



# IMPACT REPORT 2017



# REMARKS FROM BRYAN VAN DORPE

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bryan Van Dorpe,  
**YES Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

Your incredible support of Youth Enrichment Services (YES) this past year helped over 1,600 young people excel and experience the outdoors.

Through activities like skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, rock climbing, skateboarding, track and field - and more - youth at YES build confidence and grow into young leaders.

For some young people, this means learning how to overcome obstacles they face at school. For others, it means learning how to apply their new self-confidence to tackling a challenge like public speaking. For all YES youth, it means paving a pathway for them to reach their full potential.

In Fiscal Year 2017, nearly half of youth served by YES lived in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. 75% of YES youth were from low-to-moderate income households.

This year, YES increased the number of youth served in its Repeat Engagement programs, successfully meeting benchmarks for Year 1 of our Strategic Plan. We are energized to continue moving towards our goal of doubling the number of youth served in our Repeat Engagement and High-Impact programs by 2020.

Your support of Boston's young people helped to deepen the life-changing impact that YES has had in their lives. This growth would not have been possible without your help – thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Van Dorpe". The script is fluid and cursive.

Bryan Van Dorpe  
Executive Director



# CREATING LIFELONG LEARNERS & LEADERS

## Our mission

**Year-round activities build a foundation for success in school, work, and life.**

Founded in 1968 by Richard Williams, YES believes deeply in the transformative power of engaging youth in active outdoor activities.

Today, YES's mission continues to inspire and challenge youth with physical and mental activities that foster life-long respect for self, others, and the environment.

YES is dedicated to serving Boston youth with a targeted focus on reaching low-to-moderate income children and teens in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. YES currently serves more than 1,600 young people annually.



## Our vision

**Only about half of Boston youth have access to programs after school, on weekends, and during the summer.**

For youth of color or low socioeconomic status, access is often even more limited with additional hurdles such as living in an unsafe neighborhood or attending an underperforming school.

YES gives youth opportunities to explore the outdoors – often for the first time – and experience mountains, riverways, and trails.

Access to new active outdoor experiences builds confidence, instills positive values, and teaches our youth valuable life and leadership skills. As one YES Alumni told us, “YES shows kids that there is more in this world than the inner city.”



## Our plan

**By 2020, we aspire to double the amount of youth in YES's repeat engagement and high impact programs.**

YES constructed a five year plan from 2016 - 2020 outlining a strategy to better serve the Boston community and have a greater impact on our youth.

**Primary goals of the plan include:**

1. Double the amount of youth in YES's Repeat Engagement and High Impact leadership program
2. Expand diversity of participants at all tiers of programming and reflect the same level of diversity throughout the entire organization
3. Ensure all YES youth have access to an enriched program design that embeds and integrates college, career, and life readiness into each program's curriculum



# OUR PROVEN FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

YES engages youth ages 7 to 18 in challenging, active, outdoor experiences embedded with leadership and development opportunities. Our programs have a lasting impact by creating lifelong leaders and learners.



## TIER 1:

### Experience the Outdoors

#### Introductory Experiences

Skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, fishing, surfing, stand-up paddleboarding, rock climbing, hiking, biking, track and field

#### Operation SnowSports

1-day ski and snowboard activities

#### Outdoor Adventure

1-day outdoor activities



## TIER 2:

### Build Confidence

#### Repeat Engagement Programs

##### Operation SnowSports

Youth Excel Through Tailored Instruction (YETTI)

*Four or more ski/snowboard trips per winter*

Cross-Country Ski Program

##### Outdoor Adventure

Week-long outdoor sessions

Track & Field Program



## TIER 3:

### Create Pathways to Leadership

#### High-Impact Youth Development Programs

##### YES Academy

Leadership Corps

*Downhill Ski*

*Cross-Country Ski*

*Outdoor Adventure*

Girls Outdoor Adventure

Leaders

College Preparation Program

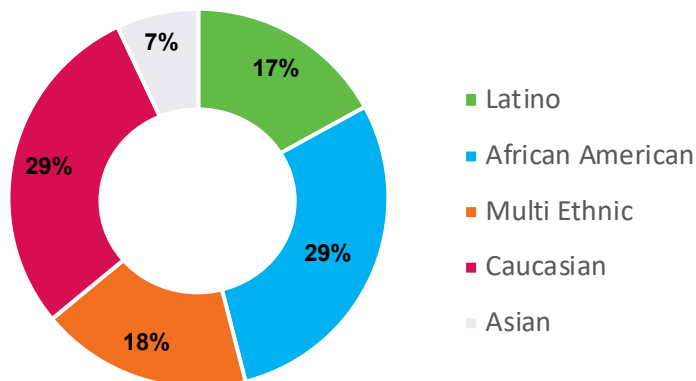
# HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1,690 young people were served by YES this year. Our organization strives to serve youth in the highest-need neighborhoods of Boston, with a focus on the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan.

