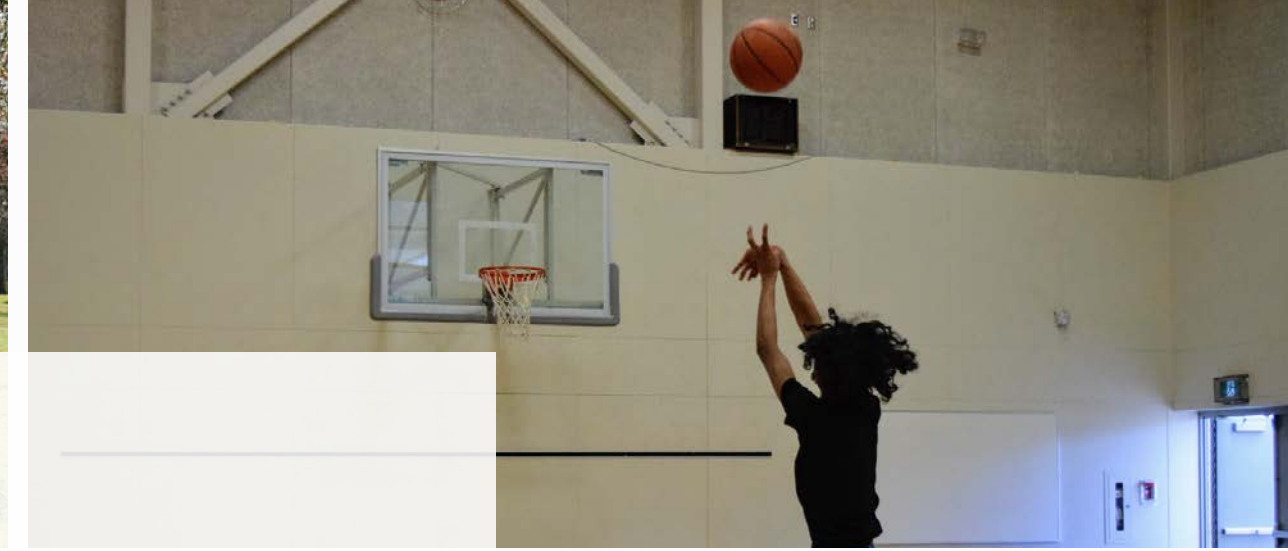




YO BRO | YO GIRL YOUTH INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT
SEPT 2021 - AUG 2022



From *Risk*
To *Resilience*



Our Vision

YBYG youth are motivated and equipped with tools and resiliency to avoid drugs and violence, pursue education, and set positive goals for the future. They serve as ambassadors: living examples of how our programs transform youth from “at -risk” to capable, confident, and contributing members of society.

Our Commitment

To provide strength-based programs that enable youth to reduce risk-taking behaviours, develop personal competencies, and strengthen their commitment to their education and community.

Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative
was established in 2008
in Vancouver, BC.
500 - 610 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 2V3
info@ybyg.ca | 604-343-6542
Canadian Registered Charity Number:
82510 4649 RR0001

Staff Leadership

Joe Calendino,
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Brenda Calendino,
Co-Founder and Director of Education

Atusa Farzandshad,
General Manager

Board of Directors

Nick Bedford

Jeremey Drosdeck

Kevin Lee

Kevin Torvik

Justin Borsato

Mary Martin

Gary Little

Brandon Steele

Navshina Savory

Joanna Angelidis



LETTER FROM JOE



WHAT MAKES A YOUNG PERSON MORE VULNERABLE TO GANG RECRUITMENT?

Unstable home situations. A lack of access to positive extracurricular activities and stable mentors. Too much time online and not enough time in the classroom. When the pandemic hit the school system in 2020, these risk factors and more increased exponentially for our youth. Some found themselves stuck in unstable homes or struggling with a lack of structure, extracurricular activities, and connection to positive mentors. For those already dealing with anxiety or mental health issues, isolation became a compounding factor that made already at-risk youth even more vulnerable to gang recruitment.

All of a sudden, Yo Bro | Yo Girl's work wasn't just important, it was critical. We knew we had to find a way to keep developing a strong, healthy community for young people, whether they were in school or not.

More than ever, children and youth need to know they have a community of support, people who are on their side and will help them thrive. Thankfully, people like you have invested in us over the years, allowing us to continue creating positive, alternative opportunities for the community, no matter the circumstances.

Through one of the most stressful and vulnerable periods our children have faced, you continued to give at-risk children and youth a safe place to belong through YBYG.

