



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



The incredible 75 full time staff of the YFS team enjoyed an August afternoon focused on connecting, celebrating, and self-care. We are so proud of this team and their tremendous impact!

The year 2021 continued to challenge the Y to show up with and for our community in dynamic ways. As we reflect on yet another year enduring a global pandemic and continued racism and inequities creating ongoing trauma and injustices, needs have continued to rise.

YMCA Youth and Family Services (YFS) partners with youth (up to age 25) and families in the Twin Cities Metro area to tackle the community's most pressing issues and provide basic needs, safety, and support, so that the whole community can thrive. With our community, partners and donors, YFS made a difference in the lives of 9,198 youth and families in 2021 — the most individuals we are have served in our history! In the words of one of our federal funders "in a time when many agencies are saying 'we can't,' you have exceeded outcomes."

We are grateful for the individuals who allow us the privilege to come alongside them on their journey, the partners and stakeholders who support us, and the incredible team who serves on the frontlines, 365 days a year.

We remain inspired and hopeful.



YFS Outreach Worker standing in solidarity with our community.



Thanks to the support of a generous donor, we were able to “wrap” our outreach van with the Y logo making us more visible and accessible in the community.

REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY

The school and street based homeless youth outreach team had 7,792 engagements with youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability, connecting them to supportive services, caring adults and community resources .

- This team works 365 days a year, on the streets and in the schools, across the Twin Cities metro, and responded to more than 125 calls each month on our Youth Resource Line.
- Our new outreach van, made possible through donations from our community members, allows us to meet youth where they are at and bring support/services and resources to them.

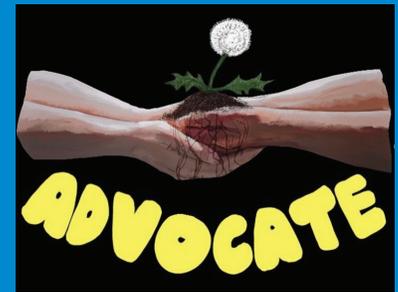
ENDING HOMELESSNESS:

- 87 youth received emergency sheltering through the YMCA’s newly launched SafeStaY program
- Prevented homelessness for 118 youth households
- 354 youth and families received housing and wraparound supports
- 92% of all housing participants exit into permanent housing

IMPACT MADE

- 9,189 youth supported + 668 additional household members
- 7,792 youth outreach engagements
- 1,513 calls to the Youth Resource Line
- 384 youth receiving 1:1 life coaching through Systemic Prevention and Intervention Services including foster care services, youth justice and Enough. human trafficking prevention, intervention and aftercare

HOW YOU CAN HELP:
ymcanorth.org/youth-needs



ELEVATING YOUTH VOICE: FOSTER CARE SERVICES

Foster Care Services’ Youth Leadership Council (YLC) showcases their new image design created by the youth, stating: “Our YLC chose to showcase the dandelion because oftentimes youth in the system are treated as dandelions. They are picked out of the ground and seen as a weed, and treated as such. Unwanted. However, dandelions are medicine. When they go to seed, they expand and grow, even on land that is dry and not watered.”

—Maddie Hodapp,
 Youth Support Program Manager

CORE VALUES

Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility have been steadfast Core Values for the YMCA. In 2021, a the value of Equity was added, driving our work to see and remove structural barriers in systems and people to create equal opportunity for all to thrive.

STAYING CONNECTED

In this time of disconnection, we were able to engage youth in building positive relationships with peers and in the community including:

- **164** youth built skills for self-sufficiency through **36** Independent Living Skills workshops – virtually and in person – with topics ranging from preparing your taxes, restorative healing circles, art showcases, and cooking to a passport to financial success series.
- **12** youth received prevention education and support to recover from trauma through NotANumber prevention and Girls Circle H.E.A.R.T. groups
- Connected youth to pro-social engagement opportunities including: YMCA memberships, camps, healing spaces, Vikings and Timberwolves games, movies, ice skating, and holiday events such as Youthsgiving



- **65** youth set goals, learned new skills and had fun participating in our 46th year of the National Youth Project Using Minibikes (NYPUM) program (photo above)
- **125** youth in foster care received 1:1 life coaching support to help them achieve self-sufficiency and thrive
- **94** youth referred to and screened for Enough. human trafficking prevention, intervention, and aftercare services

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

YMCA Youth and Family Services is proud to partner with our community to serve our community.

In 2020 we launched the first ever Youth and Family Services Community Board with 20 dynamic and committed community advocates. Our board members and other volunteers dedicated **4,682 hours** to help us to fulfill our mission in 2021. We are proud to partner with our local northeast Lion's Club, Exchange Club and others to make a difference in our community. We want to recognize one of our dedicated board members, Vicki Roscoe Erickson, and her employer, TopLine Federal Credit Union, for their significant contributions in 2021 including:

- **160** dental care kits
- **100+** bedding items
- **95** holiday gifts including jackets, clothing and personal care items
- **\$600+** in monetary donations + **\$4,880** of in kind donations
- Volunteers supported **2** Emma B. Howe Northeast YMCA Good in the Hood Food Distribution Events
- **5** volunteers sorted and organized donations at Emma B. Howe Northtown YMCA Emma's Place



YFS Community Board member Vicki Roscoe Erickson (left) with Topline and YMCA staff at Topline's annual holiday gift drive.

We are thankful for the generosity of Vicki and the TopLine members and employees to help us in delivering these important services within our communities. TopLine's dedication to helping us achieve our mission is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continued partnership opportunities.

TopLine Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-owned financial services cooperative serving the Twin Cities committed to the betterment of the communities served. To learn more about TopLine Federal Credit Union, visit www.TopLinecu.com.

To learn how you can get connected to give back please visit: ymcanorth.org/youth-needs



YOUTH RESOURCE LINE: free message line for youth 12-24 who are homeless or at-risk. YMCA staff will help youth problem-solve with information on community resources and referrals.

763-493-3052 (8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily) For all other inquiries call 612-432-5129