



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



15TH ANNUAL

SCHEDULE & LIVE AUCTION

WELCOME TO THE 15TH ANNUAL COLORADO YOUTH FOR A CHANGE BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

5:30-7:00 p.m.

**COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES AND
WINE FROM BLANCHARD FAMILY WINES**

7:00-8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND WHY

Mary Zanotti, *CYC Executive Director*

EDUCATIONAL LEADER HONOREE

Elsa Holguín, *President and CEO of Denver
Preschool Program*

LIVE AUCTION

STUDENT HONOREE

Joanna Peña, *Math Corps AmeriCorps member
and former participant in CYC programs*

APPEAL

8:00 p.m.

**LIVE COMEDY SHOW FEATURING
HEADLINER CHRIS VOTH**



LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

WINE AND DINE

Have the dinner party of a lifetime with a three-course wine and dinner pairing for six! Start your three-course meal off right with a variety of hand-crafted artisan wine from Blanchard Family Wines. Then pair it with delicious fresh food prepared by Dane Hiatt, former consultant chef for the Food Network show *Restaurant: Impossible*. This unique experience can take place either at Blanchard Family Wines (located in the Dairy Block in downtown Denver) or in the comfort of your own home! *Donated by Blanchard Family Wines and CDK Luxury Catering.*

HAKUNA MATATA

Enjoy a staycation in Denver with no worries! This package includes a one-night stay and breakfast for two at Four Seasons Denver and two tickets to *The Lion King* at Denver Performing Arts Center. Tickets are for Wednesday December 29, Orchestra center C, Row TT, Seats 29 and 30 (aisle seat). With Four Seasons Denver's convenient location just minutes from Larimer Square, you can also enjoy Denver's vibrant nightlife and unique culinary scene. This is a package fit for a king! Date for the performance of *The Lion King* can be moved pending availability.

Donated by Mindy Marler and The Four Seasons Denver.

LUXURY VACATION BY THE OCEAN

Get some well needed R&R for five days in beautiful Belize! This oceanfront suite at the Alaia Belize Autograph Collection hotel has 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, and a full kitchen. Spend your time soaking up the sun with a cocktail at an adult only rooftop pool or the Mar de Tumbo beach. Then take a break at one of the several excellent restaurants nearby where there's options for both seafood and pizza. Feeling adventurous the next day? Take a boat out to snorkel or scuba at some of the best spots in the Caribbean at Hol Chan and Shark Ray Alley. After you can also take a trip out to Secret Beach and enjoy picnic tables in the water, corn hole on the beach and of course food and beverages. This trip is once-in-a-lifetime! *Donated by The Millennium Trust and The Autrey Foundation.*

RELAXING RETREAT AT BRECKENRIDGE TOWNHOME

Have the perfect mountain retreat in this spacious 3 king bedroom and 3 bath townhome in Breckenridge! Pick two nights in the winter season or four nights during the summer. No need to pack any cooking supplies or food—our kitchen is fully stocked with granite countertops and a full-size island, making it the perfect place to cook and lounge. Bringing a vehicle? We've got an extra deep garage that will fit a Yukon SUV so you'll never need to worry about cleaning snow off your car. Whether you choose to spend your vacation in the summer or winter here, you are just minutes away from fun! The townhome is a short walk to the Peak 9 ski lift and an eight-minute walk from several famous restaurants and bars. Plus, after a long day of shopping or skiing in the mountains, you can relax and take a dip in a private hot tub. Relax at this amazing townhome!

Some blackout dates apply. Donated by Shawn Buchanan and Travis Smith.

HEADS OR TAILS GAME (\$25 to Play)

Pick your own prize with four tickets to a show of your choice at Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre! Upcoming shows range from Dave Matthews Band to Backstreet Boys and many in between. Enjoy a beautiful outdoor concert venue and your return to live music and bring friends along! *Donated by AEG Presents.*

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ELSA HOLGUÍN

President and CEO of Denver Preschool Program

Elsa Holguín grew up in a small town in Chihuahua, Mexico and immigrated to the United States with her family when she was 17. Elsa learned English while attending high school and college in Denver, where she worked as an intern in the nonprofit sector. That internship eventually led her to the

Women's Foundation of Colorado, and then to Rose Community Foundation where she served as the senior program officer for Child & Family Development for 21 years.

Elsa played an instrumental role in the creation of Early Milestones Colorado, the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, the Denver Opportunity Youth Initiative, Colorado's Office of Early Childhood, Borealis Philanthropy, and the Skills to Compete Coalition. A former member and co-chair of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, Elsa currently serves on the board of Tools of the Mind and the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee.

Elsa is the President and CEO of the Denver Preschool Program, an organization that makes quality possible for all Denver families with preschool children through dedicated sales tax approved by the voters in 2006 and renewed and expanded in 2014. DPP has provided nearly \$138 million in tuition support to help more than 60,000 Denver children attend the preschool of their family's choice, establishing each child's foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Joanna aspires to get her Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Social Work.



