



**2023
EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ann Herbst

When Young People in Recovery was founded in 2010, we never would have imagined more than **100,000 people a year would die from opioid overdoses**. Or that young people would continue to suffer from unprecedented rates of addiction to drugs and alcohol, mental health challenges, and suicide. It is a public health epidemic like none we've ever seen before.

Our young people are crying out and need us more than ever.

Despite these challenges, we are encouraged by renewed attention to finding national, state, and local solutions. Yet funding for our programs continues to be limited and hard-fought to secure.

We are contacting corporate leaders, foundations, the philanthropic community, and donors to invest in Young People in Recovery. Last year brought the fantastic news of a \$3M gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, a significant investment in our vision and mission.

YPR was humbled to be one of only a handful of organizations in the nonprofit recovery community to receive such a gift. Ms. Scott's investment in YPR allowed us to expand our programs and services to address the growing crisis.

The funding will also underwrite new projects such as outreach and advocacy to support even more struggling young people, families, and communities.

Additionally, in 2022 we launched YPR en Español, the Spanish version of our website, which accompanies a host of Spanish-language virtual activities and social media messaging, made possible by a generous grant from the Anthem Foundation.

Yet more than the investments from Scott and the Anthem Foundations are needed to address the crisis among our young people. We need your support as well.

Join YPR's National Campaign to Support Young People and Families Impacted by Addiction, a public engagement campaign to expand resources and support families affected by the substance use epidemic. Please consider making a \$25k commitment to the campaign, which will run from Mother's Day on May 14th through Father's Day on June 18th, 2023.

At YPR, we remain dedicated to our vision of a world where all young people have the resources they need to thrive in recovery.

Thank you for your interest and support. We look forward to accomplishing even more together in 2023!

YPR MISSION

The substance use epidemic disproportionately affects youth and young adults: drug overdoses are now the number-one cause of accidental death in the U.S.

Today, more than six in 10 deaths of young adults involve opioids.

Substance use disorder (including alcohol) is estimated to affect nearly 21 million people in the U.S. For every youth or young adult struggling with addiction, countless family members and friends are desperate to help but don't know where to turn. They all need community, tools, and support to recover and succeed.

YPR is a national, peer-led organization that serves youth and young adults in recovery from substance use disorder. YPR improves access to housing, education, and employment to help young people sustain long-term recovery and upward mobility. Best of all, our programs are 100% free to participants.

YPR envisions a world where all young people have the resources they need to thrive in recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol. YPR's mission is to provide the life skills and peer support to help young people recover from substance use disorder and reach their full potential.



