



40 Years. 15,000 Kids.

Y.O.U. 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



A YEAR OF TRANSITION, GROWTH AND IMPACT

Dear Friends of Y.O.U. :

Y.O.U.'s 40th anniversary year brought exciting achievements and significant challenges in the midst of an important transition. This annual report for FY2011 (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) tells the powerful story of our continuing work to meet the growing needs of youth and families in our community in a difficult time.

In 2011, Y.O.U. **provided services to 35% more young people**, growing from 450 youth served in 2010 to **607 in 2011**. We also offered young people and their families more comprehensive services thanks to the significant expansion of our mentoring and clinical counseling programs. This dramatic growth responded to the critical, growing need in our community. The recession pushed hundreds of Evanston families further into poverty, dramatically increasing the need for our services. **The unwavering support of our donors and volunteers allowed us to stretch to meet the need.**

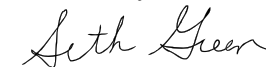
Too many headlines in the year highlighted the economic and political turmoil in Washington and in Springfield. Governmental support for social services -- including at Y.O.U. -- were cut and payment checks were many months overdue. Yet with the strong leadership of our Board, prudent spending by our staff, and the heartwarming generosity of private donors, we were able to meet the challenge and maintain a strong programmatic and financial footing.

Finally, 2011 brought the retirement of Y.O.U.'s founder after 40 years of service, six months of an intense, nationwide search, and the hiring of a new executive director. The two of us join hands in celebration of all that Y.O.U. has accomplished during its first 40 years and all of the promise for decades to come.

We have great hope for the future, as we know that our efforts are working. In a community struggling with an achievement gap between low- and upper-income students, 93% of our students come from low-income homes and, by middle school, they are outperforming the average student in Illinois on standardized tests. Our youth have also demonstrated dramatic gains in social and emotional development (see "Our Impact" on page 3).

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary and our accomplishments in 2011, we want to thank all of the partners who make our work possible - we couldn't do it without YOU!

Sincerely,



Seth Green
Executive Director



Donald A. Baker
Founder and Director Emeritus

“Y.O.U. is a vital partner in the City's efforts to make sure that all youth in our community are safe and healthy. More than 40 years after a group of Evanston civic leaders first envisioned Y.O.U., it remains an indispensable resource for hundreds of Evanston youth and their families.”

Hon. Elizabeth Tisdahl
Mayor of the City of Evanston



Seth Green and Don Baker with just a few of Y.O.U.'s extraordinary youth.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe that all youth should gain the skills, self-confidence, and opportunity to participate fully, freely, and responsibly in the life of the community.

We believe that all families should have access to social and economic mobility. Education is a powerful ladder to a better life. We help families realize their dreams by ensuring their children succeed in school, graduate, and go on to college.

We believe that our community should be a safe, nurturing, and happy place for young people to live. We engage youth in afterschool programs that are filled with educational and recreational activities that reduce the dangers of juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs and alcohol.



WHAT WE DO

Our Three Part Strategy:

1. **ENGAGE** young people and help them identify their strengths and stressors.
2. **SUPPORT** youth and their families with a holistic set of resources to encourage their strengths and address their stressors.
3. **SUSTAIN** youth success by working with schools, parents, and community leaders.

Y.O.U. is a youth development agency that provides services and leadership to meet the emerging needs of young people and their families in our community.

OUR IMPACT

THE WORK WE DO >>>> THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

We served **607** youth last year with over **100,000** hours of afterschool programming, mentorship, clinical counseling, and crisis intervention services.

Academic Success

By middle school, 80% of assessed Y.O.U. youth meet or exceed grade-level expectations in both math and reading. This far exceeds the United Way's best practice benchmark of 55%. This is particularly remarkable given that 93% of our youth are low-income (i.e., eligible for a free or reduced cost lunch).

Social and Emotional Development

Half of the assessed youth in our programs demonstrated significant improvement in their self-esteem in the past year.

Engaged Parents

More than two out of three Y.O.U. parents actively participate in our family nights.

AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Afterschool programs address the academic, social, and emotional needs of youth. Beginning immediately after the school day ends, Y.O.U. provided daily enrichment activities at five school-based programs. In addition, Y.O.U. offered a Saturday program and two full-day summer programs at community sites.

Academic enrichment highlights included:

At all sites, students benefitted daily from 75 minutes of individualized tutoring in math, reading and science.

At ETHS, students spent three weeks in an intensive residency with Striding Lion InterArts Workshop. Students learned to express themselves through movement and words.

At Chute, students participated in science enrichment through a weekly collaboration with Columbia College's Institute for Science Education. Hands-on exploration of the science of sound culminated in the creation of new musical instruments.

At Nichols, students generated ideas for Evanston's future as part of a facilitated brainstorming by leaders of Evanston 150.

At Oakton and Washington, youth expressed themselves through visual arts and writing workshops with Open Studio Project; and they learned rhythm and movement from dancer Petre Iliev.

At Evanston Public Library, students learned good study skills over breakfast.

Social and Emotional Development highlights included:

Youth designed special interest groups in the areas of yoga, cooking, soccer, basketball, poetry, and bicycling.

Youth organized Diverse Evanston Walks United, a celebration that brought together over 150 community members to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of non-violence and equality for all people.

