



ANNUAL REPORT | 2020-2021

CARRYING THE TORCH

Founded in 2018, Carolina Youth Coalition prepares high-performing, under-resourced students to enter, excel in, and graduate from college so they can be full participants in society.

This annual report is dedicated to our first three cohorts of "Fellows" whose hard work and commitment to CYC has been integral to the early success of our organization.

These brave youth continue to 'carry the torch' for their families and communities, light the way for their peers, and fully embody the essence of our CYC core values...



GROWTH

Be-a-work-in-progress.

OPENNESS

Value difference.

EXCELLENCE

Invest in your best.

EMPOWERMENT

Choose to be powerful.

COMMUNITY

Take care of CYC and one another.

DEAR CYC COMMUNITY,

When we launched Carolina Youth Coalition (CYC) with the support of the Albemarle Foundation in 2018, we set out to join the fight to improve economic mobility in Charlotte by eliminating barriers to accessing and completing higher education. While we knew we were meeting a critical need in the Charlotte community, we could not have foreseen the ways in which those needs would be further compounded over the last year.

As the pandemic and social unrest laid bare many of the inequities in our society, particularly within education, it further highlighted the critical role CYC plays in leveling the playing field and expanding access to higher education for first-generation college students.

Guided by our mantra *every dream needs a team*, we couldn't be more proud of the way our CYC community has rallied around our Fellows to ensure they and their families have had their basic needs met and they remain on track for college success during these uncertain times. CYC both deepened and widened our services by continuing our growth to support more students and providing holistic, wrap-around support with the help of our many supporters and partners.

This annual report is a reflection of the collective resilience and hard work by our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, Fellows, and families. **We proudly present our FY21 results with an eye toward continuing to grow and scale our impact in the Queen City!**

Sincerely,



Kathryn Kissam
Co-Founder & Board Chair



Aaron Randolph
Co-Founder & Executive Director



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OUR WORK

CYC works primarily with students who...

- are the first in their family to attend college or are Pell Grant-eligible
- maintain a 3.3 GPA or above

with an emphasis on three focus areas...

COLLEGE

Eliminating barriers to postsecondary entry and attainment.

COMMUNITY

Cultivating a tight-knit network of motivated Fellows and caring adults.

CONSCIOUSNESS

Building Fellows' self-efficacy and will to reach their full potential.

that we execute through two dynamic programs...

TORCH FELLOWS

Free 10-month after-school program that ensures 9th-12th graders are academically, socially, and financially prepared to enter their best-fit college.

- Individualized college admissions guidance and advocacy
- Best-in-class ACT prep, academic tutoring, and writing coaching
- College tours and admissions visits
- Connection to scholarships and career exploration
- Leadership and service opportunities

COLLEGE FELLOWS

Graduates of CYC's Torch Fellows program transition to becoming College Fellows and are enrolled in the College Persistence Program.

- Personalized matriculation support
- Connection to on-campus and external resources
- Emergency and impromptu financial assistance
- Career coaching and mentoring

to ensure they reach their full potential through college success.

YEAR IN REVIEW

JUL



2nd Annual Dorm Drive; over \$1,000 in supplies distributed to College Fellows through Honeywell employee donations.

AUG



Start of 3rd school year with 70 Torch Fellows and 45 College Fellows. Grew to 110 Torch Fellows by year-end.

SEP



Announcement of \$1 million contribution by the Albermarle Foundation and the endowment of the SOS Scholarship Fund by Andrea and Sean Smith.

OCT



Debut of Fellow-led podcast, *Personal Statement*, with Janeed Bryant of CREED. 1,047 listeners to date.



\$15K in emergency financial assistance provided to CYC families through CharMeck COVID relief fund; \$25K distributed to date.

NOV



Season 1 of *Personal Statement* podcast concludes after guest appearances by Fred Whitfield (President, Charlotte Hornets), Harold Varner (PGA Tour), Andrea Smith (Chief Administrative Officer, Bank of America), and Dan Lugo (President, Queens University).

DEC



Istar Abdullahi becomes the 2nd CYC Fellow to earn the Questbridge National Match Scholarship; awarded a full-ride to attend Grinnell College.

JAN



Launch of Career Club, career exploration program, in partnership with Honeywell, OrthoCarolina, and Bank of America.

FEB



Launch of CYC chapter of *Young Investor's Society* to teach Fellows the principles of finance and investing.

