



Embracing All the Possibilities®

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



INSPIRING
Wellness



Planting Seeds of Growth

Through the years, Ms. Esther and the youth from Holley Center have worked together to ensure that Todd's Garden flourished.



*Dedicated in Heartfelt Memory of
Our Dear Friend & YCS Trustee*

Herbert Ouida

December 19, 1941 to December 8, 2022

Herb Ouida was an ardent advocate for the children in YCS care. For nearly 20 years as a trustee, Mr. Ouida was often heard enlisting the support of others imploring, "We have to help these kids!"

In 2002, when Mr. Ouida and his wife Andrea were introduced to YCS they were mourning the loss of their son Todd, who perished in the attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11. They had just established the Todd Ouida Children's Foundation, championing children's mental health. They were drawn to YCS' commitment to the mental health and well-being of children and became wholehearted supporters of the YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health as well as the Holley Childcare and Development Center.

After a visit to the YCS Holley Center, and engaging with the children, they provided the resources and helped construct a beautiful flower garden on the grounds of the facility where the children could find solace in nature and enjoy picnics and barbecues in the fresh air. A plaque in the garden simply reads, "Todd's Garden: A Place Where Hope Grows."

Todd's Garden has been a stable place of comfort for the children. The garden has since been extended to include a large vegetable patch that the children assist in tending. It is a place for them to learn about the connection between nutritious food and their health. The children especially enjoy eating the veggies they have picked.





YCS is a statewide non-profit, behavioral health and social services agency that provides comprehensive, therapeutic services to thousands of individuals, birth through adulthood, with complex special needs.

Some of the children in YCS' care are separated from their loved ones and have been affected by trauma, while other individuals are challenged by life-long intellectual/developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health disorders. In every case, YCS is committed to helping every person rebuild their lives and develop the skills to reach their full potential in a safe, nurturing environment.

Today, YCS operates 60 programs across the Garden State that include residential care, foster care, special education schools, preventative home visitation programs for young families, and community-based clinical services.

Our commitment to helping those in our community who are disenfranchised has not wavered and we will continue to advance to meet their needs for the next 100 years and beyond.



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*Our mission is to partner with
at-risk children who have
special needs and adults with
developmental disabilities, to
build, happier, healthier, more
hopeful lives within their
families and communities.*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I feel truly blessed to have the opportunity to lead such a dynamic and dedicated team.

As we move into my favorite season, I have the opportunity to look back and reflect on all of our accomplishments this past fiscal year. I feel truly blessed to have the opportunity to lead such a dynamic and dedicated team. I look forward to the time I spend preparing for the annual report and meeting with my colleagues to discuss the strides we have made across the agency. There are so many wonderful, and sometimes unrecognized accomplishments that come to light.

The theme of this year's annual report "Inspiring Wellness" reflects the compassion of our employees as they guide the individuals in our care. Our employees draw forth their inner strengths and help our participants flourish. It is because of our employees' efforts that we have implemented many holistic wellness initiatives to benefit those we serve. The wellness section of this report illustrates these programs and the beautiful faces of the program participants and employees who are taking part in these activities.

You will also read about Malcolm, a young man living in one of our residences who has made great strides towards independence; and Esther a Deaf mom with a disabled child who found a lifeline to a hopeful future for herself and her children in our Parents as Teachers program. These success stories are a testament to the powerful impact our direct care employees make every day.

Wellness doesn't just occur through formal programming. Another key element in helping our children and young adults recover is connecting them to their communities. Every time they have an opportunity to make community connections it sends a message that they belong and their feelings of self-worth are bolstered.

YCS has greatly enhanced our programming, living spaces and initiatives as a result of the generosity of corporate donors and charitable organizations. The upgrading of living spaces provides a homelike environment with all the modern conveniences which in turn makes our participants feel safe, secure, and valued.

As you continue to read about the progress we have made at YCS over the past year, I hope it inspires your own journey of wellness and personal fulfillment.

Warmly,

Tara Augustine
President/CEO



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Every individual and family member
in our care is counting on us. We
will not let them down.*



This May, I had the pleasure to attend the 16th Annual YCS Blossoms Art Exhibit & Awards Show with my fellow Trustees. It was wonderful for us to engage in-person once again with the YCS children and their families after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The atmosphere was joyous, and the affection shared amongst the staff and children heartwarming. This bond is the hallmark of YCS' success.

The inspiring testimonials in this year's annual report further illustrate the healing relationships that exist between clients and direct care staff. YCS employees, while addressing their charges' complex needs are often themselves physically and emotionally challenged. I am personally very proud of the innovative work happening across the agency to address these needs as well as those of clients, with a wide range of Wellness Initiatives. When individuals have their needs met, are healthy, and feel cared for, they are more compassionate and able to give back more freely from a place of contentment. The YCS Trustees are truly invested in supporting the agency's commitment to create a culture of wellness and self-care in body, mind, and spirit.

For our wellness initiatives to flourish throughout YCS sites, the agency has made great strides over the past year in upgrading office spaces and renovating many of our older residences. I speak on behalf of the YCS Inc. and YCS Foundation boards when I say we are very supportive of the agency's efforts to create welcoming environments where clients and employees alike are and feel valued and respected. We know this will ultimately lead to a more engaged staff and more successful outcomes for the individuals we care for. We look forward to expanding these improvement projects in the upcoming fiscal year.

While expanding our internal capabilities this past year we have also accepted new state contracts and expanded the number of our residences to help address the continuing needs of New Jersey's children. We plan on continuing that process this year.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every member of the YCS community for trusting in YCS and supporting our journey to continually strive to do better. Every individual and family member in our care is counting on us. We will not let them down.

