

Y.O.U.
YOUTH & OPPORTUNITY UNITED

A group of children, primarily of African descent, are captured in a dynamic martial arts performance. They are wearing matching purple t-shirts with the Y.O.U. logo and the text 'YOUTH & OPPORTUNITY UNITED'. The child in the foreground is in a powerful stance, with his right arm extended forward in a fist and his mouth open as if shouting or chanting. Other children in the background are also in similar poses, some with their arms raised. The setting appears to be an indoor space with a wooden floor and a blue curtain in the background.

Annual Report 2018

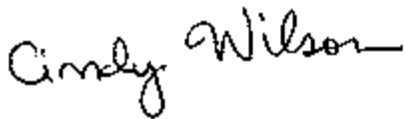
Dear Friends,

During the past year Y.O.U. continued to positively impact youth by connecting them with opportunities and supporting their social-emotional and academic development. The year was marked by expanded programming and partnerships in our facility, implementation of our strategic plan, and a successful leadership transition.

We settled into our new facility, where we expanded youth and community programming. We inaugurated programming in our Makerspace, where our Maker Manager created and tested curriculum. We also hosted STEM-related activities for the broader community in the areas of Coding and Robotics.

Y.O.U. forged new partnerships with Fifth Ward neighbors by hosting quarterly Saturday theme-focused family programming. We invited neighbors to experience our building through arts, STEM and learning activities including mask making, urban gardening and culinary demonstrations.

We completed a leadership transition in March when we welcomed Maggie Blinn DiNovi, a Chicago-area leader in educational innovation, as our Chief Executive Officer. Maggie brings extensive experience in education and strategic planning, and is already creating positive change. The Board is confident that under Maggie's leadership, we will continue our rich history of meeting the emerging needs of youth and families in our communities.



Cindy Wilson, Board President

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

“Y.O.U. has served the Evanston/Skokie community for more than 45 years and I share the board and staff's passion to close the opportunity gap and help students prepare for life success. I am honored by this opportunity to join the Y.O.U. team to serve the community's youth.



Thank you for your generous support of Y.O.U. and for the warm welcome I have experienced since joining the organization earlier this year. As we focus on enhancing our program quality and impact, building financial sustainability, and effectively managing our growth, we are eager to partner with our families, schools and the community to prepare all youth for post-secondary and life success.



Maggie Blinn DiNovi, CEO

Y.O.U. in 2018

In 2018 we remained focused on implementing our Strategic Plan and our “Big Goal”—to prepare youth for post-secondary and life success.

Our three-pronged strategy is designed to achieve this goal by:

1. Advancing youth success through after school and summer learning programs
2. Building youth resilience through clinical counseling and supports
3. Catalyzing parent networks and engaging families in their children’s learning

This strategy had a powerful impact on youth and families in 2018 as evidenced by teacher, youth and parent evaluation data.

ADVANCE

92%

of regular Y.O.U. participants improved or maintained class participation.

BUILD

96%

of youth know how to make decisions that help keep them safe.

CATALYZE

92%

of parents report that Y.O.U. has helped them feel more involved in their child’s learning.

A close-up photograph of two young children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both smiling broadly. They are wearing bright blue, crinkled raincoats. The background is a blurred view of water, suggesting they are on a boat. The overall mood is happy and positive.

OUR BIG GOAL

To close the opportunity gap by preparing youth for post-secondary and life success.

Advancing Youth Success

Y.O.U.'s Out-of-School Time (OST) Program offers a "high expectations, high support" pathway to post-secondary and life success.

This Program is offered at the eleven highest-need public schools across Evanston and Niles Townships. Students in grades 3–12 can attend daily for 36 weeks during the school year and eight weeks during the summer.

We provide free, high quality learning, social-emotional and academic enrichment, and trauma-informed support services that help youth grow in four areas: skills and knowledge, self-regulation, mindsets, and values.

