



# 2023 - 2024 LOWCOUNTRY YOUTH SERVICES INFORMATION PACKET



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# *our vision* **EVERY CHILD WINS**

Life is sometimes challenging, and for some children, it's more complicated than usual. Our group youth development and mentoring programs address the needs of the Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties youth. These programs intentionally provide positive role models and teach children various life, social, and problem-solving skills.

Our programs are available to young people from all ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds. It doesn't matter if a child is a straight-A student who happens to be distracted by a traumatic situation at home or has been charged with multiple juvenile offenses and labeled "high-risk." The reality is that every child can benefit from structured support, and every child can win if given the opportunity!

## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

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Introduce young people to positive adults whom they can build relationships with by modeling positive behaviors/attitudes.

Ensure that members can identify positive support systems in their homes, schools and community.

Develop an increased will in youth to improve their community through service.

Create relevant community workshops designed to prepare young people of color aged 12-18 years for adulthood.

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# REASONS OUR WORK MATTER

AND WHY YOU SHOULD  
SUPPORT LYS TODAY

## **MENTORING...**

### **IMPACTS STUDENTS IN SCHOOL**

Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class compared to their peers. (Public/Private Ventures Study of Big Brothers Big Sisters)

### **REDUCES DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE**

Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are: 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking. (Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers Big Sisters)

### **IMPROVES RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS**

Mentoring promotes positive social attitudes and relationships. Mentored youth tend to trust their parents more and communicate better with them. (The Role of Risk, 2013)

### **HELPS WITH DEPRESSION IN YOUTH**

A study showed that the strongest benefit from mentoring, and most consistent across risk groups, was a reduction in depressive symptoms. (The Role of Risk, 2013)

### **INCREASES COLLEGE ENROLLMENT**

Young adults who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. (The Mentoring Effect, 2014)





# OUR PROGRAMS

## DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

DGC is a mentoring program that has been established to teach and build young men, grade 3rd through 12th, into becoming prominent individuals in their environment. We offer youth an opportunity to create and mold their own unique experiences through our wide range of educational and leadership activities via small-group mentorship and peer cohorts.



## QUEENS' BEING

QB is a mentoring program established to teach and build young women, ages 11-18, by providing a positive community of belonging for young women of color. In QB, young women will find their voices, gain skills, develop self-confidence, expand creative expression, explore educational and career pathways, and construct strong bonds within a multigenerational and intercultural community.

## YOUNG MEN RISE

YMR is a strengths-based in-school approach to mentorship intended to cultivate a social environment that effectively competes with young men's risk-taking norms and meets their most critical needs for belonging, self-worth, competency, acceptance, purpose, and meaningful identities. Mentors are assigned to elementary and middle schools to develop young men from 9-13 years old.

## GIRLS ON THE RISE

GOTR is the sister program to our YMR program. GOTR is a strengths-based in-school approach to mentorship which is intended to cultivate a social environment that effectively competes with risk-taking norms of young girls (ages 9-14) and better meets their most critical needs for belonging, self-worth, competency, perseverance, purpose, and meaningful identities.

## YOUNG LEADERS' INSTITUTE

This summer mentorship program aims to give young boys and girls the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their future educational and professional endeavors. The camp is designed to be engaging and interactive, providing hands-on experiences and opportunities for growth and development. With the support of dedicated mentors, young men, and women can explore their interests and passions in a supportive and encouraging environment.



# BY THE NUMBERS

# 13,194

## MENTEE ENGAGEMENT HOURS

Total hours of coordinated mentee interactions during the club year through LYS events, club meetings, community service projects and outings as of June 2023

# 1,395

## MENTEES

Statistics based on total active mentee from August 2016 - June 2023

## SY 2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

### IN-SCHOOL MENTORSHIP IMPACT

Established Young Men Rise cohorts at  
**13 SCHOOLS IN 3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Established Girls on the Rise cohorts at  
**5 SCHOOLS IN 3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

### COMMUNITY BASED MENTORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

OUR GIRLS PACKED OVER  
**10,000 MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS**  
FOR DONATION

OUR MENTEES DEDICATED  
**637 HOURS**  
FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

