

20TH ANNIVERSARY IMPACT REPORT — 2023 —



TABLE OF CONTENTS

20 YEARS OF BCYL!3

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS5

EDUCATION PROGRAMS6

YEAR IN REVIEW9

COMMUNITY- BASED PROGRAMS12

INVOLVEMENT12

STATISTICS.....13

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS.....15

AWARDS & RECOGNITION.....16

BCYL 2023 SPONSORSHIPS.....17

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES.....18

BCYL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS!

Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders (BCYL) was established in August of 2003 by Sam and John Torres in memory of their late father, Martin. The goal was to provide the children of Bridgeport with a baseball league in which they could participate and grow. Today, BCYL is a grassroots youth development organization; with the mission of providing youth with sports, educational and civic direction helping them build the character and self-esteem they need to reach their full potential and value in society.

Throughout this journey, BCYL has served over 12,000 youth and awarded 131 students a collective \$1.3 million in high school and college tuition scholarships! This support has produced 34 Caribe College Scholarship graduates out of 47 eligible scholars, including 19 who were the first in their families to graduate from college.

BCYL's is focused on providing youth with role models, mentors, and support necessary for them to remain in school and have a clear pathway to attending college, vocational program, workforce or military upon graduating from high school.

Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders is a trusted and respected organization for its work with the youth and community. Its established partnerships and collaborations with local stakeholders have provided BCYL children and their families with exposure and resources to new opportunities and experiences.



BCYL ORGANIZATION

- Non-Profit 501C3 Organization
- Over 12,000 children have participated in BCYL programs and activities throughout the years
- Nineteen (19) Athletic, Education, and Community-Based programs and activities.

BCYL STAFF

JOHN TORRES
Executive Director

WILLIAM MENA
Director of Operations

RUTH G. ORTEGA
Office Manager

GUILLERMO CORA
Director of Sports

NATASHA RIVERS
Director of Education

CECELIA RODRIGUEZ
Development Coordinator

MIGUEL AYALA
Community Outreach

AGNES DUBOW
Community Outreach

ARLINE SWIFT
In-School Tutor Coordinator

VIRGINIA ALICEA
Administrative Assistant

BCYL 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRANK BORRES,
Chairperson

JACABED COSS-RODRIGUEZ
Secretary

ANTHONY JUDKINS
Treasurer

JOSE APONTE

PATRICK BARBER

DAVE BLAGYS

DR. THOMAS COLEY

JEANNETTE ESTRELLA

RONALD JOHNSON

BRETHELA LOVE

CESAR POMA-RODRIGUEZ

BRITTANY RODRIGUEZ

NOEMI RODRIGUEZ

RAYMOND TORRES

MISSION

To provide youth with sports, educational and civic direction helping them build the character and self-esteem they need to reach their full potential and value in society.

VISION

Our vision is to instil commitment, integrity, pride, and respect in our youngsters through organized sports, education and community programs in order to create a foundation leadership among the youth so they ultimately demonstrate BCYL's motto, "Building Today's Youth; Tomorrow's Leaders".

CORE VALES

Teamwork

- Work together for a common objective
- Educate youth about the effects of their actions
- Teach teamwork over individualism

Integrity

- Do the right thing, even when no one is watching
- Commit to open and honest communication with participants, parents, administrators, and donors
- Work towards fair and equal opportunity for all participants

Respect

- Set the example for others to follow
- Adhere to BCYL's Code of Conduct



PROGRAMS

SPORTS

The primary objective of the sports programs at BCYL is to foster an environment of responsibility, respect, integrity, and teamwork that will enable our youth to be successful on and off the field/court. An emphasis is placed on skill development to ensure each child gains the confidence that normally transfers outside the sports arena. To help facilitate that, BCYL offers our youth the opportunity to participate in: developmental clinics, academies, and competitive leagues held at various times throughout the year for each seasonal sport. Our coaches are dedicated individuals who live or work in the local community. They must complete a thorough onboarding process including: a background check, VIRTUS training, and a series of CPR/First Aid, Concussion, and BCYL/Cal Ripken/ Babe Ruth certifications annually.

Baseball

The BCYL Baseball Program activities are offered throughout the year for boys and girls ages 5 to 18. For many of our youth, this is their first time playing organized baseball. The standard BCYL Baseball competitive seasons are as follows: Spring (March to June), Summer (July to August), and Fall (September to November). BCYL also offers developmental clinics from January to March and an academy in August. BCYL piloted a travel baseball team in Spring 2023!

