

New Voices: Youth + Engagement



Mission:

- To empower youth
- in partnership with adults
- to create community change





YES! History:

- Began with teen tobacco use prevention work as “Question Why” in 2001.
- Initial brainstorming meetings with adults and youth.
- YES! officially opened its doors January 2008 as a 501(c)3 organization, expanding the application of youth empowerment to several health initiatives.

The Youth Empowerment Model



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Skill Development **Critical Awareness** **Opportunities**

Skill Development

Learning How to Make Change

- Learning the basic facts about a subject matter
- Practicing how to speak in front of policy makers
- Learning about effective teaching and facilitation techniques for peers and youth
- Discovering how to run a group and create action plans



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Critical Awareness

Understanding the Deeper Issue

- Asking the “why” questions: *Why* is the U.S. facing an obesity epidemic? *Why* is tobacco still sold as a legal product?
- Analyzing survey and assessment results
- Strategizing on next steps and target audiences



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Opportunities

Taking action to create community change

- Bring youth to the decision making table...and KEEP them there!
- Allow youth to be at the microphone
- Speak with legislators, write a letter to the editor, start up a postcard campaign, etc



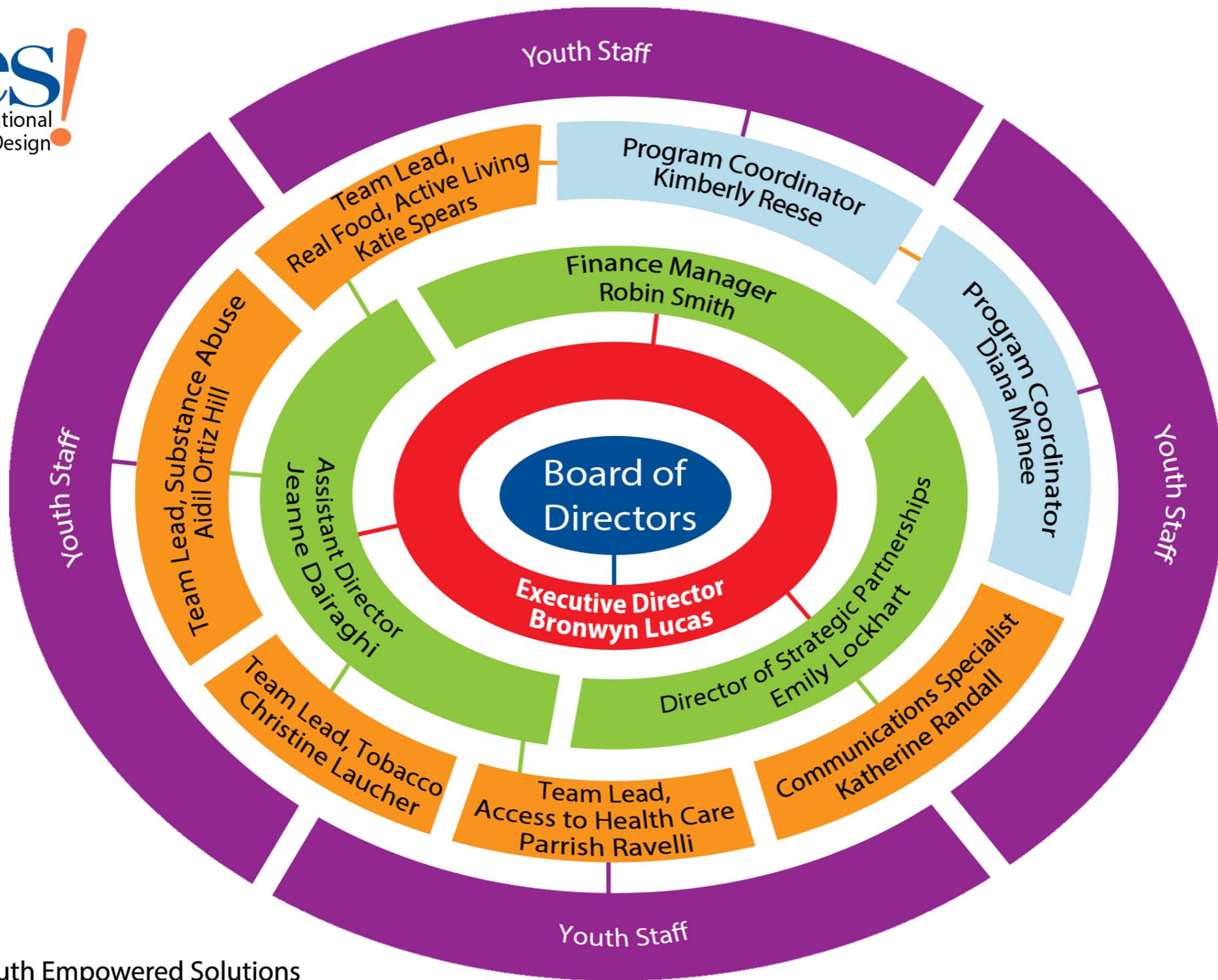
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YES! Adult and Youth Staff



