

Reflecting on Accomplishments from the Past Year and Charting Our Course for 2021

We are pleased to share with you our accomplishments, discoveries, and opportunities from this past year, and excited to tell you about our plans for the upcoming school year.



2019-20

HYC Program Services

Celebrating 10 years of providing services for high school youth experiencing homelessness, Homeless Youth Connection (HYC) prides itself on being an organization with a focus on evidence-based models, trauma-informed philosophies, and strength-based approaches to service. Additionally, HYC strives each year to make a greater impact on the youth we serve, resulting in successful outcomes that create sustainable change.

Youth Served and Graduation

We know, statistically speaking, more than 75% of homeless youth drop out of high school. Students who don't earn a high school diploma are much more likely to face poverty, bad health, require welfare, and engage in crime. Earning a high school diploma is more critical than ever before.

In the 2019-2020 school year, HYC served 444 students, a lower number than previous years; we will share why below. Of the youth served, there were 70 freshman, 90 sophomores, 80 juniors, 164 seniors and 38 alumni. In May, there were 115 seniors actively participating in the program. Of those, 77 graduated, and 31 will be attending summer school or another year of high school to make up classes. HYC helped 108 (or 94%) of seniors stay in school and complete their education. This is a 3% increase from our 2018-2019 school year.

This past year, HYC experienced unexpected events that led to a lower than expected number of youth served. We had anticipated serving approximately 800 youth, which was on trend from previous years. As mentioned above, HYC served 444 youth this past year. This lower number was a result from:

- Fewer youth being identified and referred to HYC from several high school districts.
- COVID-19: schools closed mid-March and went to online education. This also slowed down the identification process for homeless youth.

As a result, HYC spent considerable time meeting with all the districts to address concerns and challenges they experienced in referring students. The greatest challenge for some districts was that HYC is required to use a client database system due to federal funding

HYC receives. There were concerns with how the information in the new database system was being used. These concerns have been addressed and we believe the issue has been resolved.

Interestingly, the lower number of students provided HYC a fresh perspective and an opportunity to look at our service model and make some changes to have a stronger impact with the youth we serve. We will share more about this in our Upcoming School Year section: Implement a Tier I and Tier II service model.

The impact of COVID-19 is something our entire community has been managing. We are working closely with our school representatives to be prepared to serve youth in the upcoming year considering all possible learning situations—remote, hybrid or in-person.

HYC is committed to providing essential services while maintaining safety for the youth we serve, our community partners and our staff.



Host Family Program

This year, HYC provided safe and stable housing to 18 unaccompanied youth through the Host Family program. Of those youth, nine of the ten seniors graduated from high school. Four students were last year's graduates who HYC continued to support during their first year of college. Three were juniors who will continue with HYC this coming school year to complete their senior year.

All nine graduates completed their Plan for the Future, including completing their FAFSA. Seven of the nine are enrolling in college, and the other two are pursuing full time employment. Five are currently employed. Eight of the youth have their birth certificate and social security card, and all are working on securing their state ID card.

Of the 18 youth who have participated in the Host Family Program this year, 12 received counseling, 11 received transportation assistance, two received assistance with identifying a primary care and dental provider and assistance with insurance, and three received assistance with securing identification documents and vital records.

Aftercare Services

This past year, HYC completed its first year of Aftercare Services for 46 youth who have completed the HYC program. Upon exiting the program, aftercare services are offered by case managers to include a monthly check-in with youth to ensure they have continued their housing sustainability, access to services and any assistance they may need.

PILOT PROGRAM: Employment After High School

Over the past two years, we have seen a growing trend with HYC graduates who are interested in gaining employment after high school rather than attending secondary education. It was important for HYC to offer access to employers who could provide a sustainable wage, benefits and an opportunity for training and ongoing employment. In January 2020, HYC partnered with Trinity Opportunity Alliance to provide youth with companies that foster a positive and all-inclusive opportunity for employment including Fry's Food Stores and Amazon. Both companies presented

employment and career opportunities to HYC, and how we could best prepare youth for interviews. Since the partnerships began, more than 20 high school seniors have been hired and continue to be employed. It is our hope to expand these partnerships to secure tracks for a variety of specialties in the fields of technology, automotive, banking, and restaurant services.

PILOT PROGRAM: School Resource Pantries

After months of planning, this past year HYC teamed up with Phoenix Union High School District, Carl T. Hayden High School and community partners from across Maricopa County to help create the Falcon Family and Community Resource Center. The Resource Center offers clothing, hygiene items and school supplies as well as some household items to students and families in need of resources. This center allows youth to have quicker access and the ability to make their own selections instead of having their case manager make choices for them. This center is open during school hours and on select Saturdays throughout the year.

2019-20 Conclusion | This past year has been challenging, exciting, eye-opening and opportunity-filled. We are proud of our work and the impact we made despite some programming obstacles we did not anticipate. This upcoming year will look different as we navigate making plans and keeping safe with the Coronavirus and collaborating with our school districts' response. We are energized with our plans for the upcoming year and are excited to share with you.

