



CITY YEAR COLUMBUS

Annual Report

2021-2022



Dear City Year Champion,

Since 1994, City Year Columbus has harnessed the power of young people to dedicate a year of service designed to positively impact our community. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." This philosophy is the backbone of our organization.

The following stories of City Year Columbus' service are a testament to the work and dedication of AmeriCorps members, staff, board members, partner teachers, school administrators, and students.

City Year Columbus performed admirably as our team navigated the challenges of COVID-19 and the shift back to in-person programming in partnership with Columbus City Schools. This report highlights how AmeriCorps Members provide additional capacity in classrooms, embed social emotional supports with academic interventions, utilize data to meet student needs, and facilitate tutoring sessions and afterschool activities.

As we look forward to City Year Columbus' 29th year of service, we are happy to introduce our new board chair, Synettra Coleman, Vice President, Business Development Manager at JPMorgan Chase. We recognize and appreciate all her work with City Year, her leadership, and vision for the future. We also acknowledge and thank our immediate past board chair, Josh Cochran, for his dedication, leadership, and wisdom he generously provided for many years.

Thank you to our donors, board members, volunteers, and community partners – both past and present – for your generosity and support of our mission. As we start a new academic year and welcome a fresh group of talented AmeriCorps members, we stand on the shoulders of those who paved the way. We take pride in acknowledging the successes of our past as we continue to move forward, reach new milestones, and serve the Columbus community.

Yours in service,

Adero Robinson
Vice President & Executive Director

Synettra Coleman
Board Chair



What We Do.

We believe that supporting children and young adults contributes to just, equitable and vibrant communities, and that when students rise, we all rise.

At City Year Columbus, we believe that all students can succeed and developing the skills and mindsets of children and young adults contributes to strong, vibrant communities—outcomes that benefit all of us.

City Year helps students and schools thrive by delivering holistic support to students, classrooms, and the whole school. Drawing from our 30-years of experience in human and youth development, we are committed to supporting the development of both our students and our AmeriCorps members.

AmeriCorps members serve in schools helping students build on their strengths and cultivating social, emotional and academic skills that are important in school and in life.

Through their service in schools and communities, City Year AmeriCorps members not only make a difference in the lives of students they serve, but also acquire valuable skills and experiences that prepare them to be leaders in their communities and careers.

HOW CITY YEAR WORKS IN SCHOOLS

City Year works closely with the school principal and teachers to deliver a suite of interconnected services that cost-effectively and efficiently improve student, classroom and whole school outcomes.



