

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

YOUTH & OPPORTUNITY UNITED

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are living through times like no other. Amidst these challenges, I have never been more proud of the work of Y.O.U. as we pivoted to serve youth and families continuously throughout the pandemic. Y.O.U. was uniquely positioned to respond to this crisis based on our deep understanding of youth needs, collaborative partner relationships, and solid financial footing. We continued our comprehensive focus on academic, social, and emotional needs through enhanced academic support, connections while apart, and increased mental health support.

In just the period of March through June 2019, the number of youth and families served through our case management and counseling services grew 365% from the prior eight months. Y.O.U. clinicians are supporting more youth than ever, and our Out-of-School-Time Programs went virtual with staff providing engaging, enriching, and experiential programming in new formats.

Y.O.U. has deepened our work as an organization and board to ensure that we fully understand and address the effects of systemic racism. We are examining our programs and policies with an anti-racist and equity lens, to enhance positive youth outcomes.

In July, Y.O.U. welcomed Craig Lynch as Chief Executive Officer. Everyone was excited to work with this seasoned professional who has spent his career in education and social services. With Craig in place, the organization continues its historical leadership in the youth development field while adapting to best meet the needs of youth and families during these challenging times. Y.O.U. will continue to lean into our partnerships, respond to new and expanding needs, view youth holistically, and seek excellence in our support of post-secondary and life success for youth.

Cell P Main

Letitia Mann

President, Board of Directors

FROM Y.O.U.'S NEW CEO

Thank you for your generous and enthusiastic support of Y.O.U. and the warm welcome I have received since joining the organization. Like many organizations, Y.O.U. was forced to adapt our traditional programming to best serve youth and families while our schools shut down due to the pandemic.

The year has certainly brought its challenges including a pandemic that continues to disproportionately affect underserved communities. In the face of that challenge, our response has been guided by agility, resilience, and creativity. I am proud of the ways in which Y.O.U. and our community have responded to meet our youth's emerging needs.

I look forward to partnering with you to deliver even more high impact support and services to our youth and families.



Craig Lynch
Chief Executive Officer

1,615

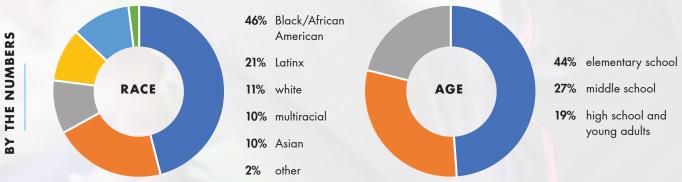
Youth and young adults served by Y.O.U. last year in our community.

Y.O.U. works to close the opportunity gap and prepare youth for post-secondary and life success.

The majority of youth served are low-income. Youth were served through comprehensive out-of-school-time programming, community-based services, and 5th ward programming at Y.O.U.'s headquarters.

Youth served by Y.O.U. include youth of color, LGBTQ+ identifying youth, immigrants, and housing insecure youth.





Y.O.U. IN 2020

By participating in Y.O.U., my child improved on her school activities like homework and found new ways to do school activities.

She gained a lot of support and learned how to trust herself.

Caregiver of Y.O.U. youth

COMBATING SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) conducted a national review comparing spring to fall scores on their standardized MAP test. They found that students drop an average of 3-5 points over the summer with summer learning loss increasing through elementary and middle school. Y.O.U. reviewed MAP test scores for elementary and middle school youth who took spring and fall MAP tests in 2019.

- On average, Y.O.U. youth experienced gains in both math and reading scores from spring to fall 2019.
- Y.O.U. youth who attended 20 days or more showed higher gains in scores than those who attended fewer days.

Y.O.U.'S UNIQUE APPROACH

- Relationships are at the center of all programming
- Experiential, project-based, and youth-led
- Asset-based, trauma-informed, culturally competent, and equitable
- Deeply engaged partners to ensure holistic services
- High expectations, high support



OUR FRAMEWORK & APPROACH

Y.O.U. advances youth success and builds youth resilience through programs that foster academic, social, and emotional growth. These include school-based and community-based programs and services.