Softball

The BCYL Softball Program activities are offered throughout the year for girls ages 9 to 18. BCYL also offers developmental clinics from January to March and an academy in August.

Basketball & BPS Middle School Program

The BCYL Basketball Program activities are offered from October to December for boys and girls ages 5 to 13. BCYL organizes developmental clinics, an academy and competitive league play to give youth the chance to develop their skills and play.

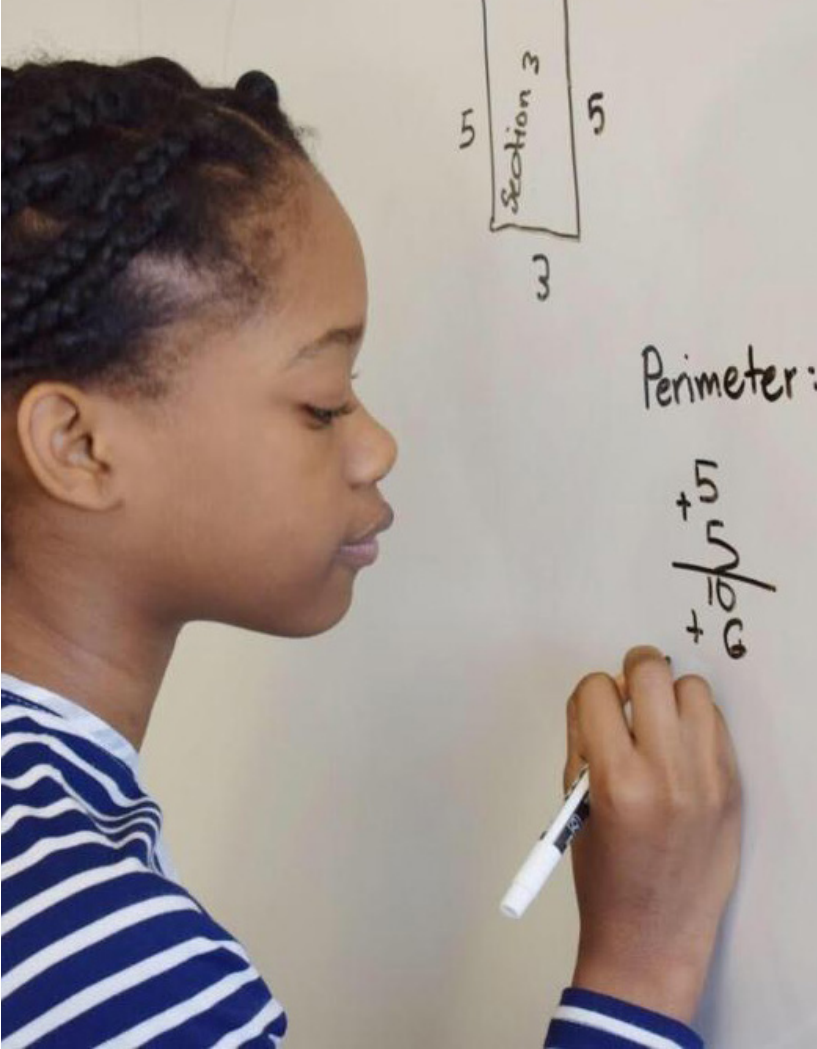
BCYL has developed a partnership with the Bridgeport Board of Education and Bridgeport Parks and Recreation Dept. to run the Middle School Basketball Program for boys and girls in grades 6th to 8th in Bridgeport Public Schools. BCYL organizes a competitive league for these students.

Girls on the Move

BCYL is expanding our current Basketball Programming to include a specific focus on girls. This summer, we piloted our NEW FREE “Girls on the Move” Basketball Program, for 6th-8th grades (middle-school) and 9th -12th grade (high-school) girls. This program introduces the girls to the sport, develops foundational skills, and has a mentorship and health and wellness awareness curriculum built in. This was the first time BCYL has opened Basketball registration to high-schoolers and is a continuation of our efforts to encourage and support our female athletes. This Fall, BCYL will keep basketball registration open for high-school aged girls as we continue the “Girls on the Move” Basketball Program - free of charge. As a result of our summer work, numerous parents have thanked us for providing this program for their daughters, as it not only allowed the girls to participate, but it has also had a noticeable positive impact on them. An equipment donation ensured the girls had what they needed to continue to practice and stay active outside of practice times and games.