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



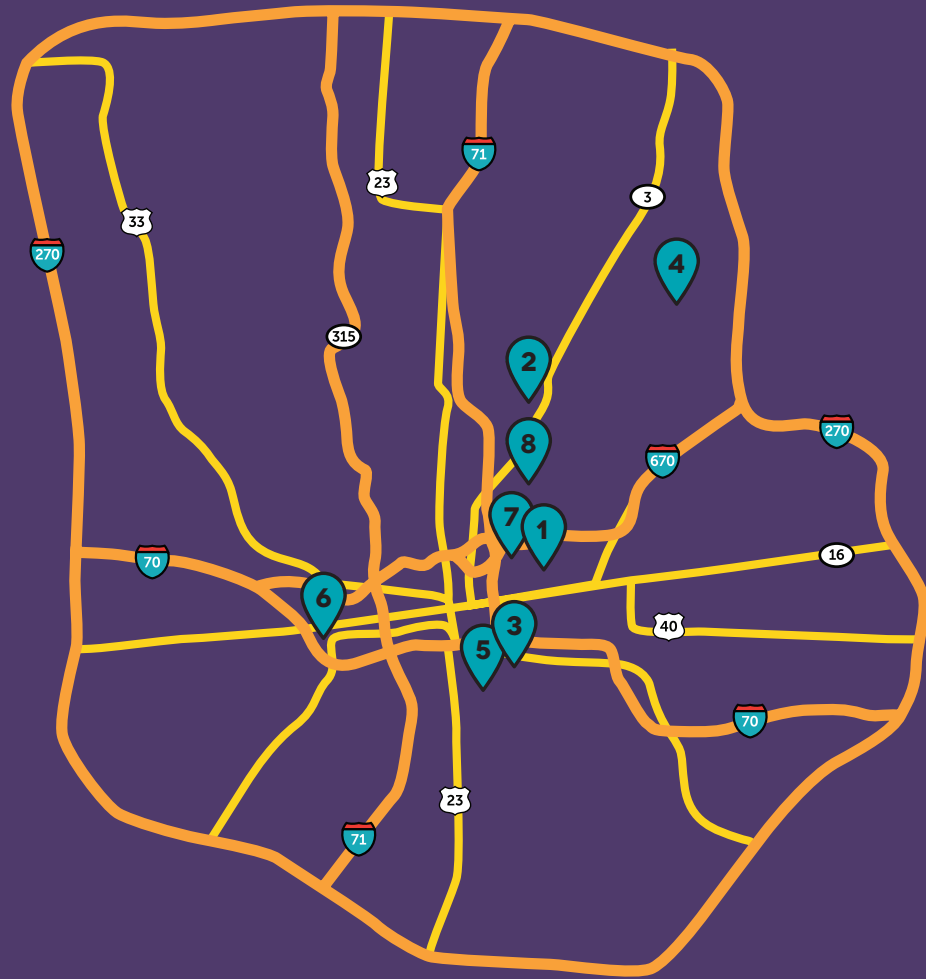
Small group social-emotional skill building sessions



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

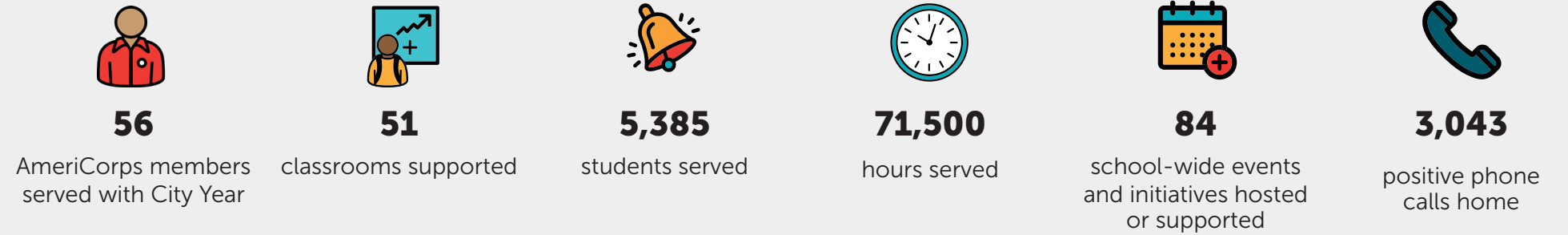
Our partner schools

- 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

BY THE NUMBERS



Research shows that providing students with positive, caring, consistent adult relationships at school helps to keep students on track to graduate with the skills and mindsets essential for success in college, career and life.

Students who stay in school are more engaged and perform better academically when they feel connected to at least one adult at school. That is our role and our goal, to ensure that students have the relationships and resources to help them thrive in and out of school.



"City Year AmeriCorps members are a true extension of the classroom teacher. Each AmeriCorps member wears many hats. They become a mentor, educator, sibling, family member, friend, nurse, counselor, and so much more to the students they serve. Corps members are an additional heartbeat in the educational process. They are significant change agents in the lives of students. The corps members are a light to each day and are full of love and energy. Educators such as myself find them priceless jewels."

