



Empowering Individual, Family, Neighborhood, and Systems Change

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. 2023



To deliver and advocate for safe and effective community-based alternatives to residential care and incarceration that empower individuals, families, and neighborhoods to thrive.



FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Youth Advocate Programs (YAP™), Inc. Friends,

In spring of 2023, I had the honor of joining YAP's new President & CEO Gary Ivory as co-host of the grand opening celebration of YAP's new Harrisburg, PA headquarters building. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Administrator Liz Ryan and Harrisburg Mayor Wanda R.D. Williams joined dozens of current and former board members, employees, and program participants for the celebration. The event recognized the 108 Harrisburg-based employees, whose work supports their more than 2,000 YAP colleagues across the United States and our global partners, whose community-based services transform lives, neighborhoods, and systems. Called YAP to the Future, the event highlighted how a simple model of empowering youth and families to see their strengths and connecting them with individualized economic, educational, and emotional tools is bringing public systems change across the U.S and abroad. The event gave me another opportunity to meet and engage with the incredible YAP staff and some of the current and former program participants. I am proud that my humble upbringing in Wilkinson County, Ga. where I was raised by a single mother rooted me to bring my gifts and talents full circle to serve as YAP's Board Chair. Thank you for your support of YAP's work. I invite you to read and share our 2023 Annual Report to see the return on your investment.



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FROM OUR CEO

First, I want to thank the YAP Board of Directors for selecting me to lead YAP as President and CEO. The Board of Directors and YAP's Executive Team and leadership across the agency have been supportive and remain committed to YAP's mission. I am proud to serve as YAP's third CEO in 48 years.

This past year has been filled with many successes. We have hired and promoted new leaders across YAP who are equally committed to our mission. We have made a commitment to hiring, retaining, and developing leadership at all levels of YAP. Our Leadership Institute seeks to strengthen YAP's leaders and build the capacity of community-based organizations that serve young people globally.



We are also committed to building YAP's evidence-base and currently have five research studies underway. The University of Chicago Crime Labs and Education Labs are conducting a multi-year randomized control trial evaluation of the Choose to Change® (C2C®) model that was co-developed with YAP and BrightPoint. The evaluation has found that C2C reduces violent-crime arrests by almost 50 percent and increases academic engagement for participating youth.

We have focused on policy and advocacy at the state and national levels. We are proud to have national partnerships with several national organizations. Our model is reducing neighborhood violence and helping child welfare agencies find homes for children without placement. Far too many children across America are sleeping in motel rooms and child welfare offices. YAP has always and will continue to help public systems develop safe and effective alternatives to incarceration or placement outside the home.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Brown".

19,582

Participants

87%

Living safely in
the community
at discharge

YAP

75%

Graduated or
attending
school
regularly

95%

Not convicted
of a new felony

60% 40%

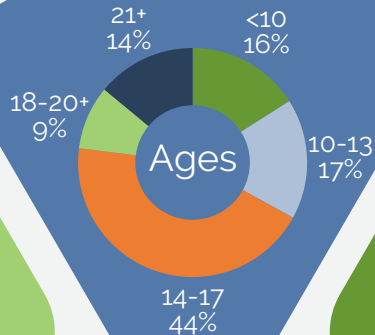


Male Female
Participants

66%

Participants of
Color

YAP



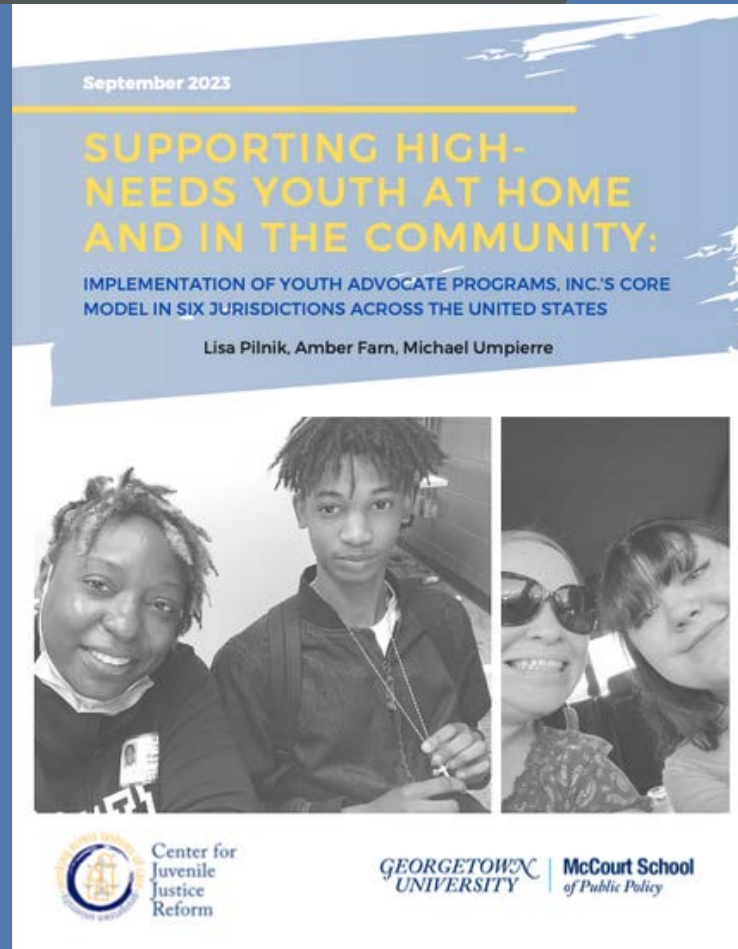
59%

Staff of Color

Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform Gives YAP Startups High Marks

A Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University report found six YAP community-based alternative-to-youth-incarceration and aftercare start-up programs were “extremely successful in serving youth and families, including those who may have had challenges engaging in other programs or services in the past.”

CJJR’s report was a collaboration with YAP, which launched the start-ups in 2019 and 2020 in partnership with juvenile justice and child welfare systems in Yavapai County, Arizona; Alameda County, California; Fulton County, Georgia; Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; Hamilton County, Ohio; and Illinois. The six jurisdictions in the CJJR report launched their programs using YAP/CJJR Safely Home Fund start-up grants, created to support the nonprofit’s work to build a national community-based continuum of care to improve outcomes for high-end justice-involved youth. Funding for the Safely Home Fund grants came from a generous donation to YAP from Ballmer Group.



Researchers interviewed three dozen participants, staff, and systems administrators who were a part of the start-up programs. Responses consistently reflected that YAP Advocates understand the distinct challenges that participants and their families face; that program services are intensive, individualized, and strength-focused; that services are delivered in collaboration with youths' families -- even beyond business hours; and that YAP equips families and youth with skills and resources critical to position young people for success and keep them safely at home. Most youth referred to YAP by the six systems partners were on probation; had been adjudicated for or charged with felony offenses; and had been placed in a facility at least once, many having experienced multiple placements. Participants were mostly males with youth of color representing the largest percentage in each site – ranging from 50-100%.

The researchers noted that while interviews revealed that YAP's services cost between \$90 - \$100 per day, a Justice Policy Institute report found that in 2020, states spent between \$234 and \$2,444 per confined youth per day with youth incarceration linked to poor outcomes and heightened recidivism.

In addition to the qualitative research, CJJR's report included quantitative data from YAP on outcomes of the 133 youths served and discharged across the sites from 2019 – 2022.

- At discharge, about 83% of YAP youth were living in a community setting, with an average increase of about 25% across the six sites.
- On average across the six sites, approximately 61% of youth graduated high school, obtained a GED at discharge, or were attending school regularly (at least four times a week) compared to 50% of youth upon arrival.
- 39% had jobs or were engaged in vocational services, compared to 26% when they started with YAP.
- After enrolling in YAP, 100% of participants in four of the six sites, 91% in Alameda County, and 93% in Hamilton County had no new felonies.

