



2016

ANNUAL REPORT





## STAFF

Samuel Martin  
*Executive Director*

Sheron Hozier  
*Assistant Director*

Maria Sanchez  
*Transitional Support*

DuVone Mitchell  
*Transitional Support*

Lulu Moyo  
*Program Coordinator*

Rose Caraballo  
*Program Coordinator*

Gina Antuna  
*Transitional Support*

Sonya Campbell  
*HiSet Instructor*

Ruby Glover  
*Work Readiness Coordinator*

Demario Andrews  
*Program Coordinator*

Dana Mordi  
*Transitional Support*

Jorge Escobar  
*Custodian*

Andrena Taylor  
*Bookeeping*

Colleen Vernitsky-Potts  
*Grant Writer*

## BOARD MEMBERS

Laurie Ross  
*Chair*

Michael Donovan  
*Vice Chair*

Lisa McCarthy  
*Treasurer*

Robert Jennings  
*Clerk*

Ross Dik

Howard Fain

Allen Fletcher

Elvis Lopez

Monica E. Lowell

John Murphy

Richard Pyle

Sgt. Stanley Roy

Andrew M. Serrato

Cesar A. Vega

Robb Zarges



## COVER

Emily Alvarado  
*My Starry Self*



## YEAR OF RENOVATION AND REBIRTH

Dear Friends,

This past year has been one of renovation and rebirth. In the second half of 2016, long-hoped-for plans to remove the old Capitol Toys warehouse next door became far more concrete. Thanks to the persistence of board member Andy Serrato, the eyesore of a condemned building is no longer part of the first impression visitors have when they come to the Youth Center building.

Renovation was also an unexpected feature of the fall of 2016, with an historic flood event in late October. The Friday night floodwaters stripped off all the wax from our flooring and drowned a few boxes of brochures and other papers, but the upside was that no one was hurt. The cleanup company had the dehumidifiers running in short order. After only one day of clearing out debris, we were back in business on Tuesday.

The Worcester Youth Center has become a six-day-a-week operation, with afterschool and Saturday programs ranging from baking to brotherhood, spoken word slams, sisterhood and community service. Take a few minutes to read about the power of art, listening and outreach in the lives of our members and our broader Worcester community.

As our grant funding sources continue to evolve with our changing economic and political climate, we are deeply grateful for your continuing support of our work with youth. Together, we are helping them see new directions for their lives and the Youth Center as a place to go further.

With all best wishes,


Samuel Martin  
*Executive Director*

Laurie Ross  
*President*



Quick work but a long time coming – before and after views of the Worcester Youth Center location at 326 Chandler Street.





Donors and artists celebrate the power of creativity together (from left) Sam Martin, Ashley Occhino (Worcester Art Museum), Simon and Nancy Gregory, Iyanna Gaines, Jamie Buckmaster (Worcester Art Museum), Sheron Hozier, Lulu Moyo and Branggie Jimenez

## *Donor Spotlight*

### PROMOTING CREATIVITY, CHANGING LIVES

Simon Gregory grew up on the wrong side of the tracks in a small textile town, Chadwicks, New York. Although he lived close to a fine art museum in nearby Utica, he never visited and knew no one that did. On his return from his service in Vietnam where he served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, he knew he wanted to help others. Connecting people with art became his passion.

“Art brings things out of people – it’s an expression of life,” said Simon in a recent interview.

Long before his days in Vietnam, he always fought for the underdog. Standing up for others was “how I was raised,” he said. Simon sees creativity as a way for people to change their life circumstances. So he and his wife Nancy have been long-time supporters of the Worcester Youth Center, particularly its YouthReach arts program. They also contribute to the Hilda Ramirez Scholarship Fund.

Last year they purchased several cameras for the Center, and photography became a primary medium for the 2016 art exhibition. One photo of a homeless woman, which appeared in the 2015 annual report, was Simon’s anonymous contribution.

Nancy marvels at the multiple responsibilities the staff take on to ensure the Center’s success. “We’ve seen the effects of positive leadership at the Center,” said Simon. “They have a plan, they know what to do and how to measure it. Treated as young adults, the youth of Worcester are achieving new goals.”

“We get a lot of satisfaction out of helping the Youth Center,” they both agreed.



