



# YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Community News, YES Updates, Spotlights, & more!

DECEMBER 2023

## Growth with Outcomes and Impact: 2024, March to Sustainability



In 2023, Youth Enrichment Services achieved a milestone almost every month, as demonstrated in the 12 epic impact moments described later in this newsletter. Growth with impact is the necessary first step in becoming more relevant and being considered as a true agent of change.

2024 will not only be a year where we continue to replicate this transformative growth and impact, but also a year during which YES will embark on a capital campaign wherein we enlist our board members, stakeholders, partners, and friends to join us in continuing to grease the wheels of growth. We hope to raise capital to ensure that YES will

have access to the resources needed to build structurally with our office expansion, meet student transportation needs, and secure the general operating expenses and contingency funding that small, community-based organizations need as they try to sustain their growth and continue to make singular impact. We are asking you to please consider joining this effort if you have the time, expertise, and willingness to contribute, as our goal for the next 24 months is to raise substantial capital. For that, we need you, your network, and the resources that you can direct towards Youth Enrichment Services and our desire to continue to be the change in the lives of our neighbors, their children, and the community.

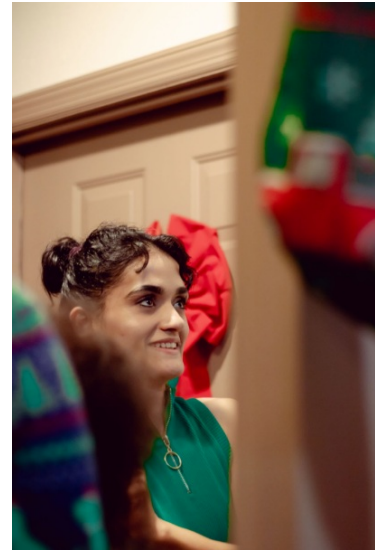
Best,

Dr. Dennis Floyd Jones

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**YES Celebrates the Holiday Season with Staff,**

## Stakeholders, and Friends of the Agency



Annually, Dr. Jones hosts extended family and friends to celebrate YES' end of the year successes and accomplishments. This year was no different as nearly 60 individuals gathered to fellowship, honor the work YES has done, and enjoy an array of tasty, gourmet style foods made by YES' own Dr. Jones. Such a celebration gave YES stakeholders an opportunity to reflect and to anticipate the mission-filled work ahead. The event was filled with fun, laughter, and positive energy for the new year.



## YCLA SLB Radio Appearances



Several YCLA students were featured on SLB Radio's Saturday Light Brigade show, a platform for young people to discuss relevant issues and experiences, for two consecutive Saturdays (Dec 2nd and 9th). They were invited to share more about their civic interests, experiences, and research projects showcased at the December Research Symposium.



To learn more about our YCLA students and their discussion, please click [here](#).

## YCLA Students Present at the Final Research Symposium



YCLA students presented their research projects at the Heinz History Center on December 12th, and they did not disappoint! Students really enjoyed sharing their knowledge with guests and dignitaries and discussing their solutions like experts.

Overall, YCLA youths' project presentations were exemplary.

Of the students who participated in YCLA, 90% completed every program phase - including: CCAC college credits, internships within city government and or local businesses downtown, and paid hourly wages from Partner4work!





