

# LEADERSHIP FOR A LIFETIME



2024-25  
Annual  
Impact Report  
Kentucky YMCA  
Youth Association

[kymca.org](http://kymca.org)



# LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends of the Y,

Working for the Kentucky YMCA is one of the greatest honors of my life. As an alum of our programs, I am constantly inspired by our students, teachers, volunteers, and staff. Each one is deeply committed to creating positive change in the world and building a strong, compassionate community within our Y family.

Throughout the year, I've witnessed friendships form, confidence grow, and ideas turn into action. I've seen teens transformed by experiences that help them find their voice and purpose. Teaching democracy, service learning and civic responsibility is essential. At the Kentucky YMCA, we've believed that for more than a century, leading the way in teen civic engagement since 1890.

This year, thanks in large part to support from the Bezos Family Foundation, our youth and government program, the Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA), experienced a 12% increase in student participation and a 36% increase in schools, reaching new communities across the Commonwealth. Many of those schools went on to join our Model United Nations program (KUNA), where students expanded their global awareness and empathy. Our leadership and character development programs also thrived; our Go For It Leadership Retreat experienced a 37% growth, and Y-Corps continued to develop servant leaders who think critically about their communities and act with purpose. Meanwhile, Student Y remains the heartbeat of our organization, empowering young people to serve others, build community, and lead voter education efforts throughout the state.

While growth and numbers tell part of the story, our true impact is found in the moments we witness every day: A sixth grader bravely giving a speech for the first time, a shy seventh grader performing on stage, a friendship forming between students from opposite corners of the state, or a teen discovering the power of compassion through service.

Thank you for making these moments possible. Whether you brought a delegation, volunteered your time, made a donation, or helped spread the word about our work, you are part of this story. Our success is yours, and I am deeply grateful for your continued belief in the mission and future of the Kentucky YMCA.

With sincere appreciation,  
Amanda Chism, Chief Executive Officer

# Y- CORPS 2024

For 26 years, Y-students have been placed at the intersection of community, culture, and need through the Y-Corps program. This movement has transformed the lives of thousands of Kentucky teens and hundreds of communities, demonstrating our program motto that "work is love made visible."

The journey begins with the Y-Corps Institute, where students learn about fundraising and what it takes to make a difference in their communities. They then raise funds for KY YMCA Needs-Based Scholarships. At the end of the summer, students can choose to participate in one of two impactful programs:

- **Service to the Commonwealth**
  - A week-long service experience around Kentucky, where students provide service to local nonprofit organizations while gaining pride in the beautiful culture of the Commonwealth.
- **Service to the South**
  - A week-long service experience taking high school students around the Southern states where they learn about various communities and spend time providing service to those in need.

This experience not only enriches the students but also strengthens the communities they serve.

**\$15,238**

raised by Y-Corps  
Students

**152**

scholarships funded by  
Y-Corps student  
fundraising

**2,439**

hours of service  
completed throughout  
the year

**40**

communities served by  
Y-Corps teams



# KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY

## KYA - Events Summary

The KYA 2024 season saw some of our favorite traditions, including debate, Y cheers, passing of the gavel and more student leadership than ever! We hosted seven conferences with 5,000+ participants from 210 schools and 75 counties, including 151 students in leadership positions. Students this year were able to build friendships while dancing at the silent disco, practice civil discourse while participating in conference programs, learn critical thinking skills through conference preparations & expanded their social network through interactions with teens across the Commonwealth.



“My students had an amazing time. Coming from a school that is unlike most that attend KYA I was blown away by the way my students just jumped in. They didn’t get discouraged, they worked so hard! Thank you to the Y for providing this opportunity for my students and they already cannot wait to come back next year.”

Advisor & Teacher

**\$58,536**

Need-Based Scholarships

**2,287**

Middle School Participants

**2,915**

High School Participants

**537**

Advisor Participants

**13**

Volunteers

**62**

Presiding Officers

**527**

Bills Submitted

**4**

Specialized Programs

**89**

Supporting Officers

# CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



## Leadership Training Conference 2025

Location: Lindsey Wilson College

Students spent the weekend learning how to be effective community participants & gaining critical leadership skills to take back to their home communities with them.

150  
Attendees

27  
Volunteers



## Go For It Conference 2025

Location: Camp Loucon

Students had a unforgettable weekend learning how they can identify both their passions & personal skills, then utilize them to set goals for a future of self-defined success.

