ENCOURAGING THE HEART OF CINCINNATI YOUTH





brighter futures • achieving dreams

Letter from President & CEO and the Board Chair





Dear Friends of Cincinnati Youth Collaborative.

Nothing is more inspiring than to reflect on the remarkable success of students we served in 2016-2017. This year's community impact report highlights several students who overcame obstacles and took the next steps toward their dreams. These stories provide a sampling of the narrative of so many of our students, and reinforce the importance of CYC's mission.

We know that success does not end after a high school diploma. CYC's continuum of services—mentoring. work readiness, college and career advising - are among the most comprehensive and impactful in our community. We arm our students with visibility to new pathways and possibilities, and build their confidence to go after their dreams. High school graduation is a major milestone and this past year, 95% of CYC seniors graduated on time from high school. Having a clear path beyond high school is just as essential, and 95% of CYC seniors successfully transitioned into the real world-toward one or more of our 3 E's-Enrollment, Enlistment, and Employment.

Empowering students for their futures requires extensive collaboration. It requires strong relationships with the five school districts we serve and the 60 different school staffs in these districts. It requires collaboration with other youth serving organizations like Most Valuable Kids, YMCA, Grad Cincinnati, Activities Beyond the Classroom, The Urban League and many more to ensure youth have all the resources available to them in the most efficient and effective manner. It requires that we collaborate closely with businesses who can help open the door for youth to see post-high school employment opportunities that maximize their potential and meet our region's workforce needs.

Although our regional community has a staggering number of youth in poverty, ranking fourth in the nation with nearly half of children living below the poverty level, CYC has a model that is proven. Our successful results compel us to aspire to double the 5,000 youth we currently serve, ideally by 2020. To help break generational poverty for youth:

We envision every student in our community is able to choose career pathways that spark their curiosity, and a plan with achievable goals to realize their dreams beyond high school.

We envision every student has the emotional and social skills that allow him or her to grow in confidence, and make positive choices.

We envision every student has a caring adult who is willing and able to invest in their success.

This is what CYC works for every day.

Thank you for being with us on this journey and for being in it for the long term. Thank you for giving so generously of your heart, time, and resources for our youth. You make an incredible difference.

With gratitude.

Jane Keller, CYC President and CEO

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Impact Indicators: 2016–2017 School Year



Number of Students Served

4940



Over
100
Community
and Corporate
Partners

Student Grade Promotion



CYC's on-time Graduation

1500 Volunteers

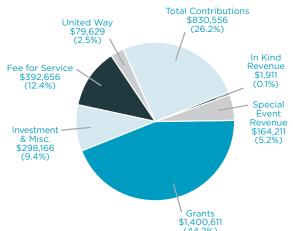


Students
Transitioning
to College

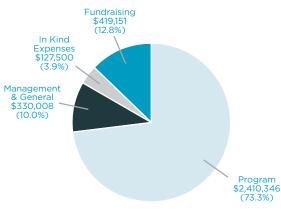
Students
Transitioning
to College,
Job or Career
Training or
Military



Total Revenue \$3,167,740



Total Expense \$3,287,005



Change in Net Assets \$(119,265)

CYC: Making a Difference

With our 3 E approach, our students **Enroll** in college and technical training, step into **Employment** pathways that provide sustainable wages, or **Enlist** in the military with a growth mindset, believing in themselves and using tools they need for success. We do this through a diverse variety of programs including:



"CYC has pushed me to just keep going no matter what happens in your life... Just keep pushing and reach for your goal and if your goal is education don't let anything stop you. Education is your key to the world. So just use that key and it can open so many doors for you."

 Yaye Keita (CYC College and Career Success, Outstanding Student Scholarship Recipient)

Mentoring

CYC offers **One-to-one Mentoring** (students in grades 2–12), **Group Mentoring** (a team of mentors matched with a group of students), **Worksite Mentoring** (mentors matched with youth through a CYC workplace program), and **College Mentoring** (an adult mentoring a college student).

