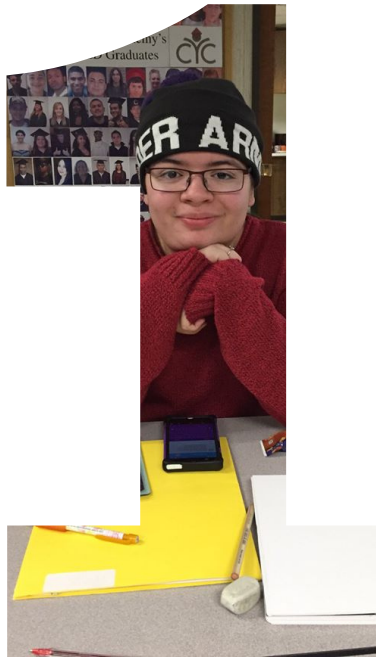




Annual Report



Dear friends,

In April 2021, Colorado Youth for a Change hosted a virtual panel event entitled Innovation through a Pandemic: What We've Learned and What We'll Carry Forward. One of the panel's AmeriCorps members, Gabriella, made a statement that's been reverberating through our hearts and minds ever since: *"This pandemic has really validated the fact that these students are much more than just students; they're siblings, employees, and they're people who are truly pioneering this new way of learning."*

Gabriella's statement illustrates the complexities that bubbled up as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of being flexible in our approach with students. This flexibility was central to our work during the 2020-2021 school year, because every student's experience is unique.

We are grateful for our partnership with AmeriCorps, which allowed flexibility in our programs (Corps for a Change and Colorado Reading Corps), helping CYC to harness the power of service in order to bolster literacy among K-3 students and increase school engagement among high school students. We also launched PreK Reading Corps, and tutors delivered targeted literacy and numeracy interventions to 147 early learners (ages 3-5) for the first time in Colorado. Additional AmeriCorps members were also recruited for our Student Engagement Corps, a one-year project that supported K-12 students and their families with resources (often technology support and access) to remain engaged in school.

Meanwhile, CYC's Reengagement program successfully reenrolled nearly 150 students back into school; 80 percent continued in school or graduated this year. Our team ensured that these students received support and resources to reduce barriers toward graduation.

Thank you for partnering with Colorado Youth for a Change to boost access and create new pathways for student success in Colorado. We remain committed to the changing needs of students and families, and our team could not do this work without the support of our community.