Youth led service learning projects that created positive change in areas from community greening to animal rescue. These service projects simultaneously built the skills of youth and enhanced the Evanston community.

In January, Y.O.U.'s Nichols Service Learning Group received the **first-ever McGaw YMCA Talley-Reece Award** for its environmental awareness project.



Banner created by Y.O.U. youth for the Fourth of July parade.

MENTORSHIP

Mentor Y.O.U.th supports the needs of youth who need caring adults in their lives. The program matches youth with an adult mentor who helps support achievement in school, at home, and in the community.

Youth and their mentors meet weekly within the structure of our program to participate in arts and cultural activities, sports and recreation, and tutoring.

Mentor Y.O.U.th was launched in 2010 through a competitive federal program which funded 19 agencies nationwide. Y.O.U. was the only agency in Illinois to receive the grant.

The program's impact is dramatic.

Utilizing a nationally recognized youth assessment tool, we know that:

76% of our mentored youth have demonstrated **improvement in their family relationships.**

76% have demonstrated **improvement in social competence.**

83% have exhibited **increased gang-resistant behavior.**

100% have **improved school attendance.**

100% have **decreased anti-social behavior.**



Staff leading youth during winter Family Night.

“At Y.O.U. I’ve learned that it’s better to be a leader than to follow the crowd – to create your own path.”

Kurtis
Age 16

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Clinical Programs address the emotional and mental health needs of youth and their families. Our trained social workers and counselors provide case management, crisis intervention, and individual and family counseling. Our social workers also provide referrals to parents in need of health and career resources, linking them to local hospitals, government agencies, churches, community colleges, and social service agencies.

Clinical program highlights included:

Serving youth in crisis by locating safe shelter for them and then providing counseling to help them resolve the issues that led to the crisis.

Helping families weather the recession with such tools as transportation assistance for job interviews and funds for security deposits. All of this assistance was made possible by our Rainy Day Fund, which was created with gifts from generous community donors.

Expanding the capacity to counsel youth through the addition of a full-time case manager.

Maintaining a 24-hour call system every day of the year for youth who are homeless, have run away, or have been locked out of their home. Through Y.O.U.'s services, these youth ultimately receive help resolving their crisis and positively re-connecting with their family.

“Our research suggests that promoting and nurturing positive characteristics during the teenage years is a promising way to improve long-term health and reduce risky behaviors. Organizations like Y.O.U. that take a positive, strengths-based approach to youth development are **making a difference that can last a lifetime.**”

Lindsay Till-Hoyt
Institute for Policy Research
Northwestern University

Generous donors rose to the occasion at Y.O.U.'s 40th annual benefit dinner when they pledged over \$100,000 to support our clinical services program. Their generosity allowed Y.O.U. to hire an additional Youth and Family Counselor to provide therapeutic services to the youth and families we serve.

These new services are already making a dramatic difference. For example, one ETHS student with serious mental health needs who was suspended numerous times last year has not had any disciplinary issues this school year. He and his family credit Y.O.U.'s support for this success.

The economic stress of the recession has increased our families' need for clinical services. We are grateful to our donors who answered this “call to action” and allowed us to meet these needs.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2011 FISCAL YEAR

REVENUE

Contributions	\$459,969
Special Events	\$193,201
Government	\$945,940
United Way	\$20,892
Donated Services	\$70,000
Net restricted assets	\$84,599
Miscellaneous	\$2,502
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,777,103

EXPENSE

Program Services	\$1,487,620
Management and General	\$65,050
Fundraising and Community Outreach	\$190,798
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,743,468
Net Surplus	\$33,635

These financials are preliminary for the year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.

“Leadership, collaboration, support, giving, caring, nurturing, partnership, children, future, achievement, health, safety . . . these are just a few of the words to describe what Y.O.U. means to the families of District 65.”

Dr. Hardy Murphy,
Superintendent, School District 65

“Thanks to Y.O.U., our students feel connected to school and to their learning. **We see Y.O.U.’s impact everyday in our classrooms.** Y.O.U.’s tutoring, mentorship, and clinical counseling helps make sure that our students enter our school doors ready to succeed.”

Dr. Eric Witherspoon
Superintendent, School District 202

DON BAKER CIRCLE FOR YOUTH



The Don Baker Circle for Youth was established in April of 2011 to honor Y.O.U.'s founding executive director and recognize his extraordinary achievements and contributions during 40 years of service. Members of the giving society make an annual contribution of at least \$1,000 to Y.O.U.

Charter members who join prior to December 31, 2011 will receive special designation. The following individuals and businesses joined the Circle for Youth as of September 15, 2011.

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Mike & Mary Ann Weston
Margie Morrison Zivin & Mark Zivin
The 2011 Staff of Y.O.U.
Your Friends at Northwestern University



“ It is impossible to measure Don Baker’s contributions to the Evanston community. Don has been an incredible force for positive change.”

Chip Brady
Y.O.U. Board President
2008-2011

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Y.O.U. is grateful to our many generous donors. Every effort is made to list donors accurately. Please let us know if you see any mistakes.

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“**Y.O.U. and the Evanston Police Department combine efforts** to minimize the negative impacts on a youth who is in crisis... This has been a long standing and very valuable partnership.”

Richard Eddington
Chief of Police, City of Evanston



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