



WATERBURY YOUTH SERVICES



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: July 2022 - June 2023

*Guiding youth to discover their unique talents
and potential for success - One Life at a Time*

LETTER FROM OUR INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

When pausing to reflect on our journey over the past year, a singular, powerful theme stands out: collaboration. It's a force that has intertwined our paths, shaping the landscapes of both the Waterbury Youth Services (WYS) and the Greater Waterbury YMCA.

Throughout this period, our combined approach has showcased the beauty and strength of unity in action. The synchronicity between the dedicated teams at WYS, helmed by our Interim Director, and the committed staff at the YMCA has crafted a narrative of shared purpose and collective achievement.

More than just pooling resources, our collaboration has been about blending visions, philosophies, and missions. It's been about recognizing and celebrating the distinct qualities each of us brings, resulting in enriched, encompassing services that resonate with diverse community needs.

Our collective efforts have always been centered around enhancing the lives of those we serve. Be it the child discovering enriching activities, the adult utilizing valuable resources, or families forging memories at community events – we've together enriched lives. Diane Teixeira, our Board President, has been the guiding force behind our collaboration. Her leadership promotes teamwork, shared dreams, and common goals.

As we set our sights on the horizon, we're invigorated by the potential of deepening our collaborative ties further. We envision a future shaped by relentless innovation, sustained partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to our community. The canvas of what lies ahead, painted with our combined efforts, is expansive and promising.

With an exciting year ahead, filled with new initiatives and deeper engagements, we promise to stay steadfast in our mission. Our commitment to you remains – to consistently deliver services that are impactful, meaningful, and accessible.

In parting, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. To every member, staff, volunteer, donor, and supporter - your faith in the transformative power of collaboration fuels us. Thank you for entrusting us with the task of carving out a brighter, collaborative future.

Moving forward, together,



Jim O'Rourke
Interim Executive Director



Diane Teixeira
Board President



Youth showing off their handmade Holiday cards for UPSTARTERS Card Making Contest for United Way of Greater Waterbury.



In addition to our regular programs...

1,300 students were equipped with essential tools for a successful academic year at our 25th annual *Back to School Rally*. Waterbury Youth Services took the lead in hosting and coordinating the event, with valuable collaboration from the City of Waterbury and the Department of Education.

50 families in need received complete Thanksgiving dinners in our annual *Turkey Drive*, thanks to the generous support of KBE Building Corporation. Each package included a turkey, pie, baking pan, and delectable side dishes.

133 children from 49 families received presents in our annual *Holiday Toy Store*. Thanks to our generous partners, families came to select age-appropriate gifts, spreading joy for the holiday season.

22 participants proudly graduated from our POWER program, with 5 of them opening their own licensed daycares. The POWER program is dedicated to instilling self-determination and equipping its participants with the skills needed for a thriving career in childcare.

86 youth experienced glamour and generosity thanks to our annual *Perfect Prom Project*. With the combined assistance of WYS and dedicated volunteers, attendees chose from a selection of donated new and gently used prom wear, including gowns, suits/tuxedos, jewelry, shoes, and other accessories, all free of charge.

Pictured above: Our 2023-2023 POWER graduates.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Diane G. Teixeira
 Vice President, Kelly Mannix Pinho
 Secretary, Janice Paul
 Treasurer, Justin Golden
 Immediate Past President, Mark Lancor
 John Betkoski III
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 Katiana Smith
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 Lourdes Amaris
 Luis Aguilar
 Olivia Dudley
 Patrick Keenan
 Paula Martin
 Rasheeda Latch
 Samantha Santos
 Shenquaya Clements
 Stacey Rubinfeld
 Tangerine Rhinehart
 Tatiana Ramos
 Yamilet Castillo

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Greetings,

As I reflect on the fiscal year 2022-2023, the word that resonates most with me is 'resilience'. This year, Waterbury Youth Services has been a beacon of hope, growth, and unwavering dedication to the communities we serve, especially to the youth and their families. With the turnover of several senior staff and the formation of a new executive team, our team, during this period of transition and growth, demonstrated adaptability and a commitment to excellence. The transition within our team allowed new perspectives to merge seamlessly with our longstanding values. Together, we carried our mission forward and upward with unmatched tenacity.

