



## **Y.O.U. Expands and Deepens Impact**

This spring, Y.O.U. was awarded two new grants that will allow us to both expand and deepen our impact for Evanston youth. A \$635,000 Community Partnership Grant from the Illinois State Board of Education allows Y.O.U. to expand the number of youth and grades served at 2 schools while deepening our academic support, social-emotional learning, and enrichments at all 7 District 65 partner schools. Y.O.U. also is thrilled to announce plans to expand and further develop our post-secondary support for college-bound and college-enrolled youth through collaboration with Evanston Scholars and an E-Town Innovation Grant.

Community Partnership Grants are designed to address opportunity gaps heightened by the pandemic with a focus on social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs. This spring, we piloted program expansions at both King Arts and Dawes Elementary schools. After successful pilots, Y.O.U. has now expanded our programming at King Arts from middle school grades to include youth in grades 3-8. Our programming at Dawes now begins in 2nd grade and serves grades 2-5. Y.O.U. also will continue to deepen our essential mix of academic, social, and emotional development at all 7 partner schools in District 65 along continuing to meet the huge demand for case management and counseling services.

Evanston Community Foundation awarded \$20,000 for Y.O.U. and Evanston Scholars to partner in the coming year through an E-Town Innovation Grant. Through technical assistance provided by Evanston Scholars and mutual referrals, we will increase the number of historically marginalized and underrepresented youth attending and

succeeding in higher education-and serve more youth than either organization could alone. Y.O.U. will expand and formalize our post-secondary support for youth, including both career pathways exploration and college access and success.

Y.O.U. is proud to announce these program expansions. We are grateful for the ability to both widen and deepen our impact. It has been a joy these last few weeks to see our Out-of-School-Time Summer Program in action—returned to a full-day full-summer model to support youth entering grades 2-12. It reminds us of the importance of our work closing the opportunity gap and supporting youth success.

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