



**165 East Union Street Suite 406, Newark, NY 14513 \*Phone 315-331-2763 \* Fax 315-331-2703**



Pictured are: Assistant Director Brett DeJohn, Assistant Director Nate Hackett, and Director of Programs Michael Crespo. Not pictured: Intensive Family Counselor James Schuler

Please scroll down to learn more about Youth Advocate Program, Inc. Also, the end of the profile includes information on how to support this wonderful program through a golf tournament coming up in September.

## WHO WE ARE

YAP is a nonprofit agency that has been committed to providing community-based alternatives to out of home care through direct service, advocacy and policy change **SINCE 1975.**

We serve over **13,000 FAMILIES A YEAR** in more than **100 PROGRAMS** across **21 STATES** and the District of Columbia in rural and urban areas including 25 major metro areas.

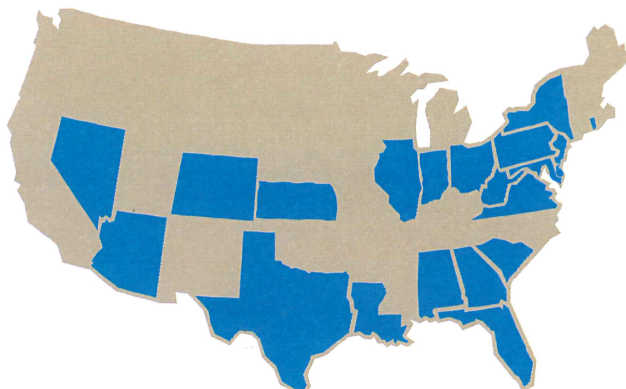
**100%** of our programming takes place in the **HOME COMMUNITIES** of the people we serve.

We believe that **EVERY INDIVIDUAL POSSESSES STRENGTHS**, potential, interests and talents that make them unique and can be built upon and shared.

We believe that everyone needs **ACCESS TO POSITIVE PEOPLE, PLACES AND ACTIVITIES** within their community to develop their natural potential and live full, productive lives.

We believe that **PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES** to identify their needs and preferences preserves dignity and improves outcomes.

Youth Advocate  
PROGRAMS, INC.



AL • AZ • CO • DC • DE • FL • GA • IL • IN • KS • LA  
MD • NJ • NY • NV • OH • PA • RI • SC • TX • VA • WV

### YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAMS, INC.

2007 North 3rd Street

Harrisburg, PA 17102

717.232.7580

Integrity Compliance Hotline

1.800.324.5794

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jeff Fleischer

jfleischer@yapinc.org



yapinc.org



Strengthening Communities One Biography at a Time

Youth Advocate  
PROGRAMS, INC.



HELPING YOUTH AND FAMILIES MOVE IN NEW  
AND POSITIVE DIRECTIONS SINCE 1975

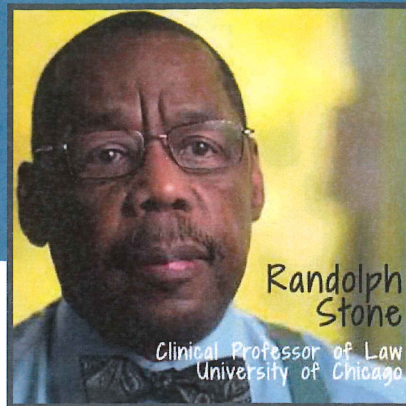


## — OUR APPROACH —

YAP's model draws from the practice and research base of wraparound, family support, mentoring, positive youth development, and restorative justice fields. We have created a unique model of service delivery based on several central tenets:

- » **NO REFUSE POLICY:** No youth or family will be refused or ejected from services.
- » **INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN:** Each plan is based on the family's unique needs, strengths, culture and preferences.
- » **FAMILY FOCUSED:** Parents/Carers are engaged as partners in their services, and support is offered to help them meet their needs and goals, too.
- » **STRENGTH BASED:** We look at what strengths and assets kids and families have and seek to build upon them.
- » **NEIGHBORHOOD BASED RECRUITMENT:** We recruit staff who live in the same communities as the families we serve.

