



cityYouth now

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Bridging the Gap  
for San Francisco  
Youth in Crisis

*“During the nearly three years I served as judge in our juvenile delinquency court, I do not think a week went by without me seeing City Youth Now step up to assist a young person in need. Their response was always immediate. City Youth Now was there, at a moment’s notice, to respond when a young person needed it most.*

*From small things, such as providing graduation gifts, to helping scores of young people find meaningful internships and critical stipends, City Youth Now ensures that young people who are eager to work learn vital job skills and stay safe. City Youth Now’s unique services provide critical and immediate aid to our most at risk youngsters. Our Juvenile Court and the youth we all serve are fortunate to have such an extraordinary partner in the juvenile justice system.”*

*Judge Kathleen Kelly*

The stories contained within are true however names and images have been changed to protect the identities of our youth.

<b>History of City Youth Now: Who We Are Today</b> .....	4
<b>Executive Director / President’s Letter</b> .....	5
<b>Current Year Highlights</b> .....	6
2011 Revenue.....	7
2011 Expenses.....	8
Demographics .....	9
<b>Volunteer Involvement</b> .....	10
<b>Community Support</b> .....	11
<b>Employment and Independent Living</b>	
Internship .....	12
Independent Living Support.....	13
<b>Personal Development and Health</b>	
Personal Development Classes.....	14
Recreational Activities and Equipment .....	15
Camperships.....	16
Medical and Dental Assistance.....	17
Programs at the Hall .....	18
<b>Education and Literacy</b>	
Tutoring, Testing and Textbooks .....	19
Author Visits.....	20
Graduation Expenses / Recognition .....	21
Library Services.....	22
<b>Social Services, Safety and Critical Needs</b>	
Emergency Clothing .....	23
Project K.E.E.P. ....	24
The Anne DeVincenzi Dito Holiday Gift Program .....	25
Weapons in Minors’ Possession (W.I.M.P.) .....	26
<b>Board of Directors</b> .....	27



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FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY, OUR MISSION HAS REMAINED CONSTANT — City Youth Now supports youth in the San Francisco foster care and juvenile justice systems by providing funds for services and programs that promote stability and personal growth.

City Youth Now, originally founded in 1950 as the Volunteer Auxiliary of the Youth Guidance Center, is the first non-profit organization of its kind in the history of the United States' juvenile court system. For over 60 years, City Youth Now has been diligently working behind the scenes to address the unique needs of children and youth under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Juvenile Court System. Probation officers, social workers, attorneys, and others come to us daily with requests for youth under their supervision. These requests are for many different opportunities and are based upon the individual needs of the youth in the system. City Youth Now works to ensure that youth in the juvenile court system have the same positive youth development opportunities as other children to grow into mature and successful adults. We recognize that all children deserve a chance at a better future. In the life of a child, it is often the small things, beyond the basic necessities, that are monumental to growth and development and pave the way for youth to transition into successful adults.

The realities youth in the system face intensify every decade. All of the youth we serve come from low-income families, often with histories of child abuse and neglect, gun violence, incarceration, and/or substance abuse. They range in age from newborn to 18 years old, sometimes older for those youth who have recently emancipated from foster care. While they come from different neighborhoods in San Francisco, they have in common that they have each endured more than their share of trauma and hardship. Our hope is that by providing them with new opportunities and enriched experiences, they will have a better chance of breaking out of the cycle of crime and violence that entraps so many of their peers and adult community members.

CITY YOUTH NOW BRIDGES THE GAP FOR SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH IN CRISIS.

Dear Friends,

For 62 years, City Youth Now has been dedicated to serving San Francisco's abused, neglected, and forgotten children. Over the past few years, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems have experienced the negative effects of budget cuts and program setbacks. These reductions have impacted health services, group home funding, foster family services, and support for youth transitioning out of the foster care system.

These budget cutbacks affect the day-to-day lives of youth in the San Francisco foster care and juvenile justice systems and without doubt have a detrimental impact on their successful transition to adulthood. City Youth Now remains committed to bridging the gap and raising the essential funds to support youth in the San Francisco juvenile justice and foster care systems when no one else can or will.

Throughout 2011, City Youth Now continued to respond to the needs of youth in the system as economic setbacks diminished their access to programs, support, and funding assistance. City Youth Now worked closely with the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department and Woodside Learning Center to assist detained youth in the completion of their studies, GED exams, and online college courses while detained. In sustaining connections with these and other community-based organizations, we are better able to serve youth in the Juvenile Court System.

Through the City Youth Now Internship Program, we have been instrumental in getting youth off the streets and employed even as statewide unemployment rose to record highs, and in doing so prepared dozens of youth for future full-time employment. Together, all of us at City Youth Now remain focused and committed to providing the best possible services and programs to youth in the system to facilitate a successful transition to independence.

We know that our success as an organization is entirely dependent upon individual donors and foundations who invest in the future of San Francisco's forgotten children by providing them with the opportunity to excel in school, experience new opportunities, transition confidently to adulthood, or find comfort during a traumatic time. Today, youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems need your help more than ever.

