A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022
When we first started YouthBuild Newark in 2003, we were determined to give young people another chance. A chance to earn their GED, to gain on-the-job training, and to transform their lives.

Nearly 20 years later, that is still at the core of what we do. While our work has evolved into multiple initiatives designed to address youth disconnection, the power of transformation is the throughline that connects it all.

It is my hope that the stories shared below provide a window into the work of Newark Opportunity Youth Network and into the potential of each young person we serve. Despite all the challenges of this past school year, there is much to be celebrated. From post-secondary placements to the passage of legislation, we are proud of the work that’s been done - but know there’s much more that lies ahead.

Together with our partners, we look forward to the coming year and to sharing the stories of even more young people as they transform not only their own lives, but their families and communities as well.

Robert Clark
## ACCOMPLISHMENTS + HIGHLIGHTS

### Education

Alumni So’nya Jordan penned an op-ed in support of A4663 - which Lt. Gov. Oliver signed in July.

“*When I came to LEAD, I actually stepped up and started doing my work. The teachers made sure everybody was on the same page and that everybody knew what to do. They made it easier.*

*Adrien Freeman*

2021 LEAD Graduate

### Workforce Development

Awarded grant from Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey to strengthen Allied Health track.

### Policy Advocacy

MBKN released Reimagining Public Safety in Newark report with City Hall and Equal Justice USA.

### Systems Building

GlassRoots joined the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative.

“*It’s rare that you can find a school that really cares deeply about their students, that’s why I’ll recommend anybody struggling or trying to find themselves or trying to get back into high school, I’d recommend this school in a heartbeat.*

*Shennel Baggot*

2021 LEAD Graduate

“*My past is always going to be my past, but I am more than my mistakes. Every student deserves someone in their corner, so they can know that success is possible for them too.*

*So’Nya Jordan*

2020 LEAD Graduate

“(YouthBuild)...made me feel like I was wanted, like a family. It made me feel like I could be a better man. It made me want to be a better person.”

*Isaiah Brown*

2018 Uplift Graduate

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NOYN Year in Review — 2021-22
LOOKING FORWARD

NOYN IN ACTION

We’re meeting our young people where they are, giving them the guidance and support to enter onto post-secondary pathways that align with their specific needs to reach their highest potential and continued success.

We’re expanding partnerships with organizations that share our mission -- like the Healthcare Foundation of NJ and Henry J. Niles Foundation -- to grow resources dedicated to opportunity youth in Newark.

We’re supporting legislation like S1563, working with the Senate Education Committee to permit the State Board of Education to authorize alternative teaching certificates, recruiting more educators dedicated to our young people.

Through our work with the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative, we’re working to build capacity and increase the number of high-quality educational seats through key partnerships with local community based organizations (CBOs).

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

Looking for ways to support NOYN’s work? Here’s how:

1. Follow us on social media platforms and share our posts + stories.
   - OYN_Newark
   - oyn_newark
   - NewarkOYN
   - Newark
   - Opportunity
   - Youth Network

2. Engage with opportunity youth throughout your community + connect them to us.
   - Learn more here.
   - Apply here to get a high school diploma or GED and an industry-recognized credential

3. Donate to NOYN, contributing to funds that will support education, workforce development, policy advocacy, and systems building.
   - Make a pledge to OY here.
   - Learn more about us and our approach here.

NOYN Year in Review — 2021-22