

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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DEAR FRIENDS,

After a year like no other, we are proud to share Y.O.U.'s 2021 Annual Report. The theme of our 2020-2021 year was flexibility and adaptation across our programs, services, and organization.

As circumstances continued to change for our youth and families, Y.O.U. continued to respond—in creative and nimble ways. Many of our youth experienced an entire year of remote learning. Others experienced a return to school with mask-wearing, social distancing, and hybrid schedules. Many youth also experienced a need for mental health support. In response, Y.O.U. pivoted how and when we provided services throughout the changing year to provide youth and their families with academic, social, and emotional support and mental health services.

As an out-of-school-time provider, we don't typically work with youth during the school day. That all changed because of COVID. For the first time, Y.O.U. provided school-day support—both remotely and in-person at select schools. This allowed us to deepen our impact and build stronger relationships with teachers. Our program staff learned a great deal about the academic needs of our youth while working with them so we now can provide more robust academic support each day after school.

Over the summer, Y.O.U.'s Out-of-School-Time Program fully resumed in-person programming. This was a critical step in ensuring that youth were able to reconnect and ready to return to classrooms in the fall. Y.O.U. also was proud to partner with the City of Evanston and The Collective to implement the summer youth safety initiative My City, Your City, Our City, which ensured that young people had safe and engaging places to go, things to do, and access to resources during evening and weekend hours.

During this year of fluidity and responsiveness, Y.O.U. focused on a deeper foundational understanding of our work and path forward. This year, a dedicated group of staff developed Y.O.U.'s theory of change. This process allowed us to clarify and better articulate the why and how of our work. In addition to building a stronger understanding of and alignment of our work, our theory of change informed a new strategic plan—a process we began last spring. Our strategic plan affirms our commitment to the success of youth and families, as well as Y.O.U.'s leadership in youth development.

Finally, Y.O.U. kicked off our 50th anniversary year in 2021! This major milestone is only possible because of Y.O.U.'s strength in meeting youth needs and evolving in response to changing needs over time, along with the unwavering and generous support of our community. We are excited as we begin Y.O.U.'s next 50 years. We could not do it without YOU!



Cele P Main

Letitia Mann President, Board of Directors

C. Lynch Craig Lynch

Chief Executive Officer

WHO WE SERVED IN 2021

Evanston

Skokie

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3rd–5th grades

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL

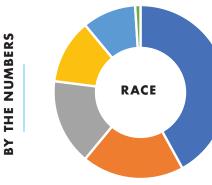
6–8th grades

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

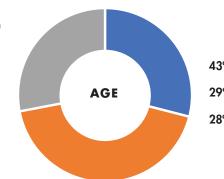
HIGH SCHOOL

9–12th grades Evanston Township High School

Y.O.U. HEADQUARTERS Counseling center, Makerspace, organic garden, demonstration kitchen







43%	middle school
29 %	elementary school
28 %	high school and voung adults

Y.O.U.'s mission is to promote the agency, success, and wellbeing of young people and their families through identity-affirming relationships, expanded learning opportunities, and resources to meet emerging needs.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

RELATIONSHIPS

We seek to build trust, forge authentic connections, and operate in the spirit of true collaboration, partnership, and community.

BELONGING

We affirm every person's individuality and humanity, taking an intersectional approach to anti-racism and honoring all identities in ways that advance inclusion, equity, and justice.

CREATIVITY

We center and strive for organizational and individual lifelong learning and growth, innovation, aspiration, and curiosity.

JOY

We embrace optimism, hope, and celebration as fundamental tenets of and fuel for our work.

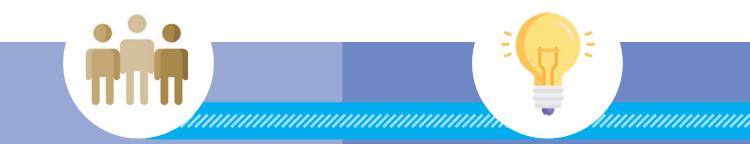


EPAD



Y.O.U.'S THEORY OF CHANGE

We at Y.O.U. believe that all young people deserve opportunities and spaces that embrace their whole being and support them in defining and achieving their goals.



