

Joel Ramiez - Participant from 2017 to 2019 - Currently attending Buffalo State College

I started YALD in 2017 and I played for the Panthers for 3 years. I made it to the finals every year and won two championships. YALD gave me a love for football that I never knew I had. YALD has a special place in my heart for the amount of life lessons I have learned throughout the years. It has taught me how to deal with so many challenges as I grew into a young man. From dealing with mental health to teaching us to be kind and respectful to one another. The friends and connections I made in YALD even helped me get a job during the Covid pandemic. So when we have a Turkey Bowl, I feel so excited it's like a big family reunion. We have a great time playing football just like old times. We catch up, play football and then eat great food afterwards. Every year, I look forward to Thanksgiving dinner and YALD turkey bowl. It will forever be one of the best things that has happened to me.