



# Youth United for Survival

Helping Transform Youth Since 1989

## **ANNUAL REPORT** **Year-Ending June 30, 2007**

Dear Friends:

This year has been a year of further development and refining of our programs. Programmatically, **Better Horizons** provided, over the course of the year, a long-term peer support program for 52 youth, ages 8-16. In conjunction with our other programs during the year, the older group worked on building robots for 8 weeks for 2 days per week. They did this in partnership with instructors and students from the CREC Metropolitan Learning Academy in Bloomfield. The younger group learned a Brazilian dance, ate Indian food, visited the fire department, and saw the Symphony On Ice. A group of girls went to the Soy Única (I'm Unique) Conference at the CT Convention Center. We held various activities for the children and families; we had five youth camping trips and one family camping trip. The camping trips help us teach the children survival skills outside of the city, and provide the children with an opportunity to set foot in a different environment away from challenging urban issues. The youth had two out of state outings. One of these was to Boston, where they toured the city, and one in New Jersey to the Mountain Creek Water Park. Our children also participated in several community service events, including The Special Olympics. For our families, we held 5 events: eight families attended High Meadows, twelve attended the Mother's Day Dinner, six went to Ron-a-Roll for roller skating, many families attended our trip to Lake Compounce, and seven families joined us for our Family Day of games.

Our **Building Families FAST** (Foster and Adoptive Support Team) is a short-term adoptive and foster care intervention program serving children ages 2-18 from North Central Connecticut. The children are at risk of disrupting their foster or adoptive placements or are awaiting a more appropriate placement. FAST provides individual and group respite care, behavioral interventions, and family support for over 60 children, for three months at a time. These services are contracted by DCF and clients can be re-referred back to the FAST program.

### **Services provided:**

- After-school therapeutic support program 1-2 days a week
  - Case Management
  - Clinical Psychologist works with staff to design and implement goal plans
  - In-home visits with family to discuss strengths and goals ( every 2 weeks or at parent request)
  - Transportation to all activities
  - All meals and snacks provided

- Community outings: fun trips such as visits to local attractions as well as therapeutic trips (for children with public behavior issues)
- Transition Planning: all children have a discharge summary detailed with progress in the program and linkages with other services in the family's town or area to help maintain support upon completion of the FAST program

FAST services were provided to 212 youth within this fiscal year. Of those, 62 youth were referred back to the FAST program for additional services. Seven children were adopted.

Our **Fee-for Service** programming provided service to 166 youth during the fiscal year. We had 111 referrals for our Therapeutic Respite and Recreation program (now referred to as TIPSS: "Trauma-Informed Peer Support Services"), including re-referrals. There were 126 referrals for Emergency Care, including re-referrals. Fifty percent of referrals were for youth in foster homes. For the first time during the summer of 2006, we set aside 10 additional spots for Fee-for-Service clients to have full day programming throughout the summer. Although we have determined that it was not the best use of agency resources, it was a fun and interesting ten weeks for those involved. We continue to increase the number of youth who supplemented their FAST service with additional days through Fee-for-Service. This seems to indicate a need for ongoing, long-term, daily after-school programming.

During the December holidays, our younger children had a special holiday party planned and executed by a group called the "Cherub Project." Some of the members of this effort we met through the Newington Rotary Club, which has long supported Y-US.

Through the efforts of Program Director, Rafael Lopez, we started a successful collaboration with Riverfront Recapture to set up additional outdoor recreation and education for our kids. We hope to continue this effort into future years.

Staffing issues were present, as in most years. Finding qualified new staff, training them, and waiting for them to obtain their Public Service Driver's License often takes months. This leaves existing staff under additional stress as they try to continue to provide a high degree of service. We had one full time staff member gone for the whole year as she was called up for active military duty. Additionally, a couple of positions were left vacant by management for a period of time as funding concerns for the following year made replacement hiring uncertain.

We continued to explore a social venture business project for the agency. We have been engaged in this effort for several years. We hope to have some concrete plan coming together in the following year. It is hoped that this potential business venture would be mission-appropriate and possibly over the long-term, provide some funding for our other children's programs.

Our Board of Directors continued to serve with dedication. We thank outgoing Board Members MiChelle Pereira-Lopes and Cindy Campbell for their many years of service. During the year we welcomed to our Board Bill Pinto.

As always, we would not be able to accomplish any of these things without the support of all of our various funders. We would like to thank our major funders who supported our programs and operations through grants and donations during the year. This list includes the following corporations, foundations and organizations:

<i>Connecticut Department of Children and Families</i>	<i>Multiple Programs</i>
<i>United Way of the Capital Area</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>The Archbishop's Annual Appeal</i>	<i>Program Operations</i>
<i>The Bishop's Fund for Children</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>St. John's Episcopal Church Outreach</i>	<i>Program Operations</i>
<i>Camp Burt Tetlow Foundation</i>	<i>Summer Respite/Recreation</i>
<i>Ensworth Charitable Trust</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>Elizabeth Carse Foundation</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>Hartford Courant Foundation</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>Mortensen Foundation</i>	<i>Program Equipment</i>
<i>Fisher Foundation</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>J. Walton Bissell Foundation</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>Bank of America Foundation</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>Lincoln Financial</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>W.T. Grant Foundation</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Foundation</i>	<i>Better Horizons</i>
<i>Aetna</i>	<i>Holiday Parties</i>

Also, we thank essential in-kind donors:

*Shipman & Goodwin, LLP*  
*A.J. Bafundo & Company*  
*New Leaf Landscaping*  
*Organizational Planning Solutions*

We would also like to thank our many individual donors who faithfully support Y-US and our programs, some for many years. We look forward to working with you and many others as we continue serving many wonderful young people!

Respectfully Submitted,

Louis Gilbert  
Executive Director

*Y-US, Inc. does not receive any membership dues  
or charge any service fees to its program participants.*



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## ANNUAL REPORT **FINANCIAL INFORMATION** **YEAR-ENDING JUNE 30, 2007**

