



2012-13 Report to the Community

- 2012-13 Highlights
- Youth Leader Stories
- YouthCARE's Programs
- Letter to the Community
- Board of Directors
- Our Staff
- Our Supporters
- Our Community Partners



YouthCARE's mission is to promote respect for self and others, develop future leaders, and provide youth with positive multicultural activities and relationships with caring adults.

YouthCARE's primary goals are to:

- Promote respect, understanding and appreciation for self and others.
- Employ youth in meaningful and challenging jobs that develop leadership, economic and employment readiness skills.
- Provide opportunities for youth to develop the cultural competency skills needed to live and work in a multicultural community.
- Provide opportunities for youth to develop the self-sufficiency skills they needed to make a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood.
- Provide opportunities for youth to participate in positive after-school, weekend and summer educational, cultural, social and recreational activities.



YouthCARE conducts three primary youth development programs for Minneapolis and St. Paul youth, 7-18 years old; **YouthLEAD**, **Camp Sunrise** and the **Young Women's Mentoring Program**. All three of these programs operate year round and are designed to reach urban youth with high quality programming during the critical out-of-school-time hours. YouthCARE's youth development work is focused in the areas of youth employment, education (academic, STEM, environmental, outdoor and cultural), mentoring and providing positive cultural, social and recreational activities that bring together youth from diverse ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds with caring and supportive adults.

Camp Sunrise

Camp Sunrise, established in 1974 on the St. Croix River near Rush City, MN, is a year-round outdoor education program focused on bringing together youth, 13-18 years old, from diverse ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds, to live and work in an outdoor multicultural community. This unique program helps youth to build friendships across cultures as well as to benefit from the employment training, mentoring relationship, teambuilding, outdoor and environmental education, and service projects that Camp Sunrise offers.



Young Women's Mentoring Program



The **Young Women's Mentoring Program**, established in 1990, is a community based multicultural youth mentoring and development program focused on building the leadership, employment readiness and life skills of girls and young women, 7-18 years old, living in low-income public housing communities. Annually, the Young Women's Mentoring Program provides 8 Youth Mentors (young women, 15-18 years old) with a 12-month leadership and employment experience and 150-200 girls, 7-14 years old, with positive after school, weekend and summer educational, cultural, social and recreational activities.

YouthLEAD

YouthLEAD (Youth Leadership, Education, & Diversity) operates year-round to provide urban youth, 13-18 years old, with opportunities to gain challenging and engaging full-time summer and part-time school year jobs as a Community Service Star, develop and use leadership skills through the Youth Advisory Council and participate in regular and consistent social, recreational and educational out-of-school-time activities.





Dear Friends,

The YouthCARE office was very busy this past year. We experienced significant growth and many important developments during the year that ended May 31, 2013. In July 2012, YouthCARE was awarded a three-year, \$1.3 million, 21st Century Learning Centers grant from the Minnesota Department of Education. As a result, we were able to significantly expand our after-school, weekend, and summer activities for Minneapolis and St. Paul youth, ages 7-18 years old. We incorporated several new co-ed teen programming components into our YouthLEAD and Young Women's Mentoring Programs. These programs expanded to include components such as "Teen Tech," "Arts & Culture," "College Knowledge," and "Health & Wellness." In addition, this grant allowed us to increase our adult staff from 7 to 15 full-time positions and add an additional 4 part-time positions. YouthCARE was also able to promote Shaina Abraham from YouthLEAD director to become our first ever Associate Director!

In May 2013, YouthCARE's 8th Annual Celebration of Urban Youth Event also experienced a fantastic growth. We were delighted to have over 350 participants join us to fill the Landmark Center in St. Paul and give much deserved recognition to the youth who participate in YouthCARE's programs. This event also provided us with an opportunity to recognize the donors and corporate sponsors who continue to generously support our work. With their help, we raised over \$48,000 for

YouthCARE programs.

A look back on 2012-13 would not be complete without recognizing the tremendous contributions of our volunteers, work study students, and interns. This year we extended our partnerships to recruit for these important positions. We worked with the University of Minnesota's Community Service-Learning Center where students have an opportunity to volunteer as part of their curriculum. Also, we continued our collaboration with student volunteers at Macalester College in our after school photography program, Camp CAMERA. Furthermore, YouthCARE was again fortunate to have Xcel Energy employees volunteer as summer counselors at Camp Sunrise.

