



Support



Compassion



Courage



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN™

2018-2019 Annual Report



Hope



Strength





YOTO's Mission

Youth On Their Own supports the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness by providing financial assistance, basic human needs, and guidance.

YOTO Data:

2,054
homeless youth served

18%
increase over the
previous year

364
high school graduates

82%
graduation rate for
YOTO students



YOTO's Federal Tax ID# 86-0644388
YOTO's Qualifying Charitable Organization Code
for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit 20365

Board of Directors from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Elizabeth Slater
(President from 07/18-03/19)

Deborah Salaiz
(Treasurer & President from 03/19-06/20)

William Stoffers
(Secretary)

Tony Cazzato
Mike Hanson
Tom Hoyt
Jane Klipp
Katina Koller
Linda Montes-Cota

Sean Murray
Eva Murzaite
Jay Peskoe
Julie Stevenson
Cristie Street

Staff from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Executive Staff

Elizabeth Slater
(Current CEO beginning 07/19)

Tom Hoyt
(Interim CEO)

Deb Ramsey
(Executive Coordinator)

Administrative Staff

Matthew Palmer
(Director of Finance, HR & Operations)

Candice Treftz
(Finance & Operations Coordinator)

Douglas Plecity
(IT & Facilities Specialist)

Bill Miller
(Facilities Specialist)

Development Staff

Bethany Neumann
(Director of Development)

Marissa Washington
(Grants Manager)

Katrina Calderon
(Marketing & Outreach Manager)

Avery Lane
(Database Coordinator)

Kristin Ohman
(Volunteer Coordinator)

Program Staff

Daniela Figueroa
(Director of Programs)

Kim Flores
(College & Career Program Manager)

Matthew Schmidgall
(Program Operations Manager)

Ashley Silvain
(School Programs Manager)

Diego Coronado
(Lead Program Coordinator)

Allyssa Del Rosario
(Senior Program Data Specialist)

Nida Hasan
(Program Coordinator)

Daniel Olson
(Program Assistant)

Brian Peel
(Program Data Specialist)

Antonio Phillippe
(Program Coordinator)

Daphne Soules
(Senior Program Assistant)

Christian Teran
(Program Coordinator)

Karolina Tumilowicz
(Program Coordinator)

A Message From YOTO's CEO



Elizabeth Slater
Chief Executive Officer

Elizabeth Slater, former YOTO volunteer and Board President, joined YOTO's staff as Chief Executive Officer in July 2019.

Dear Supporters,

2018-2019 was an incredible year for Youth On Their Own. With enrollment exceeding 2000 for the first time, we served more students in more schools than ever before. We helped 364 seniors graduate high school. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Within these pages, you'll read about the students you have helped continue along the road to high school graduation and beyond. These inspiring young people are battling every imaginable obstacle, but still they show up to class and they don't give up. Our students have needs, but they also have hope. YOTO is proud to be part of a system of support that helps these students reach the finish line and claim their diplomas.

Luckily, YOTO benefits from the minds and hearts of an incomparable board and staff team that sets an ambitious vision and delivers the one-of-a-kind program our students rely on. We are so grateful for the steadfast support of our local community. With your contributions, we've been able to stay on pace with the growth in student needs as the number of enrolled youth continues to increase each year.

Youth homelessness is a complex, heartbreaking issue with wide-ranging causes, but one thing is always true; YOTO's students are experiencing homelessness through no fault of their own. Together we can show these young people that they matter, that there are adults who care about their success. If you're reading this report, you're part of a YOTO family that wraps its arms around our students and helps them find their way. It's such an honor to be a small part of their success.

We're grateful for everything you do for YOTO and the students we serve. Thank you.

Elizabeth Slater

“We helped 364 seniors graduate high school. Without you, none of this would have been possible.”

A Message From YOTO's Ambassadors

The YOTO Ambassador Program is a leadership opportunity for alumni to represent and promote YOTO in the community. Ambassadors are given the opportunity to learn valuable networking and public speaking skills while representing YOTO in the community.

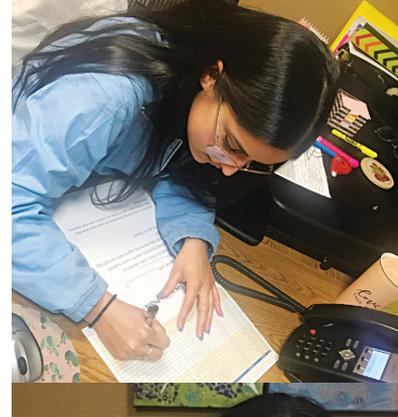
In late 2018, YOTO launched the Ambassador Program and reached out to us to join. They needed past YOTO alumni to attend events and help promote the work that they do to members of the community. Thanks to the Ambassador Program, we get to meet people from all walks of life. People who have never heard of YOTO before and are eager to help when we tell them about the mission. We also get to meet long-time supporters who host events and get their friends and family involved. We are proof positive that their efforts are helping real people in difficult situations.