Best Regards,

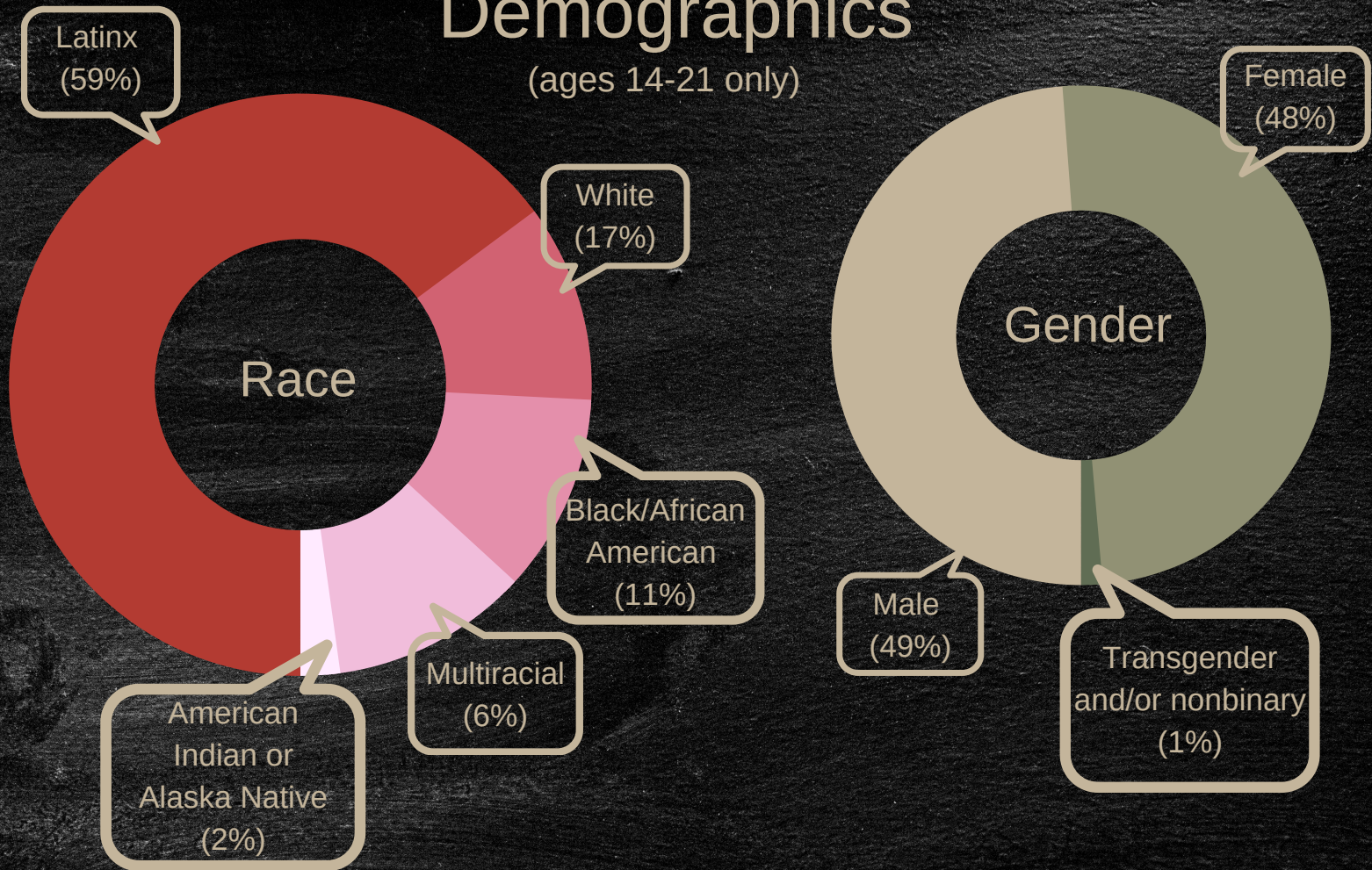


Mary Zanotti, Executive Director

DJ Close, CYC Board Chair

Demographics

(ages 14-21 only)



Life Events

(ages 14-21 only)

35% of CYC students are currently or formerly involved in the court system

4% are currently or formerly in foster care

18% are currently or formerly experiencing homelessness

9% are parenting or pregnant

69% are eligible for free or reduced lunch

“ I had a third grader who had missed a lot of school in kindergarten through second grade and was really behind. This student started third grade not knowing all of their letters and only recognizing three words on the beginning of the year assessment. They were reading at a kindergarten level. Even though we didn't start tutoring regularly until October due to the pandemic, this student made huge progress this year. They went from basically not being able to read at all to reading almost 50 words per minute. As we continued, their confidence shot up and they truly started to enjoy reading and school. Last week, they scored at a second-grade reading level and they are still making progress. They never gave up!

—CYC AmeriCorps member

”

Our Method

There is no one right path to graduation. CYC connects students with caring adults who demonstrate the impact of individualized attention. Our programs empower students to rise above their unique circumstances and achieve success in school and beyond.