Y.O.U. provides a comprehensive continuum of Outof-School-Time (OST) Programs from 3rd through 12th grade, partnering with 11 schools and 4 school districts. Family engagement and clinical services are fully integrated into OST Programs. The clinical services Y.O.U. Youth & Family Counselors provide include case management and individual, family, and group therapy.

Y.O.U.'s OST Programs are built within the developmental framework Foundations for Young Adult Success by the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research. Within this framework, Y.O.U. carefully designs and selects tailored program components to engage youth along a path of exposure, exploration, and experience.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) opportunities at Y.O.U. are just one example of how programming deepens as youth move along this

continuum. Elementary youth learn coding basics. Middle schoolers can participate in more challenging First LEGO League coding and robotics projects. By high school, youth are utilizing Y.O.U.'s Makerspace to engage in projects ranging from complex circuitry to drone-making.

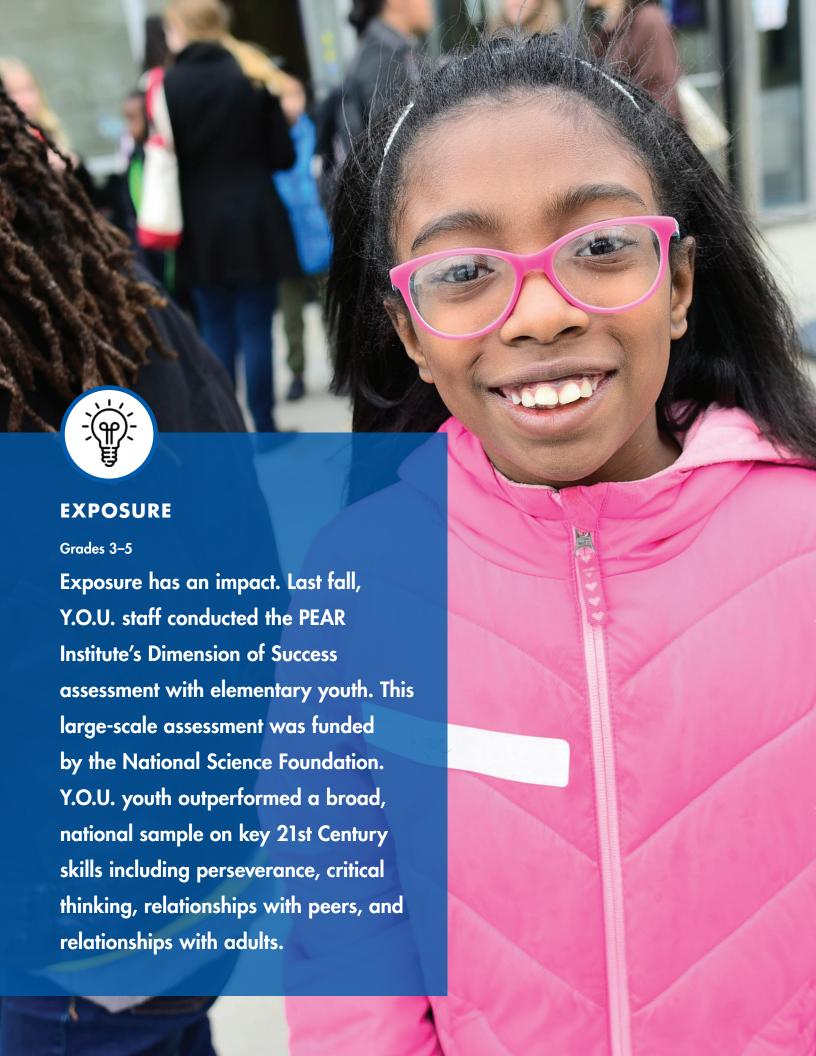
TRANSITIONS ARE KEY

Y.O.U.'s Level Up and Highway to High School support 5th and 8th graders, respectively, each spring before transitions to middle and high school. Peer is Y.O.U.'s comprehensive summer bridge experience for rising 9th graders.









ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Y.O.U.'s Elementary OST Program provides a learning ground and solid foundation for youth in 3rd through 5th grades. Through engagement in collaborative hands-on learning and exposure to unique enrichment experiences, youth begin to develop competencies in self-awareness, self-management, and social relations.