The YES! Board of Directors





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Adult staff meetings every month

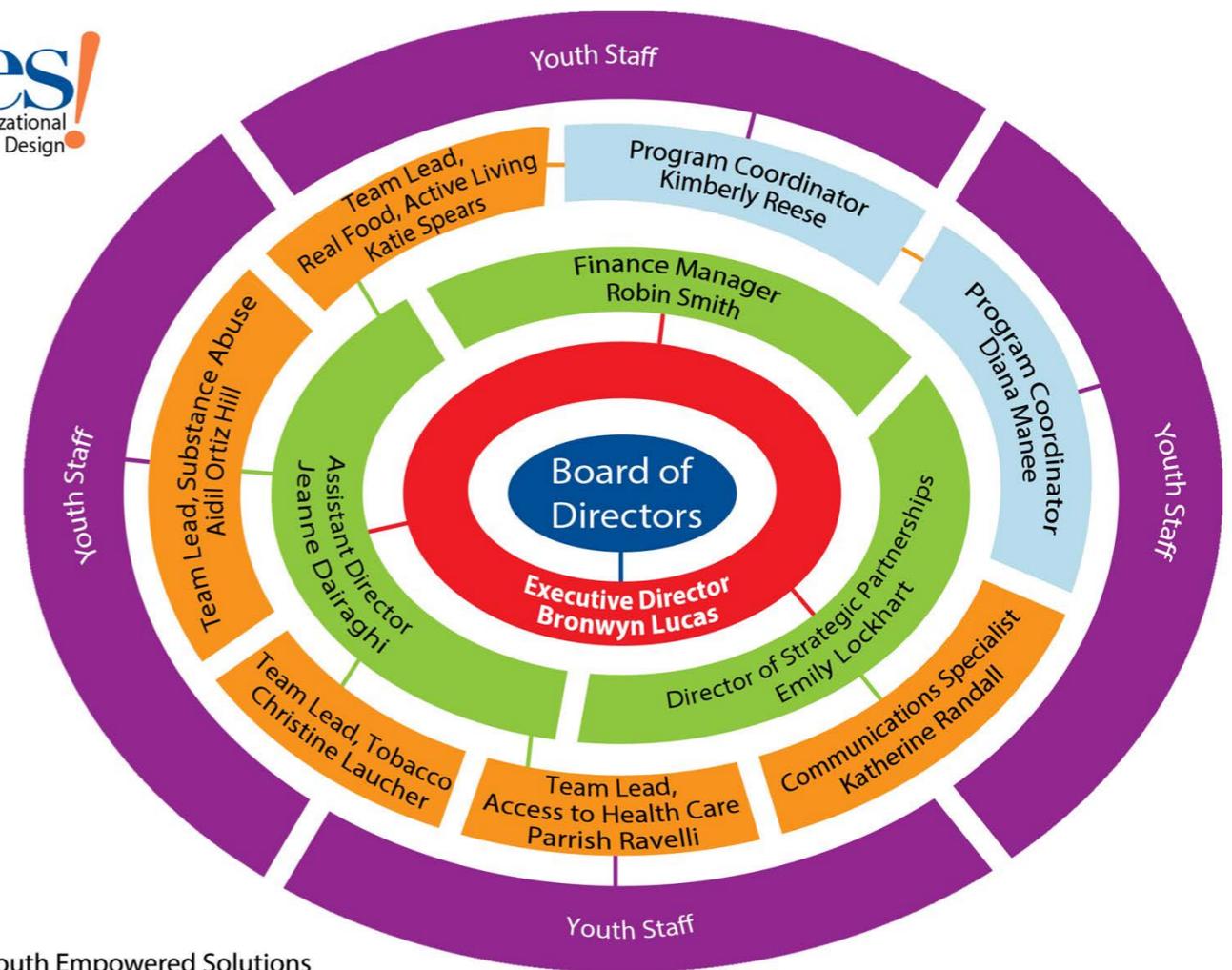
Monthly YES! newsletter (bullets due to your supervisor)