There are now eight of us in the Ambassador Program. Some of us are working, some are attending postsecondary school, some are doing both. What we all share is a love for an organization that supported and guided us when few others would. To everyone in the YOTO Family – supporters, staff, volunteers – thank you for believing in us! As the Ambassador Program evolves and expands, we look forward to meeting as many of you as we can!

YOTO Ambassadors: Alfred, Angela, Armando, Hope, Jesus, Nayra, Rashel, and Samantha

YOTO's program focuses on **three components** to ensure homeless youth have the resources they need to stay in school and graduate:

- **Financial assistance** (up to \$160 per month) based on good attendance and passing grades
- Access to free **basic human needs**, including food, toiletries, clothing, school supplies, bus passes, and more
- **Guidance**, encouragement, post-secondary assistance, emergency bill assistance, workforce readiness preparation, and connections to other services in the community





Jose,
2019 High School Graduate

I had a difficult life with my mom. She stopped working when I was in middle school; we didn't have a way to get by. After a while, we moved in with her boyfriend. Then, my mom stopped supporting me. I had to sell my personal belongings just to get money. Recently, I've been living with my sister. I have my own room, but have to share pillows and blankets with other family members, so nothing is really mine. Not having enough clothes for school was really difficult. I was teased a lot for not dressing nice. That made getting through school even tougher. Another big stress was instability – I worried that I could be kicked out of my sister's home at any time and that I wouldn't have a place to sleep or get food. Youth On Their Own helped me with some of these problems. Because of the Mini Mall, I have access to food and clothing. It feels great to be graduating from high school! I plan to join the army and eventually become a military police officer. To the people at YOTO and its supporters, I just want to say thank you.

1 in 5

YOTO youth sleep on a couch/sofa

1 in 4

YOTO youth share a bed

How YOUR Support Helps Students Succeed

\$2,500

The amount it costs to serve one YOTO student for a full year

Who YOTO Served (2018-2019)



Gender



44.8%
Male



54.7%
Female



0.5%
Transgender

Age



< 17 AND UNDER

1477 Students

72%

18 AND OVER >

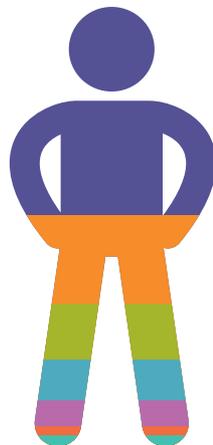
577 Students

28%



988 White	.....	48%
412 Two or More Races	.....	20%
292 Unknown	.....	14%
180 American Indian	.....	9%
or Alaska Native		
148 Black or African American	..	7%
18 Native Hawaiian or	.....	1%
Other Pacific Islander		
16 Asian	.....	1%

Self-Reported Race



Self-Reported Ethnicity

1,350 Hispanic or Latino	.....	66%
704 Not Hispanic or Latino	..	34%



Reasons for Homelessness

1330

Neglect and/or abandonment by parent or conflict with parent/stepparent

555

Abuse (includes verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual)

371

Parental substance abuse

359

Parental illness or death

167

parental disapproval (includes sexual orientation, girlfriend/boyfriend, pregnancy, or religious beliefs)



“Youth On Their Own helped take some of the stress and burden off of my shoulders while I was in school by providing necessities like clothes and food. I am really thankful for all the support I received from YOTO.”

(Brethza, 2019 Graduate)

YOTO's 2018-2019 Impact By The Numbers



\$812,589.27
in direct financial assistance
given to students via stipend
checks and gift cards



108
active
schools



\$41,284.59
in emergency bill
assistance



1,016
bus passes issued
and/or recharged



421
new backpacks
distributed



32,327 lbs
pounds of food
distributed



1,301
blankets given out



3,609
pounds of school
supplies distributed

“People should know that it is not easy for youth to live on our own, but with help from our community we can still be successful. Thank you, YOTO, for everything you have done to help me!”

