



40 Years. 15,000 Kids.

Y.O.U. 2013 ANNUAL REPORT





40 Years. 15,000 Kids.

A YEAR OF IMPACT AND GROWTH



DEAR FRIENDS OF Y.O.U.,

Jordan always wanted to write poetry. Tristan always wanted to cultivate a garden. Angelina always wanted to produce a film. With the launch of Y.O.U. afterschool and summer learning programs at Dawes School, King Arts and Lincoln Junior High in 2013, these three youth — along with over 1,000 others — had the opportunity to embrace their passions and realize their potential.

In 2013, Y.O.U. expanded to new places and new families. We opened our first site in Skokie. We added a Street Outreach Program in Evanston. We pioneered a Community School model that deeply engages parents alongside their children. All the while, we remained focused on our core mission: empowering youth academically, socially and emotionally.

Across our programs, we witnessed a 30 percent increase in enrollment over the prior year. We wrapped around each of these young people with a holistic set of services that included educational enrichment, leadership development, and emotional support.

Our holistic model works. Youth who participated in our afterschool and mentorship programs in 2013 continued their upward trajectory: nearly 7 in 10 increased their grade point averages (GPA). Meanwhile, more than 9 in 10 who actively participated improved their social skills and family relationships, according to pre- and post- evaluations.

As we reflect on our impact in 2013, we remember the young man in our program who overcame his anxiety in math, the girl who gained self-confidence through weekly interactions with her mentor, and the boy who took comfort in our counselor's care after a family tragedy. These are the stories behind the numbers — the stories that show what Y.O.U. is truly about.

At Y.O.U., we tell our youth that they have unlimited potential. This clear message empowers our youth to envision bold futures and to achieve unimagined tasks. We know it takes a village of support — parents, teachers, volunteers, and donors — for our youth to realize their full potential. Thank you for joining us in changing kids' lives and inspiring our community's future.

John Koski
Board President

Seth Green
Executive Director

WHAT WE BELIEVE


We believe that all youth should gain the skills, self-confidence and opportunity to participate fully, freely and responsibly in the life of the community.

We believe that all families should have access to social and economic mobility. Education can be a powerful ladder to a better life. We help families realize their dreams by supporting their children's success in school and in life.

We believe that our community should be a safe, nurturing and happy place for young people to live. We engage young people in youth development activities that promote wellness and leadership and that reduce the risk of violence and experimentation with drugs.

WHAT WE DO

1. **Education:** We support youth academic achievement through homework help, enrichment, academic counseling and parental engagement.
2. **Wellness:** We promote youth social, emotional and physical health through mental health counseling, mentorship, recreation, fitness and nutrition.
3. **Leadership:** We empower youth to be leaders through entrepreneurship education, service learning, civic leadership and cross-cultural exploration.



Y.O.U. is a youth development agency that provides services and leadership to meet the emerging needs of young people and their families in our community.



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OUR IMPACT

THE WORK WE DO

Last year we served over **1,000 youth** and touched the lives of **3,000 family members** with over **150,000 hours** of afterschool enrichment, mentorship, clinical counseling, street outreach, and crisis intervention services.

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

Academic Success

69% of youth who participated in our mentorship and afterschool programs increased their GPAs.

Social and Emotional Success

88% of youth who actively participated in our mentorship and afterschool programs enhanced their social skills.*

Family Success

92% of youth who actively participated in our mentorship and afterschool programs exhibited an improvement in the relationship with their family.*

*According to pre- and post-evaluations using a nationally renowned assessment tool called the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument.

2013 HEADLINES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Street Outreach Program Begins

We launched a Street Outreach program that connects young people with mentors, educational opportunities and employment resources (see p. 8).

Y.O.U. Launches at New Schools

Meeting the growing demand for our services, we began afterschool and summer learning programs at two new Evanston schools: King Arts and Dawes Elementary School.

Y.O.U. Expands to Skokie

In partnership with United Way and School District 69, we developed our first-ever site in Skokie: a comprehensive afterschool and summer learning program at Lincoln Junior High School.

Summer Program Grows

Y.O.U. immersed nearly 400 youth in its high-quality, nine-week summer learning programs, empowering more youth than ever before to leap forward over the summer, instead of sliding back.

Y.O.U. Receives Federal Award

Y.O.U. was one of just 20 agencies in the country to receive a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant enables Y.O.U. and the YWCA to reduce dating violence and support healthy relationships.

Y.O.U. Youth Win National Award

The Y.O.U.ng Filmmakers, a team of our high school youth, beat out thousands of applicants across the country to earn the national Jefferson Awards' Youth Service Challenge prize for their anti-violence video.

Y.O.U. Recognized as Regional Leader

The United Way of Metropolitan Chicago selected Y.O.U. as the single recipient of this year's Education Impact Award for our transformative impact on youth and their families.