210  
Attendees

32  
Volunteers



**\$13,461 Need-based scholarships awarded to LTC & GFI attendees including 2 scholarships from the Melanie Carroll Memorial Fund and 16 scholarships from WingStop Foundation**

# KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

## KUNA - March 2025 Events Summary

The KUNA 2025 season continued to be our students' favorite trip around the world! We hosted 4 conferences with 3,400+ participants from 153 schools, including 73 students in leadership positions. KUNA students expanded their world view, gained empathy from connecting and learning about a variety of countries, built lasting friendships, and did it all in a safe, fun to learn environment! They were able to have meaningful conversations around global affairs, and practice professional skills like public speaking, conflict management, and professionalism.



**\$46,202**

Need-Based Scholarships

**1,319**

Middle School Participants

**2,163**

High School Participants

**313**

Advisor Participants

**7**

Volunteers

**35**

Presiding Officers

**352**

Resolutions Submitted

**4**

Specialized Programs

**38**

Supporting Officers

# STUDENT Y

Student Y is a student-led movement for middle and high school students (grades 6–12) who want to create real change in their schools, communities, and beyond. Through hands-on service learning and civic engagement, Student Y empowers young people to grow as compassionate, informed, and active citizens.

Each Student Y Chapter becomes a hub for leadership and impact organizing meaningful service projects, voter registration drives, and outreach efforts that strengthen communities. Members connect with peers across the state, attend inspiring Y programs, receive exclusive discounts and merchandise, and develop skills that last a lifetime.

At its core, Student Y nurtures Civic Engagement, Servant Leadership, and Character Development; helping students discover their voice, act with purpose, and lead with heart.



**3,911**  
Student Y Members

**2,823**  
Service hours completed

“A lot of organizations will create leaders, but the focus of the Y is serving other people first. And using any power you acquire to help other people and not putting yourself first. That is really important to me.”

Shreeya Auroa | Student Y Participant

# 2024 – 2025 Financial Report

## Gross Revenue \$3,139,917

Programs	\$2,600,810
Contributions	\$230,418
Individual Donors	\$73,333
Grants, Foundations & Corporate Partnerships	\$132,633
Net Revenue	\$131,637

## Expenses \$3,068,077

Indirect Program	\$1,107,369
Direct Program	\$1,860,574

# 2024 – 2025 Leadership

<b>Board of Directors Officers</b>	Amy Simpson – Board Chair Bryan Flachbart – Vice Chair Allison Mefford – Secretary		Brad Hayes – Treasurer & Finance Chair David Byerman/Emily Lepping – Governance Chair Kerri Richardson – Development Chair	
<b>Board of Directors</b>	Allison Mefford Chris Reitz Bryan Ernstberger Steve Gold	Christopher Head F. Ryan Keith Bradley Hayes Emily Lepping	David Perlow Robert Rich Chris Mitchell	
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<b>Board of Overseers</b>	Maria Rapin – Chair	Luke Boyett Greg Palmer	Chad Carlton Chip Polston	Gary McCullom
<b>CEO</b>	Amanda Pile Chism			

# Thank you, Donors!

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Kentucky Bar Foundation  
Riney Family Foundation



## \$5,000+

KY Civic Engagement Table OPOV  
Kentucky Dept. of Treasury  
Luke Boyett  
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Louisville Bar Foundation  
Wingstop Charity

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# Thank you, Donors!

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Emily Lepping

## Thank you to the families who have created scholarship funds in memory of loved ones who have passed

Melanie Carroll Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Anthony Flaherty Scholarship

## Kentucky YMCA Mission Statement

The mission of the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association is to develop engaged citizens and servant leaders, inspired to affect change in their school, community, Commonwealth, nation, and world. Through experiential learning, service, and community activism, the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association fosters critical thinking, leadership, and social responsibility in teens.

"I'm passionate about the KY YMCA Youth Association because I know first hand the impact it can have on students. I grew up a shy kid, who hated speaking in front of large numbers of people, and would never start conversations with people I didn't know. However, that all started to change once I served as an attorney at KYA my junior year of high school. It was probably the most nervous I had ever been to participate in any program, but knowing that I was selected by my advisors to take on this role helped me gain confidence I didn't know I had in me."

Anamarie Delgado | Program Coordinator