## YES' Annual Holiday Giveaway and Celebration

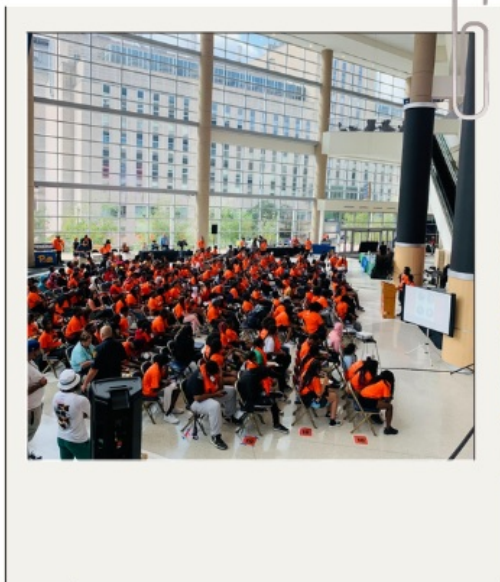


Every year, YES identifies families in need to support and delivers Christmas gifts and common household items to their doors. This year, YES provided for over 50 families, and YES staff and student volunteers cheerfully spent their time wrapping gifts for each recipient. We thank our donors and grantees for their generosity that made such an impact on the lives of families in our YES community.

Our holiday festivities culminated in a YES holiday party for students and families on December 22nd, wherein students enjoyed food and games. Afterwards, YES provided folks with tickets to enjoy the “Black Nativity” on Pitt’s Oakland Campus.

# 12 MOMENTS FROM YES IN

# 2023



1

Hosting YES' Second Annual Violence Prevention Summit: Out of Chaos: A Positive and Affirming Message Regarding Violence Prevention in Allegheny County

2

Celebrating YES' Learn and Earn Youth at the End of Summer Research Symposium



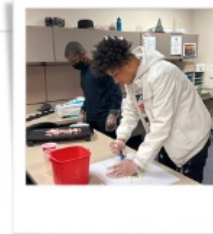
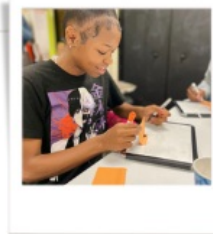
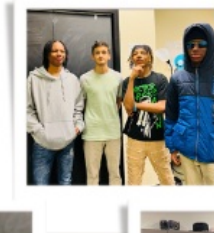
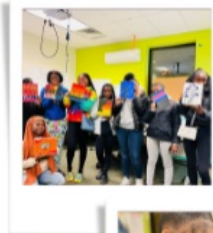
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Exposing Youth to the Cultural Landscape of Cleveland



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Reinstating College and Career Preparation Programming



5

Creating a Safe, Gender Inclusive Programming Space

6

Taking YCLA Youth to Meet with Mayor Ed Gainey

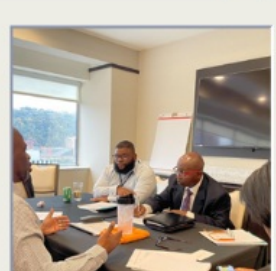


Presenting in Atlanta at the APHA Conference and Honoring YES Alumni

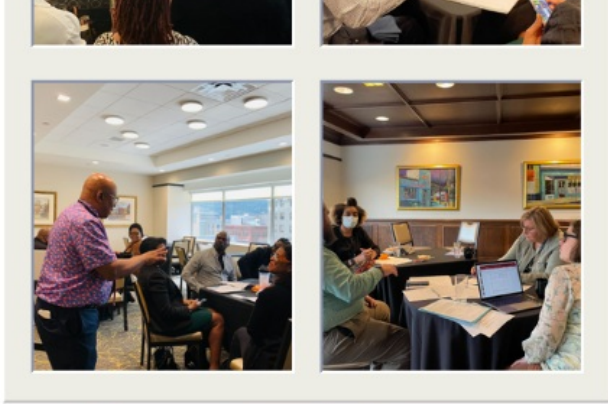
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Enjoying a 5-star Meal at the Rivers Club with YES' Summer Scholars



9



Convening over 25 agencies through YES' Collective Impact Ecosystem



Providing opportunities for early youth to engage in healthy practices, mental wellness, and peer relationship building through the FFISH Program



Supporting Families in need of resources and holiday gifts through the Annual Holiday Drive



Incorporating little league football and cheer teens in Violence Prevention and Rebuilding YES' Teen Council (Youth Justice Advisory Board) through PCCD resources



Visit Website Here | Thank you for your support!



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