



2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT

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*In partnership with nature, YES nurtures leaders
who champion the wellbeing of our community.*





From our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In a year marked by stark social injustices and divisions, I'm proud to have worked alongside our YES staff and board, who have poured their hearts and souls into nurturing an environment that welcomes and celebrates our community of participants. Many of the families YES serves have faced heightened risks and stresses as their legal status, safety, and sense of humanity have been overtly threatened. We responded by strengthening our resolve to work harder and smarter on behalf of Richmond youth and families. Week in and week out, YES programs are building community leadership and resilience, and providing access to the healing powers of nature.



Fifteen YES Summer Campers became the first-ever Richmond Rangers, visiting 13 East Bay regional parks over ten months to learn natural history, conservation science techniques, outdoor and leadership skills, and preparing for future involvement in the Camp-to-Community teen program.

The pages of this report highlight the work YES undertook this past year to provide more year-round programming than ever, while honoring our participants for their involvement, accomplishments, and leadership.

With great gratitude to YES's partners, donors, funders, staff, board of directors, volunteers, and community for making our work possible,

Eric Aaholm
Executive Director



Youth Leadership Pathway

YES's YOUTH LEADERSHIP PATHWAY supports youth age 8 through 18 along a continuum of development – from a week of Summer Camp to year-round participation in the Camp-to-Community teen program.

Our **SUMMER CAMP & CAMP DAYS** program provides scholarships, transportation, and wrap-around support to send hundreds of low-income youth to week-long residential summer camps, where they are immersed in nature and supported by positive role models.

Beginning at age 14, our **CAMP-TO-COMMUNITY (C2C)** program provides year-round programming for teens to deepen their connection to nature, develop leadership skills, graduate high school, access college, and obtain meaningful employment.

NEW: To create a bridge between Summer Camp and C2C, we piloted the **RICHMOND RANGERS**. In partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District, 15 YES campers were provided with a ten-month program of twice-monthly day outings to regional parks, family nights, and two overnight backpacking trips.

*"I developed a passion for nature and my surroundings as well as making new friends and trying new things."
– Summer camper*

*"Being in C2C has definitely strengthened my leadership skills...showing me that I had a passion for leading and guiding others in the right direction to further their future success."
– C2C teen participant*

DURING THE 2016-17 PROGRAM YEAR:

94% of campers reported having more self-confidence after their experience at camp.

95% of campers increased their knowledge about the natural environment.

28 YES youth held Leaders-in-Training or fulltime summer camp leadership roles.

26 was the average number of days C2C teens spent immersed in nature with YES.

96% of C2C teens demonstrated improved knowledge and skills to apply for, secure, and maintain a job.

Adult Leadership Pathway

YES's ADULT LEADERSHIP PATHWAY supports parents and caregivers to gain the tools to achieve economic self-sufficiency, foster healthy families and social relationships, and act as advocates for change.

Our **FAMILY CAMPS** are weekend-long relationship- and leadership-building retreats in the redwood forest. In addition to group campfires, rock climbing, family art projects, and hikes, adults participate in workshops centered on healthy practices and pressing community issues.

Upon return from Family Camp, the YES **WELLNESS PROGRAM** further engages adults through nutrition and cooking classes, physical activity groups, service days, and opportunities to advocate on behalf of wellness issues in their schools and neighborhoods.

*"I love the outdoors. It gives me peace and promotes tranquility."
– Family Camp participant*

*"Because of YES, I have been able to make healthy choices for my whole family."
– Wellness Program participant*

DURING THE 2016-17 PROGRAM YEAR:

304 family members were served through four Family Camps. The themes of the adult workshop were Understanding Power and Privilege, and Diabetes 101.

97% of Family Camp participants reported an intention to spend more time in nature with their families upon return to Richmond.

While more than half of YES's adult participants face obesity-related diseases:

96% of adult Family Camp participants plan to continue engaging in physical activity and making healthy choices for their families back at home.

99% of Family Camp participants reported increased self-confidence during camp.