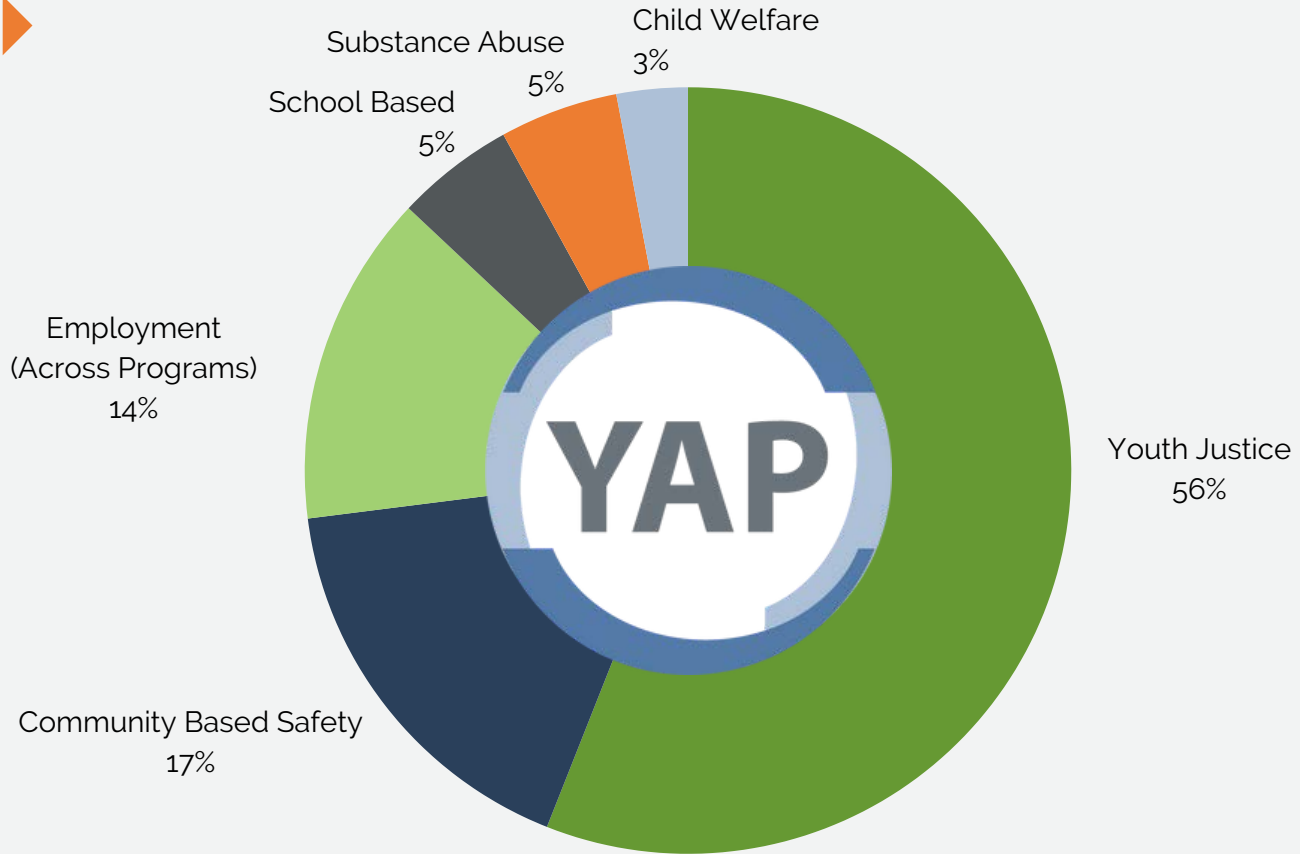
It Takes a Community

YAP saw significant program growth in 2023, particularly in the areas of youth justice and community-based safety services. These are also two areas where YAP saw its work fulfilling a growing desire by individuals to make a tangible difference in their communities. For decades, YAP relied solely on funding from government systems partners. Post-pandemic, YAP gained new support from community foundations. In addition, we gained support from corporations fulfilling a need for employees requesting partnerships with nonprofits that demonstrate their commitment to social responsibility. This increase in corporate and foundation philanthropy is enabling us to scale and enhance our community-based services. Into 2024, our pre-50th Anniversary year, we look forward to strengthening and building on these new foundation and corporate relationships and providing more opportunities for individuals to support our work with their time and treasure.



New Programs and Services

2023



New Funding from Boeing Supports Workforce Development

When Aniya shared with YAP Advocate Amelia Mullock her interest in working in the funeral industry, she connected her to a YAP Supported Work job with a Philadelphia funeral home.

A three-year \$300,000 Boeing grant will enable YAP to provide up to 270 Philadelphia, Delaware and New Jersey program participants with paid YAP Supported Work jobs and/or YAPWORX™ employment readiness training, two of the nonprofit's economic mobility tools specially designed to prepare systems-involved youth for meaningful work.

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing grant is part of the company's Our Homes - Dynamic Communities fund, established to reduce barriers to wealth accumulation among Black residents and communities of color. More than 70 percent of YAP's Philadelphia, Delaware and New Jersey program participants are youth of color, most of whom are Black.

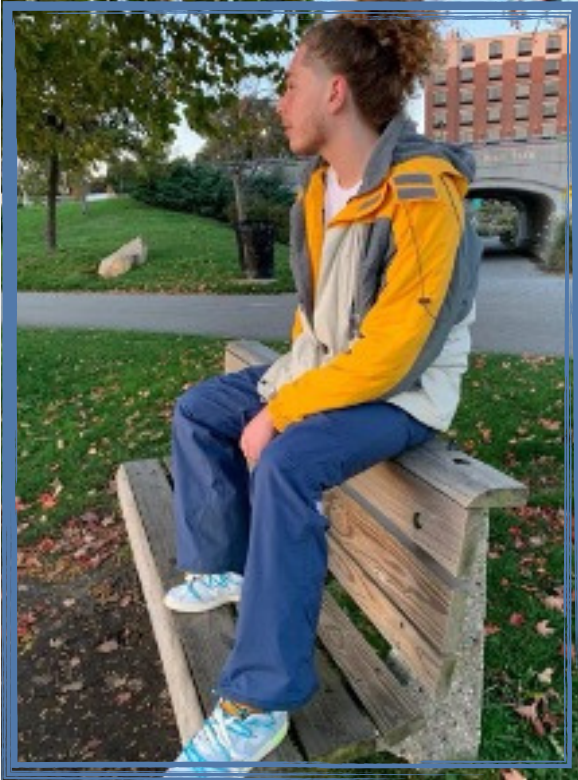




"At Boeing, our strategy is focused on creating occupational opportunities for tomorrow's innovators by investing in the skills required in today's modern workplace," said Boeing Global Engagement community investor, Michele Hengey. "Our partnership with the YAP Supported Work program aligns with our mission to prevent recidivism by reducing barriers for individuals of color involved in the criminal justice system. We are very proud of the life-changing impact this program has and will continue to have on regional youth of all backgrounds."