## Who We Serve

YES programs are targeted to low and moderate income youth and families, 90% of whom live in Boston.

Nearly 3 out of 5 YES youth served by YES are youth of color. 75% of YES youth live in low-to-moderate income households.



## Fiscal Year 2017 Highlights



### CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

YES doubled the number of youth served by the program thanks to support from the National Winter Sports Education Foundation.



### TRACK & FIELD

A new, indoor Winter Track & Field program was successfully piloted in partnership with the Blackstone Community Center. YES Track & Field is now offered year-round.



### NUTRITION & HEALTHY EATING

390 youth benefitted from YES's new healthy eating initiative, which provides access to nutritional snacks and teaches young people about healthy eating. The initiative was funded by a grant from Target.



### MATTAPAN SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

YES provided its second year of year-round programming to sixth grade students at the Young Achievers School in Mattapan - one of Boston's highest need and least accessible neighborhoods.



## CLAY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

YES collaborated with the Clay Soper Memorial Fund to pilot the Clay Connections program. The program aims to bring together students from different backgrounds to learn about acceptance, kindness, and understanding of people's differences. 35 students from Dorchester and Winchester participated in the program this year.



# EXPERIENCE



**In Fiscal Year 2017, over 800 young people experienced new active outdoor adventures with YES's Tier 1 programs through Outdoor Adventure and Operation SnowSports.**

Activities they participated in included skiing (downhill and cross-country), snowboarding, rock climbing, kayaking, fishing, surfing, stand-up paddleboarding, mountain biking, skateboarding, track and field, and more! Without YES, many young people would have never had the opportunity to have these new outdoor experiences.



**79%** of Outdoor Adventure youth reported trying something new and challenging this year.



**87%** of Operation SnowSports parents said their child tried something new on the slopes.



**96%** of Operation SnowSports youth reported confidence in facing new challenges and activities.





# CONFIDENCE



In Fiscal Year 2017, over 700 young people built confidence through YES's Tier 2 Repeat Engagement programs: Operation SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure week-long sessions, and the Track and Field program.

Through repeat engagement in active outdoor activities, youth built resilience, self-confidence, and courage - skills which will translate directly into their success in the classroom and in life.



**96%** of Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders reported they felt confident in their problem solving skills.



**87%** of Operation SnowSports youth reported confidence in their ski or snowboard abilities.



**74%** of Track & Field youth reported feeling stronger, healthier, and faster after taking part in the program.





# LEADERSHIP



In Fiscal Year 2017, over 200 young people were engaged through YES's Tier 3 High-Impact Programs: Leadership Corps [formerly the *Junior Volunteer program*], Career Exploration, Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders, and College Preparation.

Through these programs, teens gained leadership skills, explored career pathways, and prepared for college. For the seventh year in a row, 100% of YES high school seniors graduated high school and attended college!



**100%** of Leadership Corps teens reported feeling confident in their own leadership skills.



**98%** of College Prep teens increased their academic engagement.



**80%** of YES alumni reported taking on a leadership role on their college campus.



# IMPACT OF YES

## JUAN PABLO'S STORY



**JP told his personal story at YES's 2017 Black Diamond Gala.**

**“To me, YES has been a second family. It’s been a place where I feel comfortable to be myself. A place where I can grow as a person.” JP will be the first person in his family to attend college.**

On his first ski trip with YES, 17-year-old Juan Pablo (JP) Zuluaga could have never pictured himself leading a group of youth down the mountain.

JP, who has been involved with YES programs for over eight years, was born in Colombia and immigrated to the US with his mother and his younger brother when he was four. When he was 9 years old, JP signed up for a YES ski trip. “I was a very shy kid going into the program and I always tried very hard to not be noticed by other kids,” he remembers.

JP says that skiing did not come naturally to him on that first day. “I was that kid in the group you always had to wait on because I was too scared to go down the hill.” But with each day on the slopes with YES, JP became more confident as he learned the sport and made new friends.

In middle school, JP decided to join YES's Leadership Corps. As part of this program, JP took part in leadership workshops while co-leading YES ski activities on the weekends. JP says he was proud to serve as a positive role model to younger youth and coach them to overcome the fears he had when he was learning how to ski. In addition to being a member of the

Leadership Corps, JP also participated in YES's College Prep program. The College Prep program provides high school students with college readiness workshops and one-on-one college coaching. “Before the College Prep program, I knew the basics about college but not that much,” says JP. “After the program, I felt prepared for college.”

Today, JP looks toward the future equipped with the confidence to accomplish anything – on or off the slopes. Reflecting on his time with YES, JP shares, “To me, YES has been a second family. It has been a place where I feel comfortable to be myself. A place where I can grow as a person.”

Influenced by his positive experiences at YES, JP looks forward to being the first in his family to attend college. He will be attending Denison University in the Ohio, and he has received the prestigious Posse scholarship for his academic and leadership merits. At Denison University, JP plans to study to become a pediatric cardiovascular surgeon.



