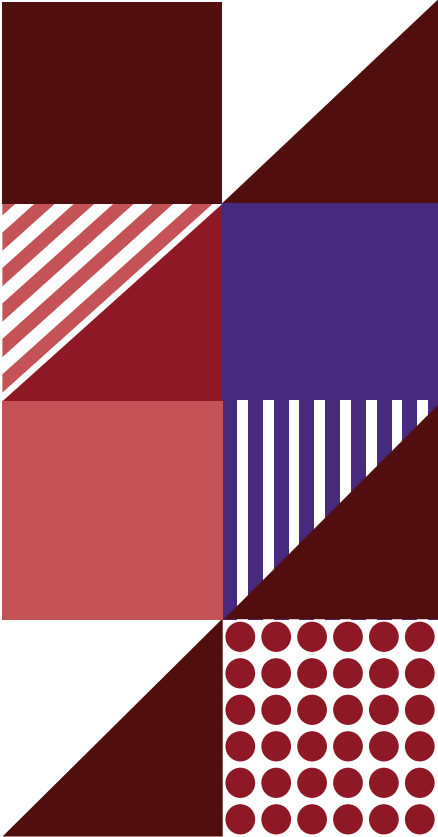
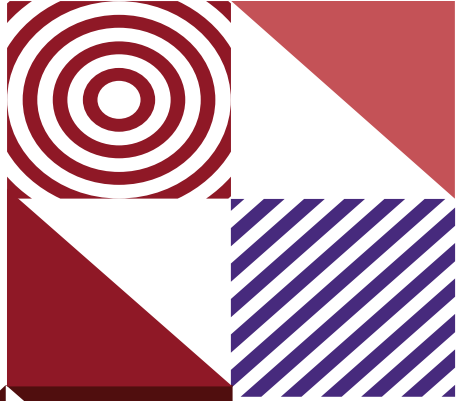


50th Anniversary



SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Shaker Heights Youth Center's mission is to foster the emotional, behavioral, and developmental well-being of a diverse youth community in Shaker.



The President's Letter

"We can do anything." That seems to be the attitude as we get further out from the beginning of the pandemic that started in the winter of 2020. However, I feel that a false sense of security is overcoming a great deal of social service agencies. A more realistic approach is that we can do our part if everyone works collectively to move forward and distance ourselves from this unprecedented time which has most certainly impacted all of the youth who we serve in different ways.

Education for our youth is centered around socialization, and that is what has been curtailed the most during this time. Being on Zoom calls and seeing peoples' faces on the computer has been a welcome advancement which will carry forward in certain circumstances, but it is not an adequate substitute. Moving forward, the Shaker Heights Youth Center will and must be available to assist the youth to get back on track and learn the necessary skills in order to become productive members of society in the future. We do not take this responsibility lightly and realize that it could take some time, maybe even more time than the actual pandemic itself has lasted, to help those who have been affected due to no fault of their own.

Our staff work in the schools and the community, and they will do everything in their power to help our youth achieve success. They have proven that they are compassionate, motivated, and highly successful in assisting those who face setbacks. They have gone above and beyond the standard job description during the past year and a half, and that has made them even more valuable to the schools and the community.

This is where our funders and supporters come in. I would like to both personally thank you and ask for not only your continued faith in our work, but also to step up and allow us to do even more. We will reward your confidence with time spent with those who have faced an unfair struggle during this past year.

We will get through this and return to what we consider more normal times, but it takes all of us working together and doing what sometimes is considered trivial but, in reality, is the foundation of the principles necessary for our youth to thrive.

Sincerely,
Donald Gries
President, Board of Trustees

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Shaker Heights Youth Center,

I am very appreciative of the members of the Shaker Community who support us. We have been able to succeed because you have stood by us for 50 years. Fifty years is a long time for a small social service agency to survive and thrive. But we have been able to do just that because we are planted in fertile soil. I feel so fortunate that the Shaker Heights Youth Center has been nurtured by this amazing community.

