

YOUTH BUREAU
53RD
ANNIVERSARY

Summer

REPORT



CITY OF WHITE PLAINS

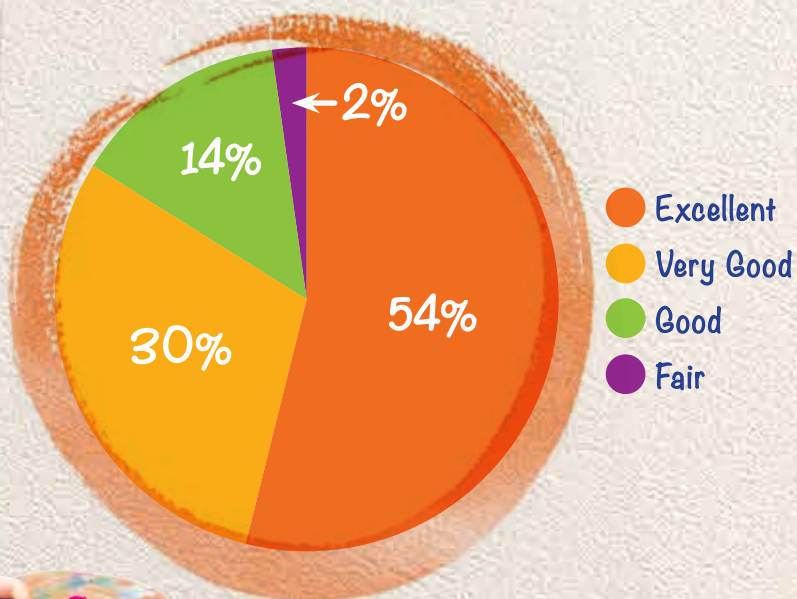
Y.E.S. 2023

BY THE NUMBERS

186 YOUTH EMPLOYED

- 128 YOUTH EMPLOYED THROUGH CITY OF WHITE PLAINS
- 19 YOUTH PLACED THROUGH TANF FUNDS (GRANT)
- 7 YOUTH PLACED THROUGH WESTCHESTER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU FUNDS (GRANT)
- 7 YOUTH EMPLOYED THROUGH YOUTH COURT (GRANT)
- 14 YOUTH EMPLOYED IN THE MEDICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (GRANT)
- 13 YOUTH EMPLOYED IN THE READI PROGRAM (GRANT)

SUMMER SUPERVISORS OVERALL EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS



THE STUDENTS ARE NOW THE TEACHERS - FORMER PARTICIPANTS COME FULL CIRCLE.

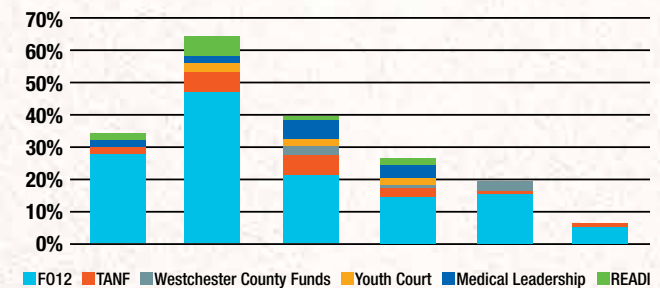
JENNIFER ZHININ WAS EMPLOYED AT EL CENTRO HISPANO THIS SUMMER. AT THE CONCLUSION OF SUMMER EMPLOYMENT SHE WAS OFFERED A PART TIME CLERICAL POSITION SUPPORTING SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES FOR THEIR ONSITE CLASSES.

CONGRATULATIONS JENNIFER!



Y.E.S. FACTS...