SCHOOLS

Dawes, Edison, Oakton, Walker, and Washington Elementary Schools

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

Y.O.U. Basketball League

Y.O.U. partnered with Hot Shots Sports to develop a unique curriculum that is sports-based and builds social-emotional skills. Youth learned fundamental basketball skills and techniques from Hot Shots Sports coaches with complementary social-emotional skills incorporated by Y.O.U. staff each week. Participants learned how to build self-confidence through practice drills, learned to communicate effectively on the court during stressful moments, and regularly explored the importance of cooperation and relationship building among a team. Y.O.U. also introduced a cross-site basketball league where youth traveled to other Y.O.U. elementary sites to play games in front of enthusiastic crowds.

Wild About Nature

As part of a robust virtual summer program, Wild About Nature used the natural world to teach science, ecology, and health in fun, engaging ways. Hands-on projects incorporated outdoor exploration and used both materials found in nature as well as repurposed man-made materials to learn about natural processes, ecosystems, and types of energy. Youth re-sprouted crops including green onions and strawberries, created non-toxic paints and natural paint brushes, and built solar-powered night lights. Youth embraced personal environmental responsibility and identified means to lighten their carbon footprint and care for nature.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Y.O.U.'s Middle OST Program centers on engaging and empowering youth in 6th through 8th grades through exploration of new ideas and experiences that provide space to learn and grow. With a focus on building youth confidence and self-efficacy, encouraging their independent thought, and celebrating their social awareness and identity, youth are better able to navigate the increased academic and social challenges of middle school and be well-positioned for success in high school and beyond.

SCHOOLS

Chute and Nichols Middle Schools, King Arts Literacy & Fine Arts School, Lincoln and Old Orchard Junior High Schools

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

Community Conversations

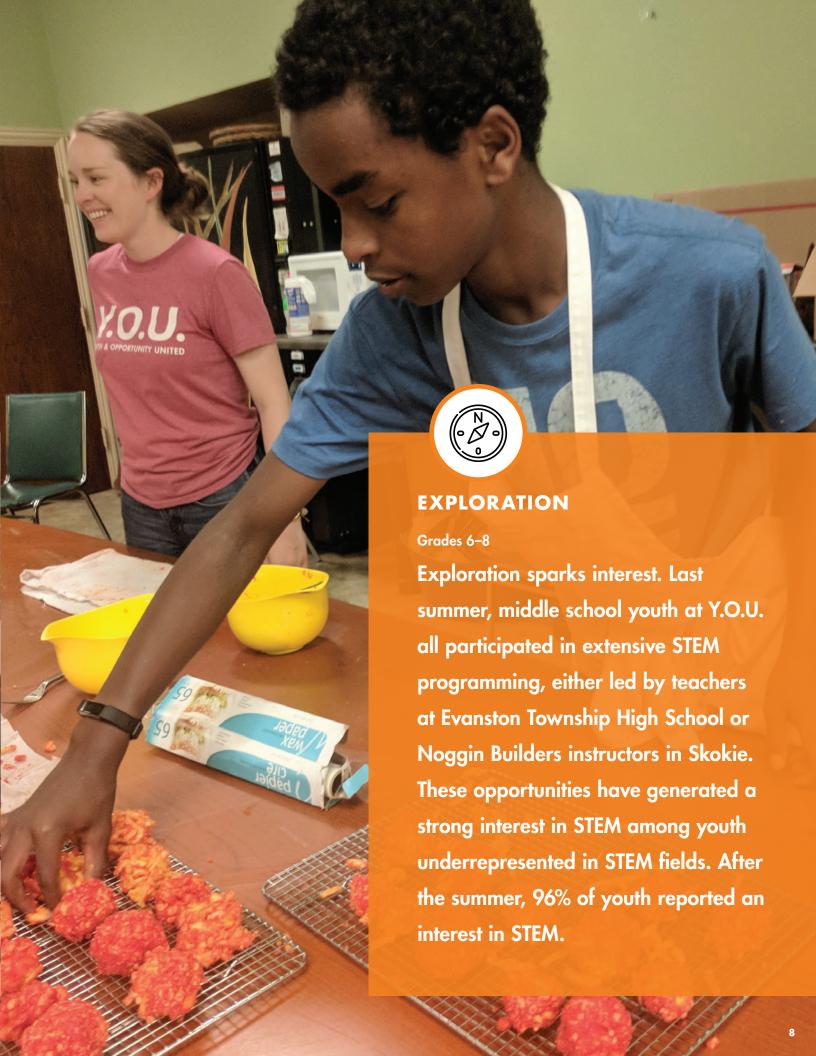
In light of continued and highly publicized racial injustices and trauma, Y.O.U. expanded responsive conversations to a weekly virtual space for youth to openly engage in discussions on issues impacting their community. Youth requested an ongoing space to gather with staff and discuss racial justice, social unrest, intersectionality, and the role of the media. Youth self-identity, self-care, and agency were strengthened through these supportive dialogues.