Soccer

BCYL piloted a new partnership with Generation Z to provide soccer training, a sport that has been much-requested by our youth and their families. Generation Z hosted developmental clinics, practices, and games twice a week for 2.5 hours from September 2023 – June 2024.



PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

BCLY’s education platform provides the environment and resources conducive to learning with individualized attention to meet students’ needs. BCYL’s objective is to provide youth with role models, mentors, and support necessary for them to remain in school and have a clear pathway to college, vocational program, workforce, or military upon graduating from high school.



Caribe Scholarship Fund

Through our partnerships with the University of Bridgeport, Eastern Connecticut State University, the Ezequiel Santiago Fund, the Colon Family Foundation, Notre Dame High School of Fairfield, and Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, over 130 BCYL students have received more than \$1.3 million in scholarships since 2009. This support has empowered 34 of our 47 eligible scholars to complete college, including 19 who are the first in their families to graduate. By 2028, an additional 27 scholarship recipients are set to join this accomplished group of college graduates.

In addition, 57 Caribe Scholars have benefited from nearly \$430,000 in support through the Russell Colon High School Scholarship, with all recipients enrolling in college immediately after high school.

Each June, we host a graduation celebration to honor our scholarship recipients’ achievements. BCYL youth continue to shine, demonstrating the incredible potential that emerges when they are provided with the right environment, resources, and opportunities.

Caribe Honor Roll

BCYL has an optional Education Incentive Program exclusive to active participating BCYL youth. BCYL prioritizes ensuring that our youth are not only well-rounded, but that they strive to do well in all that they do, including academics. After each marking period, students who make the honor roll are treated to a professional event. As many as 20% of BCYL students enrolled in the incentive program are part of the Caribe Honor Roll. Students have visited Camden Yards to watch the Baltimore Orioles, Boston to see the Red Sox, and New York to see the Nets, Knicks, Mets, Yankees, and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

Math & Reading Tutoring

BCYL provides year-round Math & Reading Tutoring for City of Bridgeport students in Grades 3rd to 9th. Tutoring is provided in conjunction with current national standards and students’ individual school/ grade curriculum. Sessions are held three times an academic year for 10 weeks: Fall (September – November), Winter (January – early March), and Spring (Late March – Early June). BCYL piloted a six-week review course this summer (July – August) for students. BCYL averages 20-30 students per course with a student-to-tutor ratio ranging from 1:1 to 4:1. Cohorts have achieved up to 18% improvement in the math and reading post-test versus pre-test. Part of the tutoring program includes an enrichment segment during which students take on a STEM related project for their end of program presentation.

S.A.T. Prep Program

BCYL facilitates a 13-week program for the City of Bridgeport students in Grade 11. The purpose of the program is to help students learn SAT test strategies. Participants in the SAT Prep Program have continuously posted over 50 points of improvement in their SAT scores versus pre-test scores.

In-School Tutoring

BCYL coordinates volunteer tutors for students in K to 8th grade in the Bridgeport Public Schools. Volunteers meet with students for one to two hours each week to support them with their classwork with a focus on reading and math. The program is held from October to June.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (Students Understand College And Career Expectation To Succeed)

Under the guidance of BCYL’s Director of Education, participants partake in workshops delivered by business leaders, create a plan for a college or career pathway, discover scholarship opportunities, write their college admission essay and resume, participate in mock interviews and visit colleges and companies. BCYL hosts four sessions throughout the year, three (3) advanced 8-week cohorts from October to June, and one simplified summer session for participants ages 14 to 24. Participants receive a stipend after completing the program.

Y.E.L.T. (Young Entrepreneur Leadership Program)

BCYL provides two (2) 14-week cohorts between October to June each academic year for high school students. The students learn the process it takes to bring a product or business idea from concept to reality. They participate in a hands-on learning environment where they are introduced to business case studies that help them understand what it takes to be an entrepreneur, and dive into business finance, and the development of a business plan. The participants present their business/product idea in a startup challenge, and all participants are eligible for a stipend.

T.A.P.P. (Trade Assessment Preparation Program)

This program is for career-bound high school students who are looking to enter a trade upon graduation. This program develops students’ ELA and Math skills in preparation for the National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) Aptitude Test that is needed to enter some of the building trade apprenticeship programs.

Coding & Esports

This BCYL program provides small group instruction in computer coding to develop a video game, implementation of the North America Scholastic Esports Federation curriculum includes interpersonal, math, language arts and graphic arts skills. BCYL runs four (4) 8-week cohorts throughout the year for a variety of Bridgeport public School students in grades 6th to 8th.





