

YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



ANNUAL REPORT

July 2018 - June 2019

A PIVOTAL YEAR AT YWP



The past 12 months brought change and revitalization to Young Writers Project (YWP), and I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished.

With the support of everyone in the YWP community, we have strengthened our core programs, made investments in new people, set our business model on a sustainable track, and launched new creative ventures.

We could not reach any of these heights without the generosity of the people who help us – our major sponsors, individual donors, board members, teachers, volunteers, and YWP staff who embrace the mission of Young Writers Project: *to inspire, mentor, publish, and promote young writers and artists.*

The reward for our work arrives every day on our website, youngwritersproject.org, where our amazing young people – more than 4,500-strong – submit their writing, photographs, and art. In their creativity and passion, their heart and spirit, we see the boundless potential of youth, and we are always inspired to push on and play our part in nourishing it.

The next 12 months at YWP include our bold new venture, the Community Journalism Project, as well as new youth-led initiatives related to the environment and social justice, and an exciting lineup of workshop leaders at our Writing on the Roof series. As we reflect on the last year and look ahead, we are committed to the constant improvement of Young Writers Project as a thriving community where civility, respect, and the creative spirit make an indelible impact on the lives of young people.

– Susan Reid, Executive Director, Young Writers Project

HOW TO CONTACT US



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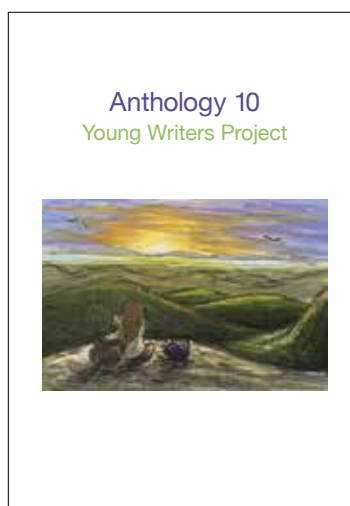
CORE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

The Website

The heartbeat of YWP's mission is our site, youngwritersproject.org. Here, we provide daily writing challenges, positive feedback, and a sense of community. For many of our writers and artists, especially those living in rural and remote areas, or otherwise isolated by circumstance, the site is a lifeline to the world of writing, ideas and creativity.

- **Update:** During the course of the year covered in this report, we gradually improved the look of the site, making it more lively and visually appealing. We are not satisfied, however, and our next major objective is a full redesign of the site, with a timeline of fundraising in 2019-20 and launching as soon as is realistic once the funds are raised.

The Anthology Series



Published annually in a high-quality book format, the Anthology Series recognizes outstanding poems, stories, and images from some 12,000 submissions received from young writers and artists each year at youngwritersproject.org.

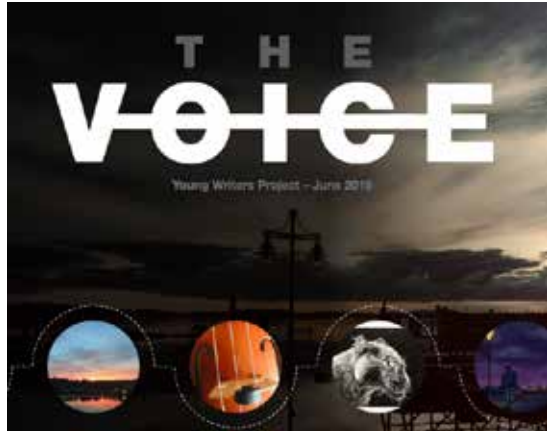
- **Update:** The launch celebration for Anthology 9, held in October for the first time at Maglianero Cafe in Burlington, had a standing-room only crowd and a joyous atmosphere, and helped raise over \$1,000. During the year, we were grateful to receive funding for the design and publication of Anthology 10 from a new donor, **The George W. Mergens Foundation** of Colchester, VT. We will be hosting the Anthology 10 launch at Maglianero Cafe on Oct. 6, 2019.

MEDIA PARTNERS

YWP's media partners include Vermont Public Radio, VTDigger.org, and newspapers across Vermont that publish student work through the school year – Addison Independent, Bradford Journal-Opinion, Brattleboro Reformer, Burlington Free Press, Charlotte News, Essex Reporter, Milton Independent, Rutland Herald, St. Albans Messenger, Times Argus, and Valley News.

