



YO BRO | YO GIRL YOUTH INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT
SEPT 2022 - AUG 2023



From *Risk*
To *Resilience*



☎ (778) 828-2799

✉ info@ybyg.ca

🌐 www.ybyg.ca

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.

Board of Directors

Mary Martin
Jeremey Drosdeck
Kevin Lee
Kevin Torvik
Justin Borsato
Brandon Steele
Joanna Angelidis
Paulo Sarmento

Staff Leadership

Joe Calendino,
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Brenda Calendino,
Co-Founder and Director of Education

Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative was established in 2008
in Vancouver, BC.
500 - 610 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 2V3
info@ybyg.ca | 778-828-2799

Canadian Registered Charity Number: 82510 4649 RR0001



LETTER FROM JOE



WHAT DRIVES ME TO BE THE BEST I CAN BE?

It has been a challenging year, but I am proud to say that Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative has, again, emerged stronger than it started. It's been a year of tough actions and a year of reflection. Most recently, I was asked "What drives me to be the best I can be?"

Our work with youth always comes back to the same concept: Family. Building the YBYG family with the right staff and youth; Surrounding us and those we serve with people aligned to our mission; Supporting them in their journey to reach their full potential.

This journey starts early, from when youth are participants in YBYG programs and supports them through life transitions. It sees them become volunteer youth leaders and gives them employment opportunities after high school. It continues to support them in their careers, whether within YBYG, through post-secondary scholarships, or in their professional pursuits outside our organization. Ultimately, in their journey as a part of our family, these youth become healthy, contributing members of our community, always giving back and supporting the next generation following in their footsteps.

So, what gets me out of bed in the morning, ready to put my best foot forward? Building this family, where we've started a global movement of youth empowering youth to make safe and healthy choices.

If you've supported us, you've supported our youth. That makes you a part of the YBYG family, and for that, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

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

2022 - 2023 was another successful year for Yo Bro | Yo Girl Youth Initiative's programs in schools and the community. From September to August, our team worked collaboratively to mentor, support and positively engage participants in pro-social program activities and build healthy connections. Program feedback was positive, and youth were engaged and enthusiastic throughout.

40

Schools Programs

5

Community Programs

1,435

Participants

5

School Districts

Districts:

Chilliwack
Tri-Cities
Vancouver
Surrey
Delta

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.

63

Participants

10

Outreach
Workers

SPRING PROGRAMS

Three schools - Scott Creek Middle School, McCloskey Elementary, and Jarvis/Chalmers Elementary - hosted Yo Bro Yo Girl Spring break programs

48

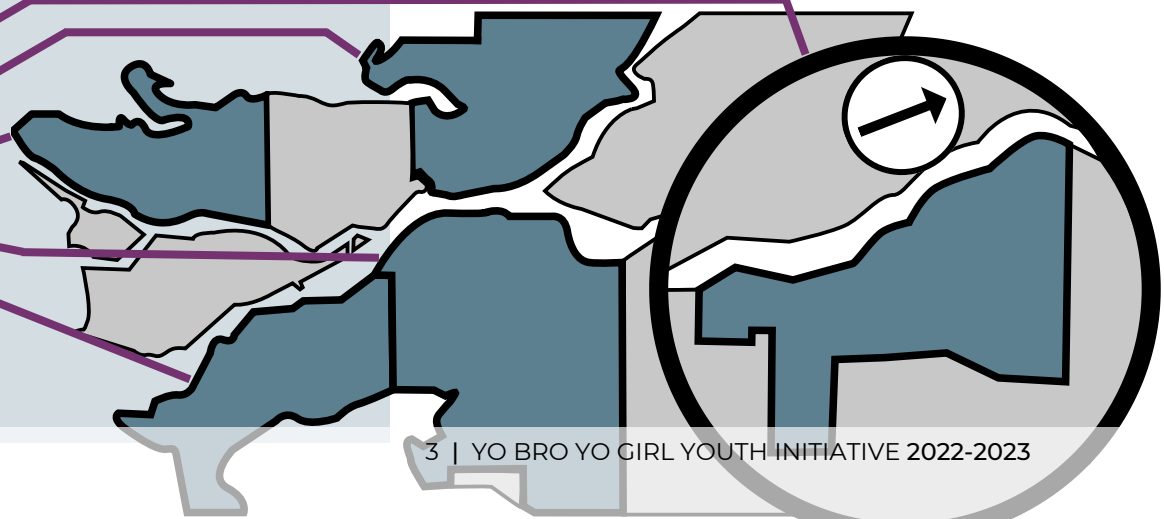
Elementary School Spring
Program Participants

