

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



# Dear Friends,

Luke created an iPhone app and discovered the wonders of math and engineering. Tamera cultivated a garden and took ownership over the food she put in her body.

Theo and Marcus learned how to get along and embrace each other's differences. Over 1,200 youth flourished under our umbrella in 2014 – learning new skills, developing new relationships, and aspiring toward new futures.

As a youth development agency that believes in the unlimited potential of all young people, we feel extremely fortunate that 2014 was another year of impact and growth at Y.O.U. We served 20% more youth than in 2013, and we offered these individuals a holistic set of services by expanding our summer learning programs, deepening our parental engagement, and increasing our academic support.

Youth who participated in our programs in 2014 continued their upward trajectory: 8 in 10 improved or maintained their academic performance, while 7 in 10 reported improvements in their leadership and social and emotional skills.

As we reflect on our impact in 2014, we remember how Maria overcame anxiety to present her poetry on stage, how Jamal learned about careers in investment management through interactions with his workplace mentor, and how Josh took comfort in our counselor's care after witnessing violence in his neighborhood. In celebrating the growth of our young people, we are ultimately celebrating the collective effort of our community—our parents, our schools, our partners, and our donors. Together, we are empowering the unlimited potential of our community's greatest asset—our youth.

Thank you for joining us in changing the lives of youth and families and transforming our community's future!

Sincerely,

TOM SCOTT Board President

Seth Green

SETH GREEN



## Our Impact

Y.O.U. served more than 1,200 youth and touched more than 4,000 family members in 2014 through afterschool and summer learning programs, clinical counseling, street outreach, and community schools.

These services led to growth in the areas of academic, social and emotional development.

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

84% of youth improved or maintained their academic performance, based on teacher surveys.

## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUCCESS

71% of youth reported improved social and emotional skills, based on youth surveys.

"I'm the first in my family to go to college and that is something I never saw for myself before I joined Y.O.U."

- Cristal, Y.O.U. participant

Our goal is that every child has the opportunity to realize his or her full potential. We embrace the potential of youth who traditionally lack access, we provide them with opportunity, and we empower them to succeed.

## AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT BY THE NUMBERS



ENRICHMENT GROUPS

# Afterschool Enrichment

Y.O.U. provides daily academic, social, and emotional enrichment activities at eight school-based locations.

Our afterschool program begins each day with an hour of academic support that includes homework assistance and individualized tutoring in specific subject areas. The next hour of program focuses on interactive, character-building activities ranging from arts and culture to life skills discussion groups. Youth are exposed to new opportunities on a daily basis as they explore robotics, hip hop, theater, cooking, gardening, 3D printing and more.

Two highlights from the 2014 afterschool program are Project REACH and the Explore program. Through Project REACH, Oakton and Dawes elementary students visited local institutions and immersed themselves in learning about Evanston's resources, becoming empowered members of the community. Meanwhile, middle school youth taking part in the Explore program worked directly with a local business mentor at their workplace to learn about different industries, career paths and the soft and hard skills needed to succeed in the professional world.

"Y.O.U. shows me that I can do a bunch of things and still get all my homework done on time. Y.O.U. keeps me busy and that keeps my mind focused and on track."

- Solange, Y.O.U. participant



This year Y.O.U. piloted the Explore program, which connected middle school youth with local professionals in a variety of fields.



Field trips are designed to complement afterschool enrichment groups while giving youth access to different opportunities, such as skating at Millenium Park for the first time.



Collaborating with Northwestern University's FUSE program, youth experimented with design, art, science & technology.

# Summer Learning

We know that by the end of summer, youth who participated in high-quality summer learning programs are up to five months ahead of youth who did not participate in such opportunities.

In fact, research demonstrates that more than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities.

Y.O.U. believes that every young person deserves this access. In the summer of 2014, we offered a daily, nine-week program to 450 youth at no cost to families. Our staff immersed youth in educational programming in the sciences, arts, and literature, while simultaneously equipping youth with life skills. Through this program, youth also received nutritious meals and participated in daily fitness and recreational activities.

Alongside Y.O.U.'s general summer camps, Y.O.U. offered high school students access to four specialized camps that focused on filmmaking, leadership, entrepreneurship and architecture. The Leadership Project empowered youth to explore the topic of race and initiate community dialogue. The YOUdesign program inspired youth to illustrate their own architectural drawings after examining Evanston and Chicago structures. The Y.O.U.ng Filmmakers learned every aspect of creating a short movie. Lastly, Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES!) camp taught participants the mechanics of building and running a business.



Youth in the "Urban Elements" group explored graffiti & spoken word poetry as self-expression.

"Art has been my favorite this summer because we've painted pots and made friendship bracelets. I get to show my creative side."

-Blaze, Y.O.U. participant



# **Clinical Counseling**

Our clinical program is directly integrated into all of Y.O.U.'s services in an effort to address the emotional and mental health needs of youth and their families.

Y.O.U.'s clinical team provides 24/7 crisis counseling, one-on-one case management, family support, safe space groups, and support services at client homes and sites throughout the community.

A highlight in 2014 was the addition of three new Youth and Family Counselors that enabled Y.O.U. to expand the reach of its clinical programs.

Y.O.U. also piloted new clinical strategies in 2014 to meet the varied clinical needs of the youth we serve. Through the SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress) group, middle school youth learned techniques and coping skills to respond to the symptoms of trauma-induced stress. Meanwhile, a new Culinary Therapy group created a safe and comfortable environment for youth to share their feelings with peers and clinical staff while enjoying cooking.