16 Wellness Program participants graduated from a five-week Cooking Matters course taught by YES participant and Lead Wellness Navigator, Maria. The class included nutrition education and hands-on cooking lessons, and fostered a sense of community amongst participants.

Our Impact through Whole Family Involvement

Francilia

Francilia is a single mother of four children, and was referred to YES through the Youth Services Bureau. She brought her family to YES Family Camp in 2014, and shared her family's story with the staff there. Soon, everyone in the household was engaged in YES programming. In addition to Family Camp, Francilia brings friends and neighbors along to YES community events, and attends every possible program and workshop, building leadership skills to care for her family and improve her community.

Emely

At 16, Emely is a three-time YES summer camper. Though she works week-ends and after school to help her family and earn spending money, Emely also participates in C2C activities like this year's overnight kayaking trip to Angel Island, and hopes to go to Yosemite in 2018. In true teenage fashion, she relishes times when her three siblings are all off on YES activities, and she has her home and her mom to herself!

Jonathan

Jonathan, age 12, went to Summer Camp just months after his first Family Camp. He's now a proud third-year camper and attends Winter Camp and Camp Days. As a pre-teen, Jonathan can sometimes adopt a cool front, but was eager to become part of YES's first Richmond Rangers group this year. Jonathan truly shone as a leader among his peers while spending two Saturdays each month hiking, learning natural history, and gaining outdoor skills.

Kimberly

Kimberly comes back from Summer and Family Camps singing every camp song for months. She is a confident 11 year-old who immediately wins the hearts of the staff at Summer and Winter Camp and on Camp Days. This summer, Kimberly returned from sleep away camp just in time to head to East Bay Regional Park District's day camp, right in Richmond's own Miller Knox Regional Park.

Sammie

Sammie is seven, gregarious, and a prankster. YES gives her a chance to set down her struggles, as she battles a serious health problem for which her mom takes her to medical appointments up to three times a week. This year, the unstoppable Sammie made her way onto a Camp Days outing despite being technically too young, and next year she'll win her campaign to join the over-night Winter Camp and sleep away from her family for the first time.

Jonathan

Emely

Francilia

Kimberly

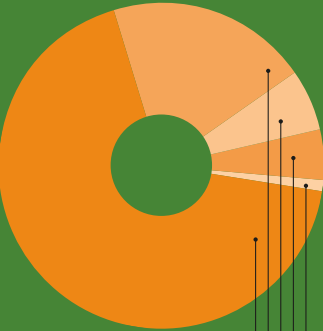


Sammie



Financial Statement

REVENUE & SUPPORT

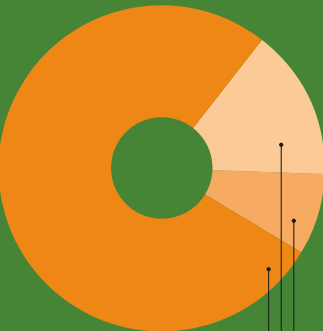


Foundations	68%
Individuals	20%
Corporate Donations	.6%
Government Grants	.5%
Fee for Service	1%

TOTAL..... \$980,071*

**Includes \$218,000 released from multi-year grants awarded in 2015 and 2016.*

EXPENSES



Programs	77%
Fundraising	15%
Management & Administration	.8%

TOTAL..... \$847,527

Corporate & Organizational Funders

AmazonSmile
Anaviv Catering & Events
Big Chief Tree Service
Buchanan Opalach Architects
CCAR Helping Hands
Cerami Builders
Chevron Richmond Refinery
Commerce Home Mortgage
Crosby & Kaneda
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Studio KDA
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The Law Offices of Bonnie K. Bishop

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The Dean Witter Foundation
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The San Francisco Foundation
The Wolfgang Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation
Thomas J. Long Foundation*
Youth Outside*

**Multi-year grants*

YES would also like to thank the hundreds of individual donors and in-kind supporters who make our work possible.

YES 
Nature to Neighborhoods

3029 Macdonald Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 232-3032

yesfamilies.org