“ We invest in Y.O.U. because we believe their work is changing the story for youth and families in Evanston and Skokie. Our LIVE UNITED 2020 community impact plan seeks to help 50,000 underperforming middle school students enter high school on track to graduate. Y.O.U. is an outstanding partner in these efforts to transform the future of our region.”

Marcia McMahon

Regional Chief Professional Officer, United Way North-Northwest



AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Y.O.U. provides daily academic, social and emotional enrichment activities at eight school-based sites and two community-based locations.

Our afterschool program begins each day with 75 minutes of academic support that includes homework assistance and individualized tutoring in specific subject areas.

The next 75 minutes of program focuses on interactive, character-building activities ranging from arts and culture to life skills discussion groups.

This year's groups included slam poetry, career exploration, gardening, building healthy relationships, cooking, nutrition, social justice, engineering, service learning, conflict resolution, current events and many more.



Learn more about our afterschool impact by visiting youafterschoolstory.org to watch the story of Selalah and Tiaira Scott.

“Y.O.U.’s expansion to Skokie in 2013 was transformative for our youth and families. Y.O.U. is providing the students of our District with critical supports from social-emotional enrichment to homework assistance. Meanwhile, working parents now have a safe, structured, supportive program for their children to go to each day after school and over the summer. It’s a win-win for kids and families.

Quintin Shepherd

Superintendent, School District 69



SUMMER PROGRAM

Our summer program engages youth in fun-filled workshops in arts and culture, science and technology, and sports and recreation. Youth conduct science experiments, write poetry, produce films, choreograph dance routines, go on weekly field trips and much more. Youth also participate in life skills discussions, ranging from healthy eating to sexual education to navigating bullying in school.

Studies show that participation in high-quality summer learning programs adds up to a five month learning gain for students when they return to school in the fall.

Summer 2013 activities ranged from learning about the nervous system's interaction with sports to building and harvesting garden beds. Three specialized camps were also offered to high school students, allowing them to explore architecture, entrepreneurship and civic leadership.

Pictured below is a snapshot of our Youdesign group. Led by architecture professor Annette Elliot, who joined Y.O.U.'s team for the summer, youth studied different architectural styles, took private tours, dissected local structures and prepared their own designs to one day join the Evanston skyline.



COLLABORATION MAKES IT POSSIBLE

Collaboration is at the core of everything we do at Y.O.U. More than 50 partners provide an array of services and resources. These partnerships support the creation and execution of interactive curriculums that engage our youth and expand their opportunities. Whether interacting with our youth on a weekly basis or providing a one-time field trip, each partner makes our work better and improves our kids' experiences.

Through our collaboration with the McGaw YMCA, for example, our youth learned to swim, participated in outdoor adventures and immersed themselves in health and fitness activities. A dozen of our youth even spent two weeks at Camp Echo. Our impact on youth was strengthened by deep collaboration at our staff and board levels, which included joint training and joint strategic visioning.

Our partners are truly indispensable to our youth's success!

CLINICAL COUNSELING

Our highly experienced counselors and social workers address the emotional and mental health needs of Y.O.U. youth and their families.

Y.O.U.'s clinical team provides 24-7 crisis counseling, one-on-one case management and family support services at client homes and at sites throughout the community.

Counselors and social workers also work to connect youth and families to other resources in the community, ensuring that youth and families are able to address their needs in a holistic and healthy way.

“ Because of Y.O.U., I know how to understand my feelings way better. Staff helped me figure out triggers for my anger and how to calm down when I’m upset. Now I’ve got more friends and I’m doing better in school. I’m doing better because of Y.O.U.”

8th Grader
Nichols Middle School

STREET OUTREACH

In 2013, we launched a Street Outreach program that engages disconnected Evanston young people, ages 15 to 21 years old. Whereas many of our programs thrive on families seeking out Y.O.U., our Street Outreach team combs Evanston to personally reach young people in need.

Partnering with the City of Evanston, the Youth Job Center, the McGaw YMCA, and the YWCA Evanston/North Shore, our program connects these young people with mentors, educational opportunities and employment resources.

Our ultimate goal is to empower these young people to finish school, find a job, stay away from violence and build productive futures.

In its first six months, our Street Outreach program has established consistent drop in locations for young people and developed strong partnerships for these young people to gain employment and housing. Our team has engaged over 100 young people through the program and built solid, lasting relationships with more than 30 of them.

A Street Outreach Story

Aaron is a 20 year old graduate of ETHS who has spent his post-graduate years disconnected from the community. He spent unproductive days watching television and hanging out with friends until a Y.O.U. Street Outreach Worker proactively engaged him in a conversation about his future. Soon Aaron was connected to the services of the Youth Job Center's Job Readiness Program. Y.O.U. staff monitored his attendance, checked in on his progress and arranged transportation. Aaron will soon graduate with a Pharmacy Technician certificate and plans to pursue jobs in the healthcare field.

