



the
youth
connection

CHALLENGES CHAMPIONS and CHANGE



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Letter from the President & CEO



*"We are not primarily put on this earth to see through one another, but to see one another through."
- Peter DeVries*

Challenges, champions, and change. The theme of this year's annual report reflects both an exciting and rewarding year that saw The Youth Connection expand our programming and overcome more than a few challenges that came our way. However, throughout it all, we relied on our partners, volunteers, parents and youth to see us through. For that, I would like to say, "Thank you."

It is with your help that we were able to keep our focus on the best interest of children in metropolitan Detroit. We hosted our Annual After-School Fair and started a new Halloween tradition in the Osborn Community with our Boo Walk. Even after a loss of funding for the summer, The Youth Connection Career Academies survived a difficult year while continuing to help 125 youth stay on track towards graduation, college and a career. We started a new partnership with Johnson and Johnson Community

Health Care to combat childhood obesity in Osborn and worked with the United Way to address hunger issues for our children in the summer.

Through it all, we realized the value and power of champions – those people whom we turned to in a time of need; our Board of Directors, our volunteers and partners and our families – to take up our cause and fight for our kids and their futures. To everybody who has helped make our programming successful through their donations, volunteerism, ideas, and advocacy, I would like to again say, "Thank you."

I will continue to fight hard for the best interests of our youth, and I appreciate all of you who stand beside me. To those of you waiting for a call to action, consider your wait over. Call us. Volunteer. Donate. Help a child. Be a champion – If not now...when?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grenaé Dudley Ph.D." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Grenaé Dudley, Ph.D.
President and CEO
The Youth Connection

Letter from the Chairman, Board of Directors

As I reflect on the accomplishments of The Youth Connection in 2010, I am reminded time and time again about the importance of the partnerships we have forged and the relationships that help us get through these rough economic times.

We no longer view our partnerships as an added value or a great opportunity to expand our programming and reach. Instead, we look at partners as essential to continuing our mission to connect youth to a brighter future. By working together, we can accomplish so much more for the people we serve who need it the most.

Whether you were a donor that allowed us to continue operations after we lost a major funding source this past summer, or a volunteer that gave up a few hours of your time to ensure that our major events went smoothly, I want to thank you for your time and talents. To our partners of The Youth Connection Career Academies, I would like to personally acknowledge your tireless efforts to help our kids.

Finally, I would like to thank each member of our Board of Directors and staff. The continuing operation of The Youth Connection cannot be possible without your hard work and dedication. We are looking forward to a banner year in 2011, our 15th year anniversary of the agency. With your help, I know we can make it the best year ever for The Youth Connection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Freddie G. Burton, Jr." The signature is bold and cursive.

The Honorable Freddie G. Burton, Jr.
Judge, Wayne County Probate court
Chairman, Board of Directors



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ST JOHN PROVIDENCE HEALTH SYSTEM

2010 After School Fair



We returned to Belle Isle to host our 9th Annual After-School Fair on August 21st and were proud to host the new Mayor of the City of Detroit, Dave Bing, to help kick off the school year and the start of after-school programming.

We had close to 2,000 parents and youth attend the Fair and, despite a short rain shower, they had the opportunity to sign up for hundreds of after-school programs and have a lot of fun. The Detroit Health and Wellness Promotion Department was on hand to give students free immunizations and health information while the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School handed out free dental supplies and information.

The most popular attraction at this year's Fair were our student performers on the main stage that included an international dance/music troupe from the International Institute as well as the Rapping Mentor and the Detroit Martial Arts Academy.

