



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

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

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FY19 Annual Report

YPN



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

ALEJANDRO PINO

Dear YPN Family,

As I reach the end of my first year at YPN, I remain profoundly grateful to the Board, staff, supporters, and our beloved participants for giving me the opportunity to serve this incredible organization. While significant transitions have occurred, we remain steadfast in our resolve to live out our mission to improve the lives of families and children. It is imperative that we, as a community, continue to uplift each other and help IMPACT lives in positive ways. Our core principles of **Support**, **Education**, and **Empowerment** will continue to guide us, as we chart our path forward. YPN will remain committed to offering quality programming, “world class” service, and a focus on love, compassion, and empathy. Additionally, we will continue to challenge our participants to become life-long learners while making positive life decisions that impact their current and future successes. Our model of building accountability will remain a central focus in all we do. As you read this annual report and see the IMPACT we have on dads, moms, and children, please know that this would not be possible without YOU. Never underestimate the power we all have to make a profound difference. When we look into the eyes of the children we serve, we see hope, wonder, unconditional love, and endless possibilities.

That is YPN.

Gratefully,

Alejandro



BOARD OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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Paulson Electric,
Chair

BRANDI MUELLER

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Chair-Elect

BRAD MARCUS

US Bank,
Treasurer

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Bergan KDV
Secretary

CAROLYN BARKO

Unity Point

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UFG

JOSH BURGETT

Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

JON BUSE

Kirkwood Community College

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PAIGE SWARTZENDRUBER

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JAMIE TOLEDO

Cedar Rapids Metro
Economic Alliance

AMANDA WENDLING

Grit Capital

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JULIA HAWKINS

DAN THIES

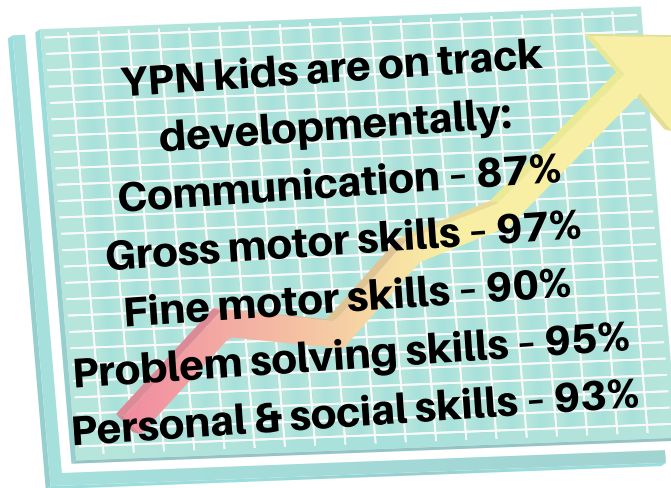
MISSION IN ACTION

Support, education and empowerment have always been central to YPN's mission. The parents we serve come to us willingly because they want to create a better life for themselves and for their children.

"I really liked when [staff] did the Ages and Stages Questionnaire with the kids and me because it made me feel like I was doing something right as a parent when I saw they were on track developmentally."

~Val, YPN Mom

Our Building Bright Futures program utilizes the evidence-based "Parents as Teachers" model to:



- Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parent practices
- Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increase children's school readiness and success

family healthy

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

Like many young couples, Caitlyn and James met while they were both in college. With graduation in sight and a bright future ahead, they found themselves suddenly derailed when they learned they were expecting. "We were both terrified and didn't know where to turn." The couple began attending YPN when Caitlyn was 32 weeks pregnant after hearing about it from friends. They weren't quite sure what to expect but were immediately welcomed by Steve and Amy, two of YPN's parent specialists. "Their kindness and understanding of our situation was a comforting change from the usual shock we got from family and friends. They were able to make sure that we were as ready as we could be to welcome our daughter into the world."

Aria was born happy and healthy on December 19th, 2017. Caitlyn credits YPN group sessions for helping her make important decisions about feeding a newborn, using cloth or disposable diapers, pain management during labor and delivery, and healthy coping mechanisms for the transition into parenthood. When the family returned to YPN group night after Aria's birth, YPN staff were there to help with the baby while Caitlyn and James ate a hot meal. Additionally, they provided support for the couple's decision to breastfeed and ensured that the newborn class covered topics that related to their current situation.

"YPN staff and volunteers are always available with great advice to help solve the issues we are dealing with as a unit, creating better relationships within our family."

"I would not be the parent I am today without YPN."

~Caitlyn, YPN Mom



WE CARE SHOP

YPN is committed to creating a network of support and resources that empower participants to reach their full potential. The incentive-based We Care Shop is one way barriers to success can be removed. Active participants of YPN earn valuable shopping points by participating in programming and making other positive and healthy choices. With these points, they are able to purchase essential items like diapers, clothing, toys and other baby items, all of which are donated by the community.



"I don't know what I would do if I wasn't able to earn points to use in the We Care Shop. When I was pregnant with my son, I was able to get clothes, diapers, and other items. My daughter is growing quickly and it's nice to be able to bring items back and exchange for bigger sizes when needed."

~Molly, YPN Mom



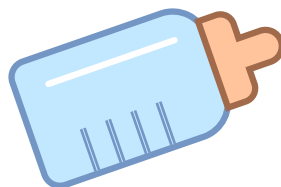
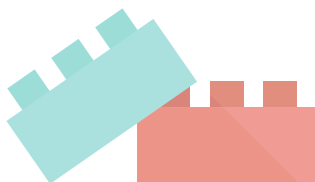
"We were able to meet other moms and dads by coming to group and the support is so helpful; without the We Care Shop, diapers and wipes alone would have been a huge financial burden. We love the toys too...they may be second-hand toys but they're brand new to us."