Monthly data entry for Outcomes (google)

Quarterly Board of Directors meetings

Annual adult and youth staff retreat

Committees meet as needed (Wellness, Outcomes, Equity, Communications, Board Development, Resource Development, Technical Assistance, and ad hoc committees)



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Our Values:

We believe that skill development, critical awareness and opportunities will support youth on their journey to being empowered allies for organizations and systems promoting equity.

We believe that youth-adult partnerships are an important element in ensuring that those impacted by decisions are engaged in the decision-making process.

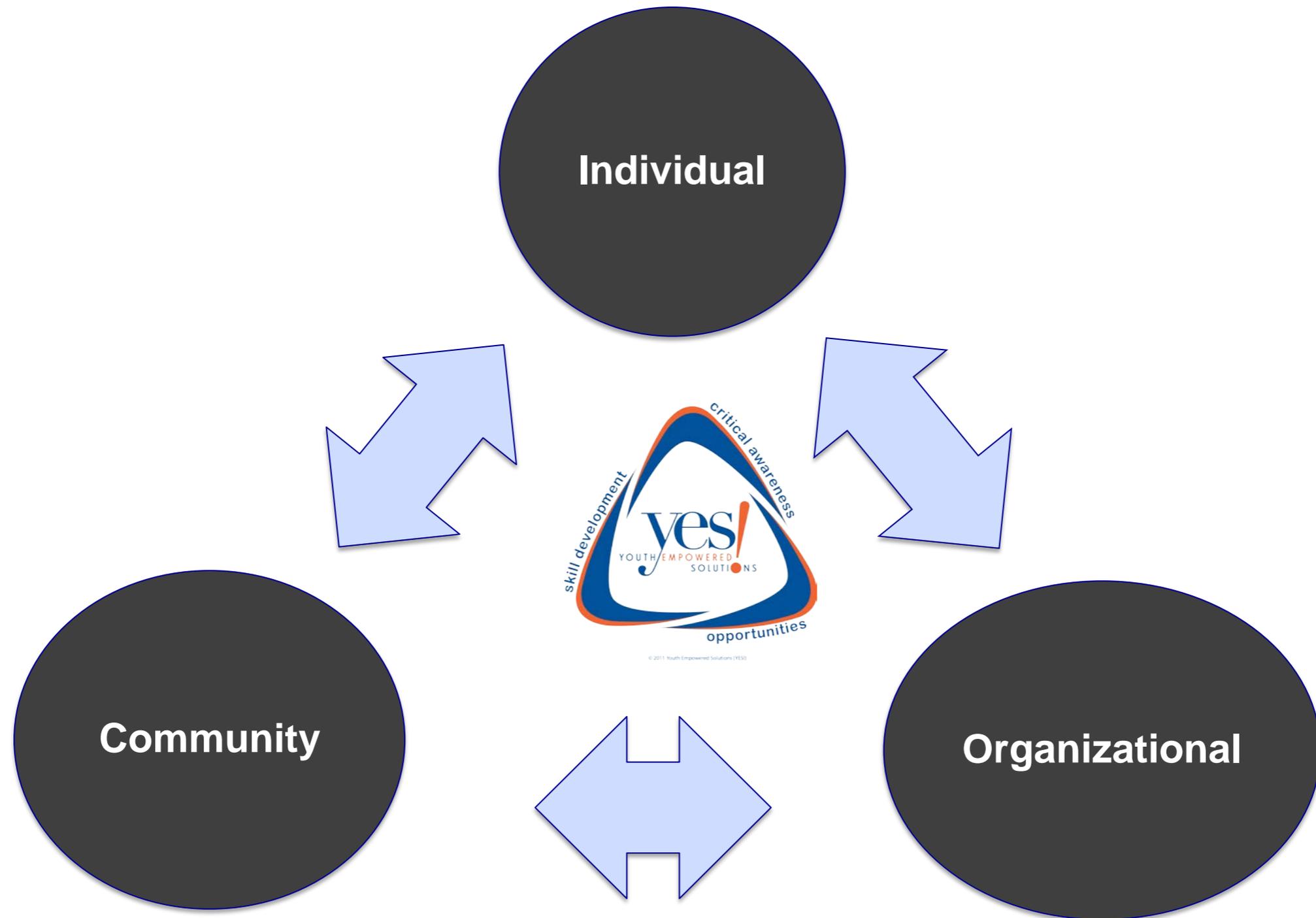
We believe that healthy and sustainable community solutions are best achieved by including and honoring the voices of youth.