In these pages, we hope to provide you with a glimpse of the important work we do here at City Youth Now. Now, more than ever, we must remember that it takes a village to raise a child. Thank you for helping us to make a difference.

Best Regards,

Elizabeth Fairbanks  
Executive Director

Jack Gallagher  
President, Board of Directors

## CURRENT YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

**City Youth Now has provided over 4,000 opportunities to youth in 2010-2011. Within each of our mandates, we have fulfilled requests as follows:**

### EMPLOYMENT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

- 213** Youth on probation were provided with paid internships, helping them prepare for employment.
- 72** Youth received transportation assistance and help getting set up to live independently.

### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

- 11** Youth received summer camp scholarships:
  - 94% of campers say camp helped them make new friends;
  - 96% of campers say that camp helped them feel good about themselves;
  - 78% of our campers say that they tried things at camps that they were afraid to do at first;
  - 90% of our campers say that they got to know adults who helped them and made them feel secure.
- 13** Dependent and delinquent youth received medical and dental assistance.
- 29** Youth were provided opportunities to participate in artistic pursuits, create healthier coping mechanisms and develop specific life skills by attending a variety of instructive classes.
- 48** Foster youth and youth on probation were provided recreation and sports opportunities in the form of classes, league registration fees, gym memberships and sports equipment.

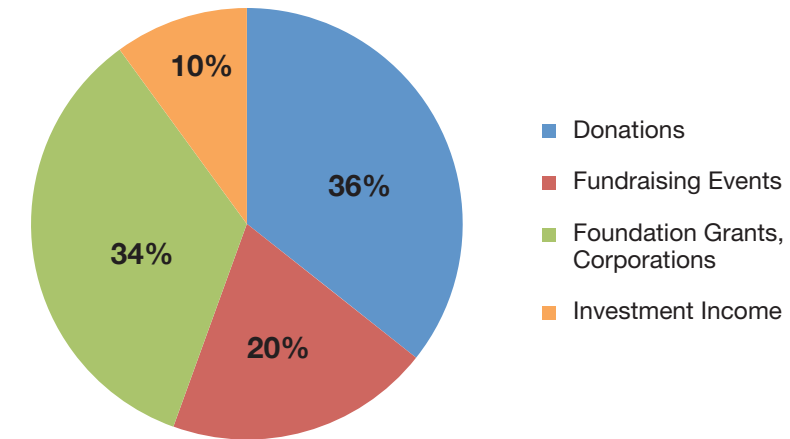
### EDUCATION AND LITERACY

- 597** Youth were provided funding for education and literacy support, textbooks and tutoring services provided by City Youth Now.
- 470** Dependent and delinquent youth had the opportunity to attend Author Visits from authors who came from around the Bay Area and beyond.
- 181** Youth were provided support to purchase caps and gowns, senior pictures and senior trips as well as given backpacks and alarm clocks as graduation gifts.
- 680** Youth were served by the library service and literacy programs, including reading groups, literacy tutoring, new books for the youth and library, and writing programs.

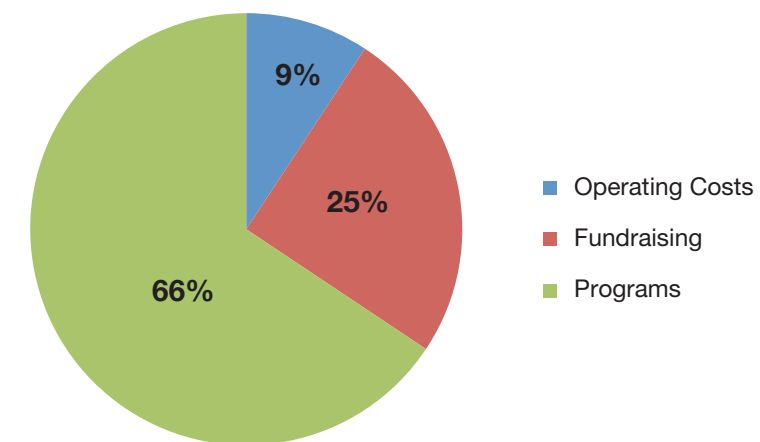
### SOCIAL SERVICES, SAFETY AND CRITICAL NEEDS

- 46** Youth were provided with emergency clothing vouchers.
- 400** Children removed from their homes and taken to the Child Protection Center were provided with duffle bags, backpacks and hundreds of articles of clothing.
- 570** Youth were provided holiday gifts, most of whom would likely not have received a gift if it were not for City Youth Now.

