



WORCESTER
YOUTH
CENTER

2013
Annual
Report

WORCESTER YOUTH CENTER STAFF

(as of May 1, 2014)

Samuel Martin
Executive Director

Laura Suroviak
Instructor

Sheron Hozier
Program Manager

Callista Perry
Program Facilitator

Jeanette Roach
Program Manager

Johanna Diaz
Program Coordinator

Jyima Ofori-Atta
Program Coordinator/Case Manager

Leena Varjabedian
Receptionist

Andrea Howliet
MSPCC Counselor

Egbert Pinero
Youth Development Specialist

Maria Sanchez
Outreach Worker

Jorge Escobar
Facilities

Jesus Huertas
Transportation

Christina Hatziemmanuel
Administrative Coordinator

Rosa Medina
Youth Staff

Jennifer Jimenez
Program Facilitator

2013 BOARD MEMBERS

Laurie Ross <i>President</i>	Diane Blake, M.D. Ross Dik
Michael J. Donovan <i>Vice President</i>	Allen W. Fletcher Monica E. Lowell
Elvis Lopez <i>Treasurer</i>	John F. Murphy Richard Pyle
Robert E. Jennings <i>Clerk</i>	Stan Roy Robb Zarges



COVER

Shelter Me, collaborative work, YouthReach Arts Program participants, acrylic on cardboard (2014). Through a process of community analysis, the group identified homelessness as a key issue facing young people and adults in Worcester. The silhouette serves as a reminder that any young person can become homeless. This annual report's artwork was produced through the YouthReach Arts Program, funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

BELOW AND OPPOSITE PAGE

Youth Center members enjoy a safe space to be themselves.





ABOVE RIGHT
Executive Director Samuel Martin

Gearing up to Gain 21st Century Skills

The Worcester Youth Center enjoyed a year of accomplishment in 2013, with a renewed focus on academic support and creating connections to the workforce. Walking beside them on their journey to completing high school and accessing the opportunities of a college education, we also feel that offering ways to develop workforce skills for a continually challenging economy is one of the best ways we can equip our youth for lifelong success.

Our Massachusetts Clean Energy Center grant has sparked several new initiatives as we all learn more about how this new sector can change today's jobs and create new ones never before imagined. You can read about these programs and other long-established efforts to direct youth to a path leading to a brighter future.

We will spend 2014 looking back as well as looking forward, as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Please join us in some of our many activities throughout the year.

We thank you for the enthusiasm, energy and financial support you bring to the Worcester Youth Center and to the city's youth.

Samuel Martin
Executive Director

Laurie Ross
President

New Directions, New Lives

The decision to change directions was critical for both GED graduate Gina Antuna and “Hope,” a teen girl participant in the Bridging Opportunities Gap (BOG) program. Gina was in a job with few prospects, a home health aide with some challenging clients. Without a high school diploma or a car, her options were limited. At 16, Hope had been in the juvenile justice system and was ready to put all that “drama,” as she called it, firmly into the past.

Both girls walked through the Youth Center’s doors at a turning point in their lives. Gina had been a member eight years earlier, when she was in high school and the Youth Center was closer to downtown. Ready to return to the classroom, she began taking GED classes with “Ms. Laura” to complete her high school equivalency program. A dedicated participant in the Bridge to College and Green Careers program (*see story next page*), Gina also worked with the younger teens in the One Circle program and may have found a possible career in counseling.

“I like how they’re spunky,” she says. But if they get out of line, she says, “I have a way of talking with them so they’ll listen.”

Hope was new to Worcester, in foster care, and looking for a job. Paid through BOG, she now has a paid internship, playing with five- and six-year-olds in an afterschool program. The children have a goal, she said in a soft-spoken voice, to learn to tie their own shoes before they leave the program. Her own goal is to pursue a degree in criminal justice, join the police force or maybe become a bounty hunter.

