

EMPOWER A GENERATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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LETTER FROM THE CEO



DEAR FRIENDS,

On behalf of all of us at YEP, I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and well. As I reflect on this past year, we are forging ahead past COVID shutdowns and Hurricane Ida disruptions. We are seeing more and more young people come through our doors and all four program areas are growing. Despite the challenges we faced during the past years, YEP fared exceptionally well and we have come out stronger as a result.

YEP's resilience speaks to our resolve, the strength of our programs, our sound financial position, the leadership of our board and the dedication of our staff. It also points to the determination of the young people and families who have continued to access – or sought out for the first time – YEP programs as they pursue new skills, opportunities and resources. I am inspired by the selflessness and generosity of YEP's diverse and expansive community.

YEP EXPERIENCED A FEW BIG HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR:

- ▶ YEP paid off the mortgage on our headquarters building in summer 2021, thanks to a very generous gift from Joy and Boysie Bollinger. YEP currently owns three of our buildings outright and operates with no debt.
- ▶ In partnership with Educators for Quality Alternatives (EQA), YEP opened our newest site in New Orleans East. This brings services to one of the city's most underserved and highest needs parts of the city.
- ▶ A multiyear partnership with the Children's Bureau of New Orleans (CBNO) to provide in-house, trauma-informed mental health services to YEP young people was made possible through the generosity of the Methodist Health System Foundation (MHSF).
- ▶ With support from Baptist Community Ministries (BCM), YEP increased the in-house educational support available to young people who need additional academic assistance coming out of the pandemic.

As we approach a new year, we embrace the responsibility to do more. Everyone in New Orleans wants to live in a community where all residents are safe, supported and have access to meaningful life choices and pathways to thrive. In service of this vision, we will continue to lean into YEP's current goals:

Programmatic Excellence

Continue to expand and strengthen YEP's four pillars of work, as detailed on page 3.

Systemic Impact

Lift up the voices and experiences of YEP's young people and staff to help guide stakeholders as they seek solutions to challenges facing our community.

Organizational Sustainability

Carry on as good stewards of financial resources and prioritize supporting and retaining committed staff.

We are optimistic about what the future holds for our city, as we have the privilege of engaging with individuals every day who are committed to learning and improving their lives and the lives of others. Thank you for your belief in YEP and your help in ensuring that all young people in New Orleans have access to the skills, resources and relationships they need to thrive.

Melissa Sawyer / Co-Founder + CEO



OUR WHY + OUR APPROACH

The COVID-19 pandemic was challenging, locally and nationally. Around the country, more young people have become disconnected from schools and community-based services, and the mental health crisis for people of all ages has worsened. New Orleans, like many U.S. cities, has experienced an increase in violent crime over the past several years.

There is no quick fix to the pre-existing challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, yet we must do all we can to rectify the chronic underinvestment in young people and our failure to meet our children's mental health, educational, social-emotional and basic financial needs.

For the past 18 years, YEP has provided high-quality, no-cost, community-based services to young people and families. Our mission is to empower young people to improve their lives and the lives of others. We strive to provide the opportunities, relationships and resources YEP participants need to achieve their potential. Our job is to show up every day to embrace our participants; respond with kindness, compassion and shared humanity; advocate to funnel steady investments and resources their way; and help safeguard our collective future.

OUR MODEL

YEP launched in 2004 to serve court-involved youth and has since grown significantly to engage youth and families in the Greater New Orleans region who live in chronic poverty, are out of school or work or have experienced trauma. A primary goal is to help young people develop skills and strengthen ties to family and community. YEP operates programs in five geographic locations – Central City, Mid-City, Algiers, St. Charles Parish and New Orleans East. **We work in four primary service areas:**



YEP MENTORS

Mentoring and Youth Advocacy. YEP Mentors is a community-based mentoring program for system-involved young people, ages 8 to 21. Youth participants are referred to YEP by the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice or a local court system. Mentoring services are delivered by YEP Youth Advocates, trained and salaried staff who provide intensive, culturally competent and non-judgmental case management and mentoring services to young people as well as supplemental support to their families. Last fiscal year, YEP Mentors served 191 young people, 97% of whom had no further justice system involvement.



YEP ENRICHES

Afterschool + Summer Enrichment Programming. YEP Enriches is an out-of-school time enrichment program for young people, ages 7 to 18. Our year-round, free programming includes an afterschool program and a summer camp. These programs provide youth with academic support, physical activity, music, drama and arts instruction, and social-emotional support. YEP Enriches also runs Louisiana's only Camp Mariposa, a national addiction prevention and mentoring program for youth who have been impacted by substance abuse in their families. Last year, YEP Enriches reached 207 youth; 97% of youth reported feeling connected to a caring adult, and 78% of participants demonstrated academic growth.



YEP EDUCATES

Adult Education and High School Equivalency Preparation.

