

## DEAR FRIENDS,

## We are proud to share the successes of the past year in our 2022 Annual Report.

Since adopting our new 2021 strategic plan and refreshing our mission, we have focused on creating spaces and providing experiences for youth that embody our four core values: Relationships, Creativity, Belonging, and Joy. Youth have lived through immense upheaval during a significant period of their development. Through it all, Y.O.U. has been there to respond to their needs and support their successes through our comprehensive approach supporting academic, social, and emotional development.

Building on a strong relationship with school leadership and caregivers, we expanded at King Arts by providing elementary programming to complement our longstanding middle school programming.

Our summer program returned to a full-day, full-summer schedule, for seven weeks of connection, engagement, and learning. We added more enrichment partners alongside our motivated summer staff at a time when our community was emerging from COVID restrictions.

Whether learning about STEM, the arts, or financial literacy, enrichments prompted youth to find innovative ways to reach their goals. 91% of our youth maintained or improved their ability to persist when a task becomes challenging.

With clarity provided by our strategic plan work, we intentionally enriched and adapted programming that built on youth interest to develop teamwork and life skills – such as our Beyond the Court curriculum. Further, we introduced a new therapeutic group on consent and boundary-setting, supporting key developmental needs. Our high school program continued to support youth to achieve their goals, providing opportunities to connect with experts through specialized programming. Building on our core values of Relationships and Joy, caregivers, staff, and friends turned out to celebrate the accomplishments of our youth at the close of our year.

Y.O.U. served over 1,100 youth in 2022. We also attained another year of financial sustainability, setting the stage for further organizational growth. This coming year, we look forward to engaging more youth when we begin programming at Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies. As we look to the future, we are delighted to continue serving as a leader in youth development and a trusted community resource. Thank you for joining us in supporting youth as they are introduced to new experiences and grow their understanding of themselves and their world!



**Letitia Mann** *President, Board of Directors* 

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Craig Lynch
Chief Executive Officer



#### **OUR APPROACH**

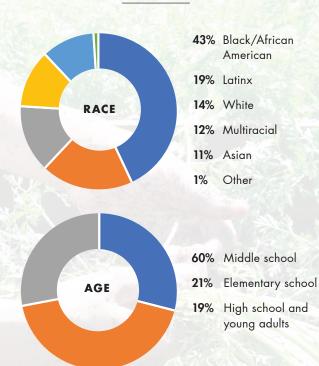
Y.O.U. works to bridge the opportunity gap by providing academic, social, and emotional support to youth through Out-of-School Time Programs and Community-Based Services. We use three primary strategies in our work:

