

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



TABLE OF CONTENTS



3	WHAT INSPIRES US
4	FOREWORD
5	MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER & CEO JASON WILSON
6	MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NICOLE WILSON
7	2023 HIGHLIGHTS
9	CAVE OF ADULLAM TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY
11	S.W.A.G.
12	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
13	KEYS 2 LIFE
14	IMPACT & REACH
16	WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS
17	FINANCIALS
18	THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
19	OUR TEAM
20	HOW TO STAYCONNECTED



WHAT INSPIRES US

Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies.

~ Kofi Annan





FOREWORD

Since its establishment in 2005, The Yunion has stood in the gap for our children by providing them with the essential tools to help navigate life's challenges by strengthening their resiliency and extracting the confidence they didn't know they possessed. The Yunion's commitment to Detroit youth and families has carved a strong pathway toward generational transformation across the city.

Pain, trauma, loss, and uncertainty. If one lives long enough, they will experience their fair share of all four and the way that a person "handles" these moments of adversity at an early age typically foreshadows how they will confront these issues for the rest of their lives.

Unlearning destructive high-risk behavior is very hard and many simply can't do it alone. That's where the dynamic team of leaders of The Yunion come in. Each relationship built...each program provided...each word spoken carries the opportunity of redemption from despair and disappointment to patience and progress.

It has been a blessing to witness the ambitious vision of The Yunion's founder, Jason Wilson grow into the entity that we currently see and I am thankful that even when times were difficult for the organization, they never quit on our kids. Brother Wilson's name resonates like a rallying cry, echoing across neighborhoods where hope sometimes flickers dimly.

Please take the time to review each page of this document to learn more about how The Yunion has become a genuine architect of change in the city of Detroit, weaving dreams into reality, brick by brick.

With unwavering admiration,

An ally inspired by your tireless journey,

Detroit City Council President Pro Tem James Tate, Jr.



FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Yunion Supporter,

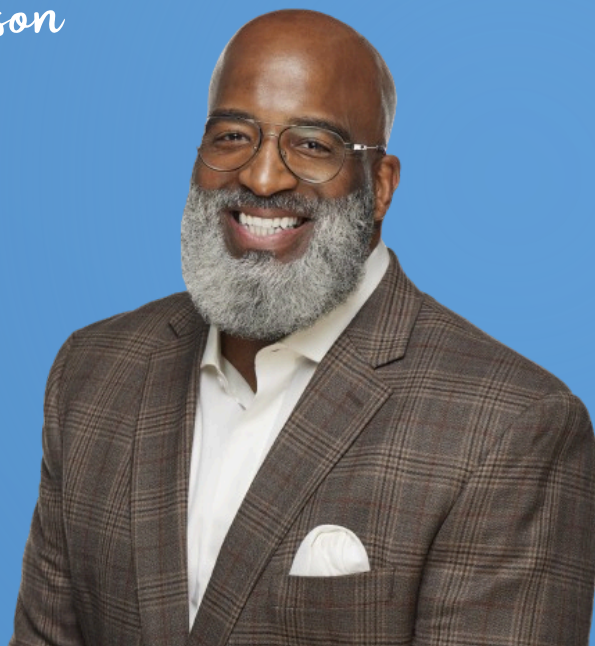
I founded The Yunion as a manifestation of my personal mission; a divine mandate to lay the foundation for a brighter future within a united community. This initiative stemmed not just from ambition but from a deeply rooted spiritual belief in the potential to transform the lives of youth and families in the metro Detroit area.

Our vision is to firmly establish the healing of youth and the fortifying of families at the core of community transformation. I am profoundly grateful for the steadfast support we have received over the past 20 years. It humbles me to witness the achievements and milestones we've celebrated, both highlighted in this report and beyond, knowing they are part of a grander plan guided by the Most High.

As we look forward, I remain committed to seizing every chance to positively impact the lives of individuals in our community. With your help, we can continue this vital work for many years to come, fostering a legacy of healing, strength, and transformation.

Jason Wilson

FOUNDER AND CEO



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Yunion Family,

How quickly time flies when you are doing what you love! In 2023 we were fortunate to celebrate our 20th anniversary, and you will see the legacy of our work in this report.

The Yunion has afforded all of us—Jason, me, and our community—countless opportunities to grow together and share a common commitment to being the best we can and delivering the best we can for others.

For more than two decades we have done just that; endeavored and endured to fulfill God's higher plan. At the end of the day our success comes down to the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of our children and shape brighter futures for them.

While we may not be able to predict the future, what we know to be true is that they don't stay children for long. Our youth quickly grow into adults who should be equipped with all of the tools and resources necessary to navigate our increasingly complicated world.