## 2011 REVENUE



## 2011 EXPENSES





MANDATE / Service	Expense as % of Total	Program
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING</b>		
Internship	43%	Internship
Residential Assistance and Transportation	3%	Grant
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING</b>	<b>46%</b>	
<b>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH</b>		
Recreation Classes and Equipment	11%	Grant
Programs at the Hall	5%	Service
Medical and Dental Assistance	2%	Grant
Campership	2%	Grant
Life Skills, Behavior and Therapy	1%	Grant
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH</b>	<b>21%</b>	
<b>EDUCATION AND LITERACY</b>		
Tutoring, Testing and Textbooks	12%	Grant/Service
Scholarships	3%	Scholarship
Graduation Packages	2%	Grant
Author Program	1%	Service
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION AND LITERACY</b>	<b>18%</b>	
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES, SAFETY AND CRITICAL NEEDS</b>		
Emergency Clothing	14%	Grant
Project K.E.E.P.	1%	Gifts
Holiday Gift Program*	*	Gifts
<b>TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND CRITICAL NEEDS</b>	<b>15%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

The City Youth Now programs focus on four key areas that provide youth the skills and resources they need to grow into mature and successful adults. These four service mandates are as follows:

- 1) Employment and Independent Living
- 2) Personal Development and Health
- 3) Education and Literacy
- 4) Social Services, Safety and Critical Needs

The services under these mandates are supported by programs that deliver service in one of four ways:

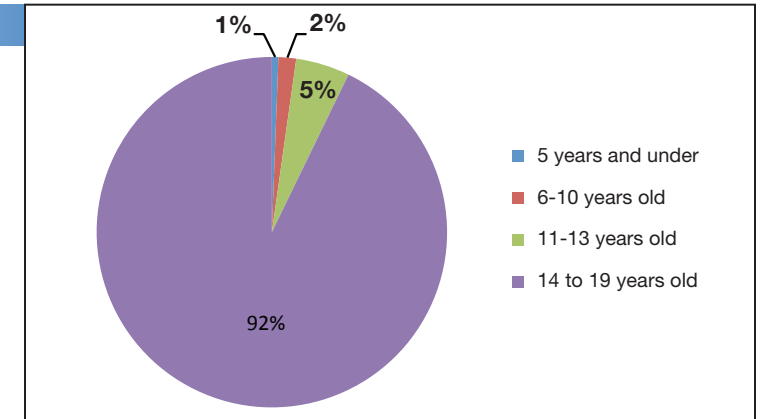
**Grants** – City Youth Now clients initiate requests for funds for goods or services.

**Internship** – local businesses provide opportunities for City Youth Now clients to participate in 110 hours of on-the-job experience, and City Youth Now provides a financial stipend to its clients as an incentive to participate.

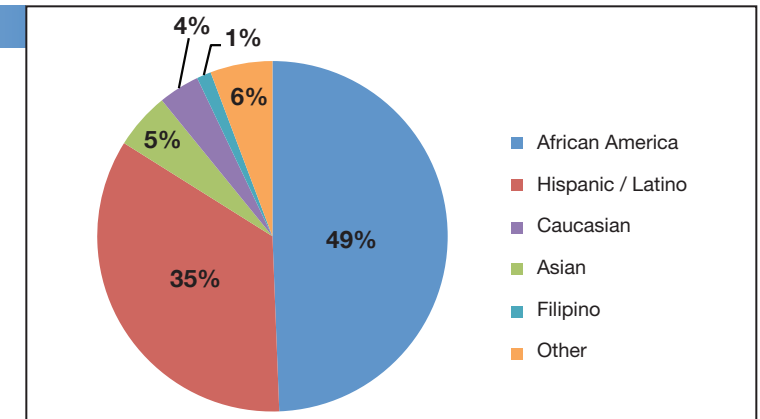
**Services** – Program Staff, Volunteers and members of the community offer seminars, classes and support to City Youth Now clients to develop skills and community awareness.

