



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN[®]

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



YOTO Data:



1347

homeless youth
served



41%

increase over the
previous year



253

high school
graduates



82.3%

Graduation Rate for
YOTO seniors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Sean Denlinger
President

Julie Stevenson
President-Elect

Jay Peskoe
Immediate Past President

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Amanda McCraw
Sean Murray
Paola Ponce
Cori Rodriguez
Kristina Scott
Michelle Singer

YOTO's Federal Tax ID#
86-0644388

**YOTO's Qualifying Charitable
Organization Code for the Arizona
Charitable Tax Credit 20365**

STAFF

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Elizabeth Slater
CEO

Daniel Armenta
Director of Organizational Development

Todd Brown
Director of Finance, Operations & HR

Daniela Figueroa
Director of Programs

Bethany Neumann
Director of Development & Communications

YOTO STAFF

Anthony Badalamenti
Senior Program Coordinator, Youth Services

Jessica Cornidez
Senior Bilingual Program Coordinator, Schools

Diego Coronado
Program Manager, Youth Services

Kim Flores
Program Manager, Alumni

Kimberly Garcia Parada
Senior Program Specialist, Youth Services

Rachel Kahn
Senior Bilingual Program Coordinator, Schools

Degas Lopez
Development Coordinator

Ana Lucero
Senior Program Manager, Data & Systems

Carissa McGrath
Volunteer @ Events Coordinator

Adriana Mohammed
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Brian Peel
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Douglas Plecity
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Salathiel Ramos
Senior Bilingual Program Coordinator, Schools

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Finance Specialist

Fred Rodriguez
Senior Development Manager, Annual Giving

Ashley Silvain
Senior Program Manager, Schools

Brittany Smith
Development Manager, Communications & Events

Mikel Stone
Program Coordinator, Schools

Brittany Taylor
Public Ally, Alumni

Candice Trefz
Lead Finance & Payroll Coordinator

Victoria Tullercash
Program Specialist, Youth Engagement

Heather Vené
Program Coordinator, Alumni

Marissa Washington
Senior Grants Manager

Sarah Welker
Program Coordinator, Data & Reporting

Arik Westbrook
Program Coordinator, Data & Systems



Our Mission

To support
the high school
graduation and
continued success
of youth
experiencing
homelessness.



Elizabeth Slater

Chief Executive Officer

Julie Stevenson

Board President

A message from YOTO's CEO Elizabeth Slater and Board President Julie Stevenson

Dear YOTO Supporters,

Wow – what a year!

In July 2021, YOTO staff returned to the office after more than a year of working remotely, the Mini Mall reopened to YOTO youth, and we finally welcomed back our volunteers. We made some adjustments to keep everyone as safe as possible and embraced a “new normal” at YOTO.

Then something very exciting happened. After years of searching, we found YOTO's forever home! In January 2022, we closed on our new property near the corner of Grant and Country Club. A few months later, we received even more exciting news – Angel Charity for Children selected YOTO as their 2022 large grant recipient and will be providing \$750,000 for a building renovation! We hope to move to our new property in summer 2023.

Our YOTO youth are at the heart of every decision we make. From the property purchase, to our quest to provide more variety of items in our Mini Mall, to our new model of tiering services for youth based on their level of need – the question we always ask is, “how will this help our youth succeed?” We're pleased to share that we experienced a 41% increase in youth enrollment during the 2021-2022 fiscal year as more youth returned back to school for in-person instruction. And our program is working! 253 YOTO seniors graduated high school for an 82% YOTO graduation rate last year!

As always, we are incredibly grateful to the YOTO Family that always shows up for us, showing youth experiencing homelessness that their community cares about their success. Thank you so much!

Elizabeth Slater, Chief Executive Officer

Julie Stevenson, Board President



Rendering by Interiors In Design

Introducing YOTO's Forever Home!



YOTO Senior Leadership on closing day.

When YOTO began in 1986, it was a tiny grassroots organization staffed entirely by volunteers. With the support of our YOTO Family, we've grown to serve thousands of youth experiencing homelessness every year. We've become so big, in fact, we're bursting at the seams! But that's about to change... YOTO has found and purchased its "forever home"!

