



**YOUTH ON THEIR OWN<sup>®</sup>**

**2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



## YOTO Data:



**1504**  
youth served



**12%**  
increase over the  
previous year



**331**  
high school  
graduates



**86%**  
Graduation Rate for  
YOTO seniors

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Julie Stevenson  
*President*  
Elaine Babcock  
*President-Elect*  
Elaine Babcock  
*Secretary*  
Paola Ponce  
*Treasurer*

Enrique Aldana  
Eric Dupree  
Viviana Fimbres  
Tom Hoyt  
Amanda Kippert  
Amanda McCraw  
Katie Maxwell  
Sean Murray  
Mark Papoccia  
Cori Rodriguez  
Antonio Rubio  
Deb Salaiz  
Georgina Smith  
Tony Spear  
Marian Lalonde, *ex-officio*  
Elizabeth Slater, *CEO*

**YOTO's Federal Tax ID#**  
86-0644388

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

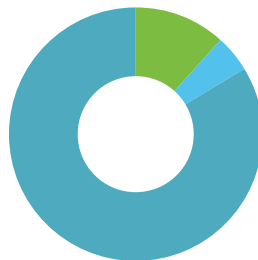
## STAFF

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Daniel Armenta  
Vannesa Ashby  
Brooke Blizzard  
Todd Brown  
Maricella Cazares  
Anna Chronister  
Jessica Cornidez  
Diego Coronado  
Daniela Figueroa  
Nadia Figueroa  
Kimberly Garcia Parada  
Rachel Kahn  
Jonathan Kresal  
Ana Lucero  
Laurie Mazerbo  
Carissa McGrath  
Bethany Neumann  
Douglas Plecity  
Salathiel Ramos  
Deb Ramsey  
Michelle Richie  
Ashley Silvain  
Elizabeth Slater  
Brittany Smith  
Candice Trefitz  
Charlene Van Keuren  
Heather Vené  
Marissa Washington  
Sarah Welker  
Arik Westbrook  
Sharon Wolfen Eden

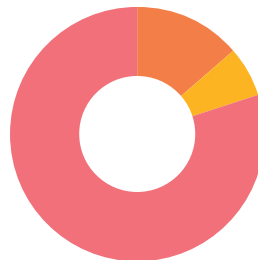
Annual Operating Budget: \$4,366,535

## Revenue:



**84%** **Contributions**  
\$4,406,744  
**12%** **Investment &  
Other Income**  
\$601,964  
**5%** **Government Grants**  
\$257,694

## Expenses:



**81%** **Program Services**  
\$3,523,124  
**13%** **Fundraising**  
\$557,423  
**6%** **Administration**  
\$285,988

**Net Assets: \$15,146,154**

Portion of net assets endowed or not yet realized: \$6,256,875  
(As of June 30, 2023)

*YOTO's mission is to support the high school graduation and continued success  
of youth experiencing homelessness.*

# A message from YOTO's CEO Elizabeth Slater and Board President Elaine Babcock

Dear YOTO Supporters,

The theme of YOTO's 2022-2023 program year was *persistence*. Our organization took so many big steps forward – from the full implementation of our tiered service model, to increasing the number of staff who support YOTO youth, to the adoption of a new digital payment system for our educational stipends, to tackling our largest-ever construction project at YOTO's new campus... our team worked together to stay on course and measurably improve the vital program that our youth rely on.

This steadfast dedication to our strategic goals paid off in spades. Not only did YOTO serve more youth than we anticipated (1,504!), but those youth were more engaged in YOTO's services than ever before. One inspiring end result: The graduation rate for YOTO seniors jumped to 86% in the 2022-2023 school year. We are honored to celebrate the success of these incredible young people, some of whom you will see smiling proudly throughout this annual report.

This report also features each of the winners of YOTO's annual awards: School Liaison of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Alumni Impact Award and Ann Young Advocate for Youth Award. We were thrilled to host our first in-person events since COVID in 2023, celebrating YOTO's biggest champions at our annual Spring Lunch celebration – a true YOTO Family reunion!

This year, YOTO supporters stepped up in major ways to help fund expanded services and the construction of our much-improved facilities. YOTO is an organization founded by this community, representative of this community, and supported by this community – from its first day in 1986 to the current day. We are so proud to be one of the homegrown establishments that make Tucson such a unique and special place.

**Thank you, YOTO Family, for standing with us and investing in us during this time of exceptional transformation. You make this all possible!**

**Elizabeth Slater**, *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Elaine Babcock**, *Board President*



**Elizabeth Slater**

*Chief Executive Officer*

**Elaine Babcock**

*Board President*



## YOTO's Forever Home *Construction Update*

This year, YOTO's construction team was hard at work preparing our "forever home" for our November 2023 move. From necessary items like insulation, flooring, and ceilings to more exciting things like colorful murals, we're so excited to see this space come to life, and are thrilled to welcome YOTO participants into their new Youth Center!