John Uzzi
Board Chair



YCS Leadership

Executive Leadership

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 Hing Shung Chan, *Chief Technology Officer*
 Jaime Fox, *Chief Quality Assurance & Compliance Officer*
 Rayletta Garrison, *SVP, Operations*
 Ruthie Harper, *Chief Strategy Officer*
 Steven Kessler, *Chief Human Resources Officer*
 Erin McCloskey, *Chief Information Officer*
 Janis Nicolosi-Endo, *Chief Communications Officer*

Operational Leadership

Andrew Beckford, *VP, Residential Staffing & Retention*
 Korey Clark, *VP, NR DD Services*
 Deanna DeStefano, *VP, Residential Nursing Services*
 Dawn Jones, *VP, SR DD Services*
 Jacqueline Maddi, *VP, Residential ABA Services*
 Yvonne Montemurro, *VP, Training*
 Dr. Tatum Stein, *Principal, George Washington School*
 Jennifer Stratton, *VP, NR Behavioral Health*
 Leisa Tomchek, *Principal, Sawtelle Learning Center*
 Brad Vetterly, *VP, SR Behavioral Health*
 William Waller, *VP, Treatment Homes & Agency Chaplain*
 Dr. Dayna Zatina Egan, *VP, Practice Integration*

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YCS AT A GLANCE



NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

60



INDIVIDUALS &
FAMILIES SERVED

2,817



COUNTIES
SERVED

14

YCS PROGRAMS: 60



CHILDREN
GROUP
HOMES

17

CHILDREN
INTELLECTUAL/
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES HOMES

8

ADULT
INTELLECTUAL/
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES HOMES

19

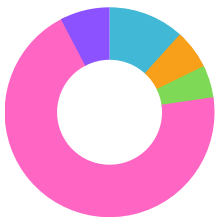
OUTPATIENT/
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS

14

DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
SCHOOLS

2

INDIVIDUALS SERVED (UNDUPLICATED): 1,669



CHILDREN
GROUP
HOMES

195

CHILDREN
INTELLECTUAL/
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES HOMES

101

ADULT
INTELLECTUAL/
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES HOMES

83

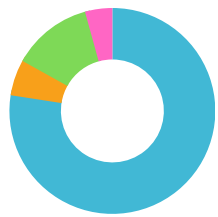
OUTPATIENT/
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS

1,162

DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
SCHOOLS

128

REVENUE: \$70 MILLION



MEDICAID

77.44%

NJ DOE

12.63%

GOVERNMENT
GRANTS &
CONTRACTS

5.64%

OTHER

4.29%

WORKFORCE: 1,090 EMPLOYEES



CLINICIANS/
CASE MANAGERS

62



TEACHERS/
SCHOOL SUPPORT

106



DIRECT CARE

654



BEHAVIORISTS

41



MEDICAL/NURSING

58



ANCILLARY

30



ADMINISTRATION

140

YCS Outpatient Clinics and Community Programs making great strides in preventative services for families.

YCS stands fully behind the State of New Jersey initiative to prioritize Infant/Toddler Mental Health. With a focus on the well-being of young, marginalized families who often lack access to essential services and resources, YCS has successfully secured private and public grants to actualize critical community services, including wraparound support and case management.

Through the dedicated efforts of the teams at the YCS Outpatient Clinics, Community Programs, and Institute of Infant & Preschool Mental Health, YCS is able to offer expertise not only in therapeutic services, but also in screening, consultation and training.

Furthermore, as the only APA-licensed mental health center specifically for children from birth to six, the Institute is cultivating this specialized workforce through the Doctoral Internship Program. Our team of experts has developed an esteemed curriculum that includes professional training in infant and preschool mental health, clinical services for infants/pre-school children and their caregivers, and research opportunities to determine the affects of early intervention on relationships.

Through additional grant-funded opportunities, YCS has been able to build upon this expertise throughout the years to expand these programs and services into the communities and homes of those who need it most.

"This year's grant process was very competitive. Funding of YCS is a testament to the quality work that you are doing in the community and helping to strengthen the mental and physical health of some of the most vulnerable populations." Michael Schmidt, HNJ Chief Executive Officer.

"With these grants we now have the resources to teach parents how to best help their children reach important milestones and thrive," says Christine Colon, YCS AVP of Early Childhood and Community Programming.

NJ Department of Children & Families – Office of Early Childhood Services

Awarded \$800K over three years, in Collaboration with the NJ Medical School and the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, to implement the DCI Project (Detection, Connection, Intervention) to provide autism screening, treatment, and evaluations as well as peer to peer support for caregivers.

The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

Awarded \$100,000 for a one year grant entitled "YCS Institute Early Head Start/Head Start Partnership" which provides clinical classroom consultation to a network of 17 early childcare centers in Newark and Elizabeth, NJ.

The Celia Lipton & Victor W Farris Foundation

Awarded \$49,930 to provide Early Relational Health services to the North Hudson Community Action Corporation's pediatric clinic in Union City.

The Provident Bank Foundation

Awarded \$20,000 to support case management services for families receiving counseling at its mental health clinics in Essex and Hudson counties.

Orange Orphan Society

Awarded \$15,000 to support the Nurse Family Partnership program in Essex County, specifically in Maplewood and the Oranges.



Deaf mom is breaking through barriers with PAT advocate by her side

Esther Richardson-Navarro's two young children laugh and play in their living room as she communicates with them using American Sign Language (ASL) and simple spoken Spanish. This Deaf, single mother of a preschooler with disabilities and a five-year-old daughter had very limited resources, and oftentimes struggled alone as she cared for her children. Then, she was referred to the YCS Parents as Teachers (PAT) program and met Pia Ababon, PAT supervisor and parent educator. Esther signed, "I finally found someone I could trust."

Pia recalls that Esther was adamant about her request for a certified ASL interpreter. Esther explained that the interpreters provided for her in the past were not qualified and often misinterpreted what she was trying to say. Before the initial intake, it took almost three months for Pia to honor Esther's request because there are very few ASL interpreters in our area.

