

THE YOUTH ENRICHMENT PARTNERSHIP



WE BRING SERVICES YOUTH NEED TO PLACES THEY GO

Middle school is a time of massive transformation. Youth are enduring the physical and emotional changes that come with puberty. They tackle more challenging academics with less oversight. They redefine peer relationships. They have a growing curiosity and desire for independence. These crucial years in their transition to adulthood can be confusing and difficult to navigate.



57% OF ALL MANCHESTER SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH.

Many Manchester youth face additional hardships, like poverty, substance use exposure, gang influence, and crime, that make the middle school years even more turbulent. These adverse childhood experiences can interfere with their positive growth and leave youth in danger of falling behind academically and more vulnerable to engaging in risky behaviors.



MANCHESTER IS THE EPICENTER OF OPIOID MISUSE IN THE NORTHEAST.

Cost, travel, accessibility, and stigma are often barriers to getting youth the help they need. That is why the **Youth Enrichment Partnership (YEP)** brings mental health services, academic supports, and enrichment opportunities—free-of-charge—to the places where youth feel safe and connected, like schools, after-school centers, and summer programs.

This unique collaboration of funders, schools, and 14 different community organizations has revolutionized the youth-serving field and eased the transition during this critical stage of development.



ACADEMIC SUPPORTS



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SAFE COMMUNITY SPACES

\$200,000 Challenge Match to Support YEP

Granite United Way is pleased to announce a \$200,000 Challenge Match to support the Youth Enrichment Partnership. Every gift made to YEP will be matched dollar for dollar. This means your gift today will be maximized to support Manchester's most at-risk middle school youth.

THE REAL IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT



Maya has attended the YMCA, a YEP "Hub" site, since elementary school. When the school system switched to remote learning she was able to access all of her online classes at the YMCA. Maya learned how to play the ukulele during the Manchester Community Music School music therapy classes and is looking forward to learning more about digital literacy in upcoming workshops with Media Power Youth.

These additional supports provided Maya a safe space to focus on academics, support services to help her cope with the stress of remote learning, and allowed her guardian to return to work full time. Maya continues to be a strong confident young person and thanks to the various programming offered by the YEP partners, she is able to explore different career and educational opportunities.

CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE FOR THE YOUTH-SERVING FIELD

The Youth Enrichment Partnership has revolutionized how Manchester's youth-serving organizations support middle school youth. Before the partnership, agencies worked in their respective silos, despite serving many of the same clients.

Now, agency leaders sit at the same table to identify service gaps and duplication, with a common goal of holistically supporting youth. **Agencies with specialized skills bring their services directly to the places where youth already go and feel comfortable.** This partnership has exposed youth to experiences they might never have had. YEP not only improves outcomes for youth but raises the standard for the youth-serving field as a whole.

A COMMUNITY OF PARTNERS

YEP has fostered a sense of community amongst the partners. Through regular meetings and communications, partners have built trusted relationships and a referral network. They have discovered new opportunities, exchanged ideas, and collaborated on projects.

It has provided the space for vulnerability and authenticity so that partners can focus on solutions. By encouraging partners to work as a team, YEP has created a safety net to support our youth.



Connecting with a diverse set of community partners allows us to brainstorm solutions to the issues our youth face while helping other agencies to understand the unique challenges of immigrant and refugee families. This give-and-take relationship is valuable, and the type of coalition-building needed in Manchester.

~ Steve Thiel, Southern New Hampshire University, Center for New Americans

THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THE PARTNERSHIP TOGETHER

Granite United Way serves as the convener, capacity-builder, facilitator, and funder of YEP. It coordinates and schedules services among the partnered agencies, facilitates training, and monitors progress to ensure program integrity. Granite United Way keeps the work of the partnership moving forward by supporting the integration and innovation of its services.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Over the past 3 years, YEP partners, Granite United Way staff, and experts throughout the country have facilitated **over 3,900 hours of training and professional development focused on our youth.** Topics cover a variety of areas from suicide prevention to working with marginalized populations and are offered to educators, youth-serving staff, and community members.