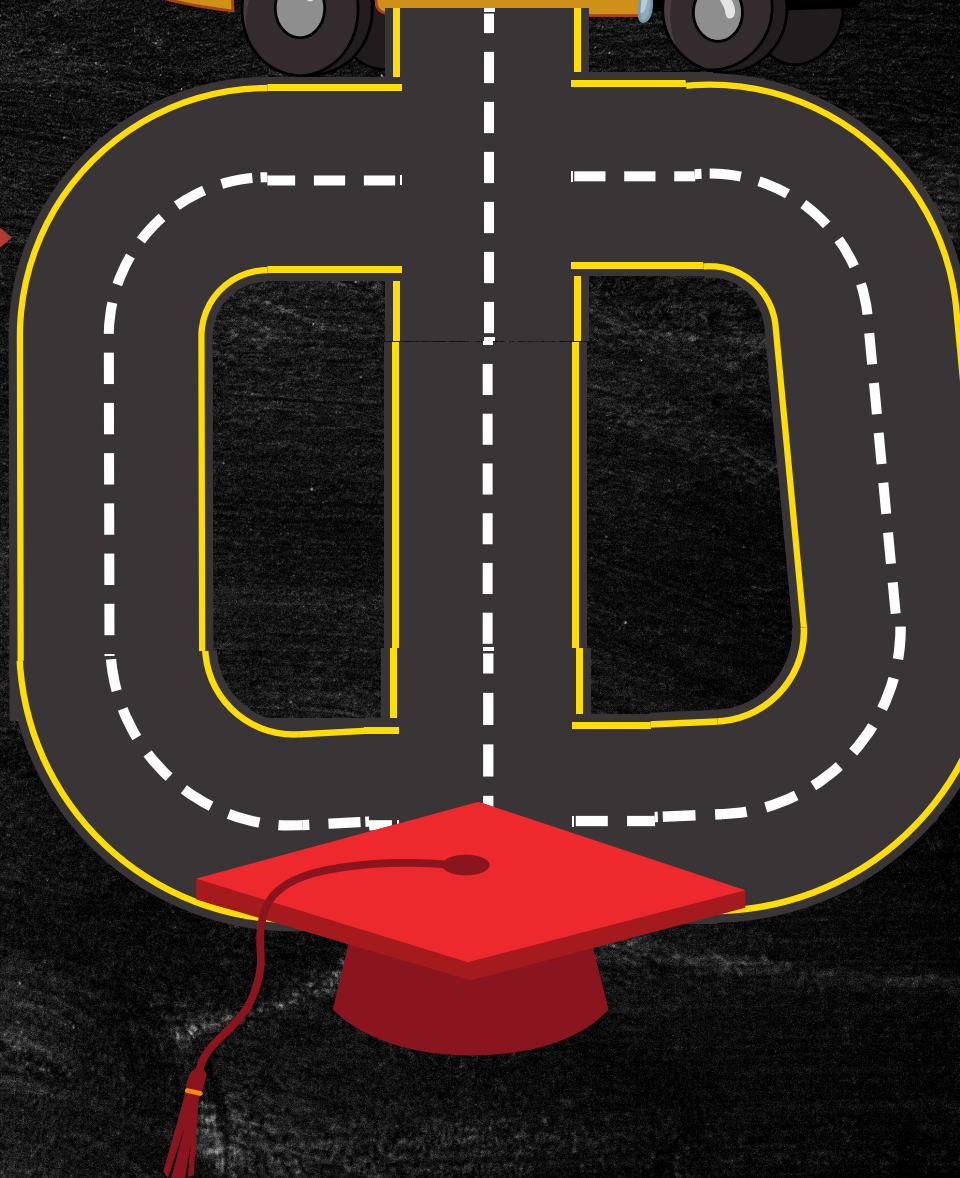
5,280
Colorado students
served this year



CO Reading Corps

Corps for a Change

Reengagement



Colorado Reading Corps

*Helping students become strong readers by
the end of third grade*



877 students served



79% achieved more than a full year
of academic growth in reading

“

A 3rd grader on my caseload teaches the Duet Reading Intervention, or 'flip flop reading,' as the student calls it, to her younger sibling. The younger sibling saw me in the hallway recently and was so excited that she reads with her sister, and told me all about the flip flop reading they do together when they get home from school.

—CYC AmeriCorps Reading Corps tutor

”



Inspiring Future Teachers



Over 70% of CYC's Colorado Reading Corps members report that they want to pursue careers in education.

“

Through the Colorado Reading Corps I learned a great deal about reading strategies and interventions in general that I adapted and used in my own materials with my students. I must mention that I witnessed elementary students with little confidence on themselves become great readers and risk takers. The Colorado Reading Corps taught me that confidence is powerful.

—Barbara, Reading Corps alumni
and current middle school teacher

”



Colorado Pre-K Reading Corps

Launched September 2020



147 students served



2,874 tutoring hours provided

Pre-K Reading Corps sites alternated between in-person and remote learning. During remote learning, tutors shared recorded book readings, distributed book bags and reading kits to families, and supported teacher-led remote learning activities. During in-person learning, tutors were integrated into the classroom and met with every student in the classroom at least once a week to provide small group literacy- and numeracy-based activities. Tutors also provided targeted, one-on-one and small group early literacy and numeracy interventions to 52 students and class wide literacy support to an additional 95. Participants achieved growth in all three skillsets:

Percent of Students Who Met Skill Target

Area of literacy/numeracy	Beginning of year	End of year
Math	26%	74%
Vocabulary	30%	61%
Comprehension	48%	70%

“One student and I are working on Blending Words and Phoneme Blending. They said they liked working with me and that they go home and teach their dad how to read using the same interventions we do. They show him words and have him blend sounds together just like I have them do in class! This made my day! The students are taking in what I am teaching them and bringing it home to their families. It is exciting!

—Jessica, Colorado Reading Corps tutor



Corps for a Change

Increasing school engagement



425 students served



75% improved in at least two asset categories on post-development assessment

CYC's Corps for a Change program served 425 students with 4,898 one-on-one support sessions focused on increasing school engagement, family engagement, and minimizing barriers to education. 75% of students improved in at least two asset categories that impact school success, with the most growth seen in *social competencies* and *commitment to learning*.

“

She helped me realize how important school was and how smart I can really be when I put my mind to it.

—CYC student speaking about their Corps for a Change member

”



Creating Engaged Citizens

When asked "Are you interested in continuing to serve your community through AmeriCorps, volunteering, or other means?"

