



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN[®]

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



YOTO Data:



1668

youth served



10%

increase over the previous year



339

high school graduates



93%

Graduation Rate for YOTO seniors

Board of Directors

from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Elaine Babcock
President
Katie Maxwell
President-Elect
Linda Montes-Cota
Secretary
Paola Ponce
Treasurer

Enrique Aldana
Eric Dupree
Ragan Edwards
Viviana Fimbres
Tasha Gamez
Tom Hoyt
Allen Kinnison
Amanda Kippert
Sean Murray

Anahi Ortiz
Mark Papoccia
Cori Rodriguez
Antonio Rubio
Georgina Smith
Julie Stevenson
Tony Spear
Marian Lalonde, *ex-officio*
Elizabeth Slater, *ex-officio*

Staff

from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Elizabeth Slater, CEO
Daniel Armenta
Brooke Blizzard
Candice Brown
Todd Brown
Shay Cameron Mar
Jonathan Contreras
Jessica Cornidez
Diego Coronado
Jennifer Crowl
Daniela Figueroa
Nadia Figueroa
Savannah Galipeau
Kimberly Garcia Parada

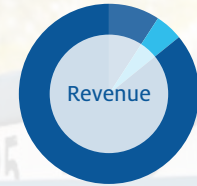
Lynda Gough
Alma Hennessey
Rachel Kahn
Jonathan Kresal
Ana Lucero
Manuel Lugo Acosta
Laurie Mazerbo
Carissa McGrath
Maribel Miranda
Hafsa Misbahuddin
Javier Montante
Bethany Neumann
Rashel Olalde
Douglas Plecity

Salathiel Ramos
Michelle Richie
Ashley Silvain
Brittany Smith
Heather Vené
Marissa Washington
Sarah Welker
Sharon Wolfin Eden

YOTO's Mission

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

Annual
Operating Budget:
\$5,592,243



86% Contributions

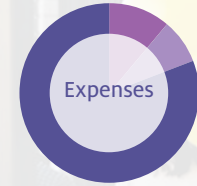
\$5,183,028

9% Investment & Other Income

\$531,153

5% Local Government Grants

\$279,203



81% Program Services

\$4,524,915

11% Fundraising

\$632,475

8% Administration

\$434,853

YOTO's Federal Tax ID#
86-0644388

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



Katie Maxwell, Board President
Elizabeth Slater, Chief Executive Officer

Greetings, YOTO Supporters!

2024 was an incredible year for Youth On Their Own. We're so proud of all that our students, staff, volunteers, and donors achieved together. Thank you!

Our mission is educational attainment because we know that it's a crucial tool for disrupting the cycle of poverty for youth experiencing homelessness. Our 2024 graduation rate for YOTO seniors proved that the recent changes we've made to our program model, including increasing the amount of stipend support

available to youth and adding more youth-supporting staff, paid off. In 2024, 93% of YOTO seniors graduated high school – our highest rate ever! We could not be more proud of their success. The YOTO model works, and we're seeing remarkable results.

We've now been at our new campus for just over a year. If you haven't visited us yet, please come by! The space is amazing. Youth helped us design everything, from the layout to the art and signage, and the results are breathtaking.

The feedback has been so positive – in fact, 94% of YOTO youth tell us the new space is a welcoming environment for them. Our expanded campus enables us to offer more on-site services for youth. More space means we can meet even more of our youths' needs!

Future generations may look back at 2024 as one of YOTO's biggest years – full of big change, big growth, and big achievement. We've definitely leveled up! And we could not have done it without you.

"In 2024, 93% of YOTO seniors graduated high school – our highest rate ever! The YOTO model works, and we're seeing remarkable results."

Thank you, as always, for showing up for us. Your investment in our program and commitment to our youth make this important work possible.

Gratefully,
Elizabeth Slater, Chief Executive Officer
Katie Maxwell, Board President



YOTO's Forever Home

It was a long time coming, but on November 6, 2023 we finally moved into our “forever home”!

Thank you to all those who contributed to the renovation and everyone who has visited since we moved in! We have received such positive feedback from the community, and most importantly, youth.

