



# YOUTH ON THEIR OWN™

**Annual Community Report  
2017 - 2018 Fiscal Year**

# Meet Our Team

## Executive Staff

Nicola Hartmann  
CEO

## Program Staff

Daniela Figueroa  
Program Director

Matthew Schmidgall  
Program Manager

Kim Flores  
College & Career Coordinator

Monika Cabrera  
Program Coordinator

Diego Coronado  
Program Coordinator

Ashley Silvain  
Program Coordinator

Angelica Gomez  
Program Coordinator

Douglas Plecity  
Data & IT Coordinator

Daphne Soules  
Program Assistant

## Administrative Staff

Mathew Palmer  
Director of Finance, HR & Operations

Candice Treftz  
Finance Coordinator

## Development Staff

Daniel Armenta  
Director of Philanthropy

Bethany Neumann  
Development Director

Marissa Washington  
Grants Manager

Katrina Calderon  
Marketing Coordinator

Georgina Waller  
Database Coordinator

Kristin Ohman  
Volunteer Coordinator



## Board of Directors

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Tony Cazzato, Vice-President

Debra Salaiz, Treasurer and Secretary

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Mike Hanson, Member

William Stoffers, Member

William Taylor, Member

Sean Denlinger, Member

Sean Murray, Member

Jay Peskoe, Member

Tom Hoyt, Member

Katina Koller, Member

Cristie Street, Member

Eva Murzaite, Member & YOTO Alum

Marian Conrad LaLonde, Ex-Officio Member & YOTO Alum





Youth On Their Own (YOTO) is a **dropout prevention organization** that supports the high school graduation and continued success of **homeless and unaccompanied youth** by providing financial assistance, basic human needs, and guidance.



### Who Does YOTO Serve?

Youth On Their Own was **founded in 1986** by a high school counselor in **Tucson**. She observed that many of her students who lacked parental support weren't succeeding in school because they were busy taking care of the kind of needs their parents should have been meeting.

YOTO serves youth in **grades 6 to 12** who are not receiving support from or living with their biological parents. Most YOTO youth find themselves in this situation because of **parental abandonment**, often due to incarceration, substance abuse, or simple neglect.

While some YOTO youth live on the streets or in their cars, the majority of our students are **couch-surfing** or living with friends or relatives. No matter where they might be sleeping, **100% of the youth we serve are living in poverty.**

### YOTO Works.

Since 1986, YOTO has impacted the lives of **thousands of Pima County youth**. With a **graduation rate of 84%**, youth in YOTO's program graduate at a higher rate than the Arizona state average (80%) - despite the obstacles they face. This year, **327 YOTO students graduated** from high school!

YOTO's program covers the whole of Pima County, serving students in approximately **100 middle and high schools**. In the last three years, we have seen **unprecedented growth** in the number of students enrolling in our program.

**During the 2017 - 2018 school year, YOTO served 1,741 students - 8% more than the year prior!**

# YOUR support provides homeless youth with a solution...

## 1) YOU Provide Students with Financial Assistance

**Stipend Program** : Students enrolled in school and getting Cs or better are eligible for a monthly stipend of up to \$140.

**Emergency Assistance** : Financial aid when unexpected expenses (a medical bill, a fee at school) jeopardize a student's ability to succeed.

## 2) YOU Help Students Meet Their Basic Needs

**Mini Mall** : YOTO students have access to free food, hygiene products, clothing, and school supplies.

**Transportation** : All YOTO students can receive a free SunTran bus pass; we reload the pass for free. Some students also receive free bicycles, donated by supporters like you.

## 3) YOU Help Students Find Their Place in the Community

**High School Guidance** : YOTO's Program Coordinators meet with students to help them access local services and stay in school.

**College & Career** : Recognizing that our students need support both preparing for and after graduation, YOTO provides career and college application and scholarship support.

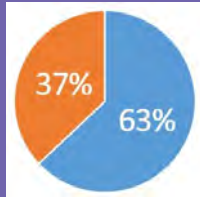


*"My mom moved back to my home village and I was left with my grandmother in a two-bedroom house with seven people. It was a struggle to pay for food, rent, and other utilities." - Nixeona, 2018 Graduate*