Our statistics only tell part of the story: serving over 800 youth through our 16 diverse programs; celebrating the silver jubilee of our Annual Back To School Rally, which saw over 1,000 enthusiastic participants; and making festive seasons brighter with our Turkey Distribution, Holiday Community Toy Store, and the Prom Project. Beyond these numbers lies the tangible impact we've made on individual lives, with youth finding a safe haven in which to learn, connect, and grow at Waterbury Youth Services.

Our partnerships and active roles in community committees have further enriched our network, amplifying the resources available to those we serve. Through programs aimed at parent education and support, we have witnessed families becoming stronger and more cohesive. Observing our youth acquire life skills, from professional qualifications like nursing certifications to personal milestones such as gaining American citizenship, has been nothing short of inspiring.

However, none of this would have been possible without our indomitable team. Their passion, expertise, and sheer willpower have been the backbone of our successes this year. Their commitment has ensured that our young people continue to receive the tools they need to transition into adulthood confidently.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our friends-partners, funders, donors, and the community at large. A very special thank you to Jim O'Rourke and his team at the Waterbury YMCA for their support throughout this year. Your unwavering faith in the work that Waterbury Youth Services does has been our guiding light.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to evolving, innovating, and most importantly, serving. Here's to another year of positive impact, growth, and resilience.



Left: Rasheeda Latch, Juvenile Justice Team Leader, Olivia Dudley, Director of Program Operations, and Dominiqua Bethea, Positive Development Team Leader.

To our continued journey,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Olivia Dudley".

Olivia Dudley
Director of Program Operations

PROGRAMS

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- Linking Academics to Life
- PROUD-LGBTQ+ Support Group
- Study and Transcend Institutional Racism (STIR)
- REAL Mentoring
- Summer Camp

HIGHLIGHTS

Providing youth with opportunities to nurture their interests and voices in a safe, positive environment, our Positive Youth Development Team launched a new program named STIR. As part of this program, several youth visited the African American Museum in Washington, DC. The initiative aimed to empower them to bring about positive change in their communities while fostering an appreciation and understanding of the history of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). The LAL program undertook impactful projects that included establishing their own businesses and creating artwork, one of which celebrated black hair. They also studied and illustrated current trends in and around Waterbury. Continuing our collaboration with the YMCA, the team reintroduced our LGBTQ+ Support Group as PROUD. Over 100 youth were able to participate in our free summer programming through our Summer Camp at Kiwanis Camp.

CLINICAL TEAM

- Youth & Family Emergency Services (YFES)
 - Crisis Counseling
 - Homeless Youth Resource Center
 - Project Safe Place
 - Supervised Visitations
- Community Housing Assistance Program & Community Housing Employment Enrichment Program (CHAP/CHEER)

HIGHLIGHTS

Our Clinical Team provided essential services to over 50 youth, encompassing court-ordered supervisions, counseling, and support for youth and families facing homelessness. Over 20 young adults, transitioning from foster care, were empowered through the CHAP/CHEER program. This program aids those aged 18-23 in goal-setting, pursuing higher education, career exploration, life skill development, and fostering independence. The Homeless Youth Resource Center was utilized throughout the year to create a safe space for youth in need, while also providing basic necessities, including hygiene products, gently used clothing, and food.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TEAM

- Juvenile Review Board
- Truancy Prevention
- REBOOT (Out of School Suspension)
- Local Interagency Service Team Meeting (LIST)
- Racial & Ethnic Disparities Meeting (RED)

HIGHLIGHTS

Elevating restorative justice, our Juvenile Justice Team conducted specialized trainings in victim engagement, trauma-

informed approaches, and mediation, benefiting staff, local partners, and regional JRBs. Through collaborative panels, we extended support to over 180 Waterbury youth. In Fiscal Year 2022-23, our out-of-school suspension program held daily behavioral groups and connected with teachers and staff to support youth enrolled in the program. Importantly, 89% of referred youth actively participated in our out-of-school suspension program. Of these, an impressive 90% attended REBOOT only once, highlighting the program's immediate and lasting impact. In our LIST/RED meetings, we continued to analyze data and hold courageous conversations about Restorative Justice. To honor the commendable progress of our youth, we concluded with an end-of-year ceremony, celebrating their improved school attendance.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

HIGHLIGHTS

The Child Advocacy Center worked collaboratively to investigate and prosecute over 160 cases in which child sexual abuse or serious physical abuse was alleged or suspected. The team continued to provide onsite forensic interviews, medical exams, mental health services, and victim advocacy.