CYC graduate, Chaz Reed, has benefited tremendously from the guidance of his CYC mentor, Ande Weinstein. When Chaz was in high school, Ande exposed him to the functions of running a small business during a summer job opportunity at his office. Chaz shares, "During that time I learned a lot from Ande. I learned how to communicate in a professional setting, how to be responsible with my finances, and how to have compassion for others. He showed me what it means to make sacrifices in order to achieve my goals, and taught me how to separate my needs from my wants—a lesson many of my friends never learned."

College and Career Success

Beginning in middle school, CYC provides comprehensive career and college guidance to partner schools. Programs identify the most high-need students and supply individualized support and mentoring to ensure graduation and a successful post-secondary transition. CYC College and Career Advisors provide career exploration opportunities, test prep and college application assistance, FAFSA and scholarship support, and follow up services.

CYC 2017 Outstanding Student Scholarship recipient, Yaye Keita, lived through war-torn Liberia and landed in America as a young child who didn't speak English. Thanks to the support of her CYC advisors, and her hard work and dedication, she has found great success and is the first person in her family to go to college!

Work Readiness

CYC's Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates (JCG) program assists students with significant challenges to help them graduate and successfully make a planned transition from school to career. JCG Career Specialists teach a one-credit course of 37 core employability skills, including: interview skills, public speaking, resume writing, time management, and accountability. Students develop a clear plan with their career specialist and receive follow-up services.

Work Readiness programming cultivates the skills of our youth for a globally competitive market. During the mock interview process, CYC staff and board members serve as prospective employers and interview students in a caring and supportive environment that fosters their growth. CYC student, Precious Kimbrough, felt positive about her experience and empowered for interviews with potential employers. She says, "I had a wonderful experience and my interviewer gave me encouraging and helpful feedback. I'm very thankful for this opportunity."

CYC Volunteers: The Heart of CYC

CYC mentors are a vital part of the CYC family. They are caring people taking the time to do what they can (and when they can) to make a difference in the life of a deserving young person. CYC mentor, Barb Szucsik, has made a remarkable difference in the life of her CYC mentee, Raishel Farrier.

Barb, a Cincinnati based attorney at Convergys
Corporation, initially began mentoring Raishel because of their mutual interest in the legal field. "Raishel was interested in becoming a paralegal," Barb relays proudly. "This is a career I had before law school. We bonded over that common interest and then our friendship blossomed."

Raishel credits Barb with being the greatest source of encouragement she's had in her life. Lyricist and author, Sidney Madwed, states, "The finest gift you can give anyone is encouragement. If everyone

Volunteers are the heart of CYC. We especially love when our alumni go on to become CYC volunteers. It's exciting to share that CYC graduate, Aliou Diouf, has



received the encouragement they need to grow, the genius in most everyone would blossom and the world would produce abundance beyond our wildest dreams."

Reflecting on that encouragement, Raishel says, "There is nothing more impactful than having a friend who is always there for you, through the good and the bad. I have had many great moments in my life and moments that I was not so proud of. Barb has been there through every moment and has given me the greatest advice."

On the benefits of mentoring, Barb is known for telling others, "Don't be afraid to do it!" She elaborates, "As mentors, we have had plenty of life experiences where things didn't always go the way we wanted, or perhaps made some choices we regretted at the time. However, we've learned and grown

brought our mission full circle by becoming a CYC mentor to Gabriel Santiago-Garcia. His story is such an inspiring one. Aliou immigrated to the United States from Senegal as a 6-year-old, and graduated from Gilbert A. Dater High School where he was enrolled in our College and Career Success program. Aliou felt strongly about mentoring a student at his alma mater, and could not be more excited to guide his 7th grade mentee to opportunities for success. He shares, "I'm humbled by how much I've received from CYC,



from those experiences, and hopefully we can help mentees navigate some of the choices and opportunities."

