



BREAKING



BARRIERS



BUILDING



BONDS



*Celebrating
49 Years
of Inclusive
Achievement*



YOUTH CHALLENGE ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

A NOTE FROM

CHRIS & MARK

Chris Garr, CEO,
and Mark Dvoroznak,
Board President



Breaking Barriers, Building Bonds

In 1976, when the roots of what would become YC first started taking hold, structural barriers, negative attitudes, and the invisibility of disability made equitable access to recreation for people with disabilities a nearly impossible challenge. This was pre-Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), and while legislative gains had been made, progress was glacial at best. Children, in particular, lacked school and community inclusion, had virtually no way to participate in team activities, and often suffered from low self-esteem, poor physical health, and delayed social growth due to a general lack of connection with peers.

In our quiet corner of Cleveland, a monumental shift in the ability to affect change was sprouting.

Access to recreation became a priority. Hearing the joyful exuberance as most kids enjoyed their time on the Little League field or CYO gym, while not being able to participate was not acceptable. YC found ways to make sports work, to adapt the games and equipment to fit anyone's body, and to coach athletes as athletes and challenge kids to grow both as teammates and individuals. Barrier erased.

But it wasn't just enough to create a path where disabled kids become disabled athletes in their own vacuum. Sports should be integrated and universally enjoyed. It wasn't going to be "separate but equal" when a little creativity and vision allowed disabled and non-disabled teammates

to play, compete, and perform together. Through sports and art, in the gym, on the track, and on stage, YC truly flourished as an innovative model as teen volunteers emerged as a hallmark of the core Mission. Barrier erased.

Transportation proved another hurdle as modern power wheelchairs became more popular and access to lift-equipped and ramped vehicles was cost prohibitive. In the mid-80s YC purchased its first ADA accessible van. In 2025, with a modern fleet of 7 lift-equipped vans, 95% of YC participants receive free door-to-door transportation to and from activities. Barrier erased.

These three innovations to access are not, in and of themselves, unique. For an agency to combine ALL of these barrier-breakers as part of its core Mission takes an incredible amount of ingenuity, foresight, and an insatiable commitment to growing access, creating opportunity, and empowering people with disabilities and teen volunteers, one program, one friend, one ride at a time.

Keep doing good, Team YC!

Chris Garr, CEO
Mark Dvoroznak, President, Board of Trustees

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BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BONDS THROUGH HOCKEY

“The Olmsted Falls team didn’t just teach hockey, they learned what it means to truly connect and build a stronger, more united community.”

When Ryan Caso signed up to volunteer with Youth Challenge in the summer of 2023, he jumped in with heart and energy. Right away, he proved to be a natural connecting with participants, adapting activities, and always looking for ways to help. After a few months of volunteering, Ryan’s commitment had grown even deeper. Inspired by his experience, he rallied his Olmsted Falls hockey teammates to join him in making a difference.

Together, the team brought their skills to several YC sled hockey sessions in the spring of 2024. Their presence on the ice helped bridge the gap between traditional and adapted sports, breaking down physical and social barriers with every pass and play.

“My teammates and I really enjoyed being a part of the sled hockey program,” Ryan says. “Working alongside the participants to play hockey was a blast!” Each session became a space for shared laughter, teamwork, and mutual respect. The Olmsted Falls team didn’t just teach hockey, they learned what it means to truly connect and build a stronger, more united community.

Ryan +
Molly

Ryan and Molly team up on the ice during a hockey program in North Olmsted.



Marcus and Ryan paddle together in a kayak at Wallace Lake in Berea.



After her time on the ice, Molly was instantly hooked. She dove into the fast-paced game with enthusiasm and confidence.

For participant Molly Maher, the sled hockey sessions with Ryan and his Olmsted Falls hockey teammates were her first introduction to the sport. After her time on the ice, Molly was instantly hooked. She dove into the fast-paced game with enthusiasm and confidence. With encouragement from the teen volunteers, she quickly found her rhythm.

“Our daughter, Molly, absolutely loved sled hockey,” her mom shared. “The joy she so clearly experienced was second only to our own in watching her out there. I loved how the teenagers who volunteered got to know her quickly and helped her get some speed. Molly is excited to try other sports now, and I know that’s because of this program. We are so grateful.”

Molly now eagerly explores other adapted activities through Youth Challenge, breaking barriers with every stride and building lasting bonds with the volunteers who cheered her on from day one.