**Gifts and Scholarships** – City Youth Now provides cash scholarships and gifts to its clients.

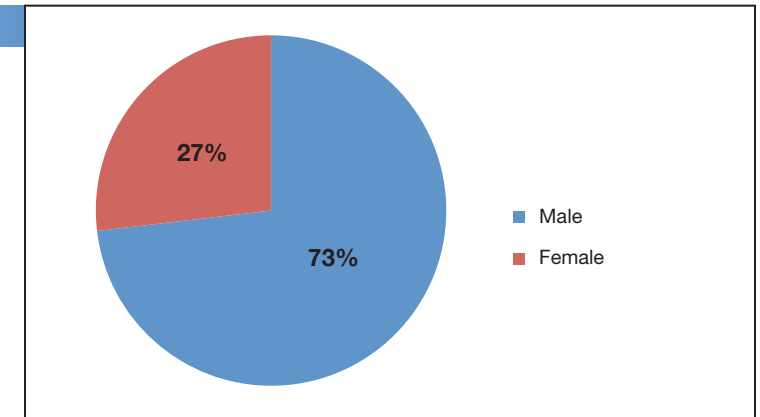
AGE



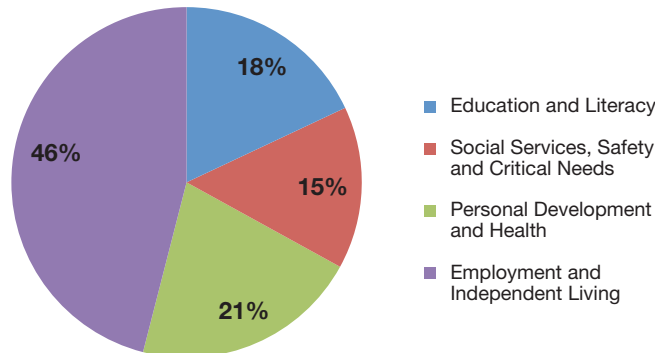
ETHNICITY



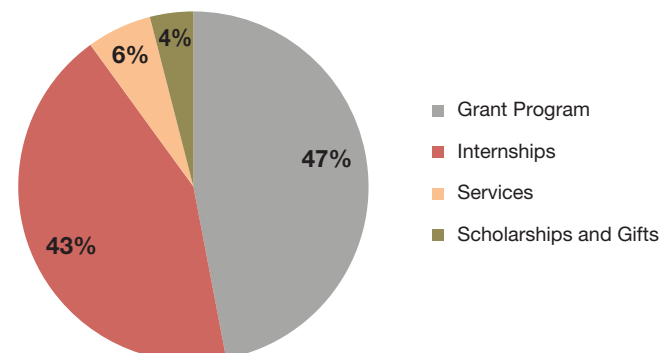
GENDER



EXPENSES BY MANDATE



EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



*“When I was introduced to the various programs City Youth Now offered for youth, I was really amazed because I never knew these programs existed...it was really rewarding to know that all the effort I put into the [grant] proposals may directly benefit the youth who are in need.”*

Jenny Vien  
Volunteer



## VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

City Youth Now is dependent on its volunteers. These dedicated people make a difference in the lives of San Francisco’s neediest children by donating thousands of hours to our programs and services. From creating a backpack for a child placed in Foster Care to providing extra academic assistance through tutoring to complete GED exams, volunteers dedicate their time and talents to help youth reach their potential and choose better paths once they leave the Juvenile Justice Center.

Our volunteers are also very active in fundraising by sharing contacts and making introductions, by helping at events and by providing the necessary marketing and planning expertise to ensure that our fundraising efforts are successful. In addition, our office volunteers help to ensure that the staff’s time and energy is primarily focused on delivering the much-needed services to City Youth Now’s clients.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for their commitment and ongoing effort to ensure that every child in our community receives services that generates a sense of self-worth and dignity.

### July 2010 – June 2011 Volunteer Support (hours)

Program Volunteers	1,350
Fundraising Volunteers	1,850
Administrative Volunteers	830
<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>4,030</b>



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

City Youth Now relies primarily on donations, grants and corporate sponsorship and support. We are grateful to all of those who continue to support our efforts through their generous contributions.

We proudly recognize our financial supporters on our website at [www.cityyouthnow.org](http://www.cityyouthnow.org)



*“The City Youth Now Internship Program is a great way to experience what it is like to work in the field of your interest. It gives you an idea of what kind of work you want to look for, and even helps you add to or even create your resume. I learned a lot from my internship as a prep cook and I am now in the process of going to culinary school to become a chef. All thanks to the people at City Youth Now!”*

*Fabian Flores, Age 19  
Juvenile Justice Youth*

Fabian entered the youth probation system at the age of 17. He will be attending culinary school this spring and expects to complete his training by the end of the year.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

City Youth Now’s Internship Program is designed to prepare youth for employment through a well-supervised and supportive environment. The Internship Program introduces participants to typical work environments, allowing youth to gain the self-confidence, career awareness, financial literacy, and the interpersonal skills needed to succeed in the long term. The Internship Program is designed with maximum flexibility so that youth and probation officers are able to find appropriate placements. City Youth Now pays interns a limited stipend during their internship with a local business or community organization. The internship is an intensive 3-step program consisting of a total of 110 hours of work experience. At the end of the program, the youth are required to submit a resume, a cover letter, a letter of recommendation from their supervisor, and to participate in a mock interview at our office. City Youth Now is committed to assisting youth in making a successful transition to healthy adulthood and economic independence.

According to the Youth Council of Workforce Investment San Francisco’s February 2011 report on “Building Our Youth for the Future: Strengthening San Francisco’s Youth Workforce System”:

“Young people need a strong academic foundation if they are to obtain San Francisco’s high-knowledge, high-skill jobs and contribute to our local economy. Unfortunately, large numbers of San Francisco youth lack the education and skills necessary to connect successfully with the workforce.

Workforce experiences and training can be a powerful means of supporting young people’s educational achievement. For 14-18 year olds, workforce experiences help students that are having difficulty in school, or who have dropped out of school, reengage in their education. These experiences can further students’ interests and efforts in education by giving them an understanding of the “why” behind learning and showing the relevance and connectedness of academic knowledge.”

Through City Youth Now’s Internship program, in addition to its Education and Literacy mandate, we address these unique needs among youth.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED 213 YOUTH ON PROBATION WITH PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, HELPING THEM TO PREPARE FOR EMPLOYMENT.

For youth who had emancipated from the Juvenile Justice System, only 40% were employed for one year or more, and fewer than 20% were self-supporting.\*

40-55% of youth in this population are homeless within 18 months of turning eighteen.