Raishel notes, "The time commitment is nothing compared to the impact that you will have on your mentee. Barb has been in my life since high school, and I am now a senior about to graduate from Kent State. It is the greatest feeling in the world to be able to confide in someone who actually knows who you are and what you want to achieve."

At CYC, we want to thank Barb and all of our mentors for making an incredible difference in the life of a vulnerable young person! Our mentors and volunteers are the heart of our mission.

and I wanted to be a part of the mission by giving the gift of mentorship. I would not be where I am today without the many caring CYC role models and advocates who supported me at every turn." Aliou is also a graduate of Centre State, and works for Gallagher. Are you interested in volunteering for CYC? We could not do this work without your support!

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, including mentoring, please email CYC Volunteer Manager, Audrey Holtzman, at aholtzman@cycyouth.org.

CYC Alumni: Where are they now?

CYC Work Readiness and Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates (JCG) alumna, Tajha Laflore, is a shining example of CYC's mission in action. Tajha's JCG Career Specialist, Vicky Perkins, has remained in her life beyond high school as a mentor and friend, providing unwavering guidance and encouragement as she pursued her degree in communications. With Vicky's support, Tajha was able to stay focused on the end goal of her college education and graduated with honors from Ohio University in three years. Tajha says, "I don't think I would have stayed in college if I did not enroll



in CYC's Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates program. I had so many mentors and advocates to help me succeed." All of us in the CYC family are incredibly proud of Tajha for her remarkable achievement, and we are grateful to Vicky for her steadfast commitment to fulfilling CYC's mission, and for making a difference in the lives of so many CYC students. Tajha is now a career specialist for Jobs for Ohio's Graduates, which is the governing body for CYC's Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates program. We are so happy for Tajha! Do you have a CYC alumni story to share? If so, please email **CYC Communications and** Marketing Specialist, Jackie Treftz, at itreftz@cycyouth.org.

Year in Review

CYC hosts screening of critically acclaimed Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) documentary

In April, CYC hosted a screening of James Redford's film, *Resilience*, to nearly 250 guests at 20th Century Theater. *Resilience* chronicles a movement to prevent childhood trauma, treat toxic stress and improve the health of future generations. Redford says, "Our goal is to make 'Toxic Stress' and 'Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)' household terms, so individuals and

communities are empowered to improve the health and wellbeing of this and future generations." CYC programming and caring volunteers are a part of the solution.



Year in Review

CYC partners with Cincinnati State for Be Great Grant

The Be Great Grant program, which began this academic year, was announced last February for students of Cincinnati Public Schools and other CYC high schools who plan to attend Cincinnati State as a degree-seeking student. It provides full-time Pell-eligible students with up to \$1,000 for tuition and \$1,000 for books to help fill gaps in financial aid. Youth are matched with a CYC college mentor.

CYC partners with UC Blue Ash for Academic Achievement Scholarship

This past spring, CYC partnered with UC Blue Ash for the UC Blue Ash Academic Achievement Scholarship. Students are also matched with a CYC college mentor. UC Blue Ash is the primary post-secondary partner for CYC's College and Career Success program, GEAR UP Norwood. The two work together in many ways for student and staff development to form a rigorous academic and college-going culture at Norwood High School.





CYC Student Spotlight: Ra'Niece Taylor-Benton



Ra'Niece Taylor-Benton is a proud 2017 graduate of Western Hills University High School, and an alumna of CYC's Work Readiness program, Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates (JCG). Ra'Niece was selected by her JCG Career Specialist, Vicky Perkins, to participate in JCG's Summer Work Experience Opportunity (SWEO) program.

The JCG SWEO program is an 8-week hands-on internship experience designed to help increase career awareness and position students to make informed career choices. Ra'Niece's ambition is to become a pastry chef, and the SWEO program served to foster that passion and expand her knowledge further through her internship with Cincinnati Cooks. Ra'Niece has gained valuable skills and knowledge that will last her a life time; she has learned the mechanics of a commercial kitchen, food safety, food inventory and storage, basic nutrition, and knife skills. She has also

gained valuable professional and interpersonal skills that she can apply throughout her life.

