



Partners for Youth with Disabilities

95 Berkeley Street, Suite 109 Boston MA 02116

Incorporation Year: 1985

<http://www.pyd.org>

Organization Contact: snicastro@pyd.org Susan Nicastro

Human Services Centers to Support the Independence of Specific Populations

CEO/Executive Director: Ms. Regina Snowden

Board Chair: Ms. Margaret Covell Thomas H. Lee Partners



Partners for
Youth with Disabilities

Current

Mission Statement: Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD) empowers youth with disabilities to reach their full potential by providing transformative mentoring programs, youth development opportunities, and inclusion expertise. We motivate youth to reach their personal, educational, and career goals and guide organizations in becoming more inclusive.

Needs Statement: PYD's most pressing needs include:

- Identifying additional sources of unrestricted revenues given decline in government funding and general operating support from foundations, corporations and individuals
- Engaging increased support from individual donors
- Recruitment of qualified adult mentors, particularly male mentors
- Accessing resources to support an agency-wide strategic planning process
- Expand investment in marketing, communications, and technology improvements to increase the reach and effectiveness of PYD

Impact Statement: Fiscal Year 2013 Achievements:

Mentor Match: Mentor Match served 120 youth in new or existing matches. Matches set one or more goals based on the program's five desired impact areas: independent living, motivation and self-esteem, community involvement, healthy relationships, and educational/vocational advancement. Overall, during FY13, eighty-two percent of our youth have improved in their overall self-determination, and ninety-five percent have improved in at least one of the five areas after one year of mentoring. As these results show, Mentor Match participants see across the board improvements over the course of their time involved with the program. These results mirror and affirm the stories we hear from parents and families on the transformative effect the program has had on their child.

The Mentor Match team made it a top priority this year to expand the ways we reach out to our program participants. We began sending out our monthly newsletters through Constant Contact, an email marketing company, and also began reaching out to participants through our social media feeds (Facebook, Twitter). In addition, the Mentor Match team was the driving force behind PYD launching a new website during FY13 (www.pyd.org). We believe this website will improve our participant recruitment efforts, and thanks to the addition of a blog, it will help us with our efforts to reach participants, share resources, and tell our story.

As YEP is designed to be three-part curriculum of academic learning, entrepreneurship and mentoring, YEP participants greatly benefitted from academic learning and mentoring this reporting period, which supplemented and informed their business practices. Such holistic programming included: participation in Financial Literacy trainings via Banking on Our Future; participation in team-building and problem-solving exercises from UbiCare; field trips to Simmons and Northeastern; mentoring from Northeastern's service-learning program; participation in life goal-setting activities by answering questions regarding their imagine futures at 5, 10 and 20 years; starting of student create and led businesses in their schools and communities.

Making Healthy Connections (MHC): MHC seeks to enhance the health and well-being of youth with disabilities through discussion, recreation, experiential learning and information about community resources. MHC meetings provide health and independence skills training as well as a variety of recreational, fitness-oriented and socialization opportunities. During the reporting period, 24 Youth and Parent Group meetings took place at Boston and Springfield sites. MHC Parent Group meetings provide skill building and informational sessions for parents of youth participants and focused on building relationships between parents, children, schools, and the urban community to support youth transitioning to independence. MHC peer leaders received ongoing leadership training and participated effectively in providing leadership and guidance to younger participants.

Access to Theatre (ATT): ATT successfully implemented the FY2013 Summer Institute, year-round after-school programming, two public performances, and trips to cultural sites for youth with and without disabilities. ATT implemented the 3-week Summer Institute from July 23th-August 10th, 2012 with original performances presented at the Boston Center for the Arts. During FY13, an inclusive group of over 40 youth and peer leaders along with 15 mentors/artists participated in project sessions. Groups of ATT participants visited the Boston Museum of Fine Arts together to tour current exhibits and attended cultural opportunities such as the Animation Festival and the Boston Ballet. ATT peer leaders received ongoing leadership training and participated effectively in providing leadership and guidance to younger participants. In addition, a group of ATT Peer Leaders assisted staff with the planning and implementation of ATT workshops offered at the Massachusetts Hospital School during the spring of 2013.

National Center: During this reporting period, the National Center presented at a variety of conferences throughout the country, including the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission Conference, Friends for Youth Conference, HRIA/BEST Youth Work Intensive, and the National Mentoring Summit in Washington, DC.

Fiscal Year 2014 Goals:

1. The Young Entrepreneurs Project will serve at least 75 Boston Public Schools students annually by providing weekly classroom instruction. Participating youth complete a 30-hour academic course, consisting of classroom learning, guest speakers, work-based learning experiences, and field trips.

The YEP program seeks to expand academic opportunities for low-income students through in-school & after-school educational programs, remedial education programs, vocational and technical-training programs and programs that emphasize and highlight the path to further education; broaden the career & educational options for students with disabilities and socio-economically disadvantaged youth, and provide further options for education by expanding the educational alternatives that are available to low-income and non-English speaking students.

2. The Mentor Match Program will serve at least 100 youth annually through creating new or supporting existing matches. Participants have weekly contact with their mentors for at least one year, and receive support to advance in one or more of five desired outcome areas - independent living, self-esteem, healthy relationships, community involvement and educational or professional/vocational advancement. The Mentor Match program is dedicated to increasing employment and independence among the matches that we serve. After six months of program participation, 80% of mentees will report feeling supported by their mentors. 80% of matches will have chosen activities that help youth advance toward their self-directed goal. 80% of participants will report advancement toward independent living, self-esteem, healthy relationships, community involvement and educational or professional/vocational advancement.

3. The Making Healthy Connections Program will serve at least 55 youth annually through twice-monthly program

meetings and activities taking place over a six month period that provide social, recreational and educational opportunities designed to increase participants' knowledge and skills regarding Physical Fitness, Disability Rights, Talking to Healthcare Providers, Nutrition, Mental Health Issues, Substance Abuse, Healthy Relationships, Independent Living, and Transportation Options. Criteria for success is that least 75% of participating youth report increased knowledge of Physical Fitness, Disability Rights, Talking to Healthcare Providers, Nutrition, Mental Health Issues, Substance Abuse, Healthy Relationships, Independent Living, and Transportation Options, and experience high levels of program satisfaction.

4. The Access to Theatre Program will serve 50 youth annually through weekly after-school and summer programming to acquire knowledge and skills in the arts. ATT's primary outcome is for youth with disabilities to acquire knowledge and skills in the arts through the delivery of comprehensive ATT programming delivered by staff, community artists, and peer leaders trained in a range of arts-related topics and working with youth with disabilities. The program's after-school and summer series of arts-related opportunities include opportunities to experience and create works of art. Through ATT, youth with and without disabilities experience and study art through working with artists and performing original works. Assessment of student learning meets the standards of the Massachusetts Arts and English Language Arts Curriculum Frameworks as prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

5. PYD's National Center for Mentoring Youth with Disabilities will continue to share inclusion expertise and resources through new and ongoing inclusion-oriented projects. At least 200 individuals will receive training through the National Center annually.

Full-time Staff: 10

Volunteers: 200

(excludes part-time staff)

Programs Detailed on Profile

Mentor Match

Access to Theatre

The Young Entrepreneurs Project

Making Healthy Connections

National Center for Mentoring Youth with Disabilities

Projected Revenue: \$1,814,454.00

Projected Expenses: \$1,970,392.00

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Total Revenue	\$1,165,060	\$909,036	\$1,132,782
Total Expenses	\$1,149,316	\$1,043,181	\$1,123,839

Top Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Top Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Second Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Third Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--