

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018)

PROGRAMS

- Operation Snowsports (YETTI) – Sustained a program expansion in the ski/snowboard repeat engagement model. Youth are instructed by the same volunteer teacher and learn with the same group of peers over the course of four weeks. During the 2017-18 winter season, 150 youth participated in YETTI.
- Cross Country Ski Program – Increased the number of youth in the Cross Country Ski Program; in total, 37 youth were served. Financial support for the program was provided by the National Winter Sports Education Foundation for the third year in a row.
- Track & Field – Completed a successful second year of the indoor Winter Track & Field program in partnership with the Blackstone Community Center. 29 young people participated in Winter 2018.
- Outdoor Adventure – Received licensure from the Massachusetts Board of Health as a registered summer camp. The status was earned through successfully meeting rigorous safety and health standards set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
- Leadership Corps – Restructured the school-year program into three sport-specific tracks (Downhill Ski, Cross Country Ski, and Outdoor Adventure) embedded with specific workshop curricula on Career Readiness, College Preparation, and Leadership Development. In the summer, teens participate in similarly structured sports-based programming with tracks based on gender (Session 1 – Girls, Session – 2 Boys, Session 3 – Co-Ed). Leadership Corps helps teens develop critical skills to be effective, confident young leaders and team players as they learn, coach, and build skills.
- Alumni Student Support Program – Launched a new program to measure college retention and graduation rates among YES undergraduate alumni. Students receive quarterly check-ins from YES staff and help navigating challenges they may encounter throughout their college experience. Ultimately, YES's goal is to help its graduates succeed in college and foster long-term engagement with alumni.
- Clay Connections – Collaborated with the Clay Soper Memorial Fund for the second year to offer 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. 20 students from Dorchester and Winchester participated in this unique and meaningful program.
- Nutrition & Healthy Eating – Expanded the healthy eating initiative which provided over 1,000 youth in YES's Operation SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure, and Track & Field programs access to nutritious snacks. This initiative was funded by a grant from Target.
- College Preparation – Received a Mass Promise Fellow placement for the fifth year in a row to deliver college preparatory programming to YES students.
- Scholarships – Awarded financial support to three college-bound high school seniors from YES through the Richard Williams Memorial Scholarship.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

- Actively engaged more than 1,600 youth across all YES programs. In FY 18, 42% of youth lived in YES's targeted neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. 82% lived in low-to-moderate income households.
- Contributed to the successful completion of high school for 100% of 12th graders enrolled in the YES Academy. For the eighth consecutive year, all YES Academy high school seniors have graduated and enrolled in college.
- 98% of College Preparation students reported increasing their academic engagement.
- 95% of Leadership Corps teens considered themselves a role model to other youth after completing the program.

OUTREACH, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Strategic Plan – Completed the second year of YES five-year 2016-2020 Strategic Plan; successfully reaching benchmarks for Year 2. The Strategic Plan outlines a plan to serve 40% more Boston youth through YES's high-impact programs by 2020.
- Special Visit by City of Boston's Police Commissioner – Hosted former Boston Police Commissioner, William Evans, as a special visitor at the YES Track & Field Program. He participated in practice and ran laps with youth.
- Mattapan School Partnership – Offered a second year of school-year programming to students at the Young Achievers School in Mattapan, one of Boston's highest need neighborhoods. Over 25 students were engaged in weekly outdoor activities, including skiing and snowboarding at the Blue Hills Ski Area and rock climbing at Quincy Quarries.
- McCourt Foundation – Expanded YES's partnership with the McCourt Foundation. As an official charity partner of the foundation, YES's Young Professionals Committee participated in the Tour de South Shore and Waterfront 5k athletic fundraising events.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

- Equity & Inclusion Training – Completed a year-long staff training on race and equity. As a result, YES improved its ability to effectively respond to youth by creating a physically welcoming space that is inclusive to all and a climate that is free of racism and micro-aggressions, which many YES youth experience in other environments.
- Volunteer Opportunities – Expanded volunteer opportunities and made them more accessible to YES parents/guardians, racial and ethnic minorities, and community residents. 100% of adult volunteers of color in the Operation SnowSports program reported feeling valued as a volunteer.

FUNDRAISING & MARKETING

- 50th Anniversary – Kicked off a year-long celebration of YES's 50th Anniversary. Activities to mark this important milestone include events throughout the year, an oral history documentation, and social media video campaign.
- Support from Target – Selected to receive a grant of \$80,000 from Target in support of their Active Living and Healthy Eating grant initiative. Funds helped underwrite YES's Operation SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure, and Track & Field programs access to nutritious snacks and healthy eating curriculum.
- Boston Marathon – Awarded four charity bibs through the John Hancock Boston Marathon Program. Runners fundraised over \$40,000 to support YES's youth programs.