

Winter 2026



Quarterly Newsletter

As we reflect on 2025, City Youth Now is proud of a year filled with growth, resilience, and meaningful impact. From celebrating graduations and internships to providing critical support for hundreds of system-impacted and at-risk youth across San Francisco, this year showcased the strength and potential of our community.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated staff, generous partners, and supporters. Together, we are empowering youth, strengthening families, and building brighter futures—and we can't wait to see what 2026 brings!



### FREE STORE

City Youth Now's Free Store is packed and ready for our youth! During the holiday season, we regrouped and restocked, and our Free Store is now refreshed and ready for the new year. This is only possible because of our incredible donors and supporters, especially the Junior League of San Francisco (JLSF), The Fremont Foundation, Simply the Basics, Ticket to Dream, and all those who provided in-kind donations. We are deeply grateful for your continued support in keeping our Free Store stocked for our youth at-risk!



### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

January is here, and our Scholarship Program is officially open! Each year, we proudly award scholarships to system-impacted youth who have navigated significant trials and tribulations on their path to graduation. These scholarships are designed to recognize their perseverance and support their next steps toward a brighter future. Awards range from \$1,000-\$2,500 and may be used toward advanced education or job training. If you know a youth who may be interested in applying, please contact George at [george@cityyouthnow.org](mailto:george@cityyouthnow.org). Applications close Friday, April 3rd, so don't wait!



### HOLIDAY 2025 RECAP

What a holiday season! This year alone, we supported more than 500 youth through our holiday programs. Youth advocates were able to visit our store to select gifts for their caseloads or stop by with youth to pick out gifts together. Our program provided items for all ages and sizes, from newborn clothing and wipes to learning toys and essential items for teens transitioning into their first home. This was made possible by the Kane-Soule Endowment, Toys for Tots, and our generous individual donors. Thank you for helping make this holiday season truly special!

## CITY YOUTH NOW 2026 ANNUAL RISE AWARDS GALA

The time has come! Our Annual Rise Awards is almost here, and we're thrilled to once again host this unforgettable night at The Chase Center's extraordinary venue, Above the Rim! Join us on **May 14, 2026**, for an extraordinary evening with stunning skyline views, inspiring youth stories, and a community coming together to celebrate impact. We'll honor our youth scholarship recipients, recognize our incredible community partners and sponsors, and raise vital funds to support youth and families across San Francisco. Last year, we sold out of tickets, so don't miss your chance to be part of one of our most powerful nights of the year. Secure your ticket early!

For more information, please contact Jasmine at [jasmine@cityyouthnow.org](mailto:jasmine@cityyouthnow.org) or visit our website: <https://give.classy.org/CYN76RiseAwards>

# SAVE the DATE

## 05 | 14 | 2026

ABOVE THE RIM, CHASE CENTER  
6PM-9PM | DOORS OPEN @5:30PM

DRINKS, DINNER, AWARDS, AND RAFFLE ITEMS!

# THANK YOU, COURTNEY!

At the end of December, our wonderful Program Assistant officially transitioned out of City Youth Now to pursue an exciting new career in case management and social work. While we will truly miss her presence on our team, we couldn't be more thrilled for her as she embarks on this next chapter. Courtney has made a meaningful impact on our work and our community, and we are incredibly proud of all that she's accomplished. We can't wait to see the amazing things she'll do in her new role—congratulations, Courtney! 🎉❤️



## INTERVIEW WITH A YPEE INTERN

Two of our YPEE youth recently graduated, and we had the opportunity to sit down with them to hear reflections on their internship experiences. Here's what they shared:

*"WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF [IN THE INTERNSHIP] IS THAT I LOVE WORKING WITH KIDS AT THE PROGRAM; THEY ARE SO COOL AND WONDERFUL. THIS INTERNSHIP HAS ALSO MADE ME THINK MORE ABOUT WORKING IN THE WORKFORCE AND BEING PART OF THE COMMUNITY I'M IN."* — **LONNI'O, YPEE INTERN ALUM**

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*"WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF [IN THE INTERNSHIP] IS THAT I AM PATIENT, RELIABLE, AND CAPABLE OF HANDLING RESPONSIBILITY, EVEN IN BUSY SITUATIONS. THIS INTERNSHIP ALSO MADE ME CONSIDER WORKING WITH CHILDREN OR PURSUING A CAREER THAT INVOLVES HELPING OTHERS."* — **ILIANA, YPEE INTERN ALUM**

## CYN'S READINESS SKILLS ACADEMY (RSA)

Our Youth Partnering for Education and Employment (YPEE) Program recently got a makeover with the launch of our Readiness Skills Academy. This six-week preparatory workshop, offered in partnership with STEPS and JPD, supports at-promise youth by meeting them where they are while preparing them for the world of work. Each Wednesday, youth participate in hands-on workshops focused on building essential workplace skills as they prepare to transition into internships or move directly into employment. The Academy also allows us to better understand each young person's goals and strengths, ensuring they have the tools and support needed to succeed in the workforce.

Through this work, we are helping youth build confidence, clarity, and a pathway toward meaningful employment and long-term success.