Malissa A. Thomas-St.Clair,
8th Grade Math Teacher at Champion Middle School

ACADEMIC & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING



5,093

small group sessions with 573 Students



1,654

hours of English Language Arts interventions



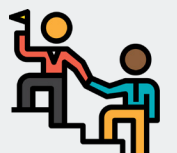
81%

growth in students responding to the Hollistic Student Assessment - a tool that evaluates social and emotional skills



2,129

hours of math interventions



787

hours of social-emotional skill building sessions



Story of Impact



Ni-ja Owens

She/Her

Years served: 2021-2023

School team: Linden-McKinley STEM Academy

Why I Serve:

After graduating from college, I decided to serve because I knew that I wanted to help people after graduating from college, specifically young people. Although I was unsure of how I was going to do this, it seemed that the values of City Year and its mission aligned with everything I was looking to be a part of after graduating. Going into my first service year, I was recovering from an extremely rough time, and despite this, by the time I got to my first week of BTA I had already made the decision to return for a second year. The culture and the people that are a part of this organization are so incredible and I knew that I made the right decision of applying to this program.

I currently serve at City Year Columbus because last year changed my life. It may seem dramatic, but I have become a different person from my first-year experience. City Year not only helped me realize that I want to be an educator, but it helped me develop professionally, mentally, and emotionally in so many ways. Going into this second year, I am ready to help lead a team of AmeriCorps Members who are experiencing the same thing I experienced a year ago. My end goal here is not only for my own personal development, but it's also to work the hardest I can to help the well-being and enjoyment of others' life experiences.

What City Year value do you connect with the most and why?

Ubuntu, I love this concept so much, the idea that I am who I am because of others, and that my humanity is tied to everyone's, brings me joy. I know that everyone and everything in this world is connected, and I believe it is my purpose to act as a positive entity in others' lives and help them to see the good things about themselves and this world around them.

What is one memorable experience of service during your time with City Year?

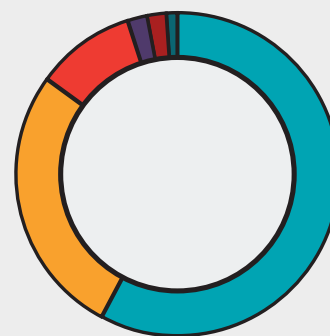
One memorable experience during my time with CYCO would be attending the Class of 2022 graduation at Linden-McKinley STEM Academy in May. At that moment I was so proud to be a City Year at that school. Not that I had never had that feeling before, but this particular moment really made me proud and had me so excited to pursue my teaching career in the near future. The excitement and look of achievement on all of their faces while walking across that stage was one of the most joyful, fulfilling moments. Seeing those students and their family members be proud of them for making that huge step was something that I will never forget.



Our AmeriCorps Members

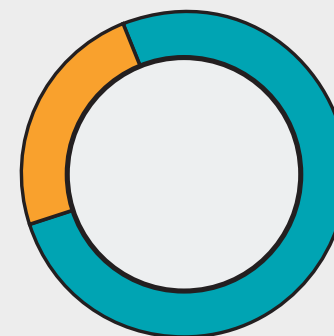
Every year, City Year Columbus recruits a diverse group of AmeriCorps members, ages 18-25, to spend a year in full-time service in Columbus City Schools, where they serve as near peer tutors, mentors and role models. These student success coaches provide holistic, personalized support to students as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

During the 2021-2022 school year, 56 AmeriCorps members joined City Year Columbus with goals to support student success, advance educational equity, and build their personal and professional development.



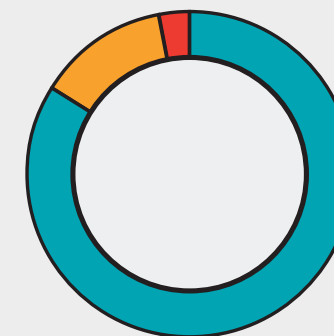
Ethnicity

- 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



A Decade of Service

Zandra Casto

She/Her

Current Position: Learning & Evaluation Director at City Year Columbus

Years Served: 2012-2014

School Team: Mifflin High School – 9th Grade Math

Why I Serve: I serve with City Year Columbus because I believe in our students and AmeriCorps members. When we provide young people with an opportunity to serve and support our students, it allows everyone to recognize their strengths and potential. When we support all young people to find their voice, we are creating a better community for all.