As you read this annual update, you will see the ways your vital support and encouragement is creating a healthy community that cultivates resilience, courage and strength in the next generation.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Calendino".

Joe Calendino
Executive Director, Co-Founder

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YOUR IMPACT: PROGRAM OUTCOMES

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With the easing of program restriction at the beginning of the school year, Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative was back in full swing!

From September 2021 to Aug 2022, we were working at max capacity and YBYG programs were thriving!

47

Schools Programs

5

Community Programs

1,814

Participants

5

School Districts

OUTREACH

Communities and school districts quickly saw the impact of disconnection when students were back to school in-person. 1:1 outreach has been a key focus in re-connecting some of our most vulnerable youth.

10

Outreach
Workers

64

Participants

SUMMER PROGRAMS

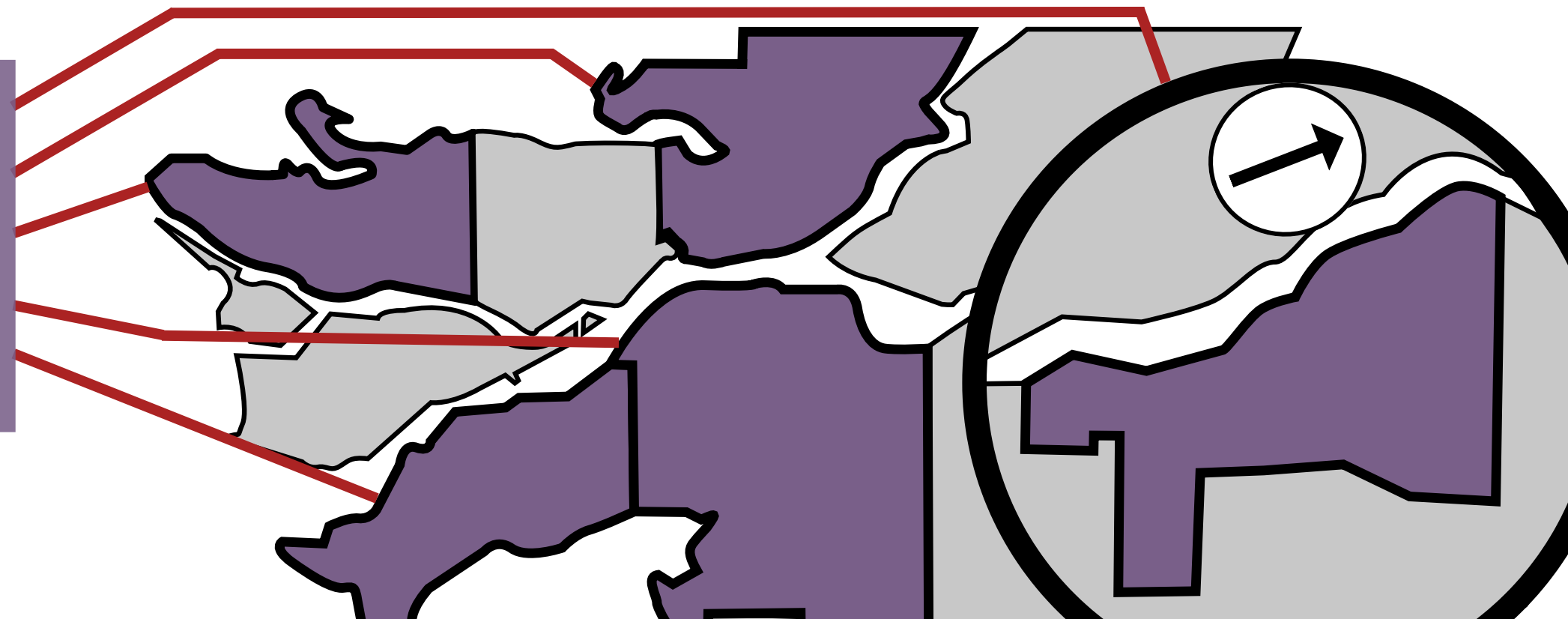
This summer, in addition to the continued Delta and Surrey programs July, we ran a very successful pilot program in Chilliwack in August! Altogether, over 200 youth showed up, built healthy connections, and engaged in fun pro-social activities over the summer break!

285

Elementary School
Summer Program
Participants

Districts:

Chilliwack
Tri-Cities
Vancouver
Surrey
Delta



YOUR IMPACT: NEW PROGRAMS

YO BRO YO GIRL YOUTH INITIATIVE 2021-2022 | 4

Whether it's adding new schools and districts to the Yo Bro | Yo Girl family, or running exciting pilot programs, we are always thinking of ways to better engage our youth where they are at in their lives.

