

ELEVATING youth voices





22,000+

YOUTH SERVED SINCE 2008

102
PROGRAMS

65
CITIES

177
PARTNERING
ORGANIZATIONS

Welcome to Youth Solutions Impact Report. In our 13-year history we've helped over 22,000 young people overcome barriers to succeed in education, employment and in life. What began in one school serving 76 young people has grown to serving over 3,500 youth annually at 102 programs statewide. In that time, we have faced challenges and overcome them, always keeping our youths' needs front and center.

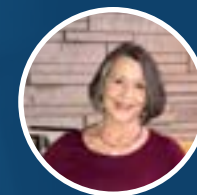
Over the past year and a half, we listened and responded to the changing needs of our youth. Our Specialists worked all hours to help our young people overcome the additional barriers they were facing and continued to provide them with a sense of purpose and belonging. Our team was amazing, providing extra care and going above and beyond! We are immensely grateful.

Throughout this report, you will learn the ways in which we are listening and responding to the needs of our youth and new opportunities to lift the youth voice through:

- Launching the **Alumni Network** and **Youth Advisory Council**
- Serving more youth through new initiatives, **Youth Solutions Select** and Youth Solutions Digital
- Continuing our **Coffee with a Purpose** series to hear from young adults on topics of importance to them and society

As we look to the future, our **strategic plan** is focused and clear: Deepen and expand services, go all in on partnerships and diversify funding while building a trusted brand. These goals are in service of impacting the lives of more young people throughout Michigan. The best people to help decide their future paths are the youth themselves. Our programs involve and empower youth to create their path and we provide access to the resources to make it happen. Enjoy the stories of our young people as they share their experiences. We are proud of our efforts, but we know there is more work to be done.

We will continue to lift their voices and inspire them to achieve a future beyond imagination.



BARBARA ANDERSON
Board Chair



MOLLIE WALLER
Executive Director

VISION

Every young person is educated, employed and career bound

MISSION

Equip young people with the skills to overcome barriers and succeed in education, employment and in life

PURPOSE

Inspiring and connecting youth to achieve a future beyond imagination

EXPANDED youth services

As more young people experienced the effects associated with the pandemic, we saw greater rates of disengagement from education.

Because our organization has always been solution focused, we identified new opportunities that will lead to greater engagement, education and employment.

With a deep understanding of the needs of our youth, we expanded proven programs and began to implement new services to increase access to resources and opportunities that prepare young people for a brighter future.

UNENDING COMMITMENT TO YOUTH

When they first met, Debra James, Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Specialist, said that Melanie was shy, unsure of herself and uncomfortable being around others. Fast-forward to today, you'd never realize that Melanie was once struggling to figure out her future. Independent, strong and self-confident are words used to describe Melanie now. She is proud to be the first person in three generations of her family to have graduated from high school. But she didn't stop there! Melanie took advantage of opportunities that provided her with a paid internship to get experience in her desired field. Melanie is now working as a childcare provider at her local YWCA while she continues to advance her education.



Melanie
Kalamazoo County Michigan Works! Southwest

Debra
JMG Specialist KRESA in partnership with Michigan Works! Southwest

The story wouldn't be complete if we didn't recognize the supportive and caring individuals that help our youth achieve their potential. Behind almost every successful youth like Melanie, is someone like Debra James who is highly committed to helping our young people succeed. Debra believes that this desire and determination is already inside our young adults.

"My job is to get the spark ignited and get these kids to see how awesome and capable they are."



YOUTH SOLUTIONS DIGITAL

How do you engage youth? By meeting them where they are. This digital offering fosters youth success with mobile messaging powered by AI, engaging youth and keeping them connected to opportunities that support their future goals.



YOUTH SOLUTIONS SELECT

A customized approach that addresses individual schools and where they need support, while helping students reach their goals in the classroom and beyond.



JOBS FOR MICHIGAN'S GRADUATES

PREMIER PROGRAM! This is the premier program where it all started. This proven methodology is used throughout each of our programs, helping youth gain the skills necessary to succeed in education, employment and in life. **Jobs for Michigan's Graduates** is a state-based affiliate of the national **Jobs for America's Graduates** organization, one of the largest and most successful school-to-work systems for at-risk and disadvantaged young people in the US.

		Dropout Prevention	Dropout Recovery
	Graduation	94%	82%
	Employment	62%	73%
	Full-Time Employment	83%	86%
	Full-Time Positive Outcomes	78%	73%
	Further Education Rate	49%	22%



CAREERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE MONTH

Provides youth with opportunities to learn about career paths in the public sector and participate in civic engagement by meeting virtually with their local elected officials.

339

PARTICIPANTS

82

YOUTH MET WITH
LEGISLATORS

46

LEGISLATIVE
MEETINGS

ELEVATE
youth
opportunities

“JMG gave me the opportunity to enhance my communication and confidence to pursue leadership opportunities.”

Nolan participated in Careers in Public Service month as a panelist on Coffee with a Purpose and he co-moderated a panel of public sector leaders.

> Nolan

Flint Southeastern Alumni
Youth Advisory Council
Former Youth Solutions Intern

Exposing youth to different opportunities and employer partnerships that allow youth to explore career pathways is a key part of the successful outcomes of the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program. While in JMG, Zach was inspired by a talent tour to Bill Marsh Auto and upon graduation, enrolled at Northwestern Michigan College to become an automotive mechanic. Not only is he continuing his education, he also works part time at Bill Marsh Automotive. Zach now has the opportunity to offer guidance to current JMG students who are interested in pursuing a career in the automotive industry.

