA TODAY NETWORK and the Gannett Foundation**

*A Community Thrives grant of $25,000 will support community journalism project*

June 11, 2019 (Burlington, VT) – Young Writers Project (YWP) was named a national grant recipient of *A Community Thrives* today. Through this grantmaking and crowd-funding program from the USA TODAY NETWORK and the Gannett Foundation, YWP will receive a $25,000 grant for a community journalism project for the 2019-20 school year.

*A Community Thrives*, which supports non-profit organizations with projects focused on community building, engaged participants in 46 states this year. *YWP was one of 16 national grantees, selected from more than 1,500 applications.*

[Young Writers Project](https://youngwritersproject.org/), which started in 2006, works to inspire, mentor, publish, and promote young writers and artists, most between the ages of 13 and 19.The *A Community Thrives* grant will support the young writers, photographers, and artists who are part of the YWP community and provide opportunities to them to work with professional journalists, participate in community journalism projects inside and outside their classrooms, and to get published with YWP’s media partners – the Burlington Free Press, VPR, VtDigger.org, Times Argus, Rutland Herald, Valley News, Addison Independent, Brattleboro Reformer, Bradford Journal-Opinion, Charlotte News – as well as in YWP’s annual anthology and monthly digital magazine, [The Voice](https://youngwritersproject.org/thevoice/2019-06).

 “We are so excited to receive this grant,” said Susan Reid, Executive Director of Young Writers Project. “It affirms the importance of giving young people a platform to share their voices. Over the last couple of years, an increasing number of our writers have been taking on issues of social justice, race, gender, climate change, school shootings, and the state of the nation in general. These are very real issues to them and they want to do something about them. One way to do that is through writing. Through this project, they will be encouraged to speak out on issues that matter to them and to write about their home communities and their place in those communities – to tell their stories.”

“We are proud of the work Young Writers Project has done to enhance the community. At Gannett, our mission is to connect and empower our readers to make a difference in the communities they are a part of. Through *A Community Thrives*, we are further fueling our mission and purpose,” said Andy Yost, Chief Marketing Officer, Gannett.

**About A Community Thrives**

A Community Thrives is a grantmaking and crowd-funding program from the USA TODAY NETWORK and is part of the Gannett Foundation. A Community Thrives supports non-profit organizations with projects focused on community building and has helped to contribute more than $6.5 million since 2017.

**About USA TODAY NETWORK**

USA TODAY NETWORK, part of Gannett Co, Inc. (NYSE: GCI), is the largest local-to-national media organization in the country, powered by our award-winning newsrooms and marketing solutions business.  With deep roots in local communities spanning the U.S. with more than 100 brands, plus USA TODAY, we engage about 126 million people every month through a diverse portfolio of multi-platform content offerings and experiences. For more information, visit [www.gannett.com](http://www.gannett.com/).

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