AGE BREAKDOWN OF 2023 SUMMER EMPLOYEES



- 90 MALES & 96 FEMALES EMPLOYED
- 151 OF THE YOUTH ATTEND WHITE PLAINS CITY SCHOOLS (MS, HS OR ROCHAMBEAU)
- 11 OF THE YOUTH ATTEND COLLEGE
- 18 OF THE YOUTH ATTEND PRIVATE SCHOOLS
- 5 OF THE YOUTH ARE OUT OF DISTRICT
- 1 OUT OF SCHOOL YOUNG PERSON
- 90% OF EMPLOYEES HAD 1 OR NO ABSENCES OVER THE 6-WEEK PERIOD
- 99% OF SUPERVISORS STATED THEY WOULD RECOMMEND THEIR STUDENT WORKER FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

YOUTH WORKERS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING AS KEY SKILLS THEY DEVELOPED THIS SUMMER:



Y.E.S. WELCOMED THE UNITED WAY OF WESTCHESTER AS A NEW SUMMER JOB SITE FOR 2023! IN ADDITION TO GAINING A VALUABLE PARTNER, WE WERE THRILLED TO HAVE UW's COMMUNITY IMPACT PROGRAM COORDINATOR, MELISSA PREUPHOMME, SERVE AS THE SITE SUPERVISOR.

SHE IS A Y.E.S. GRADUATE!



SUMMER CAREER ACADEMY ASSISTANT SUPERVISORS, SCOTT WILSON & AJA HARRIS, CAME FULL CIRCLE. **BOTH WERE PARTICIPANTS IN 2019!**



GROWING WHITE PLAINS

This summer, Growing White Plains grew more than just vegetables: We cultivated a better understanding of environmental science, organic gardening, history, partnerships, and community engagement!



We created our first ever raised bed garden area based on ADA standards, to make it easier for seniors from Bethel Baptist Church to use them. Students assisted in the placement, maintenance and care of the raised beds and the plants. They also transformed the ruins of a garage foundation into a community gaming/meeting area. The stone foundation was removed, the area was cleared of weeds, roots and stones; we used multi-colored pavers to create a life-sized 10 x 10 foot chess/checkers board complete with 3 foot-high chess pieces! The area also has seating and will be used for meetings, classes, mindfulness groups and more! The youth also created a space for giant Connect Four and Corn Hole games. The Growing White Plains curriculum includes classes in environmental science, discussion groups on the impact of global warming, pollution, floods, and droughts. Ironically, the gardeners seemed to face many of these challenges in the first four weeks of the summer!



We took trips to **LIBERTY PARK LAKE**, the streams along the old train tracks, and the **WHITE PLAINS RESERVOIR**, to see firsthand the effect weather has on our water supply. We toured historic locations in White Plains like the **PURDY HOUSE**, Battle Hill, and the **WHITE PLAINS GREENWAY**. We also visited the **WESTCHESTER COUNTY COMPOSTING FACILITY** in Valhalla to learn what composting is, how it's done, and its benefits to the environment. The standout trip this summer was our visit to the **NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS**, the first visit for most youth and adults. We were captivated by the beauty and depth of nature as we explored the expansive outdoor gardens and indoor greenhouse loaded with plants, trees and flowers from all around the world. The **WESTCHESTER DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION** provided a specialist to educate the participants on the invasion of the spotted lanternfly in our area and how we can help combat this threat to our ecosystem. The students also spent a great deal of time learning about food insecurity locally and globally, food deserts, and how their work in the garden can help alleviate this problem.

GREENING PROJECT

8 STUDENTS learned how the natural environment pertains to their everyday lives, and about the importance of sustainability.

Participants explored horticulture by growing their own vegetables in the community garden at **BALDWIN FARM** and assisted other local gardening programs including **PIG FARM**, the **NATIVE PLANT CENTER** in Valhalla, and the **GREENBURGH NATURE CENTER**. Youth learned how to identify native and invasive plants, the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem, the process of food production from farm to table, and more.

