2014 marks the 90th anniversary of Youth Guidance’s commitment to meeting the needs of Chicago’s most at-risk youth. While this nearly century of service is remarkable, it is the events of the past few years that have been most exciting and present the greatest opportunities for the future.

We have proven our ability to deliver significant, tangible results that reduce youth violence and position students for success. Today, we are nationally recognized: from the game-changing results of a University of Chicago Crime Lab report (page 8) to garnering the support of the prestigious Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (page 10) and inspiring a landmark presidential initiative (page 12). At home here in Chicago, our broad array of programs, from After-School sessions to Project Prepare and Working on Womanhood (W.O.W.), continue to serve a wide array of students from diverse backgrounds and with differing needs.

What does this mean for the organization? It means we are on the right track. Youth Guidance directly served more than 8,000 youth in FY14 and we’re poised to help thousands more in the coming years. Moving forward, we are looking at two overarching goals.

**Thoughtful Growth.** We are committed to expanding our reach, both by nearly doubling the number of young men and women we serve in the Chicagoland community by school year 2015/2016, and by making our Becoming A Man (B.A.M.) program model available to other communities nationwide.

**Sustainable Funding.** Our recent achievements have given us the platform for this growth, but expansion of this scale over an extended period requires a diverse, sustainable pool of financial support. Obtaining these longer term commitments is crucial to maintaining our momentum and broadening the reach of our programs and model.

Youth Guidance has long been a beacon of hope for Chicago’s most challenged youth, and we have so many to thank for it: our generous donors, our innovative staff, our pace-setting foundations and advisors, and the visionary leadership of those in government who support us. It is with your help that we are able to continue to serve and to expand our service to the young men and women of Chicago and beyond.

Thank you for all of your support. We are excited about the impact we are having and confident about where Youth Guidance is headed next. Together, let us continue to allow Youth Guidance to enable success in the lives of so many of our City’s youth.
Youth Guidance sees a bright and successful future for every at-risk, inner-city elementary and high school student in Chicago. Our mission is to create and implement school-based programs that enable youth in need to overcome obstacles, focus on their education and, ultimately, to succeed in school and in life. Because we believe that this success is not only possible but should be achieved and celebrated, we are present in Chicago Public Schools to facilitate an environment that meets students where they are and truly engages them in the learning process. Through careful guidance, we enable young men and women to realize their full potential and graduate with a meaningful plan for successfully managing life.

Youth Guidance is a leading provider of outcomes-driven programs and capacity-building initiatives, serving more than 8,000 youth directly in FY14, and touching the lives of more than 14,000 youth, parents, teachers and community members.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

6 Working on Womanhood
8 U of C Crime Lab Report Success / ROI
10 Sustainable Funding / Donor Q&A / Importance of Diversified Donors
12 Becoming A Man (B.A.M.) / B.A.M by the Numbers
16 Partnering with Parents / Parent Leadership Conference
18 CAP / Prepared for What’s Next
20 STRIVE event / YG Gala
22 Summary Financial Information
24 Leadership
26 Our Donors
W.O.W.’S
1ST ANNUAL
RECOGNITION BANQUET

Ninety students were honored this past May at the inaugural celebration of our annual W.O.W. Recognition Dinner.

Young women from 22 schools were recognized for embracing the Working on Womanhood, or W.O.W. Core Values (self-awareness, emotional intelligence, healthy relationships, visionary goal setting, and leadership). Each had high attendance, improved grades and behavior, and connected with students outside of the W.O.W. program.

Anel Ruiz, Community Outreach Liaison for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, served as keynote speaker for the “My Journey, My Destiny”-themed event.

Gail Day, W.O.W. Program Manager reflected: “I felt hopeful and energized by the outcome of the event. There were over 100 girls from different communities and ethnicities who genuinely talked, shared their experiences and made new friends. It was a sight rarely captured by mainstream media, and it felt great to know that W.O.W. was the common denominator. By the end, you could tell that the girls saw themselves as ‘sisters.’”

W.O.W. is Youth Guidance’s school-based counseling, mentoring, character development and educational enrichment program that promotes social, emotional and behavioral competencies in at-risk young women in grades 7-12.

W.O.W. reached 835 young women across 30 schools in the Chicagoland area in 2013-2014. The W.O.W. program served young women with significant risk factors for dropout or delinquency, and is a referral-based program, with student participants who’ve been identified as high risk by teachers, school administrators and parents.

86% of the W.O.W. participants passed 75% or more of their core classes.

94% of 2012-2013 W.O.W. students were promoted to the next grade in the 2013-2014 school year.

94% of W.O.W. seniors graduated at the end of the school year.

