Dear Youth Job Center Friend,

Fiscal year 2018 was an exciting year for Youth Job Center (YJC), filled with opportunity, continued innovation, and significant accomplishments, all of which we are proud to share in this report. During the year, YJC continued to advance its mission: “Success for young people, in the workplace and in life.” We expanded and revised programs, built a stronger financial foundation, and strengthened relationships with employer and community partners. YJC expanded career planning options in high schools to include all viable career options, whether they start with a job, apprenticeship, training, or college. Through this work we believe we can help prevent young people from becoming disconnected from work and school and help the next generation move out of poverty and onto a successful path.

YJC envisions a future where all young people have the support to move toward a meaningful career where they can take pride in their contribution. Today, YJC provides a robust set of services to more than 2,000 youth each year from across Chicagoland, supporting them onto a lifelong career path.

In 2017-18, Youth Job Center integrated additional career options in its post-secondary planning curriculum, delivered in our high school partner classrooms. This resulted in our staff assisting more than 1,200 students to create post-secondary career plans. Additionally, YJC worked with teachers, post-secondary planning teams, and school leadership to change the conversation with students about college attainment, including promoting alternative opportunities that lead to living-wage careers. The YJC team also provided students with continued assistance after graduation, connecting them to resources, training programs, and support that aided them in finding meaningful, life-long employment.

In YJC’s Out-Of-School Youth programs, staff developed a new method of employer engagement by integrating employer-specific needs into the training curriculum, resulting in a delivery structure and content that engages youth and builds essential skills while meeting the needs of the workforce. YJC also worked with employers to increase their understanding of the barriers many young people face and trained employer staff and management on how to effectively work with young people who experience those challenges.

At YJC we take great pride in our strong programs; however, we know we cannot accomplish our work alone. Without the support of our community, partners, and donors none of this would be possible. YJC relies on strong relationships with schools, municipalities, and youth-serving agency partners throughout Chicago, resulting in an extensive network of resources and support for our youth. Our success is your success.

As the world continues to change around us, we embrace the need to be innovative and adaptive. As the needs of our communities evolve, we evolve too. In the coming years YJC will continue to build on the successes of our 2017-18 fiscal year. We hope that you will join us.

Together we can build a stronger community, one job at a time.

Sincerely,

Karen Tollenaar Demorest
Executive Director

Scott Hurwitz
Board Chair

YJC’s In-School Youth (ISY) Program provides high-quality programs at the intersection of youth development, workforce development, and career planning. In our programs young people develop the skills, patience, self-efficacy, and confidence they need to overcome challenges and adjust their plans over time.

YJC programs serve two distinct populations: In-School Youth (ISY), ages 14-18, and Out-of-School Youth (OSY), ages 16-25.

The goal of YJC’s In-School Youth Programs are threefold:

1) Assist graduating seniors in transitioning successfully into the next phase;
2) Provide post-secondary planning support, focused on career and job options outside of the traditional college path; and
3) Provide youth with a positive first job experience, which has been shown to have a significant impact on their trajectory, leading to increased income and reduced likelihood of unemployment.

The goal of YJC’s Out-of-School Programs is a lasting and successful job placement on a career path toward economic self-sufficiency.

IN-SCHOOL YOUTH (ISY) PROGRAMS

YJC@ 1,259
Youth who received post-secondary planning, workforce and professional skills training

GAP INC. THIS WAY 132 AHEAD
Youth offered part-time employment at Gap, Old Navy, and Banana Republic Stores

SUMMER CORPS 22
Youth hired as ABC Boosters

149 youth trained

17 youth hired as Summer-Tutors

81 youth working in paid internships

2 youth hired as corporate interns

Sincerely,

Karen Tollenaar Demorest
Executive Director

Scott Hurwitz
Board Chair
CRUZ SALGADO – IN-SCHOOL YOUTH

As a senior at Gage Park High School, Cruz was always an advocate for others, participating with organizations like Students With Voices. When Cruz decided that he wanted to do more than odd jobs for his own financial self-sufficiency, he recognized he needed someone who could help him advocate for himself. Cruz reached out to his Youth Job Center Career Advisor, NuDonna Williams, who helped Cruz improve his resume and practice interviewing techniques. NuDonna also put Cruz in touch with YJC’s Employer and Partner Relations Manager, Julia Brownfield, who let Cruz know about a hiring event in his area. Equipped with his new and improved resume and lots of interviewing experience, Cruz attended the event and impressed an employer so much that they offered him a job on the spot. Way to go, Cruz! We cannot wait to see what the future has in store for you!

