

**SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER  
2021-2022 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.



# Letter from Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Shaker Heights Youth Center,

We continue to be in challenging times. COVID not only disrupted two years of substantial academic learning, but it also affected social emotional growth for youth. Many individuals are dealing with the added layer of trauma. Over the last year we have begun to assess the full impact of the disruptions of the pandemic. The end of COVID restrictions does not mean that youth have progressed in learning and socialization in the same way they would have if the pandemic had not happened. We are making progress, but it is more important than ever that we build resiliency supports for youth, strengthen life skills, and listen to and be present for our young people.

Our programs have felt the effects and our talented staff have responded. We are fortunate to have a highly skilled and caring group of individuals who are dedicated to youth enrichment. They have risen to the challenges and continue to have a positive impact in the lives of Shaker youth.

We recently had a notable change at the Shaker Heights Youth Center. In September we moved our offices to the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building, and we greatly appreciate the invitation from the City of Shaker Heights that allowed us to make this move. Thank you, Mayor David Weiss, Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer and Alexandria Nichols, Director of Recreation, and her staff who have been extremely helpful and welcoming at our new location.

We could not do what we do without the collaboration and help of the Shaker community. The Shaker Heights City Schools and the City of Shaker Heights support us financially, but they are also significant partners in the services we provide. Other major collaborators include the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland, the Shaker Heights Public Library and the Kent State University College of Architecture and Urban Design.

Our outstanding funding partnerships also include the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, the MyCom/Cleveland Foundation partnership and Starting Point/Cuyahoga County alliance. All four partners collaborate with us to assess community needs and then measure the impact of our work in Shaker.

Our final thank you is to the individuals and groups that continue to care about us as an organization. As we enter our 53rd year of service to the Shaker community, it is especially meaningful to us that your confidence in the value of our work has made our longevity possible. The entire Board and Staff join us in thanking you for your backing.

Sincerely,

Donald Gries  
President

John Lisy  
Executive Director



# Major Programs

## Student Assistance Program – Elementary School

The Shaker Heights Youth Center staff lend support to students in grades K-6 in Shaker elementary schools. They work closely with school teams to provide positive services to students who are experiencing difficulties that are affecting their success in school. The goal is to build individual and environmental assets in the youths' lives. 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.

## 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 evaluate and support students who are experiencing challenges that are affecting their lives. The goal is to facilitate the growth of youth through social emotional learning (SEL). 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 at Shaker Heights High School and Innovative Center for Personalized Learning (IC)

The Innovative Center for Personalized Learning is a part of the Shaker Heights High School and offers a variety of non-traditional learning opportunities for students. We seek to meet the varied needs of the students at the High School and IC by providing educational opportunities and wrap around community resources that support growth, development, and success. The programs provide many unique and individualized services including connection to a support team of teachers and advisors, and social emotional learning.

## MyCom Shaker

As the local lead Agency for the Shaker MyCom Youth Development Initiative, the Youth Center coordinates this project by collaborating with its partners to strengthen youth programming. MyCom neighborhoods assess youth needs, build capacity, plan, implement and evaluate performance 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 applying for 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 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.

# Major Programs

## IMPACT Youth Enrichment Program

This program is designed to help students successfully navigate through their middle school years. The Youth Center, in collaboration with UUCC (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland), provides a program of after-school activities in a safe and nurturing environment. It focuses on life skills, communication and social 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 engage with the youth throughout the year.

## Making Our Own Space (MOOS)

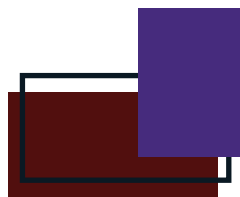
Shaker students work with the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, an outreach program from Kent State University's College of Architecture & Environmental Design that engages minority youth to design and construct outdoor furniture and playscapes for their neighborhoods. They are introduced to the 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. The Youth Center administers the MyCom grant that makes this program possible.