Molly + Katie

Top: Molly beams with excitement as she gears up for YC hockey; Above: Molly and Katie share some playground fun at Play in Bay during Mini Camp.

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JaLontae + Andrew

JaLontae and Andrew enjoy splashing around at Beachwood Pool.

Faith + Romaine



Faith and Romaine celebrate a great play at a soccer program in Shaker Heights.

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Jay'Veon
 + Clare



Jay'Veon and Clare take a turn under the parachute during a program in Bay Village.

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 John & Diane Kahl
 Amy Kellogg
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 Karl & Kathy Kniely
 Jen Koch & Nick Kirchsclager
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Zechariah and Samari execute a perfect pass during a game in Westlake.



Team Bubblegum Bananas gets ready to take the field at the Baseball Showdown in Clague Park, Westlake.

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 Steven Kyman
 Lakewood Catholic Academy
 Hannah Laudo
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 Anne & John Loftus
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 Mary Uhl
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Kena and Immy explore the wildlife area at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

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West Shore Rotary Foundation
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Ted & Karen Ziton

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Dylan Ersepke
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Fitzsimmons & Matt Fitzsimmons
Kristopher Flender
Barb & Lou Fonzi
Anthony & Diane Foss
Hannah & Dan Forror
Tony & Bridget Fragapane
Denny & Joyce Freeman
Katrina Frei-Herrmann
Lucy Friel
Christine & Anthony Frisoli
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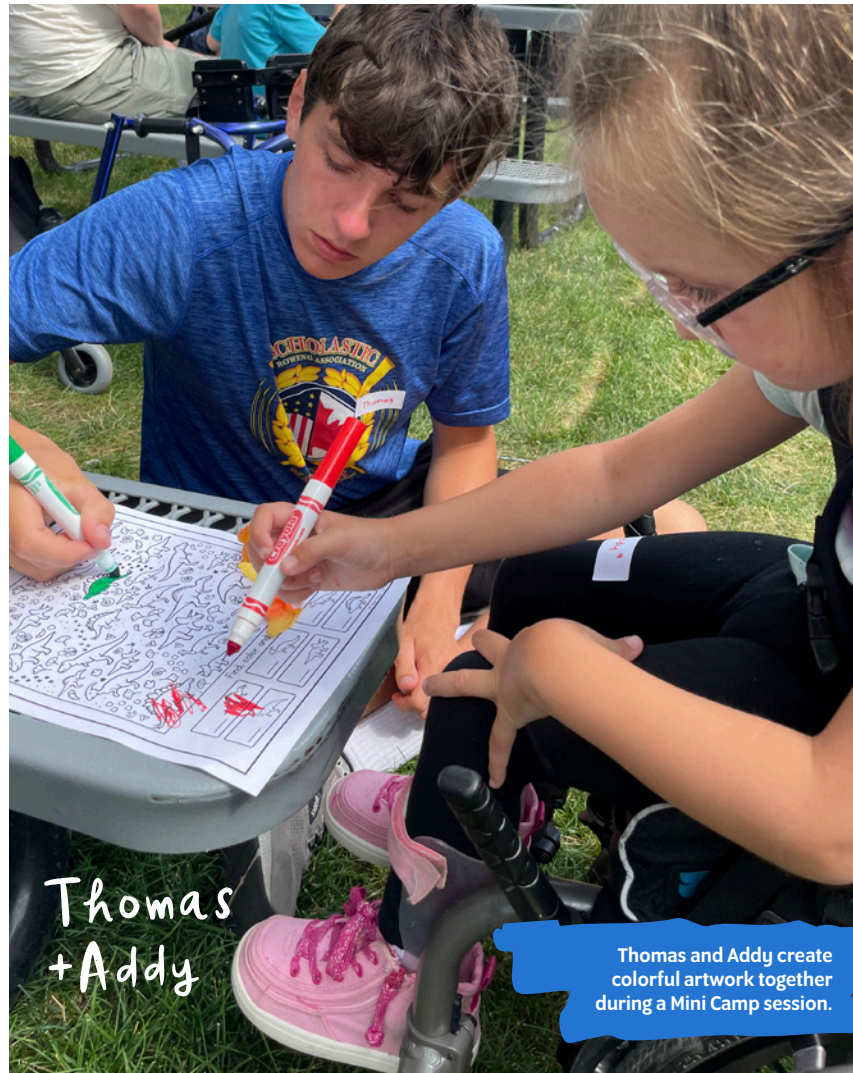
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Diana and Olivia work together on an art project at a program in Rocky River.