- **Update:** Our media partners take us right into the roots of their communities. We believed that local businesses would see the value in supporting youth in their own towns, and reap the benefits of being associated with YWP through sponsorship of our pages in local newspapers. Members of the Vermont Business Roundtable, did, in fact, step up, including these businesses – Foley Services/MKF Properties in the Rutland Herald and A.N. Deringer, Inc., in the St. Albans Messenger.

CORE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES



The Voice, YWP's Digital Magazine

The flagship of our website, this monthly online magazine elevates the work of young writers and artists with beautiful design and thoughtful aesthetics.

- **Update:** In January 2019 we launched a thorough makeover of The Voice, giving it a more attractive presentation and contemporary feel.

Writing on the Roof

These Saturday morning workshops, held in a rooftop conference room overlooking Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks from YWP's home base, the Karma Bird House, bring young writers and artists into contact with poets, journalists, photographers and other professionals.

- **Update:** This series was launched as a pilot project in January 2019 and we were excited by the results. Writing on the Roof allows us to have a dynamic format with an eclectic lineup of workshop leaders drawn from the many community, media and arts organizations who seek to work with us. For 2019-2020, we will have a full season lineup, beginning Sept. 14 with Vermont filmmaker Bess O'Brien. Thanks to our donors, Writing on the Roof workshops are now free.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Young Writers Project strives to connect with the powerful sense of community that exists in our home state of Vermont. We appreciate all of the organizations that work with us to enrich young people and help make a better future for all of us.

Thank you to our partners, including American Flatbread, Burlington City Arts, Clemmons Family Farm, Conversations from the Open Road, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Karma Bird House, King Street Center, Maglianero Cafe, Nutty Steph's, Peace & Justice Center, Regional Educational Television Network, Sugarsnap, Teresa Davis Studio, University of Vermont, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Vermont Folklife Center, Vermont Learning for the Future, Vermont Stage, UP for Learning, Young Tradition Vermont, and Vermont media, schools & libraries.

CORE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES



Voices for Change

Joining with our partner, Burlington City Arts, we coordinate these youth-led workshops and spoken-word events built around themes of social justice, tolerance and respect for the environment.

- **Update:** During the year we saw the potential for this series to be organized by YWP's youth leaders rather than by adults. This is an exciting new paradigm that allows self-starting young people to step forward and lead, with only minimal guidance from YWP staff. It is incredible to watch them shine with this opportunity!

The Community Journalism Project



This project was conceived in response to an outpouring of concern expressed on our website as young people reacted to school shootings, the immigration crisis, climate change, and other distressing developments. The Community Journalism Project encourages young writers and artists to engage with their local communities, to chronicle their own place as teenagers in those communities, and to explore the broader issues of our time through informed and civil commentary, research, writing, photography, and art.

- **Update:** This initiative required a strong push for fundraising during the winter and spring of 2019. Burlington residents Lisa Schamberg and Patrick Robins quickly stepped up with their support, followed by grants from the National Life Group Foundation and the Windham Foundation. We also initiated a CrowdRise campaign through the Gannett Foundation/USA Today Network and met the threshold of \$3,000 in donations, making YWP eligible for a Gannett grant. We were astonished to receive a grant of \$25,000 – the first time a national Gannett grant has been awarded in Vermont and only one of 16 such grants from 1,500 applicants. Content for the program was developed during the summer of 2019 and launched in August for the 2019-2020 school year.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Young Writers Project would like to thank the following people, foundations, and businesses for generously supporting our organization in 2018-19. If we have missed anyone, please accept our apology and allow us to update the information immediately by contacting Susan Reid at sreid@youngwritersproject.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE LONGTIME SUSTAINING DONORS

The Bay and Paul Foundations
Vermont Business Roundtable
Physician's Computer Company
Amy E. Tarrant Foundation
Smugglers' Notch Resort