And, students with identified social emotional challenges saw improvements:

- Improved their social competence skills, ability to make healthy choices, and resolve conflict nonviolently: 61%
- Improved their general sense of optimism and personal self-esteem: 58%
- Increased their commitment to learning and engagement in school activities: 73%
- Increased their positive values and improved their personal belief system and level of personal responsibility: 70%
Youth Guidance’s programs are built on the theory that urban youth turn to violent behavior because of sociological and psychological issues, such as a lack of access to social supports or traumatic experiences. Without access to a quality education, proper social and emotional development, and safe, out-of-school options, youth are at much greater risk for antisocial behavior and negative life outcomes.

Findings of a recent University of Chicago Crime Labs study showed that participation in Becoming a Man – Sports Edition (B.A.M.) significantly increased engagement and performance at school and reduced violent crime arrests by 44%.

Equally significant, a forecast of the Crime Labs study results indicates that high school graduation rate impacts could be as high as 23% – a social benefit of up to $119,000 per participant from increased lifetime earnings, tax payments and lower public benefit use.

The Crime Labs study concludes: “Given how little policy attention is currently devoted to improving social-cognitive skills of disadvantaged youth, there may be considerable returns to society from expanding investments in this area.”

These dramatic conclusions were the result of a one-year study of 2,740 eligible young male students grades 7-10 randomly assigned to B.A.M.’s in-school program, after-school program, or both, or to a control group. The study focused on “medium risk” students: those whose prior school records indicate cognitive skill deficits, but who were determined to likely attend school often enough to benefit from B.A.M.’s school-based intervention.

Students who participated demonstrated reduced school absenteeism, improved peer and teacher relationships, reduced behavioral infractions and violent responses, and an improved ability to equate education to future success.

The Crime Labs study and subsequent results were major contributing factors to our recent Edna McConnell Clark Foundation award (see page 10), which will help support our B.A.M. expansion efforts.
Youth Guidance’s growth and evaluation plans are supported, in part, by an investment from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF), the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), and the True North Fund, totaling up to $4.5 million over three years. EMCF is investing in Youth Guidance to expand the Becoming A Man (B.A.M.) program so that more of Chicago’s youth can benefit from this innovative intervention.

The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation seeks to transform the life trajectories of vulnerable and economically disadvantaged youth by investing in effective nonprofits so they can serve greater numbers of young people with programs proven to help them become successful, productive adults.

EMCF selected the B.A.M. program from 191 applicants in 2013, in part, on the impact its well-designed program model has for helping young boys and men. The effectiveness of the B.A.M. program has been empirically validated by a randomized control trial by the University of Chicago Crime Lab report (see page 16). EMCF believes Youth Guidance, with this investment, can grow and strengthen the B.A.M. program over the next three years.

EMCF is making this investment to Youth Guidance through its role as one of 20 intermediaries of the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that focuses on overcoming challenges confronting low-income Americans in three areas of priority need: economic opportunity, health, and youth development. The SIF, established by Congress in 2010 through the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, uses intermediaries like EMCF to be a catalyst for impact by applying public and private resources to find and grow community-based nonprofits with evidence of strong results.

EMCF’s grant comprises of federal SIF funding that is matched by EMCF’s funds. EMCF’s True North Fund (which is entirely comprised of private donors) also contributes to help Youth Guidance meet a part of the matching funds it must raise as part of the SIF.

Courtney O’Malley, a portfolio manager at EMCF, noted that growing local and federal interest as well as having a strong evaluation partner like the Crime Lab was a significant asset for Youth Guidance.

To help contribute to our needed matching funds and to help us reach our sustainable growth goals, please contact rclarkin@youthguidance.org.

An abundance of individual donors can help when a large grant ends and, vice versa, foundations may pick up when individual donations are sluggish. In other cases, grants and donations may have matching funds requirements, such as in the case of our recent EMCF award.

Board member and long-time donor Doug Walker observed, “Individuals and organizations look for ways to support their communities and want that support to be seen and measured. Giving to Youth Guidance is a great way to support the children of Chicago and to help students achieve their full potential.”

To help us reach our sustainable growth goals, please contact rclarkin@youthguidance.org.
The last two years have seen Youth Guidance’s Becoming A Man (B.A.M.) program reach new levels of local and national attention as a result of the successful outcomes of the University of Chicago Crime Lab report (see pg 8).

In January 2013, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel pointed to B.A.M. as part of a larger strategy to reduce youth violence. “To build off the program’s proven track record of success,” Emmanuel said in a 2013 release and referring to the Crime Lab report, “our goal is to expand access to the Match and B.A.M. programs to reach 1,000 students by next school year.”

Today, B.A.M. serves up to 2,000 young men in nearly 40 schools. The Match program helps students catch up in math through small-group tutoring.

