

Y-COP

Volume 8, Issue 1

December 2022

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

A YEAR OF GROWTH TO BUILD ON!

2023 Upcoming Events

- ♦ **March-TBD**
Board Networking Event
- ♦ **April 22nd**
Pancake Scholarship Breakfast
- ♦ **May 20th**
- Arts & Crafts Fair
- ♦ **-Youth Development Basketball Tournament**
- ♦ **June 10th**
"Kickin it in the Kitchen for Kids"
- ♦ **July 3rd**
Summer Camp begins
- ♦ **July 14th**
Dinner sale fundraiser
- ♦ **September 11th**
1st day of After School
- ♦ **September 28th**
8th Annual Gala Event
- ♦ **November 22nd**
Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner
- ♦ **December 22nd**
Annual Toy Drive & Christmas Party

Our generous Sponsors are proudly displayed on the back page.

Y-COP certainly has a lot to be proud of, 2022 was a year of phenomenal growth, where new relationships were developed, cultivated, and enhanced. Inside this issue you will read about the return of the youth development basketball program and how more than 75 boys and girls found refuge on the weekends in a safe environment.

You'll learn about the rebuilding of the summer camp program and the faith-based institutions that stepped up and contributed to the summertime success. Not to be overlooked is the incredible effort on the part of Y-COP's dedicated staff and volunteers in the reshaping of the after-school program, where a variety of enrichment activities were implemented, enrollment increased, and more parents became actively involved.

In February 2022, Y-COP was honored to be recognized by the New Flex Youth Organization with the Allen D. Ayers, Jr. (Y-COP Founder) Community Service Award. Y-COP and New Flex share like-minded missions which makes this award even more gratifying.

In September, Y-COP held its 7th Annual Benefit and Recognition Event at the Gatz Conference Center at Wartburg and proudly presented seven individuals with well-deserved awards for their outstanding work and involvement with Y-COP and the communities in which they live and work. Meet them on page 4.



The year was capped off with the Annual Christmas Toy Give Away on December 23rd. There was something for everyone. More than 150 families were blessed with toys, plush comforters and linen from the Brooklinen company; food care packages

from our community-wide food drive was prepared and distributed. Dozens of and new and gently used winter coats were handed out thanks to our partners at PCSB Bank's Affinity Group for organizing the coat drive throughout all their branches in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Volunteers came from near and far to help serve hot chocolate and popcorn, help with gift wrapping and Christmas decorations.



Y-COP staff, board members and volunteers are excited and energized of the year ahead and look forward to working with the many partners

throughout Westchester County, and continue to bring quality programs and opportunities to youth and their families. Visit YCOPMVNY.ORG or our social media platforms facebook, twitter, and Instagram, and TikTok to learn more about Y-COP.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In the aftermath of the George Floyd murder in 2020, Michael Santiago Render, aka Rapper “Killer Mike”, put forth a challenge to communities of color to Plot, Plan, Strategize, Organize and Mobilize.

PLOT

This mandate from Killer Mike resonated with me loudly, so I began to use this as a model for Y-COP and a platform to create real change.

PLAN

Last year, a concerted and intentional plan was set to forth to increase enrollment, reimagine the after-school program, expand our summer camp sites, attract new donors and sponsors, implement new programs, explore new opportunities, and perhaps, more importantly, invest in staff’s talents through continual education and training.

STRATEGIZE

All that Y-COP has accomplished since 2012, and certainly during the pandemic, has been the result of the tangible and intangible contributions of so many individual donors, staff and board members, corporate and community partners, elected officials, faith-based institutions, volunteers, youth and many, many families throughout Westchester County. Our lives are not defined by events or circumstances, rather by our resilience, purpose, and how we improve the quality of life in our community.

ORGANIZE

We have a responsibility to do as much as we can to create opportunities for our youth that will nurture and empower them, subsequently allowing them to embrace a future of endless possibilities. We have a responsibility to bring individuals and groups of all backgrounds to foster a forum where we can learn not only to tolerate, but to accept, and respect, our differences as well as to identify, acknowledge, and appreciate our similarities.

MOBILIZE

As members of this society, we are all called to address the physical, mental, social, emotional, and educational well-being of all our children as they are the future leaders of our community. I thank YOU for your trust, time, talents, and treasures to make all this possible. None of this is possible without your support. Your support allows Y-COP to teach our youth life skills, to be resourceful, and to be community-oriented. By giving our youth the tools and armor, they need to be persistent, resilient, to better manage conflict, and to feel confident when challenged, our youth can have pride in themselves, discover their true purpose, and find value in their lives.