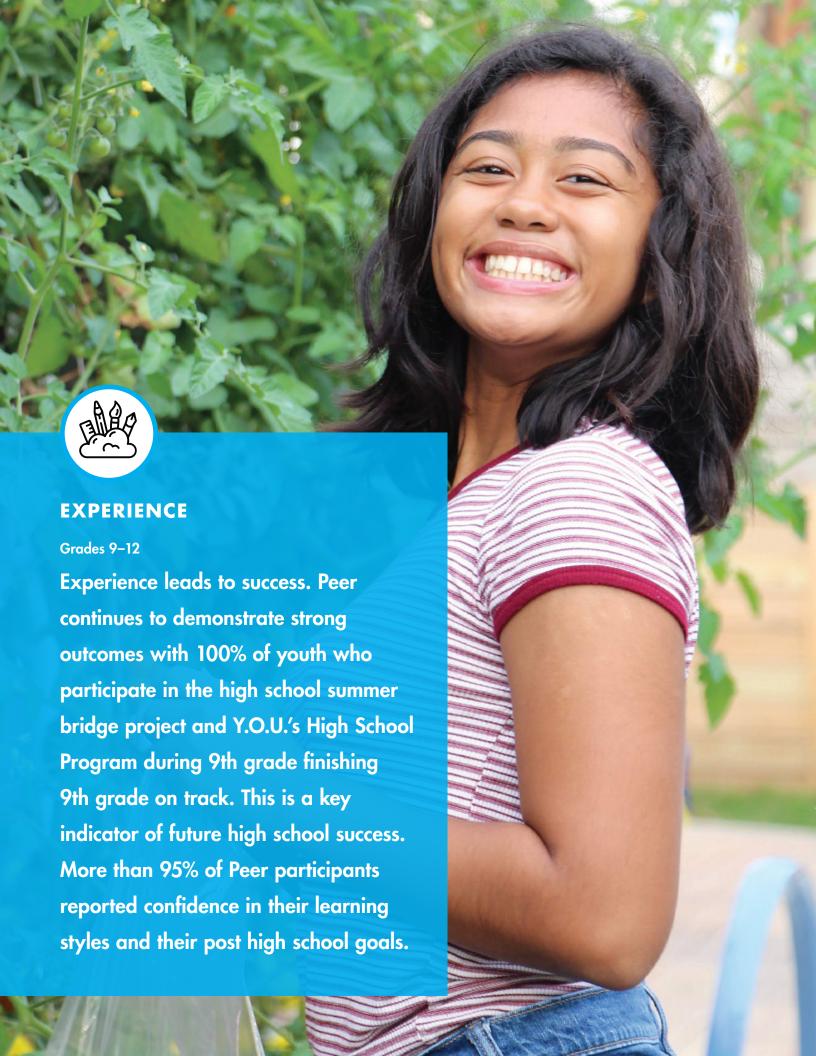
Beatz 2 Me

Y.O.U. developed an innovative psychosocial group, which used music as a safe and non-confrontational means of expression. Youth analyzed lyrics and songs, using music to help youth develop positive ways of releasing fears, anxieties, and anger while simultaneously increasing self-esteem and empathy. Youth discussed how their self-image affects thinking, behavior, and relationships and how to develop positive relations with one's self and others.