In February 2014, President Barack Obama announced a new White House initiative, My Brother’s Keeper, which was in part inspired by the President’s visits with a B.A.M. circle at Hyde Park Academy in 2013.
B.A.M. is a dropout and violence prevention program for at-risk male students in grades 7-12. B.A.M. offers in-school and after-school programming to develop skills strongly correlated with reductions in violent and anti-social behavior.

B.A.M. Director Anthony Watson noted that the young men served have never had anything like this before, and are desperate for it.

“Some young men don’t have fathers; without intervention, they may become victims or perpetrators of violence,” he said. “We can curb this trajectory when we find a solution that works. B.A.M. is changing the way young men view their lives and what’s possible.”

44% reduction in violent crime arrests among participants when compared to peers with similar risk factors.

94% of 2012-2013 B.A.M. students were promoted to the next grade in the 2013-2014 school year.

79% of B.A.M. seniors from whom data was available graduated at the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

B.A.M. reached 1,800 young men across 40 schools in the Chicagoland area in 2013-2014, with plans to expand to 2,000 in the 2015 academic year.

BY THE NUMBERS

Increased scores in the characteristics and behaviors reflecting positive personal and psychological development

44% reduction in violent crime arrests among participants when compared to peers with similar risk factors.

94% of 2012-2013 B.A.M. students were promoted to the next grade in the 2013-2014 school year.

79% of B.A.M. seniors from whom data was available graduated at the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

Increased scores indicating an increased motivation to learn and increased active engagement in learning both in and outside of school

78%

Increased scores indicating an increased ability to make positive decisions, resist negative peer pressure, resolve conflicts peacefully, and build friendships

82%

Increased scores indicating an increased motivation to learn and increased active engagement in learning both in and outside of school

70%

Increased scores indicating an increased ability to make positive decisions, resist negative peer pressure, resolve conflicts peacefully, and build friendships

55%

And, of students who scored “low” or “fair” on the internal asset scales on the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP)* pretest:

Increased scores in self-esteem, optimism, internal locus of control, and a growing sense of purpose in life

82%

Increased scores indicating an increased ability to make positive decisions, resist negative peer pressure, resolve conflicts peacefully, and build friendships

55%

*The DAP pretest is an instrument used to measure the internal strengths and external supports that influence a youth’s success in school and in life.

76%
Youth Guidance’s school-based programs provide social and emotional support for students and, in some cases, offer a lifeline for parents too. Cloronda Morgan, a Manley High School security guard and single mother of three, reached out to B.A.M. Counselor Albert Stinson for help with her 16-year-old son who also attends the school. “Freshman year his attitude shifted. He was out of control,” she says. “I came to work one morning in tears. I needed help.”

Stinson says that the issues he sees each day can range from disrespect for peers, school administrators and school property to fighting and violent outbursts to emotional distress. “It’s hard to become something you never see,” he said. “It’s about modeling. In the B.A.M. program, they learn about accountability, integrity, honesty, and self-discipline – and how that makes you a man.”

Stinson intervened that day, resulting in an apology to mom and the family’s introduction to the B.A.M. program. Two years later, Morgan states that her son is much more respectful and calm. He is also an honor roll student with a 3.6 GPA.

Parents are routinely invited to special family engagement events and orientations to learn strategies for helping their children succeed. Youth Guidance has also hosted a Parent Leadership Conference for the last 21 years.

When asked what her alternatives would have been without the B.A.M. program, Morgan takes a long pause and states: “I think that honestly, I would have lost my son. He would have been a victim of these streets, selling drugs or in jail. I’m a strong woman and good mother, but I’m not a man. I don’t know how to be a man. So I will always be grateful for what B.A.M. stepped in and did for us—for all the boys at Manley—especially my son.”

Designed to inform, empower and inspire parent leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals and school and community leaders, the agenda was set with specific outcome goals, including increasing meaningful parent involvement in schools and providing skills and strategies to implement at home and in school.

Attendance represented a substantial increase in participation over the past two years, and participants deemed the event a success, with 93% percent agreeing that they have gained skills that will enable them to empower parents to take a more active role in their school’s educational activities.

“Today is my son’s sixth birthday. I told him that I really needed to be here [at the PLC] and from all that I’ve learned here, I can now bring him home the best gift possible: An informed and engaged parent.” - Program Participant
COMMUNITY AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

For more than 20 years, Youth Guidance’s Community and After-School programs (CAP) have been quietly creating safe, school-centered support structures for students and their parents throughout the Chicagoland area.

CAP programs consist of Parent & Family Engagement, Full-Service Community Schools, Community Learning Centers, and Extended Day Enrichment.

Participating students overcome obstacles to success in school and life by identifying, developing and utilizing the internal and external strengths they possess and those present in the systems which surround them.