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 Cecilia Render



Thomas + Addy

Thomas and Addy create colorful artwork together during a Mini Camp session.

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 Tim & Lisa Rose
 Kate & Eric Ruff
 Jack Runner

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Baseball programs are always a home run with YC participants.

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 Terry & Laura Fibbi
 Tracy Fiorelli

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 Owen & Jeanne Gallagher
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 Anish Ganesh
 Mary Gannon
 Rich & Ivy Garr
 Bethany & Mike Germano



Addy and Londyn discover new plants in the garden at the Ohio and Erie Canal Reservation

Addy + Londyn



Ellie, Ja'Niyah and Molly build and create during the STEM-tastic program in Shaker Heights.

- Joseph & Eileen Ginley
- Mary Glassco
- Scott Gongos
- Glen & Candice Goykhberg
- Renee Griffin
- Lynn Gross
- Linda Grossman
- John & Kathleen Guzowski
- Judy Haas
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- Alijah Jones
- Caroline Juan
- Veronika Jung
- Lisa Kasler
- Heather Kazmer
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- Allan & Zivile Khoury
- Cindy Kibler
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- Lyndon & Mary LaBrake
- David & Catherine Lamb
- Carolyn Lekan
- Svitlana & Sergii Liashuk
- Nikole Lobo
- Ed & Mary Agnes Long
- Yassed Lucca
- Debbie Lurie
- Amy Luzar
- Cory Luzar
- Faye Maloof
- Patrick & Adele McCafferty
- Rob & Paula McClain
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 Dennis & Colleen O'Toole
 Justin & Erin Palmer
 Julie & Pete Paonessa
 Andrew & Nadine Patrick
 Kendall Pattison
 Zac & Julie Patton
 Christian Peake
 Ann Pecsok
 George & Phyllis Perz
 Laurie Piskur
 Susan Porges
 Fay Powell
 Bradley Priest
 Gail Pryse
 Catherine Pyle-Raffle
 Jane Rapp
 Raun Kopp Enterprises Inc
 George & Donna Reese
 Taylor Rice
 Amy Riemersma
 Bob & Tracey Riepenhoff
 Hannah Roberts
 Lori Rogers
 Betsy Ross
 Claire Ryan
 Donald & Barbara Sambrook

Richik Sarkar
 Diane & Edward Saule
 Kiara Scarver
 Scott & Bonnie Schlegel
 Dennis Schwartz
 Charles Sekerak
 Blake Setta
 Scott & Colleen Setta
 Vanessa Setta
 Jeremy Sharp
 Lindsay Sharp
 Daniel & Joanne Shaughnessy
 Kevin & Nancy Sheehan
 Niral Sheth
 TJ Sikora
 Jean Simecek
 David Skinner & Jullia Barton
 Daniel & Anna Slattery
 Betty Smiddy
 Howie Smith
 John & Joy Smith
 Linda Smith
 Jason & Shannon Smoot
 Dan & Catherine Starwalt
 Carrie Stary
 Anne Steffen
 Gerald & Eileen Strauss
 Maggie Sullivan
 RJ Sullivan
 Theresa Sullivan
 Jonathan & Jennifer Svec
 Donna Sweet
 Chris Taggart
 Gina Tashjian
 Todd & Kelly Tekancic

David & Tanya Telban
 Liz Thomas
 Bill & Deanna Tressler
 Kevin Ullman
 Thomas & Marisa Varney
 Mackenzie & Tony Vecchio
 Emma Vega
 Bob Vitko
 John Vrsansky Jr.
 Sean Walker
 Rashunda Watts
 Joe & Karen Weger
 CJ White
 Heather White
 Nick & Tracy White
 John & Kim Whitely
 Jennifer Wible
 Donna Winter
 Jim & Laura Wirth
 Alice Wyman
 Julie & Al Yates
 Jim & Cindy Young
 Yi Zhang
 Lee Zickel

If your name has been omitted, or in the case of an error, we apologize. Please advise us at 440-892-1001.





