At the forefront of innovative care since 1918
YCS was originally a consortium of churches in the Newark area committed to caring for abandoned women and children after the First World War. An orphanage operated by the Protestant Episcopal Diocese has since become the YCS headquarters, and shelter for adolescents. In 1939, the social services arm of the diocese was officially named Youth Consultation Service and in 1952 YCS became incorporated as a private non-profit non-sectarian agency. This photo of the groundbreaking celebration for the new addition of the Holley Center in 1997 marks the beginning of a major expansion of YCS services.
Continuity gives us roots and change gives us branches that lets us stretch and grow and reach new heights

Adapted from a quote by Pauline R. Kezer

For 100 years, YCS has been dedicated to providing services for New Jersey’s most vulnerable children and families. The deep “roots” we’ve forged in our communities have given us the ability to see clearly the changing needs of the individuals we serve. Ultimately, innovative new programs have not only been successful for our clients, but have become models of care for the state.

We realized early on that in order for a social services organization to remain relevant, it must be able to adapt to the changing needs of the people in the communities it serves. Many of the ideas for program advancements have sprung directly from our employees working on the front lines.

Since its inception in 1918, YCS has been at the forefront of pioneering new programs for children with behavioral, emotional and social challenges. We later expanded programming for children with co-occurring mental health and developmental disabilities. As they aged out of our care, it became very clear to us that some of the children would need lifelong care. Parents and caregivers were becoming older and no longer able to meet all the demands of their offspring.

In 2009, we began providing permanent, enriching homes for adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As we move forward, we will continue to be mindful of the needs of our children and their families as we nourish new “branches” of care.

YCS Accomplishments of Firsts

1948 the first therapeutic group home for displaced children affected by trauma becomes a model for the state.

1970’s YCS adopts the first “no reject/no eject” policy for children in need of therapeutic residential services which later becomes the standard for the state.

1987 an After Care Program at the Holley Center becomes the precursor of a statewide specialized foster care program

1988 the first infirmary for a psychiatric children’s home, with 24 hour nursing care, opens at the Holley Center

2000 the Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health Mental opens in Essex County. It is the first mental health clinic for children birth to six in New Jersey

2005 the first Intensive Residential Treatment Services program providing an array of intensive clinical services in a home-like setting is an alternative for care in a psychiatric children's hospital

2007 the first Emergency Diagnostic Treatment Unit opens to provide a complete physical and mental health assessment for adolescents in crisis who cannot remain in their homes.
The Institute is a place for hope. Families learn that the tough time they have been experiencing do not have to last forever. What I love most about my job is being able to foster more promising family relationships.

One young mother from our Baby Steps program had a three year old son whose behavior was out of control. Everyone was always telling her that her son was bad and that she was a bad mother. She had a lot of guilt and was overwhelmed by feelings of inadequacy.

When her clinician performed a KIPS assessment [a test that evaluates 12 behaviors related to effective parenting], it showed that she was actually doing some amazing things with her son. She did have parenting skills to help her son develop. That was a breakthrough moment for her.

The test results freed her from guilt and she began to enjoy many positive moments in their relationship. She and her clinician were then able to focus on areas where the mom needed to do some work.

Dayna Zatina Egan, Psy.D.
Director, YCS Institute

The Institute offers individual and group therapy sessions for mothers and their babies. In both cases, mothers have an opportunity to participate in a nurturing environment with their babies, to discover ways to respond to their child’s wonderful capacities to form healthy relationships, and support each other.

For more information, call 973-395-5500
Javon's mother describes her 13 year old son as intelligent, artistic and kind-hearted. She knows how wonderful he can be when he is not challenged by conditions that rob him of self control.

AT 5, Javon began exhibiting troubling behaviors. “His explosive anger, ADHD, and physical aggression resulted in his removal from school,” says his mom, TaNesha Barrow. For the next 7 years, she sought professional help.

When his aggression became a danger to her and her daughter, Ms. Barrow reached out to YCS.

“I exhausted all the resources in my area, and my son needed more intensive clinical support.” Javon was placed in a YCS psychiatric children's home.

Ms. Barrow worked closely with the clinical team. Today, Javon has a trusting relationship with his psychiatrist and the home's staff. He continues to work on his behaviors with their support and is able to go home on weekend passes.

As a YCS Parent Advisor, Ms. Barrow looks forward to helping parents navigate through the system and get the resources they need to help their children and reunite their families.