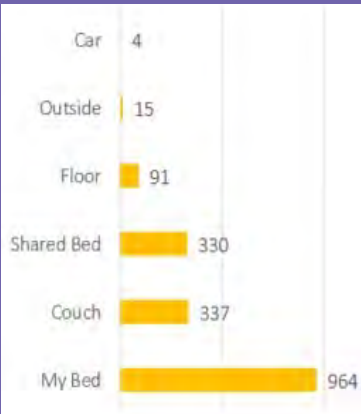
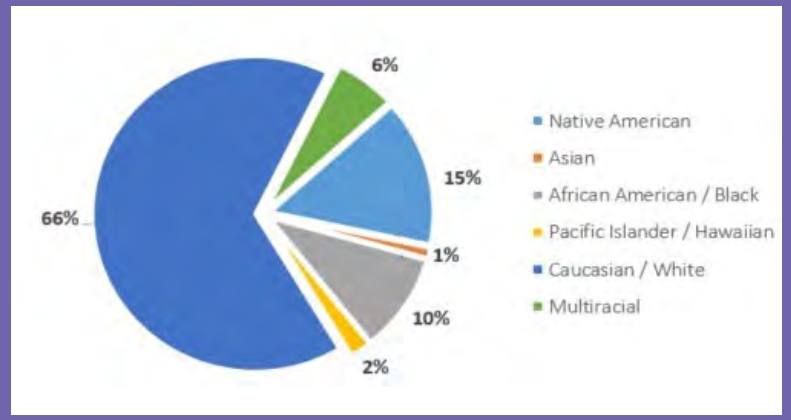
# Who Does YOTO Serve?

YOTO students reflect the general demographic trends in Pima County. They come from across the county, with over 80% living in Tucson.

63% of students identify as Latino or Hispanic

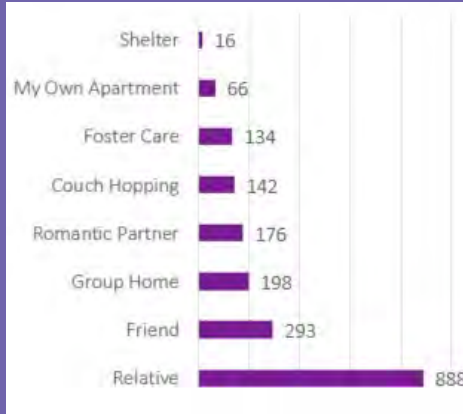


# Self-Reported Race



When asked where they physically slept, most YOTO students responded that they usually slept in a bed by themselves. Many students also share a bed with other family members or friends, or sleep on a couch or the floor.

*\*Each student could select multiple answers.*



Most YOTO students report staying with a friend, relative or romantic partner. Almost 200 report living in a group home, and over 140 report couch hopping on a regular basis.

*\*Each student could select multiple answers.*

# Meet Adrian.

At the age of 17, Adrian pulled together the strength to leave his abuse-filled home. The emotional scars and uncertainty of his situation led to him dropping out of school for a while, but knowing he needed a degree to succeed, he decided to return.

After starting school again, Adrian got involved with the wrestling team. The sport gave him the focus and motivation he needed keep going. Staying on the team and supporting himself, however, was incredibly challenging for Adrian. Luckily, his school liaison connected him to YOTO's services. The financial help was very impactful, but according to Adrian, "having someone in my corner" was the most important part. Adrian thrived at school, eventually became the co-captain of the wrestling team!

After this great accomplishment, Adrian began to shift his focus onto academics. He began to take AP classes and challenge himself. Eventually his commitment literally paid off; he received a scholarship to go to an internship in Washington DC!

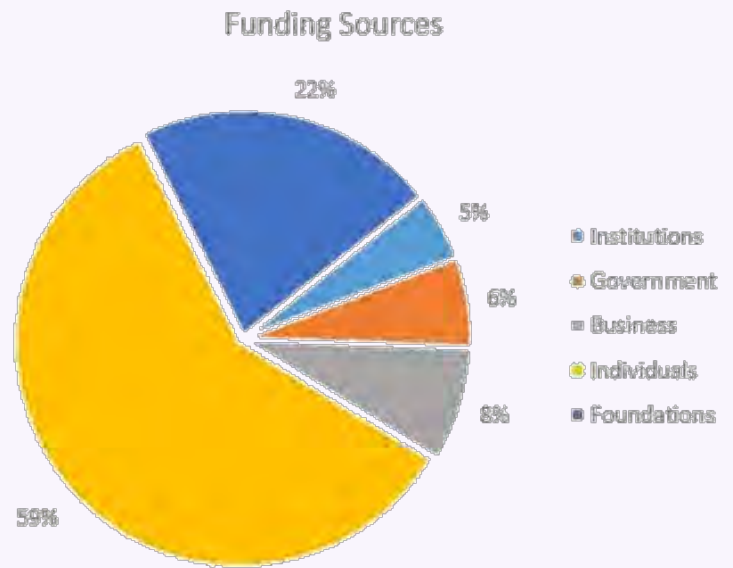
Adrian has now graduated from Alta Vista High School. He plans to enter the Navy and to qualify to become a diver or a part of the air rescue team, all while pursuing a law degree! Congratulations, Adrian!