MAR



Omer Abdulkareem becomes the 1st CYC Fellow to earn the prestigious Levine Scholarship; awarded a full-ride to UNC Charlotte.

APR



Partnership established with Marand Builders and Alvarado Family Foundation to award STEM scholarships to CYC Fellows

MAY



CYC named recipient of the 2021 Women's Impact Fund Education Grant of \$90K over 2 years.



575 hours of pro bono tutoring completed in partnership with Tutor Associates, Inc.

JUN



CYC awarded 2021 Apparo Mission Possible award.

2020-2021 IMPACT



45 COLLEGE FELLOWS SERVED



110 TORCH FELLOWS
*57% INCREASE FROM 2019-2020



22 HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED



27 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



71% AF. AM/BLACK
13% HISPANIC
13% ASIAN
3% WHITE/OTHER



87% OF SENIORS ARE PELL GRANT-ELIGIBLE



84% OF SENIORS ARE FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS



\$25K COVID RELIEF DISTRIBUTED TO CYC FAMILIES



716 HOURS OF MENTORING BY CYC MENTORS



28 HOURS OF ACT INSTRUCTION BY MASTERY PREP



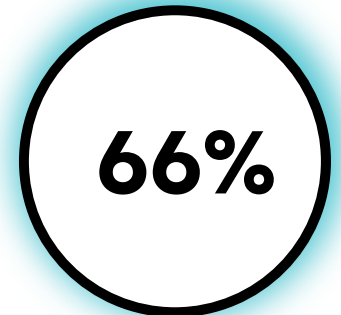
SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS EARNED



SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS REDEEMED



COLLEGE ENROLLMENT
(94% AT 4-YEAR;
6% AT 2-YEAR)



ATTENDING COLLEGE DEBT-FREE



"CYC has changed my life forever. When I didn't know what I wanted or needed to be successful, there CYC was to provide me the important resources that I thought I would never have access to."

"CYC has shown me and made me believe that going to my dream college is possible!"

"I have a better understanding of college overall and have gained lifelong mentors and networks that I know will be by my side."

"They opened doors for me and helped me open doors for myself."

"It's a source of motivation knowing that they want me to succeed just as much as I do."



IMPACT SINCE 2018

210

FELLOWS SERVED

78

COLLEGE FELLOWS
SERVED

86%

OF COLLEGE FELLOWS
ARE FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS

\$30
Million

IN SCHOLARSHIPS
& GRANTS EARNED;
\$7 MILLION REDEEMED

23

AVG. ACT SCORE
NATIONAL AVG. - 21
NC AVG. - 19

59%

ATTENDING 4-YEAR
INSTITUTIONS
DEBT-FREE

65%

BUILDING SELF-EFFICACY

OF CYC FELLOWS HAD INCREASED SELF-EFFICACY* ON THE CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS SELF-EFFICACY INVENTORY AFTER JUST ONE YEAR AT CYC

Fellows from homes with incomes between 21-40K (89%) and those that attended a Title 1 School (89%) had the highest levels of growth.

*Research shows students with higher self-efficacy, particularly those from under-resourced backgrounds, tend to have better self-regulation, be more resilient and motivated, demonstrate stronger academic performance and achievement, are better prepared to adapt to and succeed in their first year in college, go on to have more successful careers, are open to a wider range of career choices, and are overall happier and healthier.

In Fall 2021, CYC's 78 College Fellows are attending 25 different four-year institutions in 14 states:



4 College Fellows attend Central Piedmont Community College
 ● - denotes number attending

EVERY DREAM NEEDS A TEAM

We fervently believe that our Fellows can achieve their wildest dreams when connected to the right resources and supported by caring peers and adults.

Our EmpowerMentors play a critical role in helping our high school seniors successfully navigate and self-advocate during the college application and scholarship process.



JOANNA

3rd year mentor;
Each mentee has
earned a full-ride
to college!

MADISON '23

UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA
Nursing
Zeta Phi Beta

PRAISES '24

BROWN UNIVERSITY
Public Health
Gates Scholar

ISTAR '25

GRINNELL COLLEGE
Computer Science
Questbridge Scholar

Maria Diaz began her relationship with Carolina Youth Coalition by serving as a mentor prior to joining the staff in 2019 as Director of Persistence & Pre-College Programs. "As a Latina first-generation immigrant and college student, envisioning success was tough growing up and as a result, my path was rocky. Helping guide these intelligent, hardworking women that are walking a similar path as mine, is a huge contribution to their generational change," says Maria.