If you have a child in a YCS therapeutic home and would like to speak to our Parent Advocate about your concerns as a parent, please call TaNesha Barrow at 201-492-3502.

Eid al-Adha
Zeda happily realizes that this day is the nine month anniversary of moving into the DePaul home. She can’t exactly recall how many foster homes she’s been in – maybe 5 or 6 – but she is sure that this is the home she wants to stay in until she is an adult.

“As soon as I met my new family I got a good vibe from them,” says the precocious 14 year-old. “They made me feel at home and comfortable; they are very open-minded, people, non-judgmental and very helpful.

Zeda appreciates that her new mom, dad and sisters understand her moods. “They call it “spicy,” and they know how to calm me down.”

Zeda enjoys volunteering with the DePauls. “Doing things for others makes me happier than when I do things for myself,” says Zeda, who hopes to one day make people happy as a cosmetologist.

For now, she wishes the busy family had more time together. Her advice to anyone who wants to be a foster parent – “Try to be patient, understanding and not harsh.”
YCS Crisis Stabilization & Assessment Program

When 15 year-old Raheem entered the YCS CSAP Home, participating at a school event would not have been possible.

Nine months later when Raheem left for the prom, the staff gathered around him for a photo. It was a joyous moment for all.

For Raheem to be able to go to the prom was a big step forward,” says David Johnson, home administrator. He knew Raheem was intelligent – what he couldn't communicate verbally, he'd write out in a notepad that he always kept with him. However, he was very sensitive to sound and overwhelmed by his environment if he was with a group of people.

With consistent ABA therapy and a very structured environment that helped Raheem feel secure, he began to progress. To prepare him for the prom, staff role played what would happen there and began introducing him to louder music. He went shopping with staff picked out a maroon suit and shoes, and was ready to go!

Raheem had a wonderful time with his classmates and came running back into the home wearing a big smile.

If you are the parent of an autistic child in one of our residences, and would like to speak to our Parent Advocate about your concerns for your child, please call Dianna Chipkin at 201-203-7559

“CSAP has given me my grandson back. Tyrese's behavior had become so uncontrollable, I was afraid he'd have to be institutionalized. No one seemed to be able to help him. Finally, a nurse told me about YCS. After 5 months in the CSAP Home, Tyrese was able to come home. I am so happy to have my sweet grandson back. I can't thank the staff enough.”
The Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) is a relationship, strength-based trauma informed approach that helps children grow stronger on the inside by building their inner wealth. At its core, NHA is about how staff builds relationships and engages children/families and each other in the workplace.

“It is about transforming the culture of YCS and its programs to provide opportunities for success as well as growing and honoring greatness in everyone throughout the agency,” says Yvonne Montemurro, AVP, YCS Training.

The Kilbarchan (KB) Campus is actively employing NHA strategies, and as a result has created a gentler, kinder environment. Residents are given more space to do the “right thing.” When a resident has a bad day, it is not spoken about again - every new day is a chance to do better. Hours to call home have been expanded and parents can call any time.

KB administrators believe that if staff is acknowledged and appreciated on a timely basis for their efforts, they in turn will show this respect to the residents. Due to these efforts, there is a stronger sense of family on the campus, better communication and less conflict.
### YCS Blossoms Arts Exhibit & Show

In this photo, James and his father proudly posed for a photo with the award he won for his submission to the Blossoms Art show.

Although James is affected by autism and has very few words to communicate his thoughts and feelings, the former student at the Sawtelle Learning Center has found his voice through art. This colorful painting depicts his deep concern for a sick friend.

His artwork was selected for the invitation and posters promoting the YCS Blossoms Arts Exhibit in 2017.

The annual exhibition which showcases artwork, poetry, music and videos of students at YCS schools, group homes, foster care and community programs is held each spring at the Sandy Bennett Art Gallery in the Bergen Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Englewood.

Blossoms is a celebration of the children's many talents.

Displaying their artwork and performing during the awards ceremony in such a prestigious setting has been a wonderful confidence builder for all the children and their families.

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- **Hanukkah Begins**

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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |

- **First Day of Winter**

| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

- **Christmas**

| 30 | 31 |

- **New Year’s Eve**

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To preview more of the children’s exceptional artwork from exhibits, please visit the [archive photo link](#) on our website. You can also see videos of past events on the [YCS YouTube channel](#).

