Prior to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we were seeing years of stressed educational systems, communities divided, and many young people disengaged. As the current situation shows in what some are calling the “tale of two pandemics,” existing societal injustices are being further amplified, individuals isolated, and students’ educational outcomes are at risk. And at a time when they face risks to mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing as well.

At the same time, we know many stories of success, with young people leading the way in creating positive change in their schools and communities.

Bringing the power of youth-led service tied to academic and civic outcomes is once again coming to the forefront as a solution to the challenges we face in our country and around the world.

In these times, NYLC’s mission to create a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world, with young people, their schools, and communities through service-learning takes on a new and even more vital importance. We remain steadfast in our belief in the power of young people to lead us to solutions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

AMY MEUERS
Chief Executive Officer
For nearly 40 years, the National Youth Leadership Council has transformed classrooms, empowered teachers, and captivated students by leading the way in providing high-quality, dynamic service-learning content to school districts, classrooms, after-school programs, and everything in between.

In 2020, NYLC quickly adapted its programming to meet the changing needs of the teachers, afterschool providers, and students we serve. From online youth leadership and service-learning training to launching a certificate in service-learning instructional leadership program, NYLC remains committed to providing the resources and support so that all young people can Serve. Learn. Change the world.©
NYLC helped me focus my attention on ways I can build and grow a program that I care deeply about. It also allowed me space to rethink my current role and dream of future roles. It bolstered my confidence and exposed me to like-minded people who are simply inspiring.
FINANCIAL REPORT

2019-2020

REVENUE

- Grants & Contributions: $179,852 (70%)
- Earned Income: $77,724 (30%)
- Other (not shown): $786 (<1%)

Total Revenue: $258,362
Net Income (loss): $(270,621)

EXPENSE

- Personnel: $227,303 (43%)
- Grants Expended: $144,000 (27%)
- Travel: $27,681 (5%)
- Rent & Insurance: $24,463 (4%)
- Technology: $18,394 (3%)
- Other: $87,142 (16%)

Total Expense: $528,983
BY THE NUMBERS

PROGRAMS
- 14 State Afterschool Networks indirectly impacting 460,000 youth
- 20 Project Ignition Teams, engaging 6,318 students reaching 50,000 community members

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- 3,573 educators trained indirectly impacting 500,000 youth
- 334 youth directly trained

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CONFERENCE
- 809 attendees
- 46 states
- 18 countries

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCES REACH
- 300,000 K-12 Service-Learning Standards
- 5.25 million page views
HOW WE WORK

SERVICE-LEARNING EXCELLENCE

NYLC accelerates student achievement by strengthening academic, civic, and character outcomes through service-learning. NYLC offers a variety of paths to reach service-learning excellence through online content, customized professional development, tools, resources, and more.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR THE COMMON GOOD

We recognize youth as partners in decision-making. When given the opportunity to lead, youth understand their rights and obligation to act for the benefit of the public good. From young people who are affected by issues to adult allies who work with them, we actively build shared leadership that creates space for each person to take ownership and affect change.
Afterschool Service-Learning

Through funding provided by Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, NYLC supports Statewide Afterschool Networks to develop or expand service-learning programs. Selected Networks receive funding, technical support, and training so that service-learning becomes a sustainable and systematic part of afterschool learning.

Program activities in 2020 included:

- Worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to enhance its statewide partnership in support of quality programming and bringing renewed focus to the value of service-learning, both in and out of school, thereby increasing the number of children who have service-learning opportunities (Massachusetts).
- Partnered with the New Jersey Department of Education to host instructional training to benefit afterschool programs with a focus on civic education (New Jersey).
- Provided a service-learning breakout session to 700 YMCA Youth in Government students. Through this session, 30 students participated in a week-long summer Y-CORPs service-learning project trip (Pennsylvania).
- Created a train-the-trainer program impacting 50 sites across the state (Tennessee).
NYLC has been proud to partner with the National Highway Safety Administration, public high schools, afterschool programs, and partners across the United States through Project Ignition. Using a service-learning model, 20 PI teams created local youth-led peer-to-peer safe driving campaigns that focus on reducing teen auto crashes and ultimately, saved lives.

For more than 15 years, Project Ignition has supported teens as leaders and responsible citizens in encouraging safe driving practices among their peers, their families, and their community members. Through student-led projects in schools across the United States, teams of teens:

1. Studied what worked to improve driving safety and change behaviors through peer interventions.
2. Conducted research to investigate risky teen driving behaviors in their community.
3. Proposed and implemented effective driver safety projects to educate their peers, their families, and their communities by creating more positive normative perceptions for seat belt use, as well as other contributing factors to safe driving.
4. Researched and identified potential community partners and solidified at least one partnership that helped to build sustainability and furthered their project goals.

We know, peer-to-peer education is one of the most effective methods for changing normative behavior, which is critical in shaping individual habits and establishing long-term social change.

Project Ignition students are truly saving lives.
At NYLC, we firmly believe in education equity: fairness, inclusion, and opportunity in education for all. Youth4Education is a youth-led movement to advance education equity through service-learning.

The 2020 Youth4Education Lead Activists are a group of young leaders who implemented service-learning programs in their communities under the guidance of NYLC staff and Youth Advisory Council members to fight for quality education for every young person.

Hoang, Bellaire High School, Texas, USA
“When it comes to educational equity in my community,” Hoang says, “I firmly believe that everybody should have the same opportunity no matter his or her race or gender.” Hoang wants to implement more hands-on learning experiences in his school’s classrooms and raise funds to pay for students’ educations worldwide.