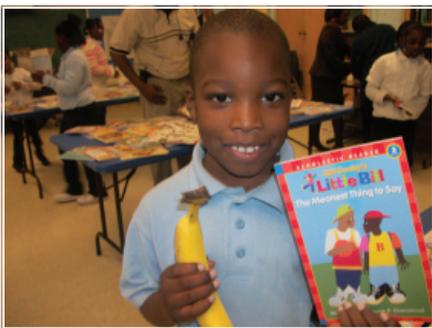


2010 Fit 'N Fun Family Club: I2D2 Campaign

The I2D2 campaign is an effort to bring together partners in the Osborn community to increase healthy eating and exercise habits. The program is an effort to increase fruit and vegetable intake and physical activity and decrease intake of sweetened beverages and screen time (TV, computer, video games).

In 2010 we kicked off the campaign by hosting our first annual Boo Walk, a “healthy” Halloween event for children that featured healthy snacks and exercise toys (jump ropes, hula hoops, etc.) for kids while they walked the Conner Creek Greenway in their costumes. Our resident ghoul handed out candy and many of our partners including Molina Healthcare, the Greening of Detroit and the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion were in attendance promoting healthy lifestyles and choices for families.

With a full slate of Fit 'N' Fun Family Clubs set to begin at Van Zile Elementary School, Brenda Scott Middle School and at Conner Creek Village, we are looking forward to helping fight childhood obesity in our neighborhood.



2010 The Youth Connection Substance Abuse Prevention Education Program



Student participates in drunk driving simulation

The Youth Connection received a grant from the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion – Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery to deliver substance abuse prevention education services to our 125 youth in TYCCA as well as 50 parents in the Osborn community.

As part of our grant, we will also be working with our youth to develop community service projects and other anti-drug information for members of the community. In partnership with DHWP, we are looking forward to this program being a staple of our youth development programming in 2011.



2010 The Youth Connection Career Academies

The Youth Connection Career Academies (TYCCA) has enjoyed fantastic success from its 125 participants in the WIA Year-Round Youth program. Our program featured 11 career development workshops, college tours, community service, opportunities for students to engage in twice-weekly structured, academic and career prep sessions. Our case managers also assisted our youth throughout the year to follow their dreams and become interested, motivated young adults. Our summer internships added to the value of our program, with internship possibilities offered by companies and organizations that include Henry Ford Health Systems, the Detroit Zoo, Gentz Industries (an aerospace technology firm), the Detroit Fire, Police, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Water Departments, and 14 other partner organizations.

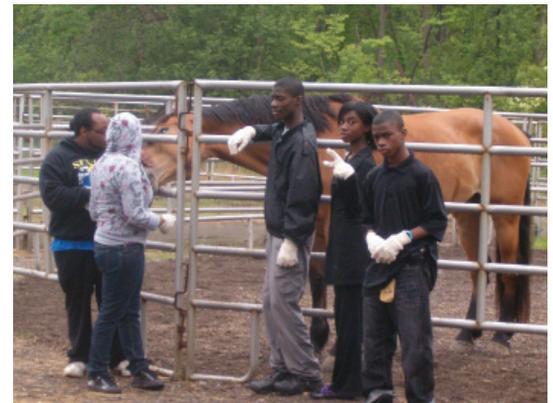


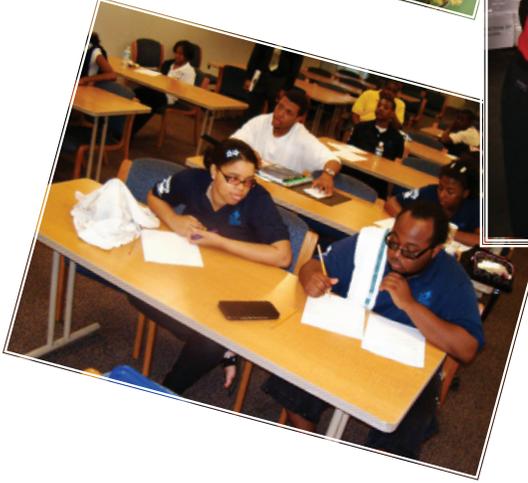
Of our high school seniors, 83% of them graduated on time and of those, over 89% went on to college or a career. For our younger youth **21% of our students showed an improvement of at least one full letter grade in a core subject** (math, reading, science, social studies) this year! The growth in many of our students over the past few years has also been amazing to see as they learn that doing the work in school will pay off in future success after they graduate and move on to their careers.

