

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

[HTTPS://YOUTHAMBASSADORSKC.ORG](https://youthambassadorskc.org)



youth
AMBASSADORS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Youth Ambassadors, Inc. (YA) is a strength-based youth educational/employment organization. Since 2010 our mission has been to empower underserved youth by providing important life skills, soft job skills, creative expression, and adult mentors, helping them become future community leaders willing and able to work for positive change.



WHAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE?

Our organization hires teenagers, ages 14-18, to complete targeted core work assignments that focus on 21st Century Life and Job Skills, Writing, Art, and Health in preparation for paid work on community impact projects.



From the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

2021 represented a year of resilience, hope, and transformational growth for Youth Ambassadors. As the newly appointed Executive Director, I find myself inspired by the power and potential of our youth, invigorated by our skilled and dedicated staff, and deeply supported by our engaged and committed Board of Directors.

The future of our organization is bright! In 2022 we will offer enhanced educational resources and employment opportunities to more youth, while emphasizing social emotional learning and whole person development. We will continue to engage a variety of valuable community partners in pursuit of our mission of empowering youth with important skills helping them become future community leaders, willing and able to work for positive change.

I am honored to build upon the vision and hard work of our organization's co-founders, Paige O'Connor and Tiffany Poor Lynch, and my predecessor Teesha Miller, as I strive to guide Youth Ambassadors into a long lasting, sustainable future.

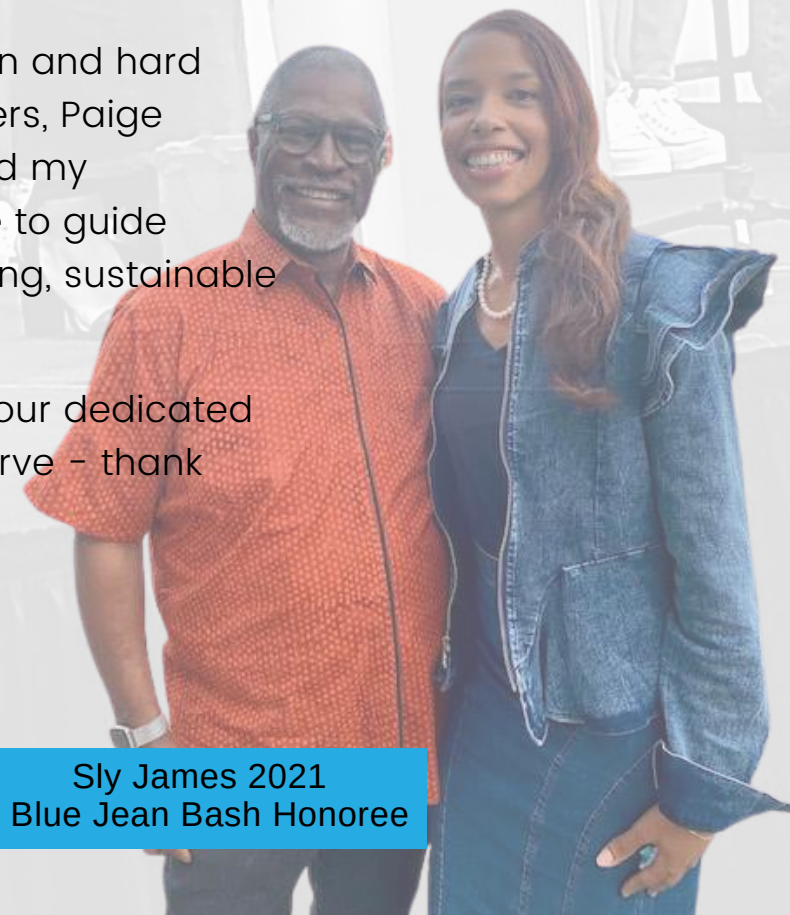
On behalf of our Board of Directors, our dedicated staff, and the incredible youth we serve - thank you for your continued support!