Maria, YES Prep, Texas, USA
Maria understands that each student’s needs require a different educational approach. “Giving every child the same tools for education doesn’t solve every child’s problem,” Maria says. “Everyone has different ways of learning. Education equity will ensure everyone gets what they truly need [in order] to learn.” Maria’s goal is to bring hope to students who feel that their educational system is failing them.

Widya Astuti, Malang, Indonesia
Widya Astuti hopes to help students in her community achieve their goals, and teach them in a fun, engaging way. Through hands-on lessons and individualized learning, Widya Astuti wants to give every student in her school a method to learn effectively. “I want to always be connected with education wherever, whenever and with anyone,” Widya Astuti says. “I want to continue to learn and teach as much as I can.”

Sydnee, Clarksville High School, Tennessee, USA
Inspired by her school’s existing Youth4Ed club, Sydnee and her team want to help students take advantage of their local community center and build resources and skills together. “I envision a Youth4Ed group that strives to create a safe space in their community for those who are affected by poor education equity,” Sydnee says. “I see a concrete group of students who are fearless in fighting for something they believe in.”

Sophia, East Chapel Hill High School, North Carolina, USA
“When I think of Youth4Education,” says Sophia, “I think of my fellow peers and other kids in my community who don’t have the same opportunity as others for something that is completely circumstantial.” Stunned by a study that showed her school district with the second widest achievement gap in the nation, Sophia realized she needed to advocate for her fellow students and start difficult conversations about students left behind. Sophia wants to create a diverse board of students to discuss issues related to educational equity and bring them directly to their school’s administration.
NYLC brings more than 35 years of experience working with sites across the country and abroad, supporting educators and administrators in advancing the civic engagement of young people — whether students are getting started in service-learning, increasing their leadership, or sharpening their focus. NYLC trained nearly 4,000 educators and youth, providing ongoing coaching and planning support; and/or the development of curriculum rooted in service-learning.

Partners include:

- My Path
- King County Library
- Oregon Grand Assembly
- The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Wisconsin Office of Public Instruction
- Bartholomew County
- Civil Air Patrol
- Ben Franklin Elementary
- Minnesota Online High School

In addition, NYLC presented at four national conferences, trained 17 leaders in service-learning instructional leadership through its certificate program, hosted more than 300 youth for a two-day Youth Leadership Summit on Education Equity, and traveled across Taiwan conducting training and providing keynote addresses.
For 31 years, NYLC has brought together students, educators, nonprofit & community leaders from across the United States and around the world for the National Service-Learning Conference so that we can bring recognition to the contributions that young people are making to change the world and to help prepare them and their adult mentors in reaching their goals.

The NYLC Board and staff closely watched the developing situation around the COVID-19 pandemic. For the safety of our participants, the NYLC board voted to move the 31st Annual National Service-Learning Conference to a virtual platform … Unmask Your Potential the virtual experience was held April 16-17, 2020.

The two-day event engaged more than 800 attendees from across the country and around the world. The streamlined experience offered participants the opportunity to hear from leaders in the service-learning field including a representative from the bipartisan Nationaal Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. The Commissioner spoke about the release of Inspire to Serve, a report that directly calls for a federal investment in service-learning.
In 2020, NYLC created a series of service-learning handbooks designed to help youth workers bring service-learning to elementary, middle, and high school students in afterschool programs in approximately 15 one-hour sessions. These book begins with an overview of the practice, then takes facilitators through a series of experiential sessions that highlight youth voice and leadership.

Each session begins with an energizer activity tied to the content of the session, and ends with a reflection – often in the form of an "exit ticket". By the end of the experience, young people have acted on issues of importance to them through a deliberative inquiry-based process.
Through collective action on public policy, advocacy, research, and partnerships, NYLC is leading the charge to increase the national visibility of service-learning and to gain new champions both on Capitol Hill and in classrooms across the United States.

Young people address public policy and advocate for service-learning throughout all of our programs. In Project Ignition, students develop driver safety recommendations for lawmakers. At the National Service-Learning Conference, attendees lobby government officials to make service-learning a priority. In Youth4Ed, NYLC’s Youth Advisory Council works with young people across the nation addressing systemic educational inequities.

To live out our tagline, “Serve. Learn. Change the world,” service-learning must also develop a growing base of champions in national and world leaders. NYLC is working to make this a reality through our role in developing the Service-Learning Coalition in partnership with Youth Service America, PeaceJam, George Washington University, and States for Service.
Amy Meuers, Chief Executive Officer
As the Chief Executive Officer of The National Youth Leadership Council, Amy provides executive leadership and vision, working in partnership with the board of directors, staff, and Youth Advisory Council to engage young people as civically informed and engaged global citizens.

Pam Siebert, VP of Community Engagement
Pam is a skilled strategist and implementer, with over 20 years of experience in nonprofits and cross-sector initiatives– taking plans from ideas to action on topic areas including human services, substance abuse prevention, homelessness, education, and community service.

Julie Rogers Bascom, Director of Learning & Leadership
Julie Rogers Bascom is a service-learning leader from Minneapolis, MN who has been supporting youth workers, teachers and young people to use service-learning as a strategy to solve problems in their communities for over 17 years.

Maddy Wegner, Director of Content Development
Maddy Wegner comes to NYLC from NYLC, in a way. She was NYLC’s Director of Communications for more than a decade, developing resources for service-learning practitioners that bring research to practice.
The Youth Advisory Council is a team of servant-leaders recognized for their dedication to youth leadership, service-learning, diversity, and educational achievement for all. The YAC advises NYLC on its programming and brings valuable youth perspectives to the organization’s work. They work across the United States, demonstrating how young people can contribute today.

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