YAP provides youth and their families with intensive wraparound services in their homes, school and community at times most needed by the family. Guided by their plan, support can include a number of activities, including case management, crisis intervention services available 24/7, skill development, educational and vocational work.



"The beautiful thing about YAP is that they take the hardest kids, the most difficult kids, the kids with the most problems... and they turn them around."

## — OUR SERVICES —

### JUVENILE JUSTICE

- Alternatives to Detention
- Post-Adjudication Support
- Reintegration
- Gang Intervention
- Violence Prevention

### CHILD WELFARE

- Reunification
- Family Preservation
- Family Identification and Permanency Solutions
- Infant and Toddler Services

### BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH

- In-home, School and Community
- Outpatient
- Family-Based
- Respite

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

(including intellectual disabilities, TBI, and Autism Spectrum Disorders)

- Respite
- In-home and Community

## — OUR EFFECTIVENESS —

YAP tracks outcomes for our youth. The following is information about our youth nationally at the time services end:

### LIVING SAFELY IN THE COMMUNITY

- 🏠 88% of youth live in their community
- 👤 90% remain arrest free and have no new adjudications

### CONNECTION TO EDUCATION

- 🎓 85% of youth graduated or were attending school or a GED program

YAP is recognized as a "Promising Practice" by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and The National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

YAP received the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2015 Gloria J. Jenkins award for its contributions as a community-based organization.

Ten external evaluations have shown YAP to have:

- ★ High program completion rates
- ★ Low rates of placement into residential foster care
- ★ Low numbers of young people who are AWOL
- ★ Residential stability



# THE ADVOCATE MODEL

## Mentors + More!



YAP's Advocate Model represents a form of culturally and linguistically competent paid mentoring that is unique and distinct from traditional mentoring models. In the context of engaging high risk and/or complex need system-involved youth and families, Advocates are mentors... and much more!

YAP Advocates' work with youth and families is formal, intensive and structured, yet it includes the flexibility to provide services specific to each youth and family and to meet at times and places most needed (such as evenings and weekends). Plus, YAP's "No Eject, No Reject" policy means that each and every youth referred will receive Advocate support promptly, and historical or current behavioral challenges will not preclude OR remove them from services.

Advocates are recruited from the same neighborhoods as the youth and families they serve. They are highly trained, receiving monthly training in addition to completing YAP's Basic Advocacy Training (a 9 course national orientation curriculum accredited by Rutgers University). They also receive weekly supervision with their Director.

## MENTORS + MORE

- ▶ Available 24/7 to youth and families
- ▶ Work with the youth AND the youth's entire family
- ▶ Meet youth from within their home, school and the community
- ▶ Provide intensive, frequent weekly face-to-face contact
- ▶ Activities targeted to address their needs and build strengths guided by an Individualized Service Plan



**BALTIMORE**

**A COMMUNITY'S RESIDENTS ARE ITS BEST ASSETS.** Take for instance the West Baltimore neighborhood of Sandtown-Winchester, which struck national attention last year due to protests and outrage sparked by the death of Freddie Gray. Thirty percent of YAP's Baltimore youth live in Sandtown-Winchester, as do YAP's Baltimore Director Craig Jernigan and a number of his Advocates. Because Craig and his team know how to recognize their community's strengths and how to navigate through its challenges, they were able to help keep our young people safe during the protests, support young people who wanted to speak out and organize YAP youth and other residents to help restore peace to the neighborhood.

**"Living in Sandtown during the unrest... allowed us to help heal the community from the inside out."**

*- Craig Jernigan, Baltimore Program Director*



## A CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY COMPETENT APPROACH TO MATCHING

A 2013 survey of over 300 juvenile justice involved YAP youth found that trust was identified as more important to youth than any other attribute or characteristic in their Advocate. In the same survey, 98% of youth reported that they trusted their Advocate.

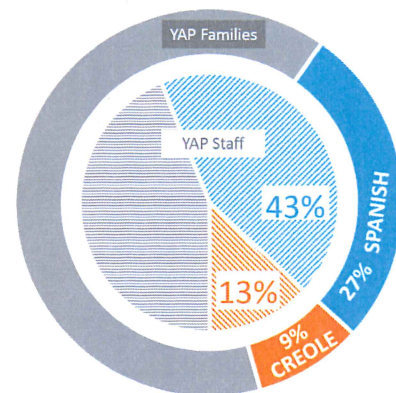
YAP's forty years of experience shows that trust is established through carefully matching youth and families with Advocates who come from the same communities and share the same language, ethnicity, and gender.