With the help of a colleague, Pia was introduced to Barb Coffan, a Georgia-based, certified interpreter. Since then, the three women have formed a powerful bond. Twice a month, Pia visits Esther and her two-year-old son, Jeff, in their home and they connect with Barb using a tablet over Zoom.

Pia's primary intent was to help Esther learn how to better care for Jeff's needs through an evidence-based curriculum. He was born with Noonan Syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes hearing loss, heart problems and behavioral issues.



During their visits, Pia helps Esther acquire the skills to improve Jeff's motor and language skills, self-regulate, and soothe. She also helped Esther enroll Jeff in a special education preschool program where he is now receiving many therapies.

"Jeff is doing well with the resources Pia has given me. In the beginning, it was hard. Jeff used to cry so much. Sometimes, he's calmer now and to me, he's like a different child. He's learning to process the world better and talking so much more," explains Esther.

Pia has become a tremendous advocate for the family when access to an interpreter is necessary. "Working with Esther and Barb has been a real eye opener for me. I never realized how isolating and difficult it can be for a Deaf person," says Pia, adding, "Navigating the school, medical and social service systems are almost impossible if you are not provided an interpreter. I give all the credit to Esther for fighting for her rights – she is an amazing mother. Esther works very hard to stay positive and keep an optimistic outlook on her life with her children."

Esther concludes, "Pia has comforted me so much. She's given me an optimistic outlook on a sad situation. I've had so many worries and concerns about my son and our living situation, and she has supported me throughout it all. I trust her completely. I think the world is a beautiful place and I want to be a positive influence on the world!"

YCS Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a national evidence-based model that provides comprehensive parent education. It focuses on supporting parents/caregivers as their child's first teacher. PAT's mission is to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. PAT educational services focus on nutrition, safety and their child's physical, emotional, and social development.

For this interview, Esther's comments were recorded from a Zoom session interpreted by Barb Coffan.

Interpreting for Pia and Esther for the past year and a half has been an eye-opener for me. I've been interpreting professionally for 52 years and have much experience with "live" in-home visits. I tried [unsuccessfully] to convince them that an in-person interpreter would be so much better. Well, Pia and Esther certainly changed my mind. These two wonderful ladies wanted to make it work, and they did!

In all my years of interpreting, I have never seen the life of a deaf woman change so dramatically as Esther's has, because of the services that YCS is providing her through Pia. Pia has compassionately offered support, resources, love, understanding, and friendship to this Deaf woman who is trying to raise two children with special needs as a single mom. Being deaf not only means that Esther can't hear, but that she cannot speak, read lips, or read or write English well. All of her life, she has been cut off from listening to how to navigate governmental systems and community resources. Pia has been her bridge to all of this, and so much more.

I wish that all Deaf men and women had a Pia in their lives, so that they could experience the happiness and fulfillment that comes from knowing that someone really cares about their welfare and the welfare of their children.

"Sign"cerely,
Barb Caffan
ASL Interpreter





BIG PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Malcolm Rackley makes tremendous progress towards independent living

Catching up with Malcolm Rackley is not an easy task these days. As a resident of the YCS Sawtelle Thomas House, he works two jobs and has a busy social life. For Malcolm, 30, it seems light years since he was accepted into the YCS Adult DD Paterson home, in 2015.

"I had nowhere to go," laments Malcolm, who had just graduated from a special education high school and was transitioning out of a temporary group home. He prefers not to talk about the family challenges he faced growing up but remains in contact with his younger sister. When Leidy Gomez, house manager, recalls how shy and frightened Malcolm was in his early days at the home, Malcolm coyly smiles and then emphatically chimes in, "She is my family. I always call her mom,"

With Leidy's support and encouragement, Malcolm eventually enrolled in a supportive work program at Employment Horizons (EH). He started out as a janitor and quickly moved up into the culinary department - baking, packaging, and selling desserts. From there, with a new promotion to material handler, Malcolm assists in the management and distribution of work for program participants. Last year, Malcolm also took on a second job in the community as a morning janitor at the AMC headquarters. He was featured as an EH success story and praised for showing "initiative and willingness to help wherever he is needed" - skills he acquired at the YCS home.

One area that Malcolm needed to work on was financial literacy. He was earning two paychecks and eager to learn how to manage his own expenses. "He really had no idea how to handle his money," says Leidy. With the support of Leidy and the home's staff, Malcolm learned how to make a budget, manage his own credit card, savings, and checking accounts. "He pays his own bills on time every month. We don't have to help him at all anymore," boasts Leidy.





Malcolm has a lot of motivation. "I am saving up every month to take a special trip for people with disabilities to Disney World with my girlfriend," notes Malcolm, adding that they are both working on meeting their treatment plan goals so they can take the trip together on February 29, 2024. Malcolm says this is going to be his year.

Malcolm is proud of all his accomplishments but knows he has more work to do. When asked if he is hopeful about his future, Malcolm replies "yes" and then enthusiastically adds, "I am more than hopeful, I am excited."

Leidy and the staff at the home are now working on teaching Malcolm how to manage his medication for seizures – a condition stemming from childhood cerebral palsy. Once his YCS Sawtelle support team is confident that he can manage his medication, he will be ready to transition into an independent living apartment.

"One time someone told me I'd be a great father," says Malcolm. He looks forward to that time one day. "Family is very important to me." For now, he is content to be with his self-proclaimed mom, Leidy.

YCS is dedicated to the continual enhancement of service delivery, to improve the experience of our program participants. Not only are wellness activities part of contractual regulations, they are also key to participant engagement, and to reducing feelings of isolation and institutionalization of those who are in residential treatment. Not only does YCS work to include meaningful offerings as part of weekly activity schedules, but leadership is also pursuing the vision of expanding treatment beyond the “four walls” of YCS facilities. Through a combination of special outings, community partnerships and memberships, the YCS vision is to provide more access to social experiences for all who are enrolled in YCS residential programming.