Here is a small snapshot of some new programs:

DJ Music Program

Under the guidance of experienced musicians, participants of this pilot program were provided equipment, instruction, and experience for writing, playing, and producing music. YBYG provided access to everything from guitars and basses, to laptops with music recording and producing software to music theory resources.



Tri-Cities

YBYG is proud to announce that programs have extended to the Tri-Cities through funding from the Canadian Tire Jump Start Program! The program ran after school twice per week with 40 middle school students. Participants engaged in pro-social activities, and had conversations about goal setting, respecting themselves and others, and making healthy choices.



Girls and Boys Self-Defense

Two programs run in partnership with the Muslim Food Bank of Canada Society. Participants learned a range of martial arts and self-defense skills and had conversations on topics related to personal safety, self-defense, and the consequences of violence and conflict.



Wrestling Programs

Two new high-school wrestling programs started in the 2021-2022 school year! One in Delta, in partnership with the Delta Police Department, and the other in Surrey! Both teams competed in this first year and placed first and second in multiple tournaments!



We believe
children and youth
are inherently
resilient.

Recent isolation and disconnection have had a devastating impact on youth mental health. As our young people return to school, the effects of the pandemic are surfacing in serious, often fatal, ways. In search of worth and belonging, youth are turning to unhealthy behaviours and negative peers at rates that are overwhelming families, communities, and school districts. However, regardless of background or upbringing, each youth has the capacity to tap into their inner strength and resilience if equipped with the right tools and given the right guidance.

With your support, Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative weathered the pandemic and brought mentorship programs to over 1,800 participants during the 2021-2022 school year. Staff trained in our one-to-one outreach model supported some of our most vulnerable youth while program staff worked with groups to ensure youth from all ranges of risk remain connected and engaged.

With creativity and connection, we have been able to continue empowering kids to tap into their own inner strength and face challenges with *Resilience.*



MENTAL HEALTH + YOUTH RESILIENCE

YO BRO YO GIRL YOUTH INITIATIVE 2021-2022 | 5

Tamanawis Secondary Wrestling Team

The Tamanawis Wrestling team is one of the most competitive and highest performing high-school wrestling teams in Canada. In 2022, it took home its third consecutive provincial championship title! What many don't know is that YBYG has been instrumental in the team's success from the start.

Before YBYG started the after-school wrestling program in 2016, Tamanawis didn't have a wrestling team. So, when YBYG staff member, Paul Sahota, and his brother, current DPD member Jessy Sahota, both alumni from Tamanawis, pitched a new wrestling program at their former high-school, everyone was interested in making it happen.

Now, after five years of coaching under YBYG, the Tamanawis wrestling team has become one of the top three wrestling schools in Canada! The school is in the heart of Surrey's Newton district—an area of Greater Vancouver that has experienced increased gang activity since 2005. While YBYG has worked hard to provide youth with a safe environment and

healthy outlet to learn, grow, and create healthy community, it is truly the youth who have gone above and beyond to make an impact. The Tamanawis team has frequently taken to the streets to feed the homeless, coach youth-wrestling camps, assemble and distribute care packages, and fundraise for cancer research. This volunteerism and community service has all been done under the YBYG banner, and we couldn't be prouder of our team!

In addition to the three provincial championships, the Tamanawis team has also won the Fraser Valley, Western Canadian, and War on the Floor Championships. They now have their eyes set on the National championship title, and, for some members, the next two Olympic games. As the list of YBYG Alumni grows each year, we see participants starting their own career paths, ranging from engineers, law enforcement, accountants--and, one day soon, Olympians!



YOUTH LEADERS

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FROM PARTICIPANT TO LEADER!

A key component of Yo Bro Yo Girl programs is leadership. We have a strength-based approach that not only helps participants grow in their own unique ways, but also provides them with leadership opportunities in areas that best suit their abilities, goals, and growth.

Over time, youth who demonstrate consistency, initiative, and healthy pro-active habits are given the choice to become YBYG Youth Leaders. This is a volunteer position in which participants get to attend programs with their peers while also assisting program staff with basic tasks such as set-up and take-down of programs and events. Youth Leaders are also given additional opportunities to go out into their community and volunteer under the YBYG banner.

It is our mission to support youth in walking down a positive path, especially when it involves their education and future. When the time comes for Youth Leaders to take the next step in their lives, YBYG provides written references for work, education, and more!