(Salma, 2019 Graduate)



10,438
pounds of toiletries
distributed



4,117
Mini Mall visits



Dionne,

2019 High School Graduate

I was taken away from my parents when I was three years old and put in DCS for a week before being sent to stay with my mom's aunt. My high school experience was sometimes rough. For me, the hardest parts about being on my own were trusting other people and speaking up for myself. I had trouble connecting with others because of my family situation and struggled with nightmares. I heard about Youth On Their Own from a friend whose brother was in the program before. YOTO helped me out by providing gift cards I could use to buy necessities. Growing up basically on my own felt like a battle, but I kept pushing through. It's better to fight than to give up. Now that I have graduated from high school, I plan to go to Pima Community College to get an associate's degree, then transfer to the University of Arizona to get a bachelor's, and then go to medical school to become either a cardiac surgeon or neurosurgeon.

YOTO Students Dream BIG

*It's better
to fight than
to give up.*

Reasons for Homelessness

Student could select multiple answers.

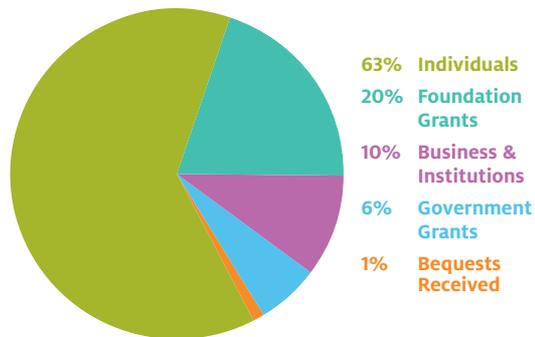
422

DCS/CPS removal

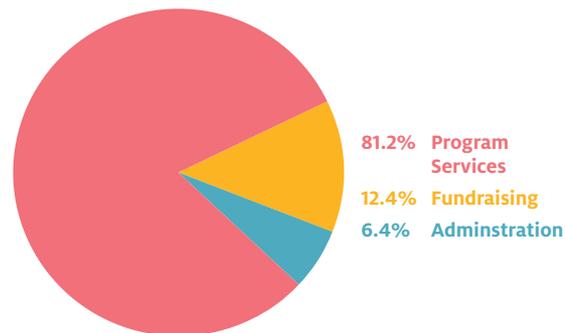
What Makes YOTO Work?

81%
of YOTO's
Expenses go
Directly to
Program
Services

How is YOTO Funded?



How is Your Donation Used?



< 5% Business >

< 20% Foundations >



For the fifth year in a row, YOTO was selected by Tucson Subaru as the hometown chosen charity for their Share the Love event!

This nationwide campaign by Subaru of America donates \$250 from every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased to the customer's choice of four national charities or a hometown charity selected by the participating retailer. This year, Tucson Subaru donated upwards of \$53,000 to support local homeless youth.

Stone Canyon Community Foundation's investments in YOTO over the past decade have directly supported over 1,250 YOTO students.

Most recently, in FY2018-2019, YOTO was awarded a \$15,500 grant which supported 130 students excelling academically with earned monthly stipends. By investing in their educational efforts and empowering their long-term success, SCCF supports positive outcomes for homeless youth and our entire community.

< 5% Institutions >

< 64% Individuals >



YOTO's relationship with the Community Church at SaddleBrooke dates back almost fifteen years. Each year, members of the Church raise about \$30,000 in donations and provide quarterly gifts to benefit homeless youth.

In addition to all the fundraising the Church does, many members, including Cathy Scott and friends, also donate their time through YOTO's various volunteer opportunities. We truly value the special relationship we have with the Community Church at SaddleBrooke.

Through the Fuel For Life employee giving program, Southwest Gas employees in Southern Arizona have committed to donating money to Youth On Their Own for the next two years.

This charitable giving program offers employees an opportunity to contribute to local non-profit organizations by making one-time donations or through an ongoing payroll deduction. Incredibly, 92% of Southwest Gas employees in Southern Arizona contribute to Fuel For Life. This year, through Fuel For Life, Southwest Gas has pledged \$34,000 to Youth on Their Own.

Diane Groover has been an avid supporter and donor to YOTO since 2007. Here's why Diane chooses to give:

"There is no "do-over" for a young person who arrives at the threshold of adulthood without an adequate education. I am a member of the YOTO Monthly Giving Club because I know about the long-term commitment these kids will have to endure to get a good education. I have met some amazing students who graduated high school and went on to college with the help of YOTO."

Dr. Janko Nikolich-Zugich and his wife Sanjana Nikolich-Singh have supported YOTO through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit since 2012. Dr. Nikolich-Zugich shared his thoughts on why this work is so important to him:

"I feel that helping disadvantaged youth, especially those without parental support or guidance, is exceptionally important. It is fundamentally a human gesture and I believe it is something society should value and support. Helping these young women and men is an honor and a privilege."

