

— JED DUNSTAN

# THE POWER OF WORDS

## A DISNEY GRANTS STORY



Julia Young's love of reading was inspired by a tip from her grandmother, who advised her not to put down a book until she reached page 15. Today, she inspires the same passion and persistence about reading and writing among Central Florida students, through the Urban Think Foundation's flagship program called Page 15.

Funded in part through Disney Grants, Page 15 provides free after-school tutoring, creative writing programs and youth publishing resources to more than 1,500 Central Florida students. Last year, the organization was recognized with the annual Bob Allen Outstanding Community Service Award, which honors local community service groups for their creativity and outstanding work in Central Florida.

"Winning the Bob Allen Award really made people see [the Urban Think Foundation and] Page 15, this little nonprofit that could, in a completely different light," Julia said. "Because of this grant, we are able to have an even greater impact on the kids of Central Florida."

This summer, Page 15 will more than double the number of kids participating in its Young Writers Camps. This program pairs budding authors with professionals who help them write, illustrate and publish a book of short stories.

After participating in two summer camp sessions, high school senior Sophia Durose built both writing skills and confidence, which boosted her dream of becoming a writer.

"Writing means everything to me," Sophia said. "When I found out I was going to be published, I cried, and for the first time realized I can really be a writer."

In addition to being a Bob Allen Award recipient, Page 15 received a 2015 Disney Grant last month, which will help the group continue nurturing avid readers and creative writers among our community's young people.

"Thanks to [my grandmother], I don't think I ever put a book down [before finishing it]," said Julia. "Hopefully, we are now inspiring kids to discover the power of words."



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— ANDREA FINGER

## SHOWING OUR GIVING SIDE

2015 DISNEY GRANTS BRING \$4.5 MILLION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Though they all play different roles in helping shape a healthy, educated, creative and more vibrant Central Florida, local nonprofits took center stage last month as Walt Disney World Resort awarded more than \$4.5 million in Disney Grants to 102 deserving organizations in Orange, Osceola, Polk, Lake and Seminole counties.

Our company's signature giving program for more than 40 years, Disney Grants supports nonprofits who share a goal to improve the lives of children and families by promoting positive youth development and healthy eating, encouraging creativity, and strengthening families. It also includes organizations that meet the diverse needs of our community and lead to economic development and empowerment.

As a part of this year's recognition ceremony, the company announced two special gifts – a \$250,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Lake and Sumter Counties, and a \$100,000 gift to the Boys & Girls Club Walt Disney World Clubhouse in Orlando.

Disney also presented this year's Bob Allen Outstanding Community Service Award to the Community Hope Center of Osceola County, a nonprofit that serves homeless families.

Awarded annually in recognition of a charitable organization's creativity and outstanding work, the grant will be used to help the Center continue providing case management, life skills training and living essentials to those in need.

