



**SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER
2022-2023 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

Dear Friends of the Shaker Heights Youth Center,

As another successful year has concluded for the Shaker Heights Youth Center and we begin a new one, we are eager to assist in the development of what I perceive as our greatest asset, the youth of Shaker Heights. The recent pandemic has had the most predominant effect on the socialization of our youth and their progress from early childhood through the teen years. It has denied them at least two years of invaluable time to learn important life skills. Will they catch up, how long will it take and will learning need to be adjusted for these effects? Although these questions could be debated for years, one thing is certain, The Shaker Heights Youth Center will continue to be an incredibly valuable asset to the youth of our community.

Growing up is often thought to be fancy-free, but of course it is not. Social media, peer pressure, and anxiety are just a few of the challenges kids must navigate. Just think for a moment of the changes that take place in a child's life from kindergarten through high school graduation. Some youth may be more adept at dealing with challenges, but many need help so that they can feel both comfort and satisfaction along the path to feeling productive in whatever pursuit they embark upon.

We could not participate in these endeavors without the incredible support and funding from our partners listed in this report, who continually view our work as meaningful and important. Thank you for allowing us to continue our award-winning work throughout Shaker Heights. We have been helping for 53 years, and we still find great fulfillment in being a resource for the youth, their parents, and the community.

Sincerely,
Donald Gries



Letter from Executive Director

It is with a great sense of gratitude that I am writing this year's annual report letter. I have had the immense pleasure of working with an excellent and caring staff, a wise and dedicated Board of Trustees, and a wonderful Shaker community. My 27 years as Executive Director of the Shaker Heights Youth Center have been both a privilege and an honor.

I am very grateful for the work of Harriet Lyons and Sharon Bell who are retiring after 26 and 15 years at the Youth Center respectively. Harriet has been my equal partner in the day-to-day administration of the Center. We have transitioned from an organization that was struggling fiscally to being financially sound and strong. Our direct service staff has grown from 1.5 to 7.25 dedicated individuals who provide their expertise to the Shaker Schools and Shaker community. Sharon has helped shape the MyCom program, not only in Shaker, but across the 28 MyCom communities in Cuyahoga County. Her dedication to the youth in Shaker is passionate and powerful. Sharon's partnership with Youth Opportunities Unlimited and our Shaker partners has helped place almost 1,000 youth in summer jobs over the last 15 years. For many of those youth it was their first work experience. This is just one of many examples of how Sharon has touched the lives of our youth.

As the Youth Center begins the changing of the guard, I feel confident about the future. A Succession Planning Grant from The Cleveland Foundation has enabled the Center to retain our retiring staff temporarily while they train their replacements, both of whom have already impressed us.

The Board of Trustees has voted to put the Employee Retention Tax Credit rebate we received this year, along with additional Youth Center reserves, into a Board Restricted Fund that will be used to increase employee benefits over the next five years. This represents a significant investment in our remarkable staff and fulfills the goal of the Board to retain these talented individuals who serve Shaker youth.

As I approach retirement, I wish to especially thank the Staff and Board of the Youth Center as well as the many individuals I have come to know and respect over the years. I could not have asked for better partners on our mission to serve the youth of this community. I am also grateful for the partnership with the Shaker Heights City Schools, The City of Shaker Heights, The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, MyCom, The Cleveland Foundation and many other significant groups too numerous to list, but all with the goal of bettering the lives of young people in Shaker. This is truly a remarkable civic community that I have had the distinct pleasure to work with.

Sincerely,
John Lisy



Major Programs

The Student Assistance Program

Our staff for this program are Student Care Specialists at Shaker Heights High School, The Innovative Center for Personalized Learning, Shaker Heights Middle School and four of the Shaker Elementary Schools. The students are referred to this program for a variety of issues related to their academic and social emotional well-being at school, or within their families or the community. The program builds resiliency in youth using asset building, social emotional learning and life skills development while engaging and guiding the students toward emotional and educational growth. 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 linking families to community resources.

MyCom Shaker

The Youth Center remains the lead MyCom agency for the Shaker community. MyCom works to assess youth needs and build capacity and collaboration among youth serving programs to best fulfill those needs. Shaker MyCom's founding partners include the City of Shaker Heights, Shaker Heights City Schools, Shaker Heights Library, and the Shaker Heights Youth Center. This initiative has grown and now includes an additional 13 partner agencies or groups that have signed Statements of Support. Specific MyCom programming includes working with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U) to expand the summer jobs program that helps youth gain real-world job skills. In addition, MyCom maintains a community-based youth leadership council, encompasses community service opportunities, mentoring programs, advocacy training to develop and promote their youth "voice," a summer urban design program and more.

Youth Leadership

MyCom encourages youth to develop a voice in their community by active engagement in youth councils. The MyCom Shaker Youth Council program trains and mentors Shaker High School and Middle School students in leadership techniques and provides service-learning opportunities. These students meet monthly and participate in an array of leadership-building activities that include the planning and organizational development of various community service projects. They also participate in countywide MyCom leadership programs and connect with other MyCom youth councils across the network.

Comprehensive Community Programs

These programs represent a systems approach to prevention activities. The Center has joined with our community partners to address broad-based environmental influences that affect youth and families in the Shaker Heights community. Activities include but are not limited to MyCom and Youth Leadership.

Major Programs

The IMPACT Program

The Shaker Heights Youth Center, in collaboration with Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland, oversees the Impact Youth Enrichment Program that provides after school programming for Shaker Heights Middle School students. This unique partnership serves students under the guidance of staff members and volunteers. Increasing social skills, life skills and academic competence are significant protective factors that increase resiliency in youth.