From all of us at Y-COP, we wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Henry Wilson

SUMMER DAY CAMP — 3 Sites * 175 Campers & CIT’s * 5-16 year’s old



As Y-COP operates without its own facility, Y-COP established partnerships with several faith based institutions to assist with the growing summer camp program. First Presbyterian Church (left) housed our 5-7 year old Hummingbirds/Red Robins; the First United Methodist Church (top right) was home to the 8-10 year old Blue Jays and the 14-16 year old Falcons, and the Church of the Ascension (bottom right) accommodated the 11-13 year old Golden Eagles.



WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER



Top Photos: *Annual Pancake Scholarship Breakfast.*

Middle Photos: *Kickin' it in the Kitchen for Kids*

Bottom Photos: *End of the Year Community-wide Toy Give-Away and Christmas Party*

Y-COP'S 7TH ANNUAL GALA—A BIG SUCCESS!

Y-COP's 7th Annual Benefit and Recognition Gala was held on September 29th at the Wartburg-Gatz Conference in Mount Vernon, NY, one of Westchester County's top nursing and rehabilitation centers, and Mount Vernon's best kept secret with its beautifully decorated campus. The event raised more than \$40,000 for Y-COP youth programs and services that directly touch the lives of nearly 400 boys and girls 5 -16 years old annually. **Taryn Duffy**, (left) Vice President Public Affairs, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts surprised onlookers with a check for \$10,000, matching their gift they made the previous year. Also pictured are **Henry Wilson** (center) and Mayor **Shawyn Patterson Howard** of Mount Vernon, NY (right)



The gala is Y-COP's largest fundraiser of the year, where generous donors make it possible to provide partial scholarships to youth whose families would not otherwise be able to afford to enroll them. More than 150 guests attended in person, and several dozen attended on Facebook, YouTube and on the Y-COP web-site.

The gala's theme, ***Building, Growing, Achieving***, reflects the resiliency, determination and accomplishments of Y-COP in 2022. Y-COP could not grow into a successful organization without the help of many supportive partners and dedicated volunteers who trust the vision and mission and provide their time, talents, and treasures.

Several Y-COP friends and supporters were recognized for their service and work they do on behalf of Y-COP: Tashawny Hunter, *Youth of the Year*; Vincent Cummings & Helene Getz, *Volunteers of the Year*; Blakley Equipment, *Business Support*; Cynthia Turnquest Jones, *Educator of the Year*; Kevin Bunch, *Above and Beyond*; and

Daniel Fearon, *Legacy Award*. Read more about the honorees at YCOPMVNY.ORG.



Thank you to event sponsors: DNK Events, Cheerful Spirit, Fleetwood Deli Café, PCSB Bank, Wartburg, Meridian Risk Management, Terrapin Restaurant, First United Methodist Church, Hollingsworth Real Estate Group, and Comrie Enterprises. Special shout out to the youth who contributed to the video production and who served as youth ambassadors the evening of the event.

SAVE THE DATE:

8th Annual Benefit & Recognition Gala
Thursday, September 28th, 2023
Greentree Country Club
New Rochelle, NY



Y-COP YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BASKETBALL PROGRAM

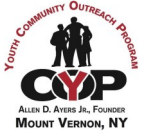


Every Saturday afternoon, about 50 boys and girls five to 16 years of age, from Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Yonkers and the Bronx learn the fundamentals of basketball through skills development, training, and conditioning, at the First United Methodist Church on Lincoln Avenue .



Youth are taught the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, character development, and respect. After months of training and several scrimmages against other youth teams, the eager youth are divided into four different teams and compete against each other in a six-week tournament that culminates in a highly competitive championship game in May. Every participant receives certificates, medals, and trophies.





A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS

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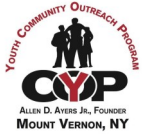
Jesemia Lawrence

Larry Lawrence

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DONATE
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YOU!!!**



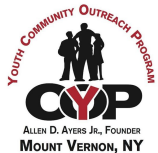
It's never too early to start preparing for Summer Camp. Support our Summer Camp Appeal. Your generous donation is more than an investment, it's an investment in the future of our community.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS

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Y-COP of Mount Vernon
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