



CITY YEAR COLUMBUS

Annual Report

2020-2021



Dear Friends,

When we started the 2020-2021 school year our team could only imagine the challenges, difficulties, and complications presented by working virtually with students during a global pandemic.

As schools, families and communities across the country adjusted to life during the COVID-19 pandemic, City Year and our district partners facilitated new ways to support students, teachers and classrooms while also continuing their own training and professional development online.

Our service never stopped, it just looked different.

- AmeriCorps members supported teachers in virtual classrooms, answered students’ questions in chat boxes, and provided online tutoring sessions.
- Corps members worked to keep their teams connected and uplifted through frequent video calls and tips on how to provide self-care.
- AmeriCorps members made phone calls home to families, connected with their students, and checked in on how they and their parents were doing.
- Teams assisted teachers during online classes and provided support to help students and parents find assignments and materials so they can complete their schoolwork.

Relationships matter a lot right now.

Relationships between AmeriCorps members and students are at the heart of City Year’s work in schools. Students learn and develop much better when they feel safe, supported, valued and heard. As near-peer mentors, tutors and role models, City Year AmeriCorps members are powerfully positioned to forge caring, consistent and positive relationships with the students they serve every day.

In light of COVID-19, City Year Columbus worked to seek new ways to connect with students and bring joy to their learning experience. Within this report, you will find examples of how City Year AmeriCorps members stepped up to work alongside teachers, administrators, and staff to continue providing services to schools and students.

The following stories of impact are a testament to the work and dedication of our AmeriCorps members, staff, and school partners.

Additionally, we are grateful for our partnership with the Columbus City School district and the expansion of our Whole School, Whole Child program into Starling K-8, located in the Franklinton community. Growing our service from seven to eight schools is truly inspirational.

Thank you to our village of committed champions, funders, partners, staff, AmeriCorps members and board members. Your support ensures City Year Columbus will continue to serve the students of Columbus City Schools for years to come.

Yours in service,

Adero Robinson
Vice President & Executive Director

Josh Cochran
Board Chair



City Year’s Whole School, Whole Child Approach

Helping students learn and develop through positive relationships and integrated social, emotional and academic support.


City Year Columbus helps students and schools succeed, while preparing the next generation of diverse leaders who can make positive change. In partnership with the Columbus City School District, City Year AmeriCorps members cultivate equitable and responsive learning environments where students have access to additional resources and relationships they need to set and reach their goals, fully engage in their learning, and experience success.

AmeriCorps members partner with classroom teachers to help students build on their strengths and cultivate key social, emotional and academic skills, whether that’s mastering


fractions or learning to work in teams—skills that are important in school and in life.

City Year AmeriCorps members serve all day, every day throughout the school year to ensure that students are receiving the support they need both in and out of the classroom. City Year staff and AmeriCorps Members collaborate with the school principal and teachers to deliver data-driven interventions and help create joyful, engaging activities and environments that help the school achieve its vision for educational excellence for all students.


HOW CITY YEAR WORKS IN SCHOOLS




One-on-one and small group instruction in English and math with embedded social-emotional supports




Use of data to monitor student progress and better meet student needs




Additional capacity in the classroom, supporting classroom routines and providing and enabling differentiated instruction



Extended-day activities: afterschool programming, homework assistance, enrichment curricula and civic projects that build and serve community



Small group social-emotional skill building sessions



Whole school activities that improve conditions for learning, engage families and inspire civic engagement



City Year Columbus: Service in the Midst of COVID-19

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the abrupt closure of schools and a shift to distance learning in March 2020. In response, City Year Columbus quickly adapted its operations to continue serving partner schools and students within the Columbus City School District.

Navigating the Transition

City Year Columbus staff and AmeriCorps members were proactive in working with school partners to offer support with assessing family needs, keeping families and students updated on plans for distance learning, and by providing information on how to access resources.

SUPPORT FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

AmeriCorps members supported partner teachers in the virtual space by providing small group academic, social, and emotional support, tracking student engagement (attendance and participation), answering student questions, providing technical support, integrating interactive activities into lessons, providing homework help, and facilitating other enrichment activities.

As the Columbus City School district moved into a hybrid learning model, City Year continued to collaborate with administrators and teachers to continue providing integrated services for students.

City Year Columbus’ approach to personalized learning and development, along with its commitment to equity and the holistic well-being of AmeriCorps members, staff, students, and families, helped the organization successfully meet the needs of schools and district partners.

