



READY, SET, THRIVE

IMPACT REPORT 2014

CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT

The YMCA has a long history of strengthening communities through intentional and positive youth work. Ninety years ago, the motto “Building Boys is Better Than Mending Men” made this focus clear.

Today, this philosophy’s spirit lives on in the vision statement: “We serve relentlessly with our community until all can thrive in each stage of life.” But this journey to whole-community well-being still begins with healthy youth development.

What it takes to thrive can be different for each, but there are a few developmental needs common to all children:

- Learning opportunities within safe, supportive space
- Healthy, social interactions with peers
- Positive adult mentors in whom youth can trust

Before these more complex needs can be addressed, however, basic needs must first be met. Without stable housing and regular access to nutritious meals, youth struggle to focus in school and maintain healthy relationships, starting a snowball effect of challenges and barriers.

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities works to ensure basic needs are being met and instill confidence and positive habits that can inspire success in young people that will carry into adulthood.

These programs include the Harold Mezile North Community YMCA Youth & Teen Enrichment Center, two school-based enrichment programs—Beacons in Minneapolis and School Success in St. Paul—and Youth Intervention Services, a diverse platform of social services tailored to serve the needs of youth in the Twin Cities metro.

Within each of these, youth play an active role—not only as participants, but also as leaders and thought-partners in the development of new program offerings.

These progressive leadership opportunities encourage youth to become deeply engaged as stakeholders and, by extension, as community leaders.



Photo Credit: Kautz Family Archive

thrive (v.) to grow
or develop vigorously

SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE

Through generous support from the American Heart Association, summer participants at the Harold Mezile North Community YMCA Youth & Teen Enrichment Center got their hands dirty in a new indoor vertical garden!

The kids planted a variety of vegetables and spices, many of which were incorporated into fun nutrition lessons.

As the plants grew, so too did the excitement, giving many kids their first glimpse into the magical world of gardening.

This is just one of many creative ways we put investment dollars to work, giving the kids of our communities access to the unique enrichment activities and opportunities all kids deserve.



Matt Klorstad
Executive Director

DISCOVER OUR IMPACT!

Beacons/School Success



The Minneapolis Beacons Network and St. Paul's School Success programs transform public schools into active youth centers, offering free enrichment programs after school and in the summer that encourage youth to become lifelong learners and leaders.

To impact the national opportunity gap, YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities partnered with Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) and the YMCA of the USA to offer the Power Scholar Academy, an enrichment program that closely tracks personal and academic achievement outcomes.

Youth Intervention Services



First created to impact homeless youth populations in the Twin Cities, Youth Intervention Services offers a platform of supportive services that target young people experiencing barriers as a result of homelessness or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems.