OUR MENTEES HELPED ARRANGE OVER  
**2000 BOXES OF SUPPLIES**  
FOR DONATION





# SY 2022-2023 LOWCOUNTRY YOUTH SERVICES REVENUE & EXPENSES

## EXPENSES



**80.90%**

Program Costs



**10.36%**

Administrative Costs



**6.51%**

Training/  
Professional  
Devt. Costs



**2.23%**

Marketing &  
Fundraising  
Costs

### MARKETING & FUNDRAISING COSTS

**1.85%**

Advertising  
& Marketing

**0.38%**

Printing

### TRAINING & PROF. DEVELOPMENT

**6.30%**

Conferences  
and Summits

**0.21%**

Training and  
Development

### ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

**0.04%**

Insurance

**1.00%**

Meeting Cost

**3.95%**

Payroll  
Expense &  
Payment Fees

**5.27%**

Office  
Supplies &  
Software

**0.10%**

Misc. Cost

### PROGRAM COSTS

**10.78%**

Member  
benefits,  
Merchandise  
& Scholarships

**2.41%**

Food and Job  
Supplies

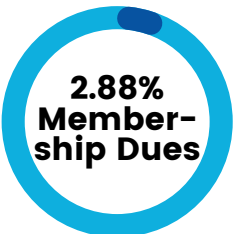
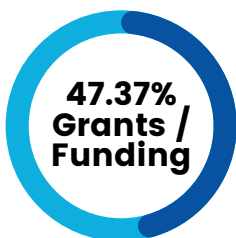
**13.36%**

Meals and  
Entertainment  
s, Meeting,  
Travel Costs

**54.35%**

Salaries &  
Wages

## REVENUE



\$ 127,543 Donations/ Sponsorships

\$ 95,164.39 Grants / Funding

\$ 6,691.95 Event Income

\$ 67 489.25 Fee of Service

\$ 1,922.00 Membership Dues



# TESTIMONIALS

Having Lowcountry Youth Services come and bring Young Men Rise to my school has really had a positive impact on my scholars academically and behaviorally. Mr. Miller really helped my boys out by reinforcing things that I have been instilling in them since the start of the school year. It really does take a village to shape and change the mind of a child so they have an opportunity at a great education. YMR has provided my boys with so many life lesson skills and tools to implement into their everyday lives to one day be a power for good in society. I am really pleased and appreciative of the LYS and mentoring program.

-Bernard Williams, Stono Park Elementary

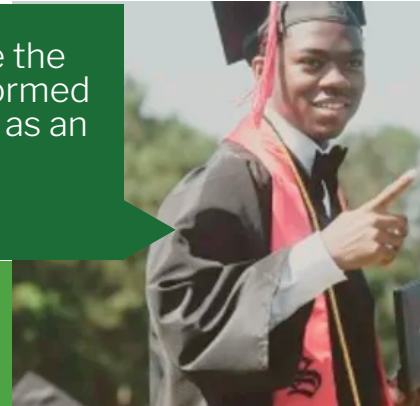


Being a member of DGC helped me to become the man I am today. Thanks to the program, I performed better in school and have more pride in myself as an African American man.

-Tamir Simons, DGC Mentee

My time in DGC has helped me open my circle of people I could trust.

-Zaven Edwards, DGC Mentee



I was being called things by one of the girls, it made me lack self-confidence. I started to stand up for myself and be able to say how I feel.

-GTR Mentee

Without it (LYS) I would've never joined Law Enforcement to help similar boys in my situation.

-Josiah Dixon, DGC Mentee

I like how GTR completely changed me. I was a bit shy but the girls there helped me to be more open.

-GTR Mentee

My oldest son, Octavius, was already a member, so naturally Antonio joined when he became of age. Being a part of this group helped Antonio when he was sick with Crohn's Disease. The love & support he received from the mentors & his brothers helped to keep his spirits up. It was motivation for him to serve as President during his Senior year. He developed a confidence to serve that's carried into adult-hood. I will always be grateful for the consistent support of the mentors of the DGC. Both of my sons are great men.

-Lori Smith, Mother of DGC Alumni Antonio and Octavius Hayes



LYS gave my children and I hope. When we started the program I had no idea the impact that it would have on my family and I. I enrolled all three of my boys in the program and I'm beyond satisfied with the results that we've received. It gave my children a diverse brotherhood and opened them up to experiences that I would have never been able to provide. We met amazing men and woman who have grown to become family. Not only did it mold my boys into young men but it also made me a better woman!

Dennis Green, DGC Mentor

Being a member of DGC taught me to not give up on myself when things were difficult. I will never forget our summer retreats and college tours. During those trips we were able to hang out with our brothers and learn more about being better men.

