



FY18 ANNUAL REPORT

Let's grow up, together.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This year's annual report comes at a time of key transition for our organization. The untimely death of our long time Executive Director, Brian Stutzman, compels us to look critically and strategically into the future and to continue to build upon a foundation of excellence that he helped design. Brian led this organization for over 18 years and created a lasting legacy that includes establishing YPN as an essential provider of prenatal, parenting, early childhood and youth development services for the Eastern Iowa community.

We are an organization that will persevere through this time of change and grow even stronger. Our staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors and Trustees remain committed to our mission of creating a network of support through education and resources to build confidence and personal accountability for healthy and successful families.

As we look to the future, which will include a new Executive Director, YPN has several goals that will guide our journey. The Board's main objectives for fiscal year 2019 will include updating our strategic plan, diversifying revenue streams and enhancing programming.

We are humbled to be able to support an organization and staff that is so dedicated to empowering families. And we are honored to serve on behalf of our valued donors who have the long-term vision to partner with us in our mutual goal to help children and families thrive, creating a brighter future for our community.

Ann Ruske & Matt Evans

Board of Directors Co-Chairs FY18



A LEGACY OF VISION

Brian Stutzman joined the staff of YPN in 1997 as the Dad's Program Manager. Three years later, he was the Executive Director and began an 18-year journey that would guide the agency forward into a bright future of positive change and growth, while maintaining a sharp focus on mission.

Brian was a **passionate and stalwart advocate for underserved populations in our community** and served as an **exceptional example of what it means to be a community partner**. His gregarious personality coupled with his passion for meeting the needs of the community enabled him to help establish several impactful initiatives. Under his leadership the We Care Shop has grown from a tiny lending closet to a fully stocked incentive program that rivals some retail spaces. Brian was a significant part of the creation and implementation of the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank which in its first two years has given out over 247,300 diapers. Further, during his tenure, Brian helped create YouthPort, a collaboration between YPN, Boys & Girls Clubs of Cedar Rapids and Tanager Place, that collectively serves youth in our area.

Without a doubt, Brian's absence will be felt by family, friends, colleagues and community partners for years to come. He left behind a very special legacy that is weaved throughout the programs and services of YPN. As we reflect on the past fiscal year, we pause to remember a member of our team who infused passion, positivity and compassion into everything he did.

And now, as we look toward the future, we remain focused on our mission and are committed to building upon a foundation of excellence. **YPN is proud of the work we do** and of the legacies left behind, in addition to those that continue to be built today. We hope that YOU, as partners, donors, volunteers and friends will be proud as well. And as you read through the pages of this report, know that the mission of YPN is intact and strong and that Brian's legacy of vision lives on.



THE FAMILIES OF YPN

For more than 32 years, YPN has been providing prenatal and parenting support to those with children ages 0-5. Our core programming serves the entire family with consistent and comprehensive education. YPN is proud to help families become stronger while supporting them with goal setting, accountability and preparing children to become school-ready.

**In FY18, 1,958 individuals
were served by YPN!**



Kyle & Athena's YPN Story

A few months after graduating high school, Athena met Kyle, fell in love, and soon became pregnant. The couple immediately began attending YPN prenatal programming on a weekly basis until the birth of their son, Aidrian. They then got married and successfully transitioned forward into other YPN groups that focused on newborns through the preschool years. Although there were times when life presented struggles – whether it was housing, employment or financial instability – they continued to be involved with YPN and committed to becoming the best parents they could be. Within a few short years, Kyle and Athena both found better employment and eventually were able to purchase their own home. Early this year, they welcomed their second son, Jacob, and in May the family graduated from the YPN program.

YPN is so proud of this family, and the many others like them, who commit to making a better life for themselves and their children. Kyle and

Athena are an example of what can happen with just a little bit of support, encouragement and perseverance. The couple are forever a part of the YPN story and often serve as mentors to other participants. Their future is bright!



"YPN taught us a lot about what to expect and how to be the best parents."

THE WE CARE SHOP

The YPN We Care Shop is an incentive based store where families involved with YPN can purchase items with points earned through participating in programming. This incentive program allows families to earn points in a variety of ways; attending group meetings, going to prenatal visits, receiving their high school diploma or HiSET, getting their child immunized on schedule, accessing counseling, and many other healthy behavior choices for themselves and their families.



