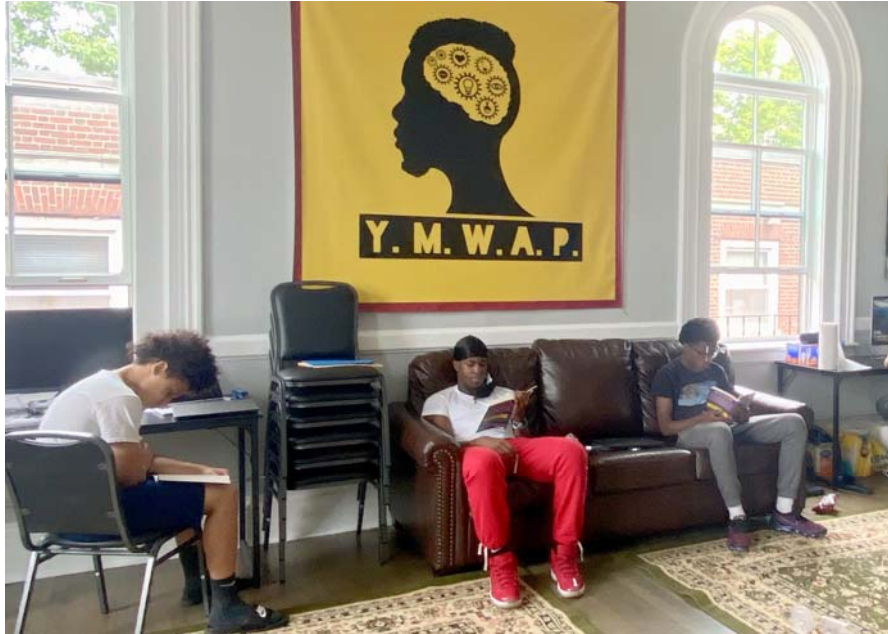


Young Man with a Plan 2021 Report

**“It’s not that they MAKE you get good grades...
It’s that you WANT to get good grades.”**



2021 Accomplishments and Activities

Sustained support of students/recent alumni: During the challenging months of Covid, we provided deep sustained front line support for 128 young men. YMWAP continued intensive mentoring of 11th grade, ongoing recruitment of 9th grade, support of alumni as they fulfilled college and work goals, and development and monitoring of individualized Success Plans. We took a “case management” approach, implementing a daily schedule for checking in on young men regarding safety, physical and mental health, food, housing, family health, and academics. A mother called Jaykyri for help getting her son to do his schoolwork, saying, “You’re the only one he will listen to.”

Basic needs: In 2020 -21 Young Man with a Plan delivered food and personal care gift cards to 165 young Black and Latino men/households.

Mentoring capacity: YMWAP increased school-based mentor hours and compensation by 25% and engaged, on a part-time basis, three community mentors who’ve worked with our young men in the past. Mentors received 16 hours of training that included trauma-informed care, adopted an “intrusive coaching” practice, and attended biweekly check-in meetings.

Summer Program: YMWAP offered a six-week program that included weekly dinners; drop-in hours; space and technology for schoolwork and games; success planning and coaching; personal fitness training; and community service.

PIC Worksite: YMWAP was selected as a Summer 2021 PIC work site for 6 young men who supported us in program operations and IT set-up. They also studied financial literacy and led community service – youth recreation at Love Field and a Hyde Park clean-up.

Professional Growth: Jaykyri received his Ed.D in Educational Leadership from New England College. Dr. Jaykyri Simpson's 2021 doctoral research on Black male college persistence affirmed the value of mentoring and the degree to which young Black men craved explicit guidance respectfully delivered by trusted people. His research also detailed challenges Black males have in navigating PWIs. Following his successful dissertation defense, Jaykyri was engaged to consult with New England College faculty on improving campus climate for students of color.

New space: YMWAP has rented space in downtown Hyde Park--a safe neighborhood with excellent transportation access. We offered students and alumni space, technology and academic coaching for remote learning. Going forward, the new space offers greater opportunity to meet needs of remote learning, mentor training, family and community engagement, and events like small college and career fairs.

Challenges and Learnings

We are recognizing the blessing/curse of technology and social media which both delivers learning and reduces isolation while causing stress and even addiction. All our young men live proximate to gang violence. One wrong posting or public “diss” can have deadly effects. We do social media stalking and constantly educate/intervene as needed.