This commitment to community integration for YCS program participants aligns with advocacy efforts under the Families First Prevention Services Act “to reduce the unnecessary use of congregate care, and build the capacity of communities to support children and families”.



Sawtelle Camden Visits Adventure Aquarium

For all the youth, it was their first time to visit an aquarium and explore underwater life through up-close animal encounters and interactive touch exhibits. Fun, educational outings like this help the youth learn how to engage in a meaningful way with their community.

YCS Joins in on the Jingle Jam Celebration

Over 500 children in foster care attend the 13th Annual NY Football Giants Jingle Jam holiday celebration at MetLife Stadium. Attendees from YCS were awe struck by the chance to take photos with the NY Football Giants, and every child went home with a duffle bag filled with a winter jacket and other gifts.



WICKED Fun for Sayre House & Kilbarchan Youth

This visit to the Gershwin Theatre for a production of WICKED was the youth's first time seeing a Broadway show, courtesy of Tickets for Kids Charities. The experience was beyond all their expectations - they laughed, they cried, and they jumped out of their seats! It was an unforgettable night!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Eastside Students Learn About Urban Gardening

Students at the YCS School Based Youth Services (SBYS) program at Eastside High took a field trip to City Green, Inc. Farm in Clifton to experience urban gardening. The students tilled the soil, planted garlic and took a tour of the farm that helps supply nutritious produce to the Paterson community. "This collaboration with City Green opens up students to new possibilities and gives them an opportunity to give back to their community," says Erica Parks, YCS Employment Specialist. Students were also encouraged to apply for paid summer internships.

The Children's Place (TCP) Field Day

Summer interns at The Children's Place joined children from YCS residences for a fun, field day gathering, which included volleyball, kick ball, corn hole, and tug of war. "This is the one event our interns look forward to the most," says Katelyn Powers, TCP Manager of Corporate Training. TCP has been a supporter of the YCS Family for over 15 years. "The kindness and love that the TCP interns show the children truly warms my heart," says Ruthie Harper, Chief Strategy Officer.



Self-Advocacy Spotlight with ChildWIN

Three participants were invited to speak at the 4th Anniversary of the CHILDWIN Institute's annual gala. They each spoke honestly about the struggles they encountered at an early age, the life skills they learned through treatment at YCS, and how their participation in the CHILDWIN's resiliency program impacted their growth. The audience responded warmly to the youth, and they all left feeling proud of what they accomplished.



ENHANCING PROGRAMS



On-Site Pet Therapy & CREW Events Creating Consistent Positive Impact

Over 100 YCS program participants have benefitted from monthly sessions with their furry friends, as well as special gatherings focused on fostering creativity, recreation and education.





Singing Bowls Sound Healing

The introduction of sound healing has helped many YCS program participants learn about the nervous system, tune into their bodies and experience deep relaxation in a new and different way. Participants were even able to create sounds by playing the bowls themselves!

Mindfulness Spirituality Graduation Ceremony

After completing the 12-week program, participants were invited to a ceremony and received certificates from Agency Chaplain, Bill Waller and President/CEO, Tara Augustine. Afterwards, the graduates were reminded to use the new video library and stay connected with the Agency Chaplain to deepen their personal spirituality practices.



Exploring Herbs and Healing Remedies

As part of an 8-week program that explored the dimensions of wellness, participants were treated to a fruit and tea party. This session focused on the physical benefits and preventative health properties of various herbs and foods for well-being.

In order to truly inspire wellness at every level of the organization, YCS has added employee engagement initiatives, with a focus on physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

The "Prayer Line" led by the Agency Chaplain is a call open to all YCS employees. This service is designed to not only offer weekly prayers, but also to open a channel of communication for those seeking spiritual support and assistance in their personal or professional lives. Employees are not only encouraged to attend for the live prayer, but are also welcome to submit prayer requests at their convenience.

All YCS Employees are also invited to tune in every week for Wellness Wednesday! Throughout the month, sessions includes a 15-minutes practices focused on Spinal Health, Joint Health, Lung and Heart Health, as well as meditation. The practices are followed by a 30 minute space for community, connection, guidance and other forms of support. All are welcome to utilize this time to share ideas on tools, resources and opportunities, as well as challenges, barriers or obstacles encountered in the workplace, to support the wellness of our workforce and those we serve.





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

The Path to Success at YCS Begins with a Dedicated Employee

As a young woman 19 years ago, LaToya Pope began working at YCS - It was her first job in a “real” company. In a recent interview, she shares how she found an unexpected path to the fulfilling career she enjoys today at YCS.

Can you tell us about your first job at YCS?

In 2004, I was hired as a coordinator for Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCOP). I visited inmates and got their permission to enroll their children in the program. I was so young at the time, but I loved the work. I really felt like I was giving back when I saw these children connect with mentors.

What happened after that program ended?

I was offered another job as a medical assistant to the nurse at the YCS Shelter in Newark. My supervisor, APN, Kim Dolan, saw something in me and thought I'd be good as a nurse. She really believed in me and gave me the confidence to go back to school for nursing. At that time, YCS was offering tuition reimbursement to selected nursing candidates and I was chosen. I just grew up in the company after that, and in 2013 I returned to school for my RN.

When did you discover that nursing was your calling?

...when I began getting to know the children living in our group homes. I have the same history as them. This is my story too. When the children come into the nurse's office, I can talk to them and share my story. I understand what they are going through. Often, youth admitted into the program have been medically neglected. We make sure that we address all their health issues, and they get the best care while at YCS. I feel very blessed when I see our youth looking healthy and happy

What is your most recent professional challenge?