TAMERA BOSTON - OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

Tamera was referred to the Youth Job Center in January 2018 by the City of Evanston Youth and Young Adult Outreach Team. For years, Tamera had planned to go to college, working hard to make sure her grades were strong. But in the August before she was set to start college, Tamera learned that she didn’t have the money to pay for tuition. Like many young people, Tamera had to put her college plans on hold and work after high school graduation. Tamera did not give up on her dream of going to college though, and came to YJC looking for another path to school, saving money so that one day she could make that dream a reality. YJC helped Tamera get hired with Wintrust Bank in March 2018, where she has excelled in her work. Tamera has built great relationships with her peers and supervisors, and in September 2018 was promoted from Bank Teller to Universal Banker, receiving a salary increase in the process. Keep up the good work, Tamera!

BRINITY JOHNSON – YOUTH JOB CENTER ALUMNI

Brinity Johnson came to the Youth Job Center in June 2017, after graduating from Robeson High School in Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood. She enrolled in Youth Job Center’s Summer Corps, where she worked with YJC Career Advisors to explore career paths, ultimately deciding that she wanted to pursue a career in healthcare. After completing the program, Brinity enrolled in YJC’s Career Pathways program, where she was able to complete a training program to become a state Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She did so well during the clinical portion of the training program that she received and accepted an offer for permanent employment from the nursing home hosting the clinical portion of her training program. Brinity’s goal is to continue pursuing her education in healthcare. Because she was certified prior to enrolling in post-secondary education she was able to access an accelerated program at Malcolm X College to obtain her Associate Degree in Applied Science in Nursing to be a Registered Nurse. With the help of YJC, Brinity is enrolled in school full-time, working part-time, and expects to graduate within two years and move into a hospital setting. Way to go, Brinity!

OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS

YJC’s Out-of-School Youth Programs provide young adults with in-depth personalized career exploration and advising, work readiness training, connections to fellow youth-serving agencies, job placement, career pathways training programs, and follow up support. These services assist young people in developing hard and soft skills, connect youth with agencies that can help address significant barriers such as homelessness or a criminal history, and provide support that helps young people maintain employment and pursue opportunities for career advancement. YJC’s Out-of-School Youth programs are:

WORK READINESS TRAINING AND CORE SERVICES

334 young people served

CAREER PATHWAYS

62 young people served

55 young people completed the Retail / Customer Service Career Pathway

7 young people completed the Automotive Career Pathway

55 young people enrolled in Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act services

28 young people provided with in-depth follow up support

YJC’s Out-of-School Youth Programs provide young adults with in-depth personalized career exploration and advising, work readiness training, connections to fellow youth-serving agencies, job placement, career pathways training programs, and follow up support.
Gifts received between July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

$2,500 & GREATER

Anonymous
Ann & Brian Balusek
Kim & Frank Barbo
Rob & Beverly Berman
Jennifer & Dave Bicklenstein
Ellen & Alexander Butkus
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Jay Miller & Aspasia Apostolakis Miller
Michael & Krysia Miller
Dennis & Irene Moore
Thomas & Susan Morgan
Judy & Dennis Newton
Brian & Tara Norris
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$1,000 - $2,499

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Stephen & Virginia Carr
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$249 & UNDER

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Thomas Abendroth & Terri Mascherin
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Christopher D. Allen & Virginia S. Holblin
Shawn Allen
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Deborah & Clark Ardern
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Susan & James Carroll
Tedd Carroll
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**STAFF**

Diana Balitaan  
Assistant Manager of High School Programs

Molly Berg  
High School Career Advisor

Julia Brownfield  
Employer & Partner Relations Manager

Hassan Buell  
High School Career Advisor

Ted Carroll  
Grants and Communications Manager

Karen Tollenaar Demorest  
Executive Director

Len Felton  
Out-of-School Youth Career Advisor

Gabriela Garay  
High School Career Advisor

Eileen Hallstrom  
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Lisa Laude  
Training Manager

Katy Murphy  
Director of Individual Giving

M Nelsen  
Program and Data Analyst

Walter Pophin  
Director of Finance

Renetta Porte’  
Office Manager

Ivan Ramos  
Director of Programs

Erica Rodriguez  
WIOA Career Advisor

Karina Williams  
In-School Youth Partners Program Manager

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Adam Goodman  
Marilyn Hall  
Karen Hunt  
Matt Rodgers  
Toby Sachs  
Beth Swann

**FOUNDER**

Ann Jennett

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND EMPLOYER PARTNERS**

Ace Hotel Chicago  
Acquirant  
Advocate Lutheran  
Airserv: O’Hare  
Akira: Old Orchard