Artists at work, clockwise from left, Alicia Davis with supporter Nancy Gregory, Nori Needle, Genesis Rodriguez, Joss Bracero and program coordinator Lulu Moyo.



## LABELS DON'T DEFINE US

For six years, Worcester Youth Center members involved in the YouthReach arts program have developed their creative talents while confronting a community concern. The group selects a theme, explores it through art at the Worcester Art Museum, and an art exhibit is born.

Throughout the 2016-17 school year, program coordinator Lulama Moyo has taken the group of 14- to 19-year-olds through some intense discussions. Through her passion for social justice and her work as a spoken word performer, Lulu has brought local experts into the group's conversations around such topics as media literacy, gender roles/norms and the normalization of street violence through Hip Hop culture, bullying, queer and LGBT+ issues, urban farming and food justice, and the school-to-prison pipeline.

This year's theme has emerged as intersectional empowered identity. The title of the showcase is "Pure. Proud. Self: A Collaborative Exploration of Community and Personal Identity." Beginning with the personal, youth created different versions of self-portraits – in watercolor, painted masks, collages of media headlines and images. They illustrated themselves as inanimate objects they felt strongly drawn to – in one case, strawberry shortcake. Some of the final assignments that express their identity include small canvas acrylic paintings, t-shirts, masks, and their community in Worcester embodied in a group mural.

Program participants "were excited to translate what they're talking about into something tangible," said Lulu. "Art has the power to translate the challenges and triumphs the youth experience in their community."



## WORK IN PROGRESS

Every Thursday, a group of 7 to 12 men gather at the Youth Center. Ages 17 to 24, they meet to talk, checking in on each other's lives, what's bothering them, what's going in their neighborhoods.

Organized in 2016 through a grant from the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), these conversations are designed to help the men consider new approaches to recurring problems, how to stay away from trouble spots. All have been involved with government agencies from a young age, and all have seen violence firsthand. They come from different neighborhoods across the city.

"We talk about how to minimize negative risk factors," said DuVone Mitchell, transitional support staff, who co-facilitates the group with MSPCC mental health provider Lauren Hollins. "We try to give them a sense of hope."

"The main thing," DuVone continued, "is finding positive role models." Meetings may include people who are on a successful path, such as one member who is developing a business plan to bring solar power to poor neighborhoods and non-profit agencies. Concluded DuVone, "we identify with leaders and develop more."

Co-facilitators  
Lauren Hollins  
from MSPCC and  
DuVone Mitchell  
pause after one of the  
men's group meetings  
at the Worcester  
Youth Center.







Left: Egbert Pinero of partner organization, Straight Ahead Ministries, with Ruby Glover, Transitional Support staff.

Right: Ruby in Main South, summer 2016.



“The Worcester Youth Center has a proven record...”

— Steven Teasdale,  
Executive Director, Main South CDC

## YOUTH TO YOUTH CONNECTION FOR PREVENTION

Reducing youth violence in Worcester is a long-term goal, and the Worcester Youth Center has played a key role in the city's ongoing efforts. Most recently, partnering with the Main South Community Development Corporation (CDC), Clark University, Boys & Girls Club and Straight Ahead Ministries, the Youth Center hired a youth outreach coordinator in July 2016 for the Main South area.

Since then, Transitional Support staffer Ruby Glover has worked closely with Egbert Pinero of Straight Ahead Ministries to become a known face in the neighborhood. Their daily work last summer found them connecting with youth between the ages of 14 and 24 along Main Street from Hammond down to Freeland Streets, during basketball games in Crystal Park and on the blocks toward the train tracks.

Funded through a three-year \$992,000 grant awarded to Main South CDC by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), their outreach may lead to referrals to job training programs at the Youth Center, memberships in the Boys & Girls Club, a home visit with parents, or just a chance to be heard. The pair also participates in a Youth/Police Dialogue program for middle and high school students, designed to dispel stereotypes and build relationships between youth and Worcester Police officers.

The DOJ program selects communities to use data-driven strategies to reduce crime and violence in targeted neighborhoods. Worcester's planning year began in 2015 with 2016 as the first of two years to implement strategies developed through a web of cross-sector partnerships. Clark University researchers have collected data and monitored changes in the neighborhood's crime statistics and other measures.