Ra'Niece's drive, dedication, perseverance, and CYC support system can be attributed to her success. Upon graduation from the Cincinnati Cooks internship, Ra'Niece was one of three students to receive an award for perfect attendance, and was one of five students presented with a chef's knife set for meeting the employment criteria. Ra'Niece is currently a freshman at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College in the Culinary Arts program and on her way to making her dreams come true.

"CYC's GEAR UP Norwood program has impacted my life in every way. I am the first to acknowledge that because of CYC I have big goals! CYC has helped me learn how to apply myself, and I'm very proud of my achievements. I'd like to tell you what I think of CYC: it's important, life-changing, and urgently needed." — Deshon Grant (CYC College and Career Success, Norwood High School)



CYC programs inspire youth to live out CYC values

Service is at the core of CYC's values, and we believe that it's essential to building communities and connecting people.

Our College and Career Success teams in our GEAR UP Norwood and AmeriCorps Ohio College Guides programs know how to model the way for our youth. In the 2016-17 school year, they formed the Norwood Service Chiefs at Norwood High School as a means to better engage and provide opportunities for CYC students to give back through service.

CYC AmeriCorps Ohio College Guides Site Supervisor, Crystal Smith says, "Our AmeriCorps members have a made commitment to support and uplift our community through 11-months of national service. Working with the Norwood Service Chiefs provides our 'A-Team' the opportunity to share the precepts of civic duty and community building through national service. Our AmeriCorps Ohio College Guides set the example for our Norwood Service Chiefs, proving that anyone can leadand anyone can serve!"

Each year, the students take an oath to affirm their commitment:

I will be proactive in making our school safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring our students together to strengthen the communities.

I will take action, seek common ground, and persevere, when faced with apathy, conflict, and adversity.

I am proud to be a Norwood Service Chief and I will commit myself to service this year and beyond.

Service projects include creating care packages for foster kids, assembling home safety kits for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and many others. We thank CYC staff and students for their compassion, and for their commitment to give back!



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"I always looked at CYC as a trampoline. If I was ever to fall or need something I always relied on CYC to bounce me back up where I was. Or if I needed help with homework I knew I could always run to CYC, or if I needed a question answered about college I always knew where to go."

Kenneth Lyle II (CYC
 College and Career Success,
 Outstanding Student
 Scholarship Recipient)

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"CYC taught me that you don't have to think about now but think about your tomorrow. My CYC advisors taught me how to look into my colleges and looking into what I wanted to do." — Azaria Pittman-Carter (CYC Work Readiness, Outstanding Student Scholarship Recipient)

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Terrex Development and Construction

The Andrew Jergens Foundation

The AT&T Inc. Fund of The Cleveland Foundation

The Business of Good Foundation

The Children's Home of Cincinnati

The Dan and Laura Keller Family

Endowment Scholarship

The Farmer Family Foundation

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

The Grisemer Family Charitable Trust

The Huntington National Bank

The PNC Financial Services Group

The Procter & Gamble Company

Tom and Barbara Tobias Family Fund

Total Quality Logistics

Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc.

Truepoint Wealth Counsel

Truist

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

University of Cincinnati

US Bank

US Bank Foundation

Walmart Inc.

Western and Southern Financial Group

William P. Anderson Foundation

William Price Family Foundation Fund

Woodward Trust

Xavier University

XLC Personnel Services

YourCause, LLC

Zoogmedia

Zyloware Eyewear

Community and Corporate Partners

3CDC

Accenture

Activities Beyond The Classroom

American Cancer Society

Art Beyond Boundaries Art Gallery

AT&T

Bee Active Adventure Zone

Be The Match

Blossoms Florist

Cafferky Landscaping

Center for Independent Living

Options (CILO)