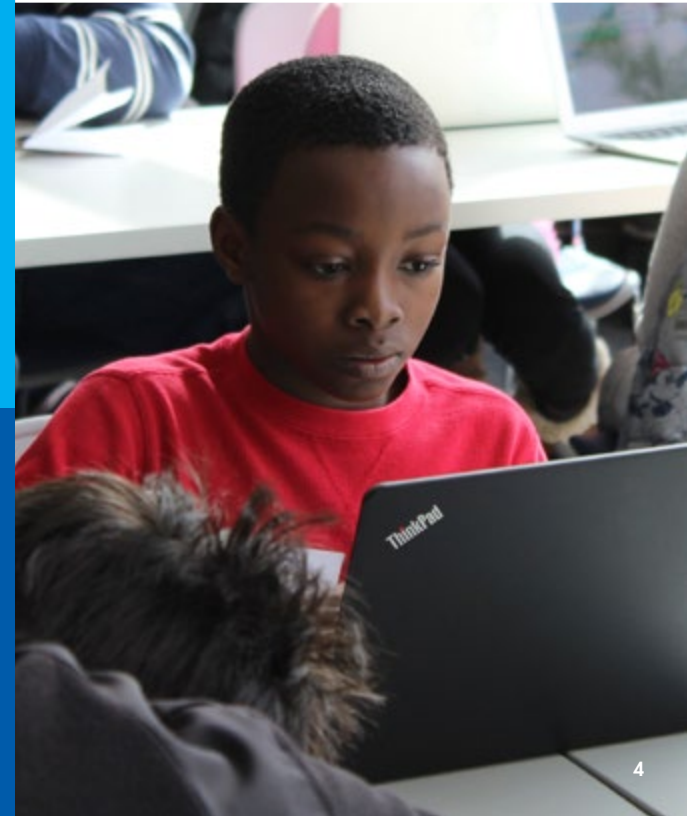
“

I cannot begin to thank you for all you have done for my son during his time at Oakton School. I have seen major growth and development and I am aware that your curriculum and staff played a huge role in that. ...I want you all to know that I appreciate everything you are doing for our youth!

Y.O.U. caregiver

94%

More than 9 in 10 youth think it's important to participate positively in their school or community





ADVANCING YOUTH SUCCESS

Academic Enrichment

Y.O.U. supports students in their current academic work and encourages youth to explore new outlets for creativity and learning.

A LOVE OF STEM LEARNING AT Y.O.U.

In an ever-changing and increasingly technology-based world, science, technology, engineering, and math are key areas for exposure and skill development. At Y.O.U., youth are introduced to STEM learning through fun and engaging programming and partnerships with science-based organizations. The Museum of Science and Industry provides robust curriculum for our elementary programs. In addition, LEGO League, EvanSTEM, and Northwestern's Science in Society Program have all established a presence in our elementary and middle school programs while high school students experiment in our innovative Makerspace.

SUPPORTING CRITICAL TRANSITIONS

Research indicates that the transition from middle to high school is pivotal in determining youth's postsecondary and life success. Y.O.U. recently completed our second summer of supporting rising ETHS freshmen through our PEER summer bridge program. A strong cohort met for eight weeks, increasing their knowledge and expectations of high school. They built critical time management and study skills, increased their financial literacy, and developed aspirational goals for high school and beyond.



93%

More than 9 in 10 PEER participants completed their freshman year on track to graduate.



Meet Isaiah and Javae

Isaiah and Javae graduated fifth grade at Dawes Elementary where they were Y.O.U. program participants for three years. At Dawes, Isaiah enjoyed his STEM group, which focused on learning about the ocean through hands on-activities, books, and movies. He also loved learning to be fit and active with partner organization Fitness Avenues.

Javae also loved to engage with Y.O.U.'s enrichment partners, particularly DIME (Dance Is My Everything). Her self-confidence soared when her dance group performed before an audience of hundreds at Diverse Communities United last January. Javae was also an active participant in Project: REACH, which introduces students to all aspects of their community through field trips, meetings with community leaders and engaging, hands-on research.

Meet Ameena

Ameena is a middle-schooler and member of Y.O.U.'s after-school program in Skokie. Ameena loves attending program daily, and especially enjoys Future Outdoor Explorers, an outdoor education group which allows her to explore the beauty and stillness of nature. Ameena also loves the STEM options available at Y.O.U. She regularly rents out a Macbook from Metamedia to create her own original music, and participates in Mad Science, a group that brings interactive science experiments to out-of-school-time programming.

Ameena also participated in an enrichment group where she and other students researched international children's rights and then developed an action plan to address the issues. Most of all, Ameena appreciates the welcoming atmosphere at Y.O.U., which she describes as a "bully-free zone." She deeply values the friendships she has made with both fellow students and staff.



