Connecting Youth to a Brighter Future

2008 Annual Report
Letter from the President

Somebody recently asked me what our organization’s main accomplishments were in the area of youth development. I replied with two words: “Making connections.”

When asked to expand I immediately talked about our accomplishments to date and our plans for the future. As an agency, The Youth Connection helps to make connections – we connect youth and parents to after-school programs, and students to summer internship and career development opportunities. We connect businesses that want to make a difference in a young person’s life to opportunities that allow them to help.

Most importantly, we make connection through partnerships. The partnerships we have formed with organizations like the Detroit Fire Department and the City of Detroit have strengthened our mission to make metropolitan Detroit the best place to raise a family.

Through events like our annual After-School Fair and our summer internship programs we are trying to make sure that our children can see that their future is full of possibilities and that there are people who care about them.

Connections. Partnerships. Possibilities. These words and actions will continue to guide us as we develop additional programs to help youth in the foster care system through a grant from the Detroit Workforce Development Department.

We are thankful for your help and support through our first 12 years and we look forward to continue our work on behalf of parents and children of Detroit.

Sincerely,

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

Letter from the Chairman,
Board of Directors

As we continue to promote the best interests of children throughout Southeast Michigan, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the people we work with that turn our vision into reality.

Thank you to our after-school program providers, partners in The Youth Connection Career Academies and all of the other numerous agencies, companies and individuals who have offered us help along the way.

Thank you to our Board of Directors and staff, who together have managed to build a strong organization that will help shape the future of our youth for years to come.

And lastly, I would like to thank our donors, without whom none of the work we do would be possible.

2008 has been a great year that has opened many doors for The Youth Connection and I am confident that 2009 will be an even better year for our youth and our community.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Freddie G. Burton, Jr.
Judge, Wayne County Probate court
Chairman, Board of Directors
2008 After-School Fair

Our 7th Annual After-School Fair, held in August on Belle Isle, was a huge success and a prime example of an entire community coming together to help our youth. We had thousands of people, after-school program providers and others in attendance to make our event memorable. The Annual After-School Fair was held in partnership with Detroit Public Schools, the Detroit Fire Fighters Association, City of Detroit and Wayne County Community College District.

In addition to having over a hundred after-school program providers in attendance signing-up kids for the new school year, we also were fortunate to offer free child immunizations, information on becoming foster parents, ways to build stronger families, information to prevent child abuse and a host of other activities for families. Steve’s Soul Food provided the excellent food and youth from various programs kept the crowds entertained with singing, dancing and displays ranging from dance to martial arts.

We are looking forward to keeping this annual tradition alive by making next year’s Fair the biggest and best ever! We would like to give a special thanks to our sponsors who make events like this possible with their generous contributions.

2008 After-School Fair Sponsors

Children’s Trust Fund
Michigan Department of Human Services
Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion
Delta Dental
Generation with Promise
Comerica Bank
Detroit Recreation Department
McDonald’s
DMC Children’s Hospital
Coca-Cola
Marshall Mathers Foundation
2008 The Youth Connection Career Academies

The Youth Connection Career Academies (formerly the Mayor’s Time Public Safety Academy) is the quintessential example of making a connection between youth and organizations that can help them reach their full potential.

The Youth Connection Career Academies is a four year partnership developed between The Youth Connection, Detroit Police, Fire, EMS and Water and Sewerage Departments, Detroit Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Detroit Public Schools and Wayne County Community College District. The MTPSA is a training program representing a comprehensive study of duties and tasks necessary for success in public safety work, the delivery of emergency medical services and homeland or private security. Students participating in the program spend one-half day in their home high school and one-half day in a Career & Technical Center and receive twelve (12) hours of credit at Wayne County Community College District upon completing the program.

During the school year, the curriculum is offered to all Detroit Public School high school students at either Randolph or Golightly Career and Technical Center. The training includes the curriculum that was developed not in the classroom, but from real-world police officers, EMTs and members of the Detroit Fire Department.

The Academy also offers summer internships with our partners for students. Students begin the three-year TYCCA curriculum in the 9th or 10th grade. Upon completion of the program, they will be on their way to careers as police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, homeland and private security officers and public service agents. During the internship, students learn technical skills and the culture of the public safety professions as well as life-skills training such as health, nutrition, self-esteem, etiquette, conflict resolution, public speaking and study skills.

Commenting on his experience during the internship this year, Matthew Bradley stated what he learned that will help him the most going on in his life: “One is how to endure the fire that life may give, never quitting or submitting when someone says you can’t make it. The other is to learn from mistakes you make, and, more importantly to learn from mistakes that those before you have made.”

2008 Child and Adult Care Food Program / Summer Food Service Program

In addition to issues of academics and career-preparedness, The Youth Connection also works to help our children stay healthy by eating right. Our work to make connections between youth and food programs has made a huge difference in the after-school programs we work with and the kids that they serve.

In partnership with the Detroit Health and Wellness Department, The Youth Connection worked with our participating after-school and summer program providers to increase the number of sites served by the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program.

These programs sponsored by the USDA are federally funded initiatives designed to make sure more children are eating healthy meals after the school day ends and during the summer months.

The Youth Connection, using a process it developed with the Michigan Office of Child Adult Licensing, identifies potential providers who are eligible to receive the funds and shepherds them through a licensing approval process. The DHWP then ensures that providers receive the free meals for their kids in after-school or summer programs.
Making Connections – A spotlight on our Partnership with the Children’s Trust Fund

The Youth Connection and the Children’s Trust Fund teamed up this year to work together to solve a growing problem in Detroit and across the state of Michigan – child abuse. Making the connection between the community and the resources available to fight this problem added to the impact of our annual After-School Fair.