“The Worcester Youth Center has a proven record of working with young people who might not engage with the city's more traditional agencies,” said Steven Teasdale, Main South CDC's executive director. “They provide a meaningful role for youth to speak to youth.”

## YOUR INVESTMENT IN OUR WORK

Support for the Worcester Youth Center is an investment in our collective future. For more than 20 years, the Center's work has created positive change for thousands of young people, encouraging new directions and better life decisions. Your contributions have had a significant impact on our community. We remain grateful for your confidence and continuing support.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION — DECEMBER 31, 2016

#### Assets

##### Current Assets

Cash and equivalents	\$100,732
Investments	\$657,462
Grants and contracts receivable	\$155,976
Prepaid expenses	\$22,972
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$937,142</b>

Property and equipment, net	\$592,725
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,529,867</b>

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

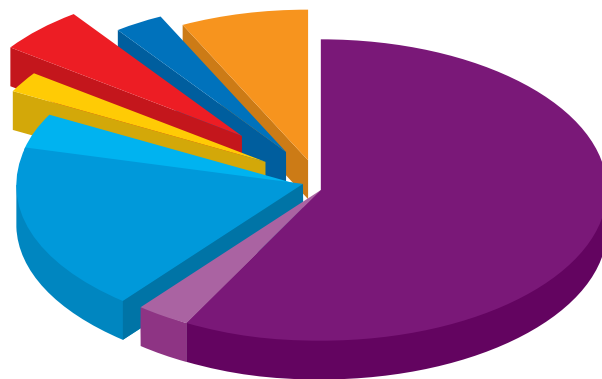
##### Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$48,536
Accrued expenses	\$46,667
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$95,203</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	\$1,405,544
Temporarily restricted	\$29,120
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,434,664</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,529,867</b>

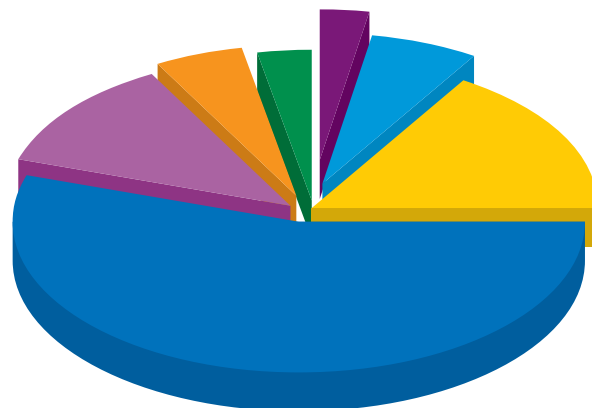
### REVENUE Year ending December 31, 2016

Grants and contracts	\$596,968
Temporarily restricted	\$26,325
Contributions	\$193,114
Temporarily restricted	\$43,500
Investment income, net of investment fees	\$14,860
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(\$47,280)
Contributions in-kind	\$29,790
Other income	\$7,817
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$959,654</b>



### EXPENSES Year ending December 31, 2016

Recreation	\$38,010
Leadership	\$69,634
Health and wellness	\$172,006
Work readiness	\$583,654
Education	\$141,560
Management and general	\$57,858
Fundraising	\$47,775
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,110,497</b>





# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2016 SUPPORTERS



## CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT DONORS

\$100,000 and above

City of Worcester

\$25,000 - 49,999

Commonwealth Corporation

Greater Worcester Community  
Foundation

Massachusetts Department of  
Public Health

YOU Inc.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The Ruth H. and Warren A.  
Ellsworth Foundation

The Fletcher Foundation

LUK, Inc.

Massachusetts Cultural Council

Amelia Peabody Foundation

Albert W. Rice Charitable  
Foundation

The Stoddard Charitable Trust

UMass Memorial Health  
Care - Community Benefits

United Way of Central  
Massachusetts

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bank of America

Fred Harris Daniels Foundation,  
Inc.

DCU for Kids

Deluxe Corporation Foundation

Digital Federal Credit Union  
Foundation

George F. and Sybil H. Fuller  
Foundation

Main South CDC

The Mildred H. McEvoy  
Foundation

Rockwell Foundation

Worcester State University

\$1,000 - \$4,999

J. J. Bafaro

The Hart Foundation

Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas  
Foundation

Reliant Medical Group  
Foundation, Inc.