YAP Supported Work program participants are matched with employers close to home, most often small minority-owned businesses in fields that match the youths' interests and strengths. Through YAPWORX, YAP recruits volunteers, and manages opportunities for them to educate program participants about their jobs and businesses, provide mentoring, and create otherwise hard-to-come-by social capital connections.

YAPWrap™ Service Model Empowers Healthy Choices



Julian completed all the goals he set with his Providence, Rhode Island YAP Advocates. He finished high school, has a full-time job at a thrift store and most important, at age 20, he's drug-free.

"My Advocates were very understanding and patient," Julian said, adding they helped him obtain a social security card so he could get a job. "They would help sit down with me to get myself on the right track and work with me on my goals."

Julian was referred to YAP for substance abuse issues and was required by the court to complete three months in the program to have his drug case dropped. Julian said he first started doing drugs at age 14 and got off them at 18.

"Julian has come a long way," said YAP Providence County, R.I. Assistant Director Allen Leach.

"YAP is an amazing program," Julian said. "All of the staff are very understanding and helpful people. It's nothing but positive energy to be around."

Mary Moore Thanks YAP for Keeping Her Family Together

My name is Mary Moore and being a first-time mother, I was lost after giving birth to my daughter Brielle. I was suffering from postpartum depression and didn't have the knowledge on how to be a parent. I was given the opportunity to work with Youth Advocate Programs but was unsure of how YAP was going to be able to help me. I made the choice to give it a try not only for myself but for my family.

YAP's Intensive Family Coordinator Erin Mitchell came into my home and has helped me tremendously with not only my confidence, but also my comfort levels on being a parent. I was shown new opportunities, skill improvements and genuine compassion. YAP has helped me grow into the parent that I am today!

No matter how difficult the situation was, Erin never gave up on me and was always there to push me to never give up. I am so beyond grateful to have been given this opportunity to be in this program and to have had such a wonderful Advocate in Erin. Erin has been the nicest and most respectful person I've ever met. She's helped me excel in many aspects of parenthood. For myself, YAP means hope. This program is here to remind me that help is always at my fingertips. I recommend this wonderful program to anyone who needs help.



YAP Gives New Hope to Kids with Nowhere to Call Home



Released from a residential care facility, Xavier had no place to call home

When it was time for Xavier to leave a Harris County, Texas residential care facility, he was better, but needed more.

“I didn’t have direction; I was treading unknown waters, sailing on a sea, no island, nowhere to go,” he said. “Lots of guilt, shame, and sorrow for what I caused and the harm that was caused to me.”

Xavier went to a transitional emergency shelter for kids classified by the Texas child welfare system as children without placement or “CWOP” youth. At the emergency shelter, he met kids whose stories were unique, but with a common thread – no place to call home. Some had run from foster care. Others had returned from youth justice facilities to families unprepared or afraid to let them come back. Many had difficult, abusive, or volatile relationships with parents and guardians or their partners.

A couple of weeks after he got to the shelter, Xavier met Shalina Holmes and Alice Johnson YAP, two members the Safely Home pilot program that YAP began last year with

the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) aimed at reconnecting CWOP youth with their families or fictive kin. "The Advocates just came out of nowhere with a smile, open eyes, love and care," Xavier said. As the YAP team got to know Xavier's parent, they began providing services to help facilitate trust and reconciliation.

When Xavier turned 17, Holmes and Johnson worked with his case worker to connect him with DFPS Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) services. They also arranged for him to have YAP Supported Work, which enables Xavier to have a job at the emergency facility. When Xavier shared his story at a PAL group meeting, DFPS invited him to become part of its Youth Leadership Council and to speak at a statewide conference.

"Xavier is an extremely articulate smart young man, said Xavier Etherly, Xavier's caseworker. "He's proven to be a leader amongst his peers and always has a positive upbeat attitude."

Understanding that returning home may not be possible, at least not yet, with support from YAP, Xavier has a better understanding of the complexities of his reality from his parent's perspective. He sees progress and feels hopeful about his future.



Support from Comcast NBCUniversal Helps Raise Awareness of YAP's Behavioral Health Services

Fifteen-year-old Blessyn has come long way. A few years ago, her mother died. Alone with her father who battles chronic health issues, she struggled to manage her emotions. "After I lost my mom, I was depressed and resentful. I couldn't find my way," Blessyn says in a new public service announcement (PSA). "But I'm not lost," she adds.

The new PSA is part of YAP's national "But I'm Not" public awareness campaign, which includes video, radio and print ads appearing in donated media across the U.S. In 2023, YAP received continued support from Comcast NBCUniversal, which donated airtime valued at more than \$540,000, extending the company's in-kind support that began in 2022 when the campaign debuted nationwide.