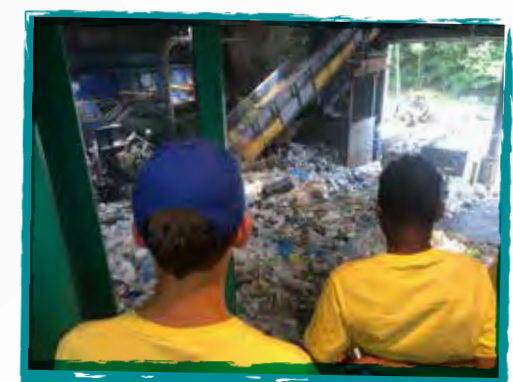
On visits to **CRANBERRY LAKE** in West Harrison, **LENOIR PRESERVE** in Yonkers, and the **OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT** in Ossining where they learned how each plays an important role in our local ecosystem. To understand the importance of recycling, how the process works, and how to make informed decisions to reduce their impact on the environment, youth visited the **MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY** in Yonkers.



While broadening their environmental awareness, youth learned to take initiative, be responsible and dependable, and how to work as a team. This was the participants' first work experience, and all shared freshman **HILLARY SILVA'S** sentiment that it was a good one. "We learned how to build relationships with coworkers and had good supervisors that helped us grow."



PARTICIPANTS SHOWING OFF THEIR HARD WORK AT PIG FARM, CLEARING THIS BED THEN SOWING NEW BEAN PLANTS



MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY, YONKERS

BITS N' PIECES SUMMER CAMP

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU ARE HAVING FUN IN THE SUN!

This year's Tutorial Enrichment Camp was packed with fun-filled, hands-on academic, leisure and recreational activities for **150** campers in 1st through 5th grades, all of whom will return to school ready to succeed. Academic modules included English Language Arts, Math, Science, Technology, Mindfulness, and Art. Susan Katz returned to offer her book club for first graders, which met three times a week to promote early literacy. Campers also enjoyed Arts and Crafts, Mad Science, Creative Corner, Media, Karaoke, and of course, lots of recreation.

Our **TECHNOLOGY** component focused on instructional techniques, internet safety and digital citizenship. Kindergarten and 1st grade students learned typing skills, how to navigate websites and use technology in general. Second through fifth graders participated in keyboarding proficiency, technology vocabulary, and used educational websites to master Math and ELA skills.

MATH instruction this year activated and strengthened students' prior knowledge of math through integrated technology and social emotional learning. Differentiated instruction, project-based learning and use of the Ben-Q board and Nearpod facilitated collaborative work that allowed students to build connections with each other, and enhance their problem-solving skills.

In **ELA**, 1st and 2nd graders discussed and wrote about shapes, colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year and the schools they attended, while older students wrote personal narratives on various events and did a lot of reading. After a summer of carefully crafted ELA activities, campers notably improved their reading, writing and comprehension skills!

Exciting, hands-on **SCIENCE** experiments included age-appropriate explorations of buoyancy, electricity conductors, friction, leveraging and the making of simple machines.

Campers took advantage of the organized sports activities conducted by Backyard Sports every afternoon, and swimming at Gardella pool. Our annual visit from Grandpas United and Macaroni the Clown was also great fun.

We rounded out the summer with two fun-filled days at Playland and Quassy Amusement Parks. And of course, each camper was encouraged to be respectful to staff, counselors and each other, as part of our "kindness" theme.



ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING PROGRAM



12 students enjoyed a fun-filled, educational entrepreneurial experience this summer. With a mock budget of \$1,000, each was challenged to create a mock business that offered a product or service.

To do so, participants received training in Life Skills, Management, Marketing and Finance before being tasked with designing a business plan, an elevator speech, a short video advertisement, a media prototype, and a final PowerPoint presentation.

Students developed businesses that offered services from babysitting and mowing lawns, to unique and innovative products such as online product reviewing and editing effects for apps and videos.

THE CURRICULUM

Students were trained in the art of pitching, had visits from guest entrepreneurs, played interactive entrepreneurial games, gave and received feedback, and made their final presentations in front of guest speakers and partners.

