


Serving Up Fun & Recipes for Success!



From

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Welcome back to *The Core*, your monthly CYC newsletter! We proudly share our latest news, stories, and events showcasing how our CYC Fellows, staff, volunteers, and supporters embody our core values.



CYC'S 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT: RECIPES FOR SUCCESS

Carolina Youth Coalition is proud to present our 2023-2024 Annual Report. In this year's edition of CYC's *Recipes for Success*, we invite you to explore the essential ingredients, proven strategies, and behind-the-scenes secrets that fuel our growth and impact. From our passionate team and supportive community partners to the unwavering dedication of our volunteers and supporters, each ingredient adds the perfect flavor to our mission. As we reflect on another successful year, we celebrate the collective efforts that keep CYC flourishing and look ahead to even greater accomplishments in the future.

[Check out the full report here.](#)







### **CYC HOSTS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION GAME NIGHT AT CBI**

**CYC's Volunteer Appreciation Game Night was a blast!** The event was a lively celebration of the amazing volunteers who play a vital role in driving our mission.

The evening, filled with exciting rounds of Bingo, Poker, Connect Four, great food, drinks, and music, was a powerful reminder that true community and connection flourish when we come together to celebrate one another. A huge thank you to all of our incredible volunteers, YP board members, mentors, and community partners for your dedication and unwavering support—you are the heart of CYC!

We deeply appreciate CBI Workplace Solutions for their generosity in providing the perfect space that made this event a success!

**[Let's have more fun! Join CYC's Young Professionals Board for Paddles For A Purpose: Pickleball Tournament!](#)**



### **COLLEGE KICK-OFF HOSTED AT UNC-CHARLOTTE**

**Our Junior Fellows had an amazing time participating in CYC's annual College Kick-Off!** Hosted at UNC-Charlotte, the event brings together 11th graders from both CYC



campuses to launch their journey into the college application process.

The day kicked off with an interactive session on the various aspects of applying to college, followed by team-building activities and an impactful Mentor/Mentee panel where current CYC EmpowerMentors and College Fellows emphasized the value of mentorship. Special thanks to EmpowerMentors Stevie Young and Yolanda Thorne, and College Fellows Karuna Dhimal and Amen Ebsa, for generously sharing their wisdom and experiences.

Fellows concluded the event with an engaging information session and campus tour, giving them the opportunity to explore and discover more about UNC-Charlotte's unique academic and career pathways. A heartfelt thank you to Thomas Hailu and UNC-Charlotte's Venture Outdoor Leadership team for making this year's College Kick-Off a day to remember!



### **CAREER CLUB EXPLORES OPPORTUNITIES AT ATRIUM HEALTH AND MCKENNEY'S INC.**

**CYC's Career Club visits Atrium Health's Carolinas Medical Center and McKenney's Inc. to explore career opportunities in the healthcare and construction industries.**

The tour at Atrium Health provided a behind-the-scenes look at hospital facilities and introduced students to various departments within the Atrium system. Throughout the visit, Fellows engaged in thoughtful discussions with professionals from fields such as nursing, IT, client support, and human resources, exploring career pathways and summer internship opportunities.

A sincere thank you to Maria Shannon and Jon Beni for making this insightful and enjoyable visit possible.





Fellows also had a fun time gaining firsthand experience of what it truly means to build a higher standard at McKenney's Inc.! From construction management and marketing to IT support, HR, project management, and workplace safety, Fellows gained insights and explored a wide range of career paths. A highlight of the day included touring the McKenney's facility, where Fellows suited up in safety gear and watched the cutting of construction materials in action. This hands-on experience offered a practical insight into the skills and collaboration that contribute to McKenney's success.

We extend our deepest thanks to Gianna Avent and Tim West for making this memorable day full of learning and fun possible.



**CAROLINA YOUTH COALITION CELEBRATED ITS 7TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 5TH**

Since 2018, CYC has continued its mission to nurture and propel high-achieving, under-resourced students to and through college. Over the past seven years, CYC has served over 450 high school students through its Torch Fellows Program, supported 167 students in its College Fellows program, and helped 75% of College Fellows attend the school of their choice free of debt!







CYC's Persistence Program helps Fellows stay on track for college and career success by providing vital resources—such as travel assistance, technology, dorm supplies, and career development—so they can thrive on campus.

Grab your paddle, network with purpose, and help empower the next generation of leaders!

[SIGN UP TO PLAY](#) OR [DONATE TODAY!](#)

**Jaela Agee '20/'24**  
Editor-in-Chief



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