There was an opening for nurse manager on the Kilbarchan Campus. It was a big responsibility, and I didn't think I was good enough for the job. Lissa Captain, AVP of Clinical Services and Campus Director, strongly encouraged me to apply for the job. I got up the courage to apply and was promoted to nurse manager this past year. It has been tough, but conquering something that I thought I couldn't do is rewarding.



The Kilbarchan campus provides three levels of care in programs designed to help adolescents cope with the pressures of the environments from which they come, while helping them develop the skills and attitudes necessary in their future roles as productive, self-sustaining citizens. From the day of an adolescent's admission, our staff of therapists, social workers, psychiatrists, nurses and other child care professionals begin treating the adolescent in a safe, secure and nurturing environment. On average, residents receive approximately one year of care before either returning home or being placed in another more permanent living situation.

Can you tell us about the work you are doing now as nurse manager?

As nurse manager, I oversee the medical care of approximately 35 youth on the KB Campus. With the support of three nurses, we monitor and dispense medication daily, set up medical appointments and run educational groups on self-care.

What keeps you motivated?

I live in the same area as many of the kids who have been discharged from YCS. It always makes me happy when they greet me on the street and tell me about their jobs or proudly introduce me to their families. How can I leave YCS? I love these kids.

Any final thoughts about your YCS journey?

I was a young African American girl with a difficult childhood when I started working here. I am so grateful for all the opportunities and people who supported me, believed in me, and gave me a chance to have a career where I am giving back and helping others.



Our children's talents blossom at the Bergen Performing Arts Center

This spring, more than 100 children, family members, and stakeholders gleefully flocked to the Bergen Performing Arts Center to take part in the YCS Blossoms 16th Annual Art Exhibit and Awards Show. The artwork, writings, and musical talents of 70 children lined the walls of the Sandy Bennett Gallery. Following the gallery viewing, guests moved to the theater for the show and awards presentation. This year, for the first time, YCS used the stage for the performances and award presentations. The children left floating on a cloud, according to Tatum Stein, GW School principal.

The bergenPAC has graciously hosted Blossoms for more than a decade. The gallery curator Helene Cohen and the PAC crew have gone beyond to accommodate all the children's needs. We are very grateful for all their support and the love that they show the children. Children from the YCS George Washington School/School-based Youth Services program and nine YCS group homes in northern and central Jersey submitted either individual or group art projects, poetry, or essays, sang in the chorus or emceed the show. They were all amazing!

A 9 year-old boy from the Holley Center who sang on stage couldn't agree more, "This is the very best day of my life – ever."

The 2023 event was generously underwritten by the YCS Board of Trustees.





Good Behavior Pays off With the \$HolleyBux Program

Something is going on at Holley Center that will leave the children feeling like a million bucks; \$HolleyBux that is! This new initiative to help children build inner wealth through positive reinforcement was started by YCS Holley Campus program directors. It is based on staff consistently pointing out to the children when they are demonstrating positive behaviors and providing instant rewards in the form of points.

The children naturally became more invested in the project when they assisted staff in deciding on a list of items to be included in the HolleyBux store. One of the most exciting features of the \$HolleyBux System is the money management component that includes \$HolleyBux originally branded checks to exchange for goods in the store, and notebooks for the children to manage the \$HolleyBux that they earn. Everyone on the Holley Campus celebrated the kick-off of the opening of the HolleyBux Store with a Candyland themed party and ended with the children visiting the store to redeem their \$HolleyBux.

"The accumulation of the recognition will convert into \$HolleyBux that the children can use to purchase experiences and tangible items in the HolleyBux Store," explained IRTS Program Director and HolleyBux Project Director, Lorenzo Brown, MSW,LSW