“The Youth Connection Career Academies has been an excellent program to be a part of. When I started, I wasn’t doing too well in school and I was messing around. But this program helped me to find out what I want to do with my life and got me a volunteer placement and paid summer internship at Henry Ford Hospital. Ms. Gulley, Ms. Hill and Dr. Dudley have all helped me to be a better student and person. I think this program is great...if you’re interested in getting a job experience, I would recommend The Youth Connection.”

-- Lauren Sowell, Class of 2010

- Recognized as a TYCCA Outstanding Performer
- Participated in over 78 hours of TYCCA workshops and seminars this year
- Attending Schoolcraft College as a Freshman, Fall of 2010





2010 The Youth Connection Adult Care Food Program & Summer Food Service Program

In an effort to increase utilization of the Child Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program (both federally-funded programs aimed to combat child hunger), The Youth Connection hosted trainings for youth-serving non-profit organizations to get involved and take advantage of these resources and also partnered with the Nutrition Division of the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion to conduct outreach to summer youth programs.

The Youth Connection will continue to make sure that no child goes hungry by partnering with the United Way of Southeastern Michigan to continue this effort and further increasing program participation in the Summer Food Service Program.

2010 The Youth Connection Donors / Contributors

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Johnson and Johnson
Community Health Care Program



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Detroit Department of Health and
Wellness Promotion
Bureau of Substance Abuse
Prevention, Treatment and Recovery



2010 The Youth Connection Donors / Contributors

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Lions Hearing Center of Michigan
CERB Associates



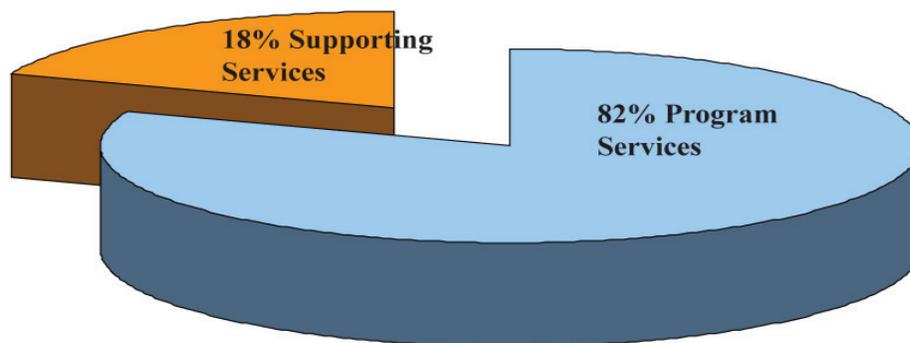
Financial Statement

The Youth Connection (A Michigan Non-Profit Corporation)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

	2010
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets:	
Revenue and Gains	
Public and Government Grants	\$ 444,489
Contributions	90,417
In-Kind	719
Interest and Dividend Income	0
Miscellaneous Income	1,947
Total Unrestricted Revenue and Gains	537,572
Expenses:	
Program Services	
The Youth Connection Career Academies (WIA)	331,589
After-School Fair	36,788
The Youth Connection Data and Information System	142,124
Johnson and Johnson	9,310
Total Program Services	551,266
Supporting Services	
Management and General	97,612
Fundraising	0
Total Supporting Services	97,612
Total Expenses	617,423
Net Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	(79,581)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	13,528
Cash & Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	4,560
Cash & Cash Equivalents - End of Year	\$ 18,088



The Youth Connection Staff

Grenaé D. Dudley, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Jeffery Hill
Chief Financial Officer

Jeff Griffith
Communications Director

Nicole Hill
Project Director

Nicole Gulley
Case Manager

Darius Harris
Case Manager

Contact Us

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