The Yunion provides that support, as well as serving as a catalyst for changing how we elevate young people in order to advance our community. We are grateful for each of you and your faith in the power of what we are doing, and grateful for the chance to keep serving families and the youth who represent our future.

As we reflect on our past accomplishments through the lens of our youth in this report, we invite you to stay tuned over the next few months to witness our ongoing growth and evolution.



Nicole Wilson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Last year brought many reasons to celebrate. We welcomed new staff, held an open house for our new development center, and celebrated our 20th anniversary in service to the youth and families of our community.



OPEN HOUSE

In September we unveiled our new facility which offers a fully equipped space to host our programs for youth and parents.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

In October we celebrated 20 years of serving our community with an evening of dining, awards, entertainment, and more.



THE CAVE

The mission of the Cave of Adullam Transformational Training Academy (CATA) is to teach, train and transform uninitiated boys into comprehensive men of the Most High. It is our vision to be a comprehensive resource for healing boys, mending men, fortifying families, and cultivating a community worldwide.

Our Emotional Stability Training® (EST) offers an alternative to detention programs and discipline classes by teaching boys to proactively identify the negative emotions that influence detrimental life decisions, and training them to introspectively confront and conquer those emotions with composure.



Xander and I were just talking about the cave and how his training has helped him handle situations differently. A boy pushed him in a 🏀 game and Xander took a calm approach to the situation. The ref looked for him after the game and commended his behavior and spoke highly of him! Xander said that was because of his teaching in The Cave! 🙌🙏🥰
THANK YOU just doesn't seem like enough. But THANK YOU and Jason SO MUCH!





Parent responses to an impact survey about The Cave:

“

I love it. It's the perfect place for my son to go to continue to grow into a man with a strong circle of positive influence. The experience has been a blessing for my son as well as the entire family.

“

The Cave was very enriching for my son. His confidence level has increased, he has more zeal to want to do well in school, he is working harder to make me proud on his own, and he is taking ownership in making life goals and working towards achieving them. It has been a wonderful experience which I truly believe saved my son from a downward spiral to self destruction. I am grateful for the support, help, care, love and accountability the Cave provided.

“

I love knowing my sons are receiving Godly instruction that reinforces what I teach them. As a parent I have also benefited from the things I have learned while sitting in the classes. The teachings have helped me gain better understanding and communication with my sons.



STUDENTS WITH AWARENESS AND GOALS LIFE SKILLS (S.W.A.G.) PROGRAM

S.W.A.G. is a holistic program to help equip and empower middle and high school youth to make healthy life choices that will enable them to confidently navigate through obstacles and challenges.

Focusing on risk avoidance from sex, violence, alcohol and drugs, the program consists of 12 weeks of 60-90 minute interactive sessions on topics like self- esteem, communication skills, conflict resolution, relationships and more.

Through the guidance of caring and expert facilitators with lived experience, S.W.A.G. provides youth with essential education and fosters strong life skills.



Destiny Smith participated in our S.W.A.G. Program while a student at John R. King School of Performing Arts. She now works as a Life Guide at John R. King School, facilitating for the S.W.A.G. Program.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Our Workforce Development Program provides programming and services through a comprehensive series of workshops, courses and events that support youth and provide them with the necessary skills to succeed and thrive in the workplace.

The program focuses on facilitating life skills, financial literacy, career readiness and exposure to different career paths.

Youth also benefit from individualized mentoring from an assigned Career Manager. Upon completing the program, participants are equipped with the skills they need to secure meaningful work opportunities now and into the future.



With a fervent passion for Computer Science and IT, Noah Rivers has actively engaged in the Code 313 program, seizing every opportunity to dive deeper into the realms of Coding and Technology. He will be attending Michigan Technological University in the fall of 2024 and serves as a role model for his peers, embodying the transformative power of dedication and the boundless opportunities that arise from pursuing one's passions.



KEYS 2 LIFE

Keys 2 Life Mentoring through Music is an evidence-based life skills and prevention program designed to encourage, educate and empower youth.

Through relevant principle-driven music lessons, engaging discussions, introspective journaling and individual monitoring, students are enriched socially, academically, spiritually, psychologically and, of course, musically.

A College Entrance Examination Board study reported students taking courses in music performance and appreciation scored higher on the SAT than students with no arts participation. Our goal is not just to cultivate youth academically and musically, but to help them apply the necessary self-regulatory skills needed to overcome the many obstacles in life.



Mya Williams participated in Keys 2 Life Summer Camp when she was 12 years old. She currently serves as a Program Assistant at the Yunion.