Through a grant from the local and state councils of the Children’s Trust Fund, The Youth Connection developed a plan to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect and help prevent it. We provided all of our after-school programs and DPS schools with information on how to spot and prevent child abuse including information on reporting instances of abuse. In addition, we worked with the Wayne County Department of Human Services to target parents who were at risk for abuse and neglect of their children to invite them to the After-School Fair and get them actively involved in enrolling their kids in after-school programs. Our research showed us that children enrolled in after-school programs provide a great respite for parents and helped to strengthen their family bonds, reducing the risk of abuse and neglect.

The sponsorship of the After-School Fair resulted in media coverage of the event and the Children’s Trust Fund goal of reducing child abuse and neglect. Over 30,000 people visited our website monthly and had the opportunity to download brochures from the Children’s Trust Fund to reduce child abuse and neglect.

In addition, the recently published Kids Count in Michigan Data Book from Michigan’s Children noted that confirmed victims of child abuse dropped in Detroit from 4,887 children in 2000 to 3,916 in 2008.

2008 The Youth Connection Donors/Contributors

**Foundation/Corporate Donors**
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- State of Michigan – Children’s Trust Fund
- Chrysler Foundation
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion
- Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery
- Delta Dental
- State of Michigan – Department of Human Services
- McDonald’s
- Marshall Mathers Foundation
- Generation With Promise
- Comerica Charitable Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Wayne County Community College District
- Detroit Medical Center Children’s Hospital
- The Lawrence Group Company, LLC
- Greater Detroit Area Health Council
- Coca Cola Bottling Company
- Homer Ferguson Foundation
- Orchards Children’s Services
- MGM Grand Detroit
- City of Detroit Recreation Department

**Private and Partner Donors**
- Paul VanTiem
- Jimmy Womack
- Mattie H Ware Community Fund, Inc.
- Kenneth Burnley
- Judge Freddie Burton
- Dr. Herman and Shirley Gray
- Muhammad’s Mosque #1
- Community First Development, LLC
- McCully’s Educational Resource Center
- Academic Tutoring
- Achieving Maximum Potential
- Alternatives for Girls
- Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.
- Ark of Deliverance
- Ark Non-Violence Program
- Barnabas Youth Opportunities Center
- Beyond the Basics Educational Services
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit
- Black Family Development
- Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan
- Children’s Center of Wayne County
- City Year, Inc.
- C.L.A.S.S.
- Coleman A. Young Foundation
- Communities in Schools
- Community Christian Fellowship
- Community United for Progress
- Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Detroit Area Pre College Engineering Program, Inc.
- Detroit Branch NAACP
- Detroit Community Justice Partnership
- Detroit Hockey Association
- Detroit Martial Arts Institute
- Detroit Science Center
- Developing Math Concepts
- Educate Online, Inc.
- Faith Moves Ministry
- Full & Fabulous
- Higher Praise Dance Academy
- Innovative Educational Programs LLC
- International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc.
- Joy Preparatory Academy
- Kiddie Works LLC
- Kumon Math Ready Center
- M.A.D.E. Training and Consulting
- Marilyn F. Lundy Academy
- Mayflower Congregational UCC
- Melvin “Butch” Hollowell
- Mercy Education Project
- Metro Certified Teachers Association
- Michigan Technical Academy
- Mission of Peace
- Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit
- Oasis Charity
- Saturday School of Excellence
- The Summer Preschool
- Tiger Sharks Swim Team of Detroit
- Timbuktu Academy of Science and Technology
- Volunteers in Prevention, Probation and Prisons, Inc.
- VSA Arts of Michigan
- Youth Under Construction
- Youthville
- Larry and Sylvia Jordan
- 2 Days Child Learning Center
- Adam’s Nest Child Development
- ASA Higher Learning Preparatory, Inc.
- Bethel Church of the Apostolic Faith
- Blossoming Child Development Center
- Brilliance Academy
- Eastside Cowboys Athletic Association
- Hartsford Head Start Agency
- Life Changes
- Once Upon a Time Child World
- Open Door Montessori Academy
- Riser Group
- Small World Development Center, Inc.
- T.N. Metropolitan Detroit Academy, Inc.
- Rannette Archer
- Duchess Murphy
2008 Financial Statement  
The Youth Connection (A Michigan Non-Profit Corporation) 

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2008 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue and Gains:</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and dividend income</td>
<td>2,738</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>785</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Revenue and Gains</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from Restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains, and Other Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>622,849</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services:</td>
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<tr>
<td>After-school support strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Health and Safety</td>
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<td>Workforce Development</td>
<td>58,626</td>
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<td>After-School Fair</td>
<td>29,819</td>
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<td>Data and Evaluation Infrastructure Project</td>
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<td>The Youth Connection Career Academies</td>
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<td>Computer clubhouse</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
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<td>Supporting Services:</td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
<td>82,865</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Supporting Services</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>733,420</td>
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<td><strong>Net Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>(110,571)</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>229,603</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>Net Increase (Decrease) in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</td>
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<td>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets, End of Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,833</strong></td>
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</table>

To request a complete copy of The Youth Connection Financial Statement, please call us at 313-826-7099
2008 Partners


The Youth Connection Contact Information and Staff List

Staff
Grenâe D. Dudley, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer
Tom Flaherty, Data Director
Jeff Griffith, Communications Director
Nicole Hill, Project Manager
Jannice King, Executive Administrative Assistant
Alisa Ambers, Finance/Accounting (Gregory Terrell and Company)

Contact Information
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