AND THESE MAJOR DONORS 2018-19

The Alchemist	Leonardo's Pizza
Amazon Literary Partnership	National Life Group Foundation
A.N. Deringer, Inc.	New England Grassroots Environment Fund
Chroma Technology Corp.	Northfield Savings Bank
Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman	People's United Bank
Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art	Queen City Printers Inc.
Emily M. Lyman Foundation	Lisa Schamberg and Patrick Robins
Foley Services/MKF Properties	Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America
Patricia Fontaine	Tulgey Wood Foundation, Inc.
Gannett Foundation/USA Today Network	Union Mutual
The George W. Mergens Foundation	VBT Bicycling and Walking Vacations
Green Mountain Power	Windham Foundation
Karma Bird House	

INDIVIDUAL DONORS 2018-19

Bonnie Acker & John Davis	Jacques Bailly	Dennis Boggs
Cathy & William Aikman	Peter Bartholomaus	Neal Brown
E. Davies Allan	Heather & Philip Batalion	Paul Bruhn
Z. Philip Ambrose	The Bauer family	Elizabeth Bundock
Caroline Anderson	Allison Beach	Cecile Callan
Erin Anderson	Caroline Beer	Jo Canney
Kim Anderson	Jon Bellona	Anthony Carleton
Cheryl & Jim Andrew	Daniel & Jane Bennett	Ruth & George Casey

Naomi Clemmons	Ruth Hardy & Jason Mittell	Rowe
Anne Cramer	Susanmarie Harrington &	Meg O'Donnell
Jack & Vicky Cupp	Ellen Andersen	Peggy O'Neill Vivanco & Luis
Harold & Kimberly Dauerman	Edith C. Hawksworth Trust	Vivanco
Julie A. Davis	Cheryl & Edward Heneveld	Angela Palm
Staige Davis	Jean Hey	Melissa Pasanen
Becky Dayton	Samuel House	Katherine Paterson
Carolyn Devlin & David	Jeanny House	Bobbe Pennington
Schneider	Em House	Kit Perkins
Heather Diddel	Charlotte Hughes	Lori Phelps
The Diddel-Warren family	Kenneth Hughes	Aimee Picchi
Alida Dinklage	Jessica Hyman	Olivia Pintair
Kyle Dodson	Diane & Mike Imrie	Jon Portman
Frank & Joan Donath	Barbara & David Iverson	Ellen Read
Susan Donniss	Barbara Jobst	Hillary Read
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Claude Earl	Jini Kades	Andrea Rogers
Evelynn Ellis	Joseph Kiefer	Gregory Root
Christina Erickson	Karen & Henry Kimsey-House	Christopher Ross
Andrew Evans	Suzanne Kusserow	Kate & William Schubart
David & Naomi Faltskog	Jamie Lee	Joel Silverstein
Andrew Folley	Goldie Ludovici	Margaret Skinner
Kathy Folley	Leslee MacKenzie	Sherwood Smith
Barbara Frankowski	Gregory Maguire	Stephanie Spencer
Barbara Ganley & William	Martha & William Maksym	Bill Stritzler
Roper	Bill Mares	Nate Stritzler
Pamela Gardner	Rita Markley	Charles & Mima Tipper
Valerie Gardner	Michael Mathon	Dana & Marc vanderHeyden
The Garrity family	Mark McDermott	Bruce & Lillian Venner
Deborah Gevalt	Avery McLean	Lisa Ventriss
Virginia Goodman	Bruce Melinn	Justine Viets
Anya & Arthur Gordon	William Mierse	Jacqueline Werner-Gavrin
Jennifer Grawcock	Greg & Toni Millar	Elzy Wick
Naima Green	Nathaniel Millarhouse	Leslie Williams
Linda Greenblatt	Kellie Moreman	Ted Wimpey
David Gudex-Cross	Lydia Moreman	Kristen Wirkkala
Brennan Guerriere	Barbara Murphy & Tom Gar-	Mindy Wong
Tricia Gustafson	rett	Anne Yates
Lauren Guza Brown	Deena Murphy	<i>* Thank you also to our</i>
Carolyn & Dennis Hall	Charlie Nardozzi & Wendy	<i>anonymous friends</i>

Young Writers Project set out this year with the very specific goal of introducing YWP to a broader array of potential supporters. We were gratified to find that many people were willing to help once they learned of our mission, including some at the national level. We were also heartened to see our longtime supporters staying with us and sharing in the good work that we bring to young people. **Thank you!**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**Young Writers Project Inc.
Profit & Loss
July 2018 – June 2019**

TOTAL INCOME

Contributed Support	158,294.03
Other Revenue	4,976.16
Total Income	163,270.19

EXPENSES

Business & Overhead	3,342.96
Occupancy Expenses	10,719.36
Professional Services	23,895.19
Program Expenses	24,393.79
Salaries & Related	114,945.44
Other Expenses	329.46
Total Expenses	177,626.20
Net income	- 14,356.01

Year ending June 30, 2019 - Cash Basis

Beginning in July 2018, Young Writers Project embarked on a complete review of financial priorities.