Social Development & Emotional Support

Across our programs, Y.O.U. youth participate in activities that build healthy relationships, communication and teamwork skills, and social-emotional coping strategies.

DEVELOPING SELF-REGULATION AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

In Future Outdoor Explorers (FOX) elementary and middle-schoolers learned outdoor education skills while building social-emotional competencies. Youth practiced mindfulness and developed leadership skills while learning to pitch a tent and build a campfire. Middle schoolers took a multi-day camping trip which became a life-changing experience for the youth participants. On the trip they were completely disconnected from their tech-centered world, connecting to nature and to each other. Taken out of their everyday environment, they left their cliques and identities behind, feeling free to make new connections.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY BODIES AND HEALTHY MINDS

Y.O.U. utilizes an age-appropriate curriculum during our summer learning program to teach healthy boundaries and healthy relationships, and increase youth awareness and access to health care providers. Health education is core to responsible decision-making and we work with community partners throughout the school year to support this learning.



91%

More than 9 in 10 youth report working well with other students



Building Youth Resilience

Our Clinical and Outreach Team provides integrated, trauma-informed mental health counseling, case management, and 24-7 housing crisis intervention to build the resilience of youth.

EXPRESSING EMOTION

Our clinicians develop innovative counseling programs to create a safe, informal environment for youth to engage in trauma-informed and equity-based practices. Our weekly Safe Spaces meetings provide an opportunity for LGBTQ youth to discuss the unique issues they face with the support of trained staff. In addition, staff leads discussions on adolescent health and safety both as part of our OST programming and in the broader community.

BUILDING COMPETENCIES OF YOUTH

Our clinical and outreach team meets youth in all of their environments, delivering integrated, trauma-informed services within our OST Program and linking disconnected youth to local resources and agencies. Y.O.U. does not limit these practices to individual counseling, but instead incorporates them into every aspect of our programming. Our building offers two private clinical counseling rooms and space for weekly drop-in services to ensure access for youth and families.

93%

More than 9 in 10 Y.O.U. participants report strong self-confidence



Street Outreach Program

Y.O.U. continues to expand and strengthen our Street Outreach Program with year-round support for homeless, runaway, and disconnected youth.

The purpose of the Street Outreach Program is to directly connect with youth who are in unstable or unsafe environments. Y.O.U. clinicians and outreach workers focus on connecting youth to housing, education, employment, and healthcare while individually managing cases and operating drop-in spaces. They also proactively engage in community outreach, visiting places where disconnected youth are known to congregate in order to directly offer services. In May, the Street Outreach and Clinical teams organized a job fair where over 160 youth explored local businesses and interviewed “on the spot” for positions.



Street Outreach is strengthened through its many connections with the Evanston community. Connections for the Homeless, The Moran Center, Curt’s Cafe, City of Evanston, Youth Job Center and others all work with Street Outreach youth to help establish stability. “There are many challenges working with this population, but it works seamlessly because of the relationships we form with partner agencies,” explains program coordinator Emeric Mazibuko. This network of care providers give youth a place to go regardless of whether they need hygiene products, transportation assistance, legal advice or housing assistance.



Partnering for Post-Secondary Success

Partnerships make our work possible! Y.O.U. works closely with a vast network of community partners to help advance post-secondary success. We work with institutional partners and the Evanston and Skokie non-profit community to create a web of resources and supports for the youth and families that we serve.

Last year we connected with over 30 enrichment providers who entered our program spaces ready to spark youth learning, creativity, and wellness. These providers shared their expertise in the arts, sciences, and wellness/recreation sectors. Field trips to museums, corporations, and universities deepened this learning.

These experiences spark interest in setting career goals for the future. One example is the visit to the NorthShore University Grainger Center for Simulation & Innovation where high school students were exposed to careers in the health care industry during a summer field trip (pictured at left).



Catalyzing Parent Networks

We support strong parent networks through quarterly family nights, parent educational opportunities, and caregiver support groups.

SUPPORTING STRONG FAMILIES

Y.O.U. hosts regular family nights. Caregivers have a chance to learn about their child's social-emotional learning in Y.O.U. programming and ways to best support that development in the home. Family nights are supplemented by site-specific support groups and parental networking opportunities that allow parents to meet others and establish a support network that benefits their children.

