

YEP VOICES

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING A GENERATION



GET TO KNOW YEP YOUNG PEOPLE



ASHLEY, 29
YEP EDUCATES

ASHLEY is one of YEP's Class of 2021 graduates. Since earning her diploma, Ashley has been exploring her many interests, such as cosmetology and set design. She is currently working at a salon while she earns a certificate in cosmetology, and she is a member of the National Council of Young Leaders through Opportunity Youth United.



KING, 9
YEP ENRICHES

KING has been participating in YEP's afterschool program and summer camp with his cousins for the past two years. He spends his afternoons playing sports, creating art, riding his bike in Bike Club, and working on homework. This year, King also joined the YEP Drumline as a snare drummer and has been performing all over New Orleans.



LA'DANEION, 11
YEP MENTORS

LA'DANEION started coming to YEP last year when he needed additional support after a loss in the family. Since then, he has been working with his YEP Youth Advocate to reach academic and behavioral goals. Determined to finish the school year strong, La'Daneion was awarded Student of the Month for the month of May in recognition of his improvements.



SOPHIA, 17
YEP WORKS

SOPHIA enrolled in YEP Works this spring to push herself to become more outgoing. After completing the 10-week employment readiness program, she applied to be an intern in YEP Thrift Works to continue practicing her customer service skills, where she will work for the remainder of the summer. Sophia will then begin culinary school in the fall.

A SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

LOOKING BACK AT AFTERSCHOOL 2022

THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR, YEP's afterschool program provides young people, ages 7-17, with daily activities, academic support, and access to caring adults. Every day, from 3-6pm, participants play basketball and football, receive tutoring and homework help, and create music and art. We celebrated the end of another school year with awards for young people who showed exceptional dedication and perseverance.

128

youth participated in afterschool activities, such as music and arts instruction, sports, tutoring, and one-on-one mentoring

96

youth participated in the YEP Drumline and Dance Team, 75 of whom marched in two 2022 Mardi Gras parades - Krewe of Iris and Krewe of Thoth

47

youth received additional educational support each month, thanks to the support of volunteer tutors and a generous investment from Baptist Community Ministries

100%

of youth receiving one-on-one mentoring services demonstrated progress towards their individual goals



SUMMER IS IN SESSION

WHAT WE'RE OFFERING PARTICIPANTS IN 2022



YEP EDUCATES

Classes will remain in session through the summer months, as students continue working towards their high school equivalency diplomas. In addition to class instruction, we are also bringing back summer group activities and field trips for the first time since the pandemic began.

YEP ENRICHES

YEP Summer Camp sponsored by First Horizon Bank has already begun! This year, we have 120 young people attending two camp sessions — our 6-week session with field trips, swimming lessons, art, and cooking classes for ages 9-12, and a 2-week teen camp with career exploration and college visits for ages 13-16.



YEP MENTORS

With school out, YEP Youth Advocates have organized a full summer of programming for YEP Mentors participants, including sailing, go-karting, art exploration, and a special overnight retreat, in addition to ongoing mentorship activities and life skills groups.

YEP WORKS

YEP Works' summer classes began earlier this month, where 15 participants are spending 10 weeks earning a stipend and gaining real-world job experience in YEP Bike Works & YEP Thrift Works. Participants are also working with staff to secure employment upon completion of the program.





2014

FROM 7 TO 18 GROWING UP AT YEP

WHEN JAHMIR WAS 7 YEARS OLD, his mother, Lynette, heard about a new youth program around the corner from their house. It was 2009, and although YEP had been based in Central City for five years, YEP Enriches was only just beginning.