The **LIFE SKILLS** curriculum helped students understand that their existing experiences, hobbies, skills, and interests provide the best foundation for building a viable business.

The **MANAGEMENT** curriculum focused on the logistics of creating a viable business. Students created a timeline for the business, accounting for their other commitments, like school and extracurricular activities, and were asked to consider whether they will require an accountant, an attorney, or rental space.

As part of the **MARKETING** curriculum, participants researched and identified their customer base, named their business/products, created a marketing plan with taglines, and designated types of advertising after researching the various forms of online vs. print options.



In the **FINANCIAL** curriculum, students broke down every aspect of spending to create a budget that included detailed expenditures, pricing for products and services, and projected profits. Each created a one-year implementation plan that can be used should they start the business.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM CAMP

To encourage interest in STEM and prevent “summer slide” in those youth who are too old for traditional summer camp but too young for our summer employment program, our STEM Camp engaged 25 rising 6th, 7th & 8th graders this summer.

Students coded with Ozobots, used drones, and participated in numerous team design and building activities using the engineering design process:

- ASK:** Identify the Need & Constraints
- RESEARCH** the Problem
- IMAGINE:** Develop Possible Solutions
- PLAN:** Select a Promising Solution
- CREATE:** Build a Prototype
- TEST:** Evaluate Prototype
- IMPROVE:** Redesign as Needed

They explored possible STEM careers, from those that support the aviation industry to the field of renewable energy, which they learned about at **NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY**. A highlight of the summer was our field trip to **WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SAFETY**, where students got a behind-the-scenes look at how the department works, including the



communications center, with its abundance of technology deployed to help keep the city safe. At the **WHITE PLAINS LIBRARY**, youth experienced the Igloo Virtual Reality room, where they “visited” the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida and went on a roller coaster ride in space. **THE NEW YORK KNICKS MSG SPORTS AND THE HOSPITAL OF SPECIAL SURGERY** were an asset to our program, providing E-gaming and Sports Science to participants, all while exploring the opportunities and skills needed for sports and fitness.

Students learned an important lesson from Professor Donnie Simmons Jr., who taught them about misinformation, disinformation and algorithm bias. Now we know that everything we see online is not always true!



READI / SRAEP

22 teens completed the READI for Work program, designed to build the soft skills required for successful employment and healthy personal relationships through: **Respect, Enthusiasm, Articulate, Dependable and Initiative.**

Shamaris Mercado, Life Enrichment Manager, The Kensington White Plains, described one teen that requested to return when he is 15 years old to be **“OUTSTANDING BECAUSE OF HIS ABILITY TO RELATE TO THE RESIDENTS WITH CARE”**.

In training sessions, teens, most of whom possessed no prior work experience, explored their own opinions and experiences regarding the value of expressing these five attributes.

To engage our Generation Z audience, we used videos with scenes on how to behave appropriately in the workplace. The most excitement and improvement came during the articulate module, which emphasized the importance of being able to communicate well, using both listening and speaking techniques. Participants wrote speeches on their choice of subjects. Their peers critiqued them, starting with positive comments before any negative feedback. This exercise was well received because it allowed participants to overcome their fear of public speaking.



The **Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program** was administered through the **ONE LOVE FOUNDATION** using video and discussions groups about healthy relationships, with emphasis on avoiding harmful and toxic encounters.

Teens were placed in summer employment with community partners across the City. Overall, there was positive feedback from summer supervisors. The READI program has helped in shaping participants into respectful, responsive, dependable teens with positive attitudes in their work and living environment.

When asked how she applied Respect in her work, a female 17 years of age shared

“I UNDERSTOOD THAT I WAS WORKING IN THEIR HOME, NOT THEM LIVING IN MY WORK”.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS!