After years of searching, YOTO has purchased a new property. At 54% larger than our current space, the new building will allow us to continue to help youth experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Tucson graduate from high school and achieve their educational and professional goals!

YOTO's new headquarters will:

Provide increased and improved services to youth in our community.

- Larger Mini Mall & Alumni Center
- Laundry & shower facilities

Allow us to be more efficient in our use of resources and staff time.

- No more offsite storage
- Easy donation drive thru

Incorporate the voice of youth in every aspect of its design, placing the young people we serve at the very center of our work.

- Input from youth focus groups
- Interior design done by a YOTO Alumna!



Angel Charity Group

Angel Charity for Children

Angel Charity for Children, Inc. selected Youth On Their Own as a recipient for their 2022 major fundraising campaign! The wonderful women at Angel Charity for Children committed to raising \$750,000 to fund the renovation of YOTO's new home, making it safe and welcoming for youth and expanding the services we offer to youth experiencing homelessness in our community! With the Angels' support, YOTO will be moving into our new "forever home" in 2023!

Alumni Spotlight: Eva Murzaite

Youth On Their Own has hired YOTO alumna, Eva Murzaite, and her team at Interiors In Design to design our forever home!

Born and raised in Lithuania, Eva moved to Tucson at age 13. After her mother and stepfather divorced, she started working and moved into an apartment with a roommate during her freshman year of high school because her mother returned to Lithuania.

“Working on this new space for YOTO has truly been special for multiple reasons. Seeing the expansion of the program from being a YOTO student almost 25 years ago to now is inspiring. Being able to create a wonderful, intentional space to accommodate the growth of the program is such an honor.

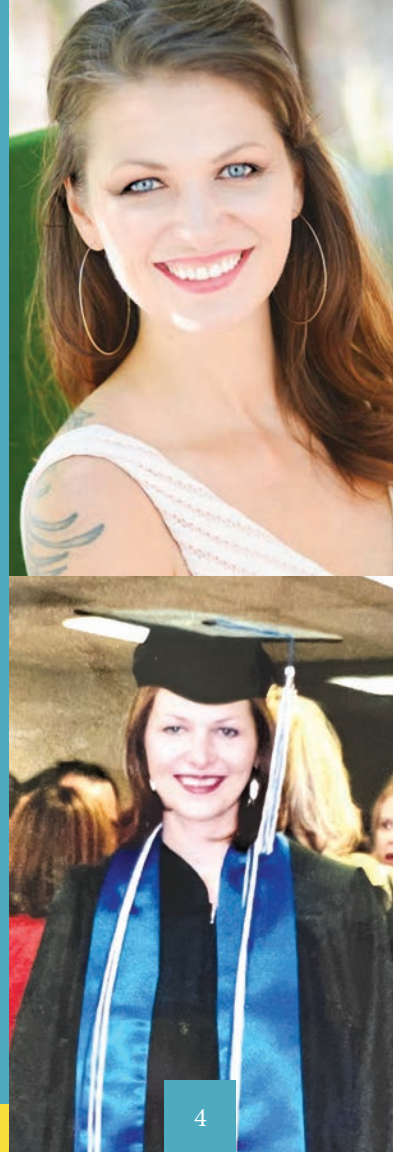
Our team has received extensive input from the staff, the students and alumni. Our number one intention is to create a space that is inspiring, inviting and feels like home to them. Creating spaces that will help them transition from where they are now to where they are going makes them feel honored and valued.

My hope is that the YOTO Youth will respond to the space by utilizing it. Feeling welcome and using the place to create their community and a support system with the staff and each other.

As a youth in the program, I would have loved to have a quiet place to do homework, being able to have help filling out and printing paperwork, having a beautiful place to get life necessities and not feeling like I didn’t deserve to have those things or have to figure out how to go without. Having a place where I had a safe adult to talk to and get advice about the issues I was facing at the time.



