



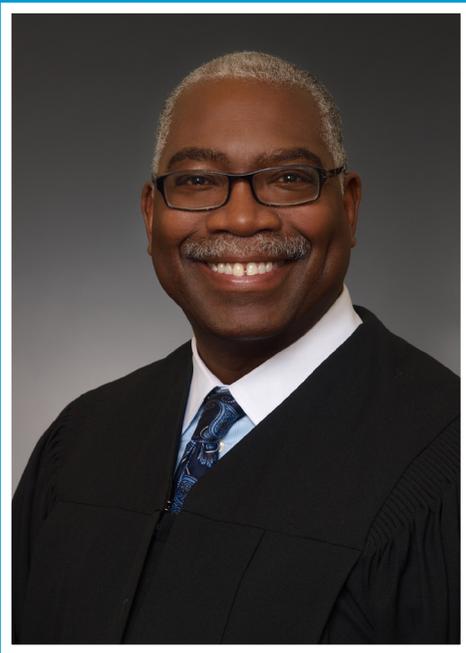
**the  
youth  
connection**

**BIENNIAL  
REPORT  
2012 – 2013**

**The Great  
Outdoors!**



# The Youth Connection Board of Directors 2013



## Volunteer. Give. Support. Teach.

At The Youth Connection, we help connect our youth to a brighter future. Every day we work to provide them with the skills, knowledge, and experience to help them grow as a person and give back to their communities. But, we need your help!

I'm committed to helping the youth in our program. I have brought them into my courtroom and talked to them about my experiences growing up and how I got to where I am in life. Could you do the same?

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Edward Ewell, Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Judge Edward Ewell, Jr.  
Third Circuit Court

Chairman, The Youth Connection Board of Directors

Judge Edward Ewell, Jr. (Chairman)  
Third Judicial Circuit Court

Andrew Arena (Vice-Chair)  
Detroit Crime Commission

Gloria Larkins (Treasurer)  
Detroit Receiving Hospital

Rick Bergquist (Secretary)  
Kellerin Equipment Sales

Grenaé Dudley, Ph.D.  
The Youth Connection

Tonie Bell  
Ward-Hill Omni Media

Joseph Ciesinski  
America Group RSC

Nadine Cook  
St. John Providence Health System

Regina Daniels Thomas  
Legal Aid and Defender Assoc.

Stephen Harris  
Molina Healthcare

Rhonda Kennedy  
Law Enforcement

Karen Ridgeway  
Detroit Public Schools

Florine Mark  
The WW Group Inc.

Anntinette McCain  
Detroit Public Schools

Sue McCormick  
DWSD

Heidi McGlennen  
Molina Healthcare

Chandra Moore  
CoG Studio

A. Tom Paglia, III  
Stunt3 Multimedia

Donnell White  
Detroit NAACP

*Durell Hope (Advisor to TYC)  
National Assoc. of Black Narcotics Agents*

# The Great Outdoors!

Over the past two years The Youth Connection has worked tirelessly to connect our youth to a brighter future. Thanks to a partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, TYC developed a Summer Youth Employment Program that focused on getting our youth college-ready and exposing them to both career and recreational opportunities in the great outdoors here in Michigan!

Our youth learned to hike, fish, kayak, zip line, ride horses, play disc golf and many other fantastic recreational pursuits while working for over 17 partners to gain experience in outdoor careers. The past two years have led to great things for TYC and we're looking forward to the future as we continue to make a difference in the lives of young people and the families we serve!

To our friends, partners, funders, youth we would like to extend an invitation for you to join us as we continue to explore the great outdoors!



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

Dear friends,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you - whether you were a volunteer or board member who took the time to help us.

Or, you participated in one of our programs or contributed to our success in any way. We cannot do our work without committed, talented and passionate people who believe what we believe - that together we can make a difference in the lives of young people!