IMPACT & REACH

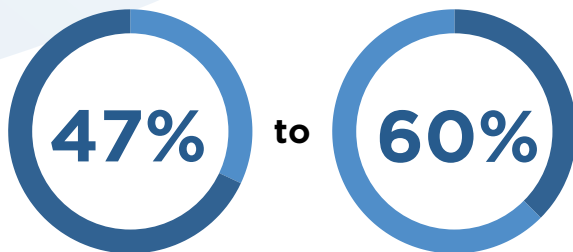
The Union has served nearly **1,400** students and over **1,500** parents through our programming.



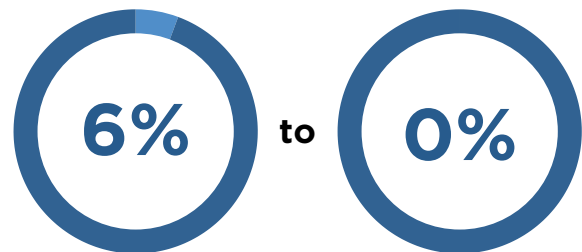
...the most profound impact the CATA has for its participants is learning how to process their emotions and successfully solve their own problems when they are put to the test.

~ Chris N., Yunion staff

Report card As increased from



Report card Ds dropped from



Overall, CATA students reported a significant reduction in feelings of loneliness and difficulty falling asleep.



...the most profound overall impact of the Workforce Development Program is the growth in the areas of self-development, self-advocacy, and career exploration.
~ Keri W., Yunion staff

The program has placed

74%

of participants in paid and unpaid work experiences



...the most profound impact of our Students with Awareness and Goals Life Skills Program lies in the holistic development it fosters. We're instilling crucial life skills and values in the youth we serve.
~ Arabia L., Yunion staff



WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Because there is no end to the possibility that lies within our youth, there is no end to the support and nurturing we wish to provide for them. We have made tremendous progress and, through the benefit of your support, look forward to even more progress and expansion of our outreach.



THE CAVE

Our future goals for the Cave include: offering wrap-around services (e.g., dining and grooming etiquette, basic construction skills, and public speaking training); hosting more podcasts centered around teens; developing virtual curricula; and scaling the program to reduce our large waitlist.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We will continue to provide creative, relevant, and dynamic programming while also exploring and creating innovative opportunities and experiences to prepare our youth for college, entrepreneurship, and tomorrow's workforce.

KEYS 2 LIFE PROGRAM

As our everyday lives continue to change, our program will evolve by continuing to center the voices of the youth we serve and finding new ways for them to share and express themselves.

STUDENTS WITH AWARENESS AND GOALS LIFE SKILLS (SWAG) PROGRAM

As we re-envision our programs, we'll be deepening our connections to community partners, including Detroit Public Schools Community District and charter schools, to reach more students.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2023 Revenue:

\$3,719,000

2023 Expenses:

\$2,548,000

REVENUE BY TYPE:

Grants

75%

Contributions

14%

Programs

11%



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We offer our most profound gratitude to the people and organizations that believed in our vision from the very beginning, and those who have joined our family along the way. Too often people say “thank you” as a matter of habit. To each of you we say “thank you” as a matter of heart, and appreciate the blessing we have in you.

2023 FUNDING PARTNERS



OUR TEAM

Jason Wilson

Founder / CEO

Nicole Wilson

Executive Director

Ronald Lee Jr.

Director of Program Strategy
and Innovation

Christopher Norris

CATTA Lead Instructor

Jeremiah Smith

Asst CATTA Instructor

Jason Wilson II

Asst CATTA Instructor

Elisha Nunn

Asst CATTA Instructor

Elijah Huff

Asst CATTA Instructor

Keri Wallace

Program Manager

Sheriese Johnson

Executive Administrator

Arabia Little

Program Coordinator

Latanya Satawhite

Data Quality Specialist

Serena Eagan, LMSW

Case Management Field Supervisor

Sean Smith

IT Specialist

Sidney Bishop

Diversion Care Manager

Yulisa Rocha Ortiz

Diversion Care Manager

Donesha Peoples

Diversion Care Manager

Kishana Eastmon

Diversion Care Manager

Antoine Crowder

Workforce Development

Career Manager

Marc Spight

Workforce Development

Career Manager

Darell Campbell

Keys 2 Life Program Director

Shaquille Hall

Media Manager



HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

A community is only as strong as its connections. We encourage you to contact us with questions, suggestions, and support for the development of our youth.

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www.theyunion.org

Sign up for our newsletter



Subscribe

Follow us on social media



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www.linkedin.com/company/theyunion

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CREDITS

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FISCAL YEAR 2023



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to us**

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