



YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

Providing a safe, nurturing environment where youth can strengthen their personalities and develop educational and social skills







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IN 1997, community leaders and parents established Community Partners with Youth (CPY) to combat rising juvenile crime by increasing adult supervision during “out of school” hours including after school, during school holidays, and over the summer months.

Now 29 years later, we continue to be vital to the community through our mission: to provide a safe, nurturing environment where youth can strengthen their personalities and develop educational and social skills.

Because of supporters like you, CPY has instilled the values of kindness, leadership, integrity, service, equity, respect and resilience in more than 13,000 youth over the years.

Community is at the heart of EVERYTHING we do, and our success wouldn't be possible without YOU!

A special thanks to Christ the King and Abiding Savior Lutheran Churches, who have graciously stepped up and house our programs free of cost each year.

Without further ado, take a look at some of our highlights from the past year, all made possible by the generosity of our community.

This year in review is dedicated to our board members who will be dearly missed by all.



Maxine Smedshammer

June 26, 1944–
January 21, 2026
10 years of service



Sheryl Stone

March 25, 1949–
January 20, 2024
20 years of service

Board Spotlight

- Ben Ojika
Board Chair
- Brian White
Vice Chair
- Dave Larson
Treasurer
- Tiffany White
Secretary
- Paula Alexander
- Geoff Hollimon
- Ed James
- Nick McLain
- Eric Walburg
- Sarah Walburg
- Deb Wolterstorff

Meet the new Board Chair: Ben Ojika

We are excited and proud to announce that not only do we have a new Board Chair, but he is also a CPY Alum! Check out what he had to say about his time in program and his new position:

CPY was a staple of my summers. I thoroughly enjoyed the activities, field trips, and staff. CPY helped me learn conflict resolution, communication, and how to be a part of a community. Through CPY I gained lifetime friendships and mentors. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to give back to the community that gave so much to me!



Ben as a youth in 2003 (in orange) with his friends

January

The year started off extra busy, with a group of ten going to Feed My Starving Children, career vision boards, and six staff helping out at Highview's end of semester FLOCK Day.

On the elementary side, Boys and Girls Groups started up and focused on small business and financial literacy. Countless art projects were completed, including pinecone people, and we focused heavily on math review.

Thanks to some volunteers, we had a fully stocked fridge and freezer for snack time!



February

Middle school celebrated Valentine's Day by making cards for local seniors and seeing *Romeo & Juliet* at Collide Theater, thanks to Tickets for Kids. The 8th graders also started planning their Program Takeover Day, planning snack and activities for the day.

Elementary celebrated Black History Month with some culturally relevant crafts, and cooked awaze tibs and jollof rice with fried plantains. The Girl's Group went downhill skiing, a first for all of them!

March

The middle schoolers took a trip to the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum, we packed more food with the Lions Club at their packing event at Irondale, and we had a staff vs kids volleyball game, with the staff dominating.

Our groups were busy, making aurora mountain art, learning about blueprints and making popsicle stick houses, and making a 3D model of a bee.

The Bethel Physics Department brought a group of students to do some hands on STEM work with the youth.



April

Middle schoolers went to Base Camp for a day of team building with archery and rock climbing. We also went to the Community Center and played bingo with RISE Inc. We visited Pletscher's and a hair salon for some small business and career advice, and the 8th Graders did their takeover day.

Girls Group baked and sold cupcakes in three different flavors--Oreo, Strawberry and Tres Leches. Before the gardeners did their planting, we used the garden plots to excavate some "dinosaur bones".

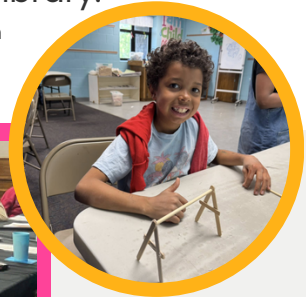
May



The middle schoolers held their Career Expo, with nine different professionals highlighted. The youth celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week by making gift bags for the Highview teachers. Youth also completed their Career Project Showcase, and Jennifer led an American Sign Language workshop.

The Boys Group completed their own bake sale, making three different cookies: chocolate chip, chocolate crinkle, and M&M. We celebrated the end of the year with Reading Friends with an ice cream party. We completed five service projects including thank you cards for teachers, bracelets for nurses, and bookmarks for the library.

We held a few "round up" days, where the 5th graders got a taste of middle school program.