Sincerely,

*Grenae Dudley Ph.D.*

*We can change the world and  
make it a better place. It is in  
your hands to make a difference.*  
**Nelson Mandela**

# The Youth Connection Career Academies

The Youth Connection Career Academies is a program that exposes, engages and trains metropolitan Detroit youth for future careers and continuing education. Youth ages 14-24 in the program attend career-building workshops, field trips, life skill seminars, and, best of all, each youth receives a paid summer internship! Youth in our program learn everything from resume and cover letter writing to interview skills and workplace etiquette. We teach them financial literacy, First Aid and CPR, along with the ins and outs of the college application process (including a college tour each spring!) As the bedrock of our youth programming, TYCCA continues to shine a light on our youth and connect them to a brighter future!



*The Youth Connection Career Academies has been an excellent program...this program helped me to find out what I want to do with my life and got me a paid summer internship at Henry Ford Hospital. Thank you TYC!  
Lauren Sowell, TYCCA Intern*

## Summer Job Partners

These businesses stepped up to help our youth by providing summer internships and, for many, that first job experience!

### THANK YOU!

Detroit Fire Department  
Habitat for Humanity  
Voices of Detroit Initiative  
Creating A Healthy Community  
Grounds and Garden  
William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor

Detroit Police Department  
CoG Studios  
ELS Development Services  
Belle Isle Nature Zoo  
Franklin Wright Settlement

Detroit EMS  
Henry Ford Hospital  
Detroit Water Department  
Belle Isle Golf and Practice Center  
Detroit City Council Media Division  
Detroit Homeland Security and Emergency Management

# The Youth Connection Career Academies



In 2012, TYCCA began a partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to expose youth in TYCCA to outdoor careers and recreation activities. Through the partnership, youth have been able to experience new activities that are “Pure Michigan” while getting a chance to train for environmental careers they may not have imagined as possibilities. Through our work with the City of Detroit, youth got a chance to restore one of the jewels of Detroit, Belle Isle Park, by repairing welcome stations and helping to make the island usable for visitors now and in the future!



*Some of the experiences we had this summer were kayaking, zip lining, high ropes and low ropes. We also did archery. There was a lot of stuff I never did before...that I wouldn't have done on my own. I ended up really enjoying myself.*  
**Ashley Womack, TYCCA Intern**



**For videos of our DNR Program, visit our YouTube page!**



**=** Increase Fruits and Vegetables  
 Increase Exercise  
 Decrease Sugary Drinks  
 Decrease Screen Time

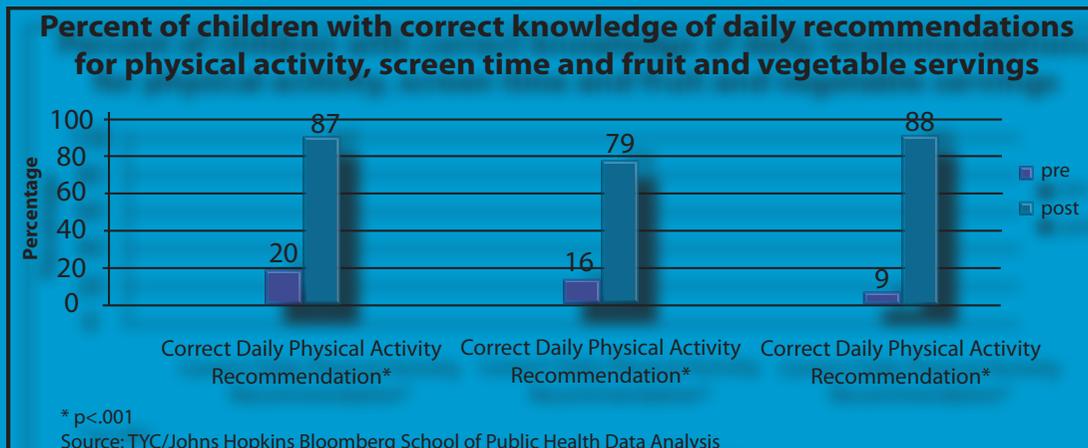


Our I2D2 Fit 'N' Fun Family Club Program is a nationally-recognized, research-based program working to promote healthy lifestyles to over 800 children 6-12 years old and their families in 2012-13. Through a partnership with Johnson and Johnson Community Health Care and Scholars program and wonderful partners like Weight Watchers, Detroit Food and Fitness Collaborative, St. John Providence Health Care System, Molina Healthcare and Wayne State University, the I2D2 program is tackling the problem of childhood obesity in Metropolitan Detroit.

