

# MICROGRANTS

Partnering with people of potential

MICROGRANTS.NET

FALL 2018

## Top stories in this newsletter



Mayor's Speech Features Two MicroGrants Stories  
([hyperlink to top story](#))



New Board Member Abou Amara  
([hyperlink to next story](#))



Partner Agency Summit a Success  
([hyperlink to story](#))



First Grantee Returns to Say Thank You  
([hyperlink to story](#))

## Mayor's Speech Features Two MicroGrants Stories



In his budget speech on August 15, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey highlighted two MicroGrants stories. The first was that of a young man named Keegan Jamaal Rolence, who used an education grant to exit the gang lifestyle and take his real estate license exams.

The other MicroGrants story Frey featured was Lights On! Frey lauded Lights On! for solving a problem that tickets only exacerbate, and he pledged \$25,000 to help the Minneapolis Police Department expand Lights On! in Minneapolis.

## New Board Member Abou Amara



Abou is a public affairs consultant and strategist that served in a variety of capacities in the public policy and lawmaking arena. Most recently, he served as a policy co-chair to Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey's Transition Team.

Abou currently holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy (MPP) with a focus on economic policy from the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs and an undergraduate degree in sociology and economics from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. He is pursuing his law degree from the University of St. Thomas.

## Partner Agency Summit a Success



LaKisha Jones, pictured left, of Summit Academy OIC was one of 36 representatives from partner agencies who attended our annual summit on Wednesday, August 22. The event was designed as part of our continuous improvement with powerful and effective partnership with local organizations. The partner agencies and MicroGrants shared ideas for improvement and efficiency, with the goal of making the MicroGrants partnerships even stronger for 2019.

At the summit, Jones told the story of a student who became homeless while in Summit Academy's construction program. With a well-timed transportation grant and some career coaching, that student's life turned around!

## First Grantee Returns to Say Thank You



MicroGrants' first grantee, Kruscaya Casaverde, returned to MicroGrants to thank the organization and tell her story. She explained that she had been selling Peruvian jewelry at Midtown Global Market when Joe Selvaggio approached her and offered her \$1,000 to cover a deposit she needed to make with her university. Thanks to MicroGrants, Kruscaya finished school successfully, and today she is an electrical engineer in Canada! "If Joe Selvaggio and MicroGrants were not there . . . it would not have been possible to finish my degree. It is not just about money; it is about the light you have to continue and not give up in your dreams," Kruscaya says.

MicroGrants  
microgrants.net  
1035 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404

[Click to unsubscribe \(hyperlink\)](#)