At the time, it appeared the organization, as it was, would not be sustainable for long. YWP had become over-extended and was under-achieving on fundraising. This financial statement reflects that disconnect, a situation that took a year to resolve.

Through innovative thinking, the strategic investment in part-time development consultant Jessica Hyman, and sheer hard work on the part of staff and the YWP board, our year-long effort has transformed YWP into an organization that is leaner, smarter, and better.

We are now “out in front” of the situation and enter the coming year with healthy cash reserves. We are on track.

THE YWP TEAM

In July 2018, YWP experienced its first-ever transition in leadership, with founder Geoff Gevalt stepping down and handing the reins to Susan Reid, who had worked as the YWP publications co-ordinator and second-in-command since 2011. Prior to his retirement, Gevalt hired William Anderson, a veteran journalist with whom he had worked at the Burlington Free Press, to help fill the role vacated by Reid. Anderson and Anna Forsythe, an Emerson College publishing graduate, share publication, program, and website duties, both part-time. Anderson also helps with fundraising and grant-writing.

In the spring of 2019, a two-year grant from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art that had included funding for a part-time artistic director ended, and at this time, YWP shifted its staffing focus to the area of greatest need: development and fundraising. Jessica Hyman, a nonprofit consultant and YWP board member, was hired part-time to assist with development.

YWP STAFF

- Susan Reid, executive director; (802) 324-9538, sreid@youngwritersproject.org
- William Anderson, publications, programs, fundraising, part-time: william@youngwritersproject.org
- Anna Forsythe, publications co-ordinator, part-time; anna@youngwritersproject.org
- Jessica Hyman, development consultant, part-time; Jessicahymanvt@gmail.com
- Trish Laraja, bookkeeper, part-time; trish@willcarlsonconsulting.com
- Shannon Ripp, Champlain College intern; shannon@youngwritersproject.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-19

- Kathy Folley, Chair (retired teacher); kfolley@youngwritersproject.org
- Aimee Picchi, Board Vice-Chair (writer, journalist); apicchi@gmail.com
- Michael Mathon, Treasurer (financial advisor, Ameriprise Financial); michael.j.mathon@ampf.com
- Jacques Bailly (UVM classics professor); Jacques.bailly@uvm.edu
- Jessica Hyman (nonprofit leader, consultant); Jessicahymanvt@gmail.com
- Rita Markley (executive director of COTS, Committee on Temporary Shelter); ritam@cotsonline.org
- Nathaniel Millarhouse (community organizer); nathaniel.hd.house@gmail.com
- Hillary Read (writer, marketing & communications); hbread@gmail.com
- Mindy Wong (teacher, writer); mindywong1@gmail.com

YWP is ... a creative space for young writers and artists



CHARLOTTE HUGHES

Though I have always been told I had a gift for words, I never really thought of myself as a writer until the fall of eighth grade when I joined YWP. This site wants to hear my voice, the people genuinely care about my opinions and I feel like I have a place in this crazy tornado of a planet. YWP opened up a new world for me of kind people and amazing opportunities that I am thankful for every time I log in to the site. YWP may be not be a household name (*yet!*) but I hope that the people working so hard for this site know that they change lives every day.



KEVIN HUANG

YWP helped me grow as an artist and gave me confidence in my work. Over the years, I've received a tremendous amount of help from Young Writers Project. YWP also played a part in my transition from high school to college. I am a first-generation college student. Because my parents couldn't help me, I had to rely on myself and others, like YWP, to guide me through the process.



ROWAN POTZLER

YWP is somewhere I can write my heart out and post my pictures .. It's a place where I meet people that I admire and I have developed my own creativity in doing so. The layout is fantastic and I look forward to the newsletter every week and The Voice every month ... Thought-provoking challenges, a myriad of ways to express yourself, and the evident passion and love put into making it all work gives me a reason to come back, day after day after day. I love YWP. I don't know where I'd be without it. It's wonderful and makes me wish I lived in Vermont.