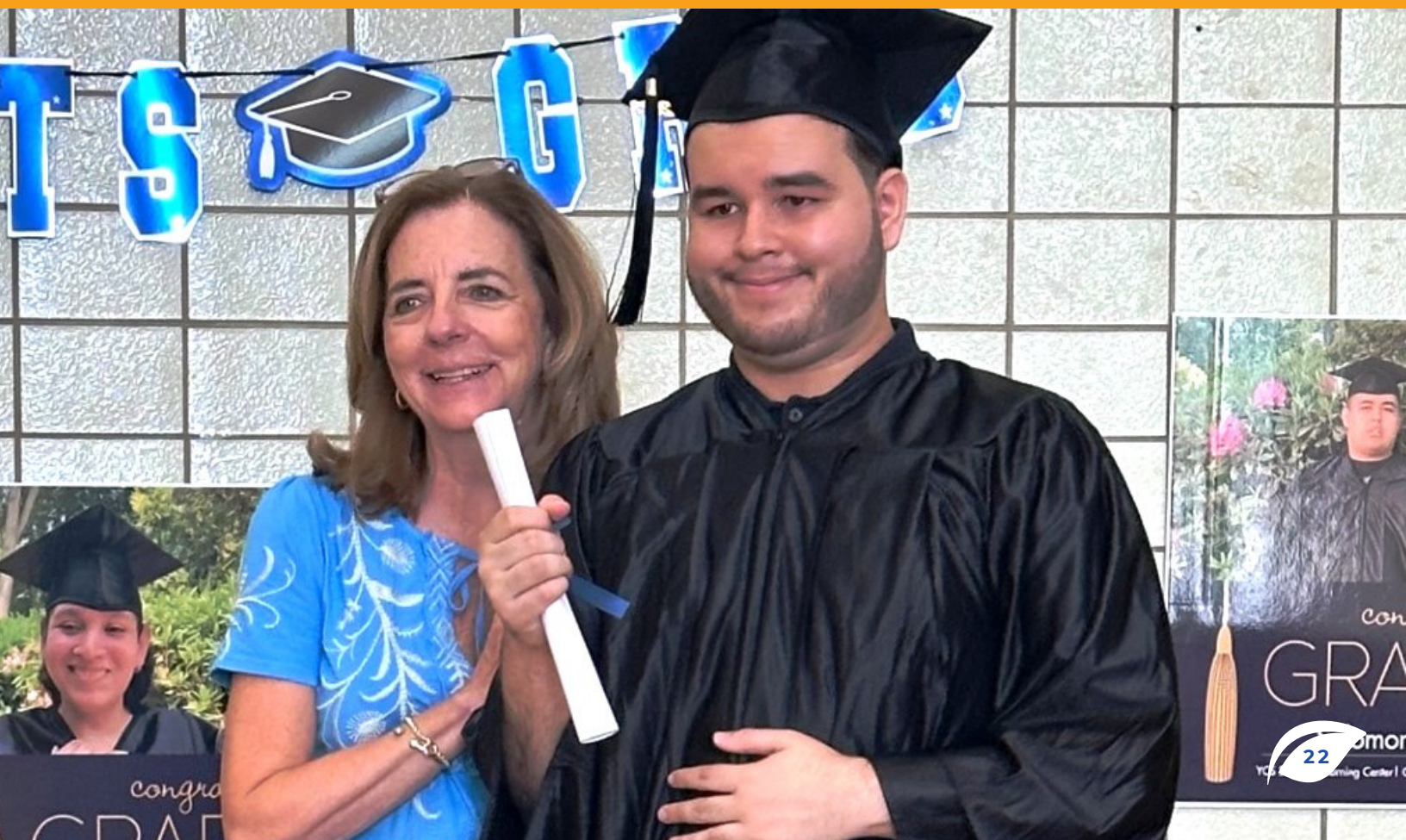


George Washington School





Sawtelle Learning Center



“A person’s living conditions is the foundation for everything that follows... It impacts their self-worth and confidence, and influences how they believe others feel about them.”

Tara Augustine, President/CEO

YCS has secured public and private funding for essential repairs and renovations to ensure that our participants live in a safe, comfortable home-like environment. The team has been robustly pursuing funding for repairs and renovations to YCS group homes and adult residences across the state.

This has led to numerous renovations and essential rehabilitation projects, including a ramp at our Newark Campus, as well as heating-ventilation, air conditioning, roofing, kitchen cabinets and remodeling of restrooms to ensure YCS is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and accessible to individuals with disabilities.



Dedicated In Memory

Cavan Home was dedicated in loving memory of longtime YCS colleague and friend, Wanda Cavanaugh. Originally a temporary, emergency placement facility for individuals with developmental disabilities, the home was re-designated as a permanent home for 4 young men.

Enhanced Environment

Members of the Greater Bergen Realtors Care Foundation toured YCS residences to learn more about the therapeutic residences and see the fruits of a \$17,000 grant they gave to the YCS Foundation to renovate living quarters, including new bedding, flooring, mattresses, furniture, and entertainment center.



YCS Benefits from Columbia Bank Annual Week of Giving

Columbia Bank volunteers from Northern Jersey branches rolled up their sleeves to spruce up our YCS residences. Sixteen Columbia Bank employees gave a fresh coat of paint to an entire unit and study/computer room. They also assisted the YCS maintenance crew in laying down a new floor in the dining room. We especially appreciate their efforts to brighten up the children’s homes and lives.





Make a House a Home:

YCS is proud to recognize the incredible collaboration between the Facilities Team and the YCS Foundation. Together, these teams have helped to renovate, refurbish, and enhance treatment facilities - transforming houses into homes that radiate a happy, healing energy!



YCS FOUNDATION

The YCS Foundation builds community support, creating a reservoir of enrichment!

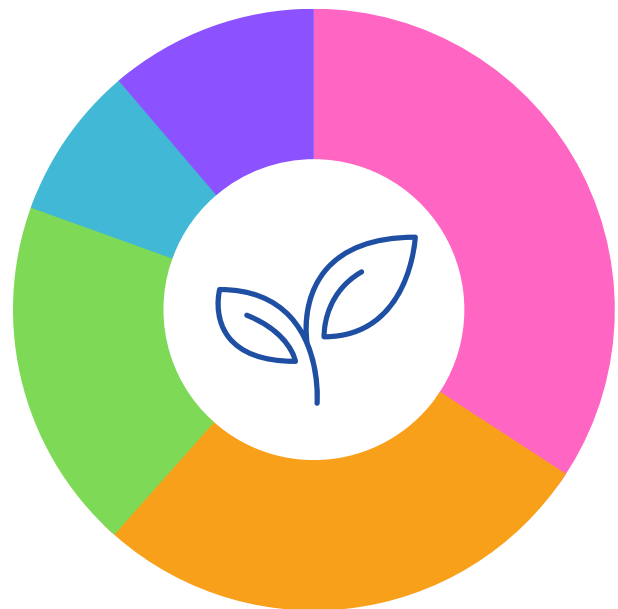
The YCS Foundation is the charitable arm of the organization, which has the mission to fill in the gaps left by government funding, so that YCS can continue to be innovative in the ways we serve our participants. The Foundation can fund a programming idea before government sources realize the need, grow YCS programming outside of traditional sources and provide those in YCS care with everything they need to thrive. This is accomplished through a combination of fundraising events, campaigns, grant writing, and in-kind donations.

TURNING HOUSES
INTO HOMES

PROGRAMMATIC
ENHANCEMENTS

WELLNESS &
SPIRITUALITY

SPECIAL EVENTS
& OUTINGS



GRANT AWARDS	\$505,000
GOODS & SERVICES	\$404,000
CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC	\$280,000
HOLIDAY APPEAL	\$122,000
TARGETED APPEALS	\$166,000



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

*Brian Fisher reflects on his
longstanding relationship with YCS*

I first started working with YCS in the spring of 2000. Our firm had been hired to provide financial advisory services to the employees of YCS, specifically around their retirement savings. Since then, I have become such a common face at the YCS sites that employees call Human Resources asking where my office is.