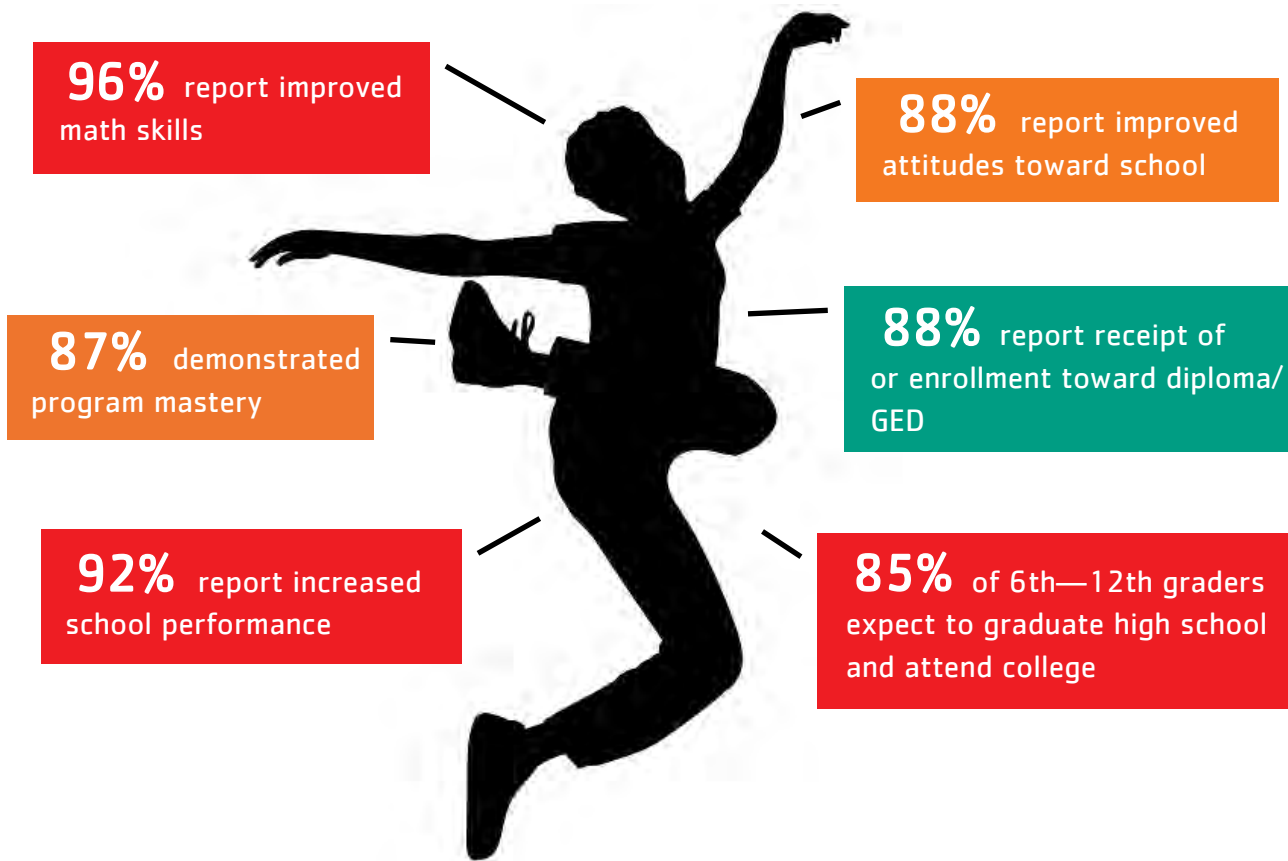
These strengths-based programs are tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual and community they serve, focusing on life coaching, community outreach, basic-needs support, and education/employment outcomes.