Our goal? Simple - to reduce childhood obesity until all youth grow up healthy and fit!



Figure 1 - Percentage of youth with correct knowledge



# The Youth Connection Substance Abuse Prevention Program

Our substance abuse prevention program uses a research-based interactive curriculum and hands-on training for students and parents focused on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and their impact on health, careers, and employment. In 2012 and 2013, over 300 youth and parents were trained in the Botvin Lifeskills Curriculum. In addition, The Youth Connection provided leadership in several substance abuse prevention coalitions, workshops and special events. Our first ever 5K Walk for Prevention at the 2013 After-School Fair had over 200 youth participants on Belle Isle.

Our youth also partner with the Michigan Department of Community Health and Detroit Police Department to conduct tobacco vendor education and compliance checks to make sure that stores in Detroit are not selling tobacco products to minors. In 2012-13 our youth visited 300 stores across the city to make sure that stores are not selling tobacco products to kids. Our youth take part in tobacco vendor education in our neighborhoods making sure stores know the law and post the mandated signs letting the community know that selling tobacco to our youth is unacceptable!

The Youth Connection is also participating in several community coalitions to help fight the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in our community. We have attended community fairs, school open houses and many other events to spread our positive message about living a drug-free lifestyle.



The purchase of tobacco products by a minor under 18 years of age and the provision of tobacco products to a minor are prohibited by law.

**A minor unlawfully purchasing or using tobacco products is subject to criminal penalties.**

Michigan Department of Community Health - Authority PA 316 of 1996

Must be displayed by law.



# The Youth Connection Annual After-School Fair



Our Annual After-School/Back-to-School/Off-to-College Fairs were a huge hit the past two years. We had over 4,300 parents and children at the events who received information on all of the after-school programs we could find as well as free books, backpacks, school supplies, food baskets, lunch, and bike helmets. As a signature event for The Youth Connection, the Fair continues to be THE event for children getting ready to go back to school in the City of Detroit.

## After-School Fair Sponsors

The Youth Connection would like to thank all of our sponsors of the After-School/Back-to-School Fair in 2012 and 2013. We appreciate your partnership and support! Together we made a difference in the lives of youth in the City of Detroit!

- Wayne County DHS
- DTE Energy
- Institute for Population Health
- City of Detroit
- DMC Children's Hospital
- Molina Healthcare
- HAP
- ATS Educational Services
- Michigan First Credit Union
- St. John Providence Health
- B.E.L.L.
- FBI - Detroit Field Office
- Wayne County Sheriff
- Chelsea Milling Company
- Love Detroit Youth II
- City of Detroit

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our after-school program providers, partners, vendors, volunteers, service companies and the staff of Belle Isle Park for their help in putting together our Fair each and every year. We could not do it without you and we feel fortunate to also call you our friends. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better Fair out on Belle Isle next year!



# The Youth Connection Chiefs Cooking For Kids

In 2013, The Youth Connection hosted our first Chiefs Cooking for Kids fundraiser and it was a huge success! Metro-Detroit Police, Fire and Public Safety Chiefs banded together and submitted their favorite recipes to be judged by all who attended this one-of-a-kind fundraiser at the Max Fisher Music Theater in December of 2013. There was good food, great fun and plenty of action as TYC Board Member Andrew Arena took home the top prize as the “Chief Chef” of 2013. We would like to thank all of our sponsors who helped to make the event a success and all of the chiefs who participated and donated their time and talents to help The Youth Connection.