SUMMER PROGRAMS

This summer, we ran very successful programs with 198 children and youth in 7 schools in Surrey and Delta, building healthy connections and engaging in fun pro-social activities over the summer break!

Elementary School Summer
Program Participants

198



YOUR IMPACT NEW PROGRAMS

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 new ways to positively engage with our youth no matter where they may be in their lives; effectively steering them away from negative behaviours and trajectories, and increasing their success at home, school and in the community.

Here is a small snapshot of some new initiatives:

YBYG TEAM DEMOS

The Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative team ran a successful demonstration program in a number of Metro Vancouver schools during the 2022-2023 school year.

Through a moving speech, attendees learned the story of *"Risk to Resilience"* from our co-founder and Executive Director, Joe Calendino; the positive impact YBYG programs have had on hundreds of youth and children over the past 15 years; an overview of the variety of programs YBYG offers for at-risk youth, and extensive demonstrations showcasing the pro-social activities offered to program participants.



SURREY YOUTH RESILIENCY PROGRAM - SYRP

Expansion of Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative in Surrey

Thanks to generous funding from the City of Surrey through the federal "Building Safer Communities Fund" (BSCF), Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative has expanded its reach to five new schools in Surrey. Each school will offer a tailored set of activities to meet the specific needs of their students, benefiting a total of 30 kids per school throughout the year and during spring and summer breaks.



YMET ONE-TO-ONE OUTREACH

“My name is Ashleen, and I'm 18 years old. Around September 2020, I completely lost myself and did something that would haunt me forever. I was scared to open up with my family and friends. I thought no one would understand the turmoil I was facing until my school counsellor referred me to a Yo Bro Yo Girl youth mentor (YMET worker).

This program opened up a world of opportunities, connecting students like me with positive role models who could genuinely listen and empathize with our struggles. I was paired with an exceptional YMET worker named Zainab. Initially, I was scared, filled by the fear that she would judge me on my past actions. She persistently reached out to my mom to try and connect with me, even as I constantly avoided her. But she never stopped trying to connect, so I eventually gave her a chance.

When I met her, I realized my assumptions were totally wrong. Zainab is an incredible person. With her support, I turned away from a dark path. She taught me that I can't change the past but that I have the power to make better choices to create a better future for myself. I finally took ownership of my actions and faced their consequences head-on.

With Zainab as my mentor, I began to confront my traumas and have become stronger because of it. I started to do better mentally and physically. My school attendance improved, and my relationship with my family and friends improved. Through her mentorship, I learned to prioritize the aspects of my life that were within my control, finding peace and happiness even in the face of life's challenges.”



The YBYG's **Youth Mentorship & Empowerment Team (YMET)** is a collaborative program, tailored for students demonstrating high-risk behaviours and in need of positive role models.

YMET connects these students with YBYG mentors, fostering positive connections and engaging them with their potential.

BUILDING CHAMPIONS

Tamanawis Secondary Wrestling Team

In 2016, Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative, with the leadership of Paul Sahota, YBYG staff member and his brother, current DPD member Jessy Sahota, both as alumni of this school, started the after-school wrestling program at the Tamanawis Secondary School located in the heart of Surrey's Newton district—an area of Greater Vancouver that has experienced an increase of gang activity since 2005.