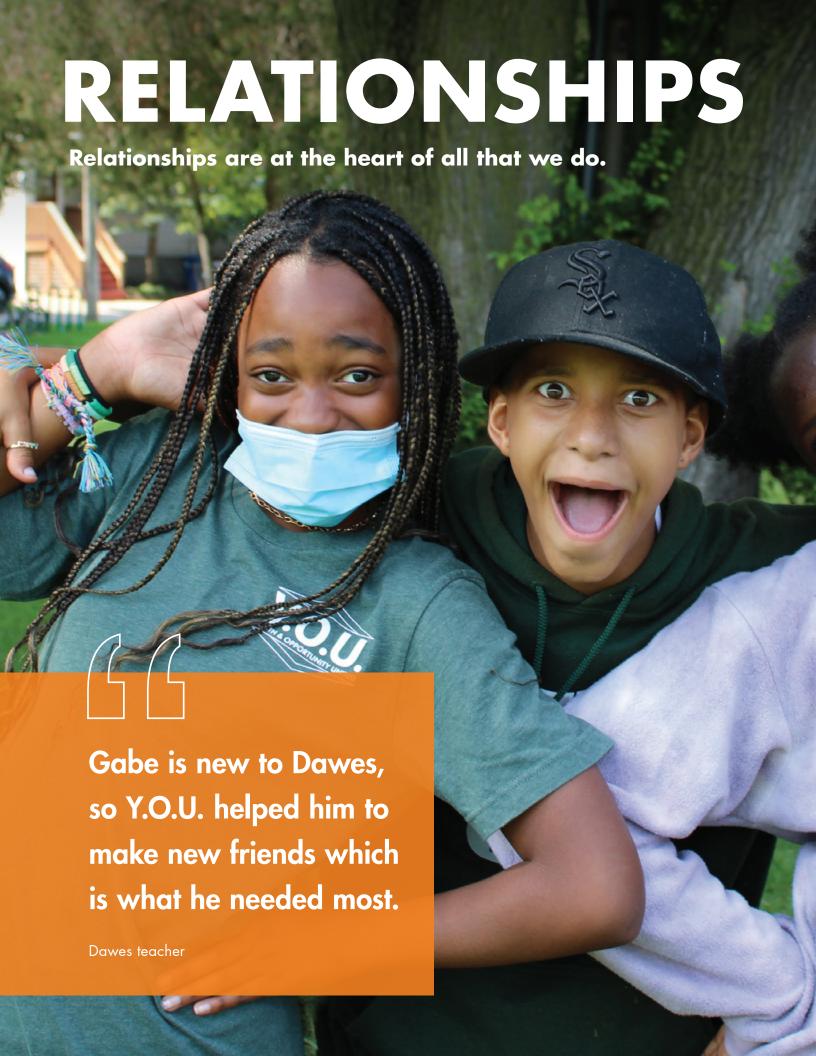
- Identity-affirming relationships
- Expanded learning opportunities
- Resources to meet emerging needs

#### **OUR SITES**

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

#### BY THE NUMBERS







The connections that we build with youth, caregivers, schools, and community partners are what make our work possible. We seek to build trust, forge authentic connections, and operate in the spirit of true collaboration, partnership, and community.

#### PROGRAM EXPANSION

In spring, King Arts extended its reach to introduce an elementary program, a development that had been in the works for years. King Arts has been operating a middle school OST Program since 2014, and feedback from families led the King Arts PTA to approach Y.O.U. in 2020 about expanding to elementary. 99% of caregivers would recommend Y.O.U. to other families! With the addition of an elementary program, even more youth are benefiting from the support that Y.O.U. provides.

#### SUMMER YOUTH WORKERS

Every year, Y.O.U. hires Summer Youth Workers to help run our summer program and gain experience in youth development. This summer, 11 Youth Workers were recruited from community organizations including Evanston Scholars and Youth Job Center.

Nico Bolton started as a Summer Youth Worker and is now Program Coordinator at Dawes Elementary. She appreciates the thoughtful way that Y.O.U. serves youth, stating, "Y.O.U. is very intentional and very considerate about how we serve communities that are underprotected. I wanted to be a part of an organization that takes accountability for serving its community."

We support youth in defining their own goals and developing a plan to achieve them. 84% of youth say that people at Y.O.U. help to support their success. We center and strive for organizational and individual lifelong learning and growth, innovation, aspiration, and curiosity.

#### STEM LEARNING WITH NOGGIN BUILDERS

One of our most popular enrichment partnerships is with Noggin Builders, who provided STEM activities at four sites this year. Youth engaged in hands-on, project-based activities that encouraged experimentation and invention.

A favorite lesson centered on learning about air pressure and creating pneumatic machines that opened doors. In another project, youth designed art projects incorporating circuits that they built themselves. Youth appreciated these activities because they made complex concepts accessible while still challenging them.

