



2023 IMPACT REPORT



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,

Fiscal Year 2023 was a tremendous year for Youth Enrichment Services (YES). Throughout the past twelve months, YES stayed true to its mission to give youth new opportunities and experiences that they never would have otherwise considered, accessed, or even afforded. Your support this past year helped 1,178 Boston young people experience the outdoors, build confidence, and grow as leaders with YES!

YES's programs continue to be relevant and a needed resource for hundreds of Boston youth. This past year, all of YES's programs had waiting lists. As you read in the news and see in day-to-day life, the divide in Boston between the "haves" and the "have nots" is increasingly apparent. Below is a quick snapshot of who YES served during this most recent year:

- 81% of YES youth lived in a low-or-moderate income household
- 76% of YES youth were young people of color
- 59% of YES youth lived one of YES's high priority Boston neighborhoods (Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain)

Given the increased need for YES's services and programs, I am delighted to share that exciting progress was made in YES's Capital Campaign to build its new headquarters in Jamaica Plain. YES purchased the land for our new headquarters in February 2023. In April 2023, the Yawkey Foundation awarded YES a \$1 million grant to fund our future home at 267 Amory Street. The foundation has supported YES for over 20 years with operational and capacity building grants. YES's new building will be named in honor of the Yawkey Foundation to recognize their truly transformational support.

The need for safe, challenging, and affordable outdoor programs for youth continues to grow. Your support of YES helps Boston young people experience the outdoors, build self-confidence, and learn to summit life's challenges!

Our work would not be possible without you – thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Van Dorpe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted 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 2023, 353 young people experienced new active outdoor adventures with YES's Tier 1 program: Operation SnowSports



Introductory Experiences

The YES Kids experience is available to youth who have minimal experience skiing or snowboarding. Youth received an introduction to the outdoors by spending one day on the slopes.

Without YES, many young people would have never had the opportunity to have these new outdoor experiences.

Operation SnowSports

- Agency/ School Partner Trips
- YES Kid Trips

TIER 2: Build Confidence

In Fiscal Year 2023, 719 young people gained confidence through YES's Tier 2 Repeat Engagement programs: Operation SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure, and Track and Field/Cross Country.



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

- Track & Field/Cross Country Program
- Outdoor Adventure Camp

TIER 3: Create Pathways to Leadership

In Fiscal Year 2023, 73 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
- College Preparation Program
- Impact Internships
- Summer Employment
- Recent Alumni Support

100% of youth enrolled in the Outdoor Adventure program felt encouraged by YES staff to try their best.

70% of youth enrolled in Operation SnowSports reported that their problem-solving skills improved.

90% of youth enrolled in the Track & Field program reported an increase in their self-confidence.

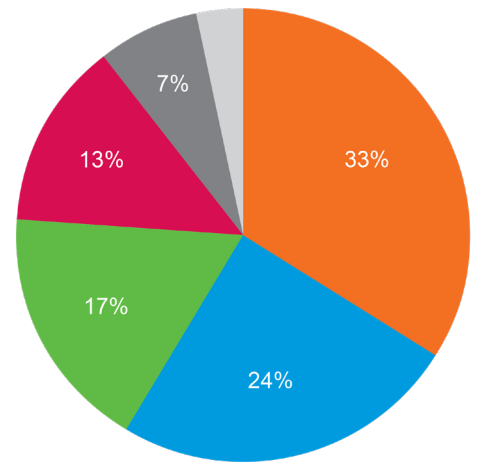
100% of high school seniors in the YES Academy program graduated on time with a future plan of college or careers.

WHO WE SERVE

During Fiscal Year **2023**, a total of **1248** 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.

70% of youth live in YES's targeted neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain. 75% of



African American
Caucasian
Latino
Multi-ethnic
Asian
Other

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!



FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

YES Alumni College Connections

22 YES alumni currently enrolled in college received ongoing support through check-in calls, 1:1 support navigating the transition from high school to college, care packages, and opportunities to volunteer on school breaks.



HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Expanded strategic partnerships with Boston Public Schools and housing developments including Mildred C. Hailey Apartments. YES continues to make positive strides in addressing inequities at the community level by increasing representation of youth of color and low-income youth in the outdoors.



OPERATION SNOWSPORTS

Successfully completed the second year of a five-year strategic scaling of the YETTI (Youth Excel Through Tailored Instruction) track model. Served 207 young people, which represents a 21.8% increase as compared to the previous year's baseline of 170 youth.



BOSTON RUNNING COLLABORATIVE

Continued serving as members of the Boston Running Collaborative (BRC) youth cohort spearheaded by the Boston Athletic Association. The goal of the BRC is to increase fitness through walking and running in Boston's communities of color.



VOLUNTEER EQUITY COMMITTEE

Continued the important work of the Volunteer Equity Committee to attract, recruit, and retain adult volunteers of color. During FY23, 37% of adult volunteers at YES were individuals of color.

STRATEGIC PLAN: YEAR 3 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. Outreach – Expanded access for young people to enroll in YES programs by strengthening partnerships with housing developments and schools in our four priority neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Mattapan.
2. Repeat Engagement – Increased capacity for young people to participate in YES's repeat engagement snowsports programming.
3. Equity – YES strives for its adult volunteers to reflect the diverse community of youth the organization serves. Towards this end, nearly 1 out of 3 adult volunteers at YES identified as a person of color.



“YES is much more than a way to ski every winter or have fun in the summer. They played an important role in building who I am as a person today.” - YES Alumna

“Being a part of YES has allowed me to be around people that look like me while learning to do a sport that I really love. YES has shown me that I can achieve whatever unconventional dreams I have.” - YES Alumna

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 2023 Strategic and Outdoor Partners!