MONIQUE JOHNSTON, PH.D.

Executive Director

Youth Ambassadors, Inc.

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Sly James 2021
Blue Jean Bash Honoree

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tiffany Poor Lynch,
President

Youth Ambassadors
Co-founder



Monique Johnston, Ph.D.

Youth Ambassadors,
Executive Director



Jenni Jones,
Secretary

Youth Ambassadors,
Community Outreach



Margie Carmody,
Treasurer

Moneta Group, Family
CFO, CPA



Cass Butler Dunlap, Ph.D.

Cass Butler Media LLC, Founder



Lana McKinney

Wrights Hands, Consultant



Brett Cooper

Black Rhino Transport, LLC, Principal



Peter Long

MCH Strategic Data, Inc., CEO



David Muhammad

Integrity Martial Arts Academy,
Executive Director



Brandon Haverty

ReCor Properties, Principal



Lisa Krigsten

Denton Law Firm, Partner



Kamisha Stanton

Independent Non-profit
Management Consultant



Beverly Hampton

Center School District, Educator



Gaston Woodland, Jr.

Crossroads Academy Charter
School, Teacher

OUR YOUTH - IMPACT STORIES



Antwan Garlington
Age 16
Sophomore at East High School
Joined YA Fall of 2021

Being a Youth Ambassador is really fun, you get to meet new people and have new experiences. The teachers are so nice and helpful, they are there for you when you have a challenge.

Mock Interview Day 2021
Shown in picture Sean Graves

"YOUTH AMBASSADORS HELPED ME GET MY FIRST JOB."

Lebron Stevenson
Age 16
Sophomore at Southeast High School
Joined YA Summer of 2020

Youth Ambassadors helped me get my first job. Over the winter break, I was hired at Price Chopper. I took notes on speaking and interviewing and this helped me feel more confident during my real job interview.

Youth Ambassadors has helped me express myself through writing. I love writing now!

Youth Ambassadors helped me find my college of interest. I would like to go to Penn Valley and right now I am interested in photography. The people at Youth Ambassadors are nice and fun to work with.



Mock Interview Day 2021
Shown in picture Kemarion Mitchell

OUR YOUTH - IMPACT STORIES

Since beginning working with Youth Ambassadors in February of 2021, I have been connected with many opportunities to learn about and prepare for my future career. Youth Ambassadors has been the direct source of opportunity to meet new people, work on projects, and expand on my knowledge that can and will help me in the future with my career and schooling. The main two things of those, however, would be my internship with the Urban Neighborhood Initiative of Kansas City and the American Heart Association.

Youth Ambassadors got me connected with the former Community Impact Director of the Urban Neighborhood Initiative. In April of 2021, the Urban Neighborhood Initiative of Kansas City (UNI) partnered with Youth Ambassadors to give youth a paid internship to help with the Urban Neighborhood Initiative's COVID-19 Campaign/Fund. I was not only selected to lead their Campaign but was asked to stay on for the rest of the year as an Intern. The work of the Urban Neighborhood Initiative is some of the exact things I want my future career to highlight. Therefore, by having this internship, I learned more about community engagement, municipal governance, and non-profit organization operations. As of January of 2022, I am no longer just an Intern for UNI, but the Community Impact Coordinator; opening me up to a lot more opportunities for learning and growth of my own leadership.

Youth Ambassadors also allowed me to get connected with Campaign Managers in the Kansas City area from the American Heart Association. From there, I began working on city ordinances and ordinance campaigns in Kansas City, Dallas, Washington D.C., and Atlanta. I have had the opportunity to speak at town halls and national panels. I now serve on the American Heart Association Youth Advisory Committee and nationally represent the Midwest Region. Because of this opportunity that Youth Ambassadors connected me to, I now get to work on campaigns, with lawmakers and know that I represent the voice of thousands of youth across the country. Considering the fact that I want to be a House Representative, this couldn't be more helpful for my career aspirations.