The time and effort put in by both women is showing positive results. After passing the GED exam, Gina gave a graduation speech at the Center. Thanking Ms. Laura for her “undenying passion for helping people succeed,” Gina acknowledged her own newfound passion for education. She is a member of the Leap to College program (*see page 4*), which is helping to demystify the college experience as well as the process of gaining credit for courses.

Hope will graduate early from high school in an accelerated program. Throughout the school year, her after-school charges get right to work when they arrive between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. While they play games, assemble puzzles, and color, she’s building her future.



ABOVE

Segment of *True North*, youth artist collaboration, acrylic on wood (2014); GED graduate Gina Antuna

“They’re seeing how they could make a future for themselves.”

BELOW

Looking Out, Luis R.,
acrylic on canvas (2014)

Growing with Green

While green jobs in clean energy may not be well understood, there has been plenty of interest among Worcester Youth Center members in a new program to prepare them to enter this growing sector. The ultimate goal of the new program, funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is to help youth ages 16 to 24 explore green careers and plan for the further education required to enter the field.

“The Department of Labor has identified three sets of green jobs,” explains Jeanette Roach, who coordinates the program’s components at the Youth Center. Existing jobs revamped as “green,” such as driving a hybrid bus or inspecting organic farms; changing skills within occupations, such as construction managers who need to learn about green construction methods; and new jobs, such as solar panel installers or wind turbine manufacturing and maintenance.

More than a dozen youth have undergone OSHA training for safety certification, Microsoft Office training for computer skills, heard local speakers on green jobs and the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses that these jobs require, and enjoyed field trips to Metech Recycling and Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives at Gateway Park, a former brownfield site. Some have attended classes at Quinsigamond Community College on college and career readiness, and identified projects to explore sustainable practices, such as starting a recycling program at the Youth Center.

Says Roach, “They’re seeing how they could make a future for themselves.”

Set up for Success

For many youth, the leap from high school to college looks like a chasm too wide to cross. Some may not have considered college as their next step, but are now ready to make the transition.

In its second year, the Leap to College program builds a bridge for youth to arrive on campus equipped to face new challenges. Two components prepare participants for college-level work and orient them to campus life – an Accuplacer prep class and ORT 110, a Quinsigamond Community College course, “Strategies for College and Career.”

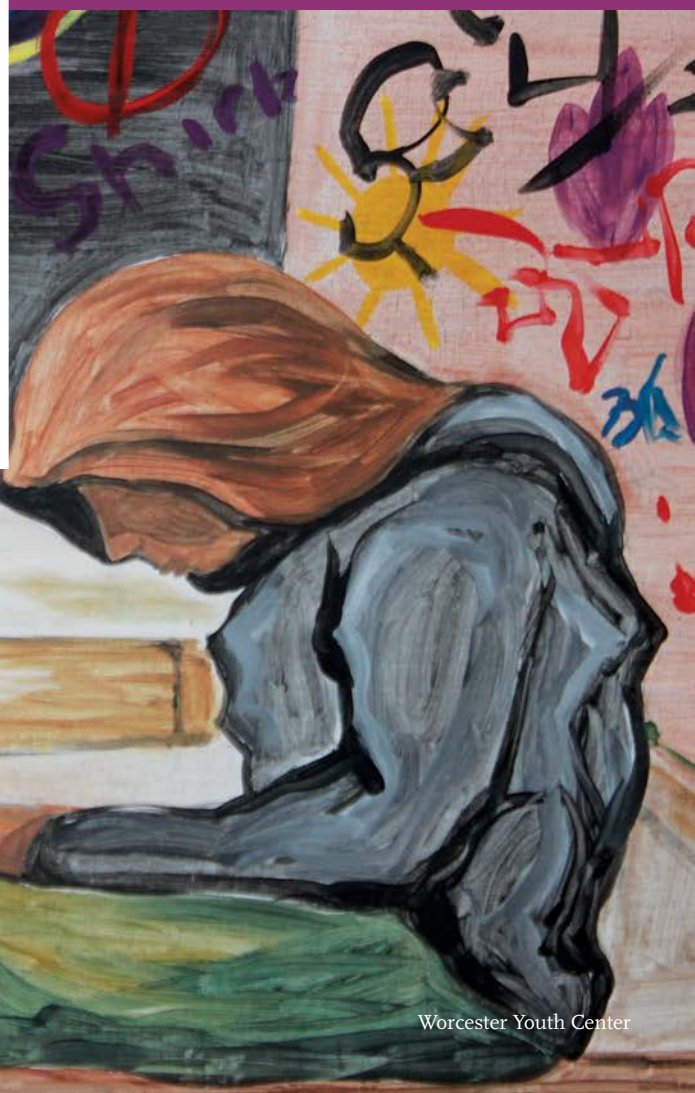
As program coordinator Laura Suroviak explains, even among college-bound high school graduates, “there is a gap where high school education does not align with what you need in college.” The Accuplacer test, administered by state colleges and universities, assesses a student’s readiness for college-level math and writing courses. Placement in a remedial course does not count toward the credits required for graduation and adds to a student’s college costs.

