



IMPACT REPORT 2021

Founded in 1968 by Richard Williams, Youth Enrichment Services (YES) believes deeply in the transformative power of engaging youth in active outdoor programming. The organization is dedicated to serving Boston youth with a targeted focus on reaching low-to-moderate income families in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain.

OUR MISSION

Inspire youth through outdoor experiences and leadership opportunities that build confidence and prepare them to summit life's challenges.

OUR VISION

Empower Boston youth to lead and to achieve their full potential.

**EXPERIENCE
CONFIDENCE
LEADERSHIP**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



*Bryan Van Dorpe
Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
Executive Director*

Dear Friends,

This has been an unprecedented year for Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Because of supporters like you, the doors at YES have stayed open throughout Fiscal Year 2021. We couldn't have survived - and thrived – without your support.

It is quite apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic has widened the racial equity gap and accentuated the lack of opportunities available to families in our highest need neighborhoods. YES has remained steadfast in its commitment to outreach to youth who have experienced isolation and limited access to outdoor activities during the pandemic.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, YES was able to safely modify its programs to meet the needs of young people both in-person and virtually. Downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, track & field, biking, hiking, rock climbing, and kayaking are just some of the activities that youth have had the opportunity to experience with YES Fiscal Year 2021.

Safety is the number one priority at YES. A plan of action and safety protocols were established in order to reopen programming based on state guidelines. Programs were modified to meet these requirements and keep everyone safe. YES adapted its programs to safely serve youth and give them opportunities to get outdoors when they needed it most.

At YES, one of the guiding principles that we always strive to share with young people is resiliency. Whether at the track, on the slopes, on the trails, or on the water, we encourage everyone to embrace the “YES-pectation” of get back up when you are knocked down. This year, we have seen just how resilient our youth, families, volunteers, and staff really are.

With your generous support, youth have been able to experience the outdoors, build self-confidence, and learn to summit life's challenges! We couldn't do it without you!

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Van Dorpe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bryan Van Dorpe
Executive Director

OUR PROVEN FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

YES engages Boston youth in challenging, active, outdoor experiences integrated with leadership and development opportunities. Our programs have a lasting impact by creating lifelong learners and leaders.



TIER 1: Experience the Outdoors

In Fiscal Year 2021, 183 young people experienced new active outdoor adventures with YES's Tier 1 programs: Outdoor Adventure and Family Adventures.

Introductory Experiences

One-day activities included rock climbing, kayaking, fishing, mountain biking, and more! Without YES, many young people would have never had the opportunity to have these new outdoor experiences

Outdoor Adventure

- One-Day Outdoor Activities

Family Adventures

- One-Day Outdoor Activities



TIER 2: Build Confidence

In Fiscal Year 2021, 276 young people built confidence through YES's Tier 2 Repeat Engagement programs: Operation SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure, and Track and Field.

Repeat Engagement Programs

Through ongoing engagement in active outdoor programming, youth developed resilience, self-confidence, and courage.

Operation SnowSports

- Youth Excel Through Tailored Instruction (YETTI) Downhill Ski Snowboard Program
- Cross-Country Ski Program

Outdoor Adventure

- Week-Long Outdoor Sessions
- Track & Field Program



TIER 3: Create Pathways to Leadership

In Fiscal Year 2021, 128 young people were engaged through YES's Tier 3 programs: Leadership Corps, College Preparation, and Impact Internships.

High-Impact Youth Development Programs

Through these high-impact programs, teens gained leadership skills, explored career pathways, and prepared for college.

YES Academy

- Leadership Corps
 - Downhill Ski/Snowboard
 - Cross-Country Ski
 - Outdoor Adventure
- College Preparation Program
- Impact Internships
- Summer Employment
- Recent Alumni Support

100% of youth enrolled in the Outdoor Adventure program expressed a positive experience with YES staff and/or volunteers.

80% of families with youth enrolled in Operation SnowSports reported observing an increase in their child's confidence.

72% of families with youth enrolled in the Track & Field program reported an increase in their youth's confidence.