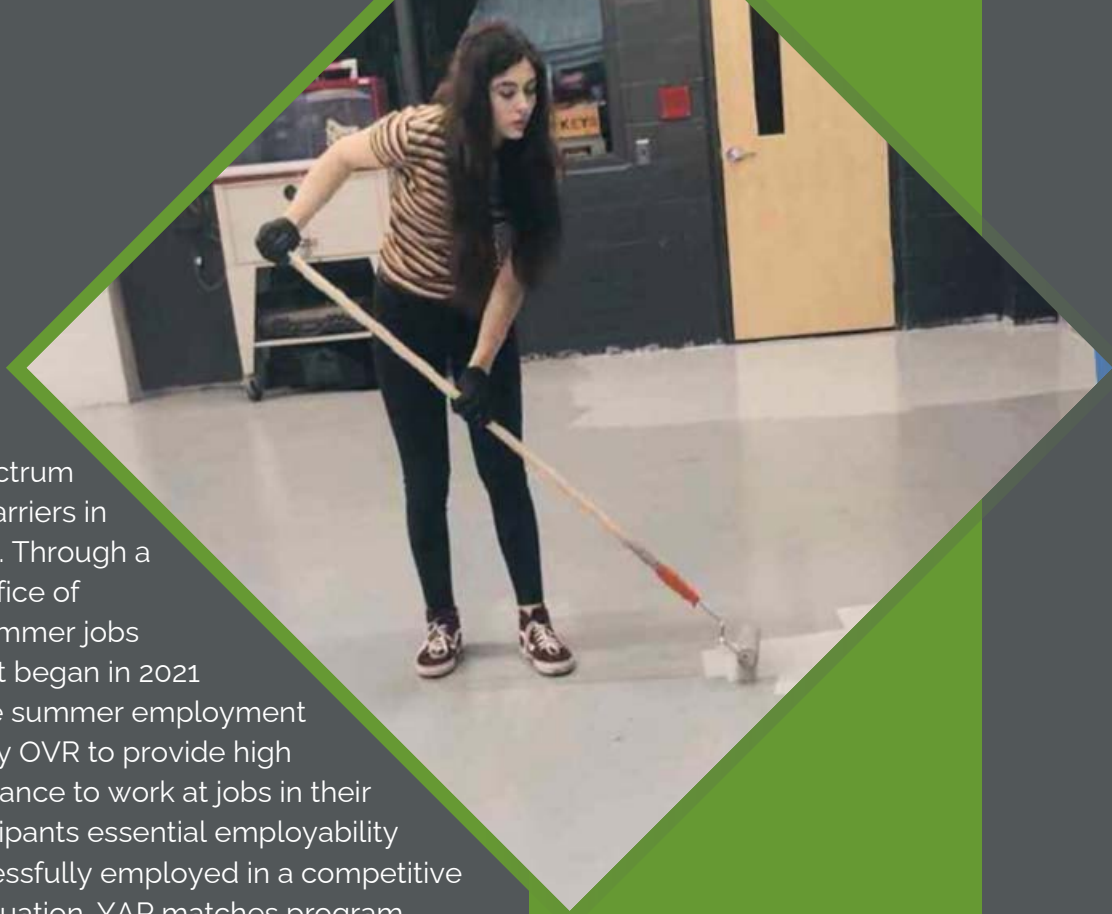
The PSA campaign features current and former participants in the national nonprofit's Youth Justice, Child Welfare, Intellectual Disabilities/Autism, and now with Blessyn's participation, Behavioral Health programs.

In the new PSA, Blessyn leaves viewers and listeners with a positive update, saying, "And now I'm finding joy and excited about my future."



Providing Employment Opportunities for Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Autism

In 2023, YAP placed 200 young people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorders or face other employment barriers in work experiences across Pennsylvania. Through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the summer jobs program has continued to grow since it began in 2021 from a handful of employers to 50. The summer employment program is part of MY Work, created by OVR to provide high school students with disabilities the chance to work at jobs in their communities. The goal is to give participants essential employability skills that allow them to become successfully employed in a competitive integrated environment following graduation. YAP matches program participants based on their interests with employers near their homes, placing them in jobs with employers in 20 counties throughout the state. OVR plans to continue expanding the MY Work program to all 67 PA counties.



Helping Cities Curb Neighborhood Violence

In 2023, more cities turned to YAP as they looked for innovative ways to curb neighborhood violence. When combined with evidence-based violence intervention approaches, the YAPWrap services model is providing positive outcomes in communities across the U.S.



In April, Keko Thompson spoke at a City of Baltimore news conference about how the YAP Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) team helped him put his life on a positive path. After serving time in prison and experiencing the loss of a relative to gun violence, Thompson felt hopeless. Things changed for Thompson when the YAP GVRS team gave him a life coach and connected him with individualized tools to turn his life around. Today Thompson has a job as a forklift operator, has new respect from his family, and is inspiring others in his community.



New Jersey

Partnering with Communities to Serve the Highest Risk Youth in School and at Home

Arrested on a gun charge at age 16, Jesse felt hopeless, defeated, and disappointed. "When I was in that cell, all I could think about was the mistake, letting my parents down, I thought I couldn't change that; and now I know that I can," he said.