# How Is YOTO Funded?

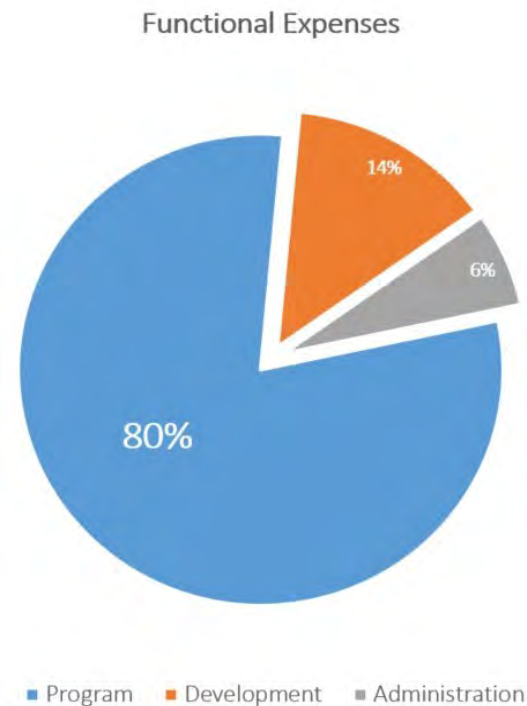
Youth On Their Own is a truly local organization, founded in Pima County and serving Pima County. We are fortunate and grateful to receive strong support both from our community, as well as from generous funders across the country.

Because we receive only about 6% of our income from government grants (City of Tucson and Pima County), we rely heavily on individuals, foundations, businesses, and institutions to fund our efforts. In fact, about 59% of our 2017-18 contributions came from individuals, many of whom support YOTO through their Arizona Charitable Tax Credit.



# How Does YOTO Use Your Funds?

Youth On Their Own works very hard to be as efficient and transparent as possible. During the 2017-18 fiscal year, YOTO spent a total of \$2,449,239. Eighty per cent of funds were spent on programs directly serving youth.



<b>Net Assets , 7/1/17:</b>	<b>\$3,057,657</b>
<b>Net Assets, 6/30/18:</b>	<b>\$3,889,830</b>



*My dad died when I was 12 and my mom got into drugs. Motivating myself to continue on my own was hard. A teacher at my school helped me enroll in YOTO. I got clothes and hygiene supplies. Everyone encouraged me to stay in school and graduate. YOTO is a good program that supports you if you need help!*

2018 graduate and future Pima Community College student, Jenna

# YOTO Has An Impact!

**1,741**

**Students  
Enrolled**

**3236**

**Mini Mall  
Visits**

**30,222**

**Pounds of Food  
Distributed**

**\$784,133**

**Direct Financial  
Assistance Given to  
Students Via Stipend  
Checks & Gift Cards**

**9,280**

**Pounds of  
Toiletries  
Distributed**

**327**

**Graduates**

**28**

**Bicycles  
Given Out**

**873**

**Bus Passes  
Recharged**

**Thank you  
for celebrating  
with us!**



### **YOTO IS FAMILY ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

YOTO Alum Jose and College & Career Coordinator Kim Flores at the 2018 Spring Lunch.



### **TOP 50 GRADUATING SENIORS**

They grow up so fast! YOTO-alum Nachalit accepts his award for having one of YOTO's Top 50 GPAs!

### **UNCORKING SUCCESS!**

Fabulous YOTO supporters Bob Ochs, Sharon Hertle, Kris Cohen, and Earl Cohen at the 2017 Fall Wine Tasting Event, Uncorking Success!





# Thank You, YOTO Volunteers!

YOTO is grateful for our volunteers. These amazing folks stock our Mini Mall, prepare students' stipend checks, make weekly deliveries to schools —even staff our reception area! Our work would truly not be possible without their dedication.

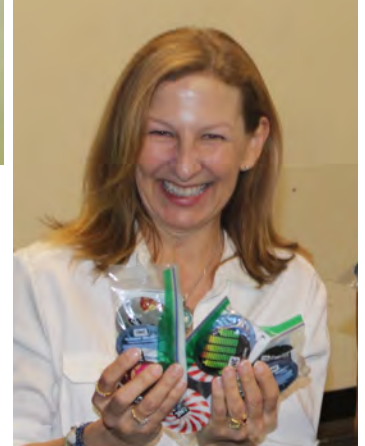


Fantastic volunteers from Caterpillar who helped us set up our new Mini Mall space!



