

IMPACT REPORT / 2021



A Note from Executive Director Josh Packard

The work you support at Springtide Research Institute is unique and important. Not only are we conducting world-class research, amassing the largest data set on the religious, faith, and spiritual lives of young people, but we are translating that research into actionable frameworks that are used daily to transform the lives of young people. This year we have heard more stories than ever before about the ways our research reports and resources, the work you make possible, help trusted adults and entire organizations engage with young people.



This is not only deeply gratifying, but it is explicitly a part of our strategic plan. As we grow and mature as an organization, we are committed to using what we learn to help those who care about young people to care better. One of the things we say a lot at Springtide is that as a research institute, we don't want to be "interesting," we want to be "useful."

This year we launch our Springtide Series on Mental Health to prepare leaders to build cultures that are mental-health friendly in their schools, religious settings, homes, and workplaces by centering meaning and purpose to counteract the epidemic levels of isolation and loneliness that too often leave young people disaffected and feeling that their lives don't matter. We want to transform organizations to be proactive about mental health instead of waiting until a crisis occurs.

We're also busy building a tool kit of resources for educators and religious leaders. This tool kit will enable them to build and measure belonging, which we believe is the new metric that matters for the success of young people. We are grateful to partner with many donors to create these valuable resources.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for the role you have in bringing the voices of young people to the forefront.

Gratefully,
Josh Packard, PhD

A handwritten signature of Josh Packard in black ink.



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With your support, Springtide is reaching out, helping those who care about young people to care better.



Over 17,350
print & digital research
reports distributed



44
featured speaking
engagements

28,810
survey
responses



363
distinct media
placements



Over 120
videos available
on YouTube



12,700+
total views



Over 271,000
website page views in 2021

SIGN UP

Over 17,850
email subscribers

54
podcast episodes
with
15,250+
total listens



Over 5,305
webinar and talk attendees



Turning the Tide: Insights that Change Lives

Our goal is that trusted adults be empowered to take action from our research, wherever young people live, learn, work and worship. We are so grateful for your support in enabling this work to happen. These stories give you a sampling of how it's flowing to not only young people but also the generations who have a heart to care for these young people who so deeply need it.

Jesse

As a member of the inaugural Springtide Ambassador Program cohort, Jesse joined fellow participants each month to share his thoughts, challenges, and contentment with being a young person. A recent college graduate in his first professional teaching role, Jesse told us about the impact Springtide research had on him and his approach to ensuring that the young people he works with feel included and welcomed in their school.

“ When I started my student teaching experience, I was asked to set goals for myself. I was inspired by Springtide research that found young people feeling a sense of belonging in three stages: being noticed, being named, and being known.

I took this to heart and set out to notice my students, greet them, and never let a question go unanswered or a comment go unheard. **I am purposeful in making students know they belong.** I call them by name, learn their interests, and care for them as a whole person. And I want my students to feel known. I ask how they're doing, and I am open to having vulnerable conversations about their lives. My goal is for all my student relationships, online and in person, to be on this level.

—Jesse, 21
Special Education Teacher
New York



Springtide data show students who report meaningful interactions with their teachers have a strong sense of belonging associated with mental wellness. In supporting Springtide and investing in young people like Jesse who are truly changing culture, you are helping young people thrive.

Learn more about our Springtide Ambassador Program.



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Nabil

My year as Springtide's BIPOC Fellow was both productive and formative. Through the fellowship, I had the opportunity to talk to Hispanic/Latino teens and young adults across the United States to better understand the youngest and fastest-growing population in the country.

// Combined with Springtide's nationally representative survey data, these conversations informed my own research on the cultural bounds of belonging, which expanded on Springtide's 2020 important report, *Belonging*, by examining how the process of belonging varies across and within minoritized groups.

I was able to contribute this research to a special season of Springtide's *The Voices of Young People Podcast*, and several presentations for academic scholars, faith leaders, and Hispanic-serving colleges and universities. This fellowship immersed me in an intellectually stimulating, creative, and collegial environment at Springtide—a place where **I found community, meaning, and purpose during a global pandemic.**

—Nabil Tueme
Associate Researcher
(Former BIPOC Fellow)



The BIPOC Research Fellowship allows young professionals to explore an interest area or a particular issue relevant to their research endeavors while serving the Springtide mission.

Learn more about our Gen Z diversity research and BIPOC Fellowship.





Francine

One of the ways Springtide makes connections is through talks and presentations that are customized to reach a variety of audiences. Francine is the director of youth ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. She learned about Springtide's research and invited Dr. Josh Packard to speak with the youth ministers in the diocese.

In my role, I work with our youth ministers who engage with teens to lead them closer to Christ. I'm thankful for Springtide because I've gained concrete, practical resources that I can put in the hands of youth ministers to help them walk with and listen to teens better.

I have also used Springtide resources in our grandparent workshops. We have hosted four events where grandparents learn how to share their faith with their grandchildren. Seniors in our parishes are concerned about the salvation of their grandchildren and the future of their church. As mentors and leaders, grandparents (and grandparent figures) are vital to connecting with these kids. They are eager for insights that help them better understand Gen Z, enabling them to accompany their grandchildren on their faith journeys.

—Francine
Director of Youth Ministry
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

Springtide is driven to put research to work in schools, organizations, and communities. Bringing insights and suggestions about what we've learned from the data and interviews helps organizations better engage with the young people they serve.

Bring Springtide's expertise to your next event.



Thank you to all our 2021 donors!

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Those whose support for Springtide Research Institute totaled \$500 or more during 2021.

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Angie and Dave Ward

Anonymous (2)

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The Springtide Mission

Compelled by the urgent desire to listen and attend to the lives of young people ages 13 to 25, Springtide Research Institute is committed to understanding the distinct ways new generations experience and express community, identity, and meaning.

We exist at the intersection of religious and human experience in the lives of young people. And we're here to listen.

We combine quantitative and qualitative research to reflect and amplify the lived realities of young people as they navigate shifting social, cultural, and religious landscapes. Delivering fresh data and actionable insights, we equip those who care about young people to care better.

Stay in touch:



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