The Accuplacer prep class, taught at the Youth Center by Ruth Seward, is a high-energy classroom where up to 10 students focus on a multitude of math and writing skills. She customizes her lessons to meet the specific needs of the group, making math relevant to everyday life and helping students overcome writer’s block. Their work has resulted in gains in both math and writing scores.

The QCC course offers a “gentle transition” from the comfort of the Worcester Youth Center to a college environment. Bussed over to the West Boylston Street campus, youth members who have achieved certain Accuplacer results participate in a nine-week accelerated course designed specifically for them. Thanks to grants from Hoche-Scofield Foundation, United Bank Foundation and The Francis A. and Jacquelyn H. Harrington Foundation, says Laura, “we can set young people up for a greater likelihood of success.”

BELOW

WYC members enjoy the computer center; *Stranded*, youth artist collaboration, acrylic on wood (2014)





ABOVE
YouthReach artists at work

Circle of Support and Sharing

It's easier to develop leadership skills when you're in a circle of friends, and the One Circle program, funded by the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation and the United Way of Central Massachusetts Women's Initiative, encourages girls ages 12 to 14 from Sullivan Middle School to support each other in the face of many social pressures. Now in its third year, the program produces "lightbulb moments" that continue to surprise Jennifer Jimenez, who coordinates the group at the Youth Center. Two other groups, run by Community Builders at Plumley Village and the Latino Education Institute (LEI), meet at Worcester East Middle School and the LEI building.

Jennifer admires the girls' ability to "see the big picture and identify deep issues with such clarity." Whether the topic of discussion is communicating with authority figures, body image or cyber bullying, her group, whose members came from different academies within Sullivan, were willing to share personal stories and work collectively to solve problems.

One social problem they focused on was homelessness and poverty, holding a bake sale to make care packages for battered women living at Abby's House, and soliciting household donations from the teachers at Sullivan.

Together with the other groups, they have gone rock climbing and toured a college campus. And at the Worcester Center for Crafts, they have built a "growth dress," forming pots of clay, planting flowers and arranging them in a metal dress form sculpture to create a blossoming positive fashion statement.

Your Dollars at Work

Lives are changing at the Worcester Youth Center. We are giving youth the skills required to succeed in school, the workplace and in life. The process can be slow and the results long-term, but your contributions make a significant difference in many ways. We celebrate every success and remain grateful for your confidence and support of our work.

