



Building Better Futures
together

Our History | Youth Guidance has been serving Chicago children for more than 87 years. Founded in 1924 as The Church Mission of Help, the agency was originally formed to assist girls in need of shelter, clothing, medical care, financial help, legal assistance and educational/vocational opportunities. In 1962, the Church of Mission Help merged with an agency serving boys in family court and became Youth Guidance Youth Services. In 1969, the agency entered into a partnership with Chicago Public Schools and established its first full-time offices within Chicago schools - laying the foundation for the comprehensive, innovative school-based initiatives that exist as part of Youth Guidance today. Currently, YG reaches 14,000 students at over 70 schools providing workforce development, parent and family engagement, critical counseling and prevention services, and community and afterschool programs.

Our Mission | Youth Guidance creates and implements school-based programs that enable at-risk children to overcome obstacles, focus on their education and, ultimately, to succeed in school and in life.

Our Vision | Youth Guidance sees a bright and successful future for every at risk, inner-city elementary and high school student in Chicago. Because we believe that success in school is not only possible, but should be achieved and celebrated, we are present in the schools to facilitate an environment that truly engages students in the learning process, and through careful guidance, enables them to realize their full potential and graduate with a meaningful plan for successfully managing life.



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Youth Guidance is an integral part of our school community. Their responsiveness to the needs of students, parents and school community creates a partnership that truly enhances the lives of our students.

— **Katie Magnuson, Assistant Principal**
Skinner North Classical School

Courtney's Story

Looking at me, you wouldn't know the journey I've traveled. You wouldn't know that I raised myself from the time I was 9 years old. Someway, somehow I'm here in front of you, making it! I was so young and I had so much hate in my heart. I didn't care about anyone. I didn't love myself. I didn't care. I was always in some kind of trouble, always getting kicked out of schools, and slowly but surely my grades always dropped. For a little while, the only person that kept me in my place was my grandfather, but after he died, no one seemed to notice me. Because I felt no one really cared about me anyway, I fell into the wrong crowd.

My "aha moment" came after I was shot in the back of the neck. It was scary and I didn't know what was going to happen to me, but something in me changed. In one last attempt to go back to school I was referred to W.O.W. - it sounded catchy and since I was on the path to discovering womanhood I figured I had nothing to lose.

...I felt no one really cared about me, I fell into the wrong crowd.

In W.O.W. I met Mrs. Day. Mrs. Day is caring, encouraging, honest, committed and you can trust her. Mrs. Day is my role model. Through the program, I have learned to care for others, like my younger siblings and little cousins who look up to me. I wonder who they would look up to if something happened to me and I worry about how they would remember me. These are the reasons why I changed: for them, for me, because I'm important too.

In the W.O.W. program I learned that it's important to have goals and female role models to look up to. The other girls in the program have similar struggles and we've shared our stories and expressed our feelings and disappointments. We are stronger because we have each other - we are a family and we are survivors!

I missed my graduation goal last year, but with the support given to me, I have completed my high school requirements and I will be walking across the stage in the summer. Thank you, Youth Guidance and Mrs. Day, for being there for me, for picking me up when I've fallen, for lending a shoulder to lean on, and for programs like W.O.W. that gives girls like me the opportunity to work towards womanhood.



Courtney, W.O.W. Participant,
speaking at the Experience YG Breakfast

Message From Our CEO & Board President

This past year was full of opportunity and challenge. As families grappled with the impact of the economic downturn, there was heightened urgency for social and emotional supports for children. Even during this time of diminishing resources, Youth Guidance was able to deliver on our mission and support over 14,000 youth in more than 70 schools throughout metro Chicago.

Youth Guidance's approach is grounded in an understanding of child and adolescent development and the experience that with the right combination of supports and opportunities, youth thrive in the face of adversity. Our programs are designed specifically to help youth tap their internal strength, develop social emotional skills and promote "protective factors" such as healthy relationships, commitment to learning and improved engagement in school.

We are particularly proud that over this past year we successfully:

- * Earned national recognition for the powerful impact of our B.A.M. (Becoming A Man) program in improving school engagement and decreasing violent crime, through the University of Chicago Crime Lab's rigorous evaluation. With an innovative focus on six core values: integrity, accountability, positive anger expression, self-determination, visionary goal setting and respect for women, the program has proven that we can make a measurable difference in changing outcomes for even the most at-risk youth.
- * Expanded the implementation of our dynamic W.O.W. (Working on Womanhood) program to help address the unique challenges girls are facing. Courtney's personal journey is a powerful example of the impact that W.O.W. can have in restoring hope and helping girls develop the social and emotional skills to get back on-track.
- * Expanded the reach of our counseling program this year to bring critical clinical supports to hundreds more children exposed to trauma.
- * Engaged hundreds of parents in leadership development to increase their engagement and support for their children's education.
- * Strengthened our organizational effectiveness through active participation in the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders program and the Wallace Foundation's Strengthening Financial Management Initiative.