\*Youth Leaving Care, A. Tweddle (2007)

## INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

For the 20,000 youth nationwide who emancipate or age out of the foster-care system every year, nothing is more terrifying (and exciting?) than the number 18. It is on this birthday that these youth, many abused and neglected before entering the system, are expected to become responsible adults. At 18, they are instantly cut off from a system that has never prepared them to live on their own.

City Youth Now provides support for the youth emancipating or aging out from the foster care system in San Francisco. This support includes small deposits on apartments, furniture, kitchen supplies, transportation, support for job training programs, and much more.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW FILLED 72 REQUESTS TO ASSIST YOUTH WITH TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES AND COSTS RELATED TO MOVING OUT OF THEIR FOSTER CARE HOMES AND INTO THEIR OWN HOUSING.

“This past year, 149 youth within San Francisco aged out of the foster care system. 71% of these youth were in the system for three years or longer and 100% of these youth still need support and services.”\*

\*Child Welfare Dynamic Report System, UC Berkeley



*“I was scared and excited when I turned eighteen. I was happy to finally be on my own, but I was nervous because I had no funds or any kind of support. But my social worker and City Youth Now helped me out and now I have a place to call home.”*

*Wilson, Age 19  
Former Foster Youth*

Wilson entered the foster care system when he was six years old due to his mother’s substance abuse. He first lived with his older brother who was ill-equipped to care for him. Wilson lived in several group homes before emancipating earlier this year. He now lives in his own apartment, has a steady job, and is a student at San Francisco State University.



## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH

Probation officers, social workers, attorneys, and advocates come to us daily with requests for the youth they supervise. Under this mandate, City Youth Now pays for youth to attend summer camp, participate in extra-curricular activities like football, soccer, baseball, dance, art, and yoga, and provides supplemental medical and dental assistance to address particular areas of need. City Youth Now has found that encouraging youth to participate in these types of activities results in youth developing positive relationships with peers and adults, increases self-respect, and provides an opportunity for personal growth. In short, what begins as a way for youth to become physically and mentally active results in their becoming healthier and more well-rounded individuals.

City Youth Now's personal development fund provides support for youth in the system by funding activities and programs which promote development of healthier coping mechanisms and particular life skills, as well as to nurture artistic endeavors. In contrast to traditional prevention models, positive youth development (or personal development) emphasizes building skills and strengths in youth in addition to preventing common negative outcomes. Children who are wards of the court, or have been taken away from their birth families because of abuse or neglect, may not have had the opportunity to learn skills that would otherwise come from consistent, positive parenting experiences, such as anger management, learning how to drive, or learning how to sing or play a musical instrument. City Youth Now provides these important opportunities to the youth it serves.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 29 YOUTH.

"Youth violence is linked to risk-taking behaviors. Core competencies for healthier youth include a positive sense of self, self-control, and decision-making skills."\*

\* New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development, A.F. Bettencore (2008)

*"Trayvon's self confidence has been greatly increased by finding an art in which he does very well. Just as his age and psychological stability have prompted him to be more interested in his peers, he has found a peer group (band) in which he makes mainstream friends. It makes him love school."*

*Betsy Darr  
Court Appointed Special Advocate for Trayvon*

Trayvon, an 11 year old foster youth, was living in a therapeutic residential group. He began playing bass clarinet in the school band, loved it, and was making progress. City Youth Now provided Trayvon with a grant to take additional music lessons to help foster his talent.



*"My son loves sports and has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). [His football league] involves him with others and occupies time and teaches discipline."*

*Jacquez's Mother*

## RECREATION CLASSES AND EQUIPMENT

Where the Personal Development services focus on developing strong emotional skills and nurturing activities, the Recreation services focus on the physical health and well-being of youth. With youth obesity rates continuing to be a national concern, City Youth Now serves youth from lower income families that are particularly susceptible to rising obesity levels. By providing youth with grants for dance classes, sports league registration fees, gym memberships, and sports equipment, we provide encouragement for healthy outlets for these high-energy kids, and reduce the risk that this energy will be directed to problem behavior. Participation in sports also exposes these youth to positive adult role models in their coaches and instructors, and fosters a sense of teamwork and cooperation that has likely been missing from their experiences.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET 48 REQUESTS FROM FOSTER YOUTH AND YOUTH ON PROBATION.

Jacquez is a 13 year old boy who was provided a grant from City Youth Now for his annual football league registration fees.





## CAMPERSHIPS

City Youth Now's Campership Program provides young people in the foster care and juvenile justice systems the opportunity to attend residential summer camp programs and get out of the city, often for the first time. Approximately 2/3 of the youth population served by City Youth Now will become entangled with drugs, teen pregnancy, violence, and drop out of school. Summer camps focus on the development of key characteristics through camp activities and programs. These characteristics include building self esteem, social skills, relationships with adult mentors, self-confidence, perseverance, and independence.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW FUNDED SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 11 YOUTH.

94% of our campers say camp helped them make new friends.

96% of our campers say that camp helped them feel good about themselves.

