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www.americanyouthworks.org

2005 Annual Report



2005 in Review



Dear Friends,

As 2005 comes to a close, we want to take a moment to appreciate you for your gracious support of American YouthWorks (AYW). As a result, so many more young people in our community have an opportunity for a new and successful future. That opportunity is essential. Current estimates are that 1/3 of the students in Travis County will not graduate high school. This creates a hard economic blow for those families and for all taxpayers. AYW creates opportunities for those young lives to be recovered and refocused on paths leading to self-sufficient, contributing adulthood.

On these two pages are the stories of Sylvia and Brenda, two of the young people who have taken us up on a new future at AYW. For nearly three decades, AYW has been providing at-risk individuals in our community, like Sylvia, Brenda and countless others with confidence, encouragement and the skills they need to become contributing members of our society. Our programs not only help stop our participants from being part of the problem, they actually help create ways for them to be part of the solution!

We provide services to more than 1,000 individuals each year, most of whom were youths without any skills or prospects for the future. We absolutely could not do this without your help. Together, we help change these young people's lives and we celebrate your participation!

We hope that you and yours will have a wonderful Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and holiday season, and we look forward to saving lives with you in 2006.

Thanks for all that you do.

Best Regards,

Richard H. Halpin
Founder/CEO

*"Every life saved is a
\$2 million return on investment
and a life that goes on giving
goodness forever."*

—Richard Halpin

Sylvia's story

A teenager, pregnant and abandoned by her family, Sylvia dropped out of school. When her baby was just a few weeks old, she and her child lived in an old car. With no hope for the future, a friend told her about AYW, and she found the courage to come and begin a new life. Sylvia began classes and job training with our Environmental Corps and got childcare, housing and the other things she needed to stay the course and complete the program. She changed her life while giving back to others through our Service Learning activities. On December 9, 2005, in a powerful ceremony, Sylvia graduated and now has a bright future for herself and her child. She has a job and plans to go to college with the scholarship she earned while in AYW's AmeriCorps program.

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Y Restaurant & Bar
Zachary Scott Theater
Zanzibar/Judith & Trey Massengale
Zen Japanese Food Fast

Grateful Appreciation to these Champion Supporters

Mission: To provide innovative education, support, and opportunities to help people realize their potential.

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In 2005, American YouthWorks (AYW) served 1,431 youth. Many of these youth accessed multiple AYW services.

Gender

Female	711	50%
Male	720	50%

Ethnicity

Hispanic	713	50%
African American	247	17%
White	451	31.5%
Asian	14	1%
Native American	6	.5%

Statistics

Economically Disadvantaged	779	54%
Probation/Parole	188	13%
Homeless	184	13%
Pregnant/Parenting	228	16%



Brenda's story

Brenda came to AYW at a time when nothing was working in her life. She and her family moved here from another country, and her mom worked hard as a maid to support the family. Brenda didn't like the school she attended or the way she was treated. She began getting high, skipping and flunking classes. She got married, dropped out of school and started working low-paying jobs, where she learned to appreciate the sacrifices her mom had made to keep their family afloat. Then she heard about AYW from a student who had succeeded here. Brenda wanted to change the course of her life and enrolled. She soared at AYW. With the assistance of counselors and teachers, who she gives all the credit to, Brenda studied, got As, became a student public speaker and found that her greatest interest was law. AYW found a lawyer in the community to mentor her. She graduated earlier this year and started college at Texas State.

Charter High School



AYW's fully accredited public high school was chartered in 1996. Our two campuses served 1,173 students in 2005. AYW's charter school educates youth at-risk for dropping out, or who have already dropped out of other schools.

We were the first charter in the nation to be named a National Service-Learning Leader School.



Program Facts	District-wide	South	Downtown
Total Participants	1,173	859	314
Female	48%	49%	45%
Male	52%	51%	55%
Hispanic	54.5%	61%	36%
African American	16.6%	16.5%	16.8%
Caucasian	27.4%	21%	45%
Asian	1%	0.6%	1.2%
Native American	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%
Economically Disadvantaged	50%	50%	48%
Pregnant/Parenting	12%	14.5%	9%
Probation/Parole	10%	9%	12%
Homeless	13%	12%	14%

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 Doug & Carol Kadison

Health Center & Computer Corps



In 2005 the RGK Downtown Youth Center for Health served over 450 youth through a partnership with People's Community Clinic. The Health Center is located at AYW's downtown campus. No one is turned away for inability to pay.

Health services provided include:

- Immunizations
- Vision and hearing
- First aid
- Physical exams
- STD, pregnancy tests/prevention
- Pharmacy
- HIV counseling and testing.