June

Thanks to the Synod and Ramsey County, we secured three extra interns for the summer, which was a huge help!

We took 75 youth and family members to Create a Memory at Target Field.

Middle schoolers did some fun art projects, including their own personalized water bottles and anything but a paintbrush painting.

Elementary worked on some multi-week projects, choosing to create either paper mache turtles or cardboard box castles.



July

Thanks in part to the New Brighton Lions, Big Ideas returned with their career VR truck. Edgewood STEAM was our morning guests, going through the truck,



doing EverFi financial literacy, and spending time in the gym to round out the morning.

Elementary youth had a bonus field trip to the Science Museum, made fairy lanterns and fairy village gardens, and used the chromebooks to complete Hour of Code.

We completed eight service projects including packing hair care bags for People Serving People, baking cookies for New Brighton Public Safety, packing food at Feed My Starving Children, and helping pick food in the Community Garden for Ralph Reeder.



August

Middle school did AWS Academy, a website/computer programming workshop with a 3 student pilot group for two days--though it needed to be 1:1, the kids all really enjoyed it!

We walked with the New Brighton Lions in the New Brighton Stockyard Days Parade, and solo in the Mounds View Parade.

We did a kitchen deep clean with some volunteers from Christ the King, and then took some well-needed time off before gearing up for fall!

September

We started the year strong, with nearly 60 middle schoolers and 55 elementary youth. We helped weed and prep the rain garden, and then spent a day planting a section of the garden.

We had another season of Girls on the Run, with a small but mighty crew of girls and some new coaches. We also started a weekly cooking class, with the kids learning kitchen safety and more in depth cooking skills.



October

We held a Girl's Empower event with Team Women with just over 20 girls who learned about self-care, leadership and ended the day with a trip to the mall. Middle schoolers also carved 35 pumpkins for the New Brighton Pumpkin Walk and Trunk-or-Treat.

Elementary made 3D hologram projectors, styrofoam printmaking and a completed Minecraft coding game.

H.B. Fuller Company came and prepped over 500 meals and snacks, that included taco bake, shepherd's pie, crustless chicken pot pie, pizza pasta casserole and apple muffins.



November

Middle school did a People's Pie activity, where they balanced the national spending budget, and went to the New Brighton Community Center for a career field trip, learning about all the jobs at the center, as well as to design their dream community center.



API Group donated hygiene kits, middle school birthday bags, and snack packs as part of their annual giving day.

Elementary schoolers made A BUNCH of different types of slime to test how the different mixes react. Boys Group did a wood working project with one of our volunteers, including a trip to his workshop. Girls on the Run concluded, with a FRIGID 5K.



Thanks again to API Group who came in and baked the gingerbread kits, both middle school and elementary were able to build and test some houses.

Middle schoolers went on a few field trips to celebrate the end of the year, including: AMC Theaters, Trapped Puzzle Rooms, and Flaherty's Arden Bowl.

We did a nutrition/food pyramid activity, and talked about the different food groups and healthy eating.

Science From Scientists came in and did an onsite field trip testing out fire safety and showing how fire works.

December



Generational Reach

Our family is beyond grateful to CPY.

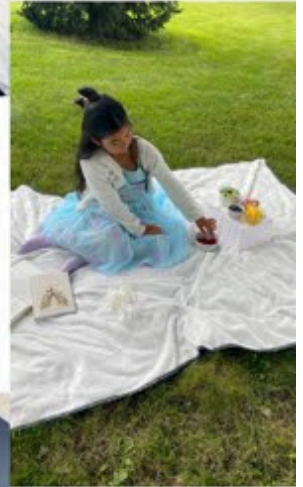
CPY has not only provided our family with a reliable child care program, but a program that is fun for our kids!



As a big family we often face scheduling clashes with the younger kids, but CPY has provided the kids with a joyful environment



WE LOVE
CPY



Thank you for helping our children grow, learn, and be kids!!