Jesse is among more than 100 youths who received services in 2023 from a five-county New Jersey Community-Based Violence Prevention Program, also known as YAP Pursuing Excellence™, that serves youths at the highest risk of engagement in violence. A partnership with The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the program serves youth ages 12-18 in Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Middlesex, and Ocean counties who have a history of school suspensions, truancies, illegal or violent behavior and/or dealing mental health or substance use issues.



Assistant Program Director Carmen Pizarro and Program Director Emanuel Shumate presenting Jesse with Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll and Participation awards

YAP hires Credible Messengers with shared experience — some of whom were formerly incarcerated — to provide participants with ten hours a week of trauma-informed individual and family wraparound support.

As part of the program participants can attend weekly SPARCS sessions designed to address violence-related trauma and take part in YAP Supported Work, where community-based employers provide on-the-job training, coaching, and mentoring while the youths receive weekly compensation from YAP.

Now 17, Jesse has stayed out of trouble and is on the honor roll at school. He also holds a part-time job that he secured as part of the program.

"Since YAP, I know I can make it out of what I'm in right now and do better and get better and definitely give back," he said.



Six months after the program's launch, 109 young people were receiving services, 29 of whom were attending weekly SPARCS sessions with 21 employed in community Supported Work jobs. Of the participants, 90 percent had no additional contact with the legal system. Program referrals come from youth justice, child welfare, behavioral health, and school systems as well as from youths' friends and family members. Consistent with YAP's "no reject; no eject" policy, as capacity allows, The New Jersey Community-Based Violence Prevention Program accepts all qualifying referrals in the five-county service areas.



Chicago, IL

Partnering with Communities to Serve the Highest Risk Youth in School and at Home

In 2023, with continued funding from the City of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools, YAP, in partnership with BrightPoint, continued to deliver Choose to Change (C2C) services to 1,500 students, including 500 youths who through four community-based organizations, received programming informed by the C2C model. C2C serves youth ages 12-16 identified as being among those at the highest risk for becoming engaged in violence. In addition to receiving YAP youth and family wraparound services, C2C program participants attend Brightpoint's trauma-informed Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS) cognitive behavioral therapy sessions. Through a randomized controlled trial, University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab evaluators found that C2C reduces violent-crime arrests by almost 50 percent and increases academic engagement for participating youth.





Tarrant County, TX

**Partnering
with
Communities to
Serve the
Highest Risk
Youth in School
and at Home**

YAP Tarrant County Community Safety Program launched in late 2023 with funding from One Second Collaborative in partnership with United Way of Tarrant County and supported with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds administered by Tarrant County and the City of Fort Worth. Like the New Jersey program, the pilot serves youth ages 14-25 who are at the highest risk of engaging in violence -- youth with a history of school suspensions, truancies, illegal or violent behavior and/or individuals dealing with mental health or substance use challenges and those exposed to trauma. It also includes gang affiliated young people, those who have recently returned home from prison, and individuals who recently lost someone to gun violence and may be at risk for retaliating.



New Funding Partners: Strengthening and Sustaining Community Safety Services

YAP's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) services combine the nonprofit's unique YAPWrap Services model with best-practice public health approaches to help cities curb neighborhood violence. By the end of 2023, YAP's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) services were in 11 communities in nine states. In addition to adding new CVI government partners in Wilmington, DE and building on existing contracts, in some regions, YAP received donor funding from individuals and foundations aligned with a growing interest in expanding and sustaining their communities' public safety toolkits.



Dallas

The Communities Foundation of Dallas provided sustainable funding for Dallas Cred, which began in 2021 as a City of Dallas violence interruption program. In addition to interrupting violence in two of the city's most at-risk neighborhoods, the team works closely with many of the individuals identified as being among those at the highest risk for engaging in violence. The team empowers those on their case load by guiding them in developing intensive, individualized service plans that connect them with tools to help them redirect their lives. Dallas Cred also hosts community events and job fairs.



Charlotte

YAP's Alternatives to Violence (ATV) program, which launched in partnership with the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County in the Beatties Ford Road neighborhood, received additional funding from The Just Trust to enhance administrative oversight as YAP began serving a second site at West Boulevard. YAP's two ATV teams serve individuals ages 14-25, identified as most at risk of violence engagement, connecting them to individualized YAPWrap economic, educational, and emotional tools as an alternative to violence. These services include housing, workforce development, tutoring and other school support, and assistance in addressing trauma. The YAP ATV teams also engage residents in the Beatties Ford Road and West Boulevard neighborhoods in events and through public education designed to change cultural norms.

YAP Employee Donations Fund More Scholarships For Program Participants

Nasir is one of the 57 current and former program participants and/or family members who received the YAP scholarship in 2023. Named for YAP founder Tom Jeffers, the scholarship fund is supported by YAP employees, with 177 staff members making contributions over the past year through voluntary payroll deductions. YAP awarded \$58,130 in scholarships during the calendar year.

Now an Indiana University of Pennsylvania freshman, Nasir said prior to landing in YAP, he made many poor choices with multiple arrests and court cases. “The first time I got in trouble, I was in the 8th grade and got suspended from school.”

