

This year, CYP launched the new and comprehensive “PASS It On” (Peer Led After-School Solutions) program providing latchkey kids of low-income, single parents, much-needed supervision as well as safe, accessible and positive alternatives for out-of-school activities, during the vulnerable period immediately following school dismissal. Maximizing the space and resources afforded by our Washington Park Community Center, “PASS It On” operates daily from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m., providing structured programming which allows youth to rotate through a balance of education, health, and recreational activity time.

Taking CYP’s best practice peer-to-peer mentoring model to the next level, “PASS It On” employs our college and late high school students as the staff, designing and leading the program. Having proven that while unconventional, our peer mentoring strategy is highly effective in positively influencing behavior in at-risk youth, “PASS It On” leaders use the same techniques and lessons from CYP’s award-winning Children Teaching Children (CTC) program to teach preventative health lessons and how to avoid the lure of dubious street activities. Program leaders not only model and promote “why” to pursue a different life off the street, but through “PASS It On’s” peer leadership approach, they can provide younger youth with first-hand experience on navigating the “hows” as well. Teens can address these issues with respect to the language and culture of the community.

We are confident that the leadership and mentoring provided by our older participants, who are committed to higher education, will inspire our younger youth to emulate their positive behaviors. Combined with our comprehensive programming, dedicated volunteers, free high quality health care, and college prep/placement, CYP’s Peer-to-Peer Leadership and Mentoring programs are playing a vital role in helping Chicago’s at-risk youth escape poverty and reach their full potential!

It is CYP’s priority to improve the long-term outcomes of high-risk youth. With this goal in mind, CYP aggressively monitors the progress and outcomes of each program participant. The figures below represent the 2006-2007 program year.

Average Years of Participation:

The class of 2007 had an average years of participation rate of 8.4 years. Many were true long-term participants, dating back 15 years to preschool!

SCORE Tutoring Pre-/Post-Tests:

For our SCORE Tutoring programs (Grades 1-6), the average rate of improvement from pre-test to post-test was 21%.

High School Graduation Rate: 93%

College Placement:

For the class of 2007, 92% of CYP youth were placed into college or trade school. Since 1999, CYP has placed at least 85% of our youth every year into college or trade school.



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Preschool



Elementary School



Middle/High School



College/Trade School

**PASS
It
On**

**“Helping Chicago’s At-Risk Youth
Reach Their Full Potential”**

Peer-to-Peer Leadership and Mentoring



*Danita Lowe -
CYP College Student & PASS It On Leader*

“As a PASS It On leader, I’m able to pass on the lessons and values that I first received from my volunteer tutor in the Cabrini Green Youth Program over 10 years ago. Currently, I’m majoring in pre-med and many of the children tell me, “Danita, when I grow-up, I want to be a doctor, just like you.”



CYP believes that the best strategy to address the many health and social ills brought on by poverty is to give our at-risk youth the tools and resources to avoid risky behaviors and pursue an admirable career. To that end, we exercise our faith that the best individuals to pass on the necessary knowledge and survival skills to their younger peers, are the community teens and young adults who have followed CYP’s programs before them, succeeding against the odds. It is this theme, that provides the framework for our Peer-to-Peer Mentoring programs.

Uniquely qualified to lead and influence their peers, our college students serve as positive role models -- daily, living reminders that regardless of their economic or family situation, vulnerable at-risk youth can pursue a life out of poverty. Following an innovative model CYP calls “Look Back Mentoring”, these college students supervise and mentor our program high school students, who in turn mentor and supervise our grammar school participants in CYP programs. Through this Peer-to-Peer approach, youth are shepherded by those who have passed through the life-stage they are about to enter, gaining the most age-specific experience-based advice, on how best to cope with the myriad of challenges they face.



*Jeremiah McKinley -
Washington Park Youth Program*

“The after-school program is fun!! I get to play dodgeball, football and basketball in the gym. Also, I do all my homework at the program -- mathematics, vocabulary and reading. The older kids always help me with homework questions I have and also help me with the computers.”