We believe in a world where the voices of youth are as valued and respected as the voices of adults.

We believe that youth empowerment that effectively changes communities requires intentional commitment, active support and adequate resources.



Youth Empowerment



The “so what” of YES! work

Outcomes Framework

Information Sheet

Training Evaluation

30-60 Day Follow-up

One-Year Follow-up

Systemic, Environmental
and Policy Change

Youth Staff

Questionnaire

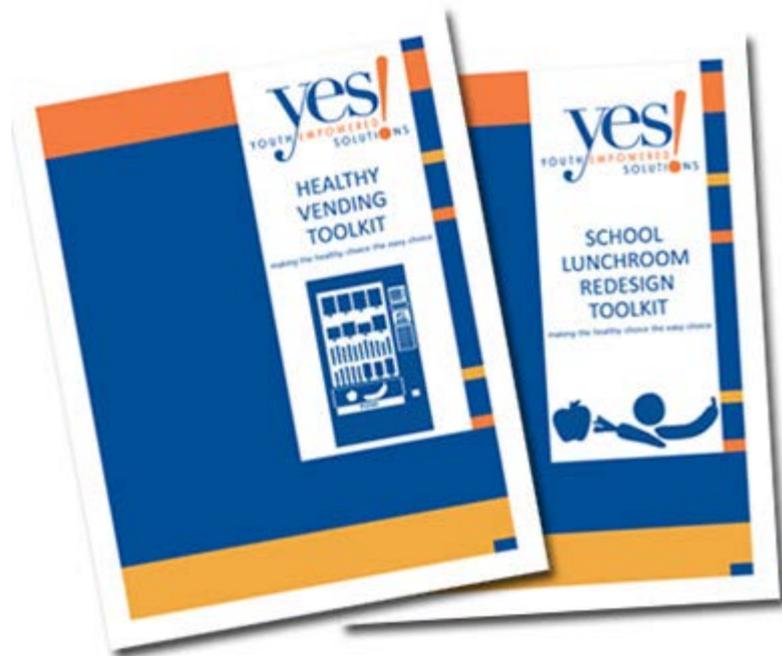
Graduated Youth Staff
Survey



Evidence of The Model

A Snapshot of YES! FY13 Outcomes

- 1,285 adults and 847 youth were exposed to the YES! youth empowerment model through conferences, panels, webinars, or trainings. Of that amount...
 - 153 adults and 559 youth were trained on the YES! youth empowerment model at YES! adult and youth leader trainings.
 - 96% of adults and youth indicated learning skills during a YES! training
 - 64% of adults and youth go on to take action after a YES! training
 - 20 systems, policy, and environmental changes occurred, impacting 10,656,929 people
- 22 out of 22 YES! youth staff (100%) learned new skills and 22 (100%) took action. 91% reported having an impact through their involvement with YES!.
- 77% of YES! youth staff are youth of color, live in a rural area, or live in a low wealth community.
- Of 20 surveyed YES! graduated staff, 95% indicated they are still using their skills and critical awareness in meaningful opportunities, 95% believe that YES! impacted their lives, and 100% still feel empowered.