Sincerely,
the Carrillo Renteria family



Key Achievements

Recent Survey Results from our Middle School Program

CPY has given
me positive
adult role
models

99%

CPY has helped me
resist negative
peer pressure &
dangerous
behaviors

92%

CPY made me
optimistic about
my personal
future

88%

Social Emotional Learning Results from 2024/2025 School Year

33%

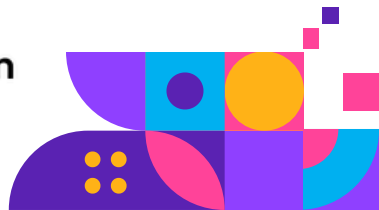
Improvement in
Developing a
Positive Sense of
Self

50%

Improvement in
Emotional
Management

13%

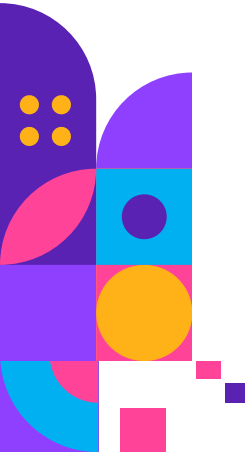
Overall
Improvement
in all areas



In The Community

We played, explored and tasted foods at 67 places in the community including:

- Target Field
- Urban Air
- The Children's Theater
- Science Museum of MN
- Valleyfair
- Pletscher's Greenhouses
- CheapSkate
- The Works!
- Anoka Aquatics Center
- Grand Slam
- V-Lux Hair Salon
- Zero Gravity
- Snake Discovery
- The MN Zoo
- Trapped Puzzle Rooms
- Flaherty's Arden Bowl
- AMC Theaters
- MN African American Heritage Museum
- New Brighton Community Center
- New Brighton Public Works



Partnerships

- Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
- APi Group
- Base Camp
- Becker Building and Remodeling
- Bell Lumber and Pole
- Bethel University
- Big Ideas
- CAP Carpet
- Christ the King Lutheran Church
- City of Mounds View
- City of New Brighton
- Create a Memory Foundation
- Double Tree Hilton of Roseville
- EverFi through Northeast Bank
- Girls on the Run MN
- H. B. Fuller Company
- Mounds View School District staff
- Mounds View Police Department
- New Brighton Lions Club
- New Brighton/Mounds View Rotary Club
- New Brighton Public Safety Department
- Northeast Bank
- North East Metro Golden K Kiwanis
- Pletscher's Greenhouse
- Power of 100
- Ralph Reeder Food Shelf
- Ramsey County Boat Association
- Ramsey County Friends of the Library
- RISE Inc.
- Science from Scientists
- Second Harvest Heartland
- TeamWomen
- Tickets for Kids
- Tree Trust
- University of Northwestern
- V-Lux Hair Salon
- Youthprise

