Dear Friends of YPN,

We each possess an amazing power. This power is seen and felt by me, our staff, and our incredible participants on a daily basis. Within us exists the profound opportunity to create change and improve our community for current and future generations.

While the journey is long, complicated, and challenging, YPN remains steadfast in its commitment to helping families and children thrive. In so doing, we envision a community where everyone is given the tools necessary to positively impact their life trajectory. We envision a community where every child lives in a safe, loving, and nurturing environment. And, we know this is possible if we collectively focus on working together to achieve amazing things.

I gratefully help lead at YPN because I see the power of the collective. I see the power our talented and compassionate staff have on the participants we serve. I see the power volunteers bring to the mission of our organization. I know how much better the world would be if we focused on supporting children at an early age. I know we can and YPN will continue for as long as you give us the honor and privilege of working to make you proud.

With gratitude,

Alejandro Piz
YPN Executive Director

Over the past year, My ‘Why?’ list keeps getting longer. I watch the respect our team has for the families they work with but I also see the respect and trust our families have in us. You show us that you also trust and respect us by your continued support for the work we are doing. We’ve added some new opportunities to support YPN this past year and it has made a difference! A sincere thank you for supporting our programming through your donations, grants, and gifts. You are supporting generational change.

I invite you to see your impact in action! There are many volunteer opportunities throughout the year, and we would love to have you join us. Our first Trivia Night in April 2023 was a huge success, and we are already planning Trivia Night 2024. Our Mobile Diaper Bank continues to make a huge impact, helping us distribute diapers in Linn and Jones Counties as well as be a visual (and adorable) reminder of YPN, the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank, and the families we impact. New this year, the YPN Legacy Society is an opportunity to plant the seeds in your honor and leave a legacy that will impact future families. What is Your Why?

Thank you for making a difference!

Kim’s Why

For more information, please contact me via phone at 319-364-8909, 515-450-8771, or khanna@ypniowa.org

Scan to learn more or visit www.ypniowa.org/give

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Brad’s Why

YPN would like to give special thanks to Brad Marcus for serving nine years on our board. We are grateful to Brad for dedicating his time and talents to our mission.

“ar all comes down to helping kids. I believe some kids are put in situations that they have no control over. YPN provides education and resources to parents at no cost, which in turn helps to making kids’ lives better, a mission that I can get behind.”

Brad Marcus, US Bank, Vice President
YPN Board of Directors, 2014-2023

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STAFF

ZAINAB AFGHAN, Afghan Community Program Specialist; NICKY ANTINA, African Community Parent Educator;
MINOCHE BANDUBILA, African Community Program Specialist; CAIT BEER, Program Specialist;
KELSEY CONNICK, Jones County Parent Educator; DANA CURTIS, Communications Coordinator;
TASIA DAVIDSON, We Care Shop & Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank Coordinator; KIM HANNA, Director of Advancement;
NICOLE HUMPAUL, Program Specialist; CAITLYN KESERBERG, Parent Educator;
EUPHRASIE LUKAMA, African Community Parent Educator, TAYLOR MATHER, Parent Educator;
MERIDITH MYERS, Director of Programs; ALEJANDRO PINO, Executive Director;
CYNTHIA RODRIGUEZ, Administrative Support; LIZBETH SALAS LANDA, Latino Community Parent Educator;
CHELSEY STECKLY, Program Supervisor, KATIE STEPHENS, Accounting; HEIKE WAGNER, Volunteer Coordinator
YPN’s Building Bright Futures core programming model offers participants comprehensive, long-term prenatal and parenting services, as well as access to post-partum support. Moms and dads who are pregnant or parenting children five and under typically come to YPN via a community referral. Families are then assigned to a program specialist who helps guide and support the entire family unit for as long as they choose to participate or until their child turns five and is ready to enter kindergarten. Families find the support, education and empowerment they need while connecting with their peers in a safe environment, offering transportation, a school meal, and childcare at no cost to them.

Studies show that everyday experiences with parents are fundamental to a child’s developing social skill-set. Parents provide a child with their very first opportunities to develop relationships, communicate and interact. Parents model for their child every day how to interact with the people around them.

Building Bright Futures Highlights

YPN served 329 parents and 229 kids at our Building Bright Futures weekly groups in FY23
7+ languages spoken by staff
83% improve social & emotional relationships with family and friends
91% of parents improve parenting skills
97% of kids are developmentally on track
100% of participants receive incentive points

Ages & Stages Questionnaire*

Percentage of YPN children who demonstrated these age-appropriate development skills:
- 90% in Gross Motor Skills
- 92% in Problem Solving
- 95% in Social Emotional Skills
- 88% Communication
- 91% in Fine Motor Skills

*Evaluation of our program is conducted twice each year. Results allow for early intervention and referrals as necessary.