54

LOCAL CHAPTERS



19

STATES SERVED



44,269

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS



806

PRO-SOCIAL EVENTS



134

ADVOCACY EVENTS



27

LIFE-SKILLS PROGRAM SITES



100%

FREE TO YPR PARTICIPANTS



10,000+

OPIOID REVERSAL MEDICATION & TEST STRIPS DISTRIBUTED

YPR 2022

YPR COMMUNITY RESPONSE

KENTUCKY CASE STUDY

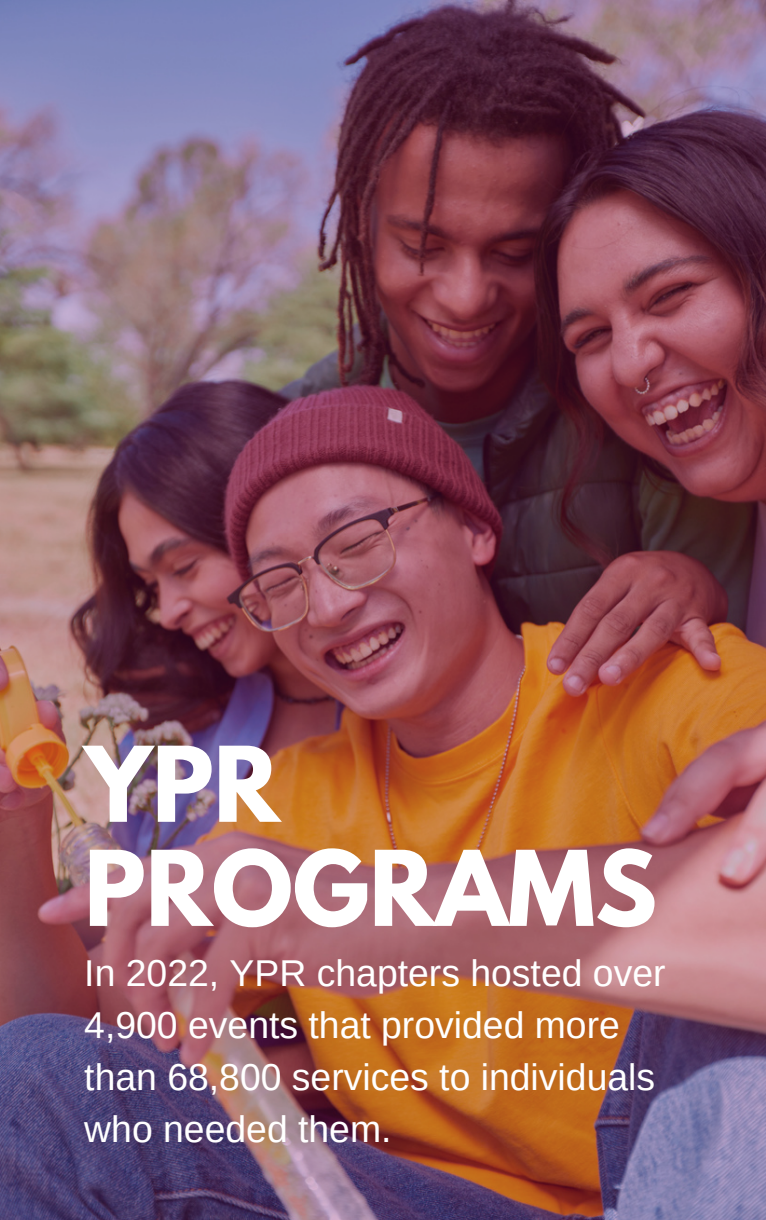


Governor Andy Beshear (3rd from R) with members of YPR's Kentucky chapter team.

Kentucky is in the throes of the nationwide opioid epidemic and ranks second in the U.S. for overdose deaths. **According to the 2021 Kentucky Overdose Fatality Report, fentanyl was present in nearly 73% of overdose deaths.** Worse yet, many people who overdose on fentanyl don't even know they're taking it. The drug has been added to counterfeit pills and other substances that people believe are safe. Yet fentanyl test strips were illegal in Kentucky because they were considered drug paraphernalia.

On February 8, 2023, YPR's Kentucky team sent a group of chapter leaders and members to the Capitol in Frankfort to press for legalizing fentanyl test strips to save lives. The day was proclaimed Recovery Advocacy Day by Governor Andy Beshear.

On March 30, 2023, the KY Senate passed House Bill 353, legalizing fentanyl test strips in the State so people can stay safe. The CDC calls the strips a "low-cost method of helping prevent drug overdoses and reducing harm. **With your support, we can take this organizing model nationwide to advocate for more statewide recovery resources and eliminate legal barriers that reduce access.**



YPR PROGRAMS

In 2022, YPR chapters hosted over 4,900 events that provided more than 68,800 services to individuals who needed them.

YPR Chapters: Building Community

Although most substance use starts between 12 and 20, our schools and universities have no national prevention education programs. **As a result, there is no trusted resource for most students or families when faced with a substance use crisis.** And even when young people gain access to treatment, they often struggle when they come home, returning to the same social networks and environments where their addiction first took root. If we can expand YPR's local chapters to every community for support, we will lose fewer young lives.

YPR currently serves 54 communities across 19 states nationwide. Chapters welcome all recovery pathways such as 12-Step, harm reduction, medication-assisted treatment, faith-based programs, and others. Recovery allies like family members and friends of young people affected by drugs and alcohol are also welcome at chapter events.

YPR Chapters provide programs like life-skills workshops so youth and young adults can find employment, housing, and education to sustain their long-term recovery. **YPR Chapters provide all-recovery meetings in person and virtually in English and Spanish.** They offer regular pro-social events so youth and young adults can have fun in recovery and find an alternative peer group. Best of all, YPR activities are offered 100% free to participants, so that cost will not be a barrier to accessing resources and support.



TESTIMONIAL

“Ashley, a single mother who lost her children to foster care, started participating with YPR while in residential treatment. She's now employed, promoted to a local manager, and in the process of regaining custody of her children.”

YPR Life-Skills Curriculum Programs:

YPR life-skills programs are designed to give young people in recovery the tools they need to stay on track and improve their lives.

My Recovery Is EPIC is a life-skills curriculum that improves access to housing, education, and employment. The program fosters leadership skills, healthy relationships, and encourages positive messaging to reduce stigma and isolation for young people in early recovery.

My Future Is EPIC was launched in 2023 and was developed for high-school students ages 14-18 who are recovering from substance use disorder (SUD) or at high risk of developing SUD.

This program consists of eight modules that are tailored to the needs and lived experiences of adolescents, including education, leadership development, positive recovery messaging, and the neuroscience of addiction.

The Phoenix program is offered to criminal justice organizations, reentry programs, diversionary courts, and law enforcement agencies. The curriculum is designed for individuals aged 18+ who are involved in the criminal justice system and who struggle with substance use.

This program is grounded in the core mission of YPR, which is to educate and empower individuals who are in or seeking long-term recovery from a substance use disorder.

YPR MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



The New York Times



THE DENVER POST

SCIENTIFIC
AMERICAN

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness



YPR SPONSORS & FUNDERS



**BATTERY
POWERED**





Helping young people thrive in
recovery from drugs and alcohol.



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YPR Website