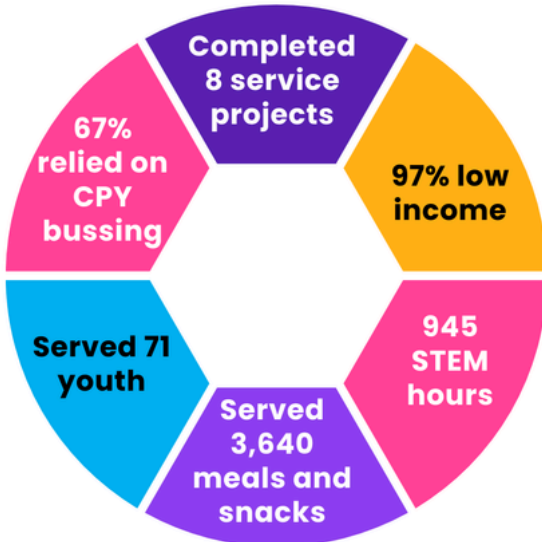


By The Numbers

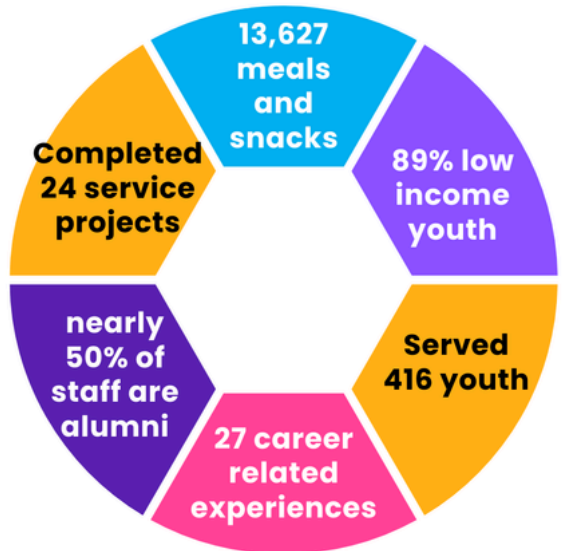
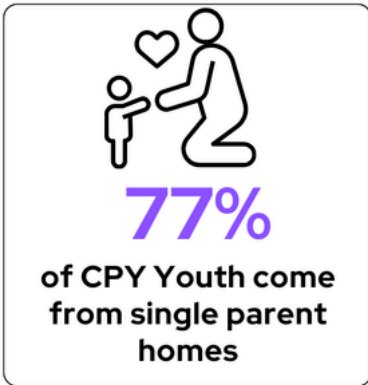
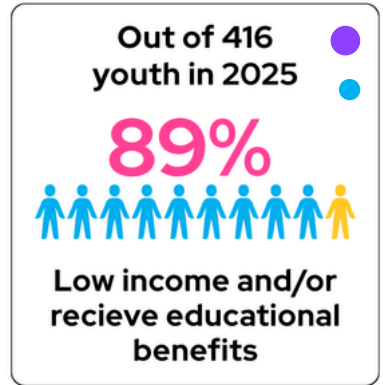
- **23** summer **field trip sites**
- **13,627** meals and snacks served
- **416** youth through the doors: 189 in the spring, 71 over the summer, and 156 in the fall
- Over **1,100** program hours and **1,041** activities planned for a total of **48,763** mentorship hours
- **133** Tickets for Kids tickets provided across **six** events
- **75** participants for our third season at **Create a Memory**
- **1,331** pounds of food delivered from Second Harvest Heartland
- **89%** of participants qualified for **free/reduced price lunch**
- **24** service projects completed
- **29** total staff (**14** alumni)
- **859** volunteer hours helping cook, read with youth and leading activities across all programs
- **9,320** STEM hours completed across all grades
- **51** opportunities to learn about different cultures through foods, crafts and recreational activities
- **27** career-related experiences including field trips, activities and events



YOUR Impact



Summer 2025



2025 Overall

Did You Know?

01



Nearly 50% of our staff are alumni

We strive to hire staff that are representative of the youth we serve. To do so, we often look to our alumni pool!

02



Volunteers cook many of our meals

Dedicated groups of volunteers come on Tuesdays and prepare our hot meals for the youth (or fill the freezer!)

03



We host 3 major fundraisers each year

The Spring Luncheon: Tues., April 21, 2026
Golf Ball Drop: Sun., Aug 9, 2026
Winter Gala: Fri., Dec 4, 2026

04



We travel over 20,000 miles per year

With transportation being a HUGE barrier for many of our families, we pick up and drop off youth to attend our programs.

05



Juvenile related police calls are down almost 94%

Since our inception, juvenile related police calls have dropped from 249/year to only 27/per--a 93.7% decrease! Though this is a community effort and we are happy to be a part of it!



Ralph as a youth,
and again as a staff

Giving Back

As part of our programming, we engaged in service projects last year. Some of the most memorable include:

- Going to Feed My Starving Children twice to pack food to send to other countries
- Decorating the sidewalk and running path for our own Girls on the Run team at their practice 5K
- Carving pumpkins for the City of New Brighton's Pumpkin Walk
- Making bookmarks for the local library
- Packing haircare bags for People Serving People
- Baking cookies and dog treats for the Mounds View Police Department
- Picking up sticks every week during the summer for Christ the King garden and yardwork crew
- Helping prepare and plant in the Rain Garden for Christ the King and the surrounding community
- Making thank you cards for nurses at a local hospital



Volunteer Spotlight

Second only to our staff, volunteers are integral to EVERYTHING we do. Whether helping with check in or cooking snack, reading with the youth or helping with STEM activities, we couldn't do it without our volunteers!



01. Reading Friends

Thanks to a partnership with Friends of the Ramsey County Library, readers come and read 1:1 with our youth every Thursday

02. Making Meals

Volunteers come weekly to make meals and snacks for the youth, a HUGE help! Whether individuals or groups like H.B. Fuller Company, we appreciate it all!



03. Activity Support

Organizations (like APi Group) have been a HUGE help with some of our more involved and complicated activities!



04. Science Helpers

Once a month Science From Scientists comes and leads activities with our youth. Volunteers like Jeff have been integral for helping make it happen!





GET INVOLVED WITH CPY!

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Share our story



CONTACT US



www.cpymn.org



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