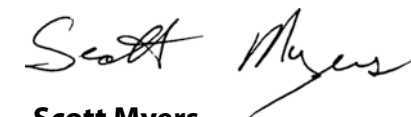
Our accomplishments could not have been possible without the support of so many who believe in the mission of Youth Guidance. This past year, more than ever, you played a critical role in achieving measurable outcomes. Your support has made it possible to sustain and even expand our programs during some of the most challenging time in recent history. We applaud your commitment; determination and support in helping our youth reach their full potential.

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Youth Guidance, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for helping us to continue setting the standard for outcomes-driven, social emotional programs for Chicago's youth.

With hope for all our children,



Michelle Adler Morrison
Chief Executive Officer



Scott Myers
Board President



How We Impact

Community & After School Programs

Youth Guidance supports positive outcomes for Chicago's students by creating year-round, school-based opportunities for student engagement, achievement, exposure and enrichment. YG's expertise in youth development and commitment to the resiliency and social/emotional maturity of youth is approached from multiple programmatic and resource-rich perspectives.

- * 4,306 students participated across 22 elementary and high schools across Chicago Public Schools
- * 93% of parents surveyed agree that their child is more engaged in school as a result of the program
- * 96% of participants were promoted to the next grade level
- * Program participation lowered drop-out rates by more than 70%
- * 95% of parents surveyed agree that the YG program provides safe, structured activities their children

Parent & Family Engagement

YG's Parent & Family Engagement Services are designed to equip parent leaders with specific skills that enhance their ability to support their children's education experience and improve school outcomes. Parents develop the capacity to support positive adult-student relationships and the creation of a safe, child-centered school climate.

- * 99 parents across 16 schools in the Englewood and Woodlawn communities were trained in educational engagement and leadership
- * 100% of Woodlawn participants and 59% of Englewood participants volunteered regularly in their schools in a variety of roles, including hall monitor and Parent Patrol (avg. 80%)
- * 85% of Woodlawn participants and 84% of Englewood participants helped their children with their homework at least 3-4 times per week (avg. 85%)

Counseling & Prevention

School-Based Counseling programs provide students with individual, group, and family counseling to address the full spectrum of issues facing at-risk youth in Chicago. **Becoming A Man** addresses six core values - integrity, accountability, self-determination, positive anger expression, visionary goal setting, and respect for women - in 30 weekly sessions designed to promote their emotional literacy, impulse control, social competence, positive peer relations and interpersonal problem solving skills.

- * 1,222 students participated in 38 schools throughout Chicago
- * 69% of students at risk of experiencing anxiety and depression gained the assets necessary to combat such distress, including increased self-esteem, optimism, and a sense of responsibility and purpose in life
- * 91% of clients report that Youth Guidance has helped them learn to try again when things didn't go as planned and to make better decisions for themselves

Project S.T.R.I.V.E. (Strategies to Rejuvenate an Interest and Value in Education), a partnership between YG, Chicago Public Schools, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, works to help wards of the state make a successful transition into adulthood and lead productive lives.

- * 301 students participated in 10 high schools, including Chicago Public Schools and suburban districts
- * Program targets at-risk students who have some involvement with child protective services
- * 77% of participants were promoted to the next grade level
- * 85% of program seniors graduated from high school

Agency-Wide

- * 6,700 students served across 72 schools

How We Impact

Youth Workforce Development

Project Prepare readies inner-city youth for high school graduation, post-secondary education, and a future of self-sufficiency. The curriculum promotes social-emotional employability skills and includes job-readiness training, job placement, retention and follow-up services, financial literacy education, and counseling/case management.

- * 317 students participated in 5 high schools
- * 97% of program seniors graduated from high school
- * Targets low-income students with significant academic and personal challenges
- * Program participation lowered drop-out rates by more than half
- * 96% of program participants were promoted to the next grade level

Youth Guidance's support has made a tremendous impact on Marshall High School's culture and climate which ultimately affects students' academic achievement. Because our students who participate in Youth Guidance programs receive emotional and social support, they are connected to the school.

— **Angel Johnson, Principal**
John Marshall Metropolitan High School



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The Youth Guidance programs and interventions have made a world of difference in the efficacy of our work to address the social emotional concerns of our students and their families.

— **Richard Lietz, Assistant Principal**
Hancock High School



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Youth Guidance continues to provide a valuable resource for the students, teachers and families of Mayo School. It is through their partnerships that we are able to address the social emotional needs of our young men through the B.A.M. program. The B.A.M. mentor is another education partner with the classroom teacher often intervening on a student's behalf and supporting the classroom teacher by encouraging the students to follow expectations.

