



**young writers project**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

July 2024 - June 2025



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# YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

**JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025**

Young Writers Project (YWP) is an independent arts nonprofit that started in Burlington, Vermont, in 2006, and continues today with a mission to inspire, mentor, publish, and promote young writers and artists.

Through the generous support of foundations, individuals, and businesses, YWP is able to provide all programming free of charge so that any young person between the ages of 13 and 19 can join us. The YWP community is made up of creative teens who are mostly from Vermont and other New England states, but we have members from across the U.S. and as far away as Australia.

The heart of YWP is our interactive website, [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org), where teens post writing and art, and connect with other young artists through comments and chat forums. They also engage in contests, challenges, workshops, and publication opportunities with our media partners, in our monthly digital magazine, and annual printed anthology. In August 2025, we published our 16th anthology, a collection of the exceptional writing and art that was submitted to our website in 2024-25.

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

(802) 324-9538

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*Cover art: "Self Portrait" by Sienna Mardy, Hempstead, NY*

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*"Before It Rains" by Sophia Brooks, Essex Junction, VT*



# YWP'S YEAR IN REVIEW

Young Writers Project is an online community of more than 4,000 activer users – teen writers and artists who post their creations, share meaningful feedback, and experience the joy and affirmation of being published.



**Writing and Art Contests:** This piece, "The Lake's Trap," by Sophie Li, Coconut Creek, FL, was among the award winners in the Teenager Contest, one of YWP's three writing and art contests in 2024-25.

**Artist's Statement:** "As a teenager, I have decided to express myself through the purest and most exposed manner, deviating from the ever-increasing superficiality of our modern, technological age. Pictures, originally used to document truth, are now contaminated by the technology of AI and editing. Impressionable teenagers specifically become largely impacted by these risky developments. Yet, as the hands frame the face, my desire to mask the insecurities is revealed — an evident representation of the teen experience in 2025."

## Anthology 16 Young Writers Project

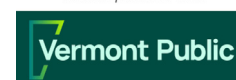


**Anthology 16:** Published in August 2025, this anthology showcases the best writing and visual art of 2024-25. The cover art, "Nature Girl," is by Amelia Van Driesche of Burlington, VT. To order copies, please go to [Donate at youngwritersproject.org](https://youngwritersproject.org).



**The Voice:** YWP's digital magazine highlights new writing and visual art every month, such as "Common Ground," above, by Evvi Tower-Pierce of East Burke, VT, the cover art for the April 2025 issue.

**Media Partners:** VTDigger publishes YWP writing and art each week from September to June. Vermont Public lets the state know about us with a series of in-kind radio spots. And our poets also appear in Seven Days' quarterly Kids VT.



**Online Workshops & Resources:** The YWP website is full of inspiring ideas and information about writing and art, including our Resources library, ArtSpace hub, Great Writers and Artists features, and our series of online photography and writing workshops.