Upcoming School Year

Several of our experiences from last year have given us pause to reevaluate and consider making modifications to better provide services and make a greater impact for youth experiencing homelessness.

THIS YEAR WE WILL:

1. Provide service within COVID-19 guidelines
2. Implement Tier I and Tier II service model
3. Implement Resource Pantries on school campuses
4. Staff Training: modified language and philosophy
5. Offer services to first-year college students
6. Expanded sustainable employment resources

Provide Service Within COVID-19 Guidelines

As HYC plans for the beginning of the school year, we are working with all our districts to determine how services are going to be provided under the restrictions caused by COVID-19. We are committed to adjusting our program delivery to ensure that youth experiencing homelessness receive the basic needs and services so they can stay in school and complete their education.

- This will include meeting with youth on their school campuses, potential home visits, as well as through virtual platforms.
- HYC will continue to assist with access to online learning. HYC will provide youth with computers, hot spots and wi-fi services to those students who are unable to secure these resources through their schools.
- We are also planning to increase distribution of food gift cards, hygiene items and cleaning supplies.

2020-21



HYC is grateful to our community partners for providing emergency funding due to COVID-19 to meet the needs:



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

FYSB Family & Youth
Services Bureau
Runaway & Homeless
Youth Program





Upcoming School Year *(Continued)*

Implement Tier I and Tier II Service Models

The lower number of youth served this past year presented HYC with a great opportunity to evaluate the quality of service case managers were able to provide our youth. We noticed case managers had more time with students, which created/provided a greater impact in the progress and success of our youth. HYC conducted an assessment and concluded approximately 30% of our youth need more comprehensive case management services (many of whom are unaccompanied); while 70% of youth in our program primarily need access to basic needs such as hygiene, school supplies and clothing, but not comprehensive case management services because they are part of a family whose living situation may be doubled up and has more resources.

Taking all this into consideration, HYC has adjusted our service model to categorize the youth's needs into Tier I or Tier II. By breaking services into separate tiers, we are better able to manage and offer our resources more appropriately—we can give more time to youth who need it and not require those who don't need case management to be pulled out of class for an HYC case management meeting.

Implement Resource Pantries on School Campuses

This year, HYC will collaborate with all school districts to help establish and support 10 Resource Closets in districts throughout Maricopa County. The closets will provide homeless youth with basic needs including clothing, hygiene items, school supplies and food. By providing the Resource Closet closer to the students, they will be able to access items more quickly and make their own selections, rather than having to wait and asking their case manager make selections for them.

Staff Training: Modified Language and Philosophy

During this process of case management and program evaluation, HYC has also placed greater focus on the quality of services provided to youth. Upon review of the types of case management offered and the activities completed, HYC is establishing a series of evidence-based, youth-led intervention models and philosophies into case management.

These models include:

- Motivational Interviewing
- Stages-of-Change Theory
- Resiliency Theory
- Positive Youth Development
- Authentic Youth Engagement
- Trauma-Informed – All Staff

During the summer, HYC will provide training on these areas to equip case managers with the tools to implement case management services more congruent with current research and youth-centered methods.

In addition, to provide consistent improvement across the agency, HYC has also started to become a fully integrated top-down trauma-informed social service agency, to provide services in ways that will best meet the needs of youth experiencing homelessness. Though we continue to train our staff on trauma-informed care, we also know that it is more than just a training. Trauma-informed care also applies to policies, procedures, and language. As a result, HYC has begun reviewing its policies and language through a trauma-informed lens to ensure consistency from the top down. One of these activities involves a significant terminology change. For example, HYC has chosen to move away from terms like "Case Manager" and retitled our direct service position to Youth Coach.

Offering Services to First-Year College Students

This upcoming year, HYC will offer services to HYC graduates who are beginning their first year of college. Research indicates that 30% of college freshman drop out their first year, the primary reasons being lack of sufficient income, lack of affordable housing, and family or parental conflict. HYC aims to alleviate these concerns by providing the same services and resources to first-year college students experiencing homelessness. HYC has been in conversations with ASU and Maricopa Community Colleges to develop an HYC program to offer support to first-year college students. These services will also include an expansion of the Host Family program to include first-year college students.

Expanded Sustainable Employment Resources

HYC recognizes that not all youth want to attend college after graduation. In fact, over the past two years we have seen an increase in the number of youth wanting to pursue full-time employment upon graduation. Based on our 2020 graduating class, 50% of students have chosen to pursue employment. To best support these youth, HYC is developing a Career Track for graduating seniors. Developing a partnership with Trinity Opportunity Alliance, HYC is working collaboratively with local corporate employers such as Fry's and Amazon, who have a heart for at-risk youth and a willingness to walk alongside our students with a trauma-informed lens.



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On behalf of HYC's board and staff, we want to thank our donors, volunteers, and community partners for their support this past year. Together, we will continue to eliminate the barriers to graduation for homeless youth.