I am so proud of our staff and how they have responded throughout the pandemic by continuing to provide remote and in-person services. Now with the lessening of covid restrictions we have increased those services to our consumers, almost to the point of pre-covid levels, as we continue to provide in-person programs to the most vulnerable in the Schools and Community. For those most in need of assistance during the pandemic we provided learning pods for students, helped coordinate food distribution and essentials for families, and made every effort to provide youth the opportunity to engage with other peers outdoors, socialization that they truly needed. We took precautions and maintained safety, but we were there for the youth and their families.

As we begin the process of transition of staff over the next two to three years for those of us who have worked at the Youth Center 24+ years, I had some initial trepidation about how that would impact the Youth Center. I am no longer worried. Several newer staff members have proved themselves to be excellent additions! They have already brought us fresh ideas, enthusiasm for the mission of the Youth Center, and the energy, determination, and resiliency to work through the challenges they have already and will continue to encounter. Our future is in good hands.

I appreciate our many loyal and steadfast partners such as the Shaker Heights City Schools, City of Shaker Heights, Shaker Heights Public Library, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland, Kent State University College of Urban Design, our many MyCom partnerships and the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County.

Thank you all so much for contributing to 50 great years focused on serving youth and families in the Shaker Community.

Most sincerely,
John Lisy



Major Programs

Intensive Prevention Program

This agency-based alternative to suspension or expulsion prevention program runs for the entire school day, Monday through Friday, and allows students to receive academic tutoring and/or complete their online schoolwork at the Youth Center. The Youth Center works closely with the Shaker Heights City Schools to keep students current with their schoolwork. Group discussions focus on the Life Skills curriculum, an evidence-based program, to help strengthen resiliency in youth. Because of the Shaker Heights City School District's work to eliminate suspensions and expulsions this was the last year of this program at the Youth Center.

Student Assistance Program – Elementary School

The Shaker Heights Youth Center staff lend support to students in grades K-4 in elementary schools in the district. They work closely with school teams to provide positive services to students who are experiencing difficulties that are affecting their success in school. A variety of supports may be used to connect with students including individual one-on-one engagement, small group discussions, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and connecting families to community resources to ensure more equitable education access and success.

Student Assistance Program – Woodbury Elementary School

Shaker Youth Center staff works with students in grades 5th and 6th who are experiencing challenges that are affecting their academic success and behavior in the school setting and/or community. A variety of supports may be used to connect with the students including individual one-on-one engagement, small group discussions, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and connecting families to community resources.

Student Assistance Program – Middle School

The Youth Center works closely with guidance counselors, assistant principals, and teachers to identify youth in need of prevention services. Our staff evaluates and supports students who are experiencing challenges that are affecting their lives. A variety of supports may be used to connect with the students including individual one-on-one engagement, small group discussions, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and connecting families to community resources.

Student Assistance Program – High School

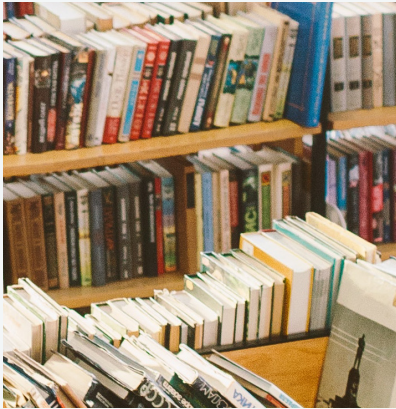
The Youth Center staff provides services at the Shaker Heights High School and interacts closely with school personnel to identify youth in need of assistance in fulfilling their attendance and educational requirements. Our staff evaluates and supports students who are experiencing challenges that affect their ability to succeed. Students in need are identified by the High School, generally beginning in 9th grade.