"Maria has inspired me to value myself as a Latina and motivated me to utilize my skills and voice to speak up for things that I care deeply about. Her strength and compassion as a mentor has helped me through so much, both personally and academically. I hope to one day inspire others the way she inspires me," says Maria's mentee, Jeanae.

YORYELI '25
E. CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY
Health Sciences

EMMA '24
UNC CHARLOTTE
*Healthcare
Administration*

MARIA
3rd Year Mentor

JEANAE '24
WOFFORD COLLEGE
*Environmental
Studies/Spanish*





EVERYONE CAN FLY

2021 JORDAN WINGS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

STEVE BOLAND

2nd Year Mentor
YP Board Member
Bank of America

JACOB '25

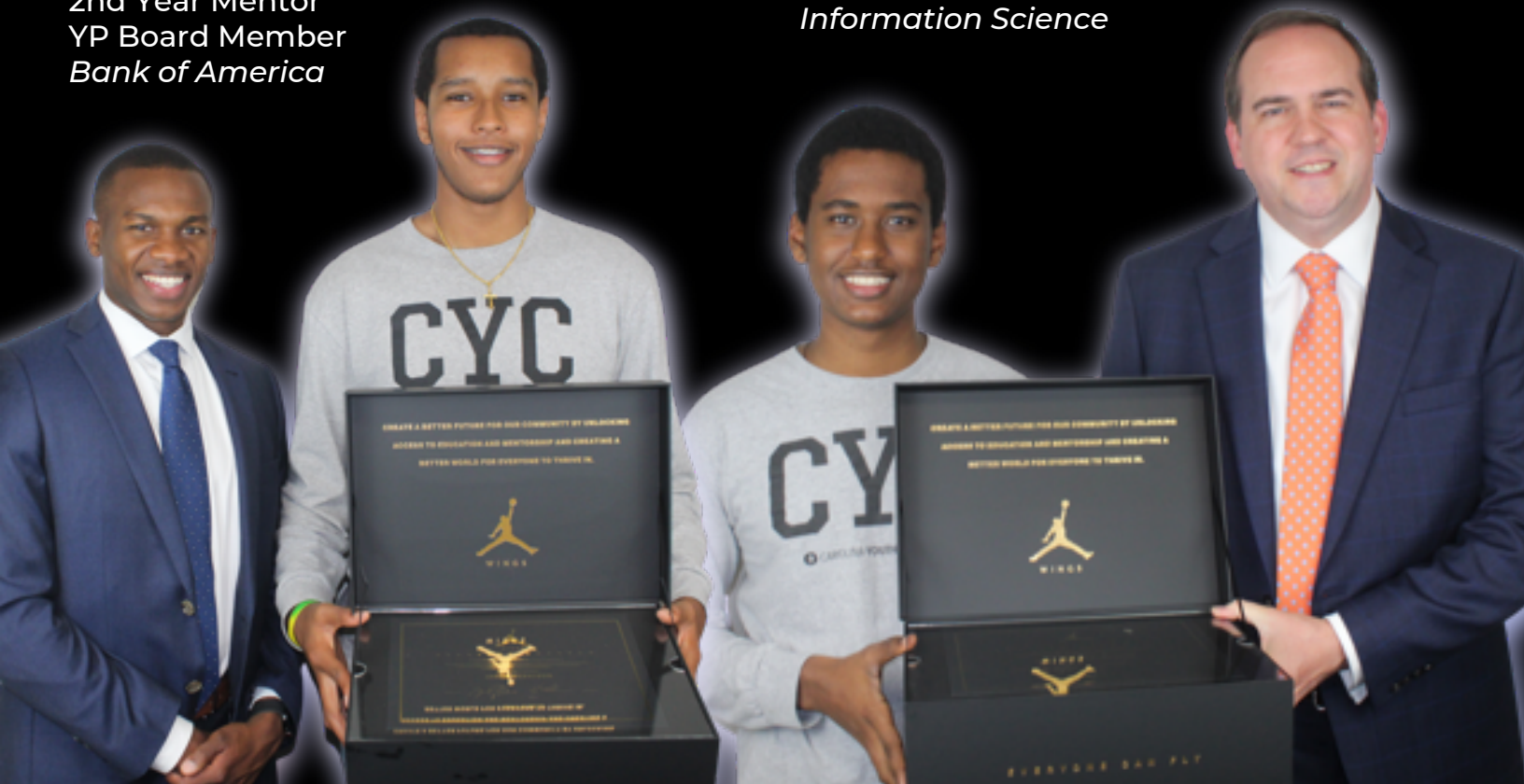
UNC CHAPEL HILL
Pre-Med

MUSIE '25

UNC CHAPEL HILL
Information Science

TIM EMRY

2nd Year Mentor
Emry Law



Carolina Youth Coalition is a proud community partner of WINGS, the Jordan Brand's community impact platform. It is inspired by Michael Jordan's legacy of greatness and commitment to education.