CAP programs often facilitate homework assistance and academic enrichment, access to integrated counseling and behavioral supports, parent leadership, summer recreation, student leadership initiatives, service learning projects, and mechanisms for collaborative school decision-making. The programs also offer access to integrated counseling and health and wellness supports in a safe and supervised afterschool environment.

CAP director Malika Graham-Bailey feels that what makes Youth Guidance unique is that the programs create a clinical presence in the school community. This integration allows not only for a deeper recognition of social-emotional deficits, but also provides access to targeted interventions and tools that can be engaged as-needed. The extension of ‘whole-child’ engagement within each CAP program benefits the entire school community.

CAP programs are offered to pre-K through secondary school students in more than 20 schools, reaching approximately 4,000 or more students, parents and caretakers each year. “Through the years we have witnessed the greatest impact in the areas of improved school attendance, reduced high school drop-out rates, and engaged parents and caregivers,” notes Graham-Bailey. “We engage a minimum of 40+% of the student population of most YG school partners (and in several cases 100+% with school-wide requirements and/or invitations to the broader community). We have seen considerable improvement in participation and engagement over the prior year.”

PROGRAM PROFILE

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PROJECT PREPARE PRESENTS:
PREPARED FOR WHAT’S NEXT

Students participating in Project Prepare, Youth Guidance’s workforce readiness program, took a big step forward in their future careers at Prepared for What’s Next, a half-day professional development seminar hosted by the Youth Guidance Junior Board of Directors.

Hands-on workshops were designed to help Project Prepare students create post-high school life plans, present themselves professionally, and practice networking and self-promotion. Each student took home a new interview-ready outfit, provided in part by Banana Republic.

Betsy Wille, President of the Junior Board of Directors, commented that the event helped participants feel valued, and noted a new sense of professional confidence in the students, particularly as she noticed students wearing their outfits at other career-building events.

As young professionals themselves, Youth Guidance Junior Board members are uniquely qualified to create an event like Prepared for What’s Next. In addition to this event, the Junior Board also creates and hosts fundraisers to support Youth Guidance projects and programs throughout the year.
**Events**

**Strive Celebrates Galaxy of Stars**

Nearly 70 guests attended the 12th Annual Galaxy of Stars Leadership Awards Banquet, an event hosted by Youth Guidance’s STRIVE program.

The STRIVE program helps youth who have faced abuse or neglect in the past transition into adulthood by integrating support systems into schools and providing academic and counseling support to these students and their foster or adoptive families.

The banquet, which includes dinner, an awards ceremony, a spoken word performance and speeches, celebrates the accomplishments of STRIVE students and families. The event is partially planned by the students themselves, who choose the theme, speakers and performances.

“We want students to walk away from this event sure of their value and worth. We provide them a special night to mark the continuation of their remarkable journey and prepare them for the next leg of that journey as the end of the school year approaches. It means a lot to the students to know that the goals they have made are important to their families and to us,” said Theonita Wright, STRIVE counselor at Harper High School and Orr Academy.

**Fundraising Record Set at Annual Gala**

This year’s Youth Guidance Gala, held in May at the Fairmont Millennium Park Hotel, raised a record-breaking $300,000.

“The record-setting fundraising at this year’s Gala reflected the commitment of our board members, guests and honorees to turn around the lives of Chicago’s most at-risk youth,” said Mark Gerstein, President of the Board of Directors at Youth Guidance. “It was rewarding to see Chicago’s civic and business leaders join us Saturday in support of Youth Guidance’s efforts to reduce violence and increase the opportunities for our city’s young women and men.”

This year’s event, chaired by Michael Crowley, celebrated the Chicago Bulls and the Chicago White Sox with the Organization of the Year Award. Dr. Frances G. Carroll, a long-time community leader and a Youth Guidance Lifetime Board member, was presented with the Kurt L. Schultz Individual Service Award.

Highlights of the event included testimonial videos and appearances by Becoming A Man (B.A.M.), Working on Womanhood (W.O.W.) and Project Prepare students, and guests danced the night away to the sounds of four-time Grammy Award nominee DJ Steve “Silk” Hurley.

To find out how you can help support Youth Guidance and the 2015 Youth Guidance Gala, please contact rclarkin@youth-guidance.org for more information.
## 2013-2014 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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<thead>
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<th>ASSETS</th>
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<td>$2,174,219</td>
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The FY14 operating surplus above includes the receipt of temporarily restricted funds received prior to July 1, 2014 designated to support programming in the 2014-2015 school year.

## 2013-2014 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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**TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT** | $7,084,302 | $11,980,559 |

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**TOTAL EXPENSES** | $7,147,031 | $9,944,762 |

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** | $(62,729) | $2,035,797 |
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