Statement of Financial Position — December 31, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and equivalents	\$116,124
Investments	\$825,474
Grants and contracts receivable	\$147,682
Prepaid expenses	\$20,888
Total Current Assets	\$1,110,168

Property and equipment, net	\$558,878
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,669,046

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

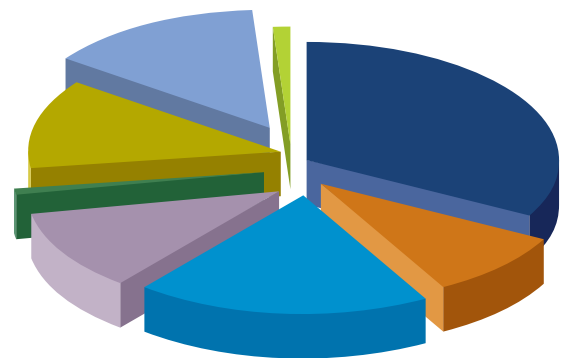
Accounts payable	\$37,343
Accrued expenses	\$17,005
Total Liabilities	\$54,348

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,504,534
Temporarily restricted	\$110,164
Total Net Assets	\$1,614,698
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,669,046

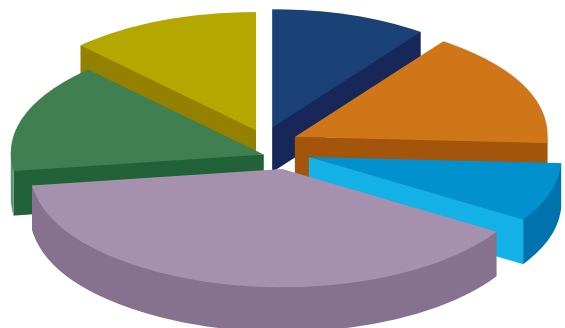
REVENUE Year ending December 31, 2013

Grants and contracts	\$292,363
Temporarily restricted	\$80,102
Contributions	\$169,467
Temporarily restricted	\$98,270
Investment income, net of investment fees	\$12,024
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	\$101,097
Contributions in-kind	\$119,136
Other income	\$2,369
Total Revenue and Support	\$874,828



EXPENSES Year ending December 31, 2013

Recreation	\$74,245
Leadership	\$121,884
Health and wellness	\$62,252
Work readiness	\$302,423
Education	\$119,288
General administration	\$97,561
Total Expenses	\$777,653



Thank You to
Our Generous
Donors in 2013



CORPORATE, FOUNDATION
AND GOVERNMENT
DONORS

\$100,000 and above

City of Worcester

\$50,000-\$99,999

Commonwealth Corporation

Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, Inc.

UMass Memorial Health Care

\$25,000-\$49,999

HOPE Coalition

LUK, Inc

Amelia Peabody Foundation

United Way of Central Massachusetts

\$10,000-\$24,999

The Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth
Foundation

The Fletcher Foundation

Greater Worcester Community
Foundation: Robert W. Booth in memory
of George F. Booth

The Francis A. and Jacquelyn H.
Harrington Foundation

Massachusetts Cultural Council

Albert W. Rice Charitable Foundation

The Stoddard Charitable Trust

\$5,000-\$9,999

Deluxe Corporation Foundation

DCU for Kids

George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation

Hoche-Scofield Foundation

Pyle Fund of Greater Worcester
Community Foundation

Reliant Medical Group Foundation, Inc.

Rockwell Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Blackstone River Coalition

Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation

The Hart Foundation

Kohl's Cares

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

Price Chopper's Golub Foundation

Webster Five Foundation

up to \$999

Coghlin Construction Services Fund

Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Greek Orthodox Community

Jewish Federation of Central
Massachusetts

Lamoureux Pagano & Associates, Inc.

Masterman's LLP

Ruby Tuesday

United Way of Mass Bay
and Merrimack Valley

Wesley United Methodist Women Isabel
Smith Fund

Gifts In-Kind

CC Lowell Art Supply Co.

Charter Communications

Cutler Management Corp.