As part of our services to YCS, we conduct group and one-on-one sessions at the YCS locations throughout the state. In the morning I may be in Montclair meeting with teachers who assist autistic children and, in the afternoon, sitting with social workers who help kids affected by drugs and/or alcohol. Doing this work is not going to make them millionaires, which is why I respect what the staff does even more.

Over the last 23 years, I have celebrated birthdays, weddings, newborns, and retirements with the employees of YCS. The kids are the focus of YCS, but it is the staff that keeps things going. Getting up day in and day out to help these children can be a tireless act, but changing and saving lives is what this agency does. It will always have a place in my heart.

Earlier this year, I received a phone call from a newly hired social worker who was persistent in setting up an appointment to talk about enrolling in the company's retirement plan. She said, "My mother [also an employee] told me I must meet with you." While it made me feel good that her mother valued the work I do enough to have her daughter consult with me, it more importantly says something about the YCS culture when the new hires are children of current employees.

When not working, I am an avid golfer and have been a YCS Golf Committee member since the beginning. I have been at every 'Fore the Kids' golf tournament for 21 years. It is always a wonderful day, and over the last few years it has been great to see it grow into such an important fundraiser for the agency. In 2021, I was asked to join the YCS Foundation Board. I have known the Foundation crew for years so this was an easy decision for me. Great people fundraising for the kids, how could I say no?

*Brian is a Senior VP with Wealth Enhancement Group and lives in Norristown, PA,
with his wife Stacey and two daughters, Ashley and Kaley.*



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

*Corporate Partner Spotlight:
Andrew Chan & Craig Goldwasser
Goldwasser & Chan, LLP*

We at G&C look to support 501(C)(3) organizations who love and care for people well in the communities where our clients are located. 10% of the firm's net income goes to support these organizations before we distribute any profit to firm members. We prioritize organizations with a proven record of effectively using donor resources to bring restoration to children and families.

We choose to give to YCS because you have such a long and wonderful history of caring for at-risk children and people with special needs. I've witnessed it firsthand. I personally began involvement with YCS in 2016 through YCS volunteer opportunities offered by my church, New Mercy Community Church Hackensack.

Over the years, I've had the blessing of meeting the staff who work at YCS, have been able to hang out with kids there and worked with administration on projects that aim to bring the kids just a little more joy and comfort. My experiences showed me that this is an organization that loves their kids so deeply, an organization that wants the best for them and works so hard to use whatever resources they have to build a better future for them.

So when my law partner Craig and I launched our law firm in July 2022, YCS was an easy choice to direct a portion of our giving. We are so grateful for everything YCS does to bless children and families. It's amazing work you're doing for communities across New Jersey. It's been a privilege to support you and we hope our partnership leads to even greater blessings for children in need. Thank you for letting us be a part of what you do.

Goldwasser & Chan (G&C) is a personal injury law firm that serves individuals and families in the tri-state area. YCS Foundation reached out to G&C and asked one of the Founding Partners to share why G&C chooses to financially support YCS.





NCJW & Holley Reunite

The NCJW BCS, National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section resumed volunteering at the YCS Holley Center, featuring arts and craft sessions and customized birthday cakes for all of the 35 children at the residence. For more than 50 years, the NCJW Bergen Chapter has staunchly supported YCS.

On-Site Volunteers Return

Morgan Stanley - Paramus office employees coordinated a group visit to YCS bearing trays of food and treats! This was the first visit after four years, and though the pandemic may have kept the volunteers and the children apart, they never forgot how much they enjoyed their visits. We are so very grateful for such kind and caring volunteers.



Former heavy weight contender Gerry Cooney shares the YCS Mission with the Summit Elks

On behalf of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Summit Lodge#1246 , Exalted Ruler Rick Wolfe and Esteemed Leading Knight Amy Matthews presented YCS Foundation with a check for \$5,000 following a presentation on the mission of YCS.

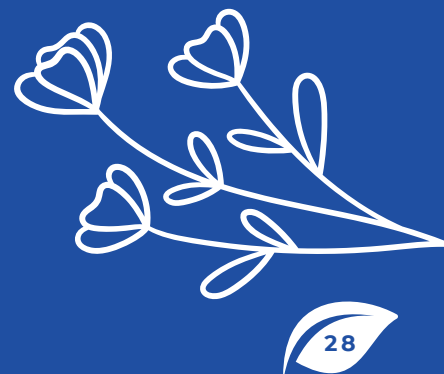
Working together to enhance the lives of those who need it most!

The YCS Foundation seeks to improve the lives of those YCS serves by cultivating relationships with corporations, foundations, charitable trusts, individuals, places of worship and other entities to secure critical financial resources as well as donations of goods and services.

The support from these various donors helps YCS to underwrite vital programming, transform homes and facilities, and provide activities and new experiences with the power to help heal.

“Our supporters truly light a candle in the darkest moments; they illuminate the lives of those we serve, and bring great meaning and significance to their experience.”