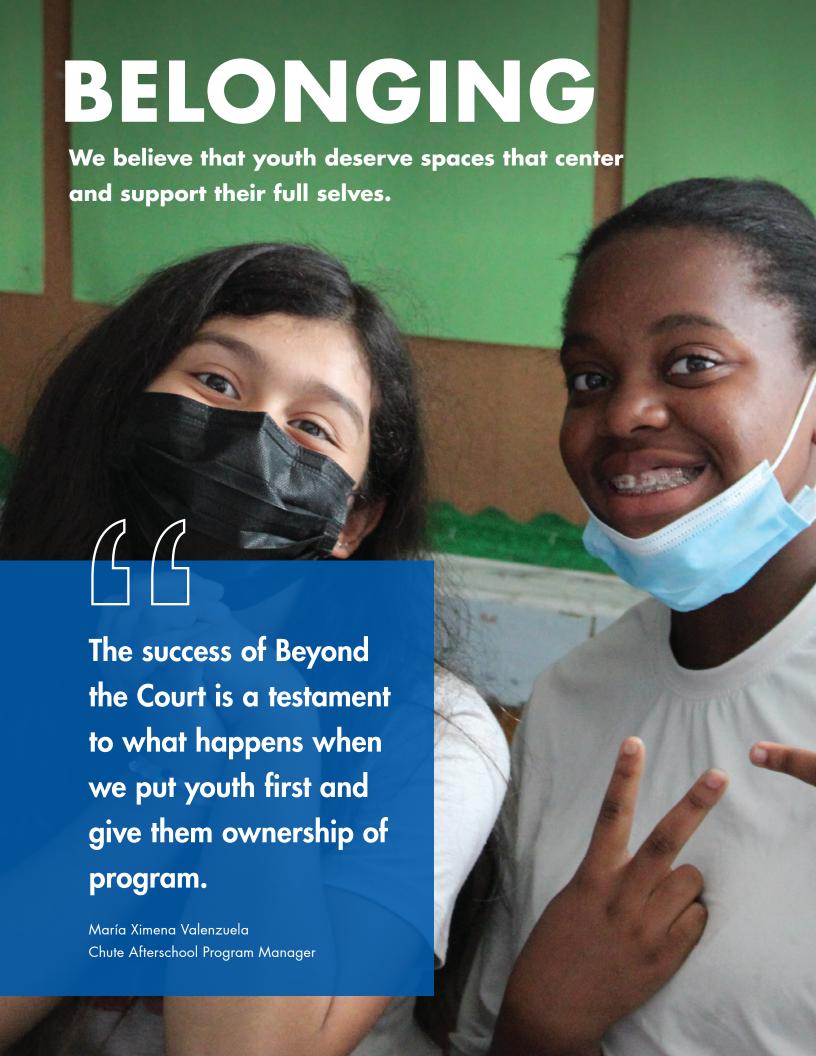
#### **BITMOJI BUCKS**

When staff at Chute Middle developed Bitmoji Bucks, they wanted to create a program that gave youth a sense of pride and ownership and was more than simply a standard money management lesson. Youth created their own Bitmoji Bucks, money printed with personalized cartoon avatars. Every day, they earned Bitmoji Bucks by self-reflecting on the five program norms, celebrating their successes and thinking of areas of growth. Youth cashed in their earnings at the Bitmoji Bucks store, identifying what they wanted to buy and creating savings plans to achieve their goal. Liyana, a 6th grader, saved the entire year to earn her own deluxe art kit.

# CREATIVITY At Y.O.U., creativity means sparking inquiry and

encouraging aspiration.

of youth improved or maintained their ability to adapt to new or challenging situations





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. 94% of caregivers say that Y.O.U. has helped their child feel confident.

#### **BEYOND THE COURT**

Chute Middle staff developed the Beyond the Court curriculum to connect basketball, one of our youth's favorite activities, with life skills. Youth were put into teams of varying skill levels, then created jerseys, mascots, and slogans to build rapport.

Each lesson, youth worked together to complete an off-court activity based on the day's topic, then played basketball using the skill that they discussed. One of their favorite lessons explored the value of teamwork, which translated on the court through passing and receiving the ball. They saw their teammates were willing to help them and experienced how rewarding it felt when they could contribute something to the group.