These are just two of the many opportunities that Youth Ambassadors has helped me get in order to achieve overall success. Without the catapult of Youth Ambassadors, it is unlikely that I would be able to make as much progress. I look forward to working more in the future with YA and seeing what other opportunities may present themselves.



~Darvius Yearwood



OUR YOUTH - IMPACT STORIES



*MARKIA MADDOX
AGE 17
JUNIOR AT KAUFFMAN HIGH SCHOOL
JOINED YA SUMMER OF 2021*

Youth Ambassadors has helped me overcome a lot of challenges. When I first started Youth Ambassadors I had a fear of job interviews. Having mock interviews helped me overcome this fear. Getting feedback from real professionals and people who own their own businesses was very helpful. I also liked that we got help writing a resume because I didn't know what to put on it before.

Youth Ambassadors has helped me meet new people. Even if we only connect through the time at YA, meeting people that come from different schools and backgrounds helps me improve my own thinking by seeing how other people think and live.

Everyone at YA is well-spoken and kind, the other youth and the teachers. Getting to talk with everyone has really helped me be more comfortable talking to people.

Doing group activities and projects like art and poetry reading have really helped me be more confident to speak up.

I really do encourage students to join Youth Ambassadors, not only for the pay but also for the experience. Even if they don't speak up during work I feel like they are still listening and learning. Youth Ambassadors help you become a better you and meet new people in your community.



2021 IMPACT

216

Youth Ambassadors served 216 Greater Kansas City youth

87%

of youth demonstrated increased resilience after at least 6 weeks in the YA program*

***evidenced by a 1 point increase in self regulation, empathy, social competency and/or responsibility on the Social Emotional Assets & Resilience Scale for Adolescents (SEARS-A)**

93%

of youth reported feeling better equipped to handle conflicts using nonviolent methods

94%

of youth reported feeling better prepared for future employment and educational opportunities through the development of skills that increase overall job readiness



Youth Ambassadors Teen Empowerment Project

2021 Strategic Project Outcomes

Youth Ambassadors is implementing a nationally recognized, industry-verified evaluation tool to assess program impact and success. The overall impact of our social-emotional learning (SEL) programming is measured by the strength-based Social-Emotional Assets & Resilience Scale for Adolescents (SEARS-A). The SEARS has been validated by the academic community for reliability and consistency when measuring resilience, empathy, global self-concept, social-emotional knowledge, peer relationships, and problem-solving – key indicators of healthy growth and development during adolescent years.

For youth participating in individual or group counseling sessions, we utilize the Duke Health Profile Score, the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale for Children (CES-DC), and the Child Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptom Scale Self-Report (CPSS-V SR) for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V) to gauge the impact and effectiveness of therapy sessions for youth working to process and heal from traumatic life events.

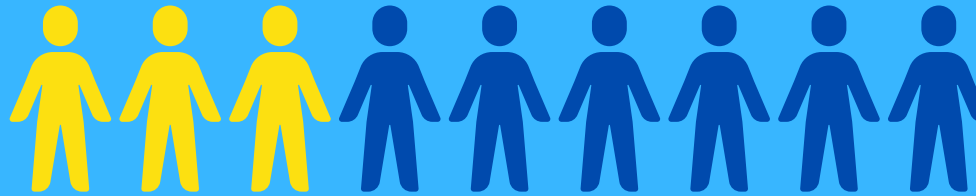


OUR 2021 OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVE 1:

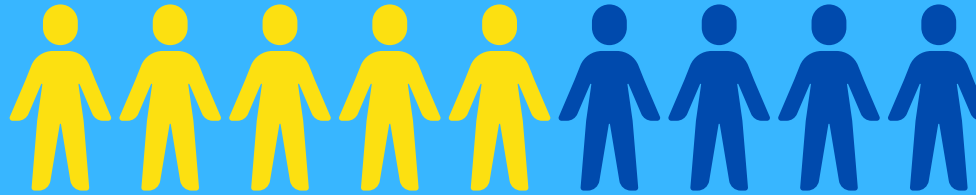
Assist Ambassadors in strengthening cognitive coping and processing skills that promote social and emotional health and wellbeing.