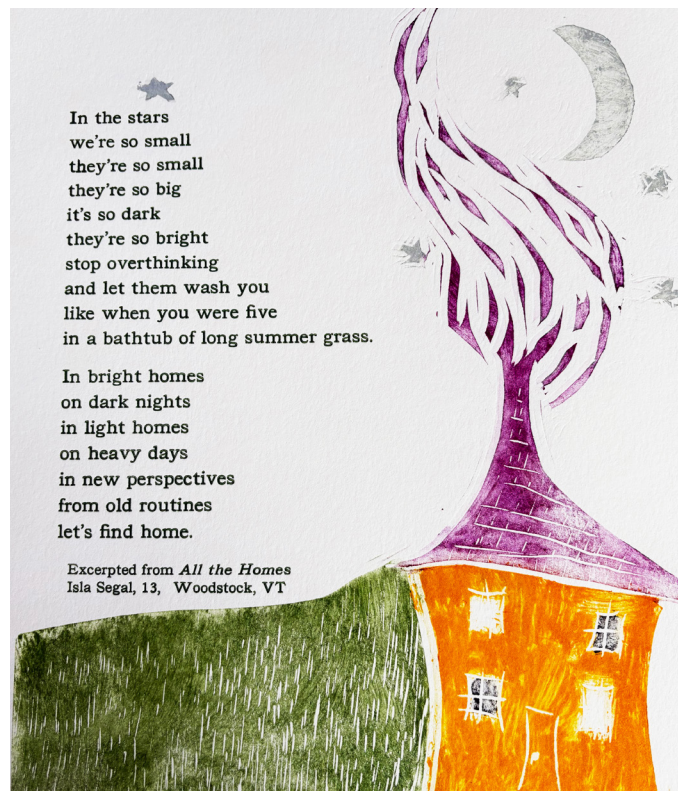


## YWP'S YEAR IN REVIEW

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**The Tomorrow Project:** YWP's new civic engagement initiative addresses issues of human rights, democracy, ethics, community, and climate with a series of writing and visual art challenges, contests, publication opportunities, and exhibits. We launched the first phase in winter 2025, capped with an exhibit at Burlington City Hall in May with our partners, Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) and A Revolutionary Press of New Haven, VT. Writing and art awards will be announced in fall 2025 and the project will continue with a second phase, including an exhibit at the Karma Bird House gallery at 47 Maple Street, Burlington, VT, in December 2025.



*Letterpress print created by artist Jen Berger and A Revolutionary Press, printmakers in New Haven, VT, to illustrate the YWP poem, "All the Homes," by Isla Segal of Woodstock, VT, for The Tomorrow Project.*



*Zinnia Hansen*

**YWP Alumni Advisors and Interns:** Our alumni advisors joined YWP as teenagers, and now, as young adults, they want to give back to the community that helped shape their lives. For 2025-26, Zinnia Hansen, left, returns for her fourth year as an alumni advisor, and Isabella Daignault-Bailey, right, begins her first year. Joining them are Jadyn Mardy, in her fourth year, Sam Aikman, in her second year, and Charlotte Dodds, in her first year. Charlotte also interned with YWP in summer 2025 as the creative force behind our weekly writing and art challenges. Our winter intern was Alex Bregy, a Bennington College junior, who fulfilled a work-study internship for credit by developing a series of online workshops called "Wondrous Writers." YWP's internships offer high school and college students a chance to explore their interests in publishing, writing, editing, visual art, journalism, and leadership.



*Isabella Daignault-Bailey*

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Young Writers Project wishes to thank the following individuals, foundations, and businesses for generously supporting our organization in 2024-25.

Bonnie Acker and John Davis  
Cathy and William Aikman  
Caroline Anderson  
Erin Anderson  
Kim Anderson  
Peter Anthony  
Richard Aubrey  
Jacques Bailly and Leslyn Hall  
Sean Balon  
Dennis Boggs  
Rich Boyers  
Kathleen Brooks  
Burlington City Arts  
Kathleen Cheney  
Mindy Clawson  
John Cleary  
Corey Cook  
April Cornell  
Anne Cramer  
Jack and Vicky Cupp  
Harold and Kimberly Dauerman  
Julie Davis  
Staige Davis  
Gary De Carolis  
Marydale DeBor  
Susan Dinitz  
Giovanna Di Paolo Jager  
Frank and Joan Donath  
Susan Donnis  
Bari & Peter Dreissigacker Philanthropy  
Ian Eatock  
Evelynn Ellis  
Ellen Fallon  
Foley Services/MKF Properties  
Cris and Kathy Folley  
Patricia Fontaine  
Valerie Gardner  
Geoffrey Gevalt

Anna Grady  
Valerie Graham  
Joan Grundhauser  
Lauren Guza Brown  
Recille Hamrell  
Edith C. Hawksworth Trust  
Gale Hurd  
Jessica Hutcheson  
Jessica Hyman  
The Rona Jaffe Foundation  
Mary Catherine Jones  
Karma Bird House  
Joseph Kiefer and Amy Goodman Kiefer  
Glenn King  
Kingdom County Productions  
Anthony Kramer  
Peter Lewis  
The M & T Charitable Foundation  
Martha, William and Ben Maksym  
Rookie Manning  
Michael Mathon  
Valerie McDonald  
The George W. Mergens Foundation  
Royce Meyer  
Katharine Morgan  
Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst  
The Philip and Patricia Muck Charitable Foundation  
Clare Mundell  
Deena Murphy  
The National Life Group Foundation  
Anna Niemiec  
The Oakland Foundation  
Paramount Gives  
Bobbe Pennington  
Physician's Computer Company  
Aimee Picchi  
Bernard and Nancy Picchi

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Young Writers Project wishes to thank the following individuals, foundations, and businesses for generously supporting our organization in 2024-25.