Channel 12 - WKRC

Cincinnati Childrens Hospital Medical

Center

Cincinnati Cooks

Cincinnati Health Department

Cincinnati Public Schools

Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens

CINTAS

Citi Financial

City Gospel Mission

City of Cincinnati

City of Cincinnati Fire Department

City of Cincinnati Police Department

College Now Greater Cleveland

Dewey's Pizza

DHL

Diversity & Education Solutions

Drake Planetarium & Science Center

Dress For Success

Fidelity Investments

Fifth Third Bank

Finneytown Local Schools

Forest Park Fire Department

Forest Park Police Department

Freestore Foodbank

Gateway Community and Technical

College

GE Aircraft Engines

Greater Cincinnati Apprenticeship

Council

Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative

ilitiative

Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services

Huntington National Bank

Hoxworth Blood Center

JC Battle & Sons Funeral Home

Job Corps

Jobs for America's Graduates

Jobs for Ohio's Graduates

Kenton Tire Services

Kenzie's Closet

Kings Island

Kroger

LaRosa's

Liberty Tax

Luxottica

Macy's

Magnified Giving

Mark Bronson, DDS

Mayerson Academy

Melodic Connections Music Therapy

Messer Construction Company

Miami University - Oxford

Mt. St. Joseph University

Most Valuable Kids

Nanny's Multi-Level Learning Center

National College Access Network

National Underground Railroad

Freedom Center

Newport Acquarium

North College Hill City School District

Northern Kentucky University

Norwood City School District

Norwood City Police Department

Norwood City Fire Department

Ohio Association of College Admission Counseling

Ohio College Access Network

Ohio Means Jobs Cincinnati-Hamilton

County

Ohio State University - MAP Program

Omega Psi Phi Fraterity, Inc.

Partners for a Competitive Workforce

Per Scholas

Price Hill Will

Proctor & Gamble Company

Serve Ohio

Southwest Ohio Region Workforce

Investment Board

SPCA Cincinnati

State Farm

Strive Partnership

Susan G. Komen Greater Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Reds

Thomas More College

TRIO Programs - Department of

Education

Truepoint Wealth Counsel

United States Armed Forces

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

University of Cincinnati Bearcat Buddies

University of Cincinnati Blue Ash

University of Cincinnati College of Arts & Science

University of Cincinnati Medical Center

University of Cincinnati Medical Mentors

Urban League

Western & Southern Life

Winton Woods City Schools

Woodlawn Fire Department

Writely Sew, LLC

Xavier University

Youth Commission of Cincinnati



Donating to CYC

We need your help! Your continued support provides life-changing programs to deserving Cincinnati youth. Over 40% of Cincinnati's children live in abject poverty, and are burdened with obstacles that can impede their academic success and put them at tremendous risk for dropping out of high school.

CYC's vital programing and resources are the solution, but we cannot provide our services without crucial funding. Please continue to remember CYC in your charitable giving.

To make a gift, please visit beadreammaker.cycyouth.org, or call CYC Development Manager, Elise Hyder, at (513) 363-5223.



Planned Giving

You may also wish to leave a legacy of generosity for Cincinnati youth through our planned giving program. With your support, we can continue connecting vulnerable students with a positive adult advocate to guide them down pathways to success. A deferred gift can help you balance your financial goals and your

charitable interests—all while possibly achieving significant tax benefits. A planned gift, such as a bequest in your will or trust, life insurance designations, or stock donation ensures your support for the children we serve well into the future. To learn more about CYC's major gifts program, or if you have already designated

CYC as a beneficiary in your will, please contact CYC
Chief Development,
Marketing & Strategy
Officer, David Plogmann, at dplogmann@cycyouth.org, or at (513) 363-5250. Thank you for your heart for our youth.
We could not fulfill our mission without such a caring and generous community.

Mission

CYC empowers vulnerable children and young adults to overcome obstacles and succeed in education, career, and life.

Vision

All children will achieve their full potential.

Core Values

Accountability, Community, Empowerment, Integrity, Passion.