SUPPORTING AMERICORPS MEMBERS

To address AmeriCorps members’ emotional well-being during the pandemic, City Year offered a myriad of services including community meetings, reflection activities, self-care offerings, professional development and mental health support.

With the support and generosity from board members, funders, and volunteers, City Year Columbus developed a site pantry deigned to support AmeriCorps members with essential supplies, hygiene items, and food as they continued to work during the pandemic.

VIRTUAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Provided virtual classroom academic and social/emotional supports
- Supported attendance and family engagement initiatives
- Recorded academic lessons and programming for students to watch at home
- Assisted parents and guardians with navigating online learning
- Facilitated drop-in virtual homework assistance and tutoring for students
- Supported school-based engagement activities, open houses, virtual events, town halls
- Made phone calls home to support students and families

► **CHECK OUT** what one of our AmeriCorps members, Mary, had to say about virtual service and how she was able to connect with her students remotely at bit.ly/cycovirtualsevice

Our partner schools

1. CHAMPION MIDDLE SCHOOL

284 N. 22nd Street
Columbus, OH 43203
2. LINDEN-MCKINLEY STEM ACADEMY

11320 Duxberry Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
3. LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

825 E. Livingston Avenue
Columbus, OH 43205
4. MIFFLIN HIGH SCHOOL

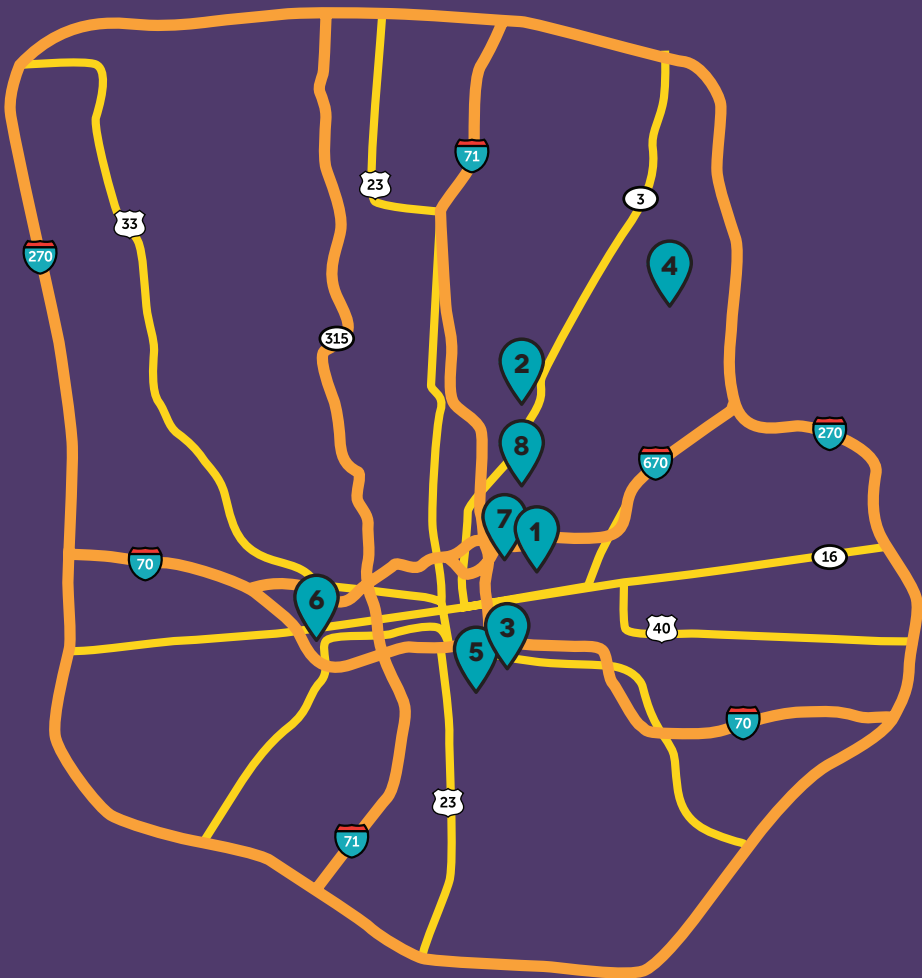
3245 Oak Spring Street
Columbus, OH 43219
5. SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

