YJC

Youth Job Center

Getting a job. Launching a future.

The importance of retention

From the Executive Director:

We're thrilled to launch the Lasting Impact Initiative. This new Out of School Youth program at Youth Job Center is focused on job retention and career planning for youth in **retail and customer service jobs.**

An objective of the Lasting Impact Initiative is to help young employees become skilled in **communications, customer service, critical thinking, adaptability, and a focus on results,** all skills that are not only transferable to other job opportunities, but highly valued in the workplace.

Our new Retention Specialist and the great YJC Career Advisers will work with the young employees and with their employers. **First, it's about job retention.** Through regular check ins and site visits, and by building trusting relationships, Youth Job Center will help both groups identify and address issues appropriately. **Second, it's about career advancement.** Youth Job Center will help young adults determine long-term career goals and the steps to get there.

One of the best parts is that we can incorporate feedback from employers into future pre-employment training sessions, orientation and on-the-job supports. The Lasting Impact Initiative **deepens our relationships with more employers** and allows us to better prepare young people for success in the workplace.

We are very excited about this opportunity to have a deeper impact on the youth and young adults we serve.

Sincerely,

Karen Tollenaar Demorest
Executive Director

Donate to build a better future

YJC's support is not just about job placement and a paycheck. For many, YJC's support leads to:

- An increased sense of self worth
- A way to contribute to the community and economy
- The ability to take on challenges that result in continued learning and personal growth

One person at a time, one job at a time, YJC works to build a better future.

Donate

Lasting Impact Initiative

Thanks to a grant from **Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance**, we are excited to announce the launch of the **Lasting Impact Initiative**, a retention-focused pilot program.

YJC **Career Advisors** and a full-time **Retention Specialist** will support youth placed in entry-level customer service and retail positions to continue on the path to living-wage jobs with career advancement opportunities.

Youth will work with Career Advisors to build a **Career Advancement Plan**, incorporating training and education programs to help youth pursue a career path that fits their situation, needs, and goals. **Monthly workshops** will focus on career exploration, financial literacy, and job skills.

Recent Hiring Events

YJC hosted **5 onsite hiring events** in November and so far in December

with:

- Goodwill
- Crossmark
- Mariano's
- H&R Block
- Jewel

40 Out of School Youth participants attended in total - some attended more than one.

8 of those participants attended a 1 or 2 day Job Readiness Training session before the Jewel event where they practiced interview skills and more. And everyone who attended Jewel's hiring event received an offer!

Welcome!

Retention Specialist

Brandi Crawford joined the YJC Out of School Youth team to help support our new Lasting Impact Initiative. Welcome, Brandi!

Data Specialist

Welcome to Marvin Taylor, YJC's new data specialist! Marvin has recently worked with Chicago Public Schools on student data and will be helping YJC with data collection and analysis. YJC i s proud to partner with [Public Allies Chicago](#) to host Marvin as a second year Ally.

YJC in the News

From *Evanston Roundtable*: ['WE' Foundation Launches Program at ETHS](#)

From *Evanston Review*: [Youth Job Center Expands Into Wells Academy](#)

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