93%

of CYC AmeriCorps members said probably or definitely yes



“

The biggest impact I see on my students is the confidence and calm they gain from knowing they are not alone and they are going to be okay.

—CYC AmeriCorps Corps for a Change member

”

Reengagement

*Reenroll students who have left school
without graduating*



131 students were enrolled
back into school or a GED program



80% either graduated or
continued in school

“

I was 18, but with my parents never really bothering to teach me anything; I still felt like a kid. I was confused and scared. Me telling my therapist and social worker that 'I don't think I can go to school anymore' was one of the hardest things I ever said.

—Luke, CYC student

”



Updates to Improve Access

In January 2021, CYC completed a wide-ranging expansion of its website. A major part of the website's renovation was the addition of resources and a scheduling app that simplified the intake process for students seeking to reenroll in school. These changes helped CYC better support students and families, especially those new to our services.

“

CYC took the time to hear me, to see me, and to let my voice be heard. They supported me in my educational pursuits and continue to support me because it is who they are.

—Joanna, former CYC student and current
CYC Math Corps tutor

”



Other Highlights

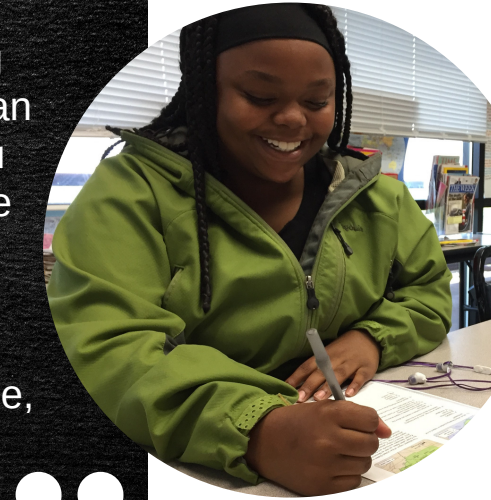
*Notable events and achievements
from the past year*

CYC Featured on America's Promise webinar

CYC was honored to participate in a virtual event with America's Promise, a national alliance created to improve the lives and futures of America's youth. Representing CYC was Executive Director Mary Zanotti, Senior AmeriCorps Program Manager Alayna Shaw, AmeriCorps member James, and CYC student Matt.

“When you go through months and months of not trying ... and not seeing the bigger picture and what getting an education and participating in high school really is, you start to kind of just be hopeless and not understand the severity of having a diploma. [Now that I'm back in school] I realize, big picture, it was really just doing a little bit of work every day ... Consistently and actually participating in classes, and once you get in that routine, it's a lot easier to keep up with it.

—Matt, CYC student



CYC Launches Student Engagement Corps

In August 2020, 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.

Other Highlights

*Notable events and achievements
from the past year (continued)*

Innovation Through A Pandemic: What We've Learned and What We'll Carry Forward

In April 2021, CYC hosted students and educational leaders from across Colorado to conduct a virtual panel discussing disparities brought to light as a result of remote learning, innovative practices schools/community organizations adopted, and how to move forward with more equitable and collaborative practices as a community.



“ I hope that the reimagined future is that we have this hybrid idea and we unbundle learning and engage families in what they think is good for their students.

—Katy Anthes, Ph. D.
State Commissioner of Education ”



Thank you to our donors!

2020-2021 School Year

\$25,000+

AmeriCorps
Buell Foundation
Colorado COVID-19 Relief Fund - State of Colorado
Daniels Fund
Denver Post Community Foundation, Season to Share
Mile High United Way

Phillip B. Golberg Fund
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\$10,000-\$24,999

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Adams County Foundation
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Denver Public Schools
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Harrison School District 2

Jeffco Public Schools
Lake County School District
Manitou Springs School District 14
Poudre School District
Sheridan School District No. 2
St. Vrain Valley Schools
Thompson School District
Weld RE-8 School District
Westminster Public Schools

Financials 2020

INCOME

School Districts & State Government	\$1,415,622
Federal Grants	\$1,258,177
Foundations/Corporations/Other	\$859,254
Sponsorships/Individual Donors	\$139,513
Total	\$3,672,566

EXPENSES

Programs	
Administration/	\$3,112,051
Fundraising	\$412,235 (12%)
Total	\$3,524,286

Complete 2020 Financial Report available upon request

2020-2021 Board of Directors

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Savills

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*Retired attorney and
former Reading Corps
tutor*

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Contact Us

info@youthforachange.org

303.292.2779

YouthForAChange.org

2490 W 26th Ave, Suite 110 A,
Denver, CO 80211

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