### ► ORLANDO

YAP opened our first office in Florida in 1999 and works with justice-involved and child welfare-involved youth in 4 counties. In Orange County, one quarter of the residents are native speakers of a language other than English. In YAP's Orlando-based program, that percentage is higher: for 36% of our youth and families, English is a second language. YAP Advocates in this program reflect a similar trend.

**"Being bilingual is helpful in order to develop relationships of trust that are critical to affecting change."**

*- Peterson Tavi, Creole-speaking Advocate*

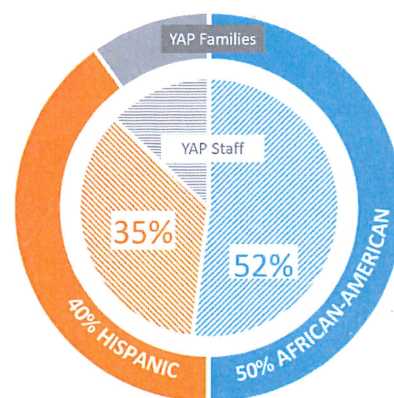


## ADVOCATES AS CREDIBLE MESSENGERS: ZIP CODE RECRUITMENT

As an Advocate, credentials aren't as important as zip code. When working with high and complex need youth and families, many of whom reside in high poverty and crime communities and who are mandated to participate in programming, careful matching becomes critical to youth engagement and success. YAP's "zip code recruitment strategy" plays a significant role in forging trust with youth and families, as well as with the broader community: Advocates share culture and are familiar with the neighborhood's history, strengths and needs. These shared attributes help youth and families relate well to the Advocate. Moreover, the Advocate's 24/7 availability, willingness to be flexible and do "whatever it takes" to assist the young person (e.g., play multiple roles such as transporter, conflict intervener, life skills trainer, respite provider, tutor), and belief in the youth and their potential enhances acceptance and youth engagement. Advocates also implicitly model for youth and families that they, too, can achieve their goals and enjoy quality of life despite the barriers and challenges that they may face.

### ► NEW YORK CITY

YAP works with justice-involved youth in the South Bronx of New York City, the poorest Congressional District in our country: 38% of the total population lives under the poverty line; worse yet, 49% of the children in the district live under the poverty line. The South Bronx is also a diverse community, with over 85% of its population people of color. YAP Advocates reside in the South Bronx, many within a mile of their youth and families' homes, and reflect the same ethnic and racial diversity as our kids and families and are matched accordingly.





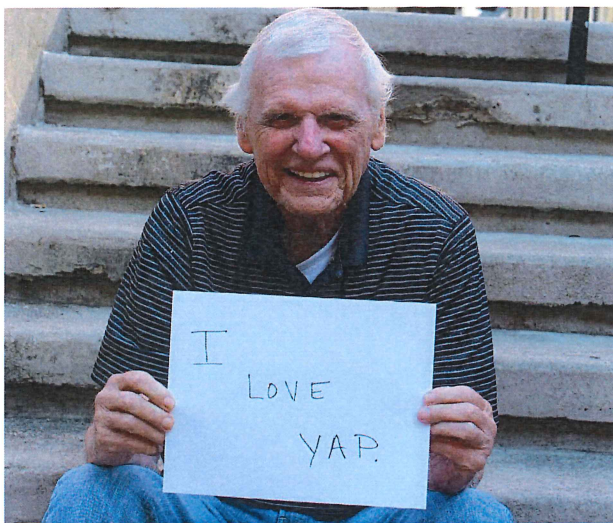
## WHO IS TOM JEFFERS?

Tom Jeffers founded Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) in 1975 and was the Board Chair and CEO until he retired in 2003.