WE SERVE YOUTH

Centering historically marginalized and underrepresented communities.

WITH THESE STRATEGIES

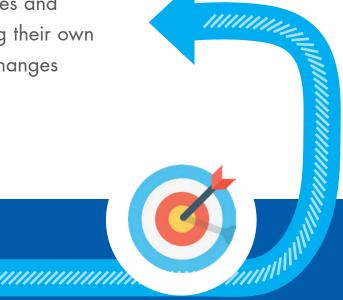
- Identity-affirming relationships
- Expanded learning opportunities
- Resources to meet emerging needs

THE PROBLEM

Systemic and structural inequities lead to disproportionate access, which in turn leads to disparities in opportunity, resources, and spaces that promote well-being and success.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Y.O.U. envisions a future where all structures and systems support young people in designing their own paths to success and bringing about the changes they want to see in the world.

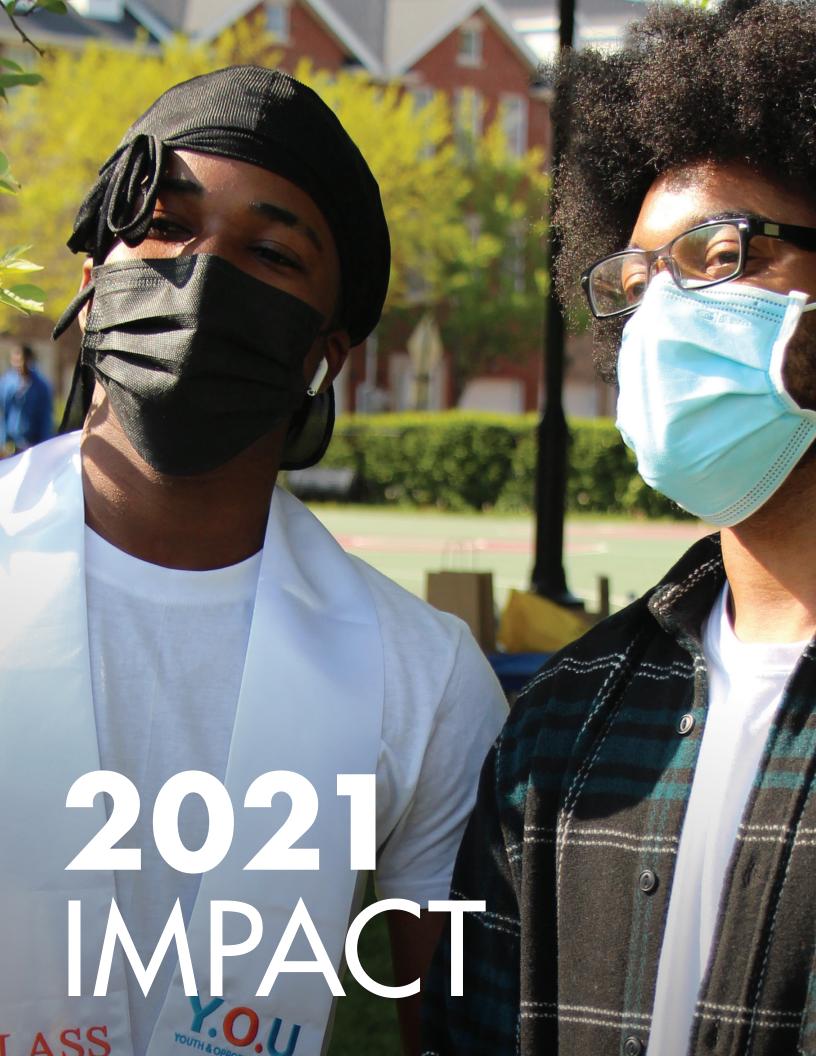


AND THESE ACTIVITIES

Academic, social, and emotional support through Out-of-School Time Programs and Community-Based Services