Aldi  
AllSet Turnover  
AMC: Downtown  
American Public Defense  
Angels R US Kidz Academy  
Aramark  
Asian Human Services  
Aspen Foundation Community of Practice  
Athletico  
Avon Product Inc  
Banana Republic  
Bed Bath & Beyond: Lincoln Park  
Best Buy: Evanston  
Blackwell Professional Support  
Black Art Materials: Evanston  
Bright Endeavors  
Burger King: Evanston-Orrington  
Carl Buddig & Company  
Cassidy Tires  
CEDA  
Center for Independent Futures  
Champs  
Chicago Community Kitchens  
Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership  
Chicago Public Schools  
Chick-fil-A  
Childcare Network of Evanston  
Chipotle  
Chuck E Cheese  
Cinemark  
Circles & Ciphers  
Citadel of Wilmette  
City Colleges of Chicago  
City of Evanston  
City Wide of Chicago  
CMX Cinemas  
Connections for the Homeless  
Country Financial  
Crossmark: Sam’s Club Events Team  
Culver’s: Old Orchard  
Curie High School  
Curt’s Cafe  
CVS Regional  
CVS Health  
District 65 Food Service  
Edzo’s Burger Shop  
Embarc Chicago  
Erie Family Health Centers  
Eva Airlines  
Evanston / Skokie School District 65  
Evanston Cradle to Career  
Evanston Eye Wellness  
Evanston Minority Business Consortium  
Evanston Public Library  
Evanston Township High School  
Family Focus  
First Bank & Trust Evanston  
For Your Party  
Found  
Gage Park High School  
Gap  
Gap Foundation This Way Ahead Community of Practice  
Gap Inc.  
Gary Comer Youth Center  
Goodwill: Evanston  
Gourmet Gorilla  
Grasmere Place LLC  
Greenline Coffee  
Guardian Security Services  
Gymboree: Old Orchard  
Handi Foil Corp  
Harper College  
Heartland Alliance  
Help at Home LLC  
Hill Foodservice Consulting  
Hilton  
Home Depot: Chicago - Lincoln & McCormick  
IHOP: N Lincoln Ave  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Infant Welfare Society of Chicago  
Interpark Chicago Market  
J & L Trucking Inc  
James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy  
JCPenney  
Jewel Osco  
Job Corps  
Journey’s Shoes: Old Orchard Mall  
JP Morgan Chase: Dearborn  
King’s Kiddie Kingdom  
Kozy’s Cyclery  
Lawrence Hall  
Le Chef Gourmet  
Let Us Entertain You  
Levy Restaurants  
Little Caesar’s Pizza  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
Lock Chicago: Escape Games  
Loran Hyundai  
Loyola Limited  
Lyfe Kitchen  
Macy’s: Michigan Avenue  
Mariano’s  
Mather High School  
Mather Lifeways: Evanston  
MB Financial
#LOOKINGAHEAD

**ASSETS**

- Cash & Restricted Cash: $519,786
- Receivables, net of allowance: 210,875
- Facilities & Equipment: 374,213
- Endowment: 25,767
- Other Assets: 5,922

**TOTAL ASSETS**: $1,136,563

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

- Payables & Accruals: 84,230
- Mortgage: 263,351
- Unrestricted Net Assets: 271,339
- Temp. Restricted Net Assets: 497,744
- Perm. Restricted Net Assets: 19,899

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**: $1,136,563

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF JUNE 2018**

**REVENUE**

- Government Grants: $430,122
- Private & Corporate Grants: 924,174
- Individual Contributions: 151,820
- Special Events: 126,700
- Other revenue: 5,236

**TOTAL REVENUE**: $1,638,052

**EXPENSES**

- Program Services: $1,043,791
- Management & General: 149,139
- Fundraising: 193,670

**TOTAL EXPENSES**: $1,386,600

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**: $251,452
Youth Job Center is deeply committed to providing the youth and young adults of Evanston and Chicago with the support they need to fulfill their potential and step onto the path to a meaningful career. Our work in the coming years will focus on providing youth with career options early on, delivering innovative and effective training, strengthening employer relations, and becoming a thought leader in youth and workforce development. To make our vision a reality, a future in which all young people have the support to build a successful future, we rely on you. Whether it be a financial contribution, volunteering at an event, collaborating in programs, or simply telling others about the work of YJC, your support makes a difference.

We hope that you have enjoyed this report and ask you to consider supporting the work of the Youth Job Center in the coming year. Together we can build a stronger community, one job at a time.