Queen City Printers  
K. Rayaan  
Ellen Read  
Hillary Read  
Smidgie Reid and Michael McMillin  
Jeanne Ripp  
Shannon Ripp  
Andrea Rogers  
Lisa Schamberg and Patrick Robins  
Bill and Kate Schubart  
Christine Sherry  
Margaret Skinner  
Smugglers' Notch Resort  
Barbara Sorce  
South Burlington Rotary Charities  
Stephanie Spencer  
Tanya Stone  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Rebecca Valley  
Dana and Marc vanderHeyden

Bruce and Lillian Venner  
Vermont Arts Council  
Vermont Business Roundtable  
Vermont Children's Trust Foundation  
Vermont Electric Power Co.  
Vermont Humanities  
Vermont Mutual Insurance Group  
Vermont Public  
VTDigger.org  
Susan Wallis  
Sean Walsh  
Walter Wells  
Deborah Wilde  
Leslie Williams  
Meg Williams  
The Windham Foundation  
Frances Wood  
Anne Yates  
Karl Zygarowski  
Our kind anonymous friends

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*If we have missed anyone, please accept our apology and allow us to update the information by contacting Susan Reid, YWP executive director, at (802) 324-9538 or [sreid@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:sreid@youngwritersproject.org).*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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**Young Writers Project Inc.  
Profit & Loss  
July 2024– June 2025**

**INCOME**

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Contributed Support</b> | <b>\$134,167</b> |
| <b>Other Revenue</b>       | <b>\$2,365</b>   |
| <b>Total Income</b>        | <b>\$136,532</b> |

**EXPENSES**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Salaries &amp; Related</b>                                    | <b>\$101,602</b> |
| <b>Professional Services</b>                                     | <b>\$11,073</b>  |
| <b>Occupancy Expenses</b>  | <b>\$1,489</b>   |
| <b>Printing, Publications</b>                                    | <b>\$6,845</b>   |
| <b>Program Expenses</b>  | <b>\$18,818</b>  |
| <b>(including business overhead,<br/>insurance, taxes, fees)</b> |                  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$139,827</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>  | <b>-\$3,295</b>  |

*Year ending June 30, 2025 - Cash Basis. Does not include in-kind donations of \$8,840. See FY24 990 on Donate page, on our website, [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org).*

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Young Writers Project, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit located at 47 Maple St., Suite 216, Burlington, VT 05401. Donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 20-5231693. Website: [youngwritersproject.org](http://youngwritersproject.org). Contact: Susan Reid, YWP executive director, [sreid@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:sreid@youngwritersproject.org); (802) 324-9538



# YWP STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## YWP STAFF 2024-25

**Susan Reid** – Executive director since 2018; (802) 324-9538, [sreid@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:sreid@youngwritersproject.org)

**William Anderson** – Editor, web support, grant writer; [william@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:william@youngwritersproject.org)

**Anna Forsythe** – Publications co-ordinator; [anna@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:anna@youngwritersproject.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jacques Bailly** – University of Vermont Classics professor, Scripps National Spelling Bee's official pronouncer since 2003, YWP parent

**Erin Bundock** – Vermont visual artist, longtime member of YWP community, UVM alumna

**Giovanna Di Paola Jager** – Designer, entrepreneur, owner of Karma Bird House, 47 Maple Street, Burlington, VT

**Kathy Folley** – Board Record Keeper. Retired teacher at Charlotte Central School, YWP mentor and editing support for YWP anthologies

**Aimee Picchi** – Board Vice-President. CBS MoneyWatch associate managing editor, science fiction writer, YWP parent

**Hillary Read** – Board President. Independent marketing and communications consultant, fiction writer, former journalist

**Shannon Ripp** – Digital account manager, social media developer, former YWP intern, Champlain College professional writing alumna

**Doreen Wright** – Board Treasurer. Former editor and page designer at USA Today and Burlington Free Press



# ywp

# HOW TO SUPPORT YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT

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*Photo by Kevin Huang, YWP archive*

**YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies on the generosity of foundations, individuals, and businesses to provide all programs free of charge so everyone has a chance to participate. When you support Young Writers Project, you are investing in teen writers and artists who are making a positive difference in the world. Donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax ID is 20-5231693. **We are deeply grateful for your support!**

## TO DONATE

Please send your gift by mail to:

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

Or by PayPal or credit card online at:

<https://youngwritersproject.org/donate>

**THANK YOU!**

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*For more information, please contact Susan Reid, YWP executive director, [sreid@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:sreid@youngwritersproject.org); (802) 324-9538*