~Val & Jeremy, YPN Mom & Dad


EASTERN IOWA
DIAPER
Bank
a collaborative of
 **EASTERN IOWA HEALTH CENTER**  **YPN**
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164,369
diapers
distributed


2,614
people served at
the We Care Shop





YPN Program Stats & Participant Demographics


 **1,592**
individuals
served by all YPN
programs & initiatives


164,369


 diapers distributed by the
Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank


 **221**
moms and children
served by culturally
specific programming

 **367**
home visits
made to
61 families

 **70%**
of participants
are employed

475 
moms, dads & kids served at
'Building Bright Futures' weekly
prenatal & parenting groups

4,315 
visits to the incentive
based We Care Shop

92% 
of YPN children
are on track developmentally
for their age in various areas

457 
volunteers
served

5,680 hours

1,641 
books read and
distributed through
literacy initiatives

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

"Your donation has a much bigger impact than you realize."

~ Caitlyn, YPN Mom

YPN is proud to be part of a generous and caring community that has supported the organization for almost 35 years. These ongoing partnerships and collaborations are invaluable and have helped YPN become the premier long-term, prenatal and parenting education provider in the area. Community support comes in many ways including financial contributions, volunteer time and talent, and in-kind donations.

**In-Kind Support =
\$133,562**

Includes We Care donations, advertising/ media and print support.

**\$80,000
raised!**



Over 80 local businesses provided sponsorship for this event including Center Stage sponsors KCRG Show You Care, Mediacom, and UFG.



716 parents & youth
106 volunteers
1,641 books
read & distributed.

collaborate
one
community

YPN is grateful to the many individuals, groups, organizations, and companies that support our mission year after year. One such group is the women of Clover Ridge United Methodist Church in Walford. This dedicated group of women and their entire congregation has donated diaper bags, packed with all the essentials new parents need for their baby, for the past 8 years totaling nearly \$5,000 of in-kind goods.



"The correlation between YPN's mission and our mission - is that we all want to help people - and we look at the community we serve as family. We're proud to support YPN."

~Sandy Ikeda, Wells Fargo
and YPN Board Member

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Volunteers and community partnerships are vital to the success and longevity of YPN. During FY19, local volunteers gave over **5,680 hours** of service to YPN which saved the organization nearly \$133,000 in people power! By giving of their time and talents, these dedicated and caring individuals save our organization critical dollars that can go directly to supporting programming for the participants we serve. Further, research has shown that when people volunteer they are happier and healthier. Additionally, companies that encourage and support their employees in community volunteerism reap rewards to their bottom line as volunteering has been shown to improve morale, productivity, and retention.

**Volunteer time
and talent saved
YPN
\$132,968**

“[In the YPN Dads Group] I've learned that I'm not alone in the ups and downs of being a father.”
~José, YPN Dad

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JIM BROWN

Volunteers like Jim Brown help YPN fulfill our mission. Jim began volunteering for YPN in 2007 as a Toddler Childcare Room Coordinator with his wife, Cindy, caring for upwards of 27 toddlers per night while their parents attended YPN Prenatal and Parenting Groups. In 2010, he accepted the offer to become the primary facilitator for the Dad's Group which meets Thursday evenings 40 weeks per year - and Jim is there every week, encouraging dads to learn from each other.

Jim's ability to connect with young fathers on a personal level not only has had a positive influence on participants, but also has increased attendance and retention. The success of our fatherhood initiatives can be attributed to Jim's genuine interest in the lives of the men he mentors. His ability to engage dads in meaningful conversation coupled with his approachability makes YPN dads excited to come back week after week.

It is for these reasons and more that Jim became a KCRG-TV9 '9 Who Care' winner and, thus, a recipient of the Jefferson Awards Foundation Medal "in recognition of outstanding public service". Jim was recognized at the National Jefferson Awards ceremony in Washington D.C. in June of 2019.



"I'm just a dad bringing other dads together who all desire to be the best for their kids."

~Jim Brown, YPN volunteer

YPN TEAM SPOTLIGHT

KATHY KAIDEN

This past April, YPN said farewell to a pillar of our organization and the heart of our team. What began as a part-time consulting job as a grant writer turned into a professional career that spanned almost three decades.

As Director of Development, Kathy Kaiden played a critical role for the organization by writing hundreds of grants, raising millions of dollars, and building invaluable relationships with donors, volunteers, and supporters who are the lifeblood of YPN. We could not have continued to provide continuous, quality and critical programming without Kathy's forward thinking and tireless efforts to promote the agency. Her connection to the Cedar Rapids community coupled with her undying loyalty, passion and dedication have had an immense impact on the success of YPN and, in turn, on thousands of families. She may not wear a cape, but Kathy has been a hero to many. And, says a YPN board member, she has a super power:



"Kathy's strength is her heart... she gives her heart and soul to everything she does and this passion exudes throughout the community as she shares the mission of YPN... ensuring that throughout the years Cedar Rapids continues to understand, support and share in this passion."

The staff, board, and families of YPN thank Kathy for her tireless efforts and leadership. Her impact on the organization will be felt for generations to come.

THE YPN TEAM

JAN MOFFITT

PAT Program Manager

DANA CURTIS

Communications Coordinator

JENAE PEDERSON

Moms Specialist

KATIE STEPHENS

Accounting

ALEJANDRO PINO

Executive Director

MERIDITH MYERS

Program Manager

TASIA DAVIDSON

We Care Shop Specialist

AMY RECHKEMMER

Prenatal Specialist

MONICA VALLEJO

Hispanic Moms Specialist

TISHA RITTER

Director of Development

MINOUCHE BANDUBUILA

African Moms Specialist

STEVE NYLIN

Dads Specialist

ROSA SALAZAR

Volunteer Coordinator

HEIKE WAGNER

Administrative Assistant