What City Year value do you connect with the most and why? I connect with City Year’s value of Excellence. Excellence isn’t perfection but constantly striving to be better for ourselves, our community and most importantly our students.

What is one memorable experience of service during your time with City Year? One of my most memorable experiences was getting to celebrate our students’ growth in a whole school party. We were able to have Pete the Cat come and go to every classroom reading “Rocking in My School Shoes” & celebrating with some pizza!



Alumni Spotlight

Ross Freshwater

He/Him

Current Position: High School History and Criminal Justice teacher

Years Served: 1995-1996 Columbus and 1996-1997 Cleveland

Ross Freshwater is a City Year Columbus and Cleveland alum who currently serves as a History and Criminal Justice teacher at Waukesha South High School in Milwaukee. After City Year, Ross was recruited by AmeriCorps NCCC to be a team leader in Denver. This role led him to team up with a fellow NCCC alum as a founding member of ZOOB, an award-winning construction toy company.

Motivated by his City Year experience and service-learning background, Ross entered Harvard’s Graduate School of Education with the goal of becoming a classroom instructor. He started his career as a teacher in a Chicago Public high school where he was voted “Most Inspiring Teacher of the Year” by the student body. Ross resides in Milwaukee with his family and is proud to work at a neighborhood high school that reflects City Year’s commitment to student growth, learning, and diversity.

What inspired you to join City Year? I was raised by idealistic parents in a very diverse Cincinnati neighborhood. However, when I reached high school and college, I began to learn more about the racial and socio-economic disparities that existed in my community. I constantly found myself playing the challenging role of bridge-builder between young people of different races, ethnicities, social groups, and geographies.

The opportunity to join City Year Columbus exposed me to a larger group of individuals that allowed me to learn more about communities unfamiliar to me. I always felt I had to straddle between different worlds. As an AmeriCorps Member, City Year felt comfortable. It felt like home.

How did City Year impact your career path?: City Year taught me how to be a social entrepreneur. With my fellow corps members, we learned how people from diverse backgrounds can come together to learn, share ideas, address complex problems, grow as leaders, and build strong communities. As a teacher, I’ve worked to instill these qualities in the students I serve.

What is the best part about being part of the City Year community?: When I think about City Year, it speaks to a shared experience with other alums who served with the intent of helping others. When I connect with other AmeriCorps members, there is a unique understanding that the work, culture, and spirit of City Year is a common thread through our lives. This experience provided me with the tools and ability to build on the commitment to my community.

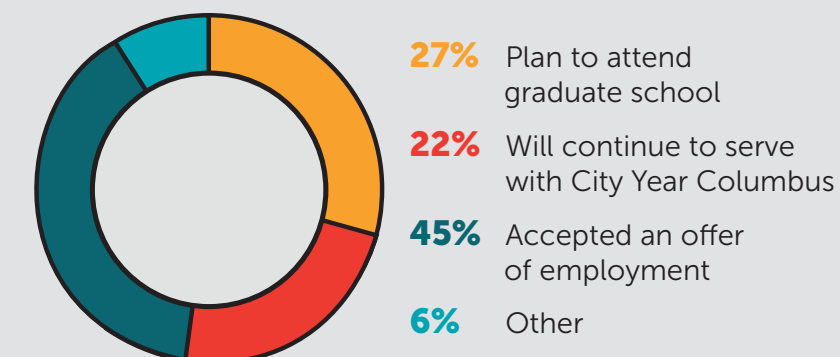
Life after City Year 2021-2022

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.