In addition to being a dedicated volunteer, Pat Kollar is leaving a legacy at YOTO.

"As the number of students needing support from Youth On Their Own increases annually, I have chosen to do my part to help by including YOTO in my estate planning. I have also decided to move my annual IRA distribution to the endowment created in memory of my late husband, Peter. It's important that we empower future generations of homeless students. I think Peter would agree."

Volunteers Make All the Difference!



9,338

total volunteer hours
donated



\$237,465.34

saved with
volunteer help

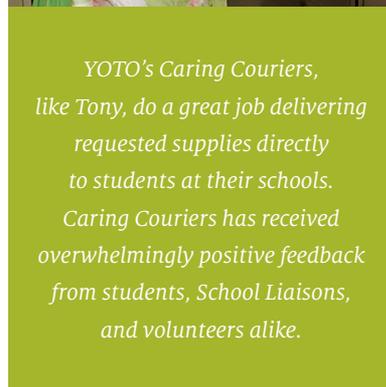
Thank You to Our Volunteers

Youth On Their Own volunteers and school liaisons go above and beyond every single day! Our dedicated volunteers provide essential in-house assistance to make all of YOTO's programs run smoothly. YOTO volunteers staff our reception area, stock the Mini Mall, make weekly deliveries to schools (Caring Couriers), and prepare students' stipend checks among many other duties. School liaisons are YOTO's points of contact at each school, advocating on behalf of the students they support. They identify students in need, collect monthly stipend forms, distribute basic needs items, and much more. Liaisons are not paid by YOTO, therefore they provide these vital services to students in addition to their normal school responsibilities.

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!



Volunteer Lily Rose gets some filing done.



YOTO's Caring Couriers, like Tony, do a great job delivering requested supplies directly to students at their schools. Caring Couriers has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, School Liaisons, and volunteers alike.



Employees from Vantage West participate in Take Note! Stipend Note-Writing Project. Group volunteering is a great team building exercise that also benefits the community by motivating YOTO students.



Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, 355th Squadron

The dedicated men and women at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, 355th Squadron, have made a significant contribution to YOTO over the last year through their volunteerism. The 355th Security Forces Squadron donated 404 pairs of new socks for the Socktober Challenge and provided assistance at the Fall Wine Tasting. The 355th Operations Support Squadron used their muscle to help unload an entire truckload of blankets donated by the Women of Quail Creek during our Spread the Warmth campaign. Members of the 355th Component Maintenance Squadron did a phenomenal job writing inspirational notes to YOTO students to accompany their stipend checks.

We are so thrilled to have such a strong relationship with DMAFB and the 355th Squadron and thank them for their continued commitment to YOTO by making us their charity of choice!

Volunteer Spotlight

The military and Tucson community has given us so much to be thankful for and we are grateful for the opportunity to give back and help the next generation be successful in life.

(Senior Master Sergeant
Robert Redziniak, DMAFB)



Lexia

“Youth On Their Own was there to help and it meant a lot knowing someone actually cared about me when my mom and dad didn’t.”

Angel

“It’s difficult when you don’t have many people you can lean on. Youth On Their Own was there for me.”



Thomas

“I am really grateful to Youth On Their Own because it gave me a good support system that I could depend on when I was in need. Thank you for being a support that I didn’t know I would ever have. My experience being on my own has taught me that no matter how hard life gets, if you always push and strive, you will be successful.”

Did You Know?

“YOTO especially motivated me and showed me I was not alone. They showed me that there were other young people in situations like mine who kept going forward and were able to be successful. I would like to say a special thank you to YOTO because I don't think I could have finished high school without your help.”

(Luz, 2019 Graduate)

Your donation could support YOTO youth at no cost to you!

Contributions of up to \$400 per individual (or \$800 for couples filing jointly) can be applied toward the AZ Charitable Tax Credit!

Call us at 520.547.8672 or email yotonews@yoto.org for more information about making your tax credit donation to YOTO!

Thank you for helping homeless youth succeed!



YOTO's Federal Tax ID# 86-0644388
YOTO's Qualifying Charitable Organization Code
for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit 20365





Connect with us!



YOTO.org



“I’m really thankful for the support I have received along the way because it can be hard living on your own.”

(Valerie, 2019 Graduate)



1660 N Alvernon Way | Tucson, AZ | 85712
520.293.1136 | YOTO.org



“I want to say a big thank you to the staff, donors and volunteers at YOTO – I hope you know the big impact you have on the lives of all the students you support.”

(Oscar, 2019 Graduate)