HYC Financial Statements

Condensed Financial Statements – Years Ended June 30, 2019 and 2020.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$805,787	\$328,469
Contributions receivable	12,500	75,000
Government grants receivable		47,250
Donated inventory	27,613	76,099
Deposits	4,556	4,556
Prepaid expenses	2,423	2,426
Property and equipment, net	1,861	
Total assets	\$854,740	\$533,800
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$11,006	\$1,237
Accrued payroll	30,820	21,727
Refundable advance	81,713	
Total liabilities	123,539	22,964
Total net assets	731,201	510,836
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$854,740	\$533,800

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
Revenue, Support and Gains		
Contributions	\$1,187,863	\$1,043,322
Contributions – in kind	369,742	308,193
PPP loan forgiveness	119,761	
Government grants	149,667	194,415
Interest and dividends	15	16
Other income	50	35
Net assets released from restrictions		
Total Revenue, Support and Gains	\$1,827,098	\$1,545,981
Expenses and Losses		
Program Services	\$1,356,954	\$1,033,717
Total Program Expenses	1,356,954	1,033,717
Supporting Services Management and general	108,850	47,142
Fundraising	140,929	102,020
Total supporting services	249,779	149,162
Total expenses and losses	1,606,733	1,182,879
Change in net assets	\$220,365	\$363,102
Net assets, beginning of year	\$510,836	\$147,734
Net assets, end of year	\$731,201	\$510,836

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	2020	2019
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$479,644	\$201,988
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$328,469	\$126,481
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$805,787	\$328,469

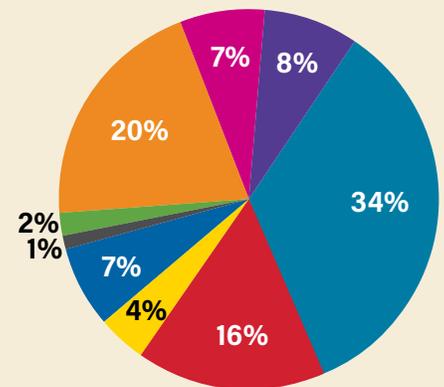
BASIS OF PREPARATION: These condensed financial statements do not include all of the financial statements or footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles. Homeless Youth Connection is audited by Heinfeld, Meech & Co., P.C., an independent CPA firm. Copies of the audited financial statements are available from HYC upon request.

2019-2020 HYC Funding Sources

REVENUE

Corporations	\$151,445
Foundations	\$627,030
Individual Giving	\$290,864
Community Events	\$81,089
TLP Federal Grant	\$131,067
Local Government Agencies	\$18,600
United Way	\$37,500
In-kind/Gift Card Donations	\$369,742
PPP Loan	\$119,761

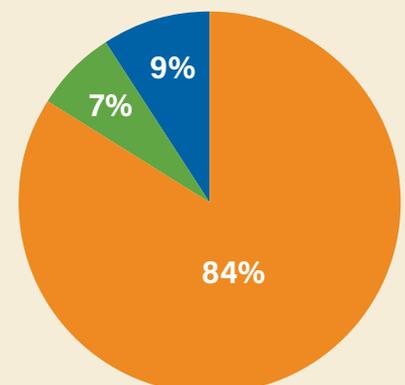
TOTAL REVENUE \$1,827,098



2019-2020 HYC Spending Sources

EXPENSES

Program	\$1,356,954
Management & General	\$108,850
Fundraising	\$140,929
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,606,733

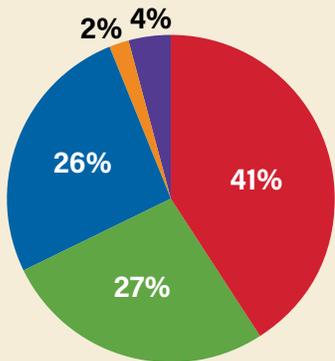


Who Do We Serve?



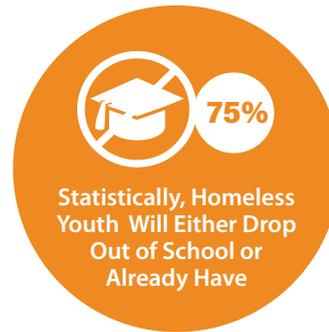
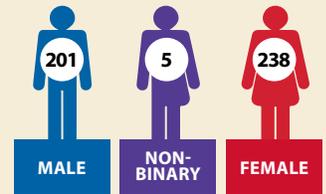
ETHNICITY

■ Hispanic	182
■ Black or African Am	119
■ White	115
■ Asian	9
■ Native Am	19
TOTAL SERVED	444



- HYC serves homeless youth, 13 to 21 years of age, who attend high schools throughout Maricopa County
- Each youth is identified by their school as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act
- Youth are without a stable home and homeless through no fault or choice of their own

GENDER



HOMELESS YOUTH CONNECTION Board of Directors & Trustees 2019-20

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 Julie Rewerts, *Youth Coach*
 Jordan Smith, *Youth Coach*

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hyc.org

HYC'S MISSION: To eliminate barriers to graduation for homeless youth and create lasting solutions for a successful future through community support and increased awareness.

HYC'S VISION
 Homelessness will not limit a youth's opportunity for a successful future.