Only three years later, the Tamanawis Wrestling team became one of Canada's most competitive and highest-performing high-school wrestling teams. This year, they took home its fourth consecutive provincial championship title!



The Enver Creek Wrestling Program

In 2022, the Enver Creek wrestling program faced a temporary hiatus, but it wasn't the end. Thanks to the dedication of two staff members, Dylan and Dacious, the program was revived with a clear vision: reigniting the passion for wrestling and fostering excellence among new athletes.

They welcomed 29 athletes, including 4 girls and 25 boys, who embraced the program enthusiastically. Led by Dylan and Dacious, they underwent rigorous training sessions three times a week, instilling a foundation of hard work and determination.

Four standout young women emerged as leaders, starting with small tournaments to refine their skills and gain experience. Their confidence grew with each match, leading to success in the BC provincial wrestling competition, where they secured 2nd place as a united team.

The revival of the Enver Creek wrestling program in 2022 showcased the power of resilience and commitment. The journey of these exceptional young women, alongside their peers, exemplified the transformative potential of teamwork and hard work, serving as a powerful source of inspiration!

YOUTH LEADERS

FROM PARTICIPANT TO LEADER!

TIN TURNING STRUGGLES INTO STRENGTH

Yo Bro I Yo Girl (YBYG) first met Tin when he was in the tenth grade, making unhealthy decisions and facing suspensions.

Recognizing the need for change, Tin sought a better future. YBYG stepped in to mentor and support him. With wrestling as his guiding force, Tin secured a scholarship to a prestigious Ontario university.

Now, Tin serves as a mentor and wrestling coach in our summer programs, passing on his knowledge and experience to the next generation.



FUTURE LEADERS

Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative has taken a significant step forward in partnership with the United Way of British Columbia.

Together, they have launched the Future Leader program, featuring 13 enthusiastic young leaders with a keen interest in their future educational and career paths.

These aspiring youth leaders are eligible for a monthly honorarium when they volunteer and participate in YBYG events.

To prepare them for success beyond high school, YBYG offers Future Leaders financial literacy workshops, career planning, and comprehensive support, in addition to the organization's annual staff training and professional development program.



United Way
British Columbia

EVENTS:

WHITE CAPS GAME

YOUTH LEADER VIP SUITE

In May, the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative treated ten of our exceptional YBYG Youth Leaders to an unforgettable VIP box seat experience at a Vancouver Whitecaps game. This unique opportunity allowed our young participants and volunteers to enjoy a world-class sporting event, creating cherished memories and reinforcing our strong sense of community.

The VIP box seat event was exceptional, offering our enthusiastic youth an exclusive view of the game. The excitement and joy in the stadium were palpable as cheers filled the air.

For our YBYG youth, this event was more than just a soccer match; it brought our community closer together, forging lasting bonds and friendships. Through this shared experience, our young participants found unity not only in their love for sports but also in their journey of growth within the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative.

Looking ahead, we're committed to providing more transformative experiences for our YBYG youth, knowing that each moment we create can positively shape their futures. With the support of our community, partners, and friends, we're excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.



“It’s about changing their mentality. With these opportunities, they’re able to see that there’s so much more, that they can be more.”

Gabriel

Program Supervisor
Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative

EVENTS:

SUPER HERO DASH



SUPERHEROES FOR CHANGE

Joe Calendino, our Executive Director, Mary Martin, the Chair of our Board, and Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative staff were thrilled to join the Annual Run, Walk & Roll - Superhero Dash hosted by the Surrey Fire Fighters Charitable Society last June. This event at South Surrey Athletic Park showcased unity and support for children with special needs.

Under the bright sun, the park buzzed with superheroes and princesses, symbolizing our community's resilience. The event united families and celebrated the determination of our inspiring athletes.

As an organization dedicated to positive change, we participated to make a difference. Our collective efforts raised crucial funds and awareness for children with special needs, empowering them to thrive.