-Troy Myers, DGC Mentee





# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Today is the perfect day to make a difference in youth's lives in our community by providing sponsorship dollars to promote the programs of Lowcountry Youth Services. These opportunities may be customized to meet the needs of your business*

## **Diamond \$10,000 and Up**

- Recognized on social media as an official sponsor for all LYS workshops
- Identified on LYS Website
- 10 Tickets to Empowering the Next Mentor Fellowship Banquet
- Recognized as a sponsor on all event materials
- Opportunity to host display table during major events
- Recognized as a sponsor on all organizational e-blasts, and social media posts.
- Title Sponsor for One Event During the Year

## **Premiere Platinum \$5,000 and Up**

- Recognized on social media as an official sponsor for all LYS workshops
- Identified on LYS Website
- 8 Tickets to Empowering the Next Mentor Fellowship Banquet
- Recognized as a sponsor on all event materials
- Opportunity to host display table during major events

## **Platinum \$2,500 and Up**

- Recognized on social media as an official sponsor for all LYS workshops
- Identified on LYS Website
- 6 Tickets to Empowering the Next Mentor Fellowship Banquet

## **Gold \$1,500 and Up**

- Identified on LYS Website
- 4 Tickets to Empowering the Next Mentor Fellowship Banquet

## **Silver \$1,000 and Up**

- Identified on LYS Website
- 2 Tickets to Empowering the Next Mentor Fellowship Banquet

## **Bronze \$500 and Up**

- Identified on LYS Website
- 2 Tickets to Empowering the Next Mentor Fellowship Banquet

To sponsor, fill out this form:  
<https://bit.ly/SponsorLYS2023>



### PAYMENT OPTIONS

CHECK

SEND ME AN INVOICE

CREDIT CARD VIA  
[www.lowcountryyouth.org](http://www.lowcountryyouth.org)

Sponsorship Forms can be mailed with payment to: PO Box 62216, North Charleston, SC 29419

# **LOWCOUNTRY YOUTH SERVICES**

## **2023 - 2024 CALENDAR**

### **AUGUST**

19th – DGC/QB  
Open Enrollment  
Information  
Session

### **SEPTEMBER**

16th – ParentFest

### **OCTOBER**

21st – Let’s Talk  
About It Workshop

### **NOVEMBER**

18th – Financial  
Literacy Workshop  
w/ STREAMS

### **JANUARY**

13th – Empowering  
the Next Fellowship  
Banquet

### **FEBRUARY**

17th – Huddle Up  
for Healthy  
Relationships

### **MARCH**

30th – LYS-A-Thon

### **MAY**

18th – Mental  
Health Awareness  
Workshop

### **JUNE**

8th- LYS Awards and  
Induction Ceremony  
15th - DGC Junior Retreat  
20th-23rd - DGC  
Senior/QB Retreat

### **JULY**

28th – Beyond  
Graduation



# LEADERSHIP



ReZsaun Lewis  
**Executive Director**



McKendrick Dunn  
**Distinguished Gentlemen's Club**  
Program Director



Monica Scott  
**Queen's Being**  
Program Director



Danell J. Miller  
**Young Men Rise**  
Program Director



ILona King-Wilson  
**Girls on the Rise**  
Program Director



Charvis Wood  
**DGC Grade Level Coordinator**  
Junior Co-Hort



Richard Gibson  
**DGC Grade Level Coordinator**  
Emerging Co-Hort



Jerome Colden  
**DGC Grade Level Coordinator**  
Senior Co-Hort



Tenesia Slempe  
**Queens' Being**  
Assistant Program Director

## Board Members



Jamie Bierdz  
Chairwoman



Danielle Richardson  
Vice-Chairwoman



Jennifer Swanton  
Secretary



Ben Pogue  
Trustee



Sterling Savage  
Trustee



Sterling Savage  
Trustee



Shayla Toliver  
Trustee



Bobbie Grant  
Trustee



Radia Baxter  
Trustee



Clinton McPherson  
Trustee

# SUPPORT LYS

## "EVERY CHILD WINS"

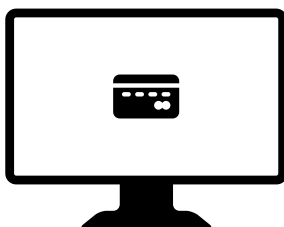
As it is with many organizations, demand outweighs resources. The power of your donation can make a difference in the life of a young person. Lowcountry Youth service's programs are funded solely by organizations and individuals like yourself, who believe that the things we do for young people in the community are needed and beneficial. Your pledge provides us with the funds to expand and reach more children throughout the Tri-County area. Your gift will assist with making the difference to increase the chances of success and defying the odds by achieving a high school or college diploma instead of a criminal record. Thank you in advance for considering donating to our program--regardless of the donation size. Your contribution will continue to help us focus on the character, leadership, and social development of our future servant leaders. To donate online, please visit <https://lowcountryyouth.org/donate.php>.

Gold  
Transparency  
2023

**Candid.**

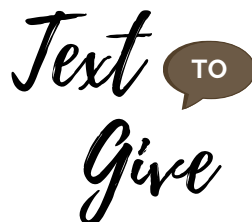
### *How to Give*

Online



[lowcountryyouth.org/donate.php](https://lowcountryyouth.org/donate.php)

By Phone



Text #DONATE  
to 843-773-5560

QR Code



Scan with your  
phone or mobile  
device



LOWCOUNTRY  
— YOUTH SERVICES —