YEP Educates is an adult basic education and high school equivalency program for individuals who did not graduate from high school. YEP Educates is officially recognized by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and provides an alternative and flexible pathway for students, ages 16 and up, to build literacy skills, earn their high school equivalency (HiSET) and transition into postsecondary education and advanced training. YEP offers on-site HiSET testing, allowing our students to test in the same welcoming place that they studied. The program mitigates barriers by providing supportive services to participants and assisting graduates transition to postsecondary and employment opportunities. During the last fiscal year, we served 283 students; 79% made at least one grade level gain, and 53 students earned their HiSET diploma.



YEP WORKS

Work-Based Learning and Jobs Training.

YEP Works is a work-based learning program that engages young people between the ages of 16 and 24. Participants receive hourly educational stipends while developing social-emotional competencies and gaining transferable employment skills. YEP Works operates a full-service bike shop and a thrift store, which serve as ideal training locations for young people to practice the skills they learn in the program. YEP Works participants can earn a Retail Industry Fundamentals Credential through the National Retail Federation. Last year, YEP Works served 76 youth, 89% of whom earned the industry-based credential and 81% of whom transitioned into employment, training or further education.

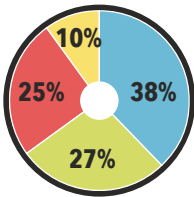
PROGRESS + IMPACT

YEP is the largest non-profit organization in the Greater New Orleans region focused on providing comprehensive services to underserved, out-of-school and court-involved youth. We employ nearly 60 staff members, are governed by an engaged 17-member board of directors and operate with an annual budget of \$5 million – with approximately 44% coming from public contracts and 56% raised from private philanthropy.

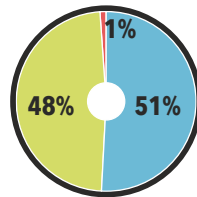
**2022
YEAR
IN
REVIEW**

DEMOGRAPHICS

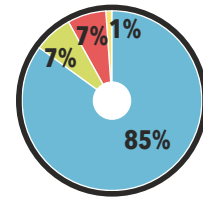
757 Young People Served



YEP EDUCATES
YEP ENRICHES
YEP MENTORS
YEP WORKS

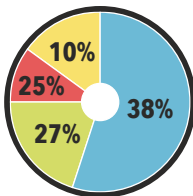


FEMALE
MALE
OTHER



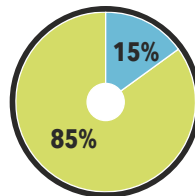
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISPANIC/LATINX
WHITE
OTHER

Annual Household Income



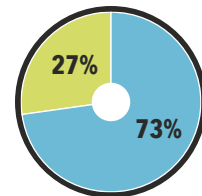
UNDER \$10,000
\$10,000 - \$20,000
\$20,000 - \$30,000
OVER \$30,000

Justice System Involvement



PRIOR INVOLVEMENT
in justice system
NO KNOWN INVOLVEMENT
in justice system

Location



73% residents of **ORLEANS PARISH**
27% residents of **JEFFERSON, ST. CHARLES, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST & OTHER PARISHES**



FY22 IMPACT



98% YEP participants report **being satisfied with YEP programs.**



81% YEP participants **demonstrated improvement in emotional wellbeing.**



53 YEP Educates learners **earned their high school equivalency (HiSET).**



78% YEP Enriches and YEP Mentors participants **demonstrated improvement in school performance.**



97% YEP Mentors participants **had no further involvement with the justice system** at the time of their YEP departure.



89% of YEP Works participants **earned their National Retail Federation Retail Fundamentals Industry Credential.**

EMERGING FROM COVID

In March 2020 YEP quickly adapted our programming to a primarily virtual format in order to prioritize the health and wellbeing of our staff, participants and their families. Thanks to the generosity of several donors, we were able to distribute hotspots and Chromebooks to participants while staff moved programming online. We also provided young people and families with groceries and support with basic needs. As soon as we were able, YEP thoughtfully and quickly began increasing our in-person services – providing young people with socially distanced, small-group activities.

Throughout the pandemic, we focused on providing a deeper level of engagement to YEP participants and expanded our youth advocacy and mentoring services across all of our programs, connecting young people with a YEP Youth Advocate. To keep caseloads low and provide students with additional wraparound services, we both trained existing staff and hired new staff to serve as Youth Advocates. In addition to our expansion to New Orleans East, we are thrilled to have achieved the following during this difficult time:



We are very close to reaching pre-pandemic levels of program enrollment. We served **757 young people** in FY2022 (July 2021-June 2022), nearing our yearly average of 800.

YEP Educates celebrated **53 HiSET graduates** in FY22. This compares to our pre-COVID average of 50, and is a huge testament to the dedication of HiSET participants and YEP staff.

YEP began partnering with **Children's Bureau of New Orleans** to have an on-site counselor across multiple YEP program sites, which eases access to clinical services for YEP participants.