SUPPORTING PARENT LEADERSHIP

Last year Y.O.U. staff trained parent leaders at Lincoln Junior High School in Skokie. Fifteen parents graduated following an eight-week leadership training program. In addition, Y.O.U. hired two parents as outreach specialists who supported programming that encouraged parental involvement at two Evanston middle schools. For example, at Chute Middle School parent volunteers supported the Healthy Kids Market partnership with the Greater Chicago Area Food Depository.

92%

Over 9 in 10 Y.O.U. caregivers report that Y.O.U. has helped them feel more involved in their child's learning.

Summer Learning

Y.O.U. supports student learning during the summer through an eight week summer learning program that addresses summer learning loss by engaging youth in experiential learning, recreation, and exposure to enriching opportunities and careers. We served nearly 600 youth across all age levels in our Summer Learning Program.

Literacy Strategies

Elementary students practiced literacy utilizing innovative methods that combined reading with multi-media enrichment. Each week, students read a section of a book and then viewed a corresponding section of the movie based on that novel. This allowed students to “contrast and compare” the two storytelling mediums. They wrote alternate endings for the characters, inserted themselves in the roles, and made predictions. In the popular Sit Stay Read program youth practiced their skills by reading to dogs who were a non-judgmental audience (and were open to affectionate hugs).



Self Expression and Skill Building

PhotoVoice was a middle-school enrichment group that worked with Kids Global Network (KGN) in a curriculum that taught photo basics and the power of storytelling through the lens of a camera. Youth learned the basics of composition and editing, and explored the influence of photography as a social tool. Youth examined current affairs, personal struggles and identity through the lens of photography and popular media.



Slime as Science

Y.O.U. staff designed a curriculum based on the hyper-popular slime creation videos that have taken over YouTube and Instagram. The curriculum resulted in fun, hands-on science learning for elementary students. Each week, youth learned a scientific principle or technique, and used that lesson to make a new type of slime. This enrichment group was a favorite—particularly the week that the slime was edible!

F3 (Future, Farming, Food)– Learning the Science and Politics of Food

A corps of high school youth planted, cultivated and harvested a wide variety of produce which they sold through community share boxes and occasional visits to the West End Farmers Market. Our learning gardens also provided unique opportunities for high school youth to mentor their younger peers who periodically visited to work in the garden; and to study the politics of food production—both locally and globally.



Y.E.S. Camp

Six years strong, our summer camp for young entrepreneurs engaged a new corps of youth participants who were eager to develop and test business ideas. In a reflection of our society’s move to a more digital world, the majority of concepts were technology based. Youth were introduced to business leaders who shared their career journeys, their successes and their failures. Field trips to Microsoft, Leo Burnett, and Techstars provided exposure to the workplace and career exploration. The summer culminated with a “pitch” at Madison Dearborn in front of a panel of mock investors.

Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 6.30.18

	FY18	FY17
Cash & Restricted Cash	1,642,326	1,185,201
Receivables, net of allowance	1,354,821	1,772,469
Facilities & Equipment	6,279,358	6,418,340
Endowment	2,535,049	2,387,231
Other Assets	23,528	23,304
TOTAL	\$11,835,081	\$11,786,545
Payables & Accruals	172,898	227,907
Mortgage	—	399,953
Unrestricted Net Assets	7,438,407	6,572,050
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	2,182,389	2,495,248
Perm. Restricted Net Assets	2,041,387	2,041,387
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$11,835,081	\$11,786,545

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF 6.30.18*

	FY18	FY17
Government	2,301,301	2,365,066
Contributions	1,883,817	1,967,045
Special Events	329,967	337,167
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,515,085	\$4,669,278
Program Services	3,187,485	3,389,408
Management & General	640,482	678,725
Fundraising	319,615	344,797
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,147,582	\$4,412,930
OPERATING INCOME	\$367,503	\$256,348

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

* The FY18 audit was being conducted at the time of publication; thus, these figures do not represent audited financials.

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

77%

of our work goes toward Program Services, compared to Management and Advancement (23%).

PROGRAM METRICS



Y.O.U. is proud to have earned a **Four Star Charity status with Charity Navigator** and a **Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar**, industry symbols of our financial health, commitment to transparency, and our focus on performance metrics.

Don Baker Circle for Youth

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

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Y.O.U. is grateful to our many generous donors in FY18 (7/1/17 through 6/30/18).

Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We sincerely apologize for any omissions or errors in spelling.