This partnership provides CYC Fellows exclusive access to educational opportunities and incentives that inspire academic greatness!

In 2021, two CYC Fellows were awarded a full gap scholarship to the college of their choice! To date, Wings has awarded six scholarships to CYC Fellows!

SOS SCHOLARSHIP

In 2020, SOS Scholarship Fund was endowed by Andrea and Sean Smith and awards gap scholarships annually to participants of Carolina Youth Coalition who are planning to attend a 4-year university but may fall short of being able to afford a best-fit college.

This year, 7 Fellows received the award. A total of 20 Fellows have been awarded \$114,000 in scholarships to-date!



ALVARADO FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

CYC is proud to partner with the Marand Builders CEO Francisco Alvarado and Family to award scholarships to African-American CYC Fellows pursuing careers in computer science, engineering, and construction management! \$10,000 were awarded to 4 Fellows this year!



COLLEGE FELLOWS

RUTH

UNC GREENSBORO '23

International Business and Finance

Delta Sigma Pi

John M. Belk Impact Fellow

Spartan Investment Club

MY WHY

My biggest motivation is my parents. They have sacrificed so much and are continuing to do more. I want to repay them for all their hard work and love.

MY FUTURE

I am interested in participating in the global economy and how political decisions might affect the global major. Adding Finance has allowed me to look at the economy holistically.

PASS IT ON

I hope people learn to push themselves outside of their comfort zones. Welcome mistakes and uncertainties because within every mistake or setback, there's a lesson to be learned.

Your dreams might not become a reality, but they will bring you to a place that you have never imagined.

CYC IS...FAMILY.

CARLOS

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI '24

Architecture, Civil Engineering

Messer Construction Intern

Students for Classical Architecture

MY WHY

I have a good idea of what I want and where I want to be. I know what I have to do to get there. It is the experiences on the way to your goal that are most valuable.

MY FUTURE

I want to work in Construction Management and am interested in specializing in how walls are built. I hope to lead construction projects with advanced wall assembly techniques.

PASS IT ON

Life will throw you many barriers. And many do not attempt to challenge the barriers causing many to stay behind. But, if you give it your all and attempt to overcome them than you are one step ahead of the ones that do not.

ME AND CYC

CYC has supported me emotionally, academically, financially, and socially. CYC has a number of resources to help CYC Fellows in many aspects of life.

CYC IS...FAMILY.





LE

QUEENS UNIVERSITY '23

*Health Sciences, Pre-Dental
President, Queens Rotaract
Queens Racial Justice Fellow
ROAR Orientation Leader*

MY WHY

My family, the people I love, and most importantly, MYSELF.

MY FUTURE

I have wanted to become a pediatric dentist ever since I was 12. My ultimate goal in life is to open a pediatric dental office in an underserved area, where there is a big population of immigrant community. I hope that Vietnamese immigrated children or any children, who were unclear of their dreams and goals in life, can be inspired and have someone to look up to once they visit my office.

ME AND CYC

CYC allows me to be proud of my identity as a minority student. Despite the financial and resource disadvantages I might face, I was fortunate enough to have CYC, where I meet so many students as dedicated and like-minded as myself.

CYC allows me to meet my mentor for life, Erica, who I adore. Without CYC, I wouldn't be where I am today.

PASS IT ON

Always ,always (please) have a long term goal that you KNOW that you're working towards.

CYC IS...LOVE.

ZACH

UNC GREENSBORO '24

Environmental and Sustainability Science

MY WHY

One of my biggest motivators for overcoming challenges both in and out of school to achieve my goals is wanting to live up to the expectations of the people that believe in me. I have a lot of support and high expectations coming from friends, family, and other people important to me like CYC. I have always had problems believing in myself, so knowing that the people I care about believe in me drives me to not let them down, and strive to realize my fullest potential.