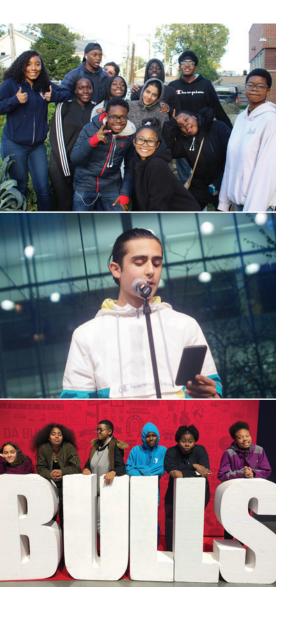






HIGH SCHOOL

Y.O.U.'s High School Program centers on youth agency, identity, and relationships. Through experiential activities, youth develop real life skills, hone their problem solving and decision-making abilities, create learning spaces, and imagine future pathways.



SCHOOLS

Evanston Township High School

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

Ready to Launch

Y.O.U.'s Ready to Launch/Senior Advisory propels high school seniors into college by supporting youth in finding the best college fit, preparing essays and applications, and accessing financial aid. Last year, four Y.O.U. program participants each received \$1,000 scholarships after enrolling in college.

Base Camp

Y.O.U. Makerspace's Base Camp worked virtually with youth over the summer on independent STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) projects. Youth researched and pitched project ideas, each receiving \$150 to obtain materials and develop their project. Staff worked with youth, providing tutorials as needed.

At the completion of summer Base Camp, youth presented final projects, sharing lessons learned and future plans. Projects included t-shirt design, furniture carpentry, and acrylic nail development. Experiences strengthened youth's technical skills and presentation abilities and fostered entrepreneurial thinking and problem solving.

RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

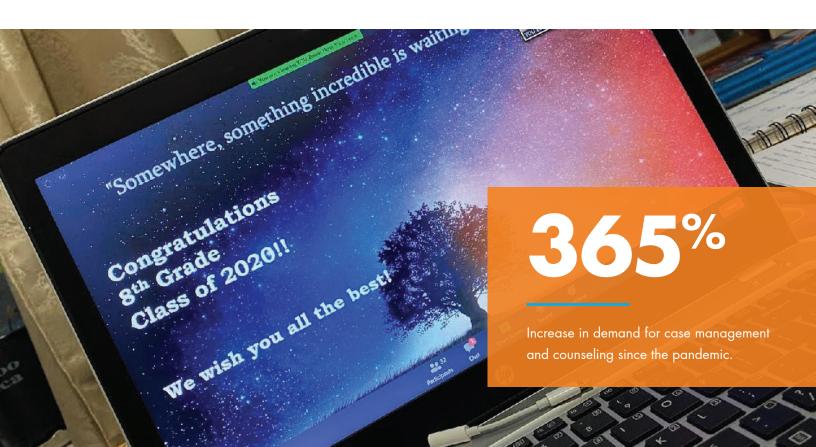
From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Y.O.U. has continued to offer all programs and services, adapting and expanding in response to new and increased community needs.

With school closures, Y.O.U. quickly reached out to every family to assess immediate needs. Y.O.U. supported families with technology and the quick transition to remote learning.

Our Clinical Team helped families obtain public allowances and access resources while providing concrete basic needs support such as food, clothing, diapers, and transportation assistance. Y.O.U. also provided families with COVID-related safety supplies like masks and hand sanitizer.

Our OST Programs went virtual, supporting youth with remote learning, providing virtual spaces to gather with friends and staff to maintain connection, and infusing enrichment opportunities into days spent isolated at home.

Over time, Y.O.U. observed and addressed longer-term needs, including social connections, family mental health, and access to employment and health care resources. Y.O.U.'s Clinical Team worked to meet all of these needs, and OST staff creatively developed and implemented an innovative virtual summer program.





Y.O.U.'s Clinical and Community Services—always a vital component of our work—saw rapid and dramatic increases in demand. The need for extensive case management services for families in crisis grew alongside an increase in calls to our 24/7 youth housing crisis hotline. Responses to this hotline have continued without interruption.