YouthCARE experienced tremendous growth in 2012-13, but our mission remains the same. YouthCARE is dedicated to providing positive multicultural youth development programs that celebrate diversity, leadership, and community. As is customary, YouthCARE's Annual Report to the Community features six amazing and talented young adults who are moving up the YouthCARE Leadership Ladder. Please take a few minutes to meet these incredible young people. We hope that you will applaud their inspiring stories and continue to support YouthCARE as we develop future leaders through Camp Sunrise, YouthLEAD, and the Young Women's Mentoring Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Luedemann". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Craig Luedemann
Executive Director

YouthCARE Staff as of May 2013

Shaina Abraham
Associate Director

Iris Andrews
Teen Specialist, YouthLEAD

Sarah Gerdes
Director, YWMP

Francisco Guzman
Teen Specialist, YouthLEAD

Millie Hernandez
Program Coordinator,
YWMP

Michelle Henkelman
Office & HR Manager

Isiah Jones
Director, Camp Sunrise

Allison Kappeyne
AmeriCorps VISTA

Craig Luedemann
Executive Director

Allie Mastny
Assistant Director, Camp
Sunrise

Nardos Tesfalidet
Director, YouthLEAD

Choua Vue
Program Coordinator,
YWMP

Cindy Vue
Teen Specialist, YouthLEAD

Lea Wilcox
Marketing & Development
Coordinator



Executive Committee



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Speaker

Maricella Xiong, 16



“YouthCARE is unique because the staff are always there for me, like parents and best friends to me. And the relationships have been amazing throughout the years.” Mari was looking for something to do one summer when she was introduced to Camp Sunrise through her middle school’s Get Ready college prep program. Camp Sunrise introduced Mari to other YouthCARE opportunities like being

on the 2011 camp Vets crew, working at camp as a Junior Counselor, taking part in the Community Service Stars youth employment program and serving in leadership roles on the Youth Advisory Council 2012-2013.

After attending camp at age 14, she came back because of the relationships and support she gained from her first summer with the staff and fellow youth participants. Impressed and encouraged by the Camp Sunrise Leadership Ladder and relationships, Mari knows that she now has a great set of mentors to help her grow. Mari values the patience she learned working through tough situations at camp and gaining leadership skills through the Youth Advisory Council. Before YouthCARE Mari claims she was a shy and timid individual, now she is “bursting out of her bubble” and her experiences with YouthCARE have been “truly awesome!” She says “YouthCARE makes you not afraid to lead and express yourself.”

Mari is amazed by the endless support and information for youth like herself. Her favorite memory is from the Junior Counselor’s 24-hour canoe trip in which they canoed over 40 miles in 18 hours. Mari says, “It was an amazing time. You could see the fog on the water and the moon glowing. It was pitch dark and JC crew just stuck it out and supported each other... The whole 2012 JC year was great!”

Dominique White, 16



Dominique became involved with YouthCARE when she was 7 years old when she participated in the Young Women’s Mentoring Program (YWMP) enjoying Girls Group I & II and Adventure Girls. Dominique has been a youth mentor for the past year and loves being able to talk with the girls. From her experience as both a mentee and a mentor, Dominique says it has made her aware of how the

mentor relationship grows with time. She was the mentee of one of our current staff members, Iris, and the two of them share a close relationship. Currently Dominique enjoys her close relationships with her mentees. She is able to relate to her mentees, asking them about school and talking with them on the weekends. Dominique is glad she was given the opportunity to try new things like indoor rock climbing and team building activities that build confidence through the YWMP.

Last summer, Dominique went to Camp Sunrise and was able to meet many new teen girls from all over Minneapolis and St. Paul. She not only loved the food at camp, but also enjoyed the team aspect of the 3-day canoe trip, from taking turns steering the canoe to working together to set up the campsite. She was given a new experience of “how to survive in the woods” and challenged herself with her peers on the ropes course. Dominique appreciates how YouthCARE programs intentionally bring youth from different cultures together, celebrates diversity and encourages team building.





