

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the past year, we found a common theme within the work we do: Building Bridges. Y.O.U.'s mission is to bridge the opportunity gap for youth in our communities.

Building bridges shows up in our day-to-day work, whether it's through providing out of school learning experiences and support to 453 youth, transition programming for our elementary youth who are moving into middle school and middle school to high school, or a bridge between our clinical and out-of-school time services. Our days are spent creating connections to help build a world where our youth design their own path to success.

Bridging the opportunity gap at a time when youth are still struggling with the effects of Covid is critical. The learning loss experienced by our youth during hybrid and remote learning time heightened our resolve to resume in-person engagement with our youth and bolster our academic support. This year brought opportunities for Y.O.U. to integrate our core values of: Relationships, Creativity, Belonging and Joy. Through increased experiences with enrichment providers, our youth had access to the Y.O.U. Mobile MakerSpace, which brings STEAM programming developed in Y.O.U.'s MakerSpace to our elementary and middle school sites, cooking, gardening, dance experiences, plus so much more. We were thrilled to expand services into Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies in April of this year and build strong relationships with the youth and school community. Our summer programs were bursting with energy and served as a continuum of care, bridging our after-school program with summer activities and partnerships.

Y.O.U.'s clinical team was in the field, working with local agencies to ensure our youth have resources to meet their basic needs. With creative therapeutic options such as art therapy, movement/dance therapy, and cognitive behavior therapy, our skilled team meets our youth where they are at, which instills trust while building skills that will help them navigate life's challenges with grace and dignity.

In 2023, Y.O.U. experienced a 76% increase in youth served in our Out-of-School Time Program over 2022. As more and more youth are turning to Y.O.U. for academic support and engagement, we found our staff more engaged and committed than ever.

As we closed out our fiscal year, we extended our gratitude for Letitia Mann's leadership as Board Chair and welcomed Henry Wilkins to the role. A committed community advocate, we are grateful to have Henry and the board of directors as strategic partners to carry out our mission of serving youth in Evanston and Skokie.

Looking to what's ahead, our hope is that through the hard work and dedication of our staff and the community, we are the stronghold—the bridge—that allows our youth to succeed and thrive. Thank you for being part of the Y.O.U. family. We could not achieve our mission without you. Together, we are building the bridge to equity and empowerment where our youth know that their voices are valued and they can change the world.



Henry Wilkins President, Board of Directors

C. Lynch Craig Lynch

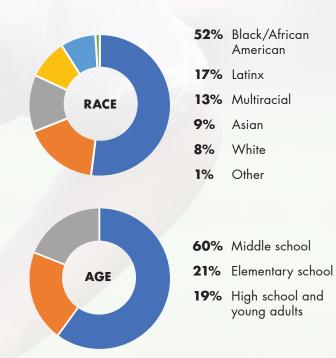
Craig Lyncn Chief Executive Officer

Y.O.U. works to bridge the opportunity gap by providing academic, social, and emotional support to youth through the Out-of-School Time Program and Community-Based Services. We use three primary strategies in our work:

- Identity-affirming relationships
- Expanded learning opportunities
- Resources to meet emerging needs

Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies Chute Middle School Dawes Elementary School Evanston Township High School King Arts Literary & Fine Arts School Nichols Middle School Oakton Elementary School Old Orchard Junior High School Walker Elementary School Washington Elementary School Y.O.U. Headquarters

453 Out-of-School Time participants **1,158** Community-Based Services clients





...We were able to first, find safe housing for Natalie with a family member and then assist the family in reducing some household stress by providing much needed supplies and gift cards for food.

A BRIDGE TO The community

Y.O.U. has been serving the Evanston community for over 52 years! In that time, we've built deep relationships with schools, community organizations, and families. This year, we made new connections and strengthened our existing network to provide resources and support for more Evanston youth.

New Program at Bessie Rhodes

Last spring, Y.O.U. introduced its first new OST site in over 10 years at Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies. The pilot provided both elementary and middle grades youth with key academic, social, and emotional programming. Thanks to the warm welcome Y.O.U. received, we were also able to provide mental health counseling during the school day for the first time. We built strong relationships with families and school staff—100% of caregivers would recommend Y.O.U. to other families—and look forward to supporting even more youth during our first full year of programming.

Housing Crisis Response Team

As the only comprehensive community based youth service provider in Evanston, Y.O.U. provides 24/7 support to youth experiencing housing-related crises. One such youth is Natalie:

"The first time we met Natalie, she was sitting in the Y.O.U. lobby after 7:00 p.m. Natalie had been in an argument with her family, and she was told to leave. With nowhere else to turn, she remembered her teacher had shared that she could go to Y.O.U. if she ever needed help. Working with the Housing Crisis Response Team, Y.O.U.'s Community Case Manager, and Youth and Family Counselors, we were able to first, find safe housing for Natalie with a family member and then assist the family in reducing some household stress by providing much needed supplies and gift cards for food. Our Youth and Family Counselor worked with the family to identify acceptable behavior for everyone, which created a more stable home environment. Our Clinical team continues to support them today!" Teresa, Executive Director of Clinical and Outreach Services

A BRIDGE TO **New Experiences**

Youth who participate in Y.O.U. gain access to a world of new experiences. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff create programming that centers youth's interests and responds to their needs. Our building, which hosts a MakerSpace, organic gardens, and a demonstration kitchen, provides opportunities to learn something new everyday. 97% of caretakers say Y.O.U. has helped their child engage in learning!

YES! Camp

The Youth Entrepreneur Summer Camp returned this summer after a four year hiatus. High school youth designed and prototyped their original business ideas in the MakerSpace, which included 3-D printed awards, ceramic cups, leather wallets, and silicone paper weights. At the end of the summer, YES! Camp participants also collaborated with elementary youth to paint a mural at the recently-opened C&W Ice Cream Parlor next door to Y.O.U.