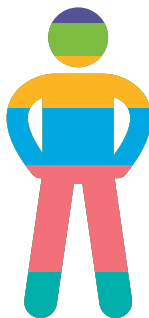
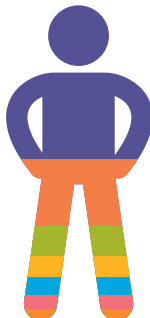
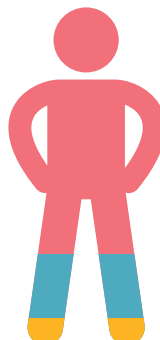
Another reason why this project is so special to me and the entire In Design team is that this building used to house the Art Center Design College later know as SUVA (Southwest University of Visual Arts). After graduating from Tucson High, this is where I graduated college with an Bachelors in Interior Design as a valedictorian. This is where I met Brandy Holden, Jared Hood and Azucena Maldonado who are integral members of the In Design team and the project. We have all been very sentimental working on this project and giving this building a new life. It’s the place where bright futures are born!”

“Seeing the expansion of the program from being a YOTO student almost 25 years ago to now is inspiring. Being able to create a wonderful, intentional space to accommodate the growth of the program is such an honor.”



Who YOTO Served (2021-2022)



GENDER	AGE	GRADE LEVEL	SELF-REPORTED RACE	SELF-REPORTED ETHNICITY
<div></div> <div>60.4% Female</div>	<div></div> <div>< 18 AND UNDER 61.3%</div>	<div></div> <div><div>Grade 6-8.....2.8%</div><div>Grade 9.....10.7%</div><div>Grade 10.....12.5%</div><div>Grade 11.....16.6%</div><div>Grade 12.....44.1%</div><div>Alumni.....13.2%</div></div>	<div></div> <div><div>White.....45.4%</div><div>Unknown/Declined to Answer/Other.....26.9%</div><div>American Indian.....10.2%</div><div>or Alaska Native.....</div><div>Two or More Races.....8.5%</div><div>Black or African American...6.8%</div><div>Asian.....1.3%</div><div>Native Hawaiian or.....0.9%</div><div>Other Pacific Islander.....</div></div>	<div></div> <div><div>Hispanic or Latinx.....71.6%</div><div>Not Hispanic.....24.4%</div><div>or Latinx.....</div><div>Unknown/Declined...4%</div><div>to answer.....</div></div>

About YOTO Youth



1 IN 4

is parenting or caregiving for someone who is not their child (including siblings, nieces, nephews, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members)



40%

have moved two or more times in the last six months



REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS:

- Conflict with parents/Kicked out
- Parents couldn't afford to provide shelter, food, clothing
- Parents misused substances like drugs and alcohol
- Parents struggled with mental illness or physical illness
- Parents were deported



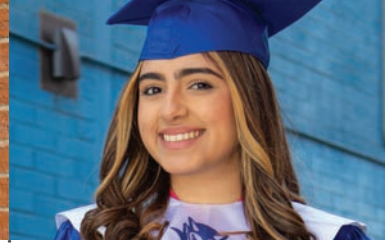
1 IN 5

graduating YOTO seniors reported they had dropped out at least once prior to graduating with YOTO's support

How YOTO Helps

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

- **Financial assistance** (up to \$250 per month) based on good attendance **and emergency bill assistance**
- Weekly access to **basic human needs** items, including food, toiletries, school supplies, and more!
- **Guidance**, encouragement, college and career assistance, workforce readiness preparation, and connections to other services in the community





116
laptops provided



\$1,350,705
in direct financial assistance
given to students



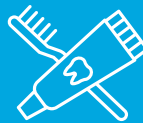
\$383,250
in emergency bill
assistance



1,007
taxi rides
provided



53
mattresses distributed



30,808
hygiene items
distributed



71,849
food items
distributed



14,233
school supplies
distributed

YOTO's 2021-2022 Impact By The Numbers

When my baby was born, I'd use most of my stipend on my baby since YOTO provided me with all of my hygiene and personal things I needed. Thankfully my baby has always had clothes, diapers, wipes, etc because I was always stocked up on what I needed for me thanks to YOTO. I am very thankful for YOTO, it has been an amazing two years with them and I'll never stop thanking them for everything!

(April, class of 2022)



33
bikes provided



125
caps and gowns
provided

Olivia

Class of 2022

“YOTO has helped me in so many ways – from inspiring me to graduate and keeping me on track, to housing me, providing food, clothes, and emotional support. I can confidently say that without the unconditional support from YOTO staff and my school staff, I wouldn’t be where I am today and I wouldn’t be an independent adult. I’m so thankful for this program!”