“The support from YOTO has allowed me to become less stressed about transitioning from high school to university. They’ve provided many great resources for things like FAFSA, scholarships, and helped connect me to Pima Community College.”

– YOTO youth



"There is so much room. If a student is having a hard time, they can go there and talk to YOTO staff."

– Darius, YOTO youth

"The first time I walked into the new building, I was filled with joy. I was so happy and impressed that I cried. I'm so thankful for all the work that has been done here."

– Stef, YOTO youth

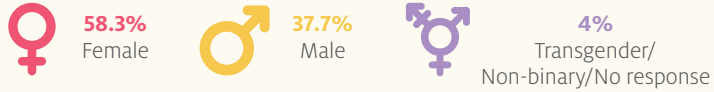
"It has so much more space, and there are way more amenities."

– Chuck, YOTO youth



Who YOTO Served (2023-2024)

Gender

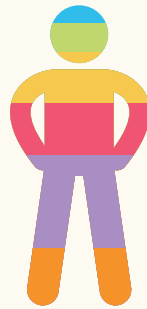


Combined Race/Ethnicity



91.1%
BIPOC and/or Latinx
8.9%
White and not Latinx

Grade Level



Grade 6-8	3.6%
Grade 9	8.5%
Grade 10	12.5%
Grade 11	18.2%
Grade 12	36.2%
Alumni	21%

Reasons For Homelessness

5
TOP

- Conflict with parents/Kicked out
- Parents couldn't afford to provide basic needs like shelter, food, clothing
- Parents misused substances like drugs and alcohol
- Parents struggled with mental or physical illness
- Youth did not feel safe in parents' home

Caregiving



1 IN 4
YOTO youth is parenting and/or caregiving



LGBTQ+

1 IN 4
YOTO youth identify as LGBTQ+



Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez and
YOTO's Founder Ann Young

Alumni Impact Award – *Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez*

The Alumni Impact Award recognizes a YOTO graduate who has made a significant and meaningful impact on their community in their post-YOTO years. Award recipients serve as a role model 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!

YOTO's 2024 Alumni Impact Award winner is Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez. Elizabeth graduated from Flowing Wells High School in 2014. Not only did she overcome the many obstacles to high school graduation, Elizabeth also went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 2018 with a degree in Philosophy, Politics & Economics. She later went on to work as an analyst at Wells Fargo, and then as a Rotational Product Manager at Facebook.

These would be incredible accomplishments for anyone, but Elizabeth also did all this while separated from her parents, who could not be in this country during much of her youth. She has talked extensively and publicly about the immigrant experience, advocating for young people, who like her, were forced to grow up essentially on their own.

Most recently, Elizabeth shared her story in her memoir, *My Side of the River*, which was published in February 2024. Elizabeth traveled back to Tucson to attend YOTO's Spring Lunch and the Tucson Festival of Books. While in town, she was able to share her story with the YOTO Board of Directors as well as current YOTO youth. We're all incredibly proud of everything Elizabeth has achieved and look forward to hearing more about her advocacy and accomplishments in the future!

"Getting assistance from Youth On Their Own allowed me to get back on track, to once again hunger for academic achievement and college instead of food."

-Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez



Kim Garcia Parada
and Craig Wunderlich

Ann Young Advocate for Youth Award – *Craig Wunderlich*

Since 2020, YOTO has recognized a person or organization that has made a significant impact on the lives of youth experiencing homelessness in our community by presenting them with the Ann Young Advocate for Youth Award.

Since YOTO began awarding this honor, one person has been nominated every single year: Craig Wunderlich. Craig has been a key member of the YOTO Family since Ann Young and the original board expanded the program to additional schools in the early 1990's, serving as the YOTO Liaison at Cholla High School for 30+ years. At YOTO's Spring Lunch, Craig shared his memories of going to Ann's guidance counselor office at Amphi High School to pick up stipend checks for youth in those early days. Craig said, "My years with YOTO have been a blessing and I am grateful to be able to work with your staff in helping our youth overcome obstacles to graduate from high school."

