



## Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

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### Fiscal Year 2023 Accomplishments (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) offers Boston youth opportunities to experience the outdoors, develop confidence, and build leadership skills through year-round sports-based programs. The organization prioritizes serving low-and-moderate income youth with a focus on young people living in the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain. All youth at YES are Boston residents and we welcome all young people regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status. Acceptance into YES programs and sliding scale fees are based on need and determined by household income and residency in YES's focus neighborhoods.

### PROGRAMS

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- Operations 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.
- Housing Development and School 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.
- Track & Field – Sustained an expansion of the Fall Cross Country and Spring Track & Field programs to two nights per week at Moakley Park. For summer 2023, continued offering the Summer Track & Field program four nights per week, two nights at Moakley Park and two nights at English High.
- Leadership Corps – Increased emphasis on one-on-one support for teens in the Leadership Corps program, including daily office hours and more frequent mental health check-ins.
- YES Alumni College Connections – Supported 22 YES alumni currently enrolled in college with check-in calls, 1:1 support navigating the transition from high school to college, care packages, and opportunities to volunteer on school breaks.

### VOLUNTEERISM

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- 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.

- Board of Directors – Welcomed three new members to Board of Directors.
  - Kalli Catcott – Kalli has served on the YES Board of Trustees since 2020 and also volunteers as a coach in the YES Track & Field Program. Additionally, she is a member of the Capital Campaign Committee and served as a 2022 Gala Co-Chair. Kalli is thrilled to continue her service to YES and step up to the Directors level. She works as a Principal Scientist with Mersana Therapeutics.
  - Deniz Ferendeci – Deniz has served on the YES Board of Trustees since 2020. Additionally, he is a member of the Real Estate Committee and served as a 2022 Gala Co-Chair. Deniz is thrilled to continue his service to YES and step up to the Directors level. He is a Partner at Boston Urban Places.
  - Chris Harris – Chris has served on the YES Board of Trustees since 2020. Additionally, he is a member of the Capital Campaign Committee. Chris is thrilled to continue his service to YES and step up to the Directors level. He is Medical Director at Enanta Pharmaceuticals.

## **OUTCOMES & IMPACT**

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- Total Youth Served - YES served over 1,178 young people during Fiscal Year 23 across its One-Time Experience, Repeat Engagement, and High-Impact programs. YES held 1,559 Activity Days during FY23.
- High School Graduates - Contributed to the successful completion of high school for 100% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the YES Academy. All YES Academy high school seniors graduated on time and enrolled in college.
- Outdoor Adventure - 100% of youth enrolled in the Outdoor Adventure program would do the program again and recommend it to their friends!
- Operation SnowSports - 70% of youth enrolled in the Operation SnowSports Program improved their problem-solving skills.
- Track & Field - 90% of youth enrolled in the Track & Field program reported growing in self-confidence.
- Leadership Corps - 94% of teens in the Leadership Corps program reported growth in their leadership skills.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

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- Strategic Plan – Successfully completed the third year of the Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Strategic Plan.
- Boston Running Collaborative – Invited to be a member of the inaugural 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.

- Roller Ski Clinic – Partnered with New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA) and Eastern Mass Cross-Country (EMXC) to host a free roller skiing clinic for YES youth and teens. Roller skiing is an off-snow equivalent to cross-country skiing, and the clinic served as a dry-land preparation for the cross-country skiing program within Operation SnowSports.
- Life Science Cares – Selected as a charity partner for 2023 by Life Science Cares. The partnership includes financial support, volunteerism through their corporate members, and in-kind contributions.
- School Counselor of the Year Award – YES Board of Trustees member, Andrea Encarnacao Martin received the Massachusetts School Counselor Association (MASCA) 2023 School Counselor of the Year award.

## **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

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- Land Acknowledgement Statement – Collaboratively researched, developed, and wrote a land acknowledgement. This project was part of YES's year-round DEI professional development, training, and education for staff.
- Diversity in the Outdoors Series – Piloted a special initiative at YES for Boston youth called "Diversity in the Outdoors". It was a special SnowSports trip focused on uplifting and celebrating youth of color. All YES youth were invited to participate. The trip promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors.
- Volunteer Equity Committee – Identified specific opportunities and actions to increase recruitment of BIPOC volunteers. In FY23, 37% of YES volunteers identified as a person of color.
- Partnership with New Democracy Coalition – YES Executive Director, Bryan Van Dorpe, participated in a community reading of Frederic Douglas' famous speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July." The event was hosted by The New Democracy Coalition.

## **FUNDRAISING & MARKETING**

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- Share Winter Foundation – Received a generous \$50,000 grant to help fund the YETTI and Cross-Country Ski programs
- Vail EpicPromise – Received 880 lift tickets to utilize at Sunapee Resort; their gift has an in-kind value of \$88,000
- Boston Children's Hospital – Received multi-year funding from Boston Children's Hospital to help underwrite and expand YES's partnerships with housing

developments and schools to help further YES' goals to reach youth with the least access and resources to experience the outdoors.

- MR8K – Received a \$10,000 grant from the Martin Richard Foundation for recruiting over 50 racers to Team YES in the annual MR8K. YES had the largest nonprofit team at the event!
- Boston Marathon – Raised over \$40,000 with team of four runners in the April 2023 Boston Marathon.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Diamond Gala – Held record-setting event raising over \$700,000 for YES programs on Thursday, April 20 at the Boston Renaissance Waterfront Hotel.
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rodman Ride for Kids – Team YES raised over \$18,000. It was YES's inaugural year participating in the event, and the team had eight riders.