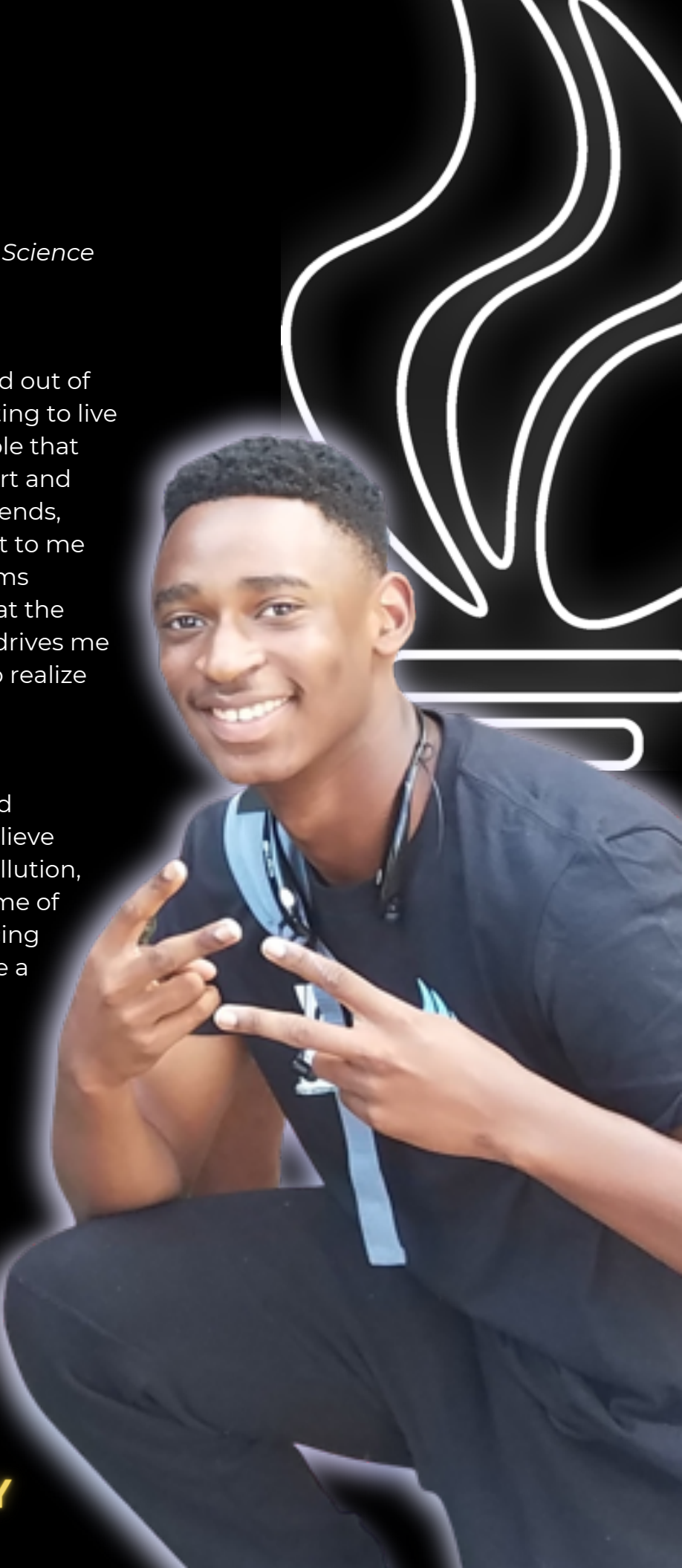
MY FUTURE

I chose to study environmental and sustainability science because I believe that issues like climate change, pollution, and resource consumption are some of the greatest issues our world is facing right now, and I want to help make a difference.

ME AND CYC

CYC has helped me most to this point in my high school and college journey by just being a support system I can always count on. CYC stays involved and regularly checks up on us. Any issues I come across whether they be academic or personal, I know that the CYC staff and community will be there to help me figure it out.

CYC IS...COMMUNITY



RUTE

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY '24

Political Science

Leadership and Character Program Scholar

MY WHY

My motivation is the reminder of how many people have poured into me and my success. Success in the broadest term of not simply academic achievement or accolades but happiness in life. All my sources of support from family, friends, teachers and namely CYC remind me that there are people who see my potential, believe I can succeed, and will do anything to help me along the way.

MY FUTURE

I want to pursue Law school after college and hopefully become a civil rights lawyer to bring justice to those systemically oppressed under a horrible system. Moreover, I want my studies and career to inform my grassroots organizing work as well.