Tom's path began at Ohio State University, where he met up with a number of influential, similar minded individuals who became part of a team that led juvenile justice reforms in Massachusetts, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

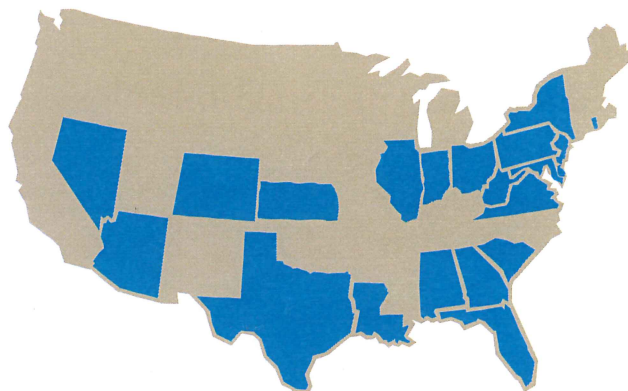
When Tom founded YAP, he helped young people return to their communities in Harrisburg from Camp Hill State Prison. In his 28 years as CEO, YAP grew to have programs in over 10 states that helped families in juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health and education systems.

Tom's career was dedicated to increasing opportunities for the most disadvantaged individuals in often the most impoverished communities by strengthening community capacity. This Endowment Fund is in honor of Tom's legacy of changing biographies.



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### TOM JEFFERS ENDOWMENT FUND FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

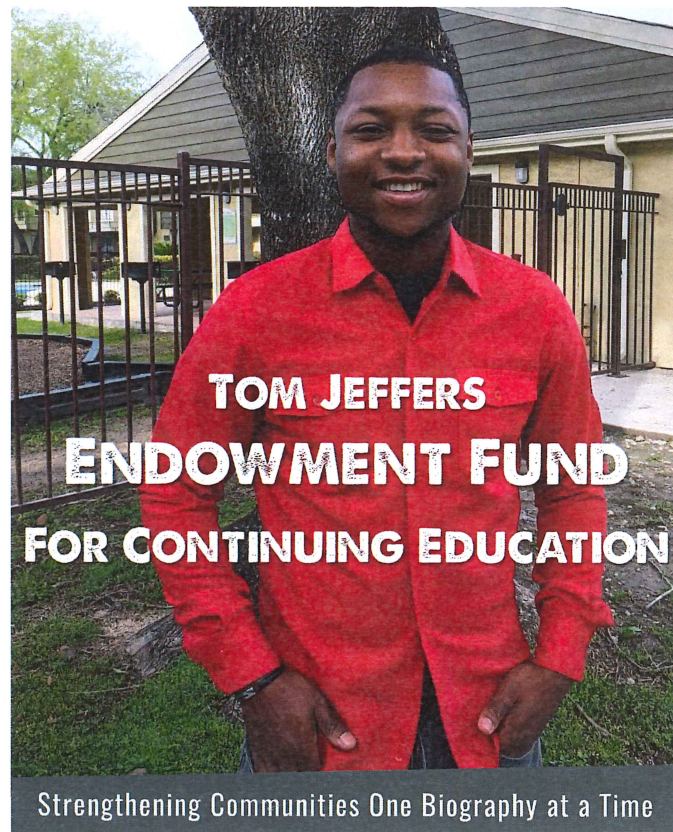
2007 North 3rd Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
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#### PRESIDENT

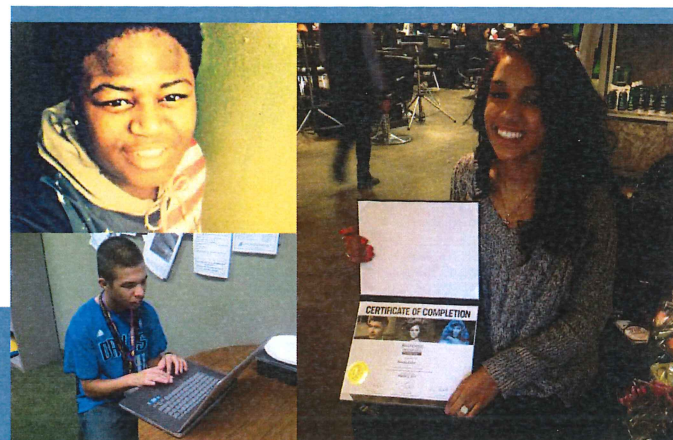
Gary Ivory  
givory@yapinc.org



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Youth Advocate  
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**We know that you have many skills, talents and dreams, and we want you to have every opportunity to grow, develop and achieve!**