Diamond

Class of 2022

“Throughout my years of high school, I was going through a lot in my personal life – no parents, no family, an abusive relationship, and more. Through it all YOTO was there helping me stay clean and healthy. They provided me with guidance and showed me what was possible. I was able to get good grades and even better attendance that followed with a good night of sleep in hopes I would make it out of that situation one day. Now I have graduated and have a job, and know that the world isn’t against me. Thank you YOTO for helping me become the adult I am today!”

Angela

Class of 2022

“YOTO helped me feel more safe and stable in life. They reminded me that I always had somewhere to go and someone to help me. The stipends helped me be a bit more financially stable during high school – helping me pay rent, get myself food, and many other things. YOTO is a program that truly cares and truly does help!”



YOTO
Student
Stories



What
Makes
YOTO
Work?

YOTO Income

(From 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements)



- 85% Contributions**
(Incl. Individuals, Bequests, Corporations, Civic Groups @ Churches, Foundation Grants, Special Events)
- 15% Government Grants**
(Incl. Employee Retention Credits from the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act funds)

YOTO Expenses



- 81% Program Services**
- 12% Fundraising**
- 7% Administration**

<----- 7% Business ----->

<--- 2% Institutions --->



Tucson Electric Power

TEP

Tucson Electric Power provided a \$20,000 match grant on Giving Tuesday 2021

Giving Tuesday, celebrated annually on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is a global day of giving and unity. On this most generous day of the year, TEP matched up to \$20,000 in donations to YOTO! We knew that the YOTO Family would respond well to a match opportunity, but we were absolutely blown away by the response! TEP's match leveraged an additional \$72,000+ in contributions for YOTO youth on Giving Tuesday.



The Centurions

YOTO was selected as one of the beneficiaries of the Centurions annual fundraising event.

Comprised of prominent Southern Arizona business leaders, the Centurions' annual themed events are known for the significant amount of funds raised and the fun had by all, while attracting more than 5,000 guests and hundreds of local business sponsors. In Fiscal Year 2022, Youth On Their Own received \$30,000 from the Centurions.

◀ 21% Foundations ▶

◀ 70% Individuals ▶



O'Rielly Family Foundation

For 20 years, the O'Rielly Family Foundation has provided consistent grant funding to support YOTO youth!

When the O'Rielly Family Foundation graciously awarded YOTO its first grant in 2002, YOTO had a paid staff of four and was serving 500 youth annually throughout Tucson. Twenty years later, the foundation's funding has helped hundreds upon hundreds of youth towards their goal of graduation. We are immensely grateful for the O'Rielly Family Foundation's continued investments into our program and their commitment to our youth.



Monthly Giving Club – Barbara Ewbank

Barbara Ewbank didn't like that youth were without a place to live, not knowing where their next meal was coming from.

In 2003, Barbara began supporting YOTO by donating household goods because she wanted to help as much as she could at the time. Barbara likes to give locally and makes sure the organizations she supports handle their money responsibly. She believes organizations need to be able to count on regular gifts coming in on a consistent basis, which is why she became a member of the YOTO Monthly Giving Club in 2020.



AZ Charitable Tax Credit Donor – Bryan Foulk

Bryan Foulk has supported Youth On Their Own from the very beginning and continues to do so with his annual tax credit donations.

In the 1980s, YOTO Founder Ann Young sought help from Bryan when she was creating the organization and applying for 501(c)(3) status because he had familiarity with the process. For many years, Bryan provided free dental care to YOTO youth. He is now retired, but still supports YOTO each year with a tax credit gift. He says the tax credit allows him to give more to the local organizations that are near and dear to his heart.

YOTO recognized Bryan for his longstanding support and profound impact on YOTO youth by presenting him with the 2022 Ann Young Advocate for Youth Award.



IRA Donor – Mary Stewart

As a past Board Member and 20-year supporter of YOTO, Mary Stewart has made just about every type of gift a person could make to YOTO!

"Making a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) from my IRA is a great way to meet the amount I'm required to take out each year while still helping YOTO youth. I want to see the impact my support has on YOTO youth in my own lifetime. Giving through my IRA allows me to do that."



Legacy Donor – Jeffrey B. Harvey Endowment Fund

Prior to his passing in 2021, Jeffrey Harvey created an endowment fund at the Jewish Community Foundation that will benefit YOTO in perpetuity.