THIS LEADS TO

- Agency
- Social supports
- Well-being
- Social-emotional development
- Collaboration
- Life skills





LEVERAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND MEETING MATERIAL NEEDS

800%

increase in youth who received preventive outreach services from Y.O.U. through enhanced collaboration 100%

of youth facing a housing crisis placed in family or longterm living arrangement

DEVELOPING IDENTITY-AFFIRMING RELATIONSHIPS, BUILDING AGENCY, AND WORKING COLLECTIVELY

100%

of high school youth reported having the power and resources to make informed choices and decisions 88%

of high school youth reported feeling part of a community at Y.O.U.

EXPANDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



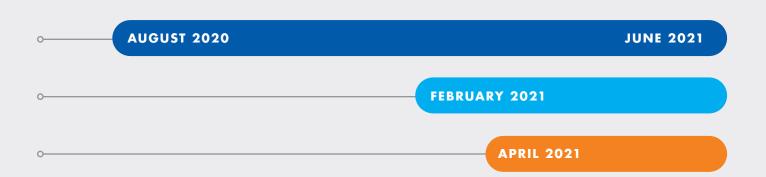
of youth reported that Y.O.U. helped them do well at school last year



of youth reported that Y.O.U. staff helped them stay on track during the school day during remote and hybrid learning

SUPPORTING SCHOOL SUCCESS IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

Last year was full of constantly changing circumstances. All Y.O.U. youth began school fully remote, and then many transitioned to varying hybrid and in-person models starting in early 2021. Y.O.U. responded to this challenge by adapting throughout the year to support our youth and families.



VIRTUAL SCHOOL-DAY PROGRAMMING

All 11 of our partner schools begin the school year remotely. Y.O.U. provides virtual programming: one-on-one and small group academic support, socialemotional learning, and enrichments.

SCHOOL-BASED HYBRID LEARNING SUPPORT

For the first time, Y.O.U. provides integrated academic support to students during the school day at four schools. Y.O.U. staff provide in-person supervision, support, and programming to youth in schools during the asynchronous portion of each day.

IN-PERSON AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Two schools in Skokie transition to full-day in-person learning, and Y.O.U. resumes our traditional afterschool program model there. We continue to provide both virtual and in-person programming during the school day at our nine other schools.

Thank you for supporting Brandon during e-learning. He really needed an adult to just be present with him, and it made a significant difference for him in work completion and attendance.

-Teacher of Y.O.U. youth

HOLISTIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Y.O.U. provides a wide range of enrichment opportunities to students to ignite their interest in art, science, sports, cooking, and more. Through staff-developed curricula and provider partnerships, youth engage in hands-on learning experiences to explore the world around them, develop agency, and build realworld skills.

SCHOOLYARD SCIENCE

Over the summer, Y.O.U. partnered with the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum to provide outdoor learning experiences for elementary youth.

The Outdoor Schoolyard Science Series challenged youth to take a closer look at what they see everyday, finding new ways to connect with nature and encouraging their curiosity. Students surveyed plants and animals seen around their school and kept nature journals where they could count, draw, and write about their discoveries.

MAKERSPACE SENIOR PROJECTS

Y.O.U.'s Lewis-Sebring Makerspace turned four last year! For Y.O.U.'s graduating seniors, the Makerspace was part of their entire Y.O.U. high school experience. Makerspace programming promotes persistence, risk-taking, collaboration, curiosity, and community involvement. Senior projects—fully designed and built by seniors from conception to creation—included recording and producing an album, building a drone, and designing a pair of retro Jordans.

The inaugural Lewis-Sebring Makerspace Award was presented to seniors Angel Cruz and Javade Jones. Both participated in Makerspace programming since its inception at Y.O.U. and demonstrated STEM skills and leadership inside and outside of Y.O.U. Congratulations Javade and Angel!



of high schoolers reported that they are encouraged to take risks, imagine, and practice curiosity at Y.O.U.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Y.O.U. supports the holistic well-being of youth, families, and the community. Many families felt disconnected from each other during COVID, so Y.O.U. created virtual spaces where people could feel a sense of community and belonging. We also continued to support families who needed assistance with material needs.