Over his three decades at Cholla, Craig worked with countless YOTO youth, but one stands out to us: Kim Garcia Parada. When Kim was in high school, she was in the YOTO program. Craig was her guidance counselor and YOTO Liaison! As a current YOTO employee, Kim now greets youth as they enter our Youth Center, helps answer questions, and checks them out in the Mini Mall. Kim presented the Ann Young Advocate for Youth Award to Craig (or Mr. Wunderlich as she insists on calling him!) at YOTO's Spring Lunch.

Kim said, "I don't know where I would be without your guidance, Mr. Wunderlich. My kids will definitely know your name in my household. Thank you for all you have done in our community and in my life!"



Rubi Soto and YOTO
CEO Elizabeth Slater

Liaison of the Year – *Rubi Soto*

Did you know that Sunnyside High School has more students enrolled in Youth On Their Own than any other school in Pima County? During the 2023-2024 academic year, there were 144 Sunnyside students enrolled in YOTO, and Rubi Soto supported them all!

YOTO's program could not operate without our volunteer network of school liaisons. Each school with a student enrolled in YOTO designates a staff member to serve as the 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 by:

- *Referring eligible youth to YOTO*
- *Providing status updates to YOTO about a youth's attendance or circumstances*
- *Distributing YOTO deliveries to youth*

Rubi Soto's impact is felt not just by students, but by YOTO staff and volunteers as well! YOTO Volunteer Vic Piscitello – who delivers Mini Mall supplies to Sunnyside every Wednesday – told us that Rubi always rounds up staff to help him carry in the many, many bags of basic needs items requested by YOTO youth each week. Rubi is truly a team player!



15,077

total volunteer hours
from YOTO liaisons



\$483,519

saved with liaisons' help



Judi Davis

Volunteer of the Year – *Judi Davis*

Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of YOTO.

These dedicated individuals provide essential in-house assistance to make all of YOTO's programs run smoothly. Among other duties, they staff our Donation Center, stock our Mini Mall, package orders requested by youth on the YOTO portal, and make weekly deliveries to schools.

To honor the amazing contributions our volunteers make each year, YOTO selects one of our committed volunteers to receive YOTO's Volunteer of the Year award.

This year, we selected Judi Davis as our 2024 Volunteer of the Year. Since August of 2017, Judi has contributed over 1000 hours to our mission. She's done pretty much every volunteer job available, from stipend processing to Mini Mall order fulfillment to delivering supplies to youth! As a current "Caring Courier", she delivers basic needs items to youth each Wednesday. There have been times when there are so many items to go out that she ends up needing to come back for a second trip!

In addition to YOTO's "regular" volunteers, YOTO also hosts 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! We love you!



5,586

total volunteer hours
contributed



\$179,143

saved with YOTO
volunteers



Vic Piscitello and Jon Kresal

9/11 Day of Service



How YOTO Helps

During the 2023-2024 year, Youth On Their Own saw the highest level of engagement in all three core components of our program, leading to our highest ever senior graduation rate of 93%!

"In the past year, the support I received from YOTO has made my life possible. I would not have been able to afford my groceries, day-to-day expenses, and emergency costs without the YOTO stipend."

– YOTO youth

Financial Assistance

A monthly stipend youth earn by attending school



\$2,116,461

Financial Assistance Distributed

Access to Basic Needs Items

Free food, hygiene products, school supplies and more



78.1%

of YOTO participants utilized the Mini Mall



204,012

Mini Mall items distributed



145

Cell phones provided



352

Caps and gowns provided

Guidance and Support

With support from YOTO's program staff:



85%

of youth turned in the stipend form each month



71%

of youth missed no more than 3 days of school per month

Ways to Support

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!

Plan your legacy!

Did you know that *your donation can support YOTO youth at no cost to you?*

Contributions to YOTO can be applied toward the AZ Charitable Tax Credit!

2024 QCO

\$470/individuals

\$938/joint filers

2025 QCO

\$495/individuals

\$987/joint filers

Thank you for helping youth in our community succeed!



YOTO's Federal Tax ID# 86-0644388

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

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(520) 293-1136 | YOTO.org