### Why is YOTO moving?

*To provide increased and improved services to youth in our community.*

- Larger Mini Mall
- New Alumni Center
- Laundry on-site
- Shower

*To be more efficient in our use of resources and staff time.*

- On-site storage
- Easy donation drive thru
- Community room for large meetings
- Room for growth

*To place the young people we serve at the very center of our work.*

- Input from youth focus groups
- Interior design done by a YOTO alumna!
- Space for youth to meet with staff and each other
- Drop in center where youth can spend more time in a safe and supportive environment



# 54%

**Larger than our  
former facility!**



## Ann Young Advocate for Youth Award *Angel Charity for Children*

The Ann Young Advocate for Youth Award was established in honor of YOTO's founder, Ann Young, and recognizes a person or organization that has made a significant impact on the lives of youth experiencing homelessness in our community. The 2023 award was presented to Angel Charity for Children, a group that has supported YOTO youth for over three decades.

Angel Charity first supported the YOTO program in 1992 with a grant of \$100,000. This established the most crucial element of YOTO's program model, our academic stipend. Again in 2004, Angel Charity funded the stipend program, helping us expand YOTO to even more schools.

Over the years, YOTO has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the members of Angel Charity. They have not only supported us financially, but they have connected us to new resources, promoted our services, and offered guidance when we needed it. They've been our advisors and our friends, and they care deeply about our youth!



Ann Young with Angel Charity 2022 General Chair,  
Karen Farrell and Vice Chair, Jill Brooks.  
Photo by Dominic Ortega.

In 2022, Angel Charity members voted to provide critical funding to renovate YOTO's new property. They believe in our vision for a youth-centered space that's large enough to accommodate our growing program for years to come. With a \$750,000 grant from Angel Charity, YOTO was able to renovate our forever home, and ensure that it is a safe and engaging space for our youth!

It seems that every time Youth On Their Own is ready to take a leap and grow in a significant new way, Angel Charity is always there by our side. **Thank you, Angels!**

*"The Angels are so excited to partner with YOTO on this next amazing step along their journey and honored to receive the Ann Young Award! What a fitting celebration of our decades-long collaboration with YOTO!"*

*- Karen Farrell*



# Who YOTO Served (2022-2023)



## LGBTQ+

**1 IN 4**  
YOTO youth identify  
as LGBTQ+

## GENDER



**58.2%**  
Female

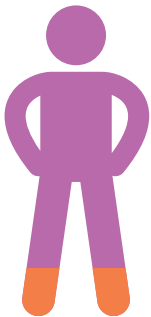


**37.8%**  
Male



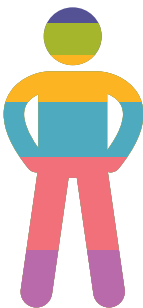
**4%**  
Transgender/  
Non-binary/No response

## COMBINED RACE/ETHNICITY



**88.8%**  
BIPOC and/or Latinx  
  
**11.2%**  
White and not Latinx

## GRADE LEVEL



Grade 6-8	2.6%
Grade 9	10.3%
Grade 10	11.5%
Grade 11	17.4%
Grade 12	39.9%
Alumni	18.2%

## REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

**5**  
**TOP**

- Severe family conflict and/or abuse
- Parents couldn't afford to provide shelter, food, clothing
- Parents misused substances like drugs and alcohol
- Parents struggled with mental illness or physical illness
- Youth did not feel safe in parents' home

## CAREGIVING



**1 IN 4**  
is parenting or caregiving  
for someone who is not  
their child (including  
siblings, nieces, nephews,  
and other family members)

## Alumni Impact Award

### *Sherice Dugan*

The Alumni Impact Award recognizes a YOTO graduate who has achieved something significant and meaningful in their years after YOTO. Award recipients serve as role models for current YOTO youth, demonstrating what is possible with commitment and drive, and celebrating what we know all YOTO youth have the potential to achieve!

The 2023 Alumni Impact Award winner was Sherice Dugan. Sherice is a 1991 graduate of Amphitheater High School. During her time at Amphi, Sherice and her siblings participated in YOTO, and her family became very close with YOTO's founder Ann Young.

When Ann learned that Sherice would be receiving the inaugural Alumni Impact Award, she was incredibly excited. Ann recalls that Sherice always knew what she wanted to do with her life – even as a teenager, she told Ann that she wanted to be an artist, with a special love for animation.

Sherice moved to California to pursue her dreams. She worked at Disneyland, Paramount Pictures, and then Warner Brothers. Most recently, Sherice was the Creative Director of Live Action Television at DC Entertainment.



*Sherice Dugan – Alumni Impact awardee.  
Photo by Julius Schlosburg*

Sherice returned to Tucson in March 2023 to join us at YOTO's Family Reunion. She shared more about her journey and how YOTO helped her get where she is today.

Sherice's advice to YOTO youth:  
*"Remember that this is temporary. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. Live positively and stay focused. Your life can transform quickly after graduation."*



# How YOTO Helps

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


## 1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

YOTO provides financial incentives to stay in school including an academic stipend based on attendance.

**\$1,458,645**  
Financial Assistance Distributed

## 2 ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS

YOTO youth can shop for free at our on-site Mini Mall or online portal to access a variety of basic needs items.