Nasir said things continued to get worse, especially when he was incarcerated in a youth facility six hours from home. He said he returned to Philadelphia angry and picked up where he left off.

“Three days before my February court date, I stole a car; got into a cop chase.”

As an alternative to another incarceration, a family court hearing officer assigned Nasir to YAP.

“Once he got situated in school, he started thriving,” said YAP Advocate Caprea Ross, recalling how it took some time



Tom Jeffers Endowment Fund for Continuing Education Fund scholarship recipient Nasir with his former YAP Advocate Caprea Ross

for her to gain Nasir's trust. She said he always worked hard on his community service assignments and began showing similar determination in school, eventually taking advanced classes like AP calculus.

As she got to know Nasir better, Ross also formed a special bond with his mother. "I say we're a family; we hold one another accountable," Ross said.

After Nasir received his college acceptance letter, Ross enrolled him in YAP Supported Work, where he held a job with a neighborhood auto body shop, receiving a weekly paycheck from YAP.

Nasir graduated high school and completed the requirements for probation, entering college with a clean record.

"The YAP program benefited my life so much by giving me so many outlets" Nasir said. "The program helped me learn how to stay focused on things in life and to have things in order."



Advocating for Justice, Child Welfare and Family Services Reform

In 2023, former Talladega, Ala. Mayor Timothy L. Ragland joined YAP as National Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs. Ragland began working with national youth justice, child welfare, behavioral health, criminal justice, social services, and other partners to advocate for policies that systems that impact youth and families who face society's most complex challenges.

- ✓ Contributed to the Smith v. Edwards amicus brief, advocating for upholding a preliminary injunction preventing the transfer of children from Louisiana's Office of Juvenile Justice to Angola, the state's maximum-security prison for adults.
- ✓ Developed a comprehensive Policy Toolkit for YAP leaders.
- ✓ Created Reporting Guidelines for consultants and lobbyists, further solidifying our commitment to transparency and ethical practices.
- ✓ Supported/collaborated with youth advocacy organizations - Justice Works, Youth Care, Human Rights for Kids, The Sentencing Project, and others.



Helping Global Partners Bring Systems Change

YAP International continued its support of sister organizations in Sierra Leone, Guatemala, Ireland, and Australia and added new initiatives that expanded global awareness to the YAPWrap model. Of note, through voluntary payroll deductions, YAP employees in the U.S. made donations to support YAP's international partner organizations in Sierra Leone and Guatemala. In 2023, 58 YAP staff members donated \$3,671 to support work in Sierra Leone and 58 employees donated \$3,951 to assist YAP's sister organization in Guatemala.

Dr. Ali Al-Turaihi from Iraq, Imane Lakbachi from Morocco, and Kabira Tojalieva and Nigora Sanakulova from Uzbekistan.





Helping Global Partners Bring Systems Change

Australia's Gold Coast YAP youth justice program received renewed funding after launching as a pilot in 2022. In support of work in Australia, YAP Director of International Programs Diana Matteson presented at Melbourne's Home Stretch Symposium and Pennsylvania Quality Improvement Director Michelle Heim provided quality training and coaching in Sydney.

In the U.S., Matteson engaged YAP Midwest Regional Director E'Ron Leveston and the Chicago YAP Team to serve as host to Program Advancement and Implementation Manager Suellen Lembke in an in-person exchange about YAP's Community-Based Safety Initiatives in Chicago.

YAP President and CEO Gary Ivory, Regional Director Kim Brandon and the Tarrant County Texas Leadership team hosted Gold Coast Operations Manager Alison Brodie in an exchange on YAP youth justice and best practices.



In conjunction with YAP Voice Champs, YAP International hosted virtual YAP World Cafes to celebrate International Youth Day 2023, a virtual conversation/webinar about youth and advocacy with participants joining from Australia, Guatemala, the U.S., Ecuador, Brazil, and El Salvador. YAP staff in the U.S. and internationally participated in International Women's Day, International Peace Day, International Day of Sports for Development and Peace, and Outdoor Office Day.

YAP programs in Florida, Chicago and Pittsburgh, Pa., hosted a second cohort of four program fellows through the U.S. State Department's Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) Program. The fellows, from Iraq, Uzbekistan and Morocco, gained firsthand knowledge and understanding of YAP's unique intensive culturally responsive youth and family community based YAPWrap services and mobile behavioral health programs. The fellows were also a part of the grand opening celebration of YAP's new national headquarters building in Harrisburg in May.

Following YAP Los Angeles' 2022 hosting of Romania fellow Alexandra Diana Gheorghică, Los Angeles, County YAP Director Brandon Lamar became YAP's first staffer to participate in the CEPex program, created in part to support CEE fellows' post-fellowship community engagement projects.



Helping Global Partners Bring Systems Change

Celebrating The Support Center: YAP's New National Headquarters

In May, YAP employees gathered with dignitaries and current and former program participants for YAP to the Future, the celebration of The Support Center, the national nonprofit's new headquarters building.