78% of our campers say they tried things at camp that they were afraid to do at first.

90% of our campers say they got to know adults who helped them and made them feel secure.

*"Camp was an experience that I will never forget. The trip tested my limits. I was not accustomed to doing hours of activities and depending on other people. I benefited a great deal from this trip because it gave me the feeling of accomplishment. I have never been canoeing before and it felt great to accomplish something that I thought was out of my league."*

Laura, Age 14  
Foster Youth



Laura has been in foster care for over seven years. She has lived in several different homes and attended three different schools. She is always struggling to adjust to her new surroundings and make them feel like home. Now, each summer, she looks forward to attending summer camp, thanks to a scholarship from City Youth Now.



## MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Children seldom enter foster care with a comprehensive medical history intact. Subsequent medical records are often missing or poorly maintained. City Youth Now receives many requests for eyeglasses or hearing aids for youth in Juvenile Hall who were never told before that they had vision or hearing problems, or for weight loss and nutrition programs for youth who are suffering from obesity or other medical problems.

City Youth Now helps with medical and dental expenses that cannot be provided by any other funding source.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR 13 DEPENDENT AND DELINQUENT YOUTH.

Between 20-60% of children entering foster care have developmental disabilities or delays, compared with about 10% of the general population.\*

35-85% of children entering foster care have significant mental health problems.\*

30% of youth in the foster care system have no health insurance when they age out.\*\*

\*HEY SF: [www.heysf.org](http://www.heysf.org)

\*\*CCS Partnership: [www.ccspartnership.org](http://www.ccspartnership.org)

*"Now that I have glasses, I can see the board in the classroom and understand what the teacher is writing. Thank you for helping me see better."*

Daniel, Age 16  
Foster Youth and Juvenile  
Probation Youth

Daniel entered the foster care system at the age of 10. He had changed placements and schools four times by the age of fifteen. Longing to fit in, Daniel started hanging out with the wrong crowd when he was picked up for shop lifting. With support from City Youth Now, Daniel is now excelling in school. The first step towards success was the purchase of eye glasses, since Daniel was tested to be legally blind without them.



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT JUVENILE HALL

For several years, City Youth Now has sponsored author visits to the individual units and library at the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center. In 2007, we took our mission statement one step further to sponsor numerous special programs for the incarcerated youth. The programs sponsored by City Youth Now at the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center promote dignity, expose the youth to new opportunities and worlds they have never known, and provide a bright spot in their days.

### Our 2011 Programs and Partnership at Juvenile Hall

- The Art of Yoga Project
- The Beat Within
- Bread and Roses
- If These Walls Could Talk
- San Francisco Zoo Mobile
- Sports Programming
- Food and Nutrition Courses
- Dance and Movement Classes
- Shakespeare on Tour
- The Garden Project
- The Insect Discovery Lab

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED PROGRAMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JUVENILE HALL THAT REACHED APPROXIMATELY 680 YOUTH.

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK is based on testimonial writings by the youngest members of America's prison system.

*Don't stop writing, beaten hearts.*

*Write what you can say,  
what you need to say.*

*Write as if your very lives  
depended upon it,  
each and every day.*

*Take flight above stone and sand.*

*Hope undeniably found,  
eagerly read, clearly heard,  
finally valued...*

*And unexpectedly profound.*

(From a young poet in Unit 7)

## TUTORING, TESTING, AND TEXTBOOKS

We encourage youth to reach their highest potential academically and aspire to provide resources and motivation for youth to choose a better path. According to the California Dropout Research Project of 2009, "one important determinant of juvenile crime is inadequate education." City Youth Now recognizes the significant link between dropping out of high school and juvenile crime, and works to bridge the educational gaps for youth in the system.

Youth in the foster care system average two family placements per year. Approximately 68% of foster youth will attend three or more elementary schools and 33% will attend five or more. Each new living situation often leads to a new school and with every change, a child falls three to six months behind their classmates. Academic difficulties go unnoticed and records may be lost or incomplete.

CYN provides these youth with academic assistance to ensure they meet grade level expectations and have the opportunity to graduate from high school or pass the equivalence exam to continue on to college or vocational training.

CYN, in collaboration with the San Francisco Unified School District and San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, works with youth detained at the Juvenile Justice Center to provide extra academic assistance by providing tutors in all subjects (including GED) and providing online college courses while detained. Grants are also offered to cover registration fees for the GED, SAT and ACT exams.

In addition, we fund college tours to expose youth to opportunities beyond high school and provide financial assistance in purchasing textbooks, supplies, and college registration fees.

CYN provides one-on-one tutors for single subjects and GED tutoring for foster and probation youth. We also place tutors in the Woodside Learning Center, the school serving the Juvenile Justice Center, and at the Early Morning Study Academy, the school for youth on probation. These tutors serve as teacher assistants and provide one-on-one help when needed in the classroom.

