

Y-COP NEWS

MESSAGE OF HOPE AND PERSERVERANCE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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To say that 2020 has been a year that has challenged some of our faith would certainly be an understatement. We started the year with high expectations, looking forward to organizational growth and expanding our reach. Then, suddenly in March, the world came to a complete halt and everything changed. We had no idea, at the time, of the long-term effect of the coronavirus. What we did know was that this was different. It would cause Y-COP to pivot and adjust outreach efforts to better serve the needs of Mount Vernon.

Slowly but surely we began to feel the impact of this ruthless pandemic. A few of us became seriously ill, including yours truly. Y-COP lost a beloved and very dedicated board member, Mrs. Roslyn Edwards. Her commitment to Mount Vernon's youth was unmatched. The Y-COP scholarship fund was renamed in her memory.

Despite the feeling of helplessness and uncertainty, there was an innate feeling that we should not sit still. We felt obligated to do something. In March, shortly after the shutdown, we distributed 350 Grab and Go Hot Lunches to families in the community in two weeks.

In July and August, Y-COP was only one of two camps offered in Mount Vernon. The modified camp was held for five weeks and was held completely outdoors. Children of essential workers enjoyed yoga, arts and crafts, and more.

In the first week of November, in response to parents need for childcare when they returned to work and their children were learning remotely, Y-COP created the All Day **Alternative Care and Learning Program**.

While the Y-COP mission remained the same, our purpose became even more meaningful. The entire Y-COP family worked as a team and went above and beyond to perform these herculean tasks, making sure we remained relevant in the community and raised much needed funding for programs to remain viable.

We want to thank former Westchester County Legislator, Lyndon D. Williams, for being a true advocate and friend of Y-COP and for always being a champion of our efforts. We wish him the best of luck as he transitions into the role of City Court Judge in Mount Vernon.

Finally, I want to thank you, our many donors and sponsors for the outpouring of support this year. Because of your generosity, Y-COP was able to provide partial scholarships to parents who would not otherwise be able to send their children to Y-COP. ***We hope you will consider making a donation to the Annual Appeal so Y-COP can continue to serve this community!***

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS!



Greater Hudson Valley (NY) chapter of The LINKS, Inc. hosted an etiquette class for Y-COP's youth ages nine to 13. LINKS provided table settings and taught youth how to use the utensils and when.

COPING IN THIS TIME OF COVID-19

BY DONNA K. BROWN, MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

I began to write a few paragraphs to share my COVID-19 story, but I realized that our parents of Y-COP and their ongoing battle with this pandemic is the only relevant story. I won't try to offer advice in these words. I want to acknowledge the distress and ongoing struggles our Y-COP parents are facing, so that they and everyone reading this will know, they (our parents) are not alone.

In the beginning, our problems were basic, paying the rent or mortgage, the electric bill, etc. Then suddenly feeding our families became an issue. Our children were home 24-hours a day binge-eating. Shortages of milk, cereal, meats, cleaning products, and the silliness of no toilet paper became a way of life. Jobs shut down indefinitely. We struggled for weeks trying to get through to unemployment. Some of us were ashamed to sign up for help. We had to find space and resources to work and teach (our children) at home. Our computers and laptops had to share duties of work and school.

Ill-prepared caregivers were thrust into the challenges of homeschooling. Schools offered help with equipment and internet service, but the help was often delayed or ineffective. Zoom calls for classes?? The PC has no working camera. Do you use your cell phone? Some kids had to sign into multiple classes everyday and heaven forbid if you have more than one or two children in various schools. All this, while locked inside together under one roof. AAARRRGGGHHH!!! We miss the fellowship of religious services. Now we have virtual doctor visits. No dropping the kids off to the grandparents and for nearly four months, no Y-COP.

We could not stand idly by when the need for help was blinding. The way was not clear, but the necessity was. It was time to stop worrying and to get to work. A few things have improved slightly, some of us are back at work, and many, if not most, are working decreased hours. School mandates change from week to week, day-to-day. Sports, then no sports; virtual learning versus in person learning; special needs children are without key services; the internet is up, down or crashing. School officials claiming children are missing classes or are not completing their assignments. Staying focused and on task is a real concern. Supervision is minimal. Parents are forced to make the heart-breaking choice between working, homeschooling, homelessness and hunger. These are not, nor should they be, viable options.

As we improvise, adapt, and overcome on a daily basis, we know there is a glimmer of hope at the end of the tunnel, not just surviving but thriving. Rest assured, you are not alone. Y-COP is a family united and we are all in this together.

However you need us, Y-COP is here for you.



Y-COP's 2020 Summer Camp, held completely outdoors, was safe, fun, and a great way to reconnect.

