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 G. 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.
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.

To our continued journey,

Olivia Dudley
Director of Program Operations

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

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**

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<th>Income</th>
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**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
Advanced Benefit Solutions
Albert Bros.
All Points Media LLC
AmazonSmile
American Savings Foundation
Andrew Harris
Anthony Polito
Better Homes & Gardens Realty-Bannon & Hebert
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Bridgeport Youth Services
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Child & Family Guidance Center
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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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Employers Reference Source Inc.
Eversource Energy Foundation
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Frankies
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George & Michelle Marnelakis
Geraldine Reardon
Gloria Amheim
Governors Prevention Partnership
Hartford Youth Services
HNTB
Ion Bank Foundation
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Jacie Paul
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Jill Sloane
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John L. Rinaldi
Jonathan Cruz
Joseph Gallo
Joyce P. Lyons
Justin Golden & Golden Technology Services, Inc.
Just for Right Now Corporation Inc.
Kathleen Deschenes
Kathleen Lombardo
KBE Building Corporation
Keith Atkinson
Kelly Mannix Pinho
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Laura Cummings
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Lindsay Donston
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Luke Connelly
Lynn M. Funk
M & T Charitable Foundation
Mark & Cynthia DePecol
Marine Corp Toys for Tots
Mark Lancor & Dymar Inc
MacDermid Enthone Industrial Solutions
Main Street Waterbury
Margaret Majesko
Mary Assad
Mary Ann Barone
Marybeth Zaremski
Michael Bouches
Michael Goralski
Minnella Tramuta & Edwards
Miranda Lorusso
M.J. Daly LLC
Morin
Naugatuck Chamber of Commerce
Nicholas Goodson & Premium 93
Northwest Community Bank
NSI/Total IT Support
Ocean State Job Lot
Oppenheimer
Patricia O’Rourke
Patrick DiDomizio
Penwood Realty Advisors Inc.
Peoples United Community Foundation
Peter Morcey
Philip Willis
Randee Hickey
Ray Bhatia
Russell Meservey
Ryan Russell
Sacred Heart Church of Southbury
Savings Bank of Danbury
Schwab Charitable Foundation
Shardz Blizzard
SMA Manufacturing
Taft School
TD Bank
Thomaston Savings Bank
UCONN 4H
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
United Way of Greater Waterbury
United Way of Massachusetts
Vianney DeLeon
Waterbury Country Club
Waterbury Hospital
Waterbury Regional Chamber
Waterbury Strong
Waternet Foundation
WATR
WB Mason
Webster Bank
Wesley Wensek
William Kenny Associates, LLC.
William McCarthy
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 jjperrin@waterburyoutuerservices.org for corrections.

Group photo of staff and youth during our annual Holiday party for youth enrolled in WYS programs.
THE VOICES OF OUR YOUTH

STIR

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.

REBOOT

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.

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.
FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS

Waterbury Youth Services
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