OUTCOME 1: 80%



80% of assessed Ambassadors will demonstrate increased capacity for self-regulation, social competence, empathy, and responsibility as reflected on the Social Emotional Assets and Resilience Scales - Adolescent (SEARS-A) Assessment.

OUTPUT 1:



Ambassadors will receive a minimum of 50 hours of social support, CIT-based writing, expressive art instruction, health education, and group therapy (as needed) as evidenced by attendance/participation logs.

2021 Baseline Data Results:

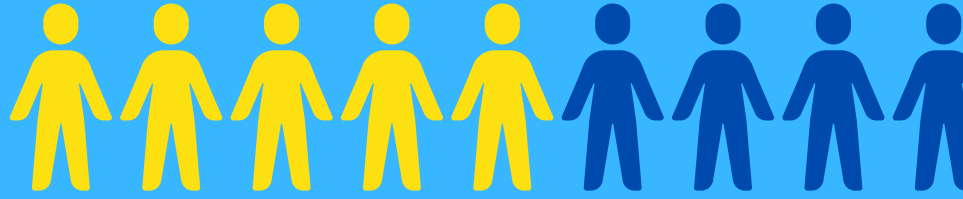


87%

87% of assessed Ambassadors demonstrated increased capacity in at least one targeted indicator of adolescent resilience (self-regulation, social competence, empathy, and/or responsibility) as reflected on the Social Emotional Assets and Resilience Scales - Adolescent (SEARS-A) Assessment.

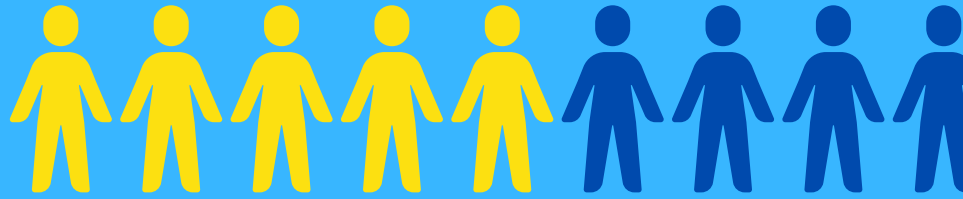


OUTCOME 2: 85%



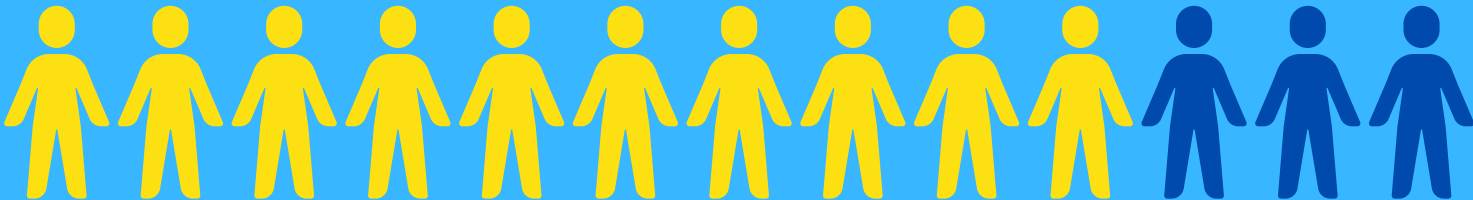
85% of assessed Ambassadors will indicate they are better equipped to solve interpersonal conflicts utilizing nonviolent methods, as evidenced by self assess

OUTPUT 2:



Ambassadors will participate in at least one workshop focused on teen dating violence, restorative justice, conflict resolution and/or community violence prevention facilitated by YA staff & the Center for Conflict Resolution.