Kengkue Lee, 16



Kengkue first became involved with YouthCARE's Camp Sunrise in the summer of 2010 and has not missed a summer since. He has been involved in many of YouthCARE's programs. He participated in the Vets program at camp, was a Junior Counselor at camp in 2012, has been a Community Service Star through YouthLEAD and spent the last year on the Youth Advisory Council.

This past summer, Kengkue was a Counselor in Training at Camp Sunrise. Being a part of a wide array of programs at YouthCARE has enabled Kengkue to develop his leadership skills, work ethic and, surprisingly, house cleaning from shifts in the kitchen at camp. The leadership roles through Camp Sunrise and YouthLEAD have taught him to take initiative and to set a good example for other youth, as well as to allow others to step up and contribute. He likes that camp's teambuilding activities allow others to give their input.

Kengkue claims YouthCARE contributed to the individual he is today. He likes that he is encouraged to always express his ideas. YouthCARE has been a great experience for Kengkue. One of his most memorable moments was on last summer's Junior Counselor 52-mile canoe trip that lasted 18 instead of 24 hours. The trip really "pushed [him] to new limits," with no sleep and the JC crew bonded over the long trip. Kengkue said being with the same people helped him learn to deal with differences in a constructive way and by the end of the trip everyone was encouraging and looking out for

Isaiah Kingbird, 18



Isaiah began attending Camp Sunrise when he was 15 years old and enjoyed it so much that he has returned every summer since. For two summers, he participated in Camp Sunrise's Leadership Week where campers who have shown exceptional initiative during their week at camp are invited back to participate in another camp session focused on building upon those leadership skills. After completing Leadership Week, Isaiah continued to develop as a leader when he became a

member of YouthCARE's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) where members work in committees to plan, lead and evaluate program activities for their peers.

In Isaiah's view, Camp Sunrise is different than other camps he has attended because there is more interaction between the staff and other campers and because there are people he can talk with and relate to. Isaiah admits that he was quiet and shy when he was younger, but he is motivated now to speak up and contribute his voice. He now tries to take the initiative and is focused on helping others. During one of his three-day canoe trips at Camp Sunrise he could tell that some of his fellow campers were having trouble, and one group tipped their canoe. So he helped them out and encouraged his peers to get through the trip while having fun. Isaiah loves wildlife and hiking. His passions for the outdoors will follow him into the classroom as he plans to study biology at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Antonia Medina, 18



Antonia has been involved with YouthCARE since she was 7 years old. She participated in the Young Women’s Mentoring Program (YWMP) at the Little Earth of United Tribes in south Minneapolis, where she began as a mentee, and progressed to becoming a youth mentor in June 2012. After her mentor experience, Antonia says that she continued to attend YWMP activities so that she could socialize with the other girls, get help with homework, go on field trips and participate in arts and crafts activities. Antonia also attended Camp Sunrise where she had the chance to meet new people and form friendships. According to Antonia, camp really took her out of her comfort zone. Being out of the city and canoeing on the river were new and exciting activities for her. At camp, she especially enjoyed participating in a three-day canoe trip, swimming, and sitting around the campfire.

In the past year, Antonia appreciated her job as a Youth Mentor because she could be a role model and she enjoys being someone that the younger girls can talk to. For Antonia, her position as a youth mentor was important because it was a paying job which gave her work experience and job training. As a YWMP mentor and a camper at Camp Sunrise, Antonia gained communication, leadership and conflict resolution skills. Antonia emphasizes that YWMP is unique because it “opens doors to new things.” Her favorite thing about being a Youth Mentor was the personal connection with her mentees, and she reflected that it was great to see “all the girls at the age I used to be.”

William Brown, 16



William (aka Billiam) is originally from Chicago, Illinois but has made himself at home here in Minneapolis. After becoming involved with Camp Sunrise during the STEP-UP 2011 summer, William has been actively involved in many aspects of YouthCARE. He participated in urban SAFARIs, weekend trips to Camp Sunrise, and spent the past school year planning social recreational events with YouthLEAD’s Youth Advisory Council. Last summer, William lived and worked at camp as a Junior Counselor. William loves diversity, meeting new friends, building anything, whether it’s positive relationships or fires at camp, honing his leadership skills, and doing camp chores. He loves it all!