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

This is a summer program of 8-10 Shaker high school students who used a "think tank" model to apply the Social Norms Theory to examine and discuss social justice issues as they affect teens. They 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, the youth utilized role models, surveys, debates, social media, and other tools to explore the impact of social justice, a health pandemic, and other critical issues on the lives of our youth population.

## Summer Leadership Program

The Summer Leadership Program for students in grades 7 and 8 focuses on building self-esteem, resiliency, and leadership skills, and incorporates the Life Skills curriculum and related activities to enhance these qualities in youth.



## The Shaker Heights Youth Center receives funding from:

- 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/Famicos Foundation
- Starting Point
- Individual and corporate contributions, fund raising events

## Donations

### Our Leaders (\$2,500 & above)

Donald & Lynn-Ann Gries  
New One Shaker  
Barbara Sheffler

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

Robert & Sally Gries  
The David & Inez Myers Foundation  
Margot Schulz  
Christine Williams & Kenneth Frisof

### Our Innovators (\$500 to \$999)

Michael & Jennifer Bordeaux  
Michael & Jan Devereaux  
Stuart & Terri Kline  
Norman & Margot Prokop  
Ronald Purrington & Michelle Bentzien Purrington  
Doug & Lisa Schattinger

# Donations

## Our Builders (\$100 to \$499)

Gail Arnoff & George Woideck  
Leon & Marguerite Bibb  
Dennis & Madeline Block  
Maureen Brodar  
Michael & Nicole Coxon  
Michael & Susan Cristal  
Charlie & Mary Crowley  
James & Karen Dakin  
David & Virginia Dawson  
Jeffrey & Tina Fast  
Irwin & Barbara Feldman  
Brian & Pamela Gleisser  
Jessica Goldstein  
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Bruce & Donna Jackson  
Bruce & Marilyn Karfeld  
John Lisy

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Mark & Annette Sutherland  
Cynthia Taylor  
Richard Vadnal & Meg Harris  
Marilyn Weston  
Mikki Wolfberg & Howard Weisbrot  
Daniel & Nancy Zavelson



## Our Believers (\$50 & above)

Tom & Abby Abelson  
Douglas & Beth Banbury  
Elaine Bolasny  
Gilda Cohen  
Corrine Croom  
Joan Flinker  
Carol Gobel  
Jeff Isaacs & Anne Borchert  
Peter Lawson Jones & Lisa Payne Jones  
Nora Kancelbaum  
Harry & Helen Mercer  
Peter & Kelly Nagusky  
William & Shirley Nook  
Richard Rakos  
Geoffrey & Molly Ritts  
Carolyn Steiner & Christopher Malumphy  
William & Barbara Thomas  
Robert & Brenda Weltman



# State Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Activity

## INCOME

Board of Trustees Contributions/Gifts/Special Events .....	\$20,563
City of Shaker Heights Grant .....	\$55,600
Prevention and Education .....	\$13,900
Shaker Heights City Schools .....	\$102,000
Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County .....	\$331,770
MyCom/Cleveland Foundation .....	\$75,748
Starting Point .....	\$12,972
IMPACT .....	\$350
Interest/Miscellaneous .....	\$439
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$613,342</b>

## EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits .....	\$493,237
Program Costs .....	\$45,208
Professional and Contract Services .....	\$9,295
Insurance .....	\$7,964
Occupancy .....	\$13,820
Office Expenses .....	\$3,540
Staff Development .....	\$1,190
Other .....	\$4,075
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$578,329</b>

## Staff

John Lisy, **Executive Director**

Sharon Bell  
Laura Chapman  
Elizabeth Dreyfuss  
Danielle Frizzell  
Emily Geier  
Norman Graham  
Ysian Hassel

Sarah Kucyk  
Harriet Lyons  
Melissa Morrissey  
Sandy Troupe  
Kimberly Vanbuskirk  
Briana Young

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Judy Pate-Shields  
Christine Williams  
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Lisa Cremer  
Jan Devereaux  
Sandra Holmes

Stuart Kline  
Nancy Moore  
Robert O'Neal  
Candace Sheffler  
Bart Simon

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[shakerheightsyouthcenter.org](http://shakerheightsyouthcenter.org)

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