

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



KeyBank Foundation Awards \$100,000 to New Avenues for Youth

Lead corporate investment supports 50% expansion of job opportunities for at-risk and homeless youth

PORTLAND, OREGON: 09.16.2016 – KeyBank Foundation has awarded a \$100,000 grant to Portland non-profit New Avenues for Youth in support of their education and job training programs for foster youth and youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Key's investment will help New Avenues increase the number of youth employed in their social purpose enterprises by 50 per cent over the next five years. KeyBank is the first corporate partner investing in this second phase of growth and expansion, helping to ensure that participating youth are work ready and possess the necessary skills to be successful in employment.

New Avenues' social purpose enterprises include two Ben & Jerry's *Partnerships*, screen-printing business *New Avenues INK*, *New Avenues thru Soup* food cart, and *dfmnt pigeon*, an online youth-designed apparel company.

The new investment will help provide education that equips youth to succeed in job training and employment, as well as help create a workforce pipeline.

KeyBank, a long-time supporter of New Avenues, was instrumental in creation of a second Ben & Jerry's *Partnership* on the campus of Portland State University in 2013 and establishment of the screen printing business in a former KeyBank branch space in the Pearl District in Fall 2014.

"Because of the barriers they face – including intergenerational poverty, histories of abuse, involvement in the child welfare system and juvenile justice system – many of the youth served by New Avenues are at high risk of never completing high school, diminishing their chances of securing stable, career-path employment and putting them at further risk of long-term homelessness," says KeyBank Market President Michelle Weisenbach. "Helping underserved youth enter our community's mainstream by gaining training and jobs is a priority for Key."

In acknowledging Key's gift, New Avenues' Executive Director Sean Suib said "We are grateful for KeyBank's support of both our education and job training programs, and for recognizing the importance of preparing youth to be work-ready and succeed in our enterprises and beyond."

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About New Avenues for Youth

Since 1997, New Avenues for Youth has impacted the lives of more than 20,000 foster, at-risk, and homeless youth through a range of services that address basic needs and safety, provide opportunities for education and career, and help youth achieve self-sufficiency. For more information about New Avenues for Youth, visit www.newavenues.org.

About KeyBank Foundation

Beyond traditional banking products and services, Key supports communities through the important work of KeyBank Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1969 and funded by KeyCorp. The Foundation's mission is to support organizations and programs that prepare individuals for thriving futures and is advanced through three funding priorities – Neighbors, Education and Workforce – and through Community Service.

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