“

Again, our team showed up for others in need. They are everyday superheroes and I couldn't be prouder! ”

Mary Martin

**Chair of the Board of Directors
Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS





University
of Victoria

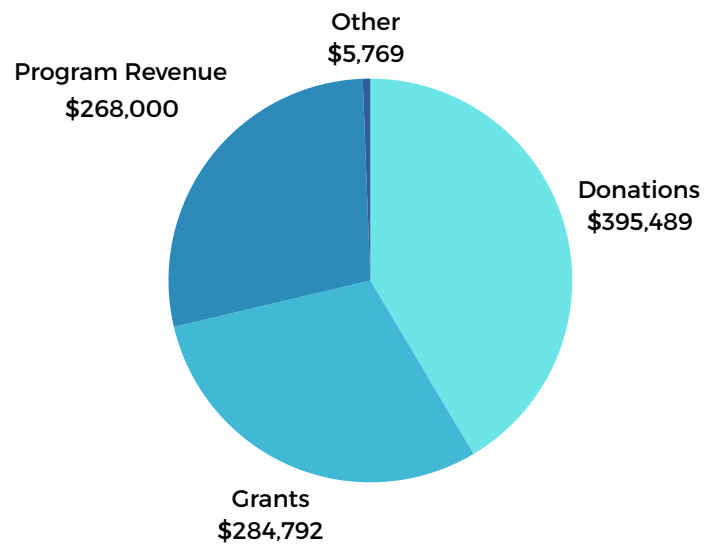
"Since the beginning, I've helped YBYG engage with donors and community partners. I've never seen an organization as committed to helping youth and to turning donor dollars into impact."

Dak Molnar

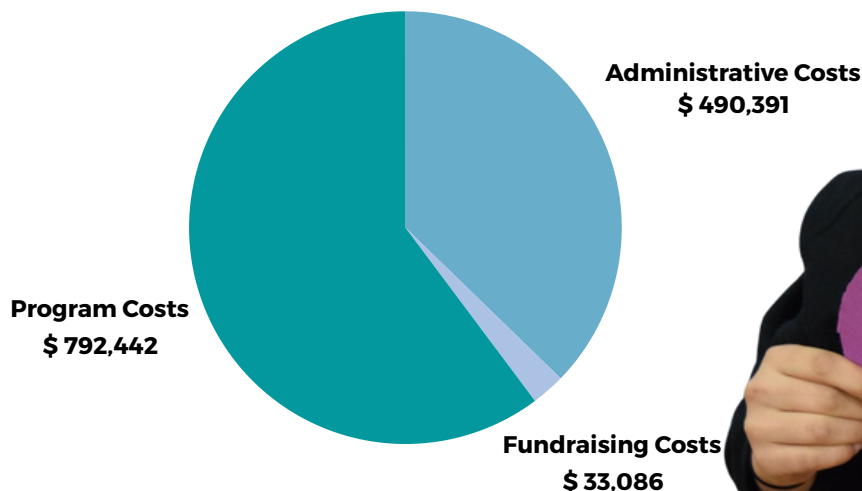
FINANCIALS

September 1
2022
TO
August 31
2023

INCOME
\$954,050



EXPENSES
\$1,315,919

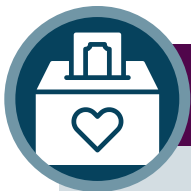


GET INVOLVED



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 community partners, staff to donors, we are a grassroots organization and recognize the power of our collective action.

Here's how you can join the community today:



GIVE

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



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are essential to our programs--without them we wouldn't have caring mentors, sports enthusiasts, and guest facilitators.



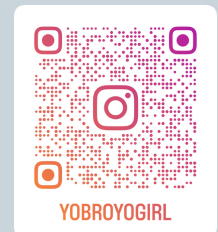
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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 YBYG?
- Does your company have student internship opportunities?
- Do you run an engaging program that our youth can get involved with? We'd love to hear from you!

info@ybyg.ca

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LinkedIn:
[@yobroyogirl](https://www.linkedin.com/company/yobroyogirl)



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