Harold Mezile North Community YMCA Youth & Teen Enrichment Center

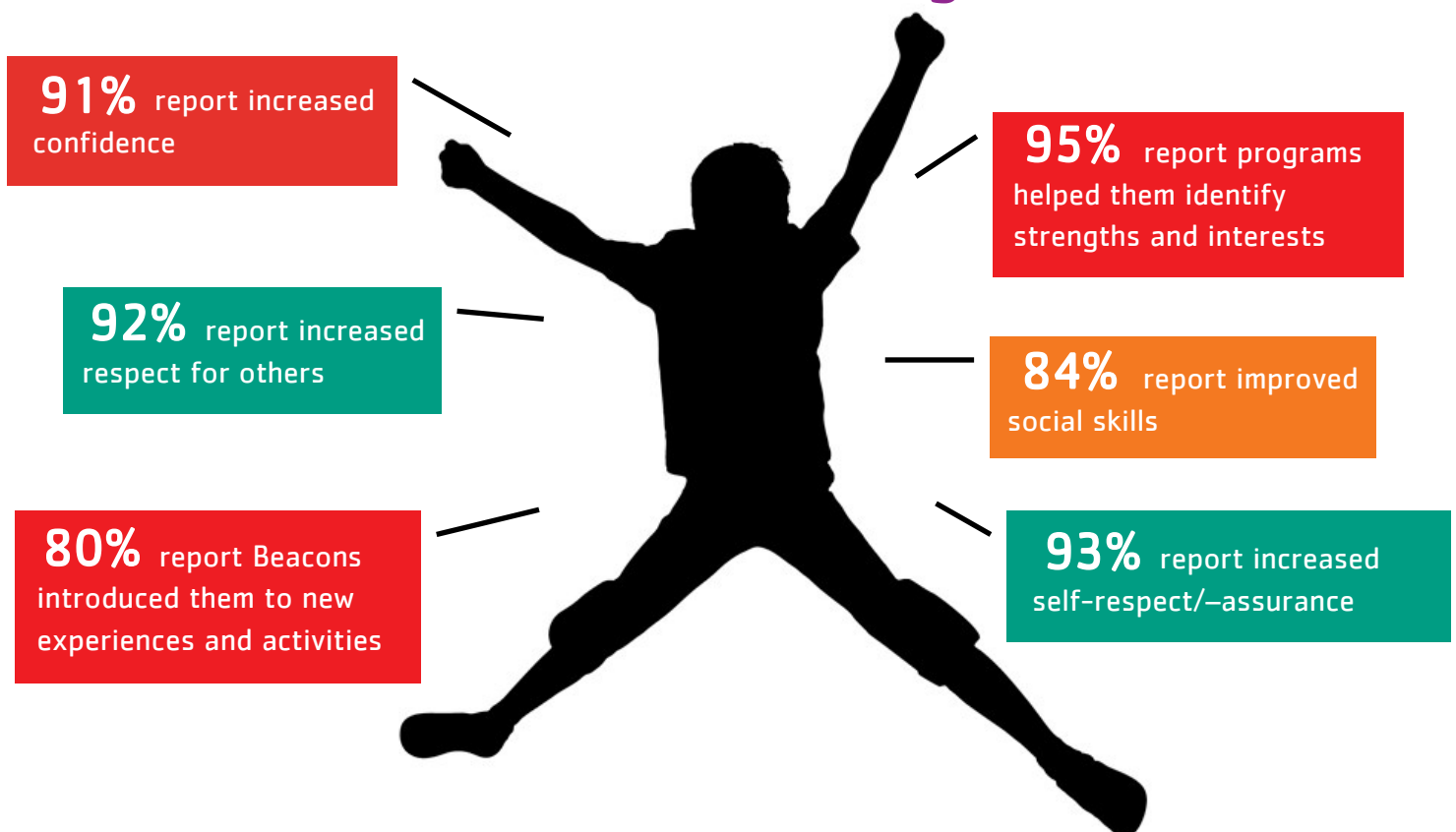


The Harold Mezile North Community YMCA Youth & Teen Enrichment Center is the nation's first youth-only YMCA, offering engaging and innovative programs that work to build healthy habits early while combatting conditions that contribute to opportunity gap and drowning death disparities.

Academic Performance & Engagement



Self-Confidence & Social Wellbeing



14 HIGHLIGHTS

Positive Adult Mentors/Role Models

91% of parents report increased involvement in child's learning

90% report improved family relations

75% report they have at least one adult in school they can talk to

100% report they have at least one adult they can talk to

87% report program adults are willing to help them with problems

100% connected with positive adult mentors



Beacons/School Success Outputs

4,000 total program hours at all sites
2,469 youth served at all sites
1,412 (or 57%) youth attended regularly
17,477 hours 21st Century skills

Mezile YMCA Summer Outputs

25,200 hours outdoor learning
22,500 hours environmental education
15,750 hours physical activity
11,250 hours reading/literacy support

Beyond Their Years: Y Kid Wisdom

"...it's really up to you and what you want to get out of your experience."

Youth Intervention Services Outputs

25,000 hours one-on-one mentoring
250 youth served (street-based outreach)
50 youth safely, affordably housed
43 youth employed through YIS

RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT...