William says he was once shy, but YouthCARE has taught him communication skills and the importance of active listening. He has learned to be open-minded and to honor others’ opinions. He believes YouthCARE is not only a great place to have fun but also a place to learn about other cultures. He appreciates the opportunities a non-profit like YouthCARE has provided for him, like being able to attend an amazing and fun camp for free.

One of William’s memorable lessons happened while at camp and he learned it’s okay to be a risk taker and to take on new challenges with confidence. He was once scared of canoeing down the river, but now feels safe with people at camp. He laughs as he tells of last summer at camp when a raccoon snuck into his tent and he and his tent mates learned the hard way why there is a “no food in the tents” song at camp.

YouthCARE

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June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013

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 Bridging, Inc.
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 Concordia University (St.Paul, MN)
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 Minneapolis Public Schools
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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 Science Museum of Minnesota
 Second Harvest Heartland

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City of St. Paul - Youth Jobs Corps
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
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The Young Women's Mentoring Program (Florence Shafiq)
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Josh Blue (Walter & Jacqueline Blue)
Rachel Hughey (Caldwell Camero)
Every youth who's impacted my life (Brittany Carr)
Jenni Zickert (Kris Zickert & Travis Giobbi)
PaDao Vang (Sarah Ullmer)
Lillian Magidow (Alexander Magidow)
Lillian Magidow & Dan Barthel (Lajeana I Iverson)
Susan & Eric Kalenze (Christine Sanguinet)

In Memory of

Betty Peterson (Nancy Benson)
Joan Crawford (Amy Crawford & Alice Johnson)
Linda Ingham (Dave Ingham)
Arline Olson (Stanton Olson)

THANK YOU



2012-13



Highlights

June 2012: We hired 30 adults and youth to work at Camp Sunrise during the 2012 Summer Program. 80% of the 2012 camp staff members were former campers and 90% were people of color. YouthCARE's Leadership Ladder is alive and well, and as a multicultural organization, we continue to "walk the talk"!

July 2012: YouthCARE was awarded a three year, \$1.3 million dollar, 21st Century Learning Centers grant from the MN Department of Education to significantly expand our after school, weekend and summer activities for Minneapolis and St. Paul youth, 7-18 years old! With this grant we expanded our adult staff from 7 full-time staff to 15 full-time and 4 part-time staff. Shaina Abraham was promoted to YouthCARE's first ever Associate Director!

August 2012: John Bachhuber and Beasy McGlothlin were presented the 2012 Bruce A. Palmer Distinguished Volunteer Service Awards during the Annual Visitor's Day Celebration at Camp Sunrise.

September 2012: We conducted our 20th Annual "Play a City Course for City Kids" Golf Event! For the first time ever the event was SOLD OUT three weeks prior to the event!

October 2012: Three alumni YouthCARE staff members - Carolyn Buzza, Flannery Delaney and Lisa Turnham - planned, organized and conducted a very classy "Benefit for YouthCARE" that raised over \$6,000!

November 2012: We expanded the Young Women's Mentoring Program to include after-school activities for teens (boys and girls) living in the Little Earth community in south Minneapolis and the McDonough community in St. Paul.

January 2013: YouthCARE and Starbucks kicked off a new and exciting community partnership.

March 2013: Members of the Youth Advisory Council planned and conducted a Pancake Breakfast that was arguably the most successful youth-led fundraising event in the history of YouthCARE.

April 2013: The Thornburg Foundation donated \$25,000 to YouthCARE to help us establish a new Board Designated Reserve Fund.

May 2013: We conducted our largest ever Celebration of Urban Youth Event! Over 350 guests attended at the new venue - the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul.

Credits

Design - Amanda Zoss & Zoss Design

Photography - Allison Kappeyne

Writing & Editing - Laura Lindsay, Allison Kappeyne, LoAnn Mockler, Lea Wilcox, Craig Luedemann



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Mission Statement

YouthCARE's mission is to **promote** respect for self and others, **develop** future leaders, and **provide** youth with positive multicultural activities and relationships with caring adults.