Sarah
+Eva

Left: Sarah and Eva work side by side on an art project at a program in the Cleveland Metroparks.

Opposite: Livie and Lauren share a laugh while playing with the parachute during Mini Camp.

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Dick Anter

Lauren Anter
Peter & Rita Carfagna
Edward & Cheryl Eiskamp
Thomas Onusko

George Ata

Paul & Pamela Simpson

Marianna Bisesi

Donald J. Bisesi

Michael L. Coticchia

Anonymous
The Carbonari Family
Brad Champagne
Roseanne Ciambrone
Nicole Dirksen
Judge Donna Congeni
Fitzsimmons &
Matt Fitzsimmons
Barb & Lou Fonzi
Bob & Karen Forlenza
John & Eileen Gallagher
Sanjay & Malavika Garg
Renee Griffin
Timothy & Catherine Hyland
Cathie Jones-Ridders
Jim & Linda Kanner
MAI Capital
Management, LLC

Joseph Mentrek &
Colette Gallagher
Victor & Mary Beth Merlo
Chris & Barbara Michaelides
Kathy & Jerry Moran
Carol Ann & Gary Nordine
Dave & Barb Pugh
Claire Ryan
Robenalt Family
Mike & Molly Schroeder
Alex & Paddy Spellacy
Kevin & Molly Spellacy
Pat & Nancy Sullivan

Grace E. Cotner

John & Sally Morgan

Charles Della Lana

Anonymous

John M. Dvoroznak

Ed & Julie Bargerstock
Ron & Nancy Burke
Bob & Debbie Colberg
Tony Donofrio
Clem & Fran Hren
Ron & Marilyn Kulikowski
Fay & Mike Nagy
Stephanie Samara
Jean Simecek
Tim & Cathy Snelly

Jim & Marge Staviscak
Gina Tashjian
Donna Winter

Mr. & Mrs. William P Egan

Joseph & Jacqueline Egan

Brian M. Evans

Jo Ann Bohr

Ken & Lee Farson

Emmy Gregory

Kim La Foret

Ed & Mary Agnes Long

Tom & Pat Gardner

Rudy & Rosemary Dudics

Kelle Hanna

Joseph P. Hanna

Dave Hardman & Jack McDonald

Beverly Smith
Jan and Bev Smith

Dave Hardman

Eric & Linda Holder

Dale Hoffman

Jeffrey F. Kasler

Joan L. Kasler

Anonymous
Kurt & Claudia Beal
David & Kathy Beal
Timothy Blair &
Lana Blair Pod
Jennifer & Cary Brabander
David & Karen Brockway
Janice Brooks
Kimberly Cassano
Maryann Deangelo
Laurel Frey
Chris & Johanna Garr, Jr.
Mary Ann & Dale Hoffman
Jeffrey F. Kasler
Lisa Kalser
Robert Kasler
Gerard Loftus
Barbara Manchick
Marc & Susan Martter
Rob & Paula McClain
David Skinner & Jullia Barton
John & Joy Smith
Carrie Stary
Gerald & Eileen Strauss

Myles Ketterer

Natalie Caruso

Paul & Kay Leimkuehler

Shawn & Sylvia Sullivan

Vince O'Keefe

Jack & Anne Palomaki

Ken Ormiston

Rudy & Rosemary Dudics

Jim Palmer

Barbara Palmer

Harold K. Petersen

Michael & Tommy Atella
Wally & Carole Gibbons
William & Cynthia Petersen

Joseph J. Poplstein

Christina Belfour
Paul Dunfordd
Jennifer & John Evans
Mary Glassco
Linda Grossman
Rich & Jane Kusnir
Patrick & Linda McKinley
Sharon Pervo
Laurie Piskur
Judith Reich
Rick & Kim Spreng

Coleen Powers

Pat & Rose Powers

Lucy Quinn

Mr. Jack Quinn

Chasey Scaravilli

John & Loretta Flynn

George D. Sekerak

Asbury Methodist
Church - JOY Class
Marilyn Conrad
Christopher & Paula Kuhnen
Louise McMillan
Charles Sekerak
Mary Sue & John Tanis
Eileen Yeoh &
Ryan Zimmerman