IN-KIND DONORS & SERVICES

The listing below reflects charitable in-kind donations with a value of \$250 and above received during Fiscal Year **2023**. Thank you for your generosity!

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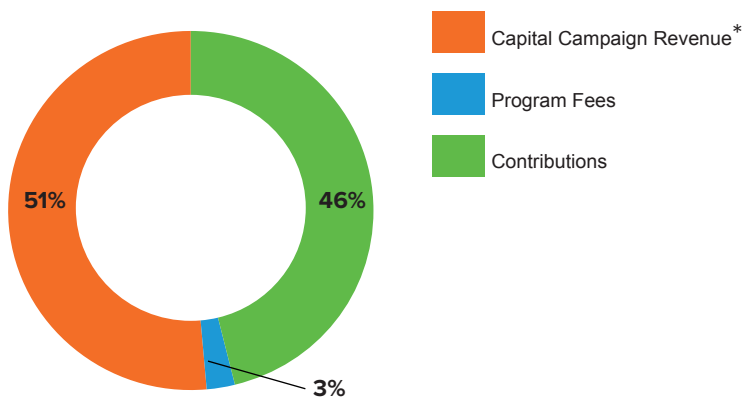
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The listing below reflects charitable gifts of \$1,000 and above received during Fiscal Year 2023. Thank you for your generosity!

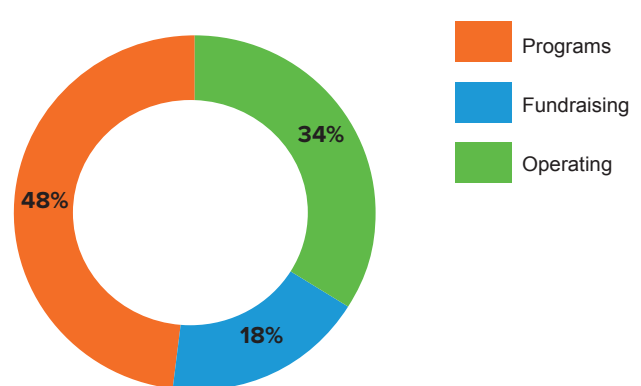
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FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

TOTAL REVENUE:
\$ 3,516,055.20



TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$1,845,245.60



*Funds are restricted to the acquisition of land at 267 Amory Street Jamaica Plain and construction of the new YES headquarters.

IMPACT OF YES

TAMSEN'S STORY

“YES is much more than a way to ski every winter or have fun in the summer. They played an important role in building who I am as a person today.”

Tamsen has been involved with YES for over 12 years.

She attended her first Operation SnowSports trip when she was just six years old. Her mother heard about Youth Enrichment Services as an organization that takes kids to play outdoors. Little did she know at that time that YES would turn into such a big part of Tamsen's life.

Tamsen recounts the fond memories that she had with YES growing up. "At a young age, I was given the opportunity to ski at least four times a season on mountains across three states, something that most kids in Boston don't even know is possible. Not only did YES give me access to various ski mountains and instructors, but they also provided me with all of the equipment I could possibly need."

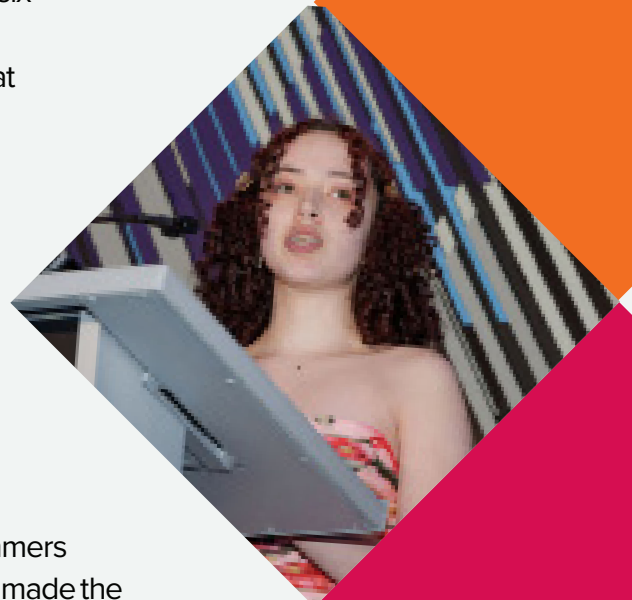
In addition to spending her winters skiing, Tamsen also spent her summers making lasting memories in YES's Outdoor Adventure program. "I've made the trip to Swann Lodge so many times and made a lot of fond memories playing outdoor games, telling ghost stories around the firepit, hiking in the woods, and swimming at the waterfall."

What has stuck with Tamsen the most after 12 years of involvement with YES's programs, though, are the lessons she learned along the way. **“YES is much more than a way to ski every winter or have fun in the summer. They played an important role in building who I am as a person today.”**

From falling down and getting back up, to treating others the way she wants to be treated, to being open-minded and respecting diverse perspectives, and feeling empowered and confident in herself, Tamsen credits YES with many of the lessons she carries with her today.

"As a girl who plays sports and loves being outside, I credit YES with fostering my love of outdoor adventures and empowering me as a young woman in these spaces," she says. Tamsen now studies psychology and environmental science in college, and continues to apply the skills that YES taught her while sharing these lessons with her surrounding communities, too. "At YES, you always leave feeling like you want to do more, help more, give back to the place that helped you so much," she says.

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/>





INDIVIDUAL DONORS

1968 Circle \$1,000 +

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**As of December 1, 2023*



Youth Enrichment Services (YES)
412 Massachusetts Ave. Boston, MA 02118

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