2021 Baseline Data Results:



93%

93% of Ambassadors who completed the Self-Assessment survey indicated they are now better equipped to solve interpersonal conflicts utilizing nonviolent methods.

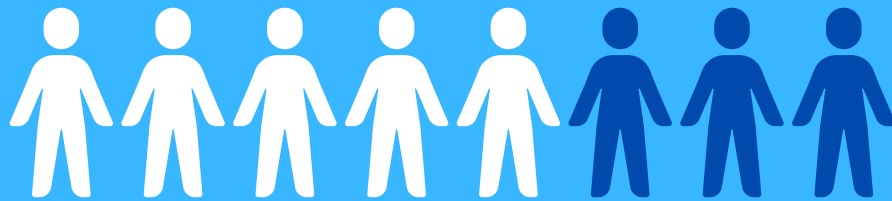


OUR 2021 OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVE 2:

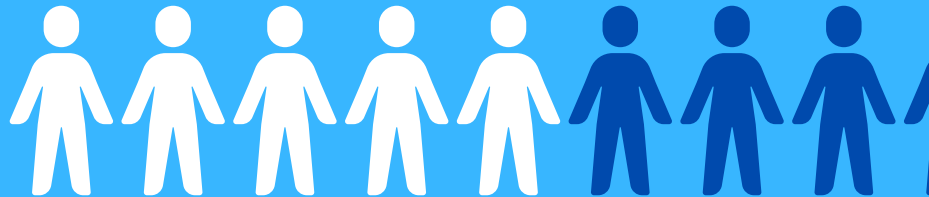
Assist Ambassadors in becoming better prepared for future employment and educational opportunities through the development of skills that increase overall job readiness.

OUTCOME 1: 85%



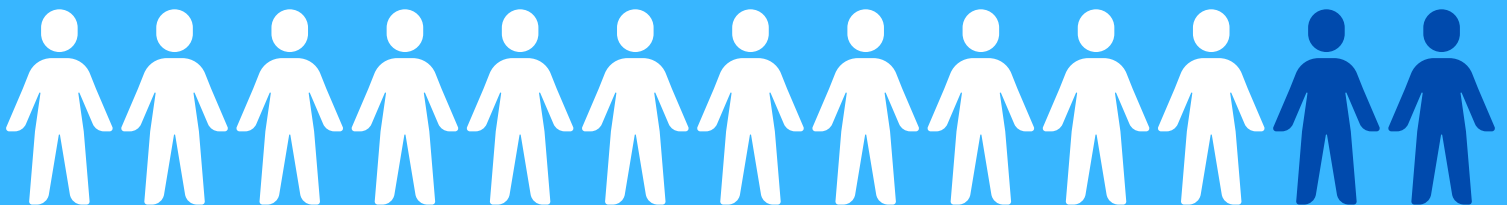
85% of Ambassadors will report that they feel better prepared for future career and employment opportunities, as evidenced by self-assessment program surveys.

OUTPUT 1:



Ambassadors will create a one, three, or five year life goal plan, as evidenced by completed goal plan sheets.

2021 Baseline Data Results:



94%

94% of youth who completed the Self-Assessment survey feel that they are better prepared for future career and employment opportunities.

S.A.V.E. Program

Suicide Awareness and Anti-Violence Education



Our S.A.V.E. (Suicide and Anti-Violence Education) Program is offered in partnership with the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department. The S.A.V.E. Program educates teens and their families on the devastating and lasting impact of violence in our communities using evidence-based curriculum and materials. Working in conjunction with child health experts, community members, civic leaders, and anti-violence content experts, Youth Ambassadors provides youth with realistic strategies that help them identify the potential for violence in social situations, reporting violence once it occurs, and prevention-based efforts of de-escalating conflict in a safe and effective manner. This has been accomplished by using a peer-to-peer mentor engagement model where our Ambassadors develop messages to discourage other youth from participating in violent acts, gang activity, and from using drugs, alcohol, and other substances.