FUTURE LEADERS



United Way
British Columbia

In partnership with the United Way of British Columbia, Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative has taken leadership to the next level! With special funding, YBYG selects Youth Leaders who have begun seriously looking towards their future education and potential career paths to join the Future Leader program. Here are some benefits of joining the Future Leaders Program:

- Monthly honoraria for volunteering and attending YBYG training and events
- Attend YBYG staff training and professional development
- Workshops geared toward career readiness and financial literacy



EVENTS:

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

YO BRO YO GIRL YOUTH INITIATIVE 2021-2022 | 8

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE SEMINAR

For this year's International Women's Day, Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative partnered with Islamic Relief Canada to run a seminar on women's self-defense. On March 19, 2022, over 25 girls and women joined the free two-hour event in which YBYG staff and volunteers helped participants develop a personal safety “tool-belt”. Participants learned a range of martial arts and practical self-defense techniques and held group discussions related to situational awareness and personal safety. By the end of the program, participants were equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to ensure their own safety and the safety of those around them.

At Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative, we take pride in our commitment to our community and to the safety of women. Through events like this, YBYG and community partners can help empower women with the tools to navigate life with confidence. We thank everyone who joined and supported us in making the event such a success and look forward to running more events in the future!

“The change in confidence from when they walk in to when they leave is like night and day.”

Chaimae,
Program Facilitator
Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative

EVENTS:

CHINATOWN CLEANUP

YO BRO YO GIRL YOUTH INITIATIVE 2021-2022 | 9

LIGHT UP CHINATOWN

"Everyone can be great, because
everyone can serve."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

The office space of Yo Bro Yo girl is located in Vancouver's Chinatown neighborhood. It is a part of town with a rich history that has been overshadowed by crime, homelessness, and the current opioid and addiction crisis. As part of the effort to revitalize the community, the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation held its annual Light Up Chinatown event on September 10 & 11 and invited several community members to help clean the roads and sidewalks the week before. We here at YBYG are proud to be a part of the Vancouver Chinatown community and had no shortage of volunteers sign up to help clean.

“I am extremely
proud of our team.
They showed up,
did the work, and
made a difference!”

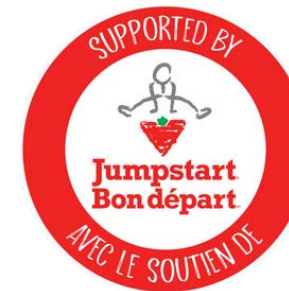
—Joe Calendino,
Executive Director, Co-
founder
Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth
Initiative



The YBYG team showed up
in force with 15 staff
members, Youth Leaders,
participants, volunteers,
and, of course, Joe!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

YO BRO YO GIRL YOUTH INITIATIVE 2021-2022 | 10



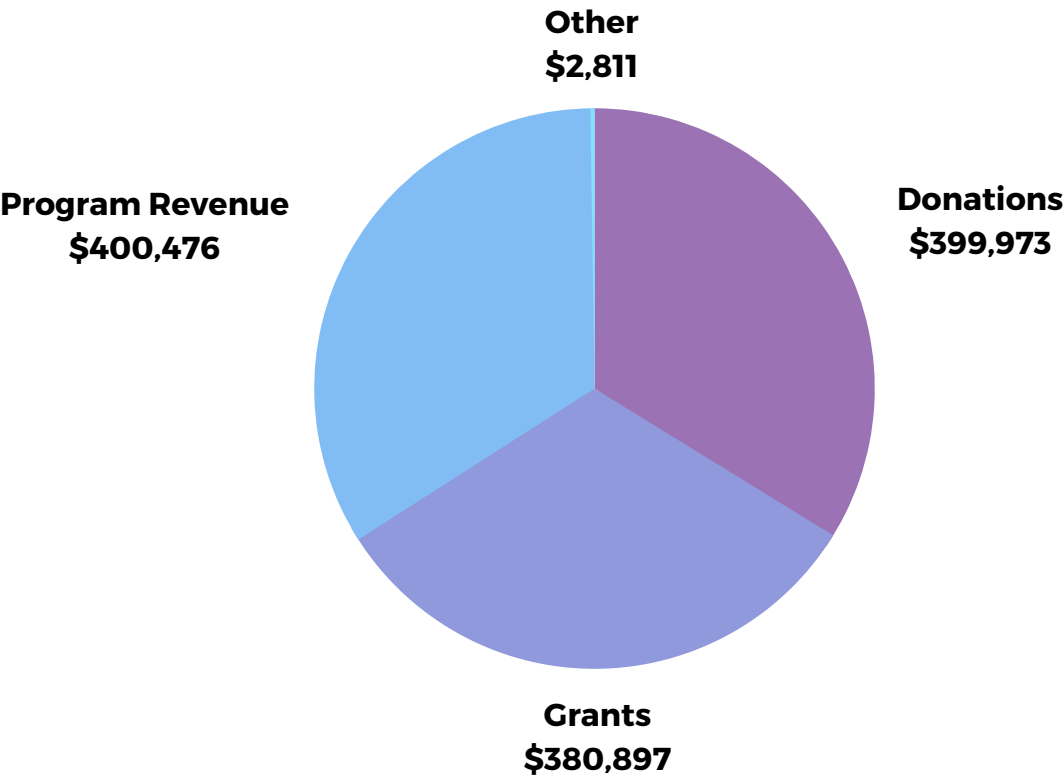
"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