The YCS Blossoms Art Exhibit is completely supported by [private donations](#) and the Bergen PAC.

To show your support for the arts programs at our schools and programs, please visit ycs.org
In 2007, the YCS Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) opened its doors to 50 first-time expectant women in Essex County. Registered nurses guided inner-city mothers through their pregnancies, and advised them on parenting, health, education and relationship issues until their babies turned two.

“We are proud of the success of the Nurse Family Partnership,” says Rebekah Roberts, program director. One unique feature of the YCS-NFP is a work internship project with a local business that has given young moms the confidence to enter the work force.

“Many moms keep in touch with their nurses long after they’ve graduated,” says Roberts. One mom who lost her arm in an accident wanted to be a model, but she lacked the confidence in herself to pursue her dreams.

With the encouragement of her former NFP nurse, she connected with a group of parents who have children with special needs and organized a fashion show with their children. It was a huge success and gave her renewed hope for a career in the modeling industry.

Today, NFP has expanded to reach 250 moms in two counties. Because of its success, the national NFP selected a YCS nurse to present a paper to Congress on the value of this important evidenced-based program.

Call to Action

NFP is always in need of diapers, baby wipes, lotion, bacterial cream, shampoo, diaper bags and new clothing (newborns to 3T). To make a donation, please contact fdn@ycs.org or call 201-678-1312

New Year’s Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

100 YCS
Transitioning from one residential program to another for children with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges is difficult and often cause setbacks. YCS is committed to providing a continuum of care that addresses this concern and eliminates these stressors.

The four young women at the Sawtelle adult home in Willingboro exemplify the benefits of keeping their “Sawtelle” family intact. They have been together since 2012 when they aged out of another YCS home.

“The girls do not have strong family ties and have naturally developed deep emotional connections to their roommates and staff. This is like a house full of sisters,” says Bianca Dumas, house manager.

“I am happy here. These are all my friends,” says 22 year-old Simone.

Like any typical family, the girls look out for each other and worry if one of them feels sad. They help each other fix their hair, love to go shopping together and look forward to “spa days” at the home. With staff help, they plan birthday parties, barbeques, and enjoy decorating the home for the holidays.

Call to Action
The homes are always in need of new sheets, pillow cases, comforters, towels, Corelle dinnerware, cutlery, and other kitchenware and household items. To make an in-kind or monetary donation, please call the YCS Foundation at 201-678-1312.

February 2019

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The YCS Sawtelle Home Care Programs have been created to provide intensive behavioral interventions for children and adults with developmental/intellectual disabilities and co-occurring behavioral or mental health disorders.

Every child is unique - their issues vary as well as the needs of their families. Sawtelle Home Care offers several programs customized to fit the level of care and types of services an individual needs.

Overall, these programs are designed to stabilize or improve the individual's level of functioning by decreasing and preventing problematic and/or unsafe behaviors within the home and community while transferring essential skills to the parents in order to moderate and/or decrease the intensity of in-home services over time.

Once individuals age out of the children's system of care at 21, families need to transition their children into adult home care services.

YCS is committed to helping individuals transition without disruption or setbacks by offering services for individuals from the age of 5 through adulthood.

Sawtelle Adult Home Care provides a smooth, seamless transition for young adults, and gives parents the comfort of knowing that their child will not have to go through a difficult adjustment with a new provider.

It is so rewarding to see the joy on my child's face when he accomplishes a task for the first time. It may be something small like zip up his jacket, but for us as a family it is a precious moment that we can celebrate together.

YCS Home Care is committed to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities acquire daily life and social skills in their natural environments. Do you know a family who needs help? 201-678-1312 ext 124 homecarerefferrals@ycs.org
Sixteen year-old Justice never dreamed he would find his “forever family,” until he met the Collins-Haynes family 4 years ago.

Justice had struggled in 8 different foster homes before he met his (adoptive) parents. Building trust in his new family did not come easy.

“I did everything in my power to make my parents give up on me...they wouldn’t,” exclaims Justice.

Justice slowly realized that his parents genuinely cared about him and were going to protect him no matter what. Today, Justice is very proud of his family.

“My dad tells corny jokes that make me laugh all the time, and my mom is a great cook. She is teaching me a lot so I can take care of myself when I get older.” His older (adoptive) brother is an auto mechanic and they work on his car together.

In the future, Justice sees himself working as a mechanic in the Navy, but for now he is just happy being part of his forever family.