## 2013 Chiefs Cooking for Kids Best Recipe Winners!

**Overall - Chief Chef - Andrew Arena, Detroit Crime Commission**

**Best Appetizer - Roderick Grimes, Detroit Public Schools**

**Best Entree - Anthony Holt, Wayne State University**

**Best Dessert - Max Garbarino, City of Hamtramck**

*Andrew Arena,  
2013 Chief Chef*



# The Youth Connection Outcome Reporting - I2D2

What sets The Youth Connection apart from other non-profit agencies? Our programming. How do we know our programming is making a difference? Our data. TYC relentlessly extracts data from our programs that prove we are doing good work and making a difference in the lives we touch. Our funders all appreciate that we can show (statistically) the effectiveness of our programs. Please look at the examples of how our programs change lives every day!

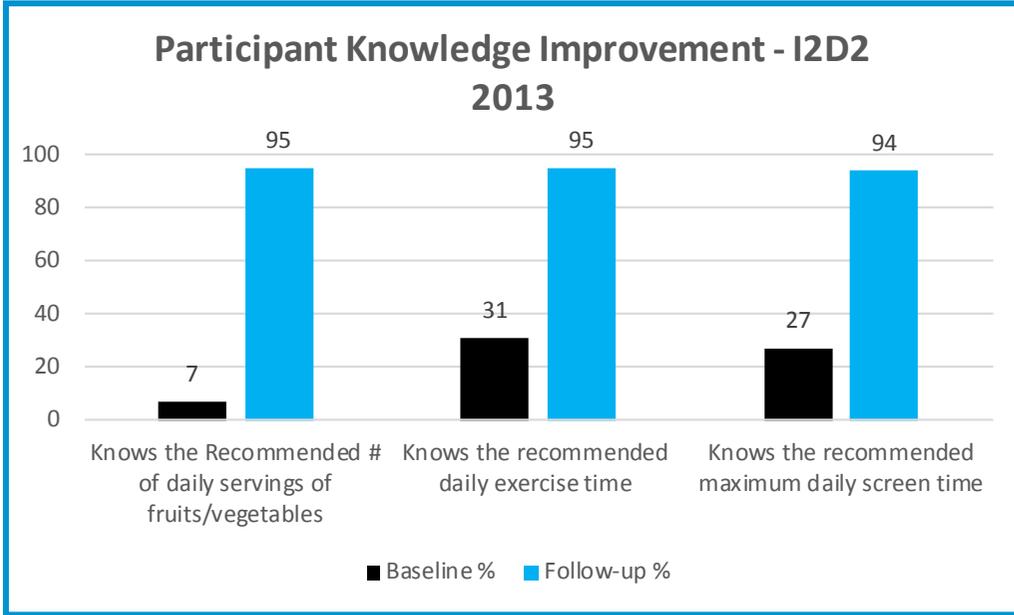


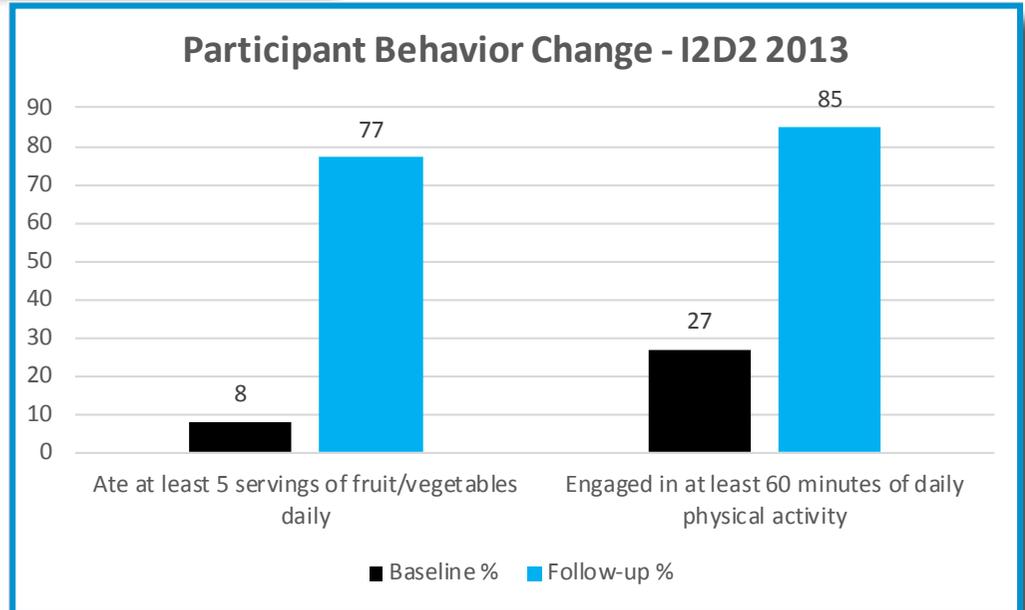
Figure 2 - Participant Knowledge Improvement

*Our I2D2 program showed remarkable results the past two years. In the graph to the left, you can note the change in knowledge from when our participants enter the I2D2 program to when they leave. How remarkable? The American Public Health Association invited TYC to present at its annual meeting! Way to go TYC I2D2!*

*The hardest task of any non-profit program is to get people to change. Not only is the I2D2 program making a positive difference in the lives of the families we serve, but we are seeing tremendous results in getting people to lead more active, healthy lifestyles!*

*“My favorite part of the day is that “lightbulb” moment when our families realize that improving their health and nutrition improves their lives immeasurably” - Joi Mitchell, TYC Program Manager*