PASS IT ON

I hope others learn to shoot their shot as CYC has taught me to. You never know the opportunities that lay ahead of you! Self-advocate for what you want and need.

ME AND CYC

CYC made me believe I can attain greater things in life. Growing up low-income, I only knew that if I couldn't get a full ride, I wouldn't be able to go to college. My fear of not affording college propelled me through school but CYC carried me through the college process. They exceptionally widened my view of the possibilities that existed for students like me and without them, I wouldn't have applied to and gotten the scholarship I have right now at Wake Forest University.

CYC IS...FAMILY



TYLLER

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY '24

Biology

GU Pride

Hoyas for Choice

MY WHY

My family and friends are my biggest motivators. They help me get through the toughest challenges that I endure at school by giving me constant encouragement. By surrounding yourself with good people at school you are able to get through so much more than you would be able to on your own. I know that right now classes may be difficult but knowing that I am I getting closer and closer to my dream job also helps motivate me to push through my troubles.

MY FUTURE

I have always had an interest in science since I was little. In this field, I hope that I can make an impact on my community through scientific breakthroughs in human health and genetics.

PASS IT ON

I hope that others will be able to learn that no matter where you end up, you deserve your spot there. You worked so hard to get where you are and will continue to do so to get where you want to be so do not believe that you do not deserve the success that comes your way.

**CYC IS...
IMPACTFUL**



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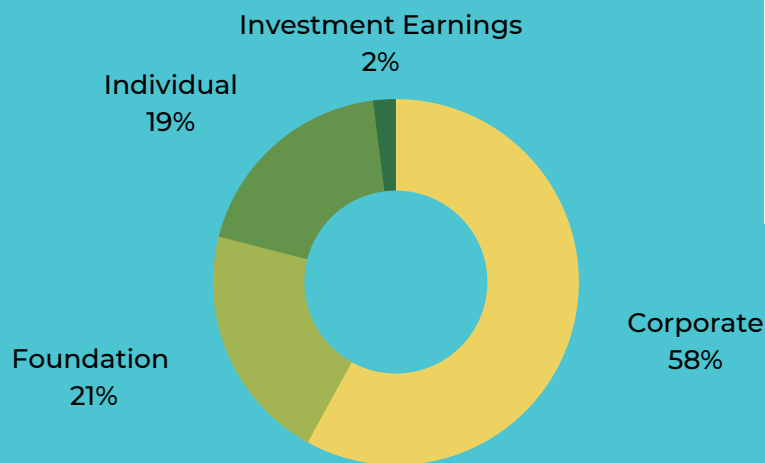
SCHOLARSHIP AND IN-KIND PARTNERS



PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL RESULTS

REVENUE

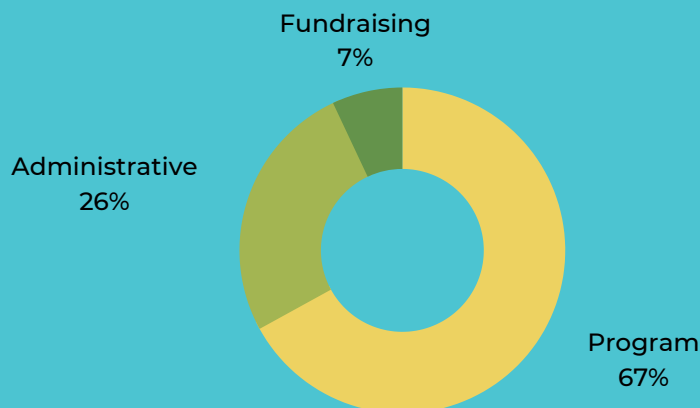
\$1,213,968



- Includes \$500,000 kickstarter contribution from the Albemarle Foundation.
- CYC anticipates leveraging funding for significant year-over-year growth in program participants in FY22 (45%) and FY23 (56%).
- Does not reflect \$180,842 in in-kind goods and services.

EXPENSES

\$554,364



- 15% expense increase from FY20
- 63% increase in total Fellows served
- 1,476 total hours of programming
 - College Prep (185)
 - Community (50)
 - 1:1 Tutoring and Mentoring (1,291)
- \$10,065,751 in scholarships and grants earned by CYC Fellows (\$2,290,298 redeemed).
- Every \$1 invested returned \$19.17 in scholarships and grants earned by CYC Fellows (\$4.40 redeemed).

BOARD AND STAFF



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