1160 Ann Street
Columbus, OH 43206
6. STARLING K-8

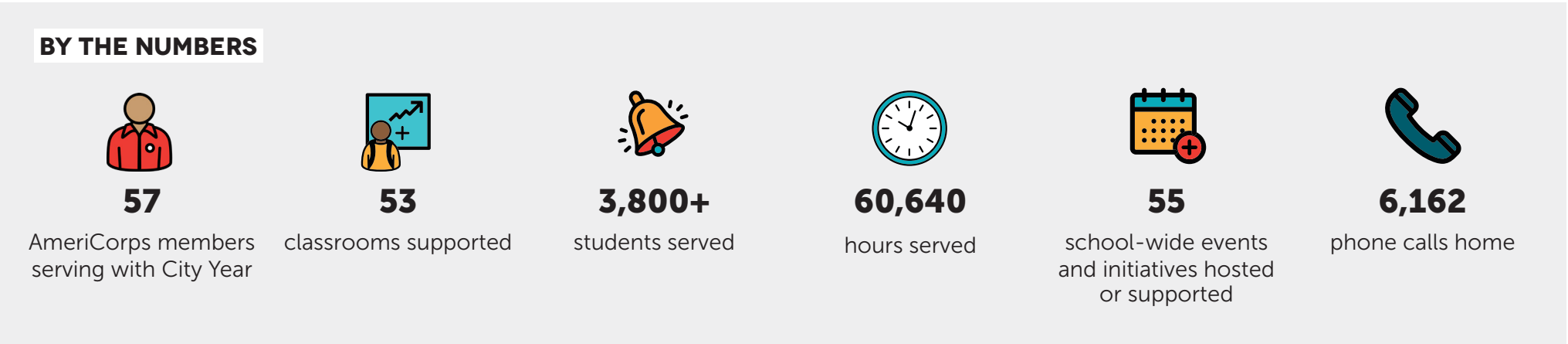
145 S Central Avenue
Columbus, OH 43222
7. TREVITT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

519 Trevitt Street
Columbus, OH 43203
8. WINDSOR STEM ACADEMY

1219 E. 12th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211



City Year Columbus Impact





Our AmeriCorps Members

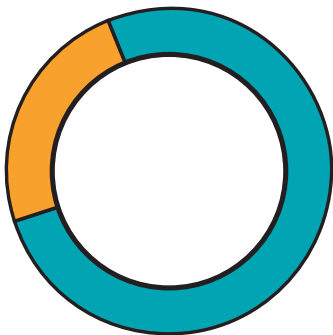
Every year, City Year Columbus recruits a diverse group of AmeriCorps members, ages 18-25, to spend a year in full-time service in Columbus City Schools, where they serve as student success coaches – near peer tutors, mentors and role models who provide holistic, personalized support to students as the cultivate foundational social, emotional and academic skills that are essential for success in school and in life.

During the 2020-2021 school year, 57 AmeriCorps members joined City Year Columbus with goals to support student success, advance educational equity, and build their personal and professional development.



Ethnicity

- 63% White
- 24% Black/African-American
- 7% Asian/Asian-American
- 2% Hispanic/Latino
- 2% Middle Eastern/North African
- 2% Not specified



Gender

- 82% Women
- 18% Men



Education

- 86% Bachelor degree or higher
- 9% Associate degree/some college
- 5% High school diploma/GED

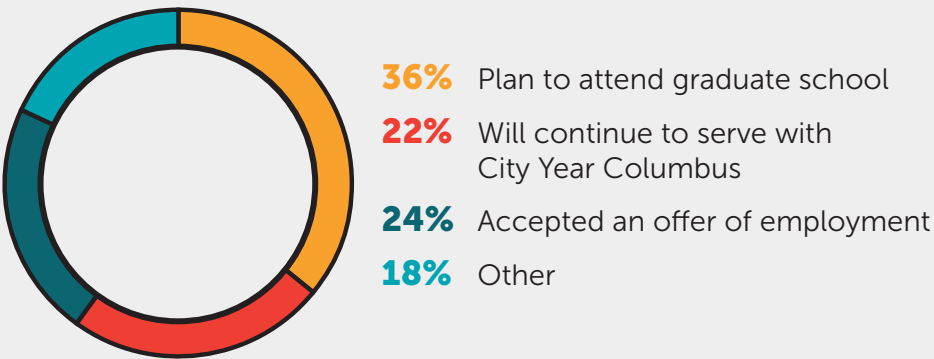
Life after City Year 2020-2021

During their year of service, City Year Columbus AmeriCorps members are encouraged to form a Life After City Year (LACY) plan, an integral part of the AmeriCorps experience. By providing mentorship, networking opportunities, and professional development workshops, City Year is dedicated to supporting the growth of young people. During their service year, AmeriCorps members can hone multiple skills that provide them with opportunities which can translate into any career path they choose.