Marlette H. Shimko

Sabato Stile

Edward & Carol Stuczynski

Christine & Anthony Frisoli

Kenneth A. Varney

Thomas & Marisa Varney

Barbara & Antony Wolfe

Anonymous

Mary Ann Zabloutney

Mike Zabloutney

Mr. & Mrs. John Zabloutney

Ken Ziegenbusch

GIFTS IN CELEBRATION OR HONOR



Ella Antonetti

Mario & Ann Antonetti

Mya S. Antonetti

Mario & Ann Antonetti

Elaina Byram

Byram Construction
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Kate & Eric Ruff

Emma Calkins

Bill & Jennifer Calkins

Jeffrey Campbell

Elizabeth & Alan Buxton

Wendy Cohen

Gwen Hyman

Judson P. Cummins

Mary Cummins

Patricia A. DelMonico

Sean & Cat Breslin

Douglas DeRoberts

Dave & Ann Gallup

Lauren & Pat Egan

Terry Egan

Abbie & Jack FitzGerald

Mary Kate Becker
Tim & Keri Grady
Danny Hair

Dylan L. Fryer

Darren & Carol Spears

William E. Gallup

Dave & Ann Gallup

Christopher J. Garr

Tyler & Jolanta Inda

Christopher & Terrie Garr

Bob & Tracey Riepenhoff

Garr family

Ted & Mary Blank

Greer Gibbons

The Lubrizol Corporation

Jack Higgins

Dan & Stacey Higgins

Patrick and Ilya

Noah Decaminada

Katla's 6th birthday

Scott & Myra Malik

Mickey Kimble

Kate Goss

Charles A. Koch

Daniel & Barbara Fronczak

Michael LaBrake

Lyndon & Mary LaBrake

Joshua Lucarelli

George Jacobs

John Martincic

John & Gizella Martincic

Eileen McGuire

Lucy Friel

Kathryn A. Morris

Jessco Electric, LLC

Margaret Morris

Joseph & Jacquelin Egan

Christopher B. Pease

Kelly-Kate Pease

Jonathan Ramunno

Louis & Kerry Ramunno

Madeline Roisman

Florence Roisman

Alex Salem

Judith Beaudoin

Carl Segura

Mary Lou Chapman

George Shepherd

Jane & Wayne Shepherd

James M. Slife

Jim Nieberding

Sara L. Steimle

Matthew's Lending Library
John & Kim Whitely

RJ Sullivan

Maureen Sullivan
Theresa Sullivan

Harry Sulzer

Ilana Factor
Kristopher Flender
Lynn Gross
Lauren & Neil Hunter
Debbie Lurie
Kathleen McKenna
Susan Porges
Michael & Sheila Schwartz
Betty Smiddy
Lindsay & James Sulzer

Mariam M. Tadross

Nabil & Riham Tadross

Mary Sue & John Tanis

Fritz & Nancy Chockley

David & Kristina Telban

David & Tanya Telban

Juliet Zakel

Cindy Schulz



Lucas
+ Eli

Lucas and Eli practice their volleyball skills in the YC gym.

GIFTS IN KIND

Amazon Wish List
Angelo's Pizza
Chris Antonetti
Apex Dermatology
Automotive Specialty Services
Avon Oaks Country Club
Renee Barrett
Jim Borchers
Brown Aveda Institute
Brown-Forman
ByKatieK
Catawba Island Club
Charles Scott Rocky River
Chez Francois
Aubrey M. Christ
Cle Tiki Barge

Cleveland Cavaliers
Lori Coticchia
Maddie Coticchia
Judson P. Cummins
DAM Fine Art
Tom DeChant
Michael Deeb
Patricia A. DelMonico
Don's Lighthouse Grille
Dan Douglas
Mark J. Dvoroznak
Eastlook Blooms
EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute
Embassy Suites Cleveland
Rockside

Evarts-Tremaine
Stacey Fellingner
First Federal Lakewood
Forest City Shuffleboard
Fresh Fork Market
Mark Furmanek
Owen J. Gallagher
Christopher J. Garr
Greer T. Gibbons
Jay R. Gold
Laura Gold
GolfTec
Emmy L. Gregory
Brynn Grieve
Heinen's Inc.
Hilton Cleveland Downtown