Mobile MakerSpace

MakerSpace Manager Allen wanted all youth to have access to the MakerSpace resources, so he created the TinkerSpace, a mobile Maker lab. The TinkerSpace traveled to elementary and middle school sites and taught youth STEAM concepts like designing a project using a 3-D printer and exploring engineering concepts using LEGO. Youth concluded their TinkerSpace experience by working in teams to create their own prototypes of a 3-D printed boat.

It's a Rap

Over the summer, high school youth combined mindfulness and music production in It's a Rap. This collaboration between OST and counseling staff aimed to help youth explore their self-identity, find their voice and actualize their feelings into words, and develop agency while practicing beatmaking and rapping.



WHY DID YOU LIKE IT'S A RAP?

CHADANE

It's my favorite out of all the Y.O.U. programs! I liked working on beatmaking and the rapping activities.

"

REGGIE

I prefer making stuff more than talking about it, so I liked that it was a hands-on experience.

BEVERLEY

My favorite part was writing lyrics because it's kind of like poetry. The staff are my favorite people.







WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

LEO

That I would be a newbie instead of the oldest and how to find my way.

DANTE

How to get to class on time.

KAMERON

The school layout and how to get a good feel for the school.

KAITLYN

What activities and opportunities there are to participate in.

A BRIDGE TO Each other

Relationships are at the heart of what we do. As one of our core values, we intentionally create spaces for youth to build relationships with each other. By constructing programming that spans sites and grades, youth have the freedom to step into leadership roles and see each other as trusted resources.

98% of caretakers say Y.O.U. has helped build their child's confidence.

Future Chute Eagles



School transitions can be a nerve-wracking time for youth. In the spring, Chute hosted Future Chute Eagles for 5th graders at Dawes, Oakton, and Walker who were preparing to graduate to middle school. Sixth graders served as leaders, planning activities and tours for the fifth graders based on their own experiences of being new to the school. Thanks to this programming, youth were able to start middle school having already made connections with each other and established a sense of comfort with the school.

Peer Mentorship

As part of Old Orchard's Leadership Fridays series, 6th and 8th graders participated in a peer mentorship program that aimed to build social-emotional skills like self-awareness and personal responsibility. Youth were matched according to their strengths and interests, with 8th graders serving as role models and mentors who helped the 6th graders integrate more into the junior high school community. The mentorship program culminated in an awards ceremony, with mentors and mentees recognizing strengths within each other.

A BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Because success looks different for everyone, Y.O.U. supports youth as they figure out their own definition of success. 97% of caregivers say Y.O.U. has helped their child establish future goals. By encouraging them to explore a multitude of interests in the present, we help them envision their future.

Shark Tank Showdown

Chute Middle School staff introduced youth to entrepreneurship in this new enrichment where youth learned about famous entrepreneurs of color and created their own brands. Youth collaborated with each other to design and create products such as hydrodipped sunglasses, jewelry, buttons, and lip scrubs. The entrepreneurs put their marketing and leadership skills into action during a Family Night where they launched and sold their creations.

Art Exhibition

"

Youth at Oakton, Washington, and King Arts spent last winter exploring their creativity with Art Encounter, one of Y.O.U.'s longtime enrichment providers. They started by journaling as a way to explore feelings that they don't normally talk about, then they created colorful abstract art. Youth displayed their work in a month-long exhibit at the Evanston Public Library. Y.O.U. took the artists on a field trip to the opening reception, where families were invited to see all of the artwork, take a tour of the library, and sign up for library cards.

JAY, OAKTON AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

It builds up your self-esteem when you can see your artwork displayed in public and provides encouragement that youth can also be artists or authors. And that they don't have to wait—they are doing it now!





FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 6.30.23

	FY23	FY22
Cash & Restricted Cash	2,818,818	3,355,569
Receivables, net of allowance	508,427	822,655
Facilities & Equipment	5,458,672	5,604,493
Endowment	2,780,385	2,659,337
Other Assets	60,442	51,051
TOTAL	11,626,744	12,493,105
Liabilities	337,157	164,836
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	7,586,763	8,682,998
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	3,702,824	3,645,271
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	11,626,744	12,493,105

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF 6.30.23*

	FY23	FY22
Government	2,148,405	1,982,957
Contributions	1,158,994	1,426,255
Special Events	335,759	211,325
TOTAL REVENUE	3,643,158	3,620,537
Program Services	3,169,970	2,584,429
Management & General	925,966	897,658
Fundraising	413,873	409,923
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,509,809	3,892,010
OPERATING INCOME	(866,651)	(271,473)

* These results reflect total revenue less restricted endowment investment income. The FY23 audit was being conducted at the time of publication; thus, these figures do not represent audited financials.

OUR PARTNERS

EvanSTEM

Each year, Y.O.U. partners with a host of organizations to enhance program offerings, connect youth and families to additional community resources, ensure efforts are not duplicated, and work towards collective impact.

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Art Encounter ARTSiE Changing Worlds Chef Q. Ibraheem Culture Shock DIME (Dance Is My Everything) Eat Play Learn Evanston Art Center Evanston Public Library George Folz Cartooning Hot Shots Sports Michelle Weinsman (African Drumming) Museum of Science and Industry Noggin Builders Northlight Theatre Open Studio Project Peggy Notebaert Museum Sam Says Let's Play Tennis Sticky Fingers Cooking The Talking Farm TrueNU



DON BAKER CIRCLE FOR YOUTH

Named for our visionary founder and Director Emeritus Don Baker, the Don Baker Circle for Youth is a giving society established to recognize supporters who make annual fund contributions of \$1,000 or more to Y.O.U. We are grateful for this generous support.

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