— **Stephen D. Bournes, Principal**
William J. & Charles H. Mayo Elementary School

Our Donors

Individuals

Major Gift

Dorothy F. Cramer, mother of previous Board President Del Bloem, saw access to quality education as a fundamental, but chronically inequitably distributed, right. Her legacy includes bequests to social service organizations focused on improving education opportunities for at-risk youth including a 2012 bequest to Youth Guidance in excess of \$65,000.

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2012 Agency Highlights



Winner of the Neighborhood Builders Award

November 28, 2011—Youth Guidance was honored with the Bank of America Neighborhood Builder Award in the amount of \$200,000. Along with this capacity building grant, the agency will be provided intensive training over the next two years.



19th Annual Parent Leadership Conference

This year the Parent Leadership Conference served over 200 constituents with several days of workshops, keynote panels, and testimonials with the aim of developing leadership skills in the parents of Youth Guidance's kids.



PNC Bank Breakfast for Financial Literacy

December 14, 2011—Vice President Paul Labonne of PNC Bank grants Youth Guidance a \$25,000 check to support the delivery of financial literacy programming for Chicago youth through the Project Prepare and Community & After School Programs.



YG Students Meet President Barack Obama

January 11, 2012—Three Youth Guidance students enjoy the wonderful opportunity to meet President Barack Obama at a reception hosted in the home of Board Member Stuart Taylor. "I have literally been transformed by this experience," stated Donte Smith, a B.A.M. student from Richard T. Crane Tech Prep Common School.



BMO-Harris Gives Back with YG

A team of BMO Harris Bank employee volunteers—led by BMO Harris CEO, Mark Furlong, pictured at center, worked with YG program participants at Andrew Carnegie Elementary School to transform an unkempt corner of debris and overgrown weeds outside the school into a bright and beautiful garden and play site.

Youth Guidance Pilots Working on Womanhood

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Youth Guidance's Working on Womanhood (W.O.W.) program was piloted in 5 schools and served more than 70 at-risk females across 7 Chicago Public Schools. W.O.W. is a school-based counseling, mentoring, character development and educational enrichment program that aims to help young women gain self-worth, integrity and confidence. Promoting social emotional skills enables young women to make positive and healthy decisions in their lives, which results in a decrease in high-risk behavior. W.O.W.'s 28 weekly sessions address five core values: self-awareness, emotional intelligence, healthy relationships, visionary goal setting and leadership.



Financials

Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2012

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$196,961
Accounts Receivable, Net of Allowances	2,171,407
Prepaid Expenses	54,518
Investments	213,021
Property and Equipment	—
Total Assets	\$2,792,907

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$351,675
Accrued Expenses	148,435
Deferred Revenue	55,849
Line of Credit	—
Total Liabilities	\$1,033,438

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,826,269
Temporarily Restricted	82,049
Total Net Assets	\$1,701,232
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,734,720

Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

Revenue

Government Grants	\$6,075,601
Service Fees	1,460,582
Investment Income	20,357
Loss on Disposal of Assets	(\$40,964)
Contributions	1,509,965
Contributions - In Kind	81,319
Special Events	295,926
Other Income	15,104

Total Revenue **\$9,417,890**

Expenses

Program Services	\$7,372,611
Administrative and General	1,055,191
Fundraising	454,372

Total Expenses **\$8,882,174**

Change in Net Assets **\$535,716**

YG Success Story

B.A.M. Program Reduces Violence

A recent randomized clinical trial, the largest ever conducted with an urban youth population (nearly 2,500 adolescent boys in 18 schools in Chicago), carried out by the University of Chicago Crime Lab in partnership with Youth Guidance, World Sport Chicago and the Chicago Public Schools showed that YG's Becoming A Man Sports Edition ("B.A.M."):

- * Strengthened social-cognitive skills and generated massive declines in violent crimes by at-risk youth by over 44% during the program year
- * Significantly increased school engagement and performance and increased future graduation rates by 10-23%

Results of the study predict an overall high school graduation rate improvement of 5 to 8 percentage points - a large change given that the average graduation rate of the 50 largest urban districts in the U.S. is just 53%. The one year of reduced violent crime arrests together with schooling impacts generate benefits from the program at a rate of 3 to 31 times the cost-per-youth of the program.

Becoming a Man Statistics

- * 534 students participated in 14 elementary and high schools throughout Chicago
- * 93% of participants reported that the program instilled in them the confidence that they could graduate high school
- * 93% of program participants reported that the program helped them make better decisions for themselves
- * 93% of participants reported that they looked forward to going to school more as a result of the program





Guiding Kids to Bright Futures

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