



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES

Community News, YES Updates, Spotlights, & more!

MAY 2022

A Message from YES' Executive Director

The weather, although constantly yo-yoing, cannot hide the fact that spring is here and summer is not far behind. During a recent meeting with colleagues about the state of youth violence, several lamented that this may be one of the deadliest summers for youth in the city. We certainly hope this is not the case, but know the evidence of this potentially inevitable truth can be found all around us. That said, during my recent trip to Harrisburg with my Leadership Pittsburgh team, I had the pleasure of meeting Honorable Minority Leader Jay Costa to discuss the recent tragedies YES has been directly impacted by. I also met with Governor Tom Wolf and fellow Board Member Bill List to discuss how we are going to obtain the resources to be in a position to address the pending potential violence that so many of our community members fear is coming. The Governor has continued, along with other local foundations, to strategically support agencies and organizations who are on the frontlines of addressing this violence.



As one method for combatting the surge in violence, YES has created a teen-led youth summit around public safety and violence prevention scheduled for Friday, July 8th 2022. The summit will begin with a series of sessions, highlighted by Bonnie McClain, great aunt of Mathew Steffy-Ross, and Michelle Kenney, mother of Antwon Rose II, who have both lost children to gun violence. Other session topics include youth voice, community voice, police voice, mental health, and statistics surrounding youth violence locally and regionally. An afternoon panel will narrow in on the topics discussed during the morning sessions and will include a group of experts who can create a consensus of sorts for all of the information discussed. Additionally, we have asked local post-secondary institutions with criminal justice departments, local fire departments, and traffic personnel to attend the summit's tabling sessions to provide important literature. The purpose of this program is to bring youth together to allow them the agency to address this issue amongst

themselves. Ultimately, YES hopes this group of youth from agencies throughout the city will continue to convene and travel to important historical sites throughout the country, like The Edmund Pettus Bridge, as a way of enriching the lives of our youth and continuing efforts to reduce gun violence.

Finally, we want to highlight our Board President, Mrs. Sarah Sumpter, who is term-limited from seeking another term as President, but will remain on the Board. It has been her leadership over the last 5 years that has supported YES' growth through her recruitment of talented volunteers to serve on the Board. Mrs. Sumpter, a retired school principal, former high school valedictorian, and clergy in her church, will not suffer from finding extra work to do once she steps away from her current role as Board President. We salute Mrs. Sumpter, wishing her Godspeed and thanking her for a job well done.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and we greatly appreciate your continued involvement and effort in making YES the organization it is today. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Summit in July!

Best wishes,



Dr. Jones

PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

YES Partners with CCAC

On May 4th 2022, Andi Misencik from the Community College of Allegheny College visited the YES office to speak with a group of students about the opportunities CCAC can provide them. The group listened intently as Ms. Misencik described the myriad programs CCAC offers and the financial benefits to starting their post-secondary journeys at CCAC. Some students were very interested in CCAC's top-rated nursing program. Others had their interests sparked by CCAC's new gaming program. Regardless of the program that caught their attention, all of our students who attended were able to receive individual advice from Ms. Misencik about how they could fit at CCAC. YES is excited about this emerging partnership.



Civic Champs Collaborates with YES

YES is partnering with Civic Champs to develop a mentorship interface to capture the informal mentoring activity between staff and students. Civic Champs is a volunteer management and engagement solutions platform that both automates



volunteer management and helps volunteers become donors to nonprofit organizations. Through partnering with Civic Champs, YES hopes to ease volunteer management and increase communication and engagement between all stakeholders of our organization.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Learn and Earn Program



Learn and Earn is our flagship summer program that combines work opportunities, social and cultural events, youth participatory action research, and pre-employment training to provide youth of Allegheny County a meaningful summer work experience. Students will begin working on June 13, and end their experience on August 7.

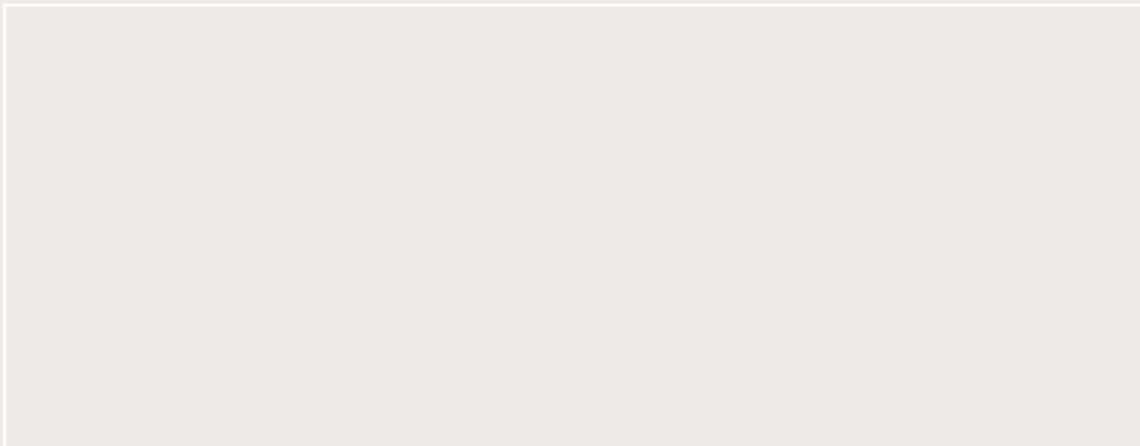
Public Safety and Violence Prevention Summit

The Public Safety and Violence Prevention Summit on July 8, 2022 will bring together our youth, law enforcements, and family members of those lost to gun violence. In this forum, we will take a restorative approach to tackling the root of community violence and how we, as a team, can work together to eradicate the pervasive violence in our lives. The registration link will be available soon!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Khalil Hauser's Post-Secondary Journey Continues





This month, we highlight Khalil Hauser as he takes his next step in his post-secondary educational journey. With a strong interest in media, Khalil is a graduate of Pittsburgh Public Schools Career and Technical Education, and connected with YES through our Business Education Partnership Program. Since then, Khalil has worked closely with the organization to develop college-readiness skills and used his CTE skills to help develop programs with other students. This upcoming summer, Khalil will attend Shippensburg where he will pursue a degree in Media studies. We wish Khalil all the best as he continues his journey in higher education.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Alumni Returns Home

In 2010, Dorian Laniear participated in several YES programs. He was always a bright presence in the office during these days and made a big impact on some of YES' early program endeavors. After continuing his postsecondary journey, Dorian's path has crossed YES' once again. In May 2022, Dorian started at YES as an Intervention Specialist, where he mentors, monitors, and supports young people involved with the juvenile justice system. Through YES' Diversion, Extended Diversion, and Diversion Prevention 3rd Iteration programs, Dorian will be able to utilize his knowledge and past experiences within this arena to impact the lives of many young people. In addition, Dorian will support the Voices to Men program, YES' male mentoring program. Welcome back, Dorian!

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