The Summer IMPACT Leadership Program

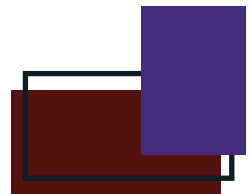
The Summer Leadership Program for Middle School students focuses on building self-esteem, resiliency, personal leadership qualities and the principles needed to reach one's full potential through creative expression, journaling, physical activity, education and service-learning projects.

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

This summer program helps students develop a resiliency-based project of their choosing that focuses on developing a youth led evaluation and plan using the Strategic prevention framework and the MyCom strategic planning process. Students create a plan that encourages the demonstration of appreciation, commitment, confidence, cooperation, creativity, empathy, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance.

Making Our Own Space (MOOS)

The Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, an outreach program from Kent State University's College of Architecture & Environmental Design works with Shaker youth to introduce them to the professions of architecture and urban design. The students learn how to design and construct outdoor furniture and playscapes for their neighborhoods. Many of the works built by Shaker youth have been installed in the Moreland neighborhood, the Van Aken District, the Dealership, and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. The Youth Center administers the MyCom and Starting Point grants that make this program possible.



Donations

Our Leaders (\$2,000 & above)

Donald & Lynn-Ann Gries
Barbara Sheffler

Our Champions (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Robert & Sally Gries
The David & Inez Myers Foundation

Our Innovators (\$500 to \$999)

Stuart & Terri Kline
Thomas & Stacey O'Neill
Doug & Lisa Schattinger
Christine Williams and Kenneth Frisof

Our Builders (\$100 to \$499)

Jeremy & Jennifer Bordeaux
Leon & Marguerite Bibb
Dennis & Madeline Block
Maureen Brodar
Jay Costantini & Lisa Gelles
Michael & Nicol Coxon
Michael & Susan Cristal
Charlie & Mary Crowley
James & Karen Dakin
Charles & Nancy Davis
David & Virginia Dawson
Michael & Jan Devereaux
Jeffrey & Tina Fast
The Honorable Stuart Friedman
Brian & Pamela Gleisser
Jessica Goldstein & Jonathan Klein
Norman & Toni Graham
Richard & Wendy Halle
David & Loraine Hammack
Brett & Annette Himes
Jeff Isaacs & Anne Borchert

Bruce & Donna Jackson
Bruce & Marilyn Karfeld
John Lemay & Jacqueline Acho
John Lisy
Gil & Carol Lowenthal
Joe & Eleni Matts
Kurt Miller & Leslie Greenhalgh
John & Nancy Moore
Tim & Leslie Moore
Marc & Amy Morgenstern
Arthur & Madeleine Obrock
Linda Rae & Andrew Hertz
Laura Rocker
Edward & Teresa Ruch
Donald & Toni Scherzer
Bart & Sheryl Simon
Mark & Annette Sutherland
Richard Vadnal & Meg Harris
Marilyn Weston
Mikki Wolfberg & Howard Weisbrot

Our Believers (\$50 to \$99)

Gail Arnoff & George Woideck
Douglas & Beth Banbury
Thomas & Sheryl Berry
Elaine Bolasny
Gilda Cohen
Robert Devereaux
Joan Flinker
George Gelehrter
Carol Gobel

Gail Long
Harry & Helen Mercer
Peter & Kelly Nagusky
William & Shirley Nook
Richard Rakos
Geoffrey & Molly Ritts
Carolyn Steiner & Christopher Malumphy
William & Barbara Thomas
Robert & Brenda Weltman
Zachary Schiller

State Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Activity

INCOME

Board of Trustees	
Contributions/Gifts/Special Events	\$25,290
City of Shaker Heights	
Grant	\$55,600
Prevention and Education	\$13,900
Shaker Heights City Schools	\$100,000
Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County	\$365,782
MyCom/Cleveland Foundation	\$81,105
Starting Point	\$10,532
Interest/Miscellaneous	\$6,019
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Total	\$658,228

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$560,523
Program Costs	\$19,230
Professional and Contract Services	\$21,071
Insurance	\$8,672
Occupancy	\$10,625
Office Expenses	\$4,521
Staff Development	\$819
Advocacy	\$1,309
Other	\$3,918
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Total	\$630,688

Employee Retention Tax Credit Income	\$160,366
Income placed in Board Restricted Funds To fund employee benefits for the next five years	\$187,904

Staff

John Lisy, **Executive Director**

Sharon Bell
Laura Chapman
Elizabeth Dreyfuss
Danielle Frizzell
Emily Geier
Amy Jones
Harriet Lyons

Melissa Morrissey
Norman Graham
Sandy Troupe
Kimberly Vanbuskirk
Lydia Ward
Briana Young

Board of Trustees

Donald Gries, **President**
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Mikki Wolfberg, **Secretary**

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Laura Rocker
Christine Williams
Brooklyn Wilson

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John Addison
Peggy Bourguignon
Jan Devereaux
Sandra Holmes
Stuart Kline

Nancy Moore
Robert O'Neal
Candace Sheffler
Bart Simon

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 Famicos Foundation
- The Cleveland Foundation
- Starting Point
- Individual and corporate contributions, fundraising events

Shaker Heights Youth Center
3450 Lee Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio, 44120
Phone: 216-752-9292

shakerheightsyouthcenter.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer And Equal Provider Of Services