\$100,000+

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Y.O.U. LEGACY PARTNERS

A planned gift helps unite the past and the future. Y.O.U. Legacy Partners was established in 2017 to recognize planned gifts to Y.O.U. and to allow our dedicated supporters to provide lasting support for the youth we serve. Planned gifts help grow our endowment—ensuring that Y.O.U. continues to expand opportunities and youth success to future generations. To become a founding member of Y.O.U. Legacy Partners, visit our website at youthopportunity.org.

“ Take a moment, take the opportunity to make the difference. I believe in providing in the present for the future.

—Jackie Quern, Legacy Partners Founding Member

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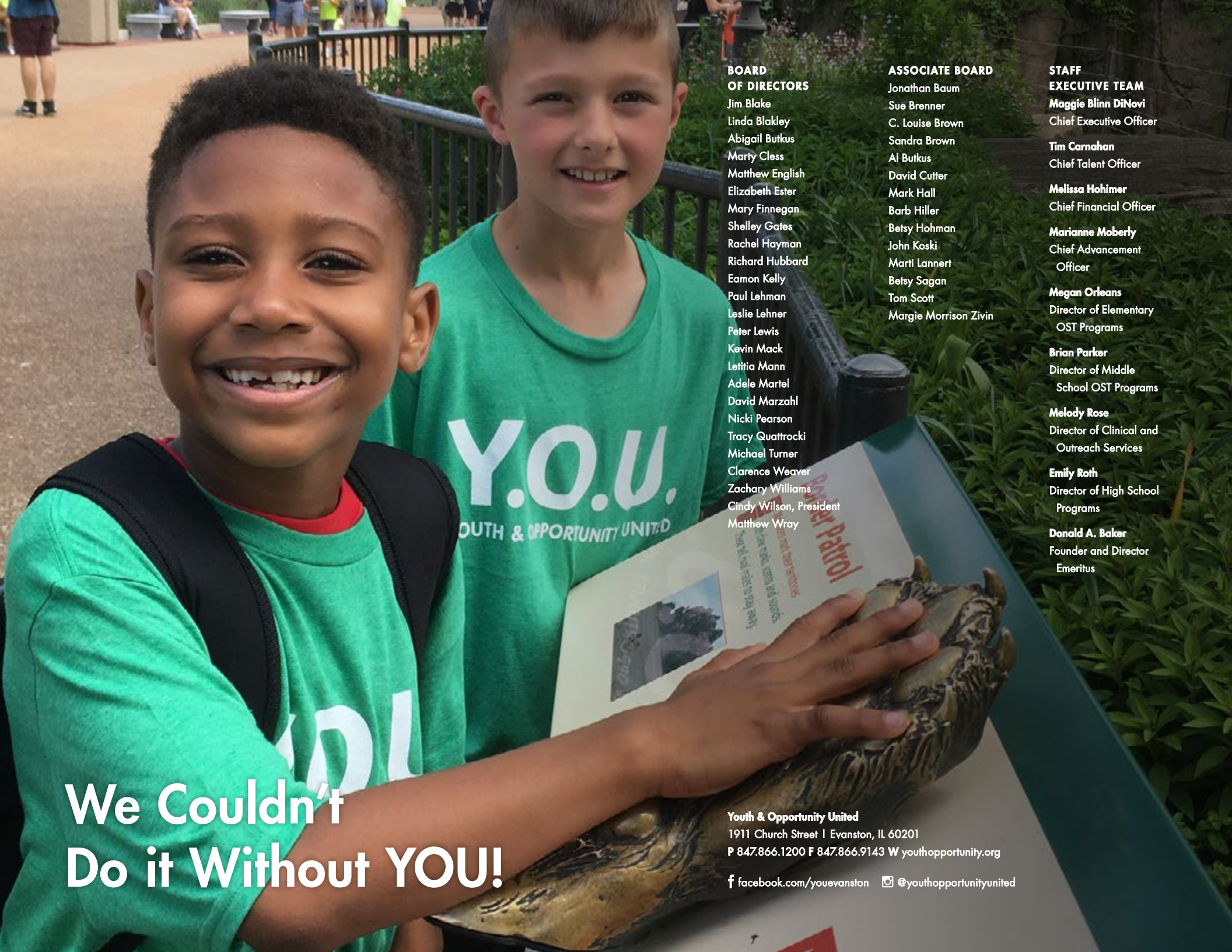
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