



FY20 Annual Report

YPN



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear YPN Family,

Chaos, anxiety, uncertainty, and disruption are words that certainly come to mind as we reflect on recent events. Our world and community have seen just how unpredictable and fragile life can be. Those we serve continue feeling the impact and many have been profoundly affected by the pandemic and the derecho.

While challenges and uncertainty remain, YPN continues providing programming and services to the community. Although our delivery model has had to adapt to the changing times, our core mission has remained strong and vibrant. The extraordinary group of staff I work alongside continue offering **Support, Education, and Empowerment**. Our partnership with the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank has provided over **500,000** diapers since the pandemic lockdown and we have remained steadfast in offering group and individual programming to all participants.

During difficult times, we also see the true beauty of the human spirit. Countless examples of generosity, compassion, empathy, and love rise above the negativity. I remain humbled and forever grateful to the countless individuals and organizations that have supported and invested in YPN. Please know, and never underestimate, the true impact of your kindness. On behalf of our participants, our staff, and our Board, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Yours in service,

Alejandro



"Every challenge, every adversity, contains within it the seeds of opportunity and growth."

~Rey T. Bennett

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 2019 – June 2020

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Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

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MATT EVANS

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BRAD HART

CHRIS EDWARDS

JULIA HAWKINS

DAN THIES

A NEW SPACE FOR BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

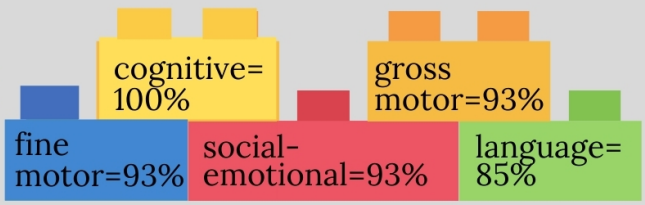
Our primary program model, Building Bright Futures, has always had in-person group education and support at its core. As part of a long term program, participants of YPN come to rely heavily on the relationships built with staff and each other to help them as they navigate life and parenthood.

After many years conducting programming at Polk Alternative Education Center, YPN's growing Thursday night services required a larger space. Our traditional evening groups began utilizing facilities at Stonebridge Church beginning in the summer of 2019. The building provides several amenities that offer a modern and comfortable learning space for participants, staff, and volunteers.



PARTICIPANTS SERVED
430 parents and
700 children

Percentage of YPN children who demonstrated these age-appropriate development skills (as determined by the Ages & Stages Questionnaire):



STAYING CONNECTED

In early 2020, YPN was faced with a unique challenge as it became necessary to lock down due to the Covid-19 disruption. As in other times of upheaval, the organization has been nimble, flexible, and creative in response and remains mission-focused. With professionalism and compassion, YPN staff work diligently and resourcefully to provide virtual support to participants.

Modified YPN Programming



**Virtual weekly
group sessions**



**1:1 We Care
Shopping**



**Drive-thru
Diaper Bank**

Though in-person meetings are ideal, virtual programming allows staff to reach more people. Those interested in the education and services YPN provides can tune in on Thursday nights or watch the video later when it is most convenient for them.

“I am proud of YPN for continuing to deliver services... I think it would have been very easy to just say... ‘let’s just hold off on group until we can meet again in person’. Instead, YPN has pushed through an unbelievable amount of barriers to make sure our participants are still getting the information and supplies they need, while also feeling supported during this very difficult year.”



~Jenae, Parent Educator

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: HOME VISITS

Funding through Early Childhood of Iowa (ECI) allows YPN to offer in-home parent education and family support as an alternative to group services. Jan Moffitt, Home Visitation Program Manager, says this option benefits both participants and staff because it allows the formation of a much stronger bond with the entire family unit in their own space.

HOME VISIT HIGHLIGHTS:

Offered twice per month for one hour

Centered on parent-child learning

Focused on core child development areas

Utilizes the “Parents As Teachers” evidence-based curriculum

Assists families with goal-setting and progress tracking

As social distance and mask mandates remain in place, home visits have continued with staff meeting families outside their homes or at a nearby park. If an alternative location is not available, sessions take place virtually or by phone.



In FY20, YPN provided **698 ECI home visits** to **72 families** and **103 children.**



"My child loves the visits and we learn a lot."

~Whitney, YPN Mom



"...[my home visitor] made me feel comfortable and gave advice without making me feel inadequate."

~Jessica, YPN Mom

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: PRENATAL SERVICES

YPN prenatal program staff and volunteers provide critical education and support to expecting and new parents during a time in their lives that is often filled with wonder and excitement, but can also bring feelings of anxiousness and confusion. Programming focuses on healthy behaviors during pregnancy and creating a delivery plan.