*"The CYN volunteers have been an amazing asset in our classrooms. The volunteers give our students access to one-on-one, individualized attention, which greatly accelerates the speed at which the students learn. The tutors, both skilled and flexible, are an invaluable resource to our students. On behalf of the teachers and students at Woodside Learning Center, we want to thank City Youth Now for bringing volunteers to our school."*

Megan Mercurio, English Teacher at the Woodside Learning Center

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED FUNDING AND SERVICES FOR 599 REQUESTS FOR TUTORING, TESTING AND TEXTBOOK ASSISTANCE.

40% of Foster Youth complete high school  
75% of Foster Youth perform below grade level

*"Kayla has greatly benefited from her tutoring sessions at Math Masters Logical Learning. Kayla reports that Math Masters is her "favorite thing about the summer". The tutor who worked with Kayla reports that she has seen tremendous improvement in Kayla's ability to work math problems during the past 5 weeks."*

Carly Beers

Court Appointed Special Advocate for Kayla



Kayla, an 8 year old foster youth, fell behind in her school work due to difficulties with being in foster care, and needed focused attention and tutoring in math. City Youth Now provided Kayla with a grant to attend a five week math tutoring course that her foster parents were unable to afford.



Here are a few comments from youth who attended the Author Visits:

*"I like listening to poems, speeches, and books spoken by the author. Listening to the author helps me relate, feel, and concentrate on whatever he/she says. Also, it's inspiring when an author speaks because unlike reading, you see and visualize the author expressing his or herself."*  
—John

*"When the author came to our school it was pretty cool. She said her book was a book about herself and it made me want to write a book about my life. I think my life is interesting and people would like to read about it."*  
—Paul

*"I like the author because they answered a lot of questions I had about what it is like to be an author. Because I like to write, I started to think that I could write my life story and that people would want to read it."*  
—C.



## AUTHOR VISITS

City Youth Now regularly arranges for authors from the Bay Area and beyond to speak with the youth at the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center. All of the authors we sponsor have an inspiring and relevant story to share with the youth detained at the Juvenile Justice Center.

In 2010, we developed a progressive partnership with Books Inc. of San Francisco, the Woodside Learning Center, and the San Francisco Public library to find appropriate authors and arrange the visits during the school day.

### Author Visits in 2011

Nikki Jones, *Violence Among Girls*  
Sterling Scott, *The Road to Redemption*  
Ashley Rhodes Courter, *Three Little Words*

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW SPONSORED 3 AUTHOR VISITS FROM THE BAY AREA AND BEYOND!

92% of the youth had never met an author  
89% of the youth wanted to read more books  
90% said they learned something new  
23% were interested in pursuing a writing career

## GRADUATION EXPENSES / RECOGNITION

High school graduation is an exciting moment in any child's life—one that truly deserves a little pomp and circumstance. Studies show that only 50% of youth in the foster care system will fulfill the requirements to graduate from high school. City Youth Now believes that every youth deserves to enjoy the special moments that mark one's childhood. We award up to \$300 per youth per year to support those high school seniors in the foster care and juvenile probation systems who have successfully completed the steps to graduate high school. These funds pay for individual graduation expenses, allowing them to participate in their high school senior activities, (cap, gown, yearbook, prom, photos, etc.) and for two large group graduation ceremonies and graduation gifts for foster and probation youth to celebrate this special achievement.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED 181 YOUTH WITH SUPPORT TO PURCHASE CAPS AND GOWNS, SENIOR PICTURES, AND SENIOR TRIPS, AND PROVIDED BACKPACKS AND ALARM CLOCKS AS GIFTS TO YOUNG GRADUATES.

70% of foster youth say they want to pursue some form of postsecondary education or training. Yet, only 10% actually enroll in college, compared to total U.S. college enrollment rates of 65%.

Only 4% percent of former foster youth obtain any type of degree or certificate, and only about 2% earn a bachelor's degree or higher.\*

\*HEY SF: [www.heysf.org](http://www.heysf.org)

*"Being a high school senior and involving himself in senior activities has boosted Lawayne's self confidence and motivated him to further his education. Being able to wear a nice tux and attend his senior ball is one of the final activities Lawayne will participate in as a high schooler. This fall, he will begin college in Atlanta, GA. Lawayne has overcome many obstacles to get to this point. Thank you City Youth Now for making it possible for Lawayne to go to his senior ball with his head held high."*

Carly Beers

Court Appointed Special Advocate for Lawayne

Lawayne, a 17 year old foster youth, was unable to afford the cost of his tux rental for his senior ball. City Youth Now provided Lawayne with a grant for his tuxedo rental.







*“The City Youth Now and SFPL Read-A-Thon was a huge success. I allowed my students to read in class, and helped them pick out books to read. I had students reading Lord of the Flies, Ulysses, and House on Mango Street. Books I can never get them to read. The program promoted not only reading, but group collaboration and team work.”*

*Woodside Learning Center Teacher*

## LIBRARY SERVICES

In 1996, City Youth Now partnered with the San Francisco Public Library to bring a library facility to the Juvenile Justice Center.

