



# YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

*Community News, YES Updates, Spotlights, & more!*

August 2024

## Summer 2024: A Memorable and Successful Season

It is hard to believe that summer is nearly over. Just a few months ago, we were busy onboarding young people, preparing meals for our 100 summer youth employees, and visiting YES students at their respective worksites. As we prepare to turn toward our fall endeavors, we reflect on our final month of programming and highlight several experiences that made this summer extremely memorable and successful.

Our culminating cultural trip took place in Detroit, Michigan. Nearly 80 YES students boarded the bus for a rewarding, engaging, and culturally enriching excursion. Our itinerary was packed with outstanding attractions, geographic hotspots, and of course, corporate headquarters of some of the world's largest businesses. Students visited University of Michigan's Big House Football Stadium and campus, toured Wayne State University, and explored The Ford Rouge Plant where they followed the creation of a car from inception to completion. More trip details can be found below.



In other news, the Research Colloquium, held on Wednesday, August 7th, at the Heinz History Center was the best yet. Over 200 families, youth, stakeholders, and funders gathered together to enjoy students' creative and original research outputs. Our young people were supported by University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University interns, YES staff, Pittsburgh Public School teachers, and local instructors. Youths' poster designs were professional and stylish and well-received by attendees. No question - this was amazing! Please see pictures below of students with their posters and families in attendance.



Finally, YES wants to express gratitude for a recent Pittsburgh Theological Seminary grant. Dr. Mingo worked to bestow YES with \$2,000 to advance our violence prevention efforts and to fight this epidemic impacting our communities and young people. We are very grateful for Dr. Mingo's belief in our work and her staff's continued support for what we do.

Please take a moment to read through the remaining parts of our newsletter. We are excited about what we have accomplished with your support and partnership.

Best wishes,

Dennis Jones, PhD

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

### Youth Civic Leadership Academy Recruitment Happening Now



YES is now recruiting teens who live in the city of Pittsburgh to join our Youth Civic Leadership Academy, YCLA, in partnership with the Mayor's Office, CCAC, P4W, and the Heinz History Center. YCLA scholars who engage in the Academy experience receive college credit opportunities, complete local government internships, build solutions toward local civic challenges, and earn paid resources.

If you are aware of youth ages 14-18 who would like to be a part of YCLA, please click [here](#) for more info.

### YES is Turning 30: Join us for YES' Anniversary Celebration



YES is entering its 30th year of service, a momentous anniversary for a small yet mighty nonprofit organization which has served over 5,500 youth in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to date. As we prepare to commemorate our organization's history, we are thoughtful about the impact of our partners and stakeholders. We know our work is impossible without your faithful support, investment, and commitment. Because of your integral role in our organization's success, it is important that we celebrate with you during our **30th Anniversary Celebration, themed YES: A Gem Hidden in Plain Sight**, which will take place over the course of 3 days, on September 18th, 19th, and 20th. As the saying goes, you only turn 30 once, so we are going to celebrate! We are grateful for any of the days you might be able to join us in person. Please check out our list of events and register to attend [here](#). If you are unable to attend but feel led to donate, please do so [here](#).

## ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### Wednesday, September 18

Legacy Luncheon and Forum:  
Celebrating YES' Past, Present, & Future  
Northway Christian Hub, 117 N Highland Ave, Pgh, PA 15206

- Luncheon and Forum - 12:00PM - 2:00PM
- Alumni Panel - 2:30PM - 4:30PM
- Mixer - 5:00PM - 7:00PM
- General Admission - Free

### Thursday, September 19

Gala Celebration: A Gem Hidden in Plain Sight  
Rivers Club, 301 Grant Street, Unit 411, Pgh, PA 15219

- Reception and Cash Bar - 4:30PM - 5:30PM
- YES Gala Dinner and Program - 5:30PM - 8:30 PM
- General Admission - \$175, Alumni Admission- \$100

### Friday, September 20

Welcome to YES Office Complex: Donor Breakfast & Tour  
YES Office, 8031 Broad Street, Suite, 202, Pgh, PA 15206

- Donor Breakfast - 9:00AM - 10:30AM
- Office Open House - 11:30AM - 3:00PM
- General Admission - Free

Register for anniversary events below:  
[bit.ly/YESanniversary](http://bit.ly/YESanniversary)



## PREVIOUS PROGRAM HAPPENINGS

### Detroit Journey: Celebrating Black America's Legacy and Lessons Learned

Detroit, Michigan, has long been a hub of Black heritage, from its pivotal role in aiding enslaved Black people to freedom via the Underground Railroad to being the home of the iconic Motown Records. The city is rich with elements that embody Black culture and history. On August 2nd, over 80 YES scholars, staff, and volunteers had the opportunity to immerse



themselves in this vibrant historical setting during a weekend trip to Michigan.

We visited numerous cultural sites and historical landmarks that capture the deep history embedded in the streets of Detroit, Ann Arbor, and other cities across Michigan. One highlight was the African American Historical Museum, where scholars were particularly engaged by the exhibit on the final stop of the Underground Railroad.