YEAR IN REVIEW

● **Caribe Sports Banquet**
Saturday, January 7

● **Honor Roll Trip (NBA)**
February 25

● **20th Anniversary Caribe Gala**
\$216K Raised!
April 1

● **Cesar Batalla Read Aloud Day**
April 4

● **BPS Middle School**
Basketball Banquet
April 8

● **2022/2023 Education Programs**
Graduation Celebration
June 15

● **Baseball & Softball Opening Day**
May 6

● **Caribe Family Day Banquet**
June 18

● **Honor Roll Trip (Mets)**
August 9

● **WGB MAC Ribbon**
Cutting Ceremony
September 21

● **Basketball Opening Day**
October 7

● **“Calling Puerto Rico” Production**
October 21

● **Cesar Batalla Read**
Aloud Day Raised \$3K
October 24

● **Trunk-or-Treat with MAC**
October 31

● **Wine & Beer Tasting Event**
We Raised 45K!
November 10

● **BCYL & SHU Partnership**
Announcement
November 16

● **Honor Roll Trip (Rockettes)**
Over 45 Students Participated
December 3

● **Santa Coming to Town with MAC**
December 22





PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY-BASED

BCYL stresses the importance of giving back to the community. Various activities are held throughout the year to allow our children and families to experience the joy of giving and to emphasize the impact someone can make when helping others. BCYL is recognized for its desire to assist children in many facets of its family-like atmosphere..

Caribe Connections

Caribe Community Club connects families to community agencies in Bridgeport handling housing issues, education, training, and employment resources, or food resources, and who need connections to other community agencies.

Bone Marrow Drive

Each year, BCYL holds a bone marrow drive in memory of former BCYL youth A.J. Saez who at age 12 passed away after an eight-month battle with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia. Over 200 BCYL and community members have registered to become eligible to be bone marrow donors. This is the family spirit exhibited at BCYL.

Caribe Day

BCYL hosts a carnival theme day for BCYL families and the Bridgeport community. Over 500 people attended the event enjoying games, food, and music at no charge.

Caribe Annual Family Banquets

Twice per year, a family banquet is held to highlight achievements in sports, education, and community programs. Nearly 900 youth and family members attended the Spring/Summer Banquet held at Lake Quassy, and nearly 400 youth and family members attended the Fall/Winter Banquet at the University of Bridgeport.



INVOLVEMENT

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Volunteer roles include: In-school tutors, guest speakers in the area of career field expertise, and coaches. Many youths who have graduated from BCYL programs return to serve as tutors, assistant coaches, scorekeepers, mentors, and/or help in the office.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