**In FY18, 2,274
visits were made
to the We Care Shop**

Jean & Glenda's YPN Story

This year, YPN said goodbye to two of our long time volunteers. Jean and Glenda have been washing clothing, sorting donations, cleaning & displaying toys and assisting visitors in The We Care Shop since shortly after the doors first opened in 1993. Their dedication and commitment to serving families has been an inspiration and we will miss seeing their smiling faces each week. Thank you, Jean and Glenda, for being a huge part of the YPN story.



"I really enjoyed seeing the children grow, and the parents too. The best part was hearing parents say how much the Shop and organization has made a difference in their lives -

knowing I am a part of that - that's really fulfilling."

~Glenda

MEETING THE NEED

YPN remains committed to meeting the needs of an ever-changing demographic by offering programs designed specifically for diverse populations. As the Latino and African populations have increased in our community, YPN has responded by offering services and programs

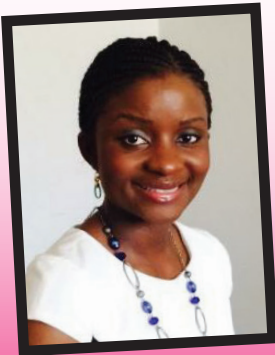
that are mission-driven and inclusive. We are fortunate to be able to offer multi-lingual programming because of tremendous support from local individuals and organizations who understand the importance of embracing diversity and responding to change.



In FY18 we served
104 moms + 117 children
in our African & Hispanic programs.

Minouche's YPN Story

YPN is excited to welcome Minouche Bandubuilda to the team! Minouche arrived in Iowa in 2008 pregnant, alone and barely able to speak English. Life was hard enough as a mother on her own, but it was made even more difficult because of a lack of community support. Today, Minouche is devoted to helping others, especially African moms who benefit from her experience.



As a facilitator in YPN's Parent Café's, Minouche helps educate African mothers and assists them in getting acclimated to a new culture here in Cedar Rapids. Now in its second year, she is seeing much progress within the group, such as moms going to school, taking better care of themselves and their families, and overall looking at life in a more positive way.

"I am so grateful to be part of this group and to see the impact of this class."

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration has always been key to the success of YPN programming. Over the past several years, YPN has enjoyed a strong partnership with several other local human service agencies that help expand our reach into the community. By sharing resources and referrals, the organizations that make up YouthPort are able to provide multi-service programming and support more families. Programs like Ready to Read and Lunch & Literacy bring together families, volunteers and youth for a meal and quality reading time. These critical offerings help combat summer slide and get preschool age kids school ready.



716 parents & youth
+ **107** volunteers
= **2,036** books read & distributed



155,226
diapers distributed
in FY18 by the
Eastern Iowa
Diaper Bank!

The Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank (EIDB) is a joint effort between YPN and the Eastern Iowa Health Center that responds to diaper need in our community. The EIDB is located in the YPN We Care Shop.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers fill a critical need for YPN. From childcare to reading with youth, working in the We Care Shop, bagging diapers and much more - our **volunteers are the lifeblood of YPN!**

**In FY18, 492
volunteers completed
4,958 hours!**

Milinda's YPN Story

Milinda Fraley has been a YPN group facilitator since 2016. She brings with her a professional skillset and personal passion that makes her an exceptional resource and role model for families. As someone who successfully overcame the challenging circumstances of her childhood, she now has the opportunity to become engaged in actively giving back to her community.

"Every session, I watch as our participants work to provide a better life for their children than the one they might have experienced growing up. I see strong women and mothers come together to gain and offer support. I see fathers being supported and encouraged. I see countless other volunteers who make each Thursday night session possible. And every session, I am humbled by it all.

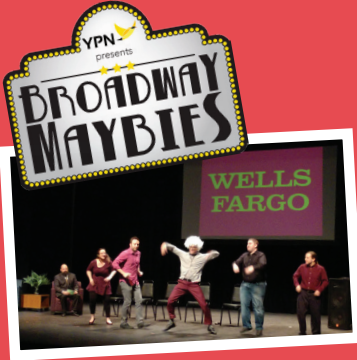
**"I leave lighter than when I arrived,
and I am blessed to be part of it all."**



EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

YPN offers a variety of ways for the community to support our mission.