STACEY GUILFOYLE

*Beacons, Mezile Center YMCA and
Youth Intervention Services*

Annastasia “Stacey” Guilfoyle’s Y journey perfectly represents the Beacons principle of “Ladders of Leadership,” a leadership cultivation model that offers young people progressive engagement and decision-making opportunities.

Stacey’s story begins as a youth participant in Beacons, where she first learned of the Ladders of Leadership and began to hone her abilities to positively influence the world around her.

Building on this reinforced strength, Stacey went on to serve as a volunteer, a high-school staff member and a Unit Lead at her childhood Beacons site, where she helped young people overcome barriers to their personal success. Toward the end of her Beacons tenure, Stacey joined Ameri-Corps and helped to launch the Edison Beacons site.

Ever searching for her next challenge, Stacey continued to advance throughout the Y’s many departments, serving as a lifeguard, camp counselor and childcare team member.

Today, she serves as a Youth Support Specialist in YIS, where she further develops her passion for mentoring by helping build self-confidence and living skills among youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

TO LIVE DELIBERATELY, OR YOUTH WORKERS IN THE WOODS

Each fall, Beacons and School Success team members travel out of the metro core to visit Camp Ihduhapi for a weeklong Leadership Camp experience.

During this “summit in the wild,” team members participate in team- and confidence-building exercises like the high-ropes course, as well as share stories, tips, lesson plans and more with fellow youth-work professionals.

In much the same way as these programs replace barriers with bridges, so too does the Fall Leadership Camp create bridges between “rival” school sites, all in the spirit of building a stronger network and increasing the Y’s collective impact on youth development.



“The YMCA opened doors for me by treating me like an adult, preparing me for the future, and by being there for me. The workers are not just workers, but they are my family and friends.”

—YIS Youth

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Barriers to personal success come in various forms, yet many are closely inter-related. Once one barrier is in place (e.g., academic), it lays the foundation for the next barrier (e.g., employment) and so on.

While a great deal of focus is necessarily spent on closing the academic opportunity gap, the Y also plays a key role in reducing barriers to employment by providing youth with numerous job opportunities, without the prevailing social bias against history, experience or current, personal circumstances.

The YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities offers positions across several departments—from membership to fitness and youth development—including all programs represented in this report. As one of the largest youth employers in the metro, the Y also maintains active partnerships with other local agencies like Step-Up, Hired and Emerge in order to make quality Y jobs available to a greater number of youth.

Beyond creating internal positions, these programs also regularly sponsor or host employment and job resource fairs like the popular North Suburban Youth Connection (NSYC), held each year in Brooklyn Park.

Over 250 youth attended the 2014 NSYC to connect with 50 local agencies, participate in resume workshops and obtain other vital resources.



CHOICE AND VOICE

At the foundation of our programs is the belief that personal choice and determination present the greatest opportunities to build self-esteem and inspire engagement in young people.

This approach allows youth to actively identify strengths, desires and goals while helping to shape the programs in which they participate.

To gather this key feedback, team members regularly survey participants for ideas. Any youth with a serious suggestion is invited to flesh out his/her vision. When feasible, these ideas are incorporated into service delivery, with regular evaluations to ensure program quality standards are always being met.

“Even though we are the young kids, our staff still let us explain the games. That gets me to really want to play the games.”

—Beacons Youth

NEED HELP? KNOW A YOUTH WHO DOES?

Call the Youth Resource Line
(763) 493-3052
8 AM—8 PM, 7 days a week



WATCH OUR IMPACT IN ACTION!

**YOUTH
INTERVENTION
SERVICES**



Or visit <http://goo.gl/mJHpUr>

BEACONS



Or visit <http://goo.gl/OGXw2y>

MEZILE CENTER



Or visit <http://goo.gl/xt67y1>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

beaconsminneapolis.org

ymcayouthintervention.org

northcommunityy.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

