

Collection #
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**SIMON YOUTH FOUNDATION
COLLECTION, 1999-2023**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversized manuscript folder, digital files

COLLECTION DATES: 1999–2023

PROVENANCE: Gift of Simon Youth Foundation, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 2023.0129, 2024.0046

NOTES: **The photographs in this collection were loaned for digitization. The Indiana Historical Society does not own the originals.**

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Simon Youth Foundation (SYF) was founded in 1998 by Simon Property Group employees. The Simon Property Group, formerly Melvin Simon and Associates, was founded by brothers Melvin and Herbert Simon who established their business in Indianapolis in 1960. The company developed shopping centers and malls throughout the country and continues to operate in the commercial real estate space at the time of writing this guide. Initially, the SYF was established to foster economic and career development in youth through educational initiatives and programming. In early years, the organization focused on three main areas: Education Resource Centers, life and professional skills development programs such as the Peacemaker Corps, and scholarship programs for continuing education.

The Education Resource Centers (ERC) were established in Simon Malls, places where youth naturally were congregating, to provide a new space to succeed for students struggling in the traditional classroom setting. In conjunction with local school districts and a national education partner, students could work to achieve a high school diploma. Part of the curriculum at the ERCs was the internship program, where students could focus on training for retail and commerce, complete a technology course, or work in an industry specific to the community where the ERC was located. As an extension of the ERCs, the foundation also worked on programming to engage youth in professional and life skills in addition to targeting specific needs such as conflict resolution and peer mediation with the Peacemaker Corps. Finally, the SYF focused on supporting youth wanting to continue their education after high school through both need and merit-based scholarships to two- or four-year colleges, universities or vocational/technical schools.

Financial support for the SYF's focus areas came from a variety of sources, most notably the Monster Masquerade or Masquerade, a yearly fundraising gala in Indianapolis beginning in 2002. The SYF also receives support from mall shoppers, Simon Malls/Simon Property Group employees, the Simon Evening of Giving, and various community gifts and partnerships.

In 2010, the SYF rebranded the ERCs as Simon Youth Academies, of which there were twenty-six across thirteen states. At that time, the Simon Youth Academies boasted over 7,000 graduates and a 90% graduation rate. As of the 2022-2023 academic year, the SYF has helped more than 27,949 students graduate from a network of thirty-two Simon Youth Academies in twelve states. In addition, SYF awards, on average, \$1 million in scholarships each year to help students with their post-secondary education. At the time of writing this collection guide in 2024, a new program, the Talent Pipeline Program, has been created to create a career pathway for SYF students to transition from high school into the workforce.

Sources:

Materials in collection.

“About Us.” Simon Youth Foundation. <https://syf.org/what-we-do/>

“2024 Annual Report.” Simon Youth Foundation. <https://syf.org/impact24>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the annual reports for the Simon Youth Foundation, programs from the Foundation's signature annual fundraiser Masquerade, profiles on the Simon sisters, Deborah Simon and Cindy Simon Skjodt, and digital photographs from Simon Youth Foundation events.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Publications

CONTENTS

Simon Youth Foundation Posters, n.d.

Annual Reports, 1999-2005

Program, Masquerade, 2002

Program, Masquerade, 2003

Program, Masquerade, 2004

Program, Masquerade, 2005

Program, Masquerade, 2006

“Sweet Charity” Indianapolis Woman magazine
feature on the Simon sisters, 2006

Annual Reports, 2006-2011

Program, Masquerade, 2007

Employee Contribution Campaign Promotional
Booklets, 2008

Program, Masquerade, 2008

Program, Masquerade, 2009

Program, Masquerade, 2010

Program, Masquerade, 2011

Program, Masquerade, 2012

Annual Reports, 2012-2019

Program, Masquerade, 2013

Program, Masquerade, 2014

Program, Masquerade, 2015

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Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