MY CITY, YOUR CITY, OUR CITY

To provide positive activities and safe spaces for young people, Y.O.U. collaborated with the City of Evanston and other organizations in The Collective, a group of youth-serving organizations, to create My City, Your City, Our City.

On summer weeknights, high school students participated in fun, safe, and enriching activities at Evanston community centers. Young people played basketball and video games, and speakers taught things like how to get a driver's license and create a budget. My City, Your City, Our City also held monthly First Friday events in local parks, providing outdoor games, food, music, and more.

FAMILY NIGHTS

In a virtual world, making connections can be difficult. Y.O.U. hosted virtual family nights throughout the year so that caregivers and their children could have fun as a community, finding ways to connect with each other. Activities away from screens included families sharing their favorite recipes in a community cookbook and a pumpkin decorating contest. Y.O.U. also hosted movie nights and sent families baskets filled with movie snacks and fun activities.

MATERIAL RESOURCES

Y.O.U. staff worked hard to meet urgent basic needs during COVID by providing families with grocery support, gas cards, diapers, and other resources. Last winter, all of our families received grocery gift cards. At First Friday events last summer, we handed out hygiene kits to youth and educated families about our mental health services.



in material support provided this year



EXPLORING IDENTITY

Recognizing and celebrating the full humanity of young people is one of Y.O.U.'s core values. We take an intersectional approach to our work, affirming every person's individuality and advancing inclusion, equity, and justice. We honor the complexity of young people's lives and support their well-being by providing spaces where students can freely explore and embrace their identities.

MY MIC, MY STORY

My Mic, My Story, a new middle school curriculum, provided opportunities for young people to affirm the various aspects of their identity and connect their personal narratives to larger issues. Youth learned about dominant narratives and were challenged to create their own counter narratives by reflecting on their own lives and interviewing a family member or peer. As a culminating project, youth created art based on their new understandings and held a gallery walk to connect with each other's work.

SAFER SPACES

Safer Spaces is a support group for young people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community or are questioning their sexuality or gender identity. Safer Spaces began in 2011 in response to young people's needs. This year, Safer Spaces expanded beyond high school and held groups for youth from middle schoolers up to 22 year olds. Young people are able to talk about issues that concern them without fear or judgment and in a space without discrimination or microaggressions.





CELEBRATING TRANSITIONS

Transitions can be both exciting and frightening, full of the joy that comes from progressing as well as the nerves of new experiences. Y.O.U. recognizes this duality by providing support for the challenges that youth face as they enter a new phase and by celebrating their accomplishments as they grow.

PEER

Each summer, rising freshmen at Evanston Township High School participate in Peer, a summer bridge program to help prepare them for high school. Forty youth participated this year, using a hybrid model split into cohorts. These small groups allowed for more dedicated time for relationship building. Youth learned about organization, navigating ETHS, managing conflict, and technology resources. They ended the summer by creating a project exploring their goals for high school and after graduation.

Y.O.U. GRADUATION

In May, Y.O.U.'s high school program hosted a graduation picnic for Y.O.U. seniors and their families. After a year of virtual programming, youth were excited to see each other in person and celebrate their achievements. Y.O.U. held a graduation ceremony, presented seniors with Y.O.U. graduation stoles, and celebrated future plans. These include enlisting in the Marine Corps, attending Oakton Community College and working, and attending University of Wisconsin-Madison, Tulane University, and Xavier University.



HIGHWAY TO HIGH SCHOOL

Each spring, Y.O.U. hosts Highway to High School (H2HS) for 8th graders. Youth envision what they want their high school years to look like, practice their time management skills, and identify systems of support.

One popular activity is a high school panel—a chance for 8th graders to ask current high school students about maintaining friendships, handling a new and bigger school, and any other questions they have.