Enhancing this historical journey, we were joined by international students and families, who explored the similarities and differences between their own cultures and the narratives preserved in the museums. We are deeply grateful for this enriching experience and look forward to more in the future!



As we reflect on their accomplishments during this trip, we invite you to stay tuned for more updates. Our YES teens are continuing to make waves, inspiring others, and leading by example as they champion important causes and drive impactful initiatives in their community. Their dedication and enthusiasm are truly shaping a brighter future for all. Together, let's celebrate their ongoing efforts to make a difference!

## YES' Youth Justice Advisory Board (YJAB) Delivers Powerful Gun Violence Plan to Pennsylvania Commission



Earlier this month, our dedicated Youth Justice Advisory Board members made a remarkable impact in Harrisburg. Invited by Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, these passionate teens presented their innovative plan to tackle gun violence to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Representing Allegheny County were Cameron Jones, Manny Arrington, William Sheffield, and Dr. Rebecca Cunningham.

Their presentation, drawing from insights gathered at their June conference in Lancaster, received high praise from Judge Kim Clark, Chair of the PCCD Advisory Board, and Amanda Gallagher, Allegheny County Assistant Chief of Probation.

The glowing feedback they received is a testament to the leadership and commitment of YES' teen council members. We couldn't be prouder of their dedication and impactful voice in shaping solutions for our communities!

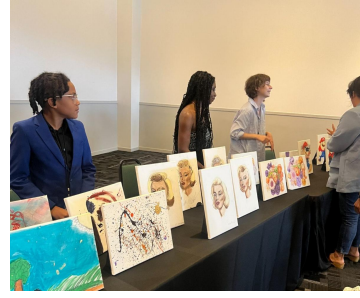
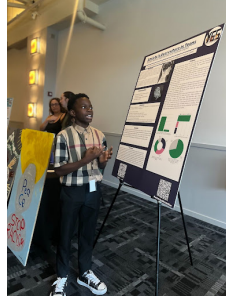
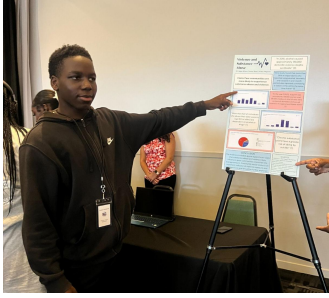
## YES Youth Shine Bright: Young People Present 40 Projects and Creative Talents at the Annual Summer Research Colloquium



We are incredibly proud of our YES youth for their outstanding presentations at this year's Annual Summer Research Colloquium! Our summer participants truly shone, producing over 40 impressive projects that showcased their skills in researching and defending topics about which they are deeply passionate. The event was a remarkable display of their intellectual curiosity and determination.



This year's colloquium went beyond just academic presentations, as our participants also highlighted their diverse creative talents. From captivating art displays and heartfelt poetry to innovative fashion designs and cutting-edge digital productions, every project was a testament to their boundless creativity and hard work. The enthusiasm and originality on display not only wowed the audience but also underscored the incredible range of skills our Learn and Earn participants possess.



Their dedication and creativity have made this summer session truly unforgettable. A huge shoutout to all the participants for their impressive achievements and for making this event a tremendous success! Their hard work and passion are inspiring.

## FFISH Summer Sessions Wrap-up: A Season of Success

We are excited to announce the successful conclusion of our FFISH Summer Sessions, featuring Boxing, Golf, Basketball, and Swimming. This season has been filled with tremendous growth and achievement across all our programs. Our dedicated participants not only honed their skills in each sport but also benefited from our innovative integration of mental health classes, designed to foster resilience, emotional well-being, and effective stress management. From the intense training sessions in the boxing ring to the precision of the golf course, the teamwork on the basketball court, and the agility in the pool, we've witnessed remarkable improvements in confidence, discipline, and overall personal development. As we close out this vibrant summer, we're thrilled about the progress made and grateful for the continued support of our community. Stay tuned for more updates, inspiring stories, and exciting plans as we gear up for the fall season. Together, we're empowering the next generation, one sport at a time!



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

**Trevon Goggins:** Hello, my name is Trevon Goggins and this was my first year working with YES. My worksite placement was the Northway Christian Community Center, where I was tasked with planning events and aiding members of the East Liberty community. What I enjoyed about YES is not only the wonderful amount of people I have met, but also their continued efforts to plan fun trips for the students every week. In regards to work, YES has been helpful in teaching me how to work in environments that I am unfamiliar with. Through my experiences, I have learned how to remain professional in the workspace, and I will take this summer experience with me as I grow older.



## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Two of our graduate students who work part time for YES will be returning to their respective schools for the fall. Olivia Kelley, Senior Communications, Systems and Organization Strategy Leader, will be entering her third year as a graduate student at DePaul University where she is studying to be a school counselor. Denise Jones, Deputy Director, who is on her last iteration of her PhD dissertation, will be heading back full-time to the University of Michigan. Let's please give these incredibly gifted, talented, smart, and professional young women your best regards as they march towards their career destiny. They are loved, valued, and appreciated here at YES!

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