PRENATAL & NEWBORN GROUP HIGHLIGHTS:

Supportive groups include expecting and newborn parents

Focused on healthy pregnancy, delivery plan, and newborn care

Post-partum visit and assessment

Support for mom and dad as they make the transition into parenthood

Utilizes the “Parents As Teachers” evidence-based curriculum

During the Covid-19 pandemic, our Prenatal Specialist and trained facilitators utilize virtual methods of program delivery to continue to offer moms and dads **support**, **education**, and **empowerment** throughout the early stages of parenthood and child development.



In FY20, YPN served **74 moms and dads**, with **48 post-partum visits**, and **27 babies born**.



"I want to empower these moms with information to help them advocate for themselves and make educated decisions regarding their care and the care of their children. I fell in love with YPN as a nursing student and I'm so grateful life has put me in the position where I can still be involved."




~Tracey Wyatt, Prenatal Facilitator



Program Stats & Participant Demographics

 **1,273**
individuals served by all YPN programs & initiatives


350 
moms, dads & kids served at Building Bright Futures' prenatal & parenting groups


246,725
 diapers distributed by the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank

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2,502 
visits to the incentive based We Care Shop

 **201**
moms and children served by culturally specific programming

93% 
of YPN children show age-appropriate development

 **1,049** home visits*
85 made to families

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603 
volunteers served
4,315 hours

 **70%**
of participants are employed

1,074 
books read and distributed through literacy initiatives

*includes ECI and other program home visits

"For my family and I, YPN has been a place of hope."

~YPN Mom



"YPN staff helped me to see that Dads are just as important as Moms."

~ YPN Dad



"YPN has supplied diapers, gift cards, time, resources and kindness to my family. The most valuable thing I've learned during my years at YPN is that you can never spend too much time with your family or doing things for your family. YPN has saved my life (or what felt like saving my life) multiple times and I can never thank their organization enough!"

~Danie, YPN mom



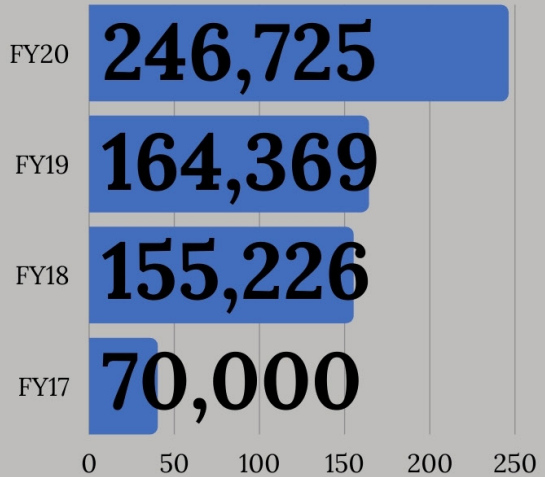
"One day, I hope I can help families the same way you do."

~Amanda, former participant

EASTERN IOWA DIAPER BANK

YPN is proud to be a founding partner and the physical location of the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank (EIDB). Along with our colleagues and partners at the Eastern Iowa Health Center, this collaboration serves one simple purpose: to provide families in need with diapers. The low-income families both agencies serve can spend nearly 14% of their paycheck on diapers. As a member of the National Diaper Bank Network (NDBN), the EIDB helps to safeguard one of the most basic needs of all babies and their families - access to clean, dry diapers.

Thanks to the support of the NDBN, local foundations and corporations, and individual community donors, the EIDB has been able to respond to community need and provide essential services to clients of YPN, the Eastern Iowa Health Center and, most recently, HACAP/WIC.



211,532 additional diapers were distributed between July 1 and September 21, 2020



WE CARE SHOP & VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The YPN We Care Shop is an incentive program that allows families to earn points in a variety of ways: attending group meetings, going to prenatal visits, receiving their high school diploma or HiSET, attending scheduled well-child exams, and many other healthy behavior choices. Points earned by parents can then be redeemed at the We Care Shop for basic needs items such as diapers and clothing for their children. The shelves in the Shop are stocked with items generously donated by community members and is operated by staff and volunteers.

FY20 We Care Shop Highlights



**\$61,822 of
in-kind donations**



**2,502
shopping visits**



**82 volunteers
served 566 hours**

Judy Gard, who began volunteering at YPN in 2019, was looking for a way to offer her time and skills to an organization that served families, and YPN's mission spoke to her. Since the Covid-19 disruption impacted how participants are able to access the We Care Shop and the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank, Judy has been exceptionally helpful. She always has a warm smile, busy hands, and a servant heart at the ready for each shift she takes. YPN thanks Judy, and all of our volunteers, for their dedication and support.

"I believe early intervention is critical to achieving happy and healthy families. I've had the opportunity to help in the We Care Shop and the Thursday family group night. I see how parents are gaining skills, children are building relationships and families [are] encouraging and supporting each other too."