Sometimes, their LACY plans turn into “STAY-CY” plans, meaning they return to City Year, either as a second year Corps member, Team Leader, Service Leader, or a staff member.

Plans after City Year

Based on June 2021 survey data



BUILDING THE WORKFORCE IN OHIO

72% of City Year Columbus AmeriCorps members plan to remain in Columbus

26% of AmeriCorps members plan to work in the field of Youth Development

20% of AmeriCorps members plan to enter the K-12 teaching profession

Why I Serve



Blake Southerland
AmeriCorps Member (2020-2021)

Hometown: Cincinnati
College: The College of Wooster

School team: Mifflin High School – 9th Grade Math

Why I Serve: “I love because I am loved - I serve because others serve me. Growing up I had mentors who poured into me, believed in me, helped me work towards my goals, and taught me how to believe in myself. They made me feel as if I could do anything, I want to do the very same for my students. I want to

support, encourage, challenge, empower, and love them as others have loved me; helping them to do more than they even realize they can... because they can! Every student is someone special.”



Serenity Scanlan
AmeriCorps Member (2020-2021)

Hometown: Zanesville, Ohio
College: Indiana Wesleyan University Global

School team: South High School

Why I Serve: “I serve because I believe everyone deserves equal access to a quality education. Educational equity has always been a passion of mine.

Growing up, I wasn’t granted many opportunities because of the educational system I grew up in. Even

today, most students like me from historically marginalized groups and disadvantaged backgrounds are falling through the cracks.

We all come from different ethnic and economic backgrounds, have different ways of looking at the world, and have different hopes, goals, and dreams. In the end, we do not get to decide which students we educate, but we do get to decide how well we educate them.

Not everyone has a clear path to success, but we all have value and the fundamental right to a quality education.”



Story of Impact

Taylor Aungst Team Leader (2020-2021)

School team: Champion Middle School

Each year of service comes with many unprecedented challenges that Corps Members and students work together to overcome. This year, those challenges were unlike anything we could have imagined or prepared for as we faced a global pandemic and transition to virtual schooling. Our day-to-day lives changed drastically as we all had to adjust to staying home, wearing masks, and working remotely.

Each Corps Member who chose to serve this year took on the additional challenge of working in schools through a pandemic. What would our new roles be? How would classes work? How would we be able to build relationships with students, school staff, and each other? Will we be going back to school at some point? What will that transition be like? When will that transition take place?

Our first challenge was building relationships. Would building relationships with each other, school staff, City Year staff, and students be possible through a computer screen? Though we handled our preparation and training with intentionality, many of us did not have a clear idea if this would be possible or if it would be the same. As the year progressed, I watched my team become closer both personally and professionally. I have seen them lean on each other for support, brainstorm as grade-level partners, and create friendships through virtual spaces.

I watched as Corps Members demonstrated creativity in the way they utilized Zoom, Google Classroom, and other platforms to foster relationships with students. I watched each member of our team express care towards their students, provide support with challenges they may be facing, challenge growth of their students and of each other, and expand possibilities by

introducing students to new topics, setting goals with students, or getting them thinking about their futures.

Though many things have changed this year and we are living in a time of great uncertainty, one thing remains the same; students know that when they see a City Year member in their classroom, they will be there to support, listen, and do everything they can to help that student be successful. By watching my team’s successes and ability to overcome challenges this year, I know that City Year’s legacy remains intact through the dedication and intentionality of this year’s Corps Members.

Our Funding Model

A proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network, City Year Columbus is supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Columbus City Schools and private philanthropy from corporations, foundations and individuals



Total Operating Revenue - \$3,083,192

- 39% Private Revenue
- 29% School District
- 27% AmeriCorps
- 5% Grants and Other



Total Operating Expenses - \$2,702,299

- 81% Program Services
- 16% Organizational Support
- 3% Fundraising



Thank you to our supporters

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and Family Services

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