YEP added a full-time **Education Coordinator** to our YEP Enriches team to provide children with additional academic support.

YEP was named **"Nonprofit of the Year"** by *New Orleans City Business Magazine*.



COVID challenged all of us. YEP persevered thanks to a seasoned, committed and knowledgeable team of board and staff members – and young people and families who trust YEP and are committed to improving their lives and the lives of others.

EXPANSION INTO NEW ORLEANS EAST

In Summer 2022, YEP launched services at the New Orleans East Opportunity Center at 12000 Hayne Blvd. This site is located in the heart of New Orleans East, which is one of the most high-need, under-resourced parts of the city. YEP's expansion to New Orleans East comes at a pivotal time, as New Orleans faces heightened rates of crime and violence.

The decision to expand came after various conversations with YEP staff and board members and leaders at Educators for Quality Alternatives (EQA), which provides students with opportunities to acquire new skills, confidence and experiences. Through seed funding from the Louisiana Department of Education's post-COVID Reimagine Schools grant, EQA and YEP were able to launch a wraparound services model in New Orleans East. YEP had been thinking for several years about expanding into the East, not only because of the dearth of services there, but also because of the immense need and opportunity for impact.

The New Orleans East Opportunity Center will provide a single entry point for young people who want to access diverse, flexible and inviting education, enrichment and support services that empower them to achieve their potential. In addition to the educational services that EQA provides to middle and high school students and the early childcare center (that is open to EQA and YEP students), the center will house all four of YEP's service areas:

YEP Mentors: Mentoring and Youth Advocacy

YEP Educates: Adult Education and High School Equivalency Preparation

YEP Enriches: Afterschool + Summer Enrichment Programming

YEP Works: Work-Based Learning and Jobs Training



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

ASSETS
Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 1,126,538
Investments (Note 3)	3,058,048
Promises to give, net (Note 4)	721,779
Reimbursements receivable (Note 5)	611,842
Inventory (Note 2)	41,168
Prepaid expenses and other assets (Note 2)	78,843
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Total current assets	5,638,218

Assets restricted to investment in property, Property, furniture, and equipment at cost less accumulated depreciation (Note 7)	1,214,400
Operating lease right-of-use asset	64,959
	<hr/>
Total assets	<u>\$ 6,917,577</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 56,155
Deferred revenue (Note 2)	343,333
Operating lease liability (Note 8)	28,545
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Total current liabilities	428,033

Operating lease liability, net of current maturities (Note 8)	36,414
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Total long-term liabilities	36,414

Total liabilities	464,447
Without donor restrictions	6,453,130
With donor restrictions (Note 15)	-
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Total net assets	6,453,130

Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 6,917,577</u>
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support, revenues and reclassifications			
Public support:			
Grants - United Way	\$ -	\$ 4,300	\$ 4,300
Grants - Federal Government	781,097	-	781,097
Grants - Other	-	749,333	749,333
Contributions	1,135,868	156,533	1,292,401
Extinguishment of debt	560,447	-	560,447
Contributed non-financial assets	47,950	-	47,950
Total public support	2,525,362	910,166	3,435,528
Revenues			
Contract revenue	1,214,928	-	1,214,928
Program service revenue	189,820	-	189,820
Other income	4,332	-	4,332
Net investment return (loss)	(239,066)	-	(239,066)
Total revenues	1,170,014	-	1,170,014
Reclassifications:			
Net assets released from restrictions	954,971	(954,971)	-
Total reclassifications	954,971	(954,971)	-
Total support, revenues and reclassifications	4,650,347	(44,805)	4,605,542
Expenses			
Program services	3,368,263	-	3,368,263
Supporting services:			
Management and general	597,236	-	597,236
Fundraising	251,789	-	251,789
Total supporting services	849,025	-	849,025
Total expenses	4,217,288	-	4,217,288
Changes in net assets	433,059	(44,805)	388,254
Net assets, beginning of the year	6,020,071	44,805	6,064,876
Net assets, end of the year	\$ 6,453,130	\$ -	\$ 6,453,130

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

Our work would not be possible without your generous financial support. Your gift helps us provide basic needs, education, mentoring and life skills to young people. By donating to YEP, you become a critical partner in our mission to empower young people to improve their lives and the lives of others.

SPONSOR

Each year, local businesses, individuals and foundations provide funding and volunteer support for many of our programs and activities. Please consider becoming a sponsor in the coming year and help us provide young people with the resources they need to thrive.

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the critical services we provide to participants. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, please visit our website to sign up today.

VOLUNTEER

YEP operates two full-service retail stores on Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., YEP Bike Works and YEP Thrift Works. These stores provide young people with work-based learning opportunities and community members with affordable shopping options. Come visit our stores to shop or make a tax-deductible donation of gently used clothes, household items or bikes.

SHOP



MAIN OFFICE

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New Orleans, LA 70113
(504) 522-1316



www.youthempowermentproject.org