Not all children in YCS Specialized Foster Homes are in a position to be adopted. When possible, children are reunited with their biological families. Others yearn for more independence and may transition into an independent living program or go out on their own. Regardless of the outcomes, most children continue to have close ties to their foster families. To learn more about YCS Specialized Foster Care, please call 1-888-322-5437
The YCS School-Based Youth Services, or the BASE, as it is affectionately known by students, is a comprehensive support program that offers health, education, and career counseling to students at Eastside High School, in Paterson.

The Base wants the students to know the sky’s the limit and anything they dream is possible.

Students at the BASE have the option to join the YCS 21st Century Program - an after-school enrichment program that focuses intensely on career exploration, academic remediation and family involvement.

This past year, with the support of both programs, students have seen significant success. The film club won third place in the Passaic County Film Festival for their comedic submission, Back in My Day and student, Elena Morales, won National History Contest regional honors for her research exhibit “The Berlin Candy Bomber: Healing Conflict One Parachute at a Time.”

The culinary arts, martial arts and beauty clubs are also very popular activities. For upper classmates old enough to get working papers, the Base’s job coach assists them in finding work in the community. Base members also have opportunities to participate in culturally enriching outings.
## YCS Fundraising Events

Would you like to meet interesting people who are volunteering their time and talents to help YCS raise funds and community awareness? If so, please inquire about joining an event committees. Our current fundraising events include:

The Annual Gerry Cooney Fight Night, a popular fundraiser held each spring, featuring 8 amateur USA Boxing Federation bouts and two exhibition matches, is hosted by former heavy-weight contender and boxing legend, Gerry Cooney.

Cooney has a special affection for youth in YCS group homes. For more than a decade, he has taught them boxing skills, and he has been an invaluable role model and mentor to many of the youth.

Cooney created Fight Night to raise critical funding for YCS therapeutic group homes.

If you’d like to get more into the action, there is the Fore the Kids YCS Golf Outing. You can be a participant in the outing, organize a foursome with your friends or arrange for your company to be a sponsor.

In past years, previous exciting fundraising events have included fashion shows, casino nights and comedy nights.

Every major benefit supported by our volunteers helps the YCS Foundation provide essential financial support for programs that are either under-funded, like our Infant Institute, or completely dependent upon donations like YCS Youth Group.

### June 2019

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- **1 June**: Shavuot Begins
- **4 June**: Eid al-Fitr
- **15 June**: Flag Day
- **19 June**: Father’s Day
- **21 June**: First Day of Summer
- **24 June**: Fore the Kids YCS Golf Outing

Watch [video](#) of Gerry training the kids and talking about the meaning of Fight Night.

To find out how you can either participate, become a sponsor or attend a future fundraising event for YCS, please contact the YCS Foundation at 201-678-1312 or e mail us at info@ycs.org
Nestled deep in the hills of New Jersey, Happi-ness is Camping camp grounds gives children in our therapeutic group homes a chance to safely enjoy the outdoors. Campers spend two weeks communing with nature and building confidence as they partake in many new experiences.

“Last year I was too afraid to try the rock climbing, but I am gonna do it this year.”
Anthony, 8

“The best part of camp was dancing in the talent show.”
Jacob, 14

“Swimming was the best! It was the first time I ever went in a pool.”
Mikaela, 13

“I liked the nature walks. They told us to watch out for bears, but I wasn't scared.”
Katya, 14

“The food was phenomenal!”
Katya and Mikaela

“When my son was in a YCS home, he attended camp. He talked about it forever and was looking forward to going back. This year, he is in a new program that does not offer camp. It made me realize how special YCS really is.”
J.Y., Parent

Call to Action
The camp appeal provides funding for activities, equipment and additional staffing for the overnight camp and the Sawtelle Summer Enrichment Program. For more information about how you can sponsor a child for camp, please visit our website-ycs.org

July 2019

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Check out our camp video on the YCS YouTube Channel
When Jenny Aljoven told a client she was looking into opportunities to volunteer at an orphanage overseas, her client told her about children at a YCS residence that needed mentors. Jenny contacted our Foundation and was matched with a little girl at a residence that was just minutes from her home.

It was the first time for the both of them to be in a mentoring situation. It took a while for Destiny, a shy 10 year-old girl, and Jenny to connect. “We started out coloring together and getting to know each other,” says Jenny.