Davis Art Gallery

Martin Luther King, Jr. Business
Empowerment Center

Press Pass TV

UMass Memorial Health Care

Worcester Art Museum

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Working for Worcester: James Marshall
& Ellen O'Conner Marshall Memorial
Fund



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT

Holding on to comfort, Idalis Rios, acrylic on canvas (2014); Worcester Youth Center members Stand Against Racism; YouthReach 2014 artist at work; *Willie and Bob*, Willie Clarence Hargrove III, acrylic on canvas (2014); dancing in renovated studio.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

**Mentor Society Members
\$250 and above**

- Thomas and Lynora Bartholomew
- James Broadhurst
- Henry Ciborowski
- Barbara Cutler
- Douglas Cutler
- Phillips S. Davis
- Ross and Lisa Dik
- Michael J. Donovan and Nikki Andrews
- Barbara Fargo
- Warner and Mary Fletcher
- Patricia Fletcher
- Allen Fletcher
- Ellen Foley
- Ann Lisi and Joel Greene
- Simon and Nancy Gregory

- Frederick and Michelle Harwick
- Thomas P. Jennings
- Todd and Benjamin Keating
- Tony and Judy King
- Gary Lapidus
- Stephen and Valerie Loring
- Lisa A. McCarthy
- Charles and Lenore Monahan
- Evan and Martha Page
- Arthur and Martha Pappas
- Roger and Serra May Plourde
- Richard and Marla Pyle
- Cathy Recht, RN
- Laurie Ross and Jeff Black
- Kenneth Sadowsky
- Hillary and Eric White
- Robb and Suzanne Zarges

up to \$249

- Larry and Gloria Abramoff
- Arthur Allen III and Jennifer Bravo
- Christopher and Ingeborg Baehrecke
- Francesca Bank and Gerald Gleish
- Jocelyne Bauduy and David Angel
- Donald F. Berth
- Ishan Birchett
- Diane Blake-Johnson
- Maurice and Pamela Boisvert
- Jamal Bonyani
- Lucy Candib
- Suzanne Cashman
- Linda Cavaoli and John Medbury
- Allison Chisolm
- Edward and Marie Driscoll
- Allen and Yda Filiberti
- Ann Flynn
- Ninozka S. Garcia



Joan Green
 David and Rosalie Grenon
 Alan and Evelyn Harris
 Deborah Harmon Hines
 Jim and Kathy Hunter
 Gene and Gini Johnson
 Jack and Florette Kahn
 Jack Keenan
 Barbara and Roger Kohin
 Alan & Elizabeth Kopin Family Funds,
 A Donor Advised Fund of Combined
 Jewish Philanthropies of Greater
 Boston, Inc.
 Monica and Jonathan Lowell
 Robert and Minh Mailloux
 Samuel N. Martin
 Linda Maykel
 Donna McGrath
 Diane and Douglas Meystre
 John F. Murphy

Robert and Charlene Nemeth
 David and Susan Nicholson
 David and Marlene Persky
 Terri Priest
 Ann Rafferty
 Vera Raposo
 Robert G. Ravenelle
 Deborah Richardson
 Blanche Ross
 Carol Seager
 Mark Shelton
 Maria T. Siemaszko
 Edna and Cornelius Spencer
 Peter Stanton
 George and Sheila Tetler
 Samuel Soji Wada
 Wyatt and Erika Wade
 Kimball Woodbury

EMPLOYER PARTNERS
 Boys & Girls Club of Worcester
 Camp Get Right
 Community Harvest Project
 EPOCA
 Friendly House
 Higgins Armory
 Mass Audubon Society
 New England Fitness Compound
 Nuestro Huerto
 One Love Café
 Our Neighborhood Peace Park
 Sol de Mexico
 Straight Ahead Ministries
 Viva Bene
 Worcester County Food Bank
 Worcester Public Library



326 Chandler Street
Worcester, MA 01602

BELOW

Home, youth artist collaboration,
acrylic on wood (2014).
"Creating home" may require
many helping hands.

Not just a place to go. A place to go further.