YES! Custom Services

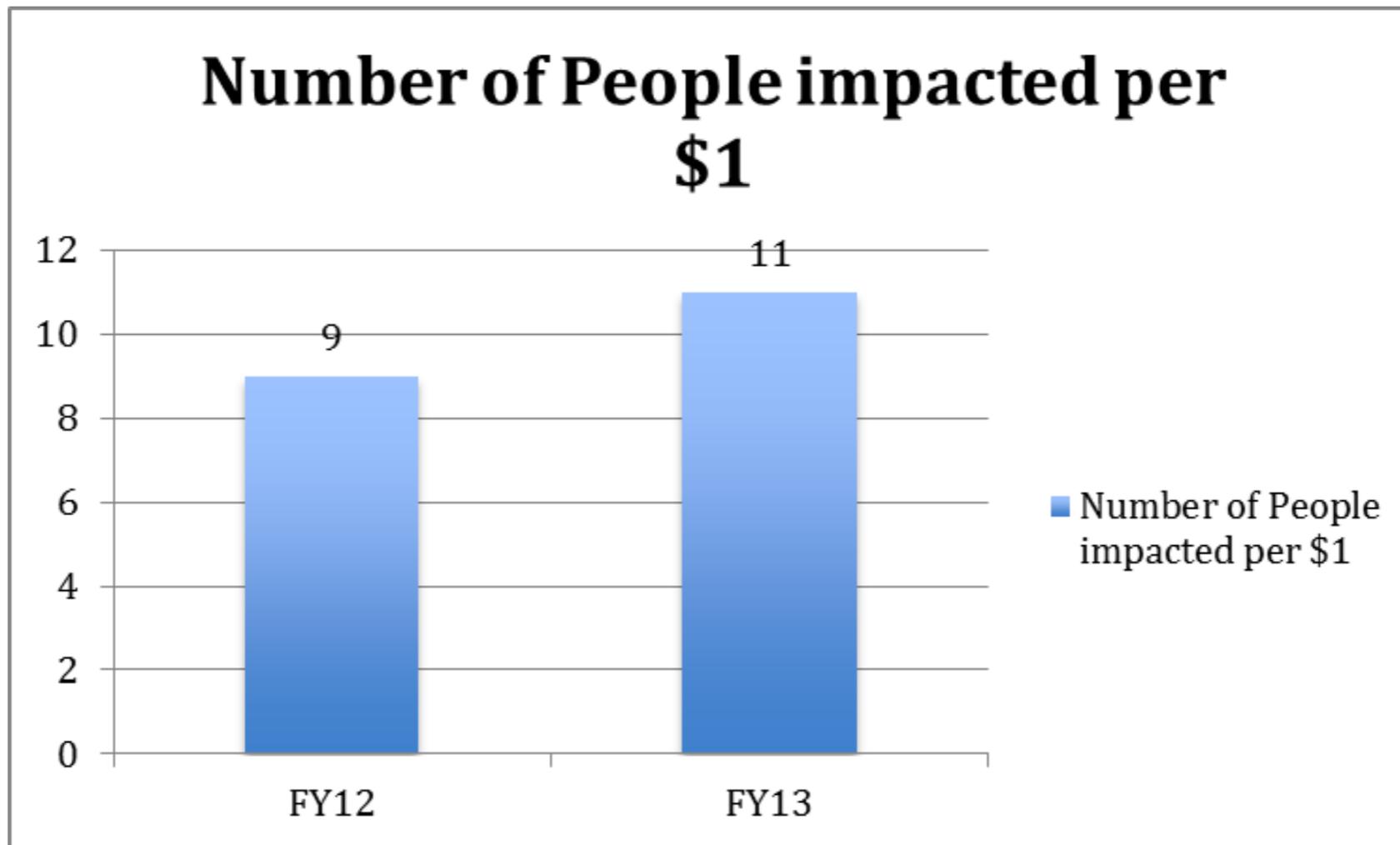
- Youth Trainings
- Adult Leader Trainings
- Consulting
- Resource Creation
- Toolkits
- Learning Collaborative
- YES! Appraisal
- Webinars





Evidence of The Model

Return on Investment





www.YouthEmpoweredSolutions.org