Y-COP's FIFTH ANNUAL VIRTUAL GALA WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

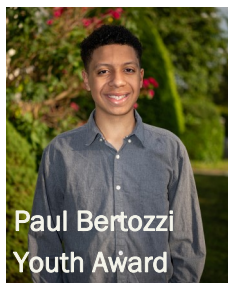
Y-COP raised more than \$40,000 at its fifth annual gala to support partial scholarships for After School, Alternative Care, Out of School Care, Girls' Empowerment, Youth Development Basketball, Counselors-in-Training, and Summer Day Camp, teen mentoring and community service and outreach programs.

Last year, Y-COP hosted 300 guests, standing room only, in a reception hall. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state government mandates on social distancing, the gala committee, chaired by Monique L. Harding, had to adjust its program. Although there was no dinner, no dancing, and no raffles, the show had to go on! On September 30, 2020, Taryn Duffy, Vice President of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, and John Witherspoon, Y-COP Board Member, co-hosted the Y-COP's virtual gala. It was recorded live at Alvin & Friends Restaurant in New Rochelle. About 40 guests were invited to a watch party at the venue. Some had the exclusive opportunity to go in the backroom where they had to maintain studio silence and watch Taryn and John record live on camera.

Y-COP's annual gala is not only its largest annual fundraiser to help offset program costs, it also serves as an opportunity to recognize those who support Y-COP in its effort to increase program offerings to better meet the needs of the community. This year's honorees included Paul Bertozzi, Donna Brown, Dwayne Brown, Dalan Chisholm, Howard Feigenbaum, Alfonzo Grimes, and Kathy Halas.

The gala had an online art auction with work from local artists and a virtual journal. The journal featured the bios of the honorees and advertisements from businesses that we hope you would support like they have supported Y-COP to help keep program rates low and affordable for working parents.

The hour-long presentation can be viewed on Y-COP's website at [Y-COPMVNY.ORG](https://ycopmvny.org). Or you may go to youtube and search for the Youth Community Outreach Program. Please click on the **Red** subscribe button.



Paul Bertozzi
Youth Award



Donna Brown
Above & Beyond



Dwayne Brown
Business Support



Dalan Chisholm
Youth Award



Howard Feigenbaum
Volunteer Award



Alfonzo Grimes
Legacy Award



Kathy Halas
Educator Award



Watch party guests: Daniel Lang, Deputy Mayor of Tuckahoe, NY.; Daniel Bernstein, Executive Director of Backyard Sports; Mel Campos, CPO of the Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club; and Windy Fong, Y-COP Board Member.



2020 Y-COP Honoree Donna Brown (Center) with her family, enjoying the evening. L-R: Denver, Jacinta, Josh, and Kailee



Taryn Duffy and Y-COP Board Member John Witherspoon did an amazing job co-hosting Y-COP's first-ever virtual gala. Below, Taryn and John are with Y-COP's 2020 Gala Chair Monique L. Harding.





In early 2020, Y-COP served 60+ school aged children in the After School Program, providing tutoring, transportation, enrichment activities, snack and a nutritious meal.



Programs

- *After School**
- *Out-of-School**
- *Summer Camp**
- *Youth Development Basketball**
- *Counselor-in-Training**
- *Girls Empowerment Group**
- *Alternative Care & Learning Program**

2020 ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

Through your generous support, Y-COP has served Mount Vernon and the surrounding communities since 2012 through a variety of youth programs, parent workshops and community service projects. Please help Y-COP's mission to better serve the community's needs by giving generously to the Annual Appeal Campaign by December 31, 2020.

When you give of your Time, Talents, and Treasures it makes a measurable difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve. It is through your generosity that Y-COP is able to provide programs, to meet the challenges head on, and to remain relevant in the lives of so many in Mount Vernon. Please continue to support our efforts.

THANK YOU!!!

THIS IS HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS Y-COP HELP THE COMMUNITY

- 350 Families were served hot grab & go lunches during the height of the pandemic in March.
- 25 Campers, ages six to 13 years old, enjoyed five weeks of a completely outdoor summer camp with arts and crafts, yoga, and social distancing
- 15 Children, ages six to 13 years old, are participating in an All Day Alternative Care & Learning Program with a teacher to host remote learning while their parents physically return to the workplace
- \$50 provides PPE equipment and supplies for one week
- \$100 provides Arts and Crafts supplies for one month
- \$500 covers meals for All Day Learning Program and afterschool for one month for 25 students
- \$1,500 will help provide partial scholarships for two months for a family who would not otherwise be able to afford to send their deserving children to Y-COP programs

Help keep Y-COP programs affordable, make partial scholarships available, and expand program offerings to better serve the community's needs. **Please go to [YCOPMVNY.ORG](https://ycopmvny.org) > SUPPORT > GIVE TO Y-COP to make you donation today.** *Your donation makes it possible for Y-COP to help the community! THANK YOU!*

MAKING YOUR DONATION WORK, WHERE IT WAS NEEDED MOST



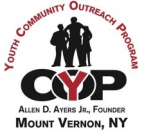
350 Hot Grab and Go lunches were distributed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Thank you to volunteers Howard L. Feigenbaum (not pictured), Robert “Buddy” Scholpp, Thomas “Tommy” Moran, Bruce Tanner, and Jared Apuzzo. Lines were assembled with markers for social distancing to keep volunteers and families safe. Meals included chicken parmesan with pasta, chicken nuggets and fries, and assorted sandwiches and soup.