Sophia Reme, one of this year's high school panelists, has been involved with Y.O.U. since attending middle school and participated in H2HS when she was in 8th grade. Currently a junior at Niles North High School, she's been a high school panelist for the past two years and worked as a High School Assistant in our program over the summer. When I was in 8th grade, I was so anxious and nervous about starting high school, but I had the high schoolers to teach me and prepare me. So when I could give my experience to other people to help them, it was something I wanted to do because I remember being in 8th grade and having those nerves. So hopefully it's not as nervewracking for them.

— Sophia



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 6.30.21

	FY21	FY20
Cash & Restricted Cash	3,717,840	2,702,349
Receivables, net of allowance	1,074,760	982,136
Facilities & Equipment	5,770,855	5,942,030
Endowment	3,208,538	2,605,958
Other Assets	90,040	53,605
TOTAL	13,862,033	12,286,078
Liabilities	325,094	272,972
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	9,299,694	8,512,286
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	4,237,245	3,500,820
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	13,862,033	12,286,078

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF 6.30.21*

	FY21	FY20
Government	3,437,220	2,578,668
Contributions	1,478,982	1,479,669
Special Events	301,766	303,386
TOTAL REVENUE	5,217,968	4,361,72
Program Services	3,146,285	3,166,58
Management & General	857,156	712,25
Fundraising	393,572	378,58
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,397,013	4,257,43
OPERATING INCOME	820,955	104,29

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PUBLIC 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.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

City of Evanston Evanston/Skokie School District 65 Evanston Township High School District 202 Niles Township High School District 219 Skokie School District 68 Skokie/Morton Grove School District 69 Village of Skokie

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County 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 LAN40 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 Northwestern University Neighborhood and Community Relations Oakton Community College **OMNI** Youth Services

PEER Services Response for Teens Skokie LAN41 The Bridge Youth and Family Services The Collective The Harbour, Inc. Youth Job Center YWCA Evanston/North Shore

OST PROGRAM PROVIDER

- Art Encounter Booking with A Buddy Chef Q. Ibraheem DIME (Dance Is My Everything) Evanston Art Center Evanston Public Library Freddie's Modern Kung Fu George Folz Cartooning Hot Shots Sports Incite Dance Center Jeanne Lee (yoga) Matthew Talavera (fitness)
- Museum of Science and Industry Next Level Martial Arts Noggin Builders Northlight Theatre Northwestern University Block Museum of Art Open Studio Project **Overtime Athletics** Peggy Notebaert Museum Rachel Amanda Holmes (SEL workshops) SOUL Creations Sticky Fingers Cooking The Talking Farm Urban Yoga Young Chicago Authors



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.

Anonymous (9) Lisa M. Altenbernd and Stephen H. Hagerty Donald and Patty Baker Katharine Baker and Tilden Katz Sheryl and Stopher Bartol James Blake Linda Blakley Kathleen and Chip Brady Tom and Debbie Brejcha Sue and Paul Brenner C. Louise Brown Sandra and Charles Brown Sara and Bob Burson Abiaail Butkus Al and Ellen Butkus Stuart Chanen and Julie Fenton **Cless Family Foundation** Marty & Kristin Cless Craia and Kate Collinson Ann and Russ Covode David and Julie Cutter Kent and Liz Dauten Nick and Kate DeCock Laura Dell and Scott Blickenstaff Jeff and Jenny Dillman Terry and Mary Dillon **Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation Matthew English** Elizabeth Ester and Michael Brody Finnegan Family Foundation Mary and Paul Finnegan Gary and Holly Fisher David Foster and Melissa Wynne

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DONORS

Y.O.U. is grateful for our many generous donors in Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021). Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We sincerely apologize for any omissions or errors in spelling.

\$100,000+

Anonymous

Cless Family Foundation 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+

Frankel Family Foundation

\$25,000+

James Blake Evanston Community Foundation Exelon Finnegan Family Foundation George R. Kendall Foundation Adele and Roland Martel VNA Foundation

\$10,000+

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\$5,000+

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\$1,000+

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