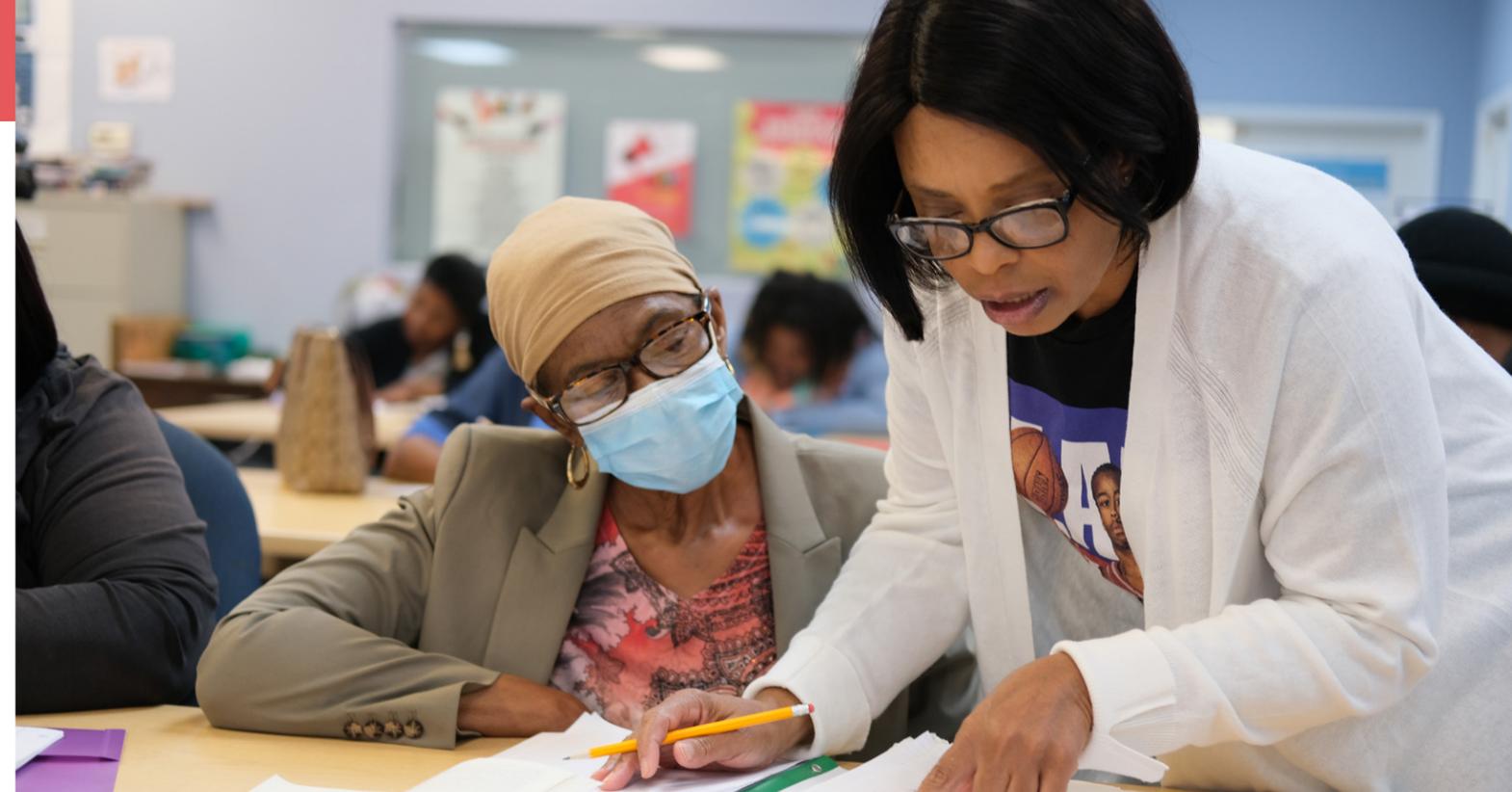
Because he was homeschooled, Jahmir didn't have as many opportunities to connect with people his age, so Lynette was eager to enroll him in YEP's new afterschool program. "Being homeschooled was a whole different world," says Jahmir. "I had to build friendships myself, and I had to get used to talking to people. YEP really helped with that. I just remember coming here and seeing a bunch of kids running around. It was crazy to me."

From that point on, Jahmir felt like YEP was where he belonged. "It was just a natural fit," he says. Every afternoon, he would walk over to Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. to make a new friend or learn a new skill, and he would dream about becoming a staff member one day.

Today, Jahmir is 18 years old and officially a member of the YEP team. After completing YEP's employment readiness training program to improve his people skills and interning for a year in the afterschool program, he accepted formal employment with YEP as a summer camp counselor, where he will assist staff with camp activities, field trips, and performances. "It's pretty cool to finally experience things from the grown-up's table," he says.



2022



GOOD NEWS

WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING THIS SUMMER



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2022

This month, we celebrated 50 individuals who earned their high school equivalency diplomas through YEP Educates over the past year. Thanks to our presenting event sponsor, Red River Bank, we invited graduates to celebrate their success with an intimate ceremony and brunch at Hotel Peter & Paul.



EXPANDING TO NEW ORLEANS EAST

It has been a long-time goal of YEP's to bring our programs and services to New Orleans East. In partnership with EQA Schools, YEP is expanding and will offer programs in New Orleans East starting in the fall of 2022. Stay tuned for more updates this summer!



CHILDREN'S BUREAU PARTNERSHIP

YEP has partnered with Children's Bureau of New Orleans to provide YEP participants access to a full-time, licensed mental health clinician onsite at YEP. This CBNO clinician will work exclusively with YEP young people to deliver consistent, high-quality mental health services.



GROWING OUR TEAM

With YEP's expansion to New Orleans East, we will be seeking several passionate individuals dedicated to youth development and empowerment to join our team this fall. Visit the Careers section of the YEP website to see what's available and share with qualified candidates.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

1600 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70113



www.youthempowermentproject.org

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