Over the four years of YMWAP we help young men feel safe, give them a place to belong, and form meaningful relationships so they may make their way up Maslow’s hierarchy of needs to belong, achieve, and self-actualize. The Covid pandemic necessitated shifting our focus down the pyramid to “basic needs” for some students, while we continue to encourage students to “play the long game” and to sustain the college readiness mindset and muscle they have worked so hard to develop. There is backsliding—academic, social emotional, and aspirational. We have just doubled down with dosage, encouragement, and love. In 2021-22 YMWAP is focused on recovery, reintegration, and recommitment, while continuing to push students to do their best and to rebuild academic accountability.

Sustainability

YMWAP continues to grow our impact, reputation, and partnerships. During the grant period, Jaykyri completed the Lewis Family Foundation’s Strong Leaders program and was recruited into TSNE’s 2021 Nonprofit Executive Directors of Color Capacity Support pilot offered funded by the Barr, Hyams, Klarman Family and Boston Foundations. Jaykyri is currently part of EdVestors Racial Equity Task Force and is piloting a Teacher Dialog Series on effectively engaging young men of color in the classroom. YMWAP received a highly competitive Boston Foundation Open Door Grant. A consortium of life science companies formed a foundation called Life Science Cares, and YMWAP has been invited to apply for funds and in-kind support, including career-related initiatives. YMWAP is moving toward 501c3 status and expanding the Board to include members in sectors beyond educators.

11th Grade Survey

During the pandemic we asked 11th graders a few questions; we thought you might be interested in their responses.

During Covid, what does your daily routine consist of? School and work - Gym, and school - School eat basketball shower play the game and then go to bed - Wake up play games - School, Work, Playstation - Get ready, eat a little breakfast, get on zoom - Waking up, going to school and talking to friends online - Gym homework then classes sleep and repeat - Eat, sleep, playin video games, watching hulu - School, sleep, shower, homework, video games - Staying at home doing class then work - Wake up and brush my teeth. Hop on zoom till 12 30. Take a power nap. Hop back on zoom around 1 then do my classes till 4-5. Chill or go back to sleep until around 7-9 - Watch tv or read my book - Eat school video games basketball soccer - Wake up hop on zoom on Thursday and Friday I go in person - Video games with my boys, eating and sleeping - Going to school, working out, and practice - Sleeping, working, and trying new things - School and football - Wake up, eat, do school, workout, shower sleep - On the weekdays after school I do 100 push-ups a day - Sleep and eat - School, cleaning, drawing, playing video games, and watching tv - Working out.

Do you like remote learning and why/why not? Yeah, I feel free and good - No, I get distracted too easily - No not at all because I can't seem to focus on just school - No, because I'm more of an in person learner - No, it feels nothing like school and more like I'm just being told something and expected to be taught - I feel like the teachers are just giving out work, rather than actually teaching - Yes and no I have more time to myself but I get distracted easily - Nope I always preferred in person I just like doing stuff on paper as well - Yes I like remote learning because I don't have to wake up early for school - Yeah because I don't have to leave my room to go to school - No I don't - It's fine but nothing special - I prefer in person because I learn better and remember more - No because it's more stressful than in person - Kind of because you can move around more - Hate it, feel no motivation to do work - No I don't have as much motivation to do work from home - Yea I like it - NO, I hate it very much. it's mentally draining, my mental health is not doing well with this type of remote learning, I'm stressed, my parents want me to pass when I'm not mentally able to focus. I lose sleep thinking about school. I hate online school learning with a passion - No I don't like remote learning because it's hard to focus and the teachers don't explain things well - Yea it is easy - I don't mind remote learning but I'm still not a fan of it mainly because it's easier for me to write on paper than it is for me to type on a computer also my distractions are a lot less numerous whenever I'm away from home - Not anymore because it is making me lose motivation.

How can Young Man with A Plan help you get to where you want to be? Help me get info on my career interests - Connections with people and just people to motivate me - Send me back to school - Mentors in school like old days - I feel like you guys have a lot of dope connections that could really help me succeed in life - More zoom call on various topics - Moral support - I am not sure actually - Keep checking in on me and making sure I'm on the right track in school - Help with options on what to do after high school - Unsure but you helped me a lot already - I enjoyed the meetings we used to have and more info about

college - Give me opportunities to learn more about being an adult and help me build connections - Continue to support me in many ways like you guys always have been doing - Get me interested in other things and narrowing down things that peak my interest - By giving me knowledge you wish you would have had when you were my age - Keep me motivated - I just want to know about entrepreneurship and ways of having a successful mentality - They can help me find a good job - Guiding me and helping me find the right path - Learning how to work in a team is something I don't really enjoy doing too often, it would definitely help me along the way and if I find people with similar interests with me it'll make it a bit more fun - The mentors I have are my only role models in my life and they always show what a real man is and the things I need to do to be successful as a young black man and they always point me and my boys in the right direction. That helps a lot and my mentors always try to help me with any situation so I can move forward and be where I need to be.