“ The theater program at Y.O.U. was really fun. It was a really good experience for me because it improved my drama and acting skills and gave me many talents if I wanted to become a comedian or musician. Y.O.U. is a fun place you can go to. It's been a big part of my life.”

7th Grader
King Arts



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

This year Y.O.U. began working with Chute Middle School to pilot the Community School model. The goal of a Community School is to actively and intentionally connect a broad range of resources with the school to provide support, access to services, and learning opportunities for youth, families and the community.

Ultimately, the Community School seeks to become a hub of community activity beyond the school day and to improve student learning, strengthen families, and build a healthier community.

Y.O.U. and Chute started the year by bringing together a team of parents and teachers to think about big goals such as assessing needs of the school community, connecting existing services, and bringing new programs and resources in and around Chute. Building on the strong relationships Y.O.U. has with families - and the holistic nature of Y.O.U.'s programs - the Chute Community School initiative engaged numerous partners in this effort.

In 2013, Chute and Y.O.U. were able to grow the Homework Club, pilot the Academic Advocates one-on-one mentoring program,

offer income tax preparation support for parents, provide students with comprehensive eye exams and glasses through an on-site vision clinic, and expand access to technology for students through increased Computer Lab hours after school.

In the year ahead, we are excited to continue growing this initiative in Evanston and to introduce the model at Lincoln Junior High School in Skokie.



“ Our partnership with Y.O.U. continues to grow, impacting even more youth and families. Y.O.U.'s pioneering leadership of Community Schools is helping us to re-envision our schools as critical centers of resources for youth and families. This exciting effort engages the whole school community to help our youth succeed.”

Katie Bailey
of the District 65 school board

MENTORSHIP

Our Mentor Y.O.U.th program recognizes that youth need caring adults in their lives. We carefully match youth with an adult mentor based on each individual's unique personality, needs and interests.

Each mentor-mentee pair meets once a week, for at least one hour, and participates in arts and cultural activities, sports and recreation, educational enrichment and other activities of mutual interest.

Mentors commit to at least 12 months of service so that each mentor-mentee relationship is continuous and stable.

Mentorship Program Changes Lives

We expanded our mentorship program to elementary schools in 2013, and were able to match 56 youth with engaged community mentors.



“ My weekly meetings with my mentee tend to be one of the highlights of my week. It's amazing to see how our relationship has grown. We started with limited conversations and have reached a point where both of our faces light up when we see each other, and we now fill our time chatting about our favorite foods, TV shows and family.”

Jenal
Mentor



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FINANCIAL REPORT 2013 FISCAL YEAR



REVENUE

Government	\$1,489,644
United Way	240,000
Contributions	625,745
Special Events	231,811
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,587,200

EXPENSE

Programming	\$1,994,811
Management	221,432
Outreach & Development	254,314
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,470,558
Net Surplus	\$116,642

*These financials are as of June 30, 2013 and do not represent audited numbers. They exclude \$310,699 of capital campaign contributions made in FY13 that are intended for future use.

“ Y.O.U. is a core partner in our efforts to realize equity and excellence at ETHS. Every day after school, Y.O.U. is there for our students, providing tutoring, experiential learning, mentorship, and clinical counseling. The deep relationships that Y.O.U. staff members develop with our youth are life-changing. Y.O.U. helps our youth to dream big and then empowers our youth to realize their dreams.”

Eric Witherspoon

Superintendent, School District 202

DON BAKER CIRCLE FOR YOUTH

The Don Baker Circle for Youth is Y.O.U.'s giving society recognizing an annual fund contribution of \$1,000 or more.

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“ I have personally witnessed the power of Y.O.U.'s work with kids for more than thirty years — first as a math teacher, then as a middle school principal, and now as a District administrator. For our kids, Y.O.U. serves both as a safe haven and a springboard forward. Y.O.U. gives our youth a place to belong and to feel secure. All the while, it equips our youth with academic, social, and emotional skills that uplift their lives and uplift our entire community.”

Barb Hiller

Chief Administrative Officer, School District 65





40 Years. 15,000 Kids.

DONORS

7/1/12-6/30/13

Y.O.U. is grateful to our many generous donors. Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We sincerely apologize for any errors in spelling or omission.

\$100,000 or More

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“ Y.O.U.'s staff communicates with teachers on a consistent basis in order to assist the children with their academics. I'm also impressed by how they interact positively with youth to help them discover their strengths both academically and in other aspects of their lives.”

Julie Ulmen
 6th grade math teacher at Nichols





40 Years. 15,000 Kids.

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