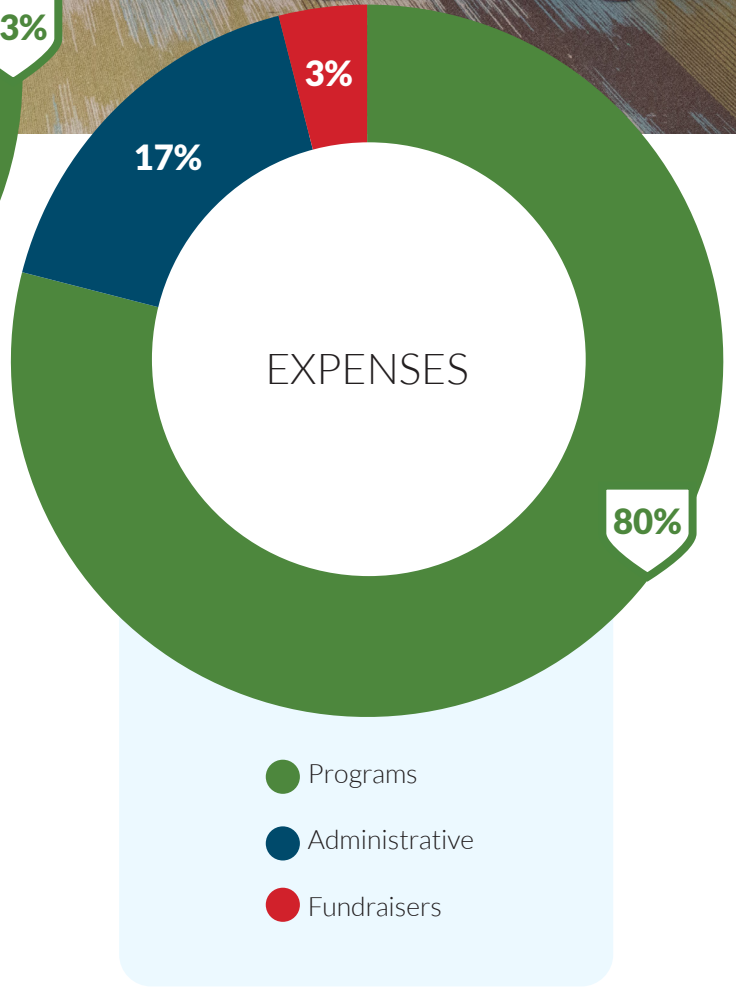
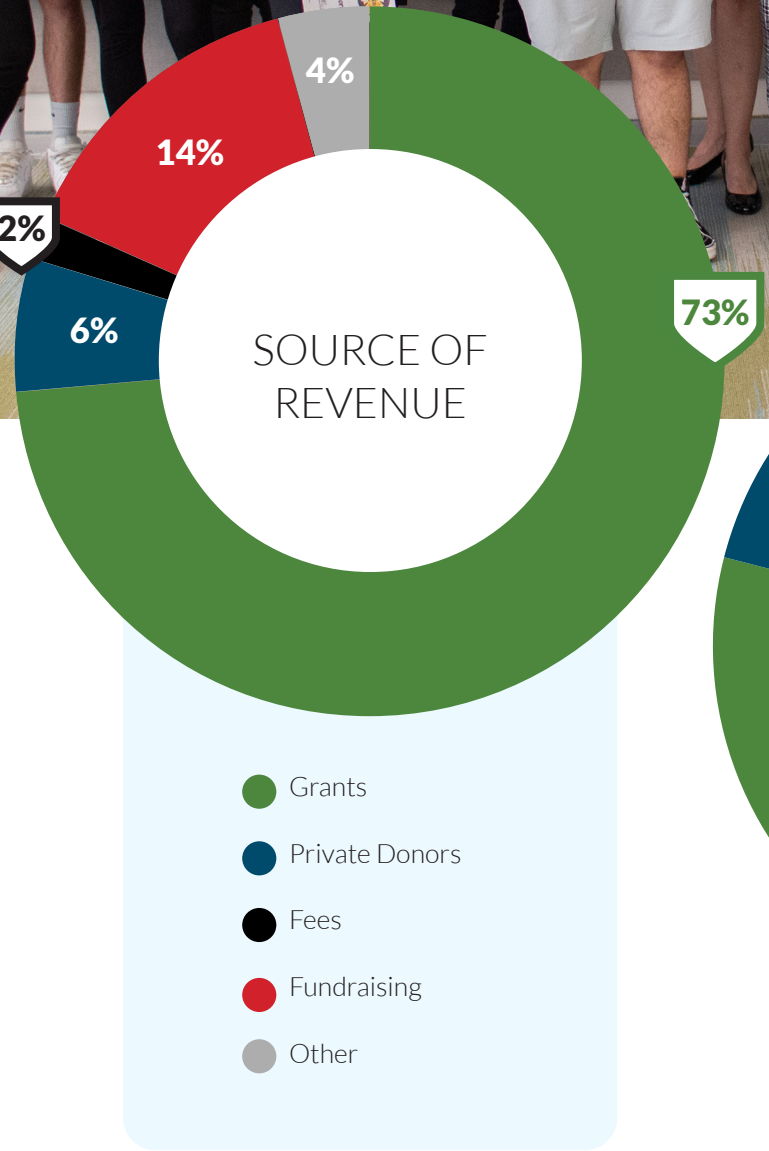