JOANNA PEÑA

Former CYC Student and Current Math Corps AmeriCorps Member

Joanna Peña is an AmeriCorps member serving for Math Corps in Denver Public Schools. She was formerly a participant in CYC's student support programs. Despite facing many challenges throughout her life, Joanna achieved her GED this year and is a proud mother to her son, Liam. Joanna aspires to get her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Work.



CHRIS VOTH

Tonight's Comic

Chris Voth is an accomplished comedian, a licensed teacher, and a published author. Voth made his debut late-night television appearance on the Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson. He also appeared in three seasons of NBC's Last Comic Standing and was chosen for the prestigious Great American Comedy Festival.

A 20+ year comedy veteran, Voth is a past winner of the Denver Comedy Works Competition and has worked with everyone from Dave Chappelle to Larry the Cable Guy to Linda Ronstadt. Voth's first comedy CD titled Never Mind the Jim J Bullocks, Here's the Chris Voth is currently available for purchase.

Chris currently balances his performance schedule with his full-time high-school teaching career. You can read his short story, "Stand Up and Deliver," published in the Cream City Review Literary Journal. In it, Chris shares the experiences he had when entering the teaching field after years in stand-up comedy.

OUR MISSION

At Colorado Youth for a Change, we believe all students can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to learn, to succeed in school, and to graduate. Founded in 2005 in response to over 18,000 youth dropping out of Colorado schools each year, our work spans from PreK all the way through age 21.

We support students at critical junctures by building early literacy by third grade; supporting math proficiency by eighth grade; boosting engagement and attendance in high school; and helping youth get back into school after dropping out. Along with 30 school districts and the thousands of students we partner with each year, we thank you for fueling the potential in Colorado students through education.

Here is what your support helped make possible during the 2020-2021 school year:

COLORADO PRE-K READING CORPS: helping students enter kindergarten ready to learn

- 147 students served in one-on-one and classroom settings
- 2,874 tutoring hours were provided with 93 percent program fidelity

COLORADO READING CORPS: helping students become strong readers by end of third grade

- 877 students who were reading below grade level were served
- 79.2 percent achieved more than a full year of academic growth in reading

CORPS FOR A CHANGE: increasing school engagement

- 425 students were served with nearly 5,000 one-on-one attendance support sessions and family engagement sessions
- 75 percent of students improved in at least two asset categories on the Development Assets Post Assessment

REENGAGEMENT PROGRAM: reenrolling students who left school without graduating

- 131 students were enrolled back into school
- 80 percent of students either graduated or continued in school

COMING THIS YEAR: Math Corps

Launching in the 2021-22 school year, Math Corps will help 4th-8th grade students build math skills that are critical for long-term success in math. Math Corps adopts a sequential and mastery-oriented approach in which students progress through math concepts at their own speed. Research is clear that attaining algebra readiness by eighth grade is a key indicator of a student's future success. Only 35% of eighth grade students are proficient in math and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, math scores nationwide in 3rd-8th grade students have dropped by 5-10% in the last year. Following such an unprecedented year, Colorado Math Corps will act as a necessary support system for students who have lost nearly a year of in-person education as well as the Colorado public school system.

This past year, CYC partnered with Serve Colorado and the Governor's Office to recruit additional AmeriCorps members through the Student Engagement Corps. Members supported nearly 2,600 students during the 2020-2021 school year, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Roles included attendance support, academic tutoring, supporting social and emotional growth with students, and helping students and families navigate remote learning platforms and communication. Members helped to ensure district communication was translated for families where English may be a second language and created special instructions and supports for entire families.

**DaVita
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for giving
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to succeed.**

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JOIN THE COMMUNITY FOR A CHANGE GIVING CIRCLE

Over the years, CYC has expanded its programming to support students at critical junctions in school. This includes building early literacy skills for PreK through third grade students and algebra skills in fourth through eighth grade students, as grade-level competency in these skills boosts graduation rates. This also includes additional support for students who are considered chronically absent in high school, as well as resources for those who've already left school and want to reenroll but need support to navigate their options and find the right fit. Your support in our Community for a Change Giving Circle builds a stronger community by sustaining these programs.

Partner: Gift of \$5000 or more annually.

Supporter: Gift of \$1000-\$4,999 annually.

Friend: Gift of \$25 a month.

Community for a Change Giving Circle members receive:

Partner: Exclusive invitation to two events each year and Back to School Night VIP seating

Supporter: Exclusive invitation to two events and special updates on your impact

Friend: Breakfast and tour with Executive Director and special updates on your impact

All Community for a Change members will be featured in CYC's annual report.

For more information, contact Julia at juliah@youthforachange.org.

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