After the state government mandated shutdown of the After School Program in March 2020, 25 children were overjoyed to see their friends, Y-COP staff they missed and be outdoors for the five-week summer camp session.



In November 2020, Y-COP started offering an All-Day Alternative Care and Learning Program, followed by the After School Program. Children are seated ten feet apart while attending their virtual classrooms with a teacher present to facilitate learning. As parents must return to the workplace and various school districts only offering remote learning, Y-COP provides childcare in a safe and nurturing environment.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS

Janelle Allbritton
Albert Aldrich
Mecca Alim
Judge Adrian Armstrong
AM Media Group, Inc.
John & Lisa Anderson
Jared Apuzzo
Roberta Apuzzo
Ascension Church of Mount Vernon
Allen D. Ayers, Jr. (**Founder**)
Andrea Ayers
Dottie Ayers
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Samuel Blakley
Gregory Bonaparte
Rev. Tisha Branch
Shayne Brooks
Donna K. Brown
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Benjamin Grimes
Doris Grimes
Donna Gonzalez
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Zolaida Guzman
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Kathy Halas
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Kelly Johnson
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Andre Ortiz Jones
Cynthia Turnquest Jones
Steve Kalas
Suri Kasirer
Terry Kean

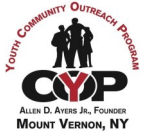


We were honored to have Craig Young, National Business Development Executive of Merrill Lynch, as one of our many guest speakers this year.

Tom Gabrielle, CEO of The United Way of Westchester, visited the After School Program and discussed the importance of volunteering.



Volunteer Trudy Hollis takes the temperature of Mount Vernon Mayor Shawn Patterson-Howard before visiting the summer camp.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS

Susan Kim
Paul & Kristin Krauskopf
Josh & Jacinta Kroner
Ja-Zhyon Laing
Daniel & Jennifer Lang
Jesemia Lawrence & Family
George Lence
Suzette Lennard
John Lockett
Sharon Patterson Lockett
Robin Mack
Macy's-White Plains
Krista Mann
Barry Mason
Dr. Wanda McCoy
Gloria McCurdy
Michael McDermott
Brigitte McLeod-Williams
Dr. Ernest & Vonnelle Middleton
Hillary Millman
Michael Minihan
Ron and Velma Mitchell
Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club
Mount Vernon Chamber Commerce
Mount Vernon DPW
Mount Vernon Health Center
Mount Vernon Heights Church
Mount Vernon Police Department
Patrice Wallace Moore
Thomas Moran

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Kwame Ndzibah
Tracy Ann Nelson
Karyn Nicholson
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North Partners Inc.
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Ronald Outlaw
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Commissioner Glen Scott
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Annesa Seemungal
Maxine M. Seemungal
Karen Senior
David Severance
Murray Shor
Eda Sibblies
Lee Smith Insurance Agency
Patrick Smith
Julio & Marilena Sophia
Vin Spadafora
Darlene Spencer
Robert Spillane
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Debra & Carl Strand
Roy & Jean Streete
[Vincent Stufano](#)
Bruce Tanner
Gregory & Yvonne Taylor
Karen Thomas

[Yolanda Trotman](#)
United Methodist Women of the
First United Methodist Church,
Mount Vernon
David Vaughn
Verry Velma's Party Shop
Elaine Villani
[Jennifer Vodrazka](#)
Volunteers of New York
Maiysha Warren
The Wartburg
[Nancy Wasserman](#)
David Watson
[Leadership Westchester-Class of 2019](#)
Jim "Bujo" & Pauline Williams
Honorable Lyndon D. Williams
Frank Williamson
[John Witherspoon](#)
Rick Wolff, WFAN Radio
Lester Woodley
Valencia Brown-Wyatt
Karen Watts-Yehudah
Craig Young

[Blue names are Y-COP Board Members](#)



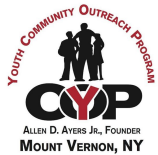
Howard Feigenbaum and Yuhanna Edwards always volunteer whenever we need them. Thank you!



Donna Jackson and daughters Layla and Zuri donated five iPad Minis to Y-COP. Also pictured is Donna Brown, Development and Outreach Manager



Westchester County Executive George Latimer arranged for bags of masks, hand sanitizers for distribution at the completely outdoor Summer Day Camp



Y-COP of Mount Vernon
227 East Lincoln Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10552

THANK YOU to our 2020 Sponsors. Your support allowed Y-COP to meet the community's needs



Your gift makes a difference in the lives of those Y-COP serves.
To become a sponsor, please go to YCOPMVNY.ORG >
SUPPORT > VOLUNTEER & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.
Thank you for your generosity.