JAYLEN HAIRSTON-WILLIAMS



When I first started this Youth Court process, I thought it was going to be extremely difficult but I ended up having fun. I was able to participate in community service through the Do-Gooders program at the White Plains Public Library where I created greeting cards to be sent

out with food deliveries for the Meals on Wheels program. I thought it was really cool that I was able to create them myself and write nice things in the cards for the senior citizens. I also participated in the Youth Court training each week where I learned so much about the judicial system. Some of the most memorable sessions covered various amendments, specifically the 5th Amendment which gives us the right to remain silent and not self-incriminate. I also learned about our rights as citizens and what police are allowed/not allowed to do during an investigation. The training session I enjoyed most was

about crime related evidence. A federal investigator came to speak to us in person and a mock crime scene was set up for us to investigate. I volunteered to be the log keeper at the crime scene, this included logging each piece of evidence that was located at the crime scene. Each Youth Court training was very informative. I am grateful to have received the opportunity to participate in Youth Court instead of going through Family Court. I gained so much knowledge related to the judicial system. I am appreciative of the experience I received, and the ability to get a second chance.

I believe Youth court has changed me and changed my perspectives. Moving forward, if I were to encounter a confrontation again, I know to let it go, go the other way and to not engage in violence.



HEALTHY & FIT SUMMER PROGRAM

20 campers participated in the Healthy & Fit summer program, funded by Invest in Kids for middle school student's grades 6th through 8th.

The program provided students with fun camp activities, aeroponic gardening, nutrition, social emotional learning and essential life skills, which were interweaved through activities and role play exercises promoting improved interpersonal communications, substance abuse prevention, problem-solving and respecting authority.

The social emotional workshops provided campers with a community of caring counselors who nurtured experiential learning that resulted in self-respect for themselves and for each other. All of the outcomes — self-identity, self-worth, self-esteem, leadership, and self-respect — built interpersonal skills that will prove beneficial as they begin the school year and long into adulthood.

A highlight of this year's program was the partnership with **NEW YORK KNICKS MSG SPORTS**, **HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY** and **BACKYARD SPORTS** hosting a fun Field Day complete with an E-gaming video truck.



DANIELLE MITCHELL



I have always had a love and fascination for aviation since I was young. Flying made me feel free and limitless. When I was five years old I started traveling on planes and it has been one of my favorite things to do ever since.

I always wondered what it would feel like to fly a plane. I set a goal to one

day fly a plane and maybe even becoming a pilot. I was in search of clubs/programs that could help me get closer to my goal of flying. I joined the Aviation Club through the White Plains Youth Bureau. At the Aviation Club, we practiced flying planes by using computer simulators. The first simulator I used was a hand built life sized unit that is housed at the Youth Bureau. Through the Aviation Club, we learned about drones and practiced flying them. The Youth Bureau hosted a Girls Aviation Day at the Million Air Terminal at Westchester County Airport. Here I met someone who was about to get their pilots license and I was inspired by this person. They introduced me to the

Civil Air Patrol Cadet (CAPC) program. The United States Air Force sponsors the program. CAPC accepts students as young as 12 years old. The program helps with goal setting, builds leadership skills, and improves your fitness level and confidence. We learn about the field of Aviation developing teamwork and interpersonal skills. It helps us stay physically and mentally fit as we expand our minds to new possibilities in life. On January 29th, I flew my first orientation flight in a Cessna. I flew from Westchester County Airport to Poughkeepsie Airport. Once we reach a certain altitude the Instructor allows me to take control and provides me with instructions as we fly, there are safety controls in case of an emergency and the Instructor needs to take control. Many wonder how I am able to fly planes because I am afraid of heights, but these experiences are so rewarding I can never consider missing one. It is difficult to explain why during flight I am not fearful, but instead I am amazed, calm and filled with excitement. The Youth Bureau Aviation Club and the CAPC have changed my life and placed me on a path of success.



SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR YOUTH / YOUTH COURT



This summer the Court welcomed **20** new members. We now have a **40** member Youth Court! Of our 40 members **7** members were provided a six week immersive summer internships with local civic organizations and Criminal Law Firms.