#### **BOUNDARY-SETTING**

Although COVID lockdowns have ended, their impact is still being felt deeply. Many youth left their classrooms as elementary children and returned as young adults with very different expectations placed on them. Alex Ravert, the Youth & Family Counselor for middle school, held a weekly therapeutic group exploring consent in everyday interactions as well as setting boundaries, a difficult issue for youth to navigate with their peers and with the adults in their lives. At one meeting, a game of Taboo sparked a lightbulb moment for many youth about both the harm that language can cause as well as how to use language for self-advocacy.

We take pride in celebrating youth successes, both small and large. We embrace optimism, hope, and celebration as fundamental tenets of and fuel for our work.

#### **ALUMNI REFLECTION**

Javade first became involved with Y.O.U. the summer before his freshman year through Peer, a bridge program for incoming ETHS freshmen. He stayed active throughout high school, participating in STEM MakerSpace programming, entrepreneurial YES! Camp, and organic gardening with Food, Farming, Future before graduating in 2021.

Looking back, Javade appreciates the welcoming environment that staff created, explaining, "Whatever idea you had, staff would figure out how to help you make it. It was easy to access and utilize all of Y.O.U.'s resources." During his four years at Y.O.U., Javade's favorite memories include creating an intricate Rube Goldberg Machine, learning how to use a 3D printer, and trying out Puerto Rican food and dancing on a field trip to a cultural center.

#### Y.O.U. VALUES

Since adopting our strategic plan, Y.O.U. has worked hard to ensure our values are integrated into our work. At the end of the school year, OST staff participated in a week of training that explored how relationships, creativity, belonging, and joy could be instilled into programming.

Shai Sardin started at Y.O.U. as an AmeriCorps before becoming a Program Coordinator and then the Afterschool Program Manager at Dawes Elementary. This year, she's looking forward to welcoming new youth as the Afterschool Program Manager and creating a space where everybody is working together because "when youth have supportive adults in their life, they feel free to share their dreams and accomplishments."





## FINANCIAL REPORT

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 6.30.22

	FY22	FY21
Cash & Restricted Cash	3,355,569	3,717,840
Receivables, net of allowance	822,655	1,074,760
Facilities & Equipment	5,604,493	5,770,855
Endowment	2,659,337	3,208,538
Other Assets	51,051	90,040
TOTAL	12,493,105	13,862,033
Liabilities	164,836	325,094
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	8,682,998	9,299,694
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	3,645,271	4,237,245
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	12,493,105	13,862,033

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF 6.30.22\*

	FY22	FY21
Government	1,982,957	3,437,220
Contributions	1,426,255	1,478,982
Special Events	211,325	301 <i>,7</i> 66
TOTAL REVENUE	3,620,537	5,217,968
Program Services	2,584,429	3,146,285
Management & General	897,658	857,156
Fundraising	409,923	393,572
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,892,010	4,397,013
OPERATING INCOME	(271,473)	820,955

<sup>\*</sup> These results reflect total revenue less restricted endowment investment income.

The FY22 audit was being conducted at the time of publication; thus, these figures do not represent audited financials.

## **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.

#### **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

#### **COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

Village of Skokie

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 Coalition to End Homelessness 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

Neighborhood and Community Relations Oakton Community College **OMNI Youth Services** 

Northwestern University

McGaw YMCA

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 PROVIDERS**

Art Encounter Chef Q. Ibraheem Culture Shock DIME (Dance Is My Everything) Evanston Art Center Evanston Public Library Focus Fairies Fonseca Martial Arts Freddie's Modern Kung Fu George Folz Cartooning Greg Tertulien (STEM)

Hot Shots Sports

Hussein Ally (music) Incite Dance Center Michelle Weinsman (African drumming) Museum of Science and Industry Nadine Royster (art) Next Level Martial Arts Noggin Builders Northlight Theatre Northwestern University Block Museum of Art Open Studio Project Overtime Athletics Peggy Notebaert Museum SOUL Creations Sticky Fingers Cooking The Talking Farm Teaching Life Through Music

The Recyclery



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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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