# IN-KIND DONORS & SERVICES

Thank you to our in-kind donors and outdoor partners for their generous support of YES programs!

Adaptive Sports New England

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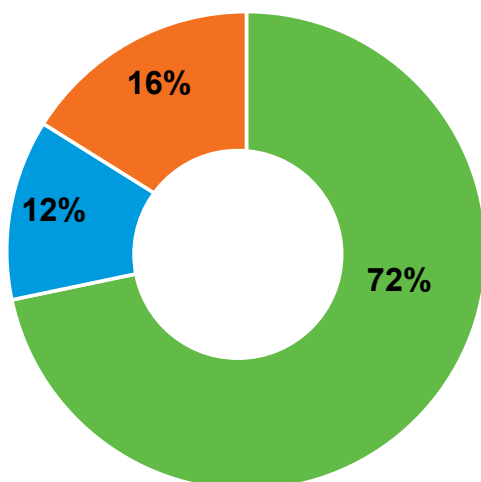
The listing below reflects charitable gifts of \$500 and above received during Fiscal Year 2017. Thank you for your generosity!

Adage Capital Management	Darling Consulting Group	Massachusetts Promise Fellowship
AGM Summer Fund	Devonshire Recruiting & Consulting Partners	Morgan Stanley
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## EXPENSES & REVENUE

### EXPENSES

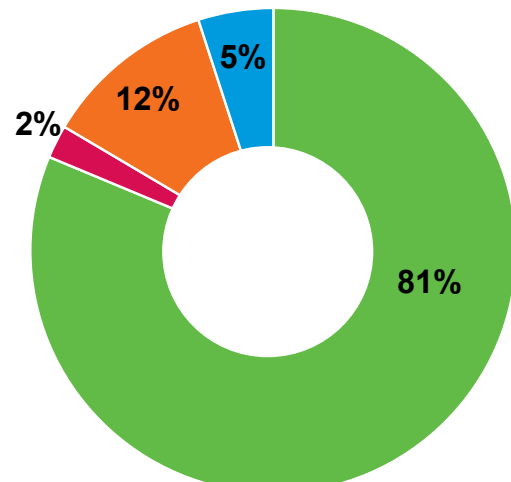
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,711,560



- Program Expenses
- General and Administration
- Fundraising

### REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,872,986



- Fundraising
- In-Kind
- Other
- Program Fees

# IMPACT OF YES AALIYAH'S STORY



**“My experiences as a Leadership Corps teen helped me build confidence and leadership skills and introduced me to new outdoor activities.”**

The Alumni Circle is a group which helps YES alumni stay connected with the organization and each other. Established in 2012, the group is now comprised of over 300 alumni who serve as YES ambassadors.

19-year-old Mattapan teen, Aaliyah, is one of the YES Alumni Circle's newest members. She recalls, “I first heard about YES when I was 16, from my mentor and YES staff member, Shiona DeCarvalho. I joined YES because of the opportunity it gave me to be part of a leadership program and a role model to others.”

Aaliyah joined the YES Leadership Corps (LC) program when she was in 10th grade. The Leadership Corps offers Boston teens the opportunity to develop their leadership potential as they participate in and coach outdoor activities. Throughout the school year, Aaliyah participated in hands-on leadership workshops, volunteered at community organizations, and co-led ski activities on the weekends. In the summer, she co-led outdoor adventure trips kayaking, rock climbing, biking, and more. Aaliyah says, “My experiences as a LC teen helped me build confidence and leadership skills and introduced me to new outdoor activities.”

Aaliyah says the YES Leadership Corps also provided her with a welcoming space when she most needed it. She remembers, “Going to school in a suburb through the METCO program was an adjustment. It took time for me to find my place and find real friends.” But at YES, Aaliyah says things were different, “My

fellow LCs and the YES staff made me feel like I was truly part of the YES family.” One of YES's greatest ambitions is to sustain a community that fosters tolerance, sensitivity, diversity, and mutual respect among all of its members - so that youth like Aaliyah can feel welcome from day one.

With the support of YES's College Prep program, Aaliyah also received one-on-one college coaching. Aaliyah had guidance throughout the full college process – from finding the right school for her to applying to scholarships. And, all of that hard work came into fruition when Aaliyah was accepted into Skidmore College her senior year.

Now a sophomore at Skidmore College, Aaliyah is an Exercise Sciences major. She aspires to become a physical therapist after she graduates. When she is not studying, Aaliyah likes to volunteer her time and give back to the community. This summer, she even led a month-long workshop on youth philanthropy with YES youth, teaching them about non-profits and philanthropy!

**Are you a YES Alumni? Follow the YES Alumni Circle on Facebook to connect with fellow YES alumni!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/YESKidsAlumni/>

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YES youth achieve success in  
school, work, and life!**



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