Case management services provide for basic needs (food, transportation, clothing, diapers) and link families to critical community resources. There also has been a significant rise in individual and family counseling needs as youth and families experience anxiety, stress, and trauma from living through the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice. Y.O.U. Youth & Family Counselors participated in pandemic-related training and are now Certified Clinical Tele-mental Health Providers and Certified Clinical Anxiety Treatment Professionals.

Over the summer, Y.O.U. partnered with Connections for the Homeless to provide life skills support, enrichment programming, and case management for middle and high school youth and their families in congregant living in Evanston.

During this hard time,
Y.O.U. has been lifesavers with
my daughter. Staff help with her
homework and also they keep her
mind busy and learning with all this
new programming. I just want to
say with all my heart: THANK YOU.
Y.O.U program, you are a blessing.

Caregiver of Y.O.U. elementary youth

CLINICAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Y.O.U. expands access to resources that strengthen youth, families, and their communities.

Y.O.U. partners with local agencies and other nonprofits, provides preventive services and emergency youth housing support, and fosters family education and engagement. Y.O.U.'s Clinical Services provide support to OST Programs. They include psychoeducational groups; individual, family, and group counseling; crisis intervention; case management; and caregiver support and engagement.

Y.O.U.'s Community Services support runaway and homeless youth and young adults ages 11-22. They include gateway and wraparound case management services, a 24/7 youth housing crisis hotline, street outreach and drop-in support, and referrals to our collective impact partners. Y.O.U. also runs community programs from our headquarters, primarily serving our 5th Ward neighbors. These events provide youth, as young as five years old, and families access to various enrichments, including culinary, STEAM, life skills development, financial literacy, and our 3rd Annual Code-a-Thon.

Y.O.U. Youth & Family
Counselors provide counseling
in English, Spanish, and Urdu
among other languages.



HAPPENINGS AT 1911 CHURCH STREET





FOOD FARMING FUTURE (F3)

Y.O.U.'s beautiful and bountiful garden was not shut down by the COVID-19 pandemic. Y.O.U. staff, partners from The Talking Farm, and F³ youth leaders safely tended to the garden and harvested once a week throughout the summer and fall.

Each week, all F³ participants received no-contact deliveries of harvest baskets and recipes. Virtual F³ sessions including cooking classes and discussions of urban farming, the week's garden harvest, sustainability, and environmental justice. Summer F³ participants even created a cookbook of summer recipes and photos of their culinary creations.

CHEF Q AND COMMUNITY MEALS

When schools shut down in March due to COVID, Y.O.U.'s culinary partner, Chef Q. Ibraheem, began fielding calls from families in search of virtual cooking classes to keep their kids busy. During those conversations, Chef Q identified a rapidly growing need for families who recently had a disruption in income to access groceries and meals.

Y.O.U. opened its kitchen to Chef Q and her team, and, since March, more than 25,000 meals have been prepared and delivered to families to date in our community as a result of this collaboration!

DID YOU KNOW?

Y.O.U. hosted four repair clinics at our headquarters last year. Volunteers from We Build Community Evanston repaired and taught owners to fix bikes, appliances, jewelry, clothing, and more in an effort to reuse and reduce waste.

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 6.30.20

	FY20	FY19
Cash & Restricted Cash	2,702,349	2,318,313
Receivables, net of allowance	982,136	1,220,399
Facilities & Equipment	5,942,030	6,114,583
Endowment	2,605,958	2,598,373
Other Assets	53,605	53,935
TOTAL	\$12,286,078	\$12,305,603
Payables & Accruals	272,972	355,806
Unrestricted Net Assets	8,512,286	8,005,195
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	1,459,433	1,903,215
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	2,041,387	2,041,387
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$12,286,078	\$12,305,603

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF 6.30.20*

	FY20	FY19
Government	2,578,668	2,179,197
Contributions	1,479,669	1,761,458
Special Events	303,386	266,320
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,361,723	\$4,206,975
Program Services	3,166,589	3,118,016
Management & General	<i>7</i> 12,258	565,190
Fundraising	378,584	357,634
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,257,431	\$4,040,840
OPERATING INCOME	\$104,292	\$166,135

^{*} These results reflect total revenue less restricted endowment investment income.