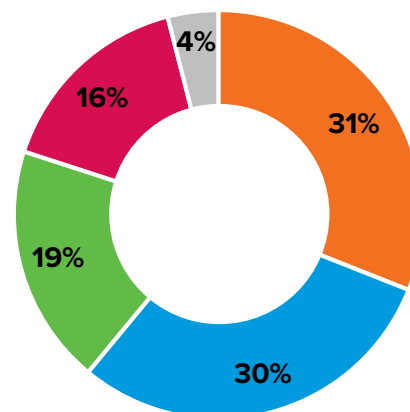
100% of high school seniors in the YES Academy program graduated on time and enrolled in college.

WHO WE SERVE

During Fiscal Year 2021, a total of 587 Boston youth benefited from YES's programs. Our organization strives to serve youth in high-need communities of Boston with a focus on the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan and Jamaica Plain.

YES is dedicated to serving youth in the city of Boston. More than 75% of our families live in low to moderate income households.

44% of youth live in YES's targeted neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain. Over 70% of young people served are youth of color.



STRATEGIC PLAN: YEAR 1 UPDATE

YES made impressive progress on its three-year plan to further YES's vision, strategy, direction, and focus to achieve game-changing results for Boston youth through impactful outdoor and leadership programming. Specific results this fiscal year included:

1. Access - Removing barriers to provide transformative experiences by operating outdoor programs directly on-site at two housing developments.
2. Equity - Recruiting and retaining youth, teens, and adults who reflect the diverse community YES serves, including adding eight individuals of color to YES's board leadership.
3. Safety - Ensuring the physical and emotional safety of the entire YES community throughout the evolving pandemic.



FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19

YES remained connected with young people through virtual, hybrid, and modified in-person outdoor programming without interruption throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. YES proved to be adaptable, flexible, and creative in its ability to continue enriching children's lives and staying connected with our youth and their families.



COLLEGE PREPARATION

Youth and teens in the YES Summer Leadership Corps program created a resource guide highlighting colleges and set up an independent website to document their findings.



SNOW EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

Became a founding member of the Snow Equity collaborative, a nationwide collaborative of snowsports nonprofits to address diversity within the sport. Other founding organizations include CHILL, Stoked Mentoring, and SOS Outreach.



TRACK & FIELD

Expanded the Fall Cross Country and Spring Track & Field programs to two nights per week at Moakley Park. For summer 2021, expanding the Summer Track & Field program to four nights per week, two nights at Moakley Park in South Boston and two nights at English High in Jamaica Plain.



MASS PROMISE FELLOWSHIP SITE OF THE YEAR

Honored as the Mass Promise Fellow 2021 Site of the Year. During 2020-21, YES had two Mass Promise Fellows on their staff: Leadership Corps Success Coordinator and College Prep Coordinator.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The COVID-19 shutdown significantly reduced young people's physical activity and access to the outdoors. The closing of schools, playgrounds, and sports programs meant that youth were spending an extraordinary amount of time indoors. Youth living in low-income housing developments had even more barriers to overcome. And many families without a vehicle were not able to access green spaces, hiking trails, or other public outdoor recreation areas.

To meet the evolving needs of Boston families and children, YES piloted a drop-in biking initiative as a part of our established Outdoor Adventure program. The biking program was offered on-site at two housing developments for youth. By bringing programming directly to the youth where they live, it eliminated nearly all barriers to participation and increased opportunities for them to be physically active, have fun outdoors, and feel safe. Additionally, young people had the opportunity to engage with each other, connect with positive role models (YES staff and volunteers), and regain a sense of curiosity and exploration after months spent indoors.



Thank you to our pilot partners, Mildred C. Hailey Apartments and Academy Homes. Both housing developments are located in the Jackson Square neighborhood of Boston.

"Although rock climbing was scary and new to us, we loved the opportunity to be outdoors and experience it for the first time in our lives. YES is a blessing to our family and we are very grateful for the opportunity. Eden is now asking for the next time she can climb rocks outdoors with enthusiasm." - YES Parent

PARTNERS

YES partners with Boston schools and youth-serving organizations to provide impactful experiences for their young people. YES also partners with outdoor organizations to help provide Boston youth with new outdoor experiences. Thank you to all the Fiscal Year 2021 Strategic and Outdoor Partners!



IN-KIND DONORS & SERVICES

The listing below reflects all charitable in-kind donors who supported YES during Fiscal Year 2021. Thank you for your generosity!