Through the S.A.V.E. program, our youth participate in youth-led, monthly anti-violence workshops and an annual PEACE Teen Summit where they discuss issues such as teen dating violence, restorative justice, suicide prevention, conflict resolution, and community violence prevention in collaboration with community partners such as the Center for Conflict Resolution, Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA), Higher M-Pact, KC Common Good, Soul Purpose Counseling LLC, and the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project. In 2021 the S.A.V.E. program reached approximately 77,000 individuals through targeted anti-violence messaging on social media.

S.A.V.E.



“SAVE is important to me because I’m learning about things that are important for teens my age. The SAVE program means being part of a community. I enjoy being a peer mentor for SAVE because I get to engage other kids my age about the things I’ve learned.”

~Markeiaja Wilson

“To me SAVE is being part of a community. Being in SAVE has helped me know how to have healthier relationships. SAVE has not only helped me learn how to deal with big and difficult things but also things in my day-to-day life.”

~Derhia Watts

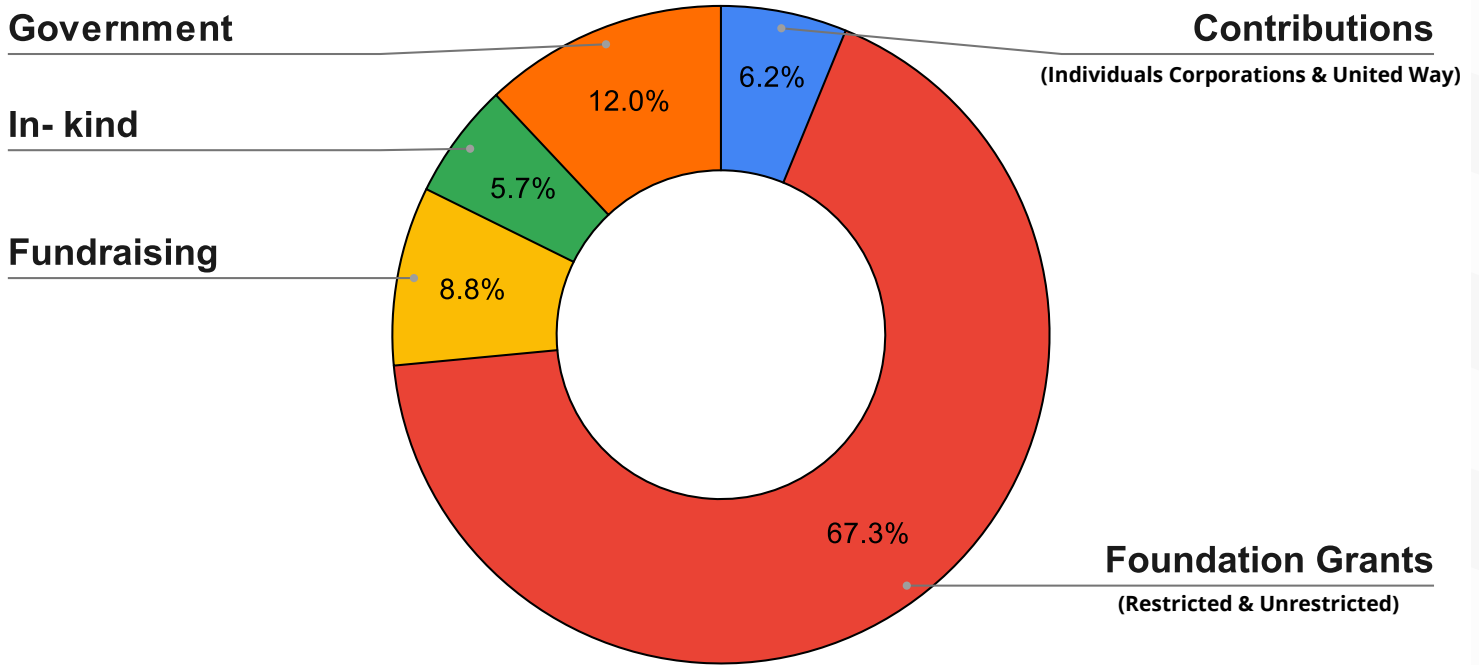


“SAVE is important to me because it helps me better understand the way I handle conflicts with others. I enjoy being a part of SAVE because it has helped me learn and now I’m able to handle things differently. SAVE has helped me see things more positively even if it’s hard.”

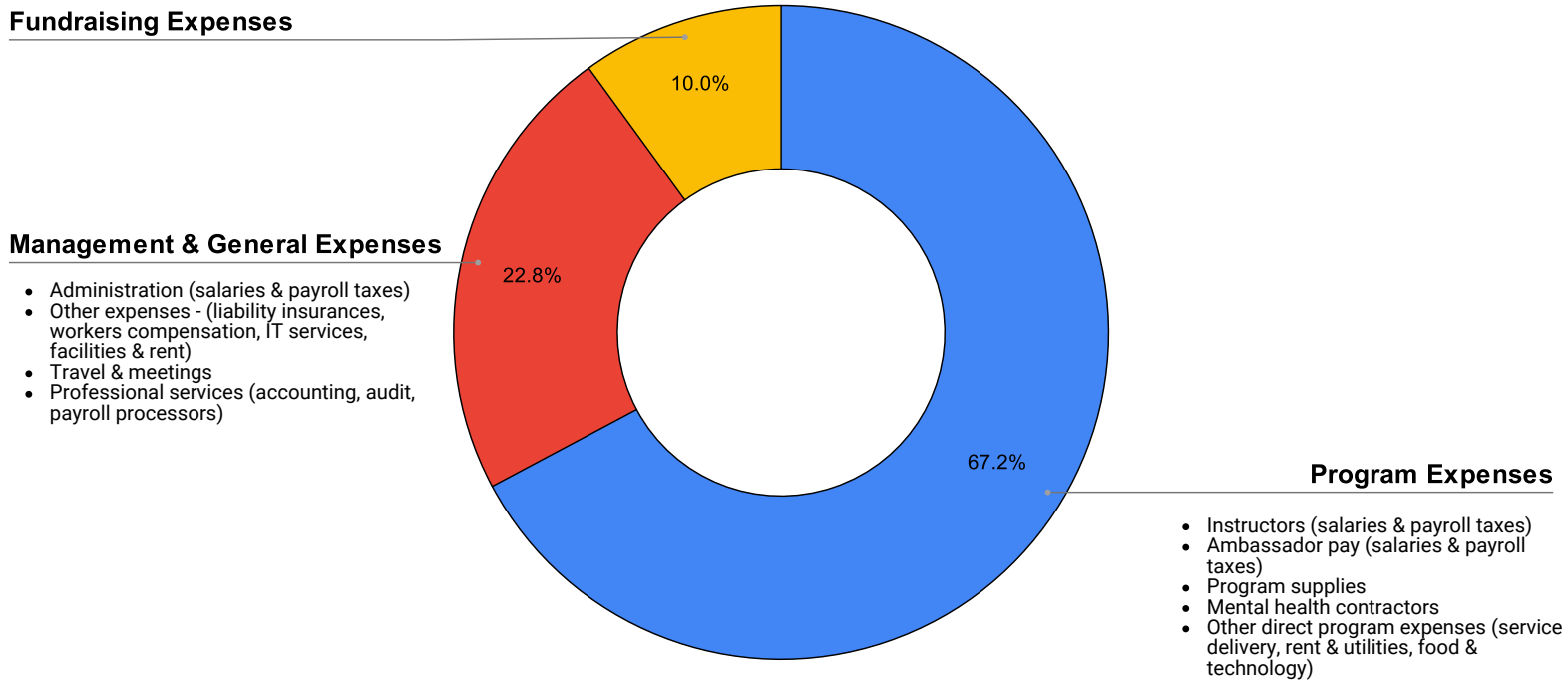
~Mariah Jones

2021 Financials

Revenue - \$529,841



Expenses - \$ \$520,969



**figures verified by the 2021 final audit report*

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

ORGANIZATION DATA:

Facebook Followers 2,356

Instagram Followers 585

YouTube Followers 14

Organizational Partners



Thank You To Our Donors, Stakeholders & Friends!

\$10,000+

Brandon Haverty	Irv Robinson	Kauffman Foundation
Curry Family Foundation	Jackson County COMBAT	Moneta Group Charitable
Hall Family Foundation	Jewish Community	Foundation
Health Forward Foundation	Foundation	ReCor Properties
	Kansas City, Missouri Health	Robinson Family
	Department	Sherman Family Foundation
		Oppenstein Brothers Foundation

\$9,999 – \$5,000

Arts KC	Francis Family Foundation	Paul & Ann Konecny
Barry & Suzanne Cooper Family	Herb and Bonnie Buchbinder	Tiffany & Gregory Lynch
Charitable Fund	John and Marny Sherman	Village Presbyterian Church
Black Community Fund	MCH Strategic Data	
Bluescope Foundation	Nodaway Valley Bank	
Forest Foundation		

\$4,999 & below

Allison Armistead	Gene and Carolyn Leman Charitable	Mallory Gobet
Bicknell Family Foundation II	Fund	Marvin Davis
Bill and Maureen Berkley Fund	Hallmark Cards Inc.	Mayor Sly James
Block Real Estate Services	Hallmark Corporate Foundation	Paige & Rory O'Connor
Brett Cooper	Hise Family Foundation	R.A. Long Foundation
Brian Beggs	Howard Ellis	Sarah Hermes
Cass Butler Dunlap	Janet Dusch	Stolzer Family Foundation
Chase Bean	Jennifer Jones	Suzanne Mitko
Chicken & Pickle	Jim & Michele Stowers Foundation	TaKia Chase
Christine Kemper	John & Kristin Goodwin	Teesha Miller
Christopher Stibbs	John Power	UES Consulting
Clay & Kate Hartman	Judith & Matthew Deedy	VML&R Foundation
Crown MedRealty Partners	Kathleen McMahon	Wendy Maggiorotto
Dan Cosgrove	Kelli Alldredge	Wurst Family Foundation
Duggan Shawwick Doerr Kurlbaum	Kenneth G. Block	
Dunlap Venture Group	Keyla Teixeira	
Dunn Family Foundation	Leigh Reynolds	
Erin Northington	Licia Clifton-James	

STAFF



"Stepping into the role of Youth Ambassadors Program Director in 2021 was a true honor. I'm living out my purpose and passion with YA and the services we provide. I couldn't be more grateful to work alongside such an amazing team of program staff. Our program staff are a powerhouse of diverse leaders who continuously show their commitment to YA and the youth. I tell most everyone, teenagers are my people. Getting to connect, support and empower them with the growing services YA offers, has been wildly fulfilling. Nothing confirms how important YA's services are like seeing growth, success and empowerment in the youth themselves. Yes, it's thrilling to see data that supports positive outcomes of the youth we work with. However, hearing the teens share their successes, share their struggles, how they overcame them and reaching out to express how valuable YA is to them, that's what really drives my passion for this work. I believe the work being done within YA, is deeply planted in hundreds of teens and young adults. Teens and young adults, who will go on to use these planted skills, resources and tools throughout their entire lives. I genuinely look forward to my work with YA and continuing to plant those very same things into hundreds and hundreds more teenagers."

COURTNEY RICE

Director of Programs
Youth Ambassadors, Inc.



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