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Box 2, Folder 1

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Program, Masquerade, 2016	Box 2, Folder 9
Program, Masquerade, 2017	Box 2, Folder 10
Program, Masquerade, 2018	Box 2, Folder 11
Program, Masquerade, 2019	Box 2, Folder 12
Program, Masquerade, 2022	Box 2, Folder 13
Welcome Letter from Andre Carson, 2022	Box 2, Folder 14
City of Indianapolis Proclamation, Simon Youth Foundation Day, 2023	Box 2, Folder 14
Gwinnett County, Georgia Proclamation, 2023	OM0786 Folder 1 of 1

Series 2: Digital Photographs (Loaned for Digitization)

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CIS [Communities in Schools] Academy graduation speaker, ca. 1999 (front and back of photo)

Students at CIS Academy graduation, ca. 1999 (front and back of photo)

David Stern [Commissioner of the National Basketball Association] presenting basketball, Pacers Academy, Union Station, 24 March 2004 (front and back of photo)

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Deborah Simon, Larry Bird, and [NBA Commissioner] David Stern, with students, Pacers Academy, Union Station, 24 March 2004 (front and back of photo)

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Larry Bird, and [NBA Commissioner] David Stern, with three students and others, Pacers Academy, Union Station, 24 March 2004 (front and back of photo)

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LFD2024_0046_002_A
LFD2024_0046_002_B

[See digital file]
LFD2024_0046_003_A
LFD2024_0046_003_B

[See digital file]
LFD2024_0046_004_A
LFD2024_0046_004_B

[See digital file]
LFD2024_0046_005_A
LFD2024_0046_005_B

Unidentified [Simon Youth Foundation] ribbon cutting ceremony, n.d. (front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_006_A LFD2024_0046_006_B
Speaker at Simon Youth Foundation ribbon cutting, n.d. (front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_007_A LFD2024_0046_007_B
Carolene Mays [State Representative and President of the <i>Indianapolis Recorder</i> ; third from left, clapping her hands], Mayor Bart Peterson [at center], Debroah Simon, and others at Simon Youth Foundation Cooperative Achievement Program Education Resource Center, Lafayette Square Mall Grand Opening, 2004 (label, front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_008_A LFD2024_0046_008_B LFD2024_0046_008_C
Two students presenting thank-you card to Deborah Simon at Simon Youth Foundation Cooperative Achievement Program Education Resource Center, Lafayette Square Mall Grand Opening, 2004 (front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_009_A LFD2024_0046_009_B
Deborah Simon with Mayor Bart Peterson [seen to the right of the podium] and others at Simon Youth Foundation Cooperative Achievement Program Education Resource Center, Lafayette Square Mall Grand Opening, 2004 (front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_010_A LFD2024_0046_010_B
Graduating class in red caps and gowns, 2001 (label, front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_011_A LFD2024_0046_011_B LFD2024_0046_011_C
Graduates in red caps and gowns, and keynote speakers [2001?] (label, front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_012_A LFD2024_0046_012_B LFD2024_0046_012_C
“Underclassmen” in blue caps and gowns [2001?] (label, front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_013_A LFD2024_0046_013_B LFD2024_0046_013_C
[Terrie Suica-Reed], Director / CIS Academy [2001?] (label [with name misspelled], front and back of photo)	[See digital file] LFD2024_0046_014_A LFD2024_0046_014_B LFD2024_0046_014_C

Students in blue caps and gowns at Northgate Mall
ERC [Education Resource Center] graduation, Seattle,
Washington, 18 June 2004 (label and front of photo)

[See digital file]
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LFD2024_0046_015_B

Two students at Northgate Mall ERC graduation,
Seattle, Washington, 18 June 2004

[See digital file]
LFD2024_0046_016

Students mingling after graduation ceremony at
Northgate Mall ERC graduation, Seattle, Washington,
18 June 2004

[See digital file]
LFD2024_0046_017

Students at Northgate Mall ERC graduation, Seattle,
Washington, 18 June 2004

[See digital file]
LFD2024_0046_018

Female student hugging a woman at Northgate Mall
ERC graduation, Seattle, Washington, 18 June 2004

[See digital file]
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