Carlos, 17, spoke at the event about his YAP Behavioral Health Services professional, saying: "I thank Anna [Kanpoll] and the Youth Advocate Programs for helping me become more open and not as aggressive with peers and family, and I always use my coping skills when needed."



"Hearing the young people tonight, it's just so, so motivating. And this is why we do the work because we believe young people are our future, but we also believe they are our present," said Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Administrator Liz Ryan, the celebration's keynote speaker. "We want to make sure they have all the tools and resources that they need to be successful. And that's what YAP does every day."



Former program participant, YAP Advocate Faith Towle said her Advocate was a “light.” “She helped me become independent; she showed me that anything is possible.”



“My journey has led me to the belief that lots of kids need more support. They have challenges and complex needs that require attention and care,” said Harrisburg Area Community College Enrollment Services Specialist Santos Robles, who was a YAP participant at age 17. “I also learned that we do not need to take these kids away from their families and send them to faraway places.”

Other current and former YAP program participants who shared their stories included Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Services program participant, Connor, and Youth Justice program participants Jayvius and Jaequan.



YAP participant Connor with Harrisburg Mayor Wanda R.D. Williams.

“While I cannot speak to the work that youth advocate programs are doing in 34 other states, I do know what you are doing here in the City of Harrisburg and that is saving children’s lives which is important to me; giving them direction when their rock gives away,” said Harrisburg Mayor Wanda R.D. Williams.

“Through the support of YAP, my entire life has changed,” Connor said, standing next to his YAP Life Coach Audrey Waterman. “Since the beginning of life I’ve had a lot of struggles and through the support of YAP, all of those struggles I have been able to overcome.”



Former YAP board members Lynette Brown-Sow and Jay Snyder with Board Chair GA State Rep. Teddy Reese, Esq. and President and CEO Gary Ivory after unveiling a portrait of YAP founder Tom Jeffers, which now hangs in the lobby of the new headquarters building.

YAP's "Making Social Change Happen Awards": A Maryland/Washington, D.C. Celebration of Youth and Family Achievements

Maryland Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Vincent N. Schiraldi and Maryland Department of Human Services Secretary Rafael López joined YAP to honor youth and adults making positive change. Schiraldi and López were among those recognized by YAP at its Washington, D.C.-Maryland region Oct. 13 YAP's "Making Social Change Happen Awards" at Baltimore's Reginald F. Lewis Museum. The program honored current and former justice-involved youth and adults, and other YAP program participants identified as at the highest risk for engaging in violence and those empowering them with tools to turn their lives around.



Maryland Department of Human Services Secretary Rafael López was recognized and addressed the honorees



YAP Program Directors Chris Campbell and Danielle Franklin and their teams honoring current and former program participants



YAP CEO Gary Ivory with MDJS Secretary Vincent Schiraldi

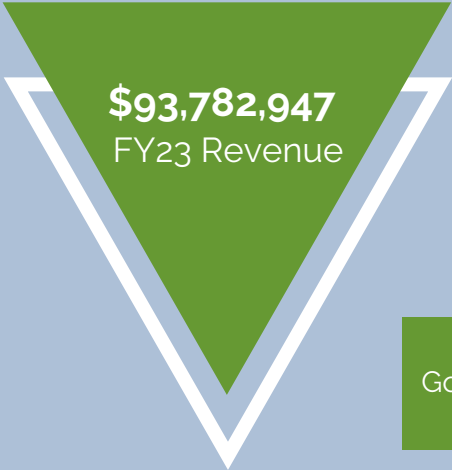
Celebrating 45 Years of Giving New Jersey Alternatives to Youth Incarceration and Residential Care



YAP Morris/Sussex County, N.J. Director Theresa Gallagher, YAP Essex/Union County, N.J. Director Curtis Moore and New Jersey Regional Director of Operations Stephanie Moore during "It Takes a Village: Building in New Jersey, One Brick at a Time," 45th anniversary event. All photos taken by Terry Gallagher.

YAP New Jersey recently celebrated 45 years of serving young people and families with a day of "It Takes a Village: Building in New Jersey, One Brick at a Time" anniversary events.

Financials



89.91%
Government Grants &
Contracts



10.09%
Foundation/Corporate
Grants & Other
Donations

Donors (Foundations, Corporations, In Kind)

United Way of Delaware

Pittsburgh Foundation

Boeing Foundation

Community Foundation of Texas

Stand Together Foundation

Local Initiatives Corp

The Papa Johns Foundation

Caring for Denver Foundation

Frank and Victoria Fertitta Foundation

Redlich Horwitz Foundation

WHAS Crusade for Children

The Wish Book - Pittsburg Foundation/Robert F.

and Joan Marie Klein Fund

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Encounter Free Methodist Church

Allstate Foundation

Gettysburg Polish Pottery

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Greater Rochester Health Foundation

Stewarts

Hunters Chapel Holy Church of Christ

Latino Action Network Foundation

Jingoli & Sons

Raiders Foundation

Ken W. Davis Foundation

Kiwanis Club of Chambersburg

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