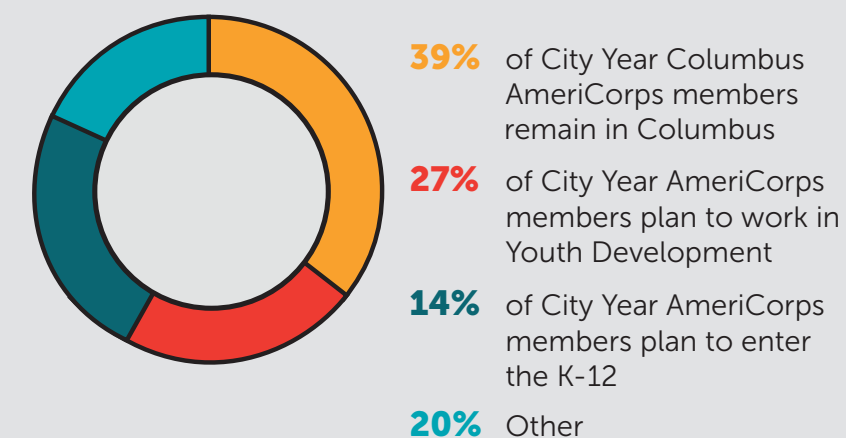
Sometimes, their LACY plans turn into “STAY-CY” plans, meaning they return to City Year, either as a second year Corps member, Team Leader, Service Leader, or a staff member.

Plans after City Year

Based on June 2022 survey data

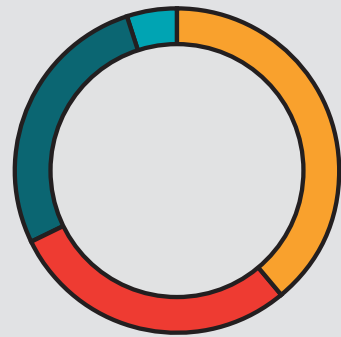


Building the Workforce in Ohio



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 corporations, foundations and individuals.



Total Operating Revenue - \$3,668,548

- 36% Private Revenue
- 34% School District
- 27% AmeriCorps
- 3% Grants and Other



Total Operating Expenses - \$3,466,539

- 79% Program Services
- 18% Organizational Support
- 3% Fundraising

With Our Greatest Appreciation

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Columbus City Schools
Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services

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Jerolyn Barbee
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Derek Bergman
Stephen Bierline
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Sean Calhoun
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James Gaddy

Altagracia Garcia
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Nande Gilbert
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Donna Minich
Fiona Minich
Marla Miragliotta
Emmett Narby
Nkiruka Ogbuchiekwe
Lucas Opperman
Kara Porter
Kathleen Ragan
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Paul Zawada
Sue Zazon

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY SPONSORS



List contains gifts made from July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. * Red Jacket Society Member

Board Member Profile



Brad Griffith

He/Him

Company & Title: President at Buckeye Innovation

Hometown: Dublin, Ohio

College: The Ohio State University (BS Electrical & Computer Engineering '04, MBA '07)

What motivated you to support City Year?

One of our clients, Easton Town Center, helped introduce me to the amazing impact of the AmeriCorps in Columbus City Schools. I had a great support system growing up in Dublin at home and at school. As a parent now, I want the very best opportunities for my daughters and for kids who aren't granted opportunity because of the financial situation of the family they're born into or the community where they happen to live. My support of City Year is just a small way I can contribute to equity in education. I love what our AmeriCorps members do as near peers for the students, and I want to offer near peer support for the AmeriCorps members. I've already learned so much in my short time on the board, and I'm blessed to learn from and support a team that's changing lives every day.

What has been the most memorable experience as a member of City Year's Board?

I joined the mentoring program last year and look forward to mentoring again this year. The conversations we've had around resumes and LinkedIn profiles, professional networking, interviewing, and financial literacy give me a great opportunity to reflect on what I've learned and then to pass down some of those lessons, both best practices to emulate and some worst practices to avoid! Seeing the AmeriCorps members who were in my mentoring group at field day at Starling, having ice cream, and rolling in a human-sized hamster ball was a lot of fun. Not only are AmeriCorps members dedicated and talented in the classroom, but they humbled me on the obstacle course with their speed!

Our Team

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Huntington

DEREK BERGMAN

Human Capital Analyst
Deloitte

TERI BERLINER

Retired
American Electric Power

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SYNETTRA COLEMAN

Business Development
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Grange Insurance

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Buckeye Innovation

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Grants Officer
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