Holiday Valley Resort
Matt Jacobs
Andrew T. Johnson
Cheryl Kimble
Katie A. Kimble
Allen J. Kitchen
Ronald Klimko
Charles A. Koch
Gerrit C. Kuechle
Landmark Smokehouse
Matthew R. Lay
LGBT Community Center
Greater Cleveland
Dante Marinucci
Mary Todd Lincoln House
Massage Envy
Megan McKenney
Brian McMahon
Kathleen Moore
Kathleen Moore
Meghdeep Mukherjee
Mystic Belle
Stephen J. Nock
Nomad Culinary, LLC

Northern Ohio PGA
Oatey Co.
Daniel J. O'Bryon
Patton Painting
Jason Pence
John H. Petersen
Pier W
Playhouse Square
Precise Lawn Care
Rad Olive Clothing
Red Tail Golf Club
Jeff Ritter
Sage, a Spa
Edward M. Salem
Saucy Brew Works
Scratch Bakery
Carl Segura
Katie Serevitch
Simple Times Mixers
Chuck M. Soder
Spa Lavender
David H. Strauch
Studio 6a Salon & Spa
Sustainable Community Associates

T & S Power Equipment
Mary Sue Tanis
Taza
The Beck Center for the Arts
Tina Marie Hair Boutique
Kevin Tinus
Traditional Holiday Gift Check Program
Steve Trapp
UBS Wealth Management - Cox/Murman Group
Westfield County Club
Westwood Country Club
White Cloud Pilates West
Ryan T. Winkler
Yard Smart Landscaping
Julie Yates
Michael J. Zablotney
Juliet Zakel

CELEBRATING IMPACT: HANNAH LAUDO

When Hannah Laudo first joined Youth Challenge as a child, she found more than just a place to have fun. She found a community that embraced her. She mastered new sports, formed meaningful friendships, and discovered a community where her voice mattered. “YC transformed me into more than just a participant,” she says. “It shaped me into a powerful advocate, someone who speaks with confidence, fights with purpose, and leads with heart.”

Hannah is now an active member of alumni programming at Youth Challenge, which promotes wellness and advocacy for those with disabilities. She also served as an intern on the YC Board of Trustees in 2024. Her insight helped guide strategic priorities around accessibility, inclusion, and youth leadership, ensuring that future participants will benefit from the same opportunities that have impacted her during her time at YC. “The bonds I’ve formed, the strength I’ve discovered, and the resilience I’ve built, they’re not just mine. They’re proof that with community, compassion, and courage, we rise.”



“The bonds I’ve formed, the strength I’ve discovered, and the resilience I’ve built, they’re not just mine. They’re proof that with community, compassion, and courage, we rise.”



Top: Hannah bowls with members of YC’s Young Professionals group at Bay Lanes.

Right: She smiles before enjoying a scenic walk at Lakewood Park with the YC Alumni group.

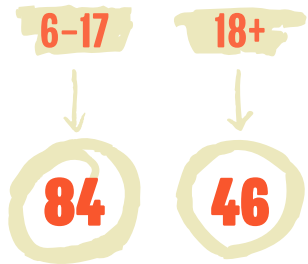


PARTICIPANTS

Number of Participants

130

Participants by Age



VOLUNTEERS

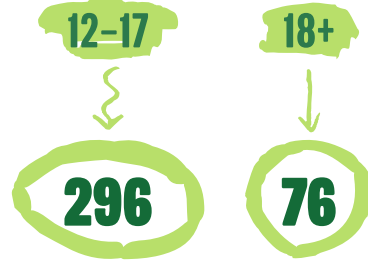
Number of Volunteers

372

Total Number of Teen Volunteer Hours

4,027

Volunteers by Age



PROGRAMS

Total Programs

377

Total hours of service, offered year-round, free of charge

6,272

TRANSPORTATION

Number of Rides Provided

3,002

95%

of Participants received YC transportation

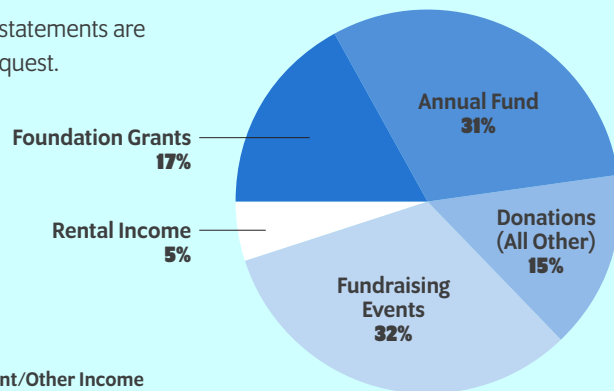
FINANCIALS

Charts represent operating activity based on unaudited information from the year ended December 31, 2024.