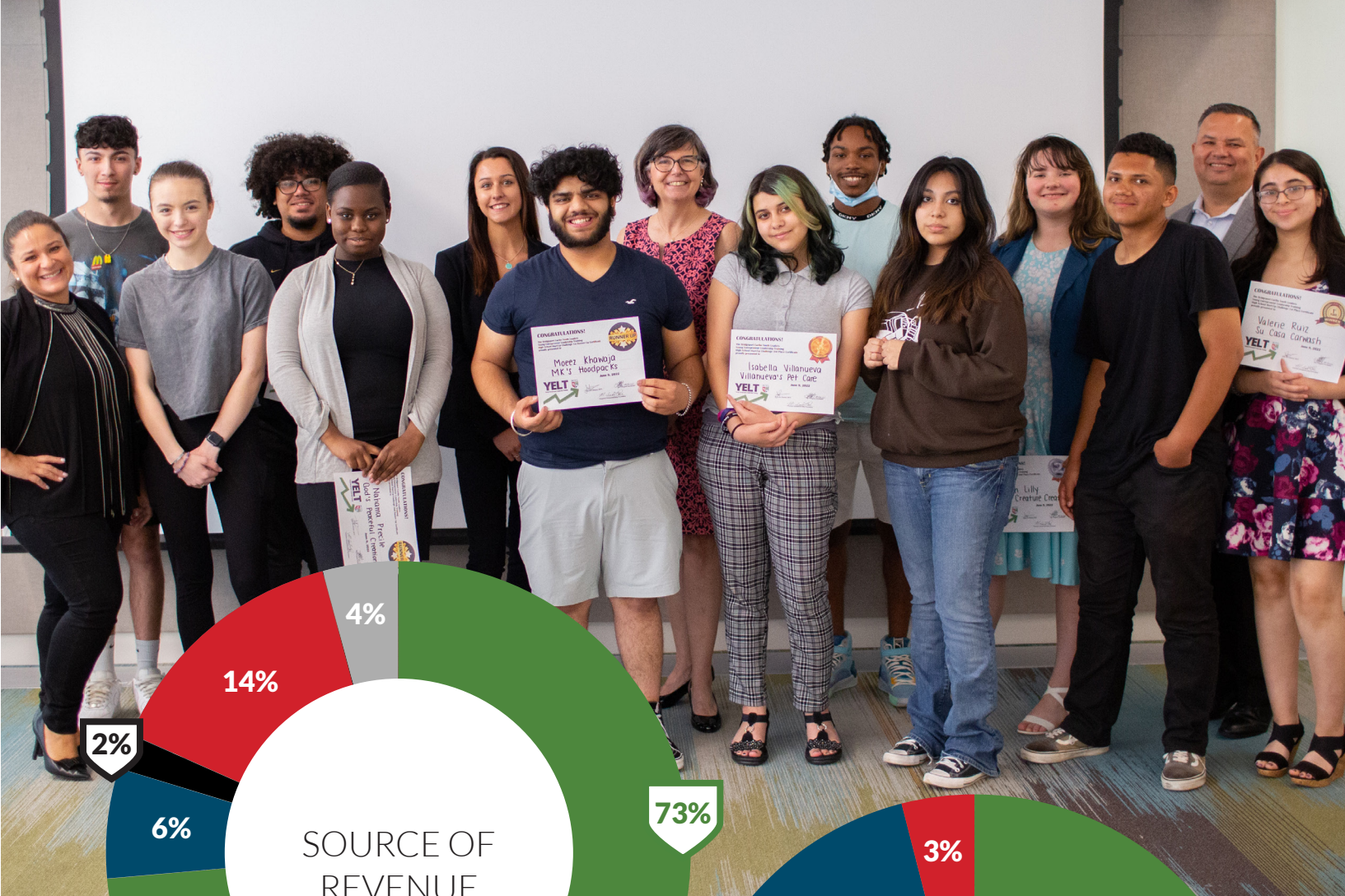
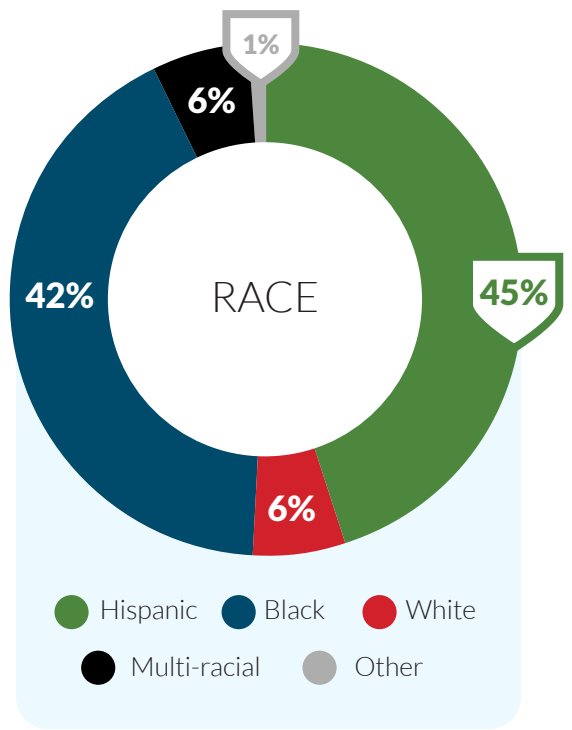