Ruthie Harper, Chief Strategy Officer



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*Thank you for helping YES
create special moments that
become core memories....*

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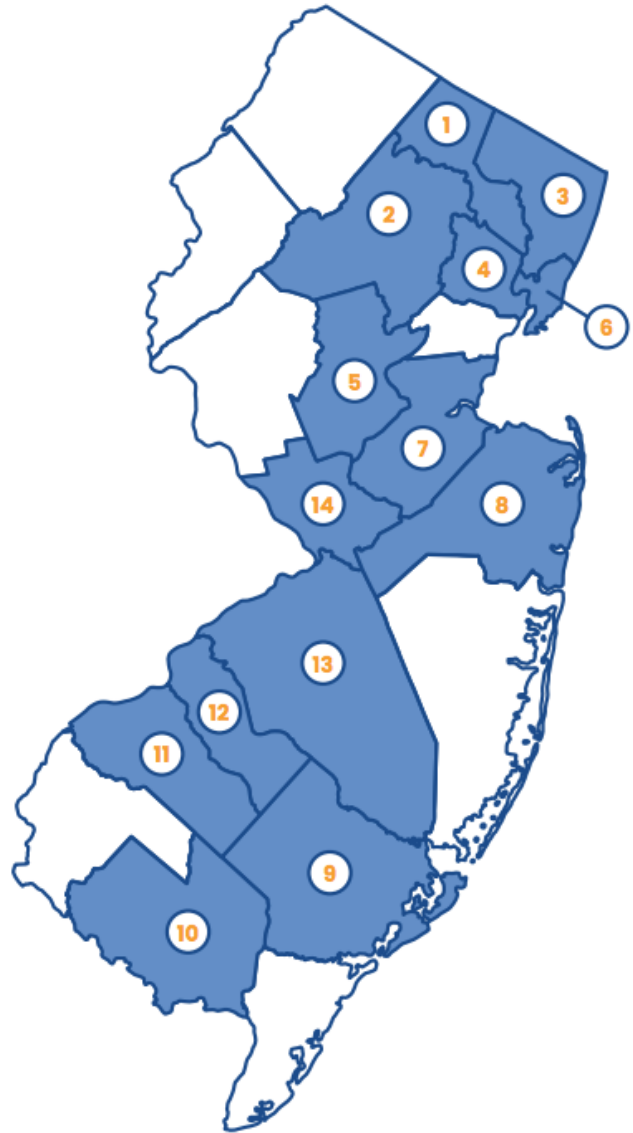
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Our Locations

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284 Broadway
Newark, NJ 07104
(973)482-8411

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25 East Salem St.
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201)678-1312

Somerdale Office
20 E. Evergreen Avenue
Somerdale, NJ 08083
(856)309-5420



1 - PASSAIC COUNTY

Kilbarchan Residential Treatment Center - Paterson (21)

Kilbarchan Intensive Residential Treatment Services
- Paterson (6)

Kilbarchan Specialty Care Unit - Paterson (6)

Sawtelle Thomas Residence - Paterson (6)

Sawtelle Buffalo Residence - Paterson (6)

Sawtelle Emergency Capacity System Residence -
Haledon (4)

*Eastside High School - Paterson (300 plus):

*School Based Youth Services

*21st Century Program

*Parent Linking Program

*Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency Program

2 - MORRIS COUNTY

Sawtelle Pamela Residence - Randolph (4)

Sawtelle Emmans Residence - Flanders (4)

Sawtelle Morris Residence - Denville (4)

*Nurse Family Partnership (50)

3 - BERGEN COUNTY

YCS George Washington School - Hackensack (90)

Holley Child Care & Development Center - Hackensack (30)

Fisher Hall Psychiatric Children's Home - Hackensack (12)

Sawtelle Hall Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility -
Hackensack (4)

Muller Intensive Residential Treatment Services -
Hackensack (6)

Sawtelle Walnut Residence - Northvale (4)

4 - ESSEX COUNTY

Malcolm House Psychiatric Children's Home -
Orange (5)
Davis House Psychiatric Children's Home -
Newark (10)
Bright Start Psychiatric Children's Home -
Newark (5)
Phoenix Home - Newark (5)
Sawtelle Home - Orange (5)
Sawtelle Residence - West Orange (4)
YCS Sawtelle Learning Center (90 plus)
*Nurse Family Partnership (175)
*Institute for Infant & Preschool Mental Health
*Doctoral Internship Program
*Helen May Strauss Clinic (150 plus)

5 - SOMERSET COUNTY

Sawtelle Cavan Residence - Somerset (4)
Sawtelle Pearl St. Residence - Bridgewater (4)
Sawtelle Burning Bush Residence - Bridgewater (4)

6 - HUDSON COUNTY

*Parents as Teachers (60)
*Helen May Strauss Clinic (97)

7 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Laurie Haven Psychiatric Children's Home -
Edison (10)
Sawtelle Home - Greenbrook (4)

8 - MONMOUTH COUNTY

Sayre House Psychiatric Children's Home -
Farmingdale (8)

** Indicates in-home, outpatient or
community-based programs.*

9 - ATLANTIC COUNTY

Sawtelle Residence - Buena Vista (4)
Estell Manor Behavioral Health/
Developmental Disability Home (8)
Sawtelle Supervised Apartments - Absecon (2) (2)
Crisis Stabilization & Assessment Program
(CSAP) - Hammonton (5)

10 - CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Psychiatric Children's Home - Vineland (5)

11 - GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Sawtelle Residence - Sewell (4)

12 - CAMDEN COUNTY

Cooper's Crossing Psychiatric Children's Home -
Voorhees (6)
Psychiatric Children's Home - Haddon Heights (5)
Psychiatric Children's Home/
Intellectual Disabilities - Cedarbrook (5)
Psychiatric Children's Home/
Intellectual Disabilities - Camden (5)
Sawtelle Residence - Blackwood (5)
Psychiatric Children's Home - Sicklerville (9)
Crisis Stabilization & Assessment Program
(CSAP) - Winslow (5)

13 - BURLINGTON COUNTY

Sawtelle Toledo Residence - Willingboro (4)
Sawtelle Residence - Willingboro (4)
Sawtelle Echo Hill Residence - Willingboro (4)

14 - MERCER COUNTY

Sawtelle Hilltop Residence - Princeton (4)

15 - STATEWIDE PROGRAM

Specialized Foster Home Program (51)



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Join In.

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Create a crowdfunding
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personal milestone.

Create a Legacy.

Learn about the options to
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***For more information,
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