Broadway Maybies YPN's primary fundraising event since 1990.



6 community acts +
45 corporate sponsors
= \$66,000 raised!

Operation Diaper Drive

is a city-wide event to benefit the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank. In its second year, the drive collected over 140,000 diapers! Many sponsors helped support the cause by hosting collection boxes at their locations through the month of October. Thousands of diapers are distributed to local families through incentive programs.



Corporate Partnerships provide critical financial support of our mission and programming. We have been fortunate over the years to have many local companies support us with sponsorships, in-kind donations, volunteers, and much more.

"We support YPN because we love what they do for families; not everybody has that support. They give parents and children a foundation to grow and be positive members of our community - and they encourage others to be and do good."

~Josh Burgett, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Rosa began utilizing YPN's services in 2014 when her daughter was a year old. She wanted to make a better life for herself and her daughter but faced several barriers.

"I was told there was no way I could ever go to college, so I said to myself, maybe this is impossible. I am a single mom, I do have a young child, and I do not have the money to go to school. Maybe there was no way to achieve my dreams. But I continued to attend YPN, and I continued to work, and with the support of YPN and the people who supported YPN and me, I could possibly do it."

In 2010, a donor family of YPN created a scholarship that is awarded yearly to a participant who has the desire to further their education. Receiving the **"Reach for the Stars"** scholarship removed a major barrier for Rosa and allowed her to begin creating the life she envisioned. Now, she gives back by serving as a volunteer facilitator at group.

"I tell other people if you do better with your life, maybe you will be able to help others. Because that is what happens- it's like a chain. You do something and maybe that next person in front of you is going to do something else, and maybe the person following your step is going to do the same. It creates a chain of people helping people."

"I would not have been able to achieve what I am achieving now without the help of others, and YPN. Somebody did for me what I can do for other human beings moving forward. I will be grateful my whole life to YPN and the generous donor family because they have opened the door I thought was closed. Now I see life in a different way, and I know there are good people in this world. Even if they don't know you, they care about you."

Rosa recently completed two years at Kirkwood Community College graduating with Academic Excellence Honors and is now attending The University of Iowa.



"YPN has motivated me to want to do better. I wouldn't change my experience with YPN for anything."

YPN BOARD AND STAFF

FY18 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terri Christoffersen	Dana Ehrhart	Brad Hart
Julia Hawkins	Ron Pins	Dan Thies

FY18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carolyn Barko	Erica Bergfeld-Reed	Josh Burgett
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Sandy Ikeda	Alison Kaster	Kala Liebe
Robb Loftsgard	Brad Marcus	Brandi Mueller
Jairo Munoz	Mindy Olson	Brett Papendick
Ann Ruske	Justin Salow	Paige Swartzendruber
Jamie Toledo	Amanda Wendling	

FY18 YPN STAFF

Dana Curtis	Tasia Davidson	Crystal Hall
Kathy Kaiden	Jan Moffitt	Steve Nylin
Jenae Pederson	Amy Rechkemmer	Tisha Ritter
Kristi Sjullie-Pick	Brian Stutzman	Monica Vallejo

Staff Spotlight

Steve Nylin has served as the Dads Program Specialist at YPN for over 15 years. Under his leadership, Steve has watched the program grow from a weekly Young Dads Group into a robust and comprehensive fatherhood program that has expanded its reach into the community.



“As the only social service agency in Linn County with a full-time staff position devoted to fatherhood, I am able to network with other agencies to recruit dads for YPN programming as well as offer support to their staff in the area of fatherhood.”

The YPN Dads Program began in 1988 and, in 1997, former Executive Director Brian Stutzman served as a Dads Program Manager.

“My hope is for {Brian’s} legacy to live on and YPN to continue moving forward with the initiatives he put in place - for the Dads Program and all programs. I look forward to YPN continuing to build on our core services, and enhancing services as we see additional needs in our community.”

YPN



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



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ypn



YPN Iowa

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

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