Computer Corps served over 7,500 community members in 2005.

At-promise youth mentor and teach technology in Austin, helping to bridge the Digital Divide by:

- Refurbishing donated PCs and providing them to low income families.
- Providing basic computer training throughout the community.
- Designing websites and providing support services.



Program Facts

Total Number of Participants	311
Male	45%
Female	55%
Hispanic	37%
African American	36%
Caucasian	27%
35% received job readiness training.	
65% received job placement assistance.	
43% were placed in jobs.	
21% received internships.	
42 participants entered college.	

Career Center & College Readiness



AYW counselors provide career counseling and job-readiness training to our participants.

Services include:

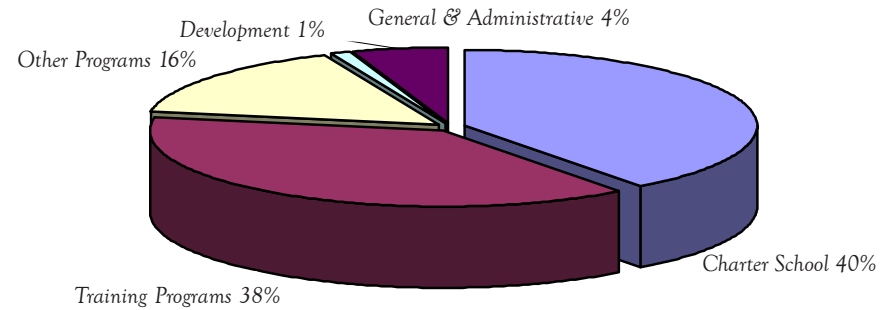
- Job Placement
- Internships
- Career preparation
- Interest and skill assessments
- Resume preparation
- Interview training
- On campus job fairs
- Job site tours
- College admissions info
- Vocational training info

Program Facts

Workforce Development Total Number Served	314
Job Readiness Training	109
Job Placement Assistance	205
Number of Participants Placed in Jobs	135
Number of Participants with Internships	65
College Readiness Total Number Served	500
Intensive College Counseling	65
Number of Participants in College	42

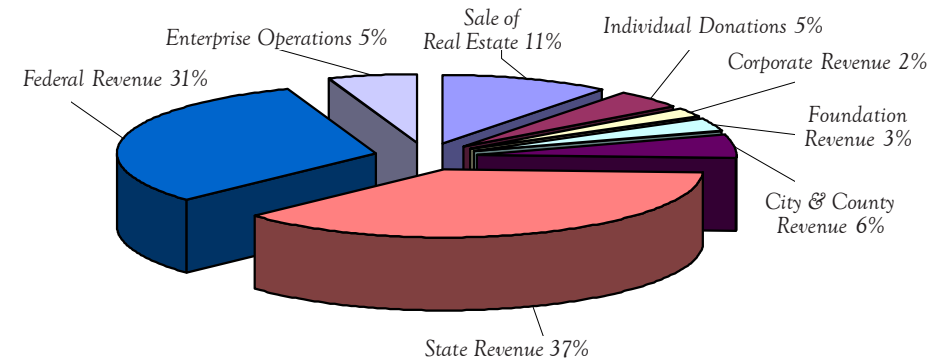
Results of Operation

Operating Expenses Fiscal Year 2005 *



Charter School: \$3,055,265
 Training Programs: \$2,899,972
 Other Programs: \$1,224,955
 General & Administrative: \$398,629
 Development: \$90,420

Revenue by Source Fiscal Year 2005



Total Revenue: \$7,940,393

Fiscal Year 2005: 10/1/04 to 9/30/05
 *Unaudited. Depreciation allowance not calculated.

Success Story



Keegan Hanks grew up in a single parent household, living in Section 8 housing for the majority of his elementary, middle, and high school years. While at AYW, Keegan participated in our Computer Corps and Early College Start programs.

Today, Keegan is a freshman at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) majoring in physics and cosmology (not to be confused with cosmetology). He received an AmeriCorps education award for \$4500 and a scholarship for \$1300 from UTSA. He works at the university for the Dean of the Science Department.

Service Learning



In 2005, AYW students participated in over 25 Service Learning projects, where they applied classroom subjects, such as math, health, English, journalism, art, speech, social studies, and biology to real life.