**\$200,753**

Saved this year thanks to our volunteers!



In addition to our “regular” volunteers, we also host **volunteer groups**. Usually, these are members of a school, club, religious organization, or company who would like to give a few hours of their time to help YOTO youth. These groups assemble packages, write inspirational notes to students, hold food or school supply drives, and more!

## Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

### Help Homeless Youth Without Spending A Dime!

Through the AZ Charitable Tax Credit, you can deduct - dollar-for-dollar - **up to \$400 per person** (\$800 per couple filing jointly) from your Arizona state taxes by donating to Youth On Their Own. The AZ Tax Credit keeps your tax dollars in your local community. By designating your tax credit to YOTO, you are ensuring that local Pima County youth receive the support that they need to stay in school and succeed!

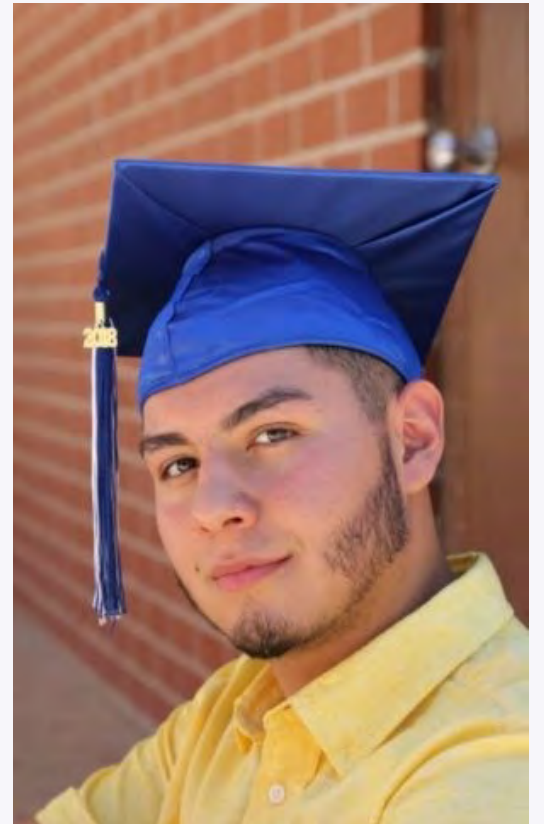
This year, about **one-fifth** of the money we fundraised came via the AZ Charitable Tax Credit!

**86-0644388**

YOTO's Federal Tax ID

**20365**

YOTO's Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO) Code for the AZ Charitable Tax Credit



**Learn more about the AZ Charitable Tax Credit at [www.yoto.org](http://www.yoto.org)!**

# YOU Make A Difference!

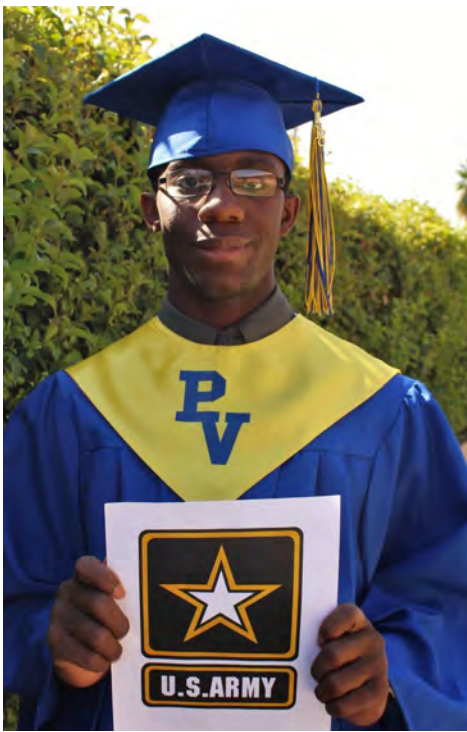


84%  
graduation rate



## Our Youth Notice

The broad support that the community provides does not go unnoticed by YOTO students. Throughout Tucson, you may notice star-shaped magnets on the bumpers of cars. Occasionally, you might see that a local business is doing a food or school supply drive for YOTO. **Our students see this, too.** For young people who lack a stable family structure and residence, the support of the community is integral to their success. They know that **others care about them and want to see them reach their goals**, even if they don't know precisely who those people are. **Thank you** for being part of the YOTO Family and supporting our students!



**THANK YOU!**





For more information about Youth On Their Own and how you can help change the lives of homeless and unaccompanied youth, visit our website, call, email, or drop by for a visit. We would love to speak with you!

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[WWW.YOTO.ORG](http://WWW.YOTO.ORG)