



Dear Friends,

As this eventful year comes to a close, I'm proud and grateful to reflect on **YMWAP's significant successes**, including some recent events—our Alumni Homecoming and Fireside Chat.

To have **over 50 young men** come through our doors for our **first Alumni Homecoming event** exceeded our expectations! To see their **kindness and professionalism**, hear them **share their journeys** and **offer to help each other** and our **younger students** out was something beyond special.

You never really know when you put something in motion what the outcome will be; at the end of this evening, my heart was full!

Our **first Fireside Chat** with **Boston's Chief Behavioral Health Officer Dr. Kevin Simon** was a **powerful and necessary** conversation on **youth mental health**. The discussion between myself and Dr. Simon fully engaged the audience and highlighted **YMWAP's critical role in creating "brave safe spaces" for young men**. This first Fireside Chat set the foundation for many more to follow.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have some **exciting new developments**, in particular, the **opportunity to buy our building** through the launch of a **Capital Campaign**. We're also **piloting 7th grade programming** and introducing a **Digital Arts curriculum** led by Max Coren, our new Marketing & Communications manager.



Wishing you a peaceful holiday,

Dr. Jay Simpson
Executive Director, Young Man with a Plan
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ALUMNI HOMECOMING



Over 50 young men attended YMWAP's first-ever homecoming event.

Alumni, from our very first graduating class of 2018 to our most recent 2024 grads, filled the space, shared a meal, and connected with staff and each other, creating a great vibe!

They admired our new space, checked in on their current school and employment status and completed a survey about their stresses and how they cope.

Several alums expressed the desire to advise younger students on college and career choices and to participate in Men of Color Career Night.

FIRESIDE CHAT

YMWAP's first Fireside Chat was a **compelling community convening** on the subject of **youth mental health**, featuring **Dr. Kevin Simon** in conversation with Dr. Jay Simpson.

You could hear a pin drop as the audience of YMWAP staff, parents, partners, and students leaned in to learn about **current stresses of YMWAP's students and alumni**, the **coping mechanisms young men adopt**, and the **value of programs like ours**.

Dr. Simon concluded his talk saying, **"YMWAP offers young at-risk men a space of psychological safety. They fill an enormous gap."**



WELCOME MAX COREN!



YMWAP is happy to welcome Max Coren, our new Marketing and Communications Manager! Max, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island's Harrington School of Communications and Media with a degree in Communications and Public Relations and a minor in Business, will also be teaching Digital Arts to our students.

Max has worked as a Communications Assistant at MIT Sloan School of Management and as a Communications Fellow at the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership. He also served as Assistant Director at Camp Hale, where he led recruitment, training, and supervision of staff, ensuring a positive and impactful camp experience for all.

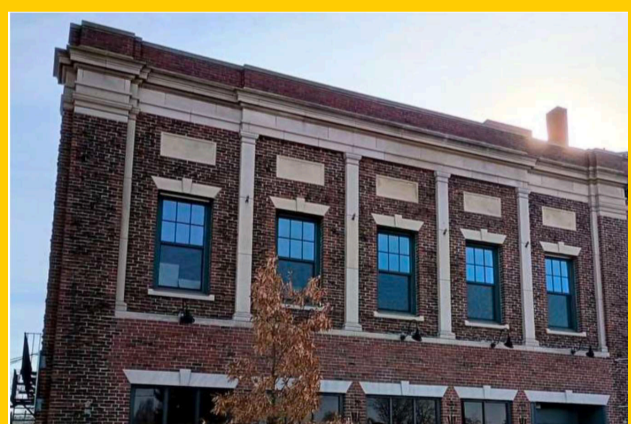
WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE OUR BUILDING!

In an exciting recent development, our landlord informed us he plans to sell our Hyde Park building, in which we currently lease space, and **we are planning to launch a Capital Campaign to buy the building**.

We believe that our youth deserve a sustainable YMWAP home!

We are currently pursuing financing strategies and seeking early funders to invest in this exciting next chapter of growth and sustainability for YMWAP.

Please let us know if you are interested in learning more!



SUCCESSFUL GIVING TUESDAY!

This year, for the first time ever, YMWAP asked for the support of our community on Giving Tuesday.

The day was a resounding success! Thanks to our incredible community of donors and a generous matching gift, YMWAP raised **\$13,060 for our Level the Field Fund**, which helps students and alums with emergency needs.

THANK YOU!

Upcoming Events

- **Networking 101 - Late January** - A new event for this year, youth will create and practice elevator pitches, then mingle with a group of YMWAP friends and volunteers to practice their pitch and discuss about others' career journeys.

To learn more, email info@ymwap.org

Our Contact Information

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