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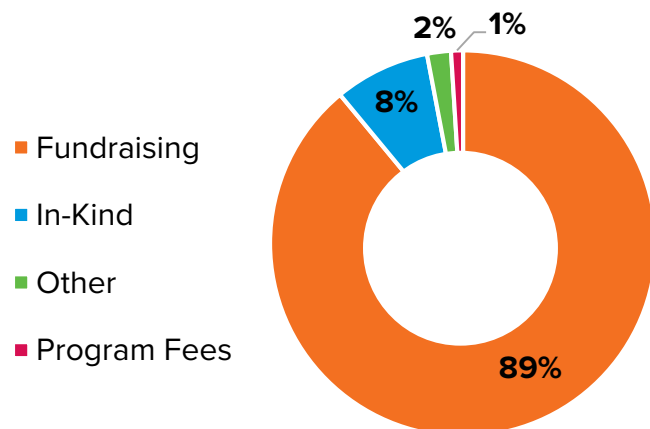
CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS

The listing below reflects charitable gifts of \$500 and above received during Fiscal Year 2021. Thank you for your generosity!

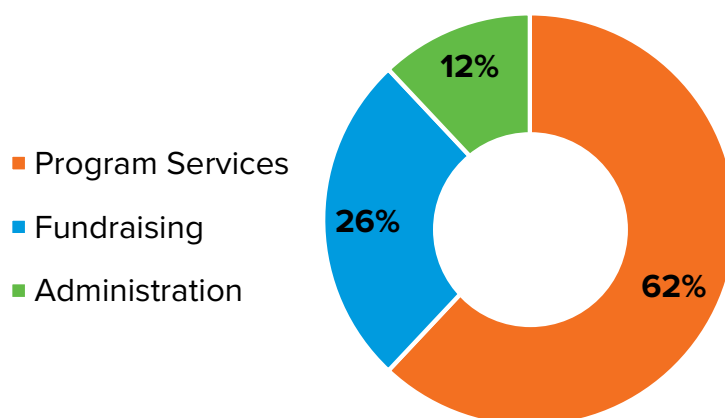
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FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

TOTAL REVENUE:
\$2,014,979



TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$1,563,233



IMPACT OF YES

ZCARRI'S STORY

“My experience at YES has influenced me greatly, especially to take on any challenge head on with courage. YES has given me more than just something to do in the winter, it has given me purpose.”

Zcarri Weekes is a Roxbury teen who has been a YES participant for over ten years.

Zcarri first got involved with YES because of a family friend who worked as an adult volunteer ski instructor and head coach. Soon enough 7-year-old Zcarri was hitting the slopes with YES through Operation SnowSports, despite never having skied before. “That first trip was a rough one for me. I was scared, cold and I had fallen a lot. But I also really wanted to succeed, so I kept trying until I got it.”

He came a long way since that first ski trip. During his last four years with YES, Zcarri taught others to ski in the Leadership Corps program. In addition to teaching others to ski, this program gave Zcarri opportunities for leadership development, college prep, and career readiness. “My experience at YES has influenced me greatly, especially to take on any challenge head on with courage. YES has given me more than just something to do in the winter, it has given me purpose.”

Learning to ski forced Zcarri out of his comfort zone and allowed him to meet different people. “Being a part of YES and the ski community helped me learn how to get along with anyone and to fit-in in new environments.”

In his ten years of skiing with YES, Zcarri has gained his own voice, the ability to give back by helping others, and long-lasting friendships. “I have used my experience at YES to help me get over fears, create mental bridges, and form bonds. It has helped me gain courage and enhanced my ability to find the fun and positive side to tough situations.” Zcarri is grateful for everything he has learned at YES, especially when 2020 brought new challenges.

Zcarri says his experiences at YES has equipped him to take on these challenges. “The bonds I have formed with my fellow Leadership Corps members allowed us to help each other work together to find ways around these barriers and still have fun. I like to hope that I can keep these bonds even after we become adults.”

Zcarri is currently studying Biology at UMass Dartmouth.



YES has a diverse network of alumni spanning 50+ years. Join the YES Alumni Circle on Facebook to connect with fellow YES alums and stay in touch with friends from the past! <https://www.facebook.com/YESKidsAlumni/>

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VOLUNTEERS

Over 150 adult and teen volunteers made YES's programs possible this year. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to serving Boston youth!



"Many thanks for all that you're doing to provide kids with opportunities to get out on the snow during these difficult times. With school still being remote, this type of outdoor, social experience where they are learning something new is such a gift." - YES Parent

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**As of January 1, 2022*



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