~Judy Gard, YPN Volunteer

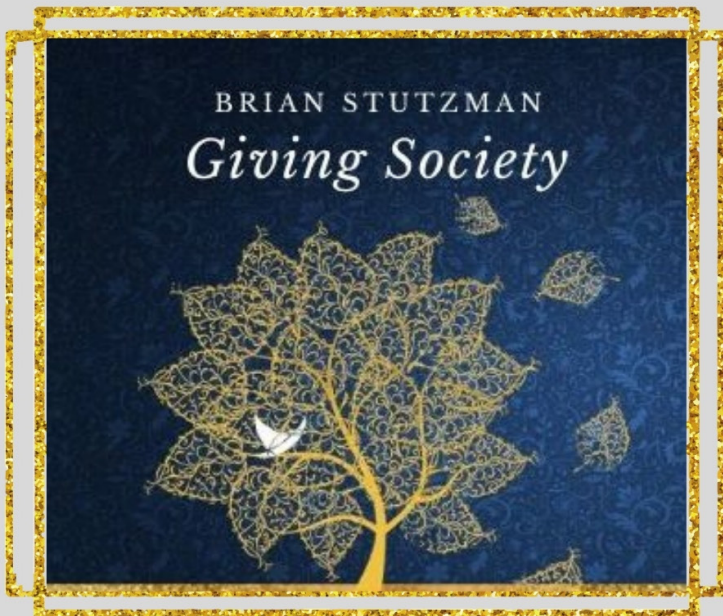
LASTING LEGACY

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

~Nelson Henderson

In early 2020, the Brian Stutzman Giving Society was launched to honor Brian's impact and legacy, and as a way of highlighting donor investment in the financial stability of YPN. As the agency plans for the future, it is imperative to think long-term and strategically to ensure young families in Eastern Iowa, and beyond, continue to have access to quality programs and services.

Over the course of a participant's time with YPN they are nurtured, supported, and encouraged to grow – to be the best version of themselves for their family and for their future. Each day, seeds of information and empowerment are planted and will someday bear the fruit of positive change and growth. You can join us in creating a brighter future for our community by becoming a member of this exclusive annual giving society.



Brian Stutzman Giving Society LEVELS*

Legacy Level - \$5,000+

The Legacy level signifies the importance of honoring our past while planting a vision for the future.



Advocate Level - \$2,500+

The Advocate level honors our stakeholders - donors, volunteers, and staff - who continue to raise YPN up and are critical to our present and our future.



Oak Level - \$1000+

The state tree of Iowa, the Oak, is a symbol of strength, morale, and wisdom - the gifts YPN seeks to instill in each of our participants.

Goldfinch Level - \$500+

The Goldfinch signifies abundance and prosperity - the blessings that our supporters provide.

To become an inaugural member of the **Brian Stutzman Giving Society**, please mark your selection on the enclosed envelope or contact Tisha Ritter, Director of Development.

Phone: 319-364-8909

Email: tritter@ypniowa.org

www.ypniowa.org/give

*Giving levels are determined by amount of cash giving within a calendar year.

SUPPORT

Join us as we **Support**, **Educate**, and **Empower** families! Your contribution powers the programs and services YPN provides.



DONATE



CONTRIBUTE



VOLUNTEER



SHARE

Learn about all of these opportunities at

www.ypniowa.org/give

Let's grow up, together.



REACH FOR THE STARS

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 Orline Makengo and allowed her to begin creating the life she envisioned. Orline was able to attend Kirkwood Community College and graduated in May 2020 with an Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education. She is now enrolled at Mount Mercy University pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. YPN and the donor family are proud of Orline’s commitment to her family and education and we look forward to seeing her continued success.

"I thank YPN for being part of my school journey starting from English as a Second Language, to my AA degree. YPN has been there for my family with the support of parenting groups, community resources, and the We Care Shop, where we earned diapers, clothing and more for my children. Thank You."



~Orline Makengo, 2020 Scholarship Recipient

TEAM YPN

MINOUCHE BANDUBUILA
African Moms Specialist

DANA CURTIS
Marketing Coordinator

VON DALTON
Dads Specialist

TASIA DAVIDSON
We Care Shop Specialist

EUPHRASIE LUKAMA
We Care Shop Support

CORI MILAN
Moms Specialist

JAN MOFFITT
PAT Program Manager

MERIDITH MYERS
Program Manager

JENAE PEDERSON
Parent Educator

ALEJANDRO PINO
Executive Director

AMY RECHKEMMER
Prenatal Specialist

TISHA RITTER
Director of Development

KATIE STEPHENS
Accounting

MONICA VALLEJO
Hispanic Moms Specialist

HEIKE WAGNER
Volunteer Coordinator

the
flower
that blooms
in adversity is the
most rare and
beautiful
of all.

~Walt Disney



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

420 6th Street SE, Suite 260
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(319) 364-8909
www.ypniowa.org

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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