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

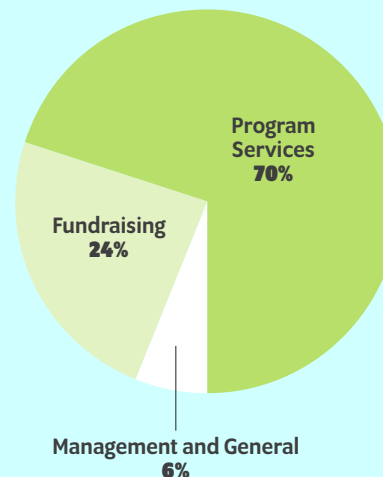
Operating Revenue*

\$1,288,000



Operating Expenses**

\$1,234,000



*Excluding Investment/Other Income

**Excludes depreciation

YC GEOGRAPHY

YC serves participants from six counties.

Cuyahoga
Lorain
Medina
Lake
Summit
Stark



LOOKING FORWARD

Above: Max, Dean and Washington join forces as a team at a program in Avon. Right: Jaylyn smiles while playing with the parachute at a YC Mini Camp in Bay Village.

The youngest participants at Youth Challenge, the Mini Campers, are just beginning their YC journey. They are taking their first steps into a world where physical disability doesn't limit possibility. With your support, they'll grow in confidence, friendship, and ability through adapted sports, arts, and connection.

By contributing to our Planned Giving Initiative, you help break barriers not just today, but for future generations. Your lasting gift will build bonds that strengthen our community for years to come.

Be a champion for tomorrow. Learn how you can make a lasting difference by calling Chris Garr at 440-892-1001 x120.

We are grateful and honored to recognize these legacy gifts.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Anter, Sr. Memorial Fund
 Richard Anter II Memorial Sports Fund
 George J. Ata Memorial Fund
 Bonne Bell Family Fund
 Burge Family Fund
 Michael L. Coticchia Memorial Fund
 Dvoroznak Family Fund
 Federated Church of Christ Sponsorship
 Founder's Fund
 Michael Houtz Memorial Sponsorship
 Richard M. Johnson Family Fund
 Barb & Charlie Koch Endowment Fund

Marian Koch Memorial Fund
 Paul Koch Memorial Fund
 McBride's Ride Fund
 Jack E. McDonald Memorial Sponsorship
 Metro-West Kiwanis
 Courtney Oatey Memorial Fund
 Oatey Family Fund
 Mr. & Mrs. William R. Oatey Fund
 Pease Family Fund
 Karen M. Sobol Memorial Sponsorship
 Beth K. Stocker Memorial Fund
 Jack and Nancy Tanis Teen Volunteer Fund



Address

800 Sharon Drive
Westlake, OH 44145

Contact

youthchallengesports.com
440-892-1001



Youth Challenge brings together young people with physical disabilities and teen volunteers who inspire each other through adapted sports, recreation, and social growth activities.

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A special thanks to our 2025 Annual Benefit & Auction Sponsors who helped us raise over \$210,000!

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Oatey Co.

Platinum

BakerHostetler
National Safety Apparel, Inc.

Gold

The Dvoroznak Family
The Kalt Manufacturing
Company
The Nock and Son Company
Stephen & Stacy Nock
Nordson Corporation
The Sherwin-Williams
Company

Silver

Community West Foundation
The Coticchia Family
Cuyahoga County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
Mike's Kids
Nelson Mullins
Riley & Scarborough
Premise Solutions
Reese Pharmaceutical
The Thomas Family
Total Benefits Advisors -
Mark & Lisa Breen

Corporate Support

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Henkel Corporation
SACO AEI Polymers
Jones Day
The Krueger Group
Mazzella Companies

Bar sponsored by
Barb & Charlie Koch

Entertainment sponsored by
School of Rock Cleveland

Technology sponsored by
OneLink Technical Solutions

Transportation sponsored
by Brunswick Auto Mart

Below: Guests danced the night away at Disco Fever – YC's Annual Benefit and Auction in 2025.



SAVE THE DATE

Join us on **April 25, 2026** for the Annual Benefit & Auction
at The Madison to celebrate **50 Years** of Youth Challenge!