– Coretta Scott King

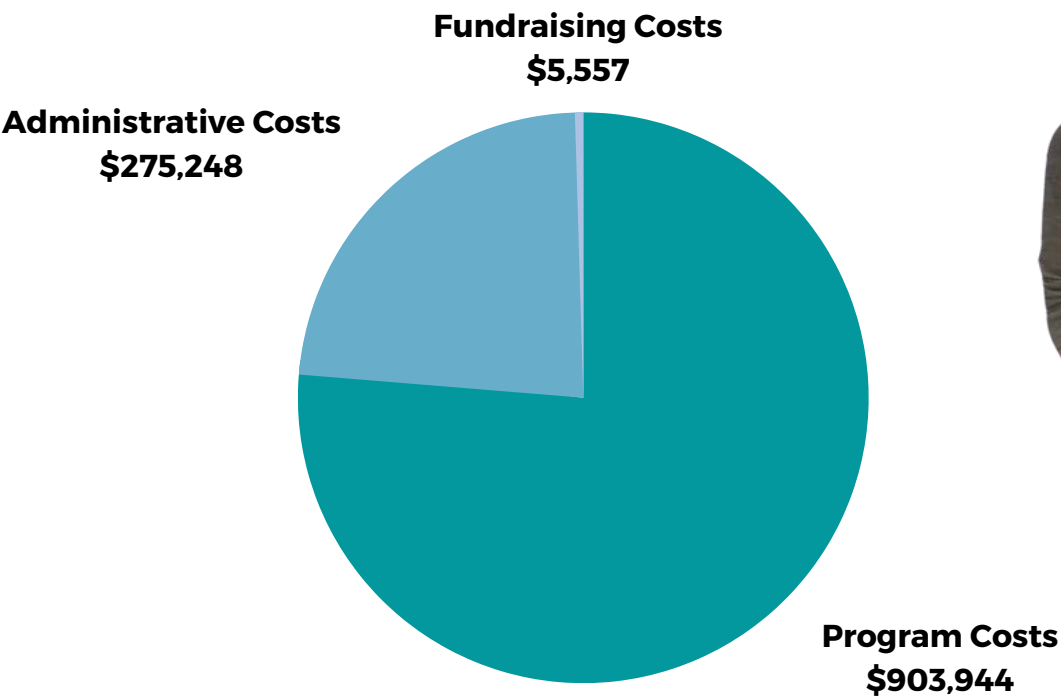
FINANCIALS

September 1
2021
TO
August 31
2022

INCOME \$1,184,157



EXPENSES \$1,184,749



*Your generosity is
what makes our
work possible.
When it comes to
connecting with
youth, every
contribution
matters!*



GET INVOLVED

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We've always been proud of our community - it's one of the things that makes Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative so special. From our partner schools to teachers, students to our community partners, staff to donors like you, we are a grassroots organization and recognize the power of our collective action. Here's how you can join the community today.



GIVE

You can help keep children and youth at-risk in our communities safe from gang recruitment and violence with a gift to Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative.

Donate today at [YBYG.ca](https://ybyg.ca)!



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are essential to our programs. If you are a responsible and compassionate adult who wants to offer your time, skills, or professional expertise, we'd love to hear from you.



BECOME A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Join our strong network of schools, community organizations, and corporations that help at-risk children and youth create more meaning in their lives and achieve their goals.

Is there a student at your school who could benefit from participating in YBYG?

Do you have student internship opportunities at your company?

Do you run an engaging program in the community that our youth can get involved with?

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact us at: info@ybyg.ca
Learn more at: [YBYG.ca](https://ybyg.ca)



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Mentors Matter



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