



FY17 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017



Today is the day and tomorrow will be too.
We know it doesn't happen all at once.
So, we're here for you.
Through missing teeth and Mount Rushmore.
Multiplication tables and paying rent.
Because work isn't always enough.

Let's grow up, together.



E.D. Corner

*"YPN has been **successful** over the years because we stay focused on our mission and **goals** even as the world we operate in remains fluid and ever-changing. Information changes weekly and **opportunity** is constant. What hasn't changed is YPN's commitment to staying true to **mission** and our efforts to diligently analyze opportunities.*

*This year has been particularly special as we talked about our **future**. After a great deal of assessment and review of our current challenges, the Board of Directors approved the renaming of Young Parents Network to **YPN**. This, along with our new logo, will be the brand of the organization moving **forward**.*

*Over the last 30+ years YPN has **evolved** to be the premier provider of prenatal, parenting, early childhood, and youth **development** services in East Central Iowa. You don't have to be young, and you don't have to be a **parent** to benefit from the services of YPN. We are a network of **services** for all families in this community, even those who may not think YPN has something for them or their **family**. We know the facts: If you are a part of YPN you will have **better prepared**, school-ready **children**, you will be a more confident parent, and you will be **better** connected to resources in a supportive **community**. Join us in this venture to grow up. **Let's grow up, together!"***

~Brian Stutzman, YPN Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT:

Creating a network of support through education and resources, to build confidence and personal accountability for healthy and successful families.

VISION STATEMENT:

Empowering families and impacting generations, creating a brighter future for our community.

"YPN is a wonderful organization that has helped me and my two little ones since I first became pregnant."

~YPN Mom

"YPN has helped me to reconnect with my son who I have not seen in four years."

~YPN Dad



YPN served **1811** parents, children & youth.

This includes **202** parents, **156** prenatal moms and **226** children.

In FY17, the average participant age for YPN parents was **19.5**.



YPN continues to **grow** and expand our programming and **services** to meet the needs of our community.

Each year we help **families** learn ways to become stronger while setting goals, being **accountable**, and preparing their youth for school.

YPN is a **vital** piece of our community as it is the only program that offers **comprehensive** services and resources for children age 0-5.

The **success** of YPN comes from the support of our **community**!



Impacting Growth

Michelle came to YPN a month after she turned 14. She and the father of her child attended Thursday night group sessions during her pregnancy but stopped during her third trimester. When Levi was born, he tested positive for marijuana, which prompted DHS to open an investigation. At the lowest point in her journey, Levi was removed from Michelle's care. Her case was on the verge of being closed, and her rights terminated, when she decided to come back to YPN.

Michelle now attends group regularly, and has become friends with other young moms, and best of all she now has Levi in her care full time. Levi is testing above average developmentally, and their DHS case will be officially closed in the next couple of months.

Michelle continues to work so hard on being the best parent she can be to her young son, and for that she greatly appreciates YPN.

Volunteers fill a critical need for YPN on a daily basis. From childcare during weekly group night, to reading with youth, to working in the We Care Shop. The difference these individuals make in the lives of our participants is priceless!

"I volunteer for YPN because I get back more tenfold than what I give. I learn some of life's most valuable lessons from the young families I encounter each week."

~YPN Volunteer

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

~Elizabeth Andrew



In FY17, YPN had **401**
volunteers serve over
3,304 hours.



Eastern Iowa Health Center
+ YPN We Care Shop =
The Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank

Diapers are a basic need for babies' health and well-being, yet for many families, diapers are financially difficult. On average, a monthly supply of diapers can cost \$80 per month, for a family living on a limited income, these high costs often mean deciding between paying for food and utilities or paying for diapers.

YPN is proud to collaborate with EIHC in an effort to provide diapers to local families in need.



We Care Shop
& Eastern Iowa
Diaper Bank

The **We Care Shop** is an incentive based “store” that is run by volunteers. Shelves are stocked with essential items such as clothes, diapers, basic care products and much more, all donated by our generous community!



In FY17,

Over **1,897** visits occurred
at the We Care Shop

And, over **70,000** diapers
were distributed

Collaboration is key to the success of YPN programming. For the third straight year, YPN, in partnership with Youthport, offered the following programs to encourage parents to read with their children, help address summer learning loss and to build the literacy skills necessary for youth to enter school prepared.

Ready to Read

- **444 families & children** came together for a meal and reading
- **34 volunteers** shared helpful ways parents can use books to build confidence in their child
- **375+ books** were read to **223 youth**

Lunch & Literacy

- **78 volunteers** read with over **100+ youth** during the summer months at a variety of locations
- **261+ hours** of reading, with **1090+ books** read, and each child chose a book of their own to take home



"I'm so happy. I don't have very many books at home and I love this one!" (while holding a copy of 'Dragons Love Tacos')

~Lunch & Literacy participant

Currently, over **10 languages** can be heard spoken at YPN any given day. YPN embraces **diversity**.

During FY17, YPN introduced a new and successful Juntos program, working with **28 youth** and **26 parents** to offer college planning tips, provide information on the importance of family communication and helping find ways to **prepare students for their futures**.

YPN has also implemented a **multilingual** African Moms Program, with our first class recognizing **15 moms** who successfully completed the curriculum.

"I love coming here. The people are so nice and my son likes to play in the child care room. It is so wonderful to learn with other moms, and I am sad that the program is done."

~YPN African Mom



Mayor Ron Corbett honors graduating Juntos class.

YPN served **175** Hispanic parents and children, and **64** African parents and children through various programs.



African mom program graduates.

" I hope that this community understands the good they are doing through their generosity of giving. The kindness of each donor to YPN is helping young people improve their lives and the lives of their children. I have volunteered with YPN for 9 years and work with outstanding young men who are trying to be the best fathers they can- many of whom face much adversity."

~Jim Brown, Dads Group Facilitator

"When I talk to people about maybe donating to YPN and should they give \$100, I say give \$200, that money is going to be spent wisely by YPN, they have incredible accountability within their organization."

~YPN Donor

"It's not as if these families are not trying, they are putting in a lot of time to make a better life for themselves and to have YPN there to support them, it's a good beginning to a great end."

~YPN Donor

Broadway Maybies

was a crowd pleaser! With **8** great corporate and non-profit acts, **64** sponsors, and **58** raffle donors, we had a record year - sold out show and raised **\$77,000** for YPN programs!

During the first ever **Operation Diaper Drive** there were more than **102,000** diapers collected!

Festival Latino celebrates diversity and helps kick off **Hispanic Heritage Month!**

3,000+ people came for a day of dancing, music, food and fun for all!

Our YPN board & trustees are truly invested in helping us **grow!** Their leadership and involvement is unmatched; we are lucky to have this group behind us as we continue to progress, year after year.

"The alumni of YPN inspire me. They have proactively empowered themselves to be better parents for their children. Their hard work will pay dividends for their family and community for generations to come. I wish YPN programs were required for EVERY new parent to experience. It's important!"

~Robb Loftsgard, YPN Board Member





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Let's **grow up**, together.



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