New members were trained on the Juvenile Justice System and the Youth Court Diversion Program. We hosted visits from two Federal Prosecutors, a former Federal Defender, and a Federal Magistrate Judge all from the Southern District of New York. The students received hands-on training from a Federal Criminal Investigator on how to collect evidence from a crime scene and how to work together as an investigative team.

A major component of the curriculum is public speaking. Members chose topics that are relevant to their generation, ranging from the Importance of Narcan to the Diversity of Barbie. The Youth Court members put on a Mock Trial to show off their new found knowledge and skills. They processed 7 cases! New members stepped up to the plate and took on real roles in the cases and received on the job training as they processed them.

MEDICAL PATHWAYS

SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

14 White Plains youth took part in the 3rd Annual Summer Career Leadership Medical Pathways Program, which exposes underrepresented youth 14 – 17 years of age with experiences in the healthcare and medical fields. The program is a collaboration between White Plains Youth Bureau, **SUNY PURCHASE LIBERTY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM, WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL, NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE, BURKE REHABILITATION CENTER, and THE COLLEGE OF WESTCHESTER.** Youth met with a variety of doctors, nurses, technicians, clinical skills workers and others. Now each understands the many healthcare-related educational and career paths available to them!

At **WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL**, students were guided on tours throughout the hospital including Cardiac Surgery. They participated in a Stop the Bleed demonstration and met with a panel of nurses who discussed their careers.

At **NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE**, they had the opportunity to visit the Clinical Skills Lab, the Speech and Language Department and met with medical interns who were engaged in physical therapy training. Students participated in a Job Fair at **BURKE REHABILITATION CENTER** and also met the CEO of Burke Rehabilitation Center, Scott Edelman. He shared an inspiring story of how he rose from working in the mailroom to becoming the agency's CEO.



Youth visited **THE COLLEGE OF WESTCHESTER** where they met representatives from the admissions office and participated in several medical training exercises. Students also visited Feeding Westchester where they toured the warehouse and learned about hunger in Westchester County.



LET'S GET READY SAT PREP PROGRAM

This 9-week virtual program provided **20** students with intensive SAT preparation. Through daily lessons and homework assignments, they became more familiar with the test format and typical test questions, understood more about the math, reading and writing demands of the SAT, and refined their test-taking strategies. All had access to tutoring and support through phone calls, text, and emails. Sessions were taped so students could review class instruction again whenever needed.

The SAT coaches were knowledgeable, reliable and personable, demonstrated excellent ability to adapt to the students' needs, maintained a professional environment, and built a positive rapport with the students throughout the summer.

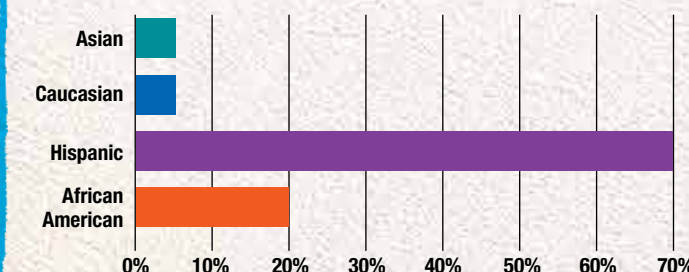
To effectively evaluate the students in the program, they were required to take two full diagnostic SAT exams. The first exam establishes a baseline measurement; the second test allowed students to measure their level of improvement. Ultimately, students gained greater confidence in their ability and approached the SAT test with a sense of clarity.

In addition to the SAT training, students were given the opportunity to access a college student mentor to assist with the college application process that included researching and creating a list of colleges, FAFSA support, and reviewing the components of a personal statement.

The Let's Get Ready program has created an authentic, student-centered platform that is passionate about creating educational equity and equality for all.

The demographics of the program participants were as follows:

L&R DEMOGRAPHICS: MALE 6, FEMALE 14



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