OUR PARTNERS

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.

Tag You're It! introduced elementary youth to urban art and associated social messaging through exposure to graffiti-style street art. Through Y.O.U.'s partnership with Northwestern University, youth visited the Block Museum's Pop America exhibit, which portrayed societal issues through bold imagery.

Y.O.U. implemented a variety of hands-on STEM learning activities, including Spy Science Secret Agents in Training, through our partnership with the Museum of Science and Industry. Youth learned about codes and cryptology, scientific observation, and forensics, and discussed the ethics of using spy skills.

Jeanne Lee (yoga)

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PUBLIC

City of Evanston
Evanston/Skokie School District 65
Evanston Township High School
District 202
Niles Township High Schools
District 219
Skokie School District 68
Skokie/Morton Grove School

Village of Skokie

District 69

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County Big Brothers Big Sisters Bundled Blessings City of Evanston's Youth and Young Adult Division Connections for the Homeless Curt's Café Erie Family Health Center

ETHS Health Center **EvanSTEM Evanston Art Center** Evanston Cradle to Career Evanston Local Area Network 40 Evanston Public Library **Evanston Scholars** Family Action Network (FAN) Family Focus Foundation 65 Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health Illinois Collaboration on Youth Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Infant Welfare Society of Evanston James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy McGaw YMCA Niles Township Local Area Network 41

Northwestern University

Oakton Community College

Relations

Neighborhood and Community

Response for Teens The Bridge Youth and Family Services The Harbour, Inc. Youth Job Center YWCA Evanston/North Shore **OST PROGRAM PROVIDER** Art Encounter Chef Q. Ibraheem Chemistry in the Kitchen Chicago Loves Dance Common Threads Cooking Daniel Williams (dance) David Bond (culinary) DIME (Dance Is My Everything) **Evanston Art Center** Evanston Public Library Fitness Avenue

Full Package Athletics

Hot Shots Sports

George Folz Cartooning

OMNI Youth Services

PEER Services

Kumani Youth Programs Matthew Talavera (fitness) Mudlark Theater Museum of Science and Industry Next Level Martial Arts Noggin Builders North Shore Music Northlight Theatre Northwestern University: Block Museum of Art Poetry & Poetics Oakton Community College Open Studio Project Overtime Athletics Simeon Mladenov (volleyball) Sticky Fingers Cooking Summer Kelly (step) The Recyclery The Talking Farm Yoli Maya Yeh (yoga)



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.

Andy and Whitney Baker
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Cless Family Foundation

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Mary and Paul Finnegan

Rachel Fowler

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Wali

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The Lehman-Stamm Family Fund

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DONORS

Y.O.U. is grateful for our many generous donors in Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020). Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We sincerely apologize for any omissions or errors in spelling.

\$100,000+

Anonymous Mary and Paul Finnegan Illinois Department of Human Services Illinois Department of Public Health Illinois State Board of Education Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation United Way of Metro Chicago US Department of Health and Human Services

\$50,000+

City of Evanston Mental Health Board Exelon

Frankel Family Foundation

\$25,000+

Cless Family Foundation Finnegan Family Foundation George R. Kendall Foundation Adele and Roland Martel Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr. Family Foundation Paul M. Angell Family Foundation Union Pacific Foundation

\$10,000+

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Evanston Community Foundation

Golden Family Foundation

Illinois Tool Works Foundation

Kenilworth Union Church

Ross and Lori Laser

Letitia and Jeffrey Mann

PurePoint Financial

Tom and Maryellen Scott

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The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation

Steve and Sue Wilson

\$5,000+

Anonymous (2)

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Matthew English

Mimi Frankel

Mark and Shelley Hall

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Illinois Tool Works

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MacArthur Foundation Matching Gift

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\$2,500+

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Michael Turner and Janet Crawford

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Development Block Grant

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\$1,000+

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Bramer Animal Hospital

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Noah and Erika Carey

Stuart Chanen and Julie Fenton

Gerry Cleary and Sarah Hanson

Marty and Kristin Cless

Hilary Cohen

Craig and Kate Collinson

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Evanston Community Bank & Trust

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