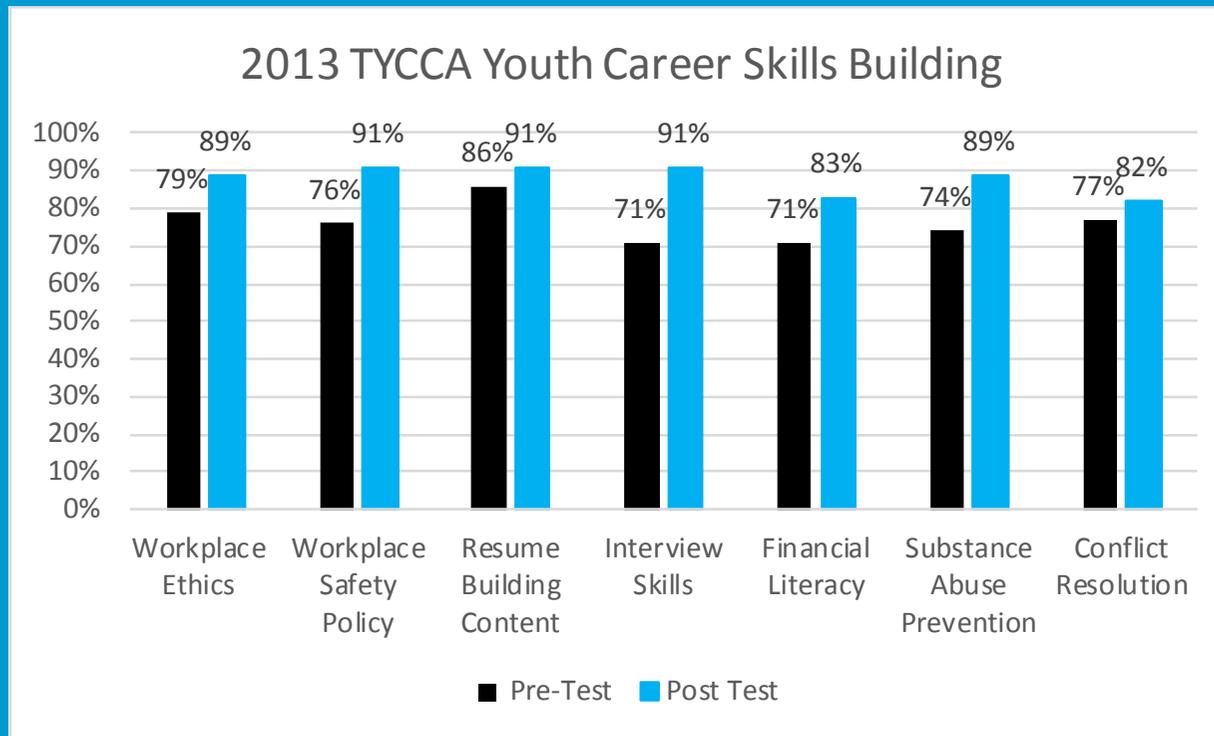
Figure 3 - Participant Behavior Change



# The Youth Connection Outcome Reporting

**Senior high school students in TYCCA were offered over \$2 million in scholarships in 2013!**

*Figure 4 Youth Skills Increase*



**0% - Number of youth who completed the 2012 TYC Substance Abuse Prevention Program who used alcohol, tobacco or other drugs in the past 30 days - October, 2012**

**100% - Number of parents with youth in The Youth Connection Career Academies who would recommend the program to other youths/parents they know. - October, 2013**

# The Youth Connection Academic Remediation Program

With all of the challenges our youth face, perhaps none are more important than college preparation and workforce readiness. Our Academic Remediation Program (ARP) works with youth in TYCCA who need tutoring help and has consistently been shown to **increase students' reading and math scores an average of two grade levels**. Without a proper foundation our youth face tremendous challenges including going to college or entering the workforce.

We provide reading instruction, math instruction and tutoring, based on the student's individual needs. Interventions include: individual and small group instruction in reading and math, tutoring in academic subjects, resume writing and application completion, academic/real world instruction in applying academic skills in the workplace and standardized test preparation.

Our program is research-based and our ARP coach has extensive experience teaching high school and special education students and significantly raising their reading and math grade levels among our target youth population.

