



In the past few months, we've been excited to see more and more attention paid to what the Superstar Foundation is all about: Frontline workers developing supportive, transformational relationships while using data to produce positive outcomes for the people they serve.

We'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the great writing we've uncovered lately, because we're convinced that this trend (valuing the relationships created between front line staff and participants) will continue. We're hopeful that more organizations will translate these findings into ways to measure and manage relationships.

- As we entered the summer season, Lisa Damour of the New York Times asked (and answered) [What Should Teenagers' Summer Plans Include? Adult Mentors.](#)
- Search Institute CEO Kent Pekel argues that developmental relationships are not just the "active ingredient" but the "indispensable ingredient" in [The Recipe for Youth Success](#). The research upon which his argument is based is strikingly summed up by Peter L. Benson:

*After decades of forming hypotheses, conducting surveys, crafting and rewriting definitions, analyzing data, and writing journal articles, Search Institute researchers and practitioners have arrived at a surprisingly simple conclusion: nothing—nothing—has more impact in the life of a child than positive relationships.*

- In a [Ground Breaking Guide to Promote Social Emotional Outcomes for Youth](#), Kim Sabo Flores of Algorhythm explains that *what* we do matters, but *how* we do it is also critical. Organizations with more effective youth engagement, peer-to-peer engagement strategies, coaching through goal management, and staff engagement produced outcome gains at twice the rate of other organizations.
- Finally, in [Giving Away Your Billion](#), David Brooks fantasizes about a giving pledge to start small collectives to reweave the social fabric, because "only loving relationships transform lives..."

If you like what we've shared, please follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We hope you'll also start thinking about who you might tell about or nominate for a Veronica Award this fall. Until then, enjoy the summer!

The Superstar Foundation Team