His family shared, "Jeff was a sensitive and caring person, who, in the last chapter of his life, obtained necessary credentials to provide both mental health and substance abuse counseling services. He successfully established and maintained a behavioral health practice and enjoyed working with others. The endowment is his way to continue to help youth overcome their own challenges and maintain a normal standard of living."

YOTO's Volunteers Do It All!



12,275

total volunteer hours
donated



\$343,705

saved with
volunteer help

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

The YOTO office re-opened to staff, volunteers, youth, and the community in July 2021. We were glad to be back to “normal”, but were even more thrilled to be together with our volunteers once more! Our dedicated volunteers provide essential in-house assistance to make all of YOTO's programs run smoothly. They staff our reception area, stock the Mini Mall, package orders requested by youth on the YOTO portal, and make weekly deliveries to schools (Caring Couriers), among many other duties.

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! **Thank you, YOTO Volunteers!**



Top Photo: Front Desk Volunteer Beth Wilson



Right Photo: Caring Couriers Kim Kean and Jan Dowling

Bottom Right Photo: Staff Member Carissa McGrath and volunteer Candee Condray sort a donation

Bottom Left Photo: OneAZ Credit Union was our first group to volunteer post-COVID!



Volunteer Spotlight: GEICO

As part of the GEICO Cares initiative, GEICO employees have made a significant contribution to YOTO over the past year through their volunteerism. In May, they helped package dorm kits for YOTO grads headed off to college in the fall, sharing notes of encouragement for the youth. On other visits, they sorted new items in the Donation Center, counted inventory to be added to the YOTO Portal, and packaged items for the Mini Mall. We are grateful for GEICO's commitment to our community and appreciate the hard work of their employees!

"I coordinated my team's volunteer event with YOTO and I'm so glad I did! It was my first time volunteering for them and it was such a great experience! The staff was very welcoming and helpful. They let us know what they were all about and all the wonderful things they do for youth in the program, it was fun creating the dorm kits and awesome knowing we helped to get them prepared for such a fun experience – college dorm life!"

(Shelaine Grijalva, GEICO Sales Team Supervisor)



Capacity Building

YOTO uses capacity-building funds to develop competencies, systems, and structures that improve our organizational effectiveness. These types of capacity-building activities strengthen YOTO and help us grow our impact, plan for the future, and accomplish our mission and goals. While most YOTO donations are designated for direct youth services, some funders invest in YOTO's staffing and other capacity-building through essential grant funding and technical assistance.



Abbott Foundation

The Abbott Family Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities to develop and expand needed services. Their FY22 funding provided substantial support to the YOTO Student Portal, enabling YOTO to serve youth more efficiently and effectively.

BANK OF AMERICA
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Bank of America Charitable Foundation

We are thankful for the Bank of America Charitable Foundation's dedication to supporting salaries! Their FY22 grant funded the salaries of the Program Coordinator team, those who are providing direct support to YOTO youth.



Del E. Webb Foundation

Del E. Webb Foundation

The Del E. Webb Foundation provided \$50,000 in capital funds to help YOTO complete the purchase of our new headquarters in FY22.

Capital, General Operating, and Capacity-Building Funders

American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
Frederick Gardner Cottrell Foundation
Thomas & Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation
Fenster Family Foundation Fund *Held at CFSA*
Finley Family Foundation
GEICO
Gertrude & Charles Gordon Foundation
Jane Elise Hendricks Charitable Trust
JASAM Foundation of Arizona
Kautz Family Foundation
Knisely Family Foundation
Stephen and Susan Lace
Clayton & Billie Poenisch Foundation
Lester & Millie Rosen Foundation
Ward J & Joy A Timken Foundation
Jim Troxell Foundation
Witthoft Apprill Family Foundation
Bozena & Josef Zelenda Foundation

Did You Know?

The support from YOTO really means so much to me and has a special place in heart. Being a part of YOTO since I was in 7th grade has really helped me get where I am today. I am so thankful for all of the opportunities that I have been given in this program and it continues to grow and improve!

Your donation can 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 520.293.1136 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 is 20365





*YOTO made me realize that I
can take charge of my own life and
I can make it!*

(River, class of 2022)

Connect with us!



YOTO.org



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