  
**99,146**  
Food Items  
Distributed

  
**27,485**  
Household Products  
Distributed

  
**44,696**  
Hygiene Products  
Distributed

  
**17,693**  
School Supplies  
Distributed

## 3 GUIDANCE & SUPPORT

YOTO offers college and career assistance, workforce readiness, connections to other services in the community, and much-needed encouragement to youth.

**9**  
Program Coordinators  
work with...

**147**  
School Liaisons  
to serve...

**1504**  
YOTO youth



Spring Lunch emcee and YOTO Board Member  
Antonio Rubio, CEO Elizabeth Slater,  
and 2023 Liaison of the Year Joel Brown.  
Photo by Dominic Ortega



## YOTO School Liaisons

The YOTO program could not operate without our volunteer network of school liaisons. Each school that serves YOTO youth must designate a YOTO liaison. Usually employed as a counselor or social worker, YOTO Liaisons volunteer part of their time to help facilitate our program in their school.

### Liaisons:

- Refer eligible youth to YOTO
- Provide status updates to YOTO about a youth's attendance or circumstances
- Distribute YOTO deliveries and resources to youth who cannot reach our campus in person

## Liaison of the Year *Joel Brown*

Some of the most important and impactful YOTO Family Members are the dedicated professionals who work in Pima County's public schools.

Each year, YOTO recognizes a Liaison of the Year to honor someone who has made a lasting positive impact on YOTO youth. In 2023, we selected Joel Brown, an educator who has worked with youth for over 25 years and has served as a YOTO liaison for the past two decades!

Joel Brown works at Pima Vocational High School where he is a strong advocate for his students. He is extremely community-connected, always identifying resources that can help youth. Joel is especially passionate about re-engaging youth who have dropped out of high school and providing the support they need to graduate.

Over the years, Joel has helped hundreds of YOTO youth. Our staff love working with Joel because, in addition to his passion for his students, he is also a great human with a big personality, always laughing and sharing his joy with others. He is a master at wearing many hats, and YOTO youth have benefitted from his positivity and his dedication to their success!



**14,246**  
hours volunteered  
by YOTO liaisons



**\$453,022**  
saved with liaisons help

# Thank You To Our Volunteers!



**5,180**

total volunteer  
hours donated



**\$164,724**

saved with  
volunteer help

## YOTO's Volunteers Do It All!

Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of YOTO. 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!**



Volunteer, Judi Davis

Volunteer, GEICO Group



Vic Piscitello – Volunteer of the Year  
Photo by Julius Schlosburg

## Volunteer of the Year *Vic Piscitello*

The winner of the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award has truly done it all! Vic Piscitello is a super star. He spends every Wednesday with YOTO, first as a Caring Courier in the morning (delivering supplies to youth on two separate routes!) and ends the day sorting supplies in our Donation Center.

Vic is an endless source of energy and enthusiasm, and someone we can always count on to do anything that's needed. Vic juggles his two volunteer roles seamlessly, and is always willing to take on more.

At the 2023 Spring Lunch, he shared a story about a staff member at a high school who greets him each week by saying, "Santa Claus is here!" when he makes his Caring Courier delivery!

## 20 Years of ARCA Bowling Tournament

Many people support YOTO youth in unique and meaningful ways, including through fundraising events held on YOTO's behalf, or "third party" events. One organization that has gone above and beyond in their support for YOTO – the Arizona Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA) – this year hosted their **20th** annual "Raising the Roof for YOTO" Charity Bowling Tournament!

The ARCA Bowling Tournament is the longest running third party fundraising event in YOTO's history! Organized, planned, and executed entirely by supporters outside of YOTO, the ARCA Bowling Tournament is a powerful source for both spreading the word about YOTO and youth homelessness, and raising funds for our programs.

In 2023, Event Chair Dave Metz noted that ARCA succeeded in **reaching their goal of \$20,000** to commemorate 20 years of local roofing companies, suppliers, and distributors coming together to support YOTO youth. We are so grateful to all of the roofers and community members who have participated in this event over the past 20 years and incredibly honored to have them in the YOTO Family!



*"Over the last 20 years, we have raised more than \$340,000 and we are really happy with all we have been able to do for local homeless youth. Arizona Roofing Contractors are all of the mindset that they want to give back to their own community and Youth On Their Own is a great program."*

*– Dave Metz*



## Ways to Give

- Make your AZ Charitable Tax Credit gift to YOTO!
- Organize a donation drive!
- Host a fundraising event!
- Become a member of YOTO's Monthly Giving Club!
- Donate through your IRA!
- Double your gift through a workplace giving match!
- Have a lasting impact by making a legacy gift to YOTO!



# Did You Know?

*“The support from YOTO means so much to me because knowing I have someone there rooting for me when I can’t root for myself is extremely encouraging.”*

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

**Contributions of up to \$421 per individual (or \$841 for couples filing jointly) can be applied toward the AZ Charitable Tax Credit!**

Call us at (520) 293-1136 or email [yotonews@yoto.org](mailto: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