“YPN is a very great program! They have really great staff & volunteers. Everyone helps to support parents and their children; my daughter Amyra loves them!”
Laniece Dampier, YPN Mom

“We are forever grateful for all YPN has done for us and continues to do for other parents in the community.”
Tyler, former YPN Dad

“I started YPN with my oldest son Dakota when he was nine-months old until he turned 5 years old. It was the best time of my life. I learned so many new things as a parent that I never knew before. But when I left, it was hard to leave because of all the friends I made and with the staff as well. Five years later, I ended up pregnant with my second son Zachariah, and YPN was gracious to allow me an exception to once again join their parenting groups. I made some new mom friends along the way, in addition to some amazing staff members as well! If it wasn’t for YPN, I don’t know where I would be. I would absolutely recommend anyone that is becoming a first-time parent to this program. Also, the We Care Shop is absolutely fantastic. I love going there to find new things for both of my children. They offer other incentives like the Diaper Bank and earning brand new toys during the holiday. This has been the best program I have been in with both of my children.”

Jessica’s Why

Jessica Russell, YPN Mom Graduate
YPN offers additional tools for parents via Decategorization (DECAT) curriculums and additional parent groups and trainings that expand on the support given through core YPN programming. The information provided helps to educate and improve behaviors & relationships between parents, children and community. Initiatives offer solutions to managing stress & conflicts while providing opportunities to connect with additional resources.

Many parents are unable to join us on Thursday evenings for our traditional Building Bright Futures programming and utilize our Home Visitation option. In FY23, YPN’s Short Term Home Visitation Program in Linn and Jones Counties, earned accreditation by the Iowa Family Support Credential (IFSC). YPN received official confirmation of this achievement in July 2022.

### Home Visitation Program Highlights

A YPN Home Visits at a glance:
- Families meet twice per month for 60 minutes with a Parents as Teachers® Certified Parent Educator
- Visits focus on family and child development with the Parents as Teachers® evidence-informed and research-based curriculum

YPN provided 1,330 Home Visits to 127 families with 172 children (ages 0-5) in Linn and Jones counties in FY23.

Home Visits are funded by Linn and Jones County Early Childhood of Iowa (ECI).

### Decategorization Program Highlights

YPN provided 150 hours of education to more than 270 parents in Linn, Iowa, and Benton counties via 30 courses in FY23.

Course Offerings Include:
- Parent Café
- 24/7 Dad
- Love & Logic
- Parents Forever
- Understanding Dad
- Incredible Years

These additional offerings are funded by Linn/Iowa/Benton Counties Decategorization (Decat) grant

### Miranda & Tony's Why

Miranda, Tony and their children have been committed to meeting bi-weekly in their home with their YPN Parent Educator since 2021, as participants in our Jones County Home Visitation programming. This service allows families who live outside of Linn County the opportunity to receive support and parenting education and earn the same incentive points that they can use in our We Care Shop and the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank, on diapers, clothing, toys and more!

“One of our favorite parts of YPN is the We Care shop. We have been able to get so much stuff for both of our kids, which has helped us save so much money! Without the help of diapers and the We Care Shop; our family would be struggling a lot more. This is a great benefit of the program!”

*Miranda and Tony, YPN Home Visitation Mom and Dad*
The Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank is making a huge impact in our community. Over the last year, we have distributed over 275,000 diapers in Linn, Jones, and Iowa Counties, providing free diapers and wipes to families. We know that one in three families in the United States struggle to afford diapers for their children, and thanks to generous donations, we are able to take that stress off of them. With our new Mobile Diaper Bank, we were able to partner with the HACAP Mobile Food Truck and provide diapers in Williamsburg, Marengo, Anamosa, Olin, and Monticello as well as at our headquarters in downtown Cedar Rapids. Our annual Operation Diaper Drive provides hundreds of donated diapers for us to distribute. This year, we received a federal grant as part of the Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot (3DRP) which provides all diaper needs monthly to our home visitation families.

Since our inception in 2016, the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank has distributed more than 1.6 million diapers, and we cannot be prouder of the impact YPN and the Eastern Iowa Health Center have made through our partnership. You can support the Eastern Iowa Diaper Bank by donating diapers or funds or consider holding a diaper drive in your business, church, neighborhood, or community group.
As a YPN SEEDS for Growth Giving Society member, your commitment makes an immediate impact on the critical needs of our agency and local families.

- Support for families though growing programs, providing knowledgeable staff & volunteers
- Educate families by offering quality curriculums, incentives, and access to resources
- Empower families to be their best, and achieve their goals with accountability and dignity
- Discretionary budget that allows us to grow our overall operations and capabilities
- Share YPN opportunities with your staff: to donate, gift matching, and volunteer time off

In 2020, the Brian Stutzman Giving Society was established to honor the former Executive Director’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. To learn more visit us at www.ypniowa.org/give

Thank You for making an impact!

These community partners and individuals supported YPN programs with cash or grant contributions at the $500 level or higher between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

Thank you for your generous investment to our mission and future!
Young Parents Network
420 6th Street S.E., Suite 260
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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

Join us as we Support, Educate, and Empower local families to be the best they can be! Your contribution powers the programs and services YPN provides.

www.ypniowa.org