ALEXANDRA CONTRERAS-MONTESANO

YWP keeps youth voice alive, youth art alive and a passion for writing alive.



KIRAN WAQAR

I can confidently say I, and Muslim Girls Making Change, wouldn't be where we are without the support and guidance YWP provided.

YWP is ... a creative space for young writers and artists



SAM AIKMAN

I joined Young Writers Project in November of 2017 and have loved being a part of the YWP community since then! I have met other young writers through the site and have gone to many workshops and events hosted by YWP. Everyone is so supportive and kind; I always feel safe to share work on the site and at open mics. Before I started an account on the site I was lost as to how my work could or ever would get published. It is such an honor now to be published in local newspapers and online. Thank you YWP!



LENA GINAWI

Being part of Muslim Girls Making Change (MGMC) and our collaboration with YWP has been an eye-opening experience that has introduced me to skills I would have never attained in school. YWP has contributed to enhancing my confidence and personal growth as an individual and a performer, as well as providing a safe space for MGMC to discuss issues regarding our identity.



KATY TURNER

I grew up in northern Vermont always looking for things. When I found YWP, I held on hard. I would race home after school every day, eager to write something that people would read and acknowledge and attribute to the person I wanted to be. Eager for people to hear me. YWP wasn't a fleeting or 'stepping stone' thing for me – it was my life. Carved me straight out of stone. Shaped me completely.



RIVAN CALDERIN

Young Writers Project allowed me to be part of a group in which I could actually accomplish things that I would never have been able to achieve in high school.



NARGES ANZALI

YWP allows me to express my thoughts about any range of things ... It's a safe space in a chaotic world, where everyone is civil and you know that you will always be respected as a writer and as an artist.

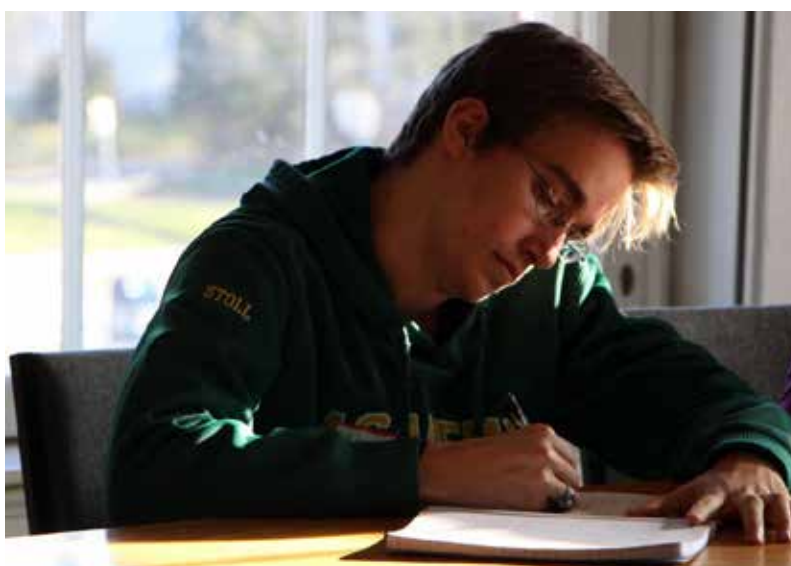
COMING IN 2019-20



YWP's **Community Journalism Project** is an exciting new initiative that offers writing and photo challenges, journalism skills-building, workshops, and publication throughout the 2019-20 school year. It is for students and teachers, inside and outside of the classroom.

Find out more and get started with the Community Journalism Project at youngwritersproject.org/CJP/

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT



YWP writer Ben Stoll of Georgia, VT. YWP Photo Archive

Young Writers Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that relies solely on the generosity of foundations, businesses, and individuals to provide our programs free of charge to young writers and artists. Donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 20-5231693. **Thank you!**

TO DONATE:

By mail: Young Writers Project, 47 Maple St., Suite 216, Burlington, VT 05401

Online: <https://youngwritersproject.org/support>

CONTACT: YWP Executive Director Susan Reid: sreid@youngwritersproject.org; (802) 324-9538