Our goal is to introduce young people, many of whom have never been in a public library, to the world of reading. There are now over 4,000 books in the collection and the librarian spends time each week with the youth on the individual units. We have found that many of these children are hungry for knowledge and are remarkably bright. They spend countless hours alone in their cells and express a strong desire for books. When asked if they read more inside Juvenile Hall than outside of Juvenile Hall, 75% of the youth said they read more when they were incarcerated.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW SUPPORTED LIBRARY SERVICES AND LITERACY PROGRAMS THAT REACHED APPROXIMATELY 680 YOUTH. THESE PROGRAMS INCLUDED READING GROUPS, LITERACY TUTORING, NEW BOOKS FOR THE YOUTH AND LIBRARY, AUTHOR VISITS, AND WRITING PROGRAMS.

## EMERGENCY CLOTHING

Clothing is not only a necessity for a growing child, but is also tied to issues of self-esteem and self-worth. City Youth Now supports these children by providing them with emergency clothing when they are removed from their homes and taken to the Child Protection Shelter, or moved into a new home placement. We also provide emergency clothing to youth being released from juvenile hall with nothing but the clothes they were detained in, which often no longer fit them properly. Budget cuts have led to a drastic reduction in stipends. As a result, City Youth Now has stepped in to provide clothing vouchers to youth as they exit the Juvenile Justice Center, change group homes or foster placements, or outgrow their clothing.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED 46 YOUTH WITH EMERGENCY CLOTHING VOUCHERS.

*“The emergency clothing fund has helped so many of my juvenile clients out of very difficult spots. Recently, a girl I work with had only hoodies for outerwear and was getting soaked and cold in the rain. City Youth Now provided the money to buy her a proper waterproof coat. This makes such a huge difference to these youths’ self-esteem and toward a successful outcome as they are released back into society.”*

*Margaret Walsh  
Probation Officer*





### PROJECT K.E.E.P—“KIDS EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS PACKS”

Every year, hundreds of children in San Francisco are removed from their homes because of child abuse or neglect. Some children are taken directly off the streets, some are taken from a school setting as a result of an abuse report, and others are removed from homes where criminal activity or domestic violence precipitate intervention—in the majority of cases these children are taken with nothing but the clothes on their backs. No matter how protective custody is initiated, the experience is extremely disruptive and frightening for the child.

City Youth Now provides each of these children with a backpack of emergency essentials including: a blanket; a toiletry kit with toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, lotion and other essentials; crayons or colored pencils; a notebook, drawing paper and pens; and, so importantly, a stuffed animal which can be a comfort during this frightening time.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED 400 DUFFLE BAGS AND BACKPACKS, AND HUNDREDS OF ARTICLES OF CLOTHING TO CHILDREN TAKEN TO THE CHILD PROTECTION CENTER.

*“During a time when city services are being drastically reduced or eliminated entirely, your organization of volunteers and contributors found ways to supply the Child Protection Center with the resources needed to do our job. Our job is to somehow help children of all ages transition into foster care. Providing backpacks may seem like a small thing to an adult, but to a child who finds their life turned upside down it can represent a beginning to return to normalcy.”*

*Daron Beasly  
Child Protection Center*



### THE ANNE DEVINCENZI DITO HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

The Holiday Gift Program is City Youth Now’s oldest program. Since 1950, we have provided thousands of holiday gifts to abused, neglected, and troubled children in the San Francisco Juvenile Court System. Originally, the program provided gifts to forgotten youth lodged at the Youth Guidance Center cottages while waiting for a new foster care placement. Since then, the program has expanded exponentially and focuses on youth between the ages of 10 to 18 in response to the growth within the Juvenile Court System. More times than not, the holiday gift provided by City Youth Now is the only gift the youth receives over the holiday season.

IN 2011, CITY YOUTH NOW PROVIDED 570 HOLIDAY GIFTS, MOST OF WHOM WOULD LIKELY NOT HAVE RECEIVED A GIFT IF IT WERE NOT FOR CITY YOUTH NOW.



*“My experience with the WIMP program was a very educating and good experience...I saw the numbers of people who have been shot or stabbed...I talked to someone who has been shot in the head and is still alive. I learned a lot of positive things from the volunteers.”*

*Anonymous youth who attended the WIMP program*

### W.I.M.P. (WEAPONS IN MINORS' POSSESSION)

In 2011, City Youth Now in conjunction with the San Francisco Public Defenders Office, the San Francisco Juvenile Court, the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department and the San Francisco Wraparound Program created a new program called W.I.M.P. (Weapons in Minors' Possession). This Court ordered program, run by Youth Advocate Marcelina Kendall, is for youth who were arrested with a weapon in their possession. It is intended to educate and raise awareness about the dangers and damage caused by weapons. Youth are brought to San Francisco General Hospital and are given the opportunity to speak with surviving victims of violent crimes and meet the trauma doctors and nurses who care for them. The youth tour the Emergency Room and the Intensive Care Unit and meet with San Francisco Wraparound Case Managers who counsel victims of violent crime at their bedsides when they are brought into San Francisco General Hospital. The program has had a dramatic effect on its participants, inspiring youth to be more thoughtful about the real-life consequences of injuries caused by weapons.

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