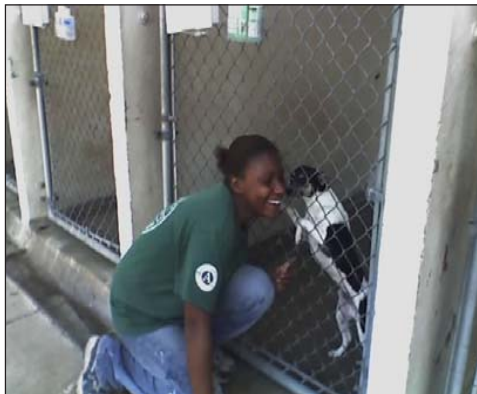
Projects included:

- Building neglected children’s self-esteem at the Austin Children’s Shelter.
- Gathering books and money for Reach Out and Read, an organization promoting low income children’s literacy within health care clinics.
- Gathering water quality data for LCRA on a monthly basis.
- Organizing a basketball tournament to raise money for Texas Hearing and Service Dogs.
- Performing a puppet show for Rodriguez Elementary School students about negative sides of bullying.

Service Learning ties classroom education together with community service. Each graduate of American YouthWorks has given back to the community through Service Learning.

AYW participants provided services to:

- Widen Elementary School
- Texas Hearing and Service Dogs
- Austin Children’s Shelter
- Town Lake Animal Center
- Reach Out and Read
- Rodriguez Elementary School
- Art House at the Jones Center
- City of Austin-Art in Public Places
- Environmental Protection Agency
- LCRA
- Hearts & Hooves
- Capital Area Food Bank
- Texas School for the Blind



At the Town Lake Animal Center, students constructed beds for homeless pets, and posted signs to raise awareness about the importance of spaying and neutering animals.

WorkSource



AYW’s WorkSource program, funded by Travis County WorkSource in a partnership with Goodwill and others, prepares participants for the workforce. Participants must meet employment barrier eligibility requirements, such as economic disadvantages. The program supports educational choices and opens doors to workforce opportunities.

Services include:

- Internships
- High-demand job training
- Post-secondary education preparation
- GED classes
- Technical training
- Case management
- Counseling
- Job readiness

Program Facts

WorkSource Total Number Served	153
Female	70%
Male	30%
Hispanic	64%
African American	23%
Caucasian	12%
Asian	1%
Pregnant/Parenting	57%
Probation/Parole	23%
Homeless	17%
Economically Disadvantaged	93%

New AYW Program!

In 2005, with support from the city of Austin, American YouthWorks opened a Business Training Center at its south campus location. The center offers three new business classes: Introduction to Business, Business Support Systems, and Business Ownership. Additionally, students are able to participate in a financial workshop series and a one-day training seminar on solar panel installation.

Casa Verde Builders & Environmental Corps



Program Facts

Number of Participants	127
Scholarship Recipients	108

Demographics

Female	42%
Male	58%
Hispanic	40%
African American	17%
Caucasian	42%
Asian	1%
Economically Disadvantaged	67%
Pregnant/Parenting	7%
Probation/Parole	33%
Homeless	4%

75% of AmeriCorps graduates stay in school or pursue higher education.

85% of participants are successful, meaning they receive their high school diploma, GED, or advance one grade level.



AYW's Casa Verde Builders and Environmental Corps are AmeriCorps programs that help participants gain valuable job training skills while giving back to the community. In 2005 participants completed 68,802 service hours in the programs combined. Additionally, the AmeriCorps program granted 108 scholarship awards to participants. Fifty-seven members received a \$4,725- scholarship for completing 1,700 service hours. Fifty-one participants received a \$2,363-scholarship for completing 900 service hours. Since the program began, participants have earned over \$3 million in scholarships.



In 2005, Casa Verde Builders built three houses.



Casa Verde Builders

Members of the Casa Verde Builders program build single-family, energy-efficient, affordable housing in East Austin communities.

Homes are constructed for first-time home buyers.

Since 1993, over 90 homes have been built, with aggregate appraised value of over \$5 million. \$545,000 is generated in property taxes each year.

Environmental Corps

In the Environmental Corps program, participants plan and deliver environmental community service projects.

Member activities include:

- Habitat restoration
- Trail building
- Public land improvement
- Community gardens
- Community education

In 2005, Environmental Corps participants:

- **Completed 25 trails projects.**
- **Cleared and maintained 21,000 yards of trails.**
- **Removed 3,402 cubic feet of trash and 85 acres of invasive species from public lands.**

Students clean up after Katrina & Rita

In 2005, Environmental Corps crews traveled to Orange, TX and New Orleans, LA to participate in emergency intervention and clean-up efforts after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Members helped 14 families in east Texas, in a partnership with FEMA, and cleared two parks in New Orleans.