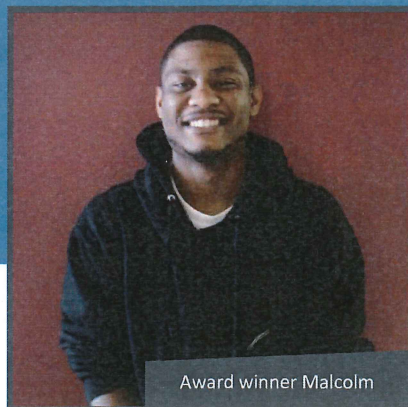
To help support you in achieving your professional dreams, we have developed a fund to provide scholarships to current and former YAP youth or parents who are pursuing post-secondary education or training.

Whether your goal is college, truck driving school, business school or other practical endeavors, we can provide support through our scholarship program!

## — ABOUT THE FUND —

In 2004, YAP started the Tom Jeffers Endowment Fund for Continuing Education. The Endowment began awarding scholarships in 2007.

Because of employee payroll deductions and fundraisers, the Endowment continues to grow. In total, we have awarded over 130 scholarships— 34 in 2016 alone!



Award winner Malcolm

*“Since elementary school I have had a clear vision of what I wanted to do with my life. That vision, coupled with my own struggles and experiences, has given rise to a deep passion for helping at-risk youth...”*

- excerpt from scholarship winner Malcolm Robertson's application letter

## — ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS —

Scholarships can be used for tuition, but also for concrete needs. For example, we have paid for books, bought cutlery for a recipient going to culinary school, paid for tools and a tool box for a student learning a trade, and purchased a computer for a student.

Scholarships amounts are around \$1000.

## — HOW TO APPLY —

To be considered for a scholarship, you first must have been accepted into a school or training program. Next, you would contact your YAP staff or anyone in your program office and tell them that you are interested in applying for a scholarship.

Your staff will help you write an application letter. The letter should share your professional goals and aspirations, needs, how you got involved in YAP and your experiences while in the program.

Your YAP staff will write a letter of recommendation for you and submit it along with your letter to the Endowment Board for review. A decision will be made and announced to you within a week of formal submission.

## — APPLY MORE THAN ONCE —

You can re-apply for scholarships each year of your vocational or educational program!

## — SHARE THE GOOD NEWS —

We are proud of you and would like to share the good news of your scholarship with others. You will be asked to sign a media release, which would give YAP permission to share your name, photo and your story on our various digital and print media, like our website.

*You do not have to agree to share this information to receive your scholarship.*

## — KEEP US POSTED —

Let us know how you are doing and what you are learning through your scholarship. We are very interested in your progress! You can contact the program you participated in, or go directly to the Get Involved section of our website at [yapinc.org](http://yapinc.org).



Award winner Shyleen







Wayne County Youth Advocate Programs \*165 East Union Street Suite 406, Newark, NY 14513 \*Phone 315-331-2763 \* Fax 315-331-2703

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# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. Golf Tournament

## About Us:

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) is one of the largest non-profit Youth and Family Support agencies working with high-risk youth and their families in the United States. Our mission is to engage human service systems so that they rely less on institutional care and invest more in supporting families and neighborhoods. We currently work in Wayne County with child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, and education systems to develop and offer community-based alternatives for the highest risk children, young people, young adults and families.

**Where:** Big Oak Golf Course – 33 Packwood Rd, Geneva, NY 14456

**When:** September 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 @ Time 8am Shotgun start

**What:** Team 4-person Scramble Tournament

**Cost:** \$70 (per person) **Includes:** Lunch buffet, 18 holes of golf and a cart, Prizes and 50-50 raffle

**For early registration please contact Mike Crespo, Nate Hackett or Brett DeJohn**

**Contact Information:** [mcrespo@yapinc.org](mailto:mcrespo@yapinc.org), [nhackett@yapinc.org](mailto:nhackett@yapinc.org), [bdejohn@yapinc.org](mailto:bdejohn@yapinc.org)  
(315)331-2763

Please have one person from your team of 4 contact us so that we can get a number of how many teams before September 1<sup>st</sup>...Thank you