> Zach

Alumni TBA/ISD Career-Tech,
Forest Lake High School

PARTNERSHIP MODEL



EXPLORE career and educational pathways



ENGAGE with different industries and schools



gain hands-on **EXPERIENCE**

EMPOWER youth voices

It's essential to encourage youth to use their voices for good. It's equally essential to have productive conversations where we listen, understand, and take appropriate actions to ensure an equal and great future for all of Michigan's youth.

COFFEE WITH A PURPOSE

By way of taking action, "Coffee with a Purpose" was created; virtual conversations that explore a range of youth education and employment related topics with guest speakers who share our passion for Michigan's young people. Since its creation, youth from around the state have taken on topics such as, racial equity, the pandemic's effect on youth and their education, youth leadership and civic engagement and mental health.



Christian's message as a panelist for Coffee with a Purpose - Mental Health Awareness: A Youth Perspective and contribution to his community were recognized by Representative John Cherry and Representative Cynthia R Neeley.

Christian

Youth Advisory Council Member
Alumni Flint Genesee Job Corps
Center

Our strategic plan raises the youth voice and encourages them to be vocal advocates for the organization through the:

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Youth benefit from networking with other JMG leaders statewide, build their resume and improve skills in leadership, interpersonal relationships, decision making and public speaking.

ALUMNI NETWORK

A place where alumni can stay connected to each other and Youth Solutions, while receiving access to resources and opportunities post graduation.

Natasha

2018 Alumni of the Year
Youth Advisory Council Member
2021 Youth Solutions Intern



When you give youth opportunities to flourish, they will rise to the occasion. Although it looked like everything was nearly perfect on the outside, Natasha was struggling. When she heard about the new JMG program at her school and met Meagan, a JMG Specialist, Natasha decided to give it a try. She thrived in the program!

"I had support from Meagan and the entire UP Michigan Works! Staff. I was able to grow my communication and leadership skills. I attended the Career Development Conference and was able to participate in summer work experience as well," said Natasha.

With her newly polished skills, Natasha was able to speak up and elevate her ideas that have made the program even better. It was Natasha who came up with the idea of creating an Alumni Network. She continues to stay involved with the program as an Alumni of the Year award winner, an active member of the Youth Advisory Council and now, as an intern with Youth Solutions.

"I wholeheartedly believe that Meagan's support and the things that I learned while involved with JMG are the reason that I graduated high school and have continued my education post graduation."

With the generosity of our supporters, we are able to impact more youth around the state.

#PROJECTMIYOUTH

A special thank you to all our individual, corporate, and foundation donors that helped make #ProjectMIYouth and Giving Tuesday a success! We raised \$140,840 in 90 days, which included 100% staff participation.

EVENT SPONSORS

- TCF Bank
- Lyons Industries
- Michigan College Access Network
- Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association
- WestRock
- Operating Engineers 324
- Southeast Michigan Construction Academy
- Vail Rubber Works

GRANTORS

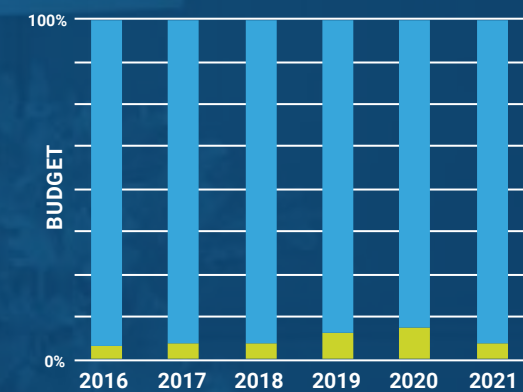
- AT&T
- Consumers Energy Foundation
- Michigan College Access Network
- Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity
- Strada Education Services
- United Way of the Lakeshore
- United Way of Southwest Michigan



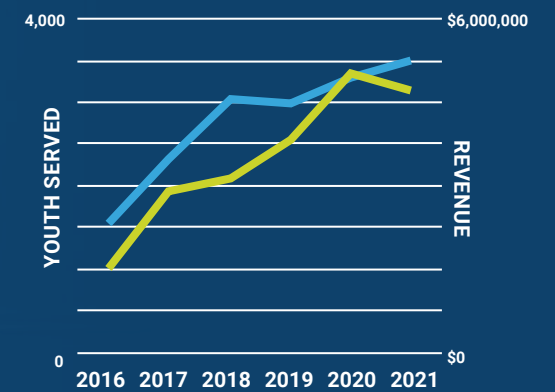
SUPPORT
youth
futures

> Jamal
Alumni Pershing High School

2021 FINANCIALS



■ Youth Programs 95%
■ Admin Costs 5%



■ Youth Served 3,510
■ Revenue \$4,729,367

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Youth Solutions would like to extend a special thank you to Michigan's Governor Whitmer, Legislature, and Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for their unwavering support of our premier program, Jobs for Michigan's Graduates, and the youth we serve around the state.



"I hope that everyone realizes, this is some of THE most important work going on not just in supporting youth, but in all of education. Our strategic plan is a genuine game changer. When we successfully implement it, we will look back on this as a watershed moment."

> Roger Curtis
Board Member
Vice President of Public Affairs
Consumers Energy

AFFILIATES

NEW IN 2021! Oakland County Michigan Works!

Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium

Michigan Works! Region 7B

West Michigan Works!

Michigan Works! Great Lakes Bay Region

in partnership with the **Institute for Excellence in Education**

GST Michigan Works!

Capital Area Michigan Works!

Michigan Works! BCVB

Michigan Works! Southwest

SEMCA Michigan Works!

Michigan Works! Southeast

Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation

Northview Public Schools

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