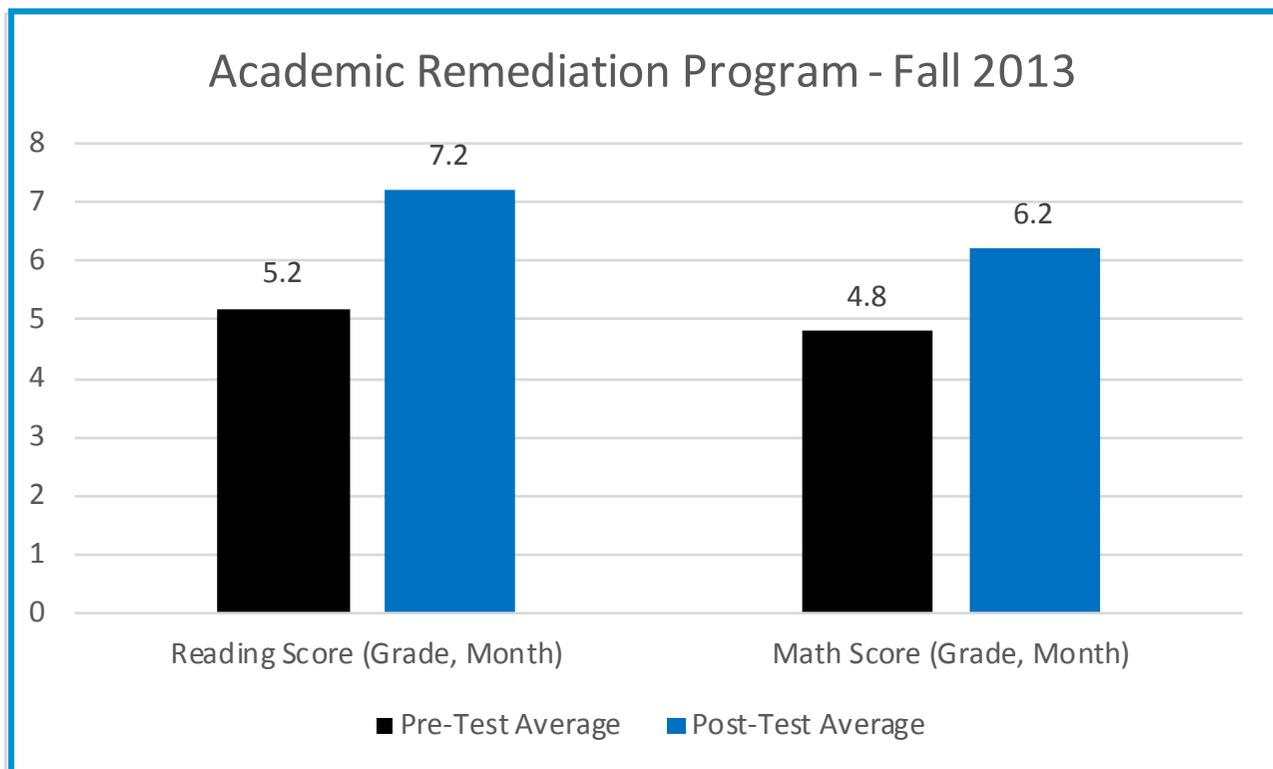


Figure 5 - Pre and Post-Test ARP Scores

# The Youth Connection Annual Boo Walk

Each year, The Youth Connection, along with our many friends and partners, host our annual Boo Walk, an event held in the “spooky” basement of Conner Creek Village that is a safe and healthy Halloween for Osborn community youth and parents. We hosted over 1,000 people in 2012-13 at the Boo Walks and gave away healthy snacks (granola bars, fruit, water), free giveaways to encourage physical activity (hula hoops, jump ropes) and candy, which was available by visiting our resident ghoul (TYC Board Member Rick Bergquist) along the way. We host this event to give back to families in “our” neighborhood and as a way to distribute information as part of our I2D2 program to live healthier lifestyles. We appreciate everybody who is involved and would like to give a special thank you to City Year for partnering with us to have their Corps members volunteer for the event and to the Parade Company for their decorations!



*Derrick King - a TYCCA graduate,  
now works for The Youth  
Connection in our I2D2 program!*



**10,483**  
people served



**11%**  
increase in people served



**100%**  
youth graduation rate

# The Youth Connection Donors/Sponsors/Funders



# The Youth Connection Financial Statements

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Youth Connection (A Michigan Non-Profit Corporation)

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets:	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>Revenue and Gains</b>		
Public and Government Grants	\$ 556,471	\$ 965,148
Contributions	139,559	82,632
Program Fees	471	0
Interest and Dividend Income	15	39
Miscellaneous Income	17,295	397
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	26,760	105,140
<b>Total Unrestricted Revenue and Gains</b>	<u>740,571</u>	<u>1,153,356</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>Program Services</b>		
The Youth Connection Career Academies - Macomb/St. Clair and Detroit WIA, DNR	448,372	690,062
Gleaner's	11,489	53,797
United Way and After-School Programs	10,416	0
Johnson and Johnson/SNAP-Ed	88,478	87,811
Substance Abuse	123,248	168,126
Other Program Expenses and After School Fair	38,763	69,471
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<u>720,676</u>	<u>1,069,267</u>
<b>Supporting Services</b>		
Management and General	76,902	25,542
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<u>76,902</u>	<u>25,542</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>797,578</u>	<u>1,094,809</u>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>(57,007)</b>	<b>58,547</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>18,468</b>	<b>(88,536)</b>
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>77,287</b>	<b>95,755</b>
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents - End of Year</b>	<u><u>95,755</u></u>	<u><u>7,219</u></u>



**the  
youth  
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