



NOVEMBER 2021

WE CALL HIS NAME

One of my favorite African Proverbs states, “Our loved ones are never absent from the village as long as someone calls their name.” This is more relevant today as we celebrate the life and contribution of Jamain Stephens. Today, I am asking you, our YES family, friends, funders, stakeholders, and board members to *call* his name as we reflect on all his life meant to YES, to his family, and to his community.



Jamain was a long-standing YES participant whose life ended tragically due to COVID last year. Jamain, in many words, was “larger than life!” He was a loveable person who approached everyday with excellence and valor. He made it a point to never miss a meeting or an event. This excited employers who appreciated his dependability, commitment, timeliness, respectful nature, and charisma. Beyond this, Jamain was a positive influence for his peers; his own pursuit of post-secondary education paved the way for other students to follow in his footsteps. One of Jamain’s most laudable characteristics was his willingness to do the right thing – his honesty, integrity, and couth made him a rarity and prized jewel.

Although cut short, Jamain’s life mattered. It is through his death that we feel even more compelled to protect the lives of our YES students. In doing so, YES is committed to implementing safety protocols and mandating student and staff vaccinations. This has helped keep our community safe and COVID-free and will continue to be the expectation as students engage with YES into the new year.

In addition to honoring Jamain’s life, we proudly announce that YES successfully submitted our Year 1 Strategic Action Plan report to PACE for their review and approval. Of our four strategic goals, YES completed, and, in many cases, exceeded action items in the areas of YES board oversight, staff development, funding, resource development, and policy change. We are grateful to PACE, The Pittsburgh Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, POISE Foundation, and The RK Mellon Foundation for their investments in our Strategic Plan to solidify our agency’s future.

Finally, fall program support among our staff and youth is exciting. The office is abuzz

daily with youth seeking homework assistance, career preparation, and job exploration. YES' summer programming has sparked so much interest in youth who want to be with friends and engage with staff in a wholesome and culturally affirming environment.

We look forward to finishing out the year strong.

Peace and Blessings,



Dr. Jones

YES Channels the Magic of Mentoring

There are very few things more magical than mentoring. YES can attest to this as mentoring is the heartbeat of our transformative work.

YES staff, along with current and former students, celebrated mentoring in Western Pennsylvania at The Mentoring Partnership's Annual Magic of Mentoring Gala. YES was one of many programs honored for their commitment to supporting young people through mentorship in the region.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Voices To Men:

Gone Fishin'

YES' Voices to Men participants went fishing this past week at Highland Park. The gathering was a unique cultural opportunity that many young men never experienced before. While there, they celebrated brotherhood, engaged in healthy conversation, and learned the technical skills of catching fish! The word is a few young men were successful.





A Spooktacular First Social Event

Students gathered in the office Friday afternoon to celebrate the Halloween weekend! Our first social outing of the school year was a success with pumpkin painting, mystery boxes, and a spooky playlist.

Youth enjoyed catching up with their friends from the summer while indulging in copious amounts of candy!



Get Our Summer Report

YES' Summer Report, detailing its program objectives, model, and outcomes, is now available.

Please review our Summer 2021

accomplishments and achievements [here](#).

Back With a Vengeance:

Youth Enrichment Services
Summer 2021 Report



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Meet New YES Staff Members

YES welcomes two new staff members to the team – Fatima Koko and Matthew Lawrence. Fatima, a Georgian native, joins YES as the Program Manager for Pathways to Access, YES' workforce development program. With her unique expertise, Fatima will connect young people to non-traditional work experiences that prepare them for long-term employment and post-secondary pursuits.

Matthew hails from West Virginia and is serving as an Intervention Specialist for YES' Diversionary Programs. Both Fatima and Matthew are great additions to the team and are committed to fulfilling YES' mission and vision.



SUPPORT YES! EAT DONUTS!

Krispy Kreme Digital Dozen Fundraiser

- Our goal is to sell 150 boxes/dozens
- The fundraiser will run either until:
 1. We meet our goal of 150 boxes sold or
 2. December 31, 2021 whichever comes first
- Funds raised will be used to support YES programs and our students
- Boxes are \$10 each
- If you purchase a box you will receive a digital voucher to pick up your donuts at any Krispy Kreme location.
- You do not have to be local/ in the Pittsburgh area to participate.
- Payment methods include: Check, Venmo, GiveGab

Get Your Donuts!

email: intern@yespgh.org

or call 412-661-7834

Visit our Website | Thank you for your
support!