Destiny told Jenny she wanted to see a real mermaid. Jenny did research on YouTube and found a documentary about girls in Peru who were born with their legs attached - like mermaids. For two weeks they watched the video and had interesting conversations. This turned out to be a pivotal bonding moment for them.

Now, the hour passes quickly when they meet, and Jenny always stays longer. During their weekly visits, they enjoy sharing a pizza and doing yoga together.

“There are many rules at the home she has to follow. I want Destiny to have our time together just to be herself,” says Jenny.

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Do you have a spare hour in your week, and are looking for a way to give back? Please consider mentoring a child in a YCS group home. For more information on how you can become a mentor, please contact the YCS Foundation info@ycs.org
Our Belief

We believe that all students can learn when presented with lessons based on their individual needs and learning styles. We believe all students can grow socially and emotionally when they are guided by a behavior management system, positive role models and a caring and nurturing staff.

YCS George Washington School

GW is a special education school for grades K-8 that meet the needs of the whole student by offering a strong, balanced clinical and academic program including:

Curriculum tailored to the student’s learning style
Interactive Projects and Exhibits-World Tour Day, a science fair and art show
A Music Program that includes a chorus, drum, guitar and fife instruction
Individual and Small Group Counseling
Family Assistance

YCS Sawtelle Learning Center

The Sawtelle school is a highly structured, intensive educational program designed to help students affected by autism develop academic, communication, socialization, and behavioral skills utilizing an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) model. The Montclair campus serves students, 5-21, in an 11-month school year.

Key features of Sawtelle Instruction include:
1-on-1 Instruction for Preschoolers
Occupational and Speech Therapy
Transition Plan/Job Training
In-Home Consultations
Family Support

Call to Action

Every September, we conduct a “Back to School” Drive to secure all the supplies the children in our schools and group homes need to start the school year off right. To find out how you can participate with either a monetary donation or gift of actual school supplies, please visit our website at ycs.org or call 201-678-1312.
What does it mean to be a volunteer at YCS?

We know that there are so many wonderful giving persons within our communities who care deeply about children and their well-being. But, with that said, each person brings their unique talents and special interests. This is why the YCS offers an array of options, for individuals, civic and faith groups and corporations.

Volunteer Opportunities

Organize a drive to purchase the household items we need to open a new home

Join our birthday club and provide a birthday cake and gift for a child at a residence

Organize a back-to-school or baby drive

Host a holiday party or summer BBQ at a residence

Mentor a child at a residence

Join an event committee to help us create exciting fundraising benefits

Join an advisory council to work with folks supporting unmet program needs

Organize a group of volunteers to spruce up a residence with new paint, landscaping or special project

Do you know a child who'd like to help?

October 2019

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Columbus Day

Yom Kippur Begins

Patriot Day

Diwali

Halloween

Last fall, volunteers planted 200 tulip bulbs at a Sawtelle Home in Princeton
YCS served 6,200 children, adults and their families in 2017-2018

The agency’s statistics may be impressive, but, in truth, the only number that really matters is the number “one.” Every individual comes to YCS with unique circumstances and personal strengths. Our goal is to help each person build on those strengths and provide all the necessary support so that he or she can have the best quality of life and enjoy being part of their communities.
As we celebrate YCS’ 100th Anniversary, I want to offer my sincerest thanks and gratitude to all our trustees, supporters and amazing staff. Because of your tireless efforts, YCS has been able to reach thousands of New Jersey’s most vulnerable children and families and provide them with the best possible care. Although our country is facing difficult times and resources are limited, I am confident that with your support, YCS will continue to lead the way in innovative care and give hope to many more families.

- Dominick D’Agosta, Chair of YCS Systems/Inc.

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When People Care, Miracles Happen

Whether a person with special needs is 5 or 35, living away from family or loved ones is especially difficult during the holiday season. A holiday party, special winter outing or a personalized gift from our Secret Santa helps bring joy into the lives of the hundreds of children in our group homes. But this is only part of the story.

Each year, the YCS Foundation collects nearly 2,000 hand written wishes from the children in our care. It is a daunting task to match wish lists to donors, but it is a project that staff and volunteers take on with passion.

We are especially grateful to all the donors who include a hand written card and note with their gifts.

Our goal is to ensure that every individual in our care is remembered and no one feels all alone.

Would you like to be a Secret Santa? Please contact foundation@ycs.org 201-678-1312