450 YOUTH RECEIVED CLINICAL SUPPORT

30+ THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS DELIVERED

HOURS A DAY WE'RE ON CALL



"The transformation of youth in SPARCS is incredible: youth who used to act out can now tackle tough situations, trust others and demonstrate real confidence."

> —Karianna Kearns, AMFT Youth and Family Counselor

## Street Outreach

As the Y.O.U. Street Outreach team has established its presence in Evanston, young adults have welcomed its help and resources.

In 2014 our Street Outreach team made direct contact with nearly 400 disconnected Evanston young adults, ages 15 to 21.

After launching a new partnership with the McGaw YMCA, attendance at Street Outreach workshops and events tripled in 2014. Under the partnership, the YMCA serves as a drop-in location for young adults to connect with Y.O.U.'s Street Outreach team. Once connected, young adults have access to the YMCA's resources and to Y.O.U.'s Street Outreach's special programming, events and clinical assistance.

"When I meet with the Y.O.U. Street Outreach program I feel I can come and be myself without being judged. People there are helpful and responsive to me. I feel safe, encouraged and really supported."

– Savon, Y.O.U. Street Outreach participant

392 YOUNG ADULTS CONTACTED

84 YOUNG ADULTS ENROLLED IN ONGOING PROGRAMS

SHELTER, SCHOOL AND/OR JOB PLACEMENTS ACHIEVED

# **Community Schools**

Y.O.U. is the lead organization in implementing the Community School model at Chute Middle School in Evanston and Lincoln Jr. High in Skokie.

The Community School model seeks to simultaneously empower parents as leaders and transform schools into hubs of integrated services to support improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. Highlights from 2014 include:

- Engaging more than 30 parents who were previously disconnected from their school community in a 6-week leadership training where they learned how to develop and implement goals for themselves, their families, and their community. Now parents at each school have formed teams that are planning activities to enrich their school community.
- Aligning existing school resources, including out-of-school time access to computer labs and technology resources, to meet the needs of youth and families.
- **Delivering new social services** to over 200 youth and families, including tax preparation support, translation services, financial literacy workshops, holiday gift support and key health services such as dental and vision clinics.

395 YOUTH SERVED OUTSIDE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

ADULTS SERVED

4/ SERVICES OFFERED



"The leadership training gave me the confidence to speak up and really get involved. We parents have a vision together and set goals together. It's really showing my kids that you can get support, work as a team, and make a change."

> -Y.O.U. Chute parent leadership training participant

## 2014 Headlines & Achievements

#### Y.O.U. NAMED BEST IN HUMAN SERVICES

Make It Better magazine recognized Y.O.U. as a leader in the community by awarding it the Philanthropy Award in Human Services – Family, Youth & Child.

#### STREET OUTREACH ENGAGED NEARLY 400 YOUTH

Completing its first full year, Street Outreach empowered 392 disconnected Evanston young adults and helped them to access educational services, job training and counseling.

#### SUMMER PROGRAM GROWS TO NINE NEW SCHOOLS

With support from District 65, Y.O.U. provided youth from all District 65 schools - including nine schools beyond Y.O.U.'s historic reach - with high-quality summer learning programs.

#### **DEWU CELEBRATED WITH COMMUNITY**

Over 350 people attended the 8th annual Diverse Evanston Walks United (DEWU) event where they witnessed poetry readings, vocal acts, and multimedia projects honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

### PARENT GROUPS BORN OUT OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Y.O.U.'s Community School programs at Chute Middle School and Lincoln Jr. High exposed parents to leadership and goal development training. Participants have since created parent-led groups that focus on increasing parental resources and parent-led activities in the school.

#### **COMMUNITY KEEPS PROGRAMS ALIVE**

Through the generosity of donors at Y.O.U.'s 2014 Annual Dinner, Y.O.U. was able to sustain programs at Oakton and Washington elementary schools after government funding ended. Supporters raised over \$200,000 in a single evening.



Make It Better (MIB) magazine staff visited the Y.O.U. offices to inform staff that it won the MIB Philanthropy Award in Human Services – Family, Youth & Child.

"Make It Better was proud to recognize Y.O.U. as our Philanthropy Award winner for Human Services— Family, Youth and Child. It's rare to find a local agency as fully committed to the well-being of the whole child, or as deeply ingrained in a community, as Y.O.U."

> — Julie Chernoff Make It Better editor-in-chief



impact that Y.O.U. achieves in the community. In 2014 staff connected and built relationships with more than 1,200 youth.

# **Financial Report** 2014 Fiscal Year

#### **OPERATING REVENUE**

Government	1,793,844
United Way	457,036
Contributions	773,309
Special Events	206,303
TOTAL	\$3,230,492

## **OPERATING EXPENSE**

NET SURPLUS	94,273
TOTAL	\$3,136,219
Outreach & Development	267,300
Management	305,582
Programming	2,563,337

\*The FY14 audit was being conducted at the time of publication; thus, these figures do not represent audited financials.

"Y.O.U. has an incredible staff that is truly helping support kids in our community. I am deeply impressed by Y.O.U.'s efforts and thrilled to see the organization growing to serve even more youth and families."

> - Mary Finnegan Y.O.U. volunteer and supporter

## Don Baker Circle for Youth

The Don Baker Circle for Youth is Y.O.U.'s giving society which recognizes annual fund contributions of \$1,000 or more.

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Support from our community allows Y.O.U. to provide dynamic programs, hire excellent staff, and build relationships with youth.

## Donors

## Y.O.U. is grateful to our many generous donors.

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

Please reach out to meital.caplan@youevanston.org to change how your name is listed.

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-Tyler, Y.O.U. participant

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