Webster Five Foundation

Up to \$999

Adshead Graphics

AmazonSmiles Foundation

Bulldozer Health Incorporated

Careplus Transports, LLC

Clark University

Coghlin Construction Services  
Fund



Combined Jewish Philanthropies  
 Davis Publications  
 Charitable Trust  
 First Baptist Church  
 The First Unitarian Church  
 Giving With Liberty  
 Employee Donations  
 Hermandad Cristiana De  
 Restauracion A Las Naciones, Inc.  
 International Ceramic  
 Engineering Corp.  
 Lamoureux Pagano &  
 Associates, Inc.  
 Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone  
 Massachusetts Education &  
 Career Opportunities, Inc.  
 Masterman's LLP  
 Phil's Auto Repair Center

Pleasant St. Neighborhood  
 Network Center  
 Price Chopper's Golub Foundation  
 Silicon Valley Community  
 Foundation  
 South High School Community  
 Service Fund  
 United Way of Massachusetts Bay  
 and Merrimack Valley  
 Worcester Interfaith  
 YourCause.com

**INDIVIDUAL**

**Mentor Society Members**  
 \$250 and above  
 John and Andrea Ahern  
 Francesca Bang and  
 Dr. Gerald Gleich  
 James Broadhurst  
 Barbara J. Cutler

Melvin S. Cutler  
 Laurie and Phil Davis  
 Ross and Lisa Dik  
 Michael J. Donovan and  
 Nikki Andrews  
 Barbara Fargo  
 Robert and Dorothy Feldmann  
 Allen W. Fletcher  
 Patricia Fletcher  
 Warner and Mary Fletcher  
 Simon and Nancy Gregory  
 Todd and Benjamin Keating  
 Ann Lisi and Joel Greene  
 Stephen and Valerie Loring  
 Charles and Lenore Monahan  
 David and Marlene Persky  
 Roger and Serra May Plourde  
 Greg Potts and  
 Colleen Vernitsky-Potts  
 Richard Pyle  
 Cathy K. Recht  
 Laurie Ross and Jeff Black  
 Carol L. Seager  
 Samuel Soji Wada



Up to \$249

Larry and Gloria Abramoff

Chris and Ingeborg Baehrecke

Joseph and Kristin Bafaro

Thomas and Lynora Bartholomew

Judith Barton

Allen and Sarah Berry

Diane Blake-Johnson

Maurice and Pamela Boisvert

Lucy Candib

Debbie and Charlie Cary

Linda Cavaoli and

John W. Medbury

Allison Chisolm

Mardia Coleman

Edward and Marie Driscoll

Howard Fain and Leslie Linson

Allen and Yda Filiberti

Ann Flynn

Elmer Freeman and  
Carlene Chisom-Freeman

Edward P. Gardella

Alan and Evelyn Harris

Honee A. Hess and

Phil Magnusson

Jay Himmelstein and Ellen Ruell

James and Kathy Hunter

Michael and Louise Huppert

Herbert and Judith Ingram

John F. Keenan

Judi Kirk

Barbara and Roger Kohin

Daniel Lasser, MD

Cathy Levine

Jonathan and Monica Lowell

Robert and Minh Mailloux

Duddie Massad

Dr. Linda Maykel

Lisa A. McCarthy

Donna J. McGrath

Douglas Q. and Diane Meystre

David and Susan Nicholson

Barbara and Ernest Pantos

Stephen and Cynthia Pitcher

Marjorie Purves

Vera Raposo

Shaunalee Reyes

Todd and Shelley Rodman

Ronald S. and Cathy Rosenstock

Blanche B. Ross

Philip Shwachman

Laura Suroviak

George and Sheila Tetler

Carmen D. Vazquez

Wyatt and Erika Wade

Suzanne L. Weekes

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Weiss

Hillary And Eric White

Kim R. Woodbury

## IN KIND

Friendly House

Serrato Signs, LLC

UMass Memorial Health Care  
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Worcester Telegram & Gazette



Photo credit Miguel Sosa



326 Chandler Street  
Worcester, MA 01602

Below  
Group artwork  
*I Am Because We Are*



NOT JUST A PLACE TO GO. A PLACE TO GO FURTHER.

[WORCESTERYOUTHCENTER.ORG](http://WORCESTERYOUTHCENTER.ORG)

508.791.4702