MyCom Shaker

As the local lead Agency for the Shaker MyCom Youth Development Initiative since 2008, the Youth Center coordinates and staffs this project by working with its partners to strengthen youth programming. MyCom neighborhoods assess youth needs, build capacity, plan, implement and evaluate programming to best meet those needs. It provides out-of-school time opportunities to guide youth in building leadership skills, engaging in community service projects, and summer employment opportunities. MyCom encourages youth to develop a voice in their community by active engagement in youth councils. The role of the Shaker MyCom Youth Council is to train and mentor high school students in leadership skills, engage in service-learning opportunities, team building and public communication skills. MyCom works with Y.O.U. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited) to expand the summer jobs program, allowing youth to gain real world job skills.

IMPACT Youth Enrichment Program

This program is designed to help students navigate through their middle school years. The Youth Center, in collaboration with UUCC (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland), administers this program that provides after-school activities in a safe and nurturing environment. It focuses on life skills, social and communication skills, academics, leadership, drug prevention and service-learning projects to the community, all which have proven to be significant protective factors in the lives of youth. Community guest speakers talk with the youth throughout the year and parent engagement events are held as well.



Innovative Center for Personalized Learning (IC)

The Innovative Center for Personalized Learning is a part of the Shaker Schools and offers a variety of non-traditional learning experiences for students. It seeks to meet the varied needs of the students by providing educational opportunities and wrap around community resources that support growth, development, and success. The Youth Center supports many of the unique and individualized services including connection to a support team of teachers and advisors, social emotional learning, the Life Skills curriculum, online courses and workshops that count toward high school and college credits, career preparation support and connection to internships, and credit recovery options.

Making Our Own Space (MOOS)

Shaker students work with the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, an outreach program from Kent State University's College of Architecture & Environmental Design that engages minority youth to design and construct outdoor furniture and playscapes for their neighborhoods. They are introduced to the design professions of architecture and urban design in this hands-on program. Many of the works built by Shaker youth have been installed in the Moreland community as well as temporarily at the Cleveland lakeshore as part of a lakefront project. The Youth Center administers the MyCom grant that makes this program possible.

Positive Engagement Encouraging Resiliency in Shaker Students (P.E.E.R.S.)

In this summer program a group of 10-12 Shaker high school students used a "think tank" model to apply the Social Norms Theory to examine and discuss social justice issues as they affect teens. These youth leaders identified several major impending social issues and how they impact youth. They explored the response of youth and the "resiliency" factors required to manage these social complexities. Applying the Life Skills curriculum, they used role models, surveying, debates, social media, and other tools to explore the impact of social justice, a health pandemic, and other critical issues that have an effect on the lives of our youth population.

Summer Leadership Program

The Summer Leadership Program for students in grades 6 thru 12 focuses on building self-esteem, resiliency, and leadership skills, and incorporates the Life Skills curriculum and related activities to enhance these qualities in youth.



State Fiscal Year 2021

Operating Activity

INCOME

Board of Trustees Contributions/Gifts/Special Events	\$17,200
City of Shaker Heights Grant	\$55,600
Prevention Education	\$13,900
Shaker Heights City Schools	\$100,000
Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County	\$278,728
MyCom/Cleveland Foundation	\$87,425
Starting Point	\$10,467
IMPACT	\$200
Interest/Miscellaneous	\$4,571
CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program Forgivable Loan	\$38,150
Total	\$606,241

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$433,645
Program Costs	\$55,409
Professional and Contract Services	\$10,134
Insurance	\$8,100
Occupancy	\$19,776
Office Expenses	\$2,984
Staff Development	\$1,279
Other	\$5,634
Total	\$536,961

Donations

Our Leaders (\$2,500 & above)

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Our Champions (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Robert & Sally Gries

The David & Inez Myers Foundation

Christine Williams & Kenneth Frisof

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Douglas & Beth Banbury

Elaine Bolasny

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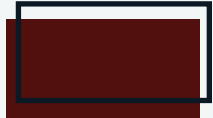


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The Shaker Heights Youth Center is funded by:

- Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County
- Shaker Heights City Schools
- City of Shaker Heights
- MyCom Youth Development Initiative of Greater Cleveland and The Cleveland Foundation
- Individual and corporate contributions, fund raising events
- Starting Point



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