Youth showing off books they received from generous donor Waterbury Reads.

2023 FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

FISCAL SUMMARY

WATERBURY YOUTH SERVICES INC. UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

July 2022 - June 2023

| Income | Total |
|--|----------------|
| Total 40000 PROGRAM-CONTRACT FUNDING | \$1,659,817.23 |
| Total 43400 DIRECT PUBLIC SUPPORT | \$12,345.23 |
| Total 45000 INVESTMENTS | \$3.16 |
| Total 48000 FUNDRAISING-FUND DEVELOPMENT | \$5,521.89 |
| Total Income | \$1,698,041.91 |
| Expenses | Total |
| Total 51000 SALARIES | \$623,665.76 |
| Total 52000 FRINGE BENEFITS | \$71,230.03 |
| Total 53000 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | \$173,796.23 |
| Total 54000 TRANSPORTATION | \$21,161.08 |
| Total 55000 MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES | \$66,980.10 |
| Total 56000 FACILITIES | \$6,771.75 |
| Total 57000 CAPITAL EXPENSE | \$46,476.00 |
| Total 58000 OTHER EXPENSE | \$164,079.68 |
| 71002 Admin & Gen Salaries Allocation | 190,162.60 |
| 71003 Admin and Gen Fringe Benefits Allocation | 33,066.28 |
| 71004 Admin & Gen Expense Allocation | 355,619.71 |
| 71005 Admin & Gen Expense Allocation-ARPA Indirect Costs | 6,283.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,759,292.22 |
| Net Operating Income | (61,250.30) |

**WE SERVED
MORE THAN
800 YOUTH
AND THEIR
FAMILIES**



A dedicated mentor visiting two of his mentees at WYS as part of our mentoring program.

FUNDERS, DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Academy DiCapelli
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All Points Media LLC
AmazonSmile
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Andrew Harris
Anthony Polito
Better Homes & Gardens Realty-Bannon & Hebert
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Child Health & Development Institute
City of Waterbury
City of Waterbury Board of Education
City Mission
Comcast
Connecticut Community Foundation
Connecticut Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Connecticut Judicial Branch
Connecticut Department of Corrections
Connecticut Youth Services Association (CYSA)
D'Amico & Pettinicchi LLC
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Department of Children & Families (DCF)
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Hartford Youth Services
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Webster Bank
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Workers Comp
Zackin Zimyeski Sullivan CPA, LLC

**We apologize for any errors on our Funders, Donors, & Supporters list. Please contact us at 203-573-0264 or jperrin@waterburyyouthservices.org for corrections.*



Group photo of staff and youth during our annual Holiday party for youth enrolled in WYS programs.

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THE VOICES OF OUR YOUTH

“WYS emotionally and mentally supported me at my lowest. They helped me understand that it's okay to look for help and not feel embarrassed about being transparent with myself and others. I now know that there is always someone willing to listen.”



“My experience in STIR has been very positive. I definitely learned a lot from the book, ‘*Stamped*’ which we read and discussed. Our discussions were dynamic and passionate. It’s very eye opening to see that your personal experience isn’t much different than someone else’s and also to learn about aspects of history that aren’t really addressed specifically. It’s a way to not only expand your knowledge on things but also a way to change your way of thinking on certain aspects. The Washington, DC trip built on the knowledge and experiences we learned and had in class and helped the book ‘*Stamped*’ to visually come to life.”



“I like Reboot. I like that I can talk about my feelings, and group is my favorite part. Being in the group helped me feel like I was not alone. Catching up on my schoolwork has been the best part.”

**THANK
YOU**

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS



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