These trainings benefit the youth-serving field by creating a common language around problems and solutions that impact youth, expanding access to a broader audience through virtual presentations, and providing tools to cope with a variety of situations.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Middle school is a time of enormous transition—physically, emotionally, socially, and academically. Many of Manchester’s youth face additional hardships, like poverty, violence, and other traumas, that greatly affect their overall well-being.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further impacted their social interaction and access to routine, leading to higher levels of anxiety, depression, loneliness, and suicidality. Behavior health supports and trauma-informed approaches are more critical than ever. Unfortunately, accessibility and stigma are barriers to getting help.



The Youth Enrichment Partnership (YEP) breaks down these barriers by bringing mental and behavioral health supports to the places middle school students already go and feel comfortable, like their schools, after-school, and summer programs. It also provides trauma-informed training to school and agency staff which adds stability and safety in a time of great uncertainty.



Licensed, clinical mental health professionals from Amoskeag Health provide intakes, counseling, and other behavioral health supports. By having these supportive services in a familiar setting there is a reduction in barriers such as stigma, cost and transportation.



Equine-assisted therapy provided by UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center improves physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of youth by alleviating the risks and poor outcomes from exposure to trauma and violence.



Music therapists from the Manchester Community Music School engage students through song writing, playing instruments, and moving to music. These activities help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression and improve self-expression, and communication.



Media Power Youth invites students to talk about hard topics and express their feelings through the discussion of films and music. Programs also focus on how social media and online presence can impact mental health and their lives.

THE REAL IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT



Kenny, a participant at one of the YEP programs, was in crisis and reached out to Amoskeag Health requesting weekly onsite behavioral health services.

"I would never talk to a therapist about this, but it's different because I know them," he said.

Having a regular, familiar face on-site at the Hubs helps mental health clinicians build rapport and reduce stigma around seeking behavioral and mental health services.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Many middle school youth face adverse conditions, including high rates of family financial instability, low rates of academic achievement, high rates of crime, and reduced rates of employment in post-secondary years.

The YEP "hubs" are intentionally located in neighborhoods where these adverse conditions are most common. By co-locating services and programming at these "hubs" we can reach more students and address their specific needs.



The Youth Enrichment Partnership focuses on equity by reducing barriers to access like cost or transportation. Co-locating services also enhances engagement by strengthening existing relationships between students and staff. In creating more holistic options for youth, staff more deeply engage and influence youth participation, ultimately enriching not only the youth's academic opportunities but also their relationships.



UNH-STEM Discovery Lab brings STEM focused activities to organizations hoping to spark interest in careers in this field. Students participate in activities such as 3D printing design, computer science coding and forensic science fiction.



Daniel Webster Council Boy Scouts of America provides opportunities for youth to explore the outside and learn about the power of scouts. The Scouts bring archery and other activities to the places our youth attend after school and during the summer



Manchester Community Music School helps youth experience the power of music and engage in group activities such as chorus, hip hop class, instrument try out and african drumming at the places they already attend after school or in the summer.



Media Power Youth invites students to participate in video creation and learn about the power of traditional media as well as social media. Film screenings provide opportunities for discussion about community building and responsibility.

THE REAL IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

Media Power Youth's "Level Up Film Club" engages students in discussions about difficult topics through the lens of cinema. Using entertainment to discuss challenging topics creates a safe and open environment for students to share their emotions and their own experiences in the context of someone else's story.

After watching the documentary, *Mercury 13*, our youth at Girls Inc. were able to discuss history and look to the future in a context that was relevant to their lives.

They discussed advocacy for equal rights and what it means for people to be innovative and take the first step in order to make a change.

The girls were able to identify role models in their own lives and think about the ways they can achieve their own goals.

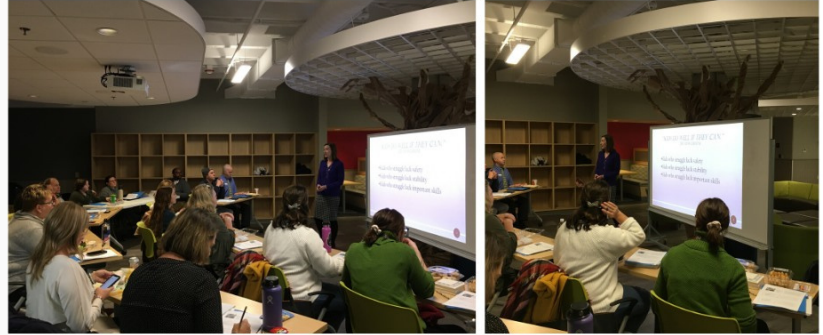


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training and professional development of youth-serving staff and educators has been a crucial part of the Youth Enrichment Partnership's model.

Training is a key component of keeping staff up to date on issues in the community as well as provides resources to help staff fill their "toolboxes".

Training topics have covered areas such as suicide prevention, working with marginalized populations, adverse childhood experiences, and homeless youth rights to name a few.



Over the past 3 years of the program Granite United Way staff, YEP partners, and experts throughout the country have facilitated nearly 4,000 hours of training and professional development.



New Hampshire Legal Assistance provides training to help equip all partners with the knowledge and skills needed to support youth experiencing school difficulty or instability.



The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester provides training on mental health-related topics including suicide prevention, substance use disorders as well as mindfulness and self care.



SNHU Center for New Americans provides training focused on working with multilingual and immigrant youth. As a resettlement community Manchester has a diverse population with unique needs.



Media Power Youth provides training for educators on remote learning and media as an influence. They also provide training for parents focused on the mental health implications of media use and how to start a conversation with your family.

WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THESE TRAININGS



"Thank you for providing these training opportunities. I appreciate the relevance of the topics."

"Thank you for providing these awesome, free workshops!"

"Thank you for sharing your story with us and thank you GUW for giving us this opportunity."

WHERE OUR YOUTH GO



Boys and Girls Club of Greater Manchester

A safe before and after school site offering homework help, arts and crafts, athletics, performing arts, social recreation, STEM lab, and meals.

Girls Inc. of New Hampshire

Provides programming schools and youth-serving organizations that inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold.

Manchester School District

Hillside Middle School, McLaughlin Middle School, Southside Middle School, and the Middle School at Parkside provide education to over 3,000 Manchester youth.

Manchester Police Athletic League (MPAL)

Connects cops and kids through free athletic, educational, and enrichment instruction to help kids make good choices.

The Granite YMCA Manchester Branch

Offers opportunities for peer-to-peer support during school and out-of-time school, such as the Teen Center, Power Scholars, the Y-Stay, and Y-Strive programs.

THE PARTNERS

Amoskeag Health

Provides critical mental health services on-site to clients at youth-serving organizations across Manchester.

Center for New Americans (CNA)

An accessible, sustainable pathway towards higher education for immigrants and refugees. After-school programming focused on English Language Learning, life skills, and soccer.

City Year New Hampshire AmeriCorps

Provides peer mentoring and academic support to students in schools at schools.

Daniel Webster Council Boy Scouts of America

Creates opportunities at youth-serving organizations to participate in Scout activities.

Manchester Community Music School

Brings musical opportunities to youth-serving organizations across Manchester, reducing barriers to access for this enrichment and mental health.

Media Power Youth

Provides education and trainings to empower youth to lead safe, healthy, successful lives through smart use of media.

Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester

Provides intakes at schools to help reduce stigma about mental health and to provide easier access to mental health services.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance

Provides staff at youth-serving organization staff across Manchester with training on legal matters, such as educational rights.

UNH-STEM Discovery Lab

Brings STEM-focused activities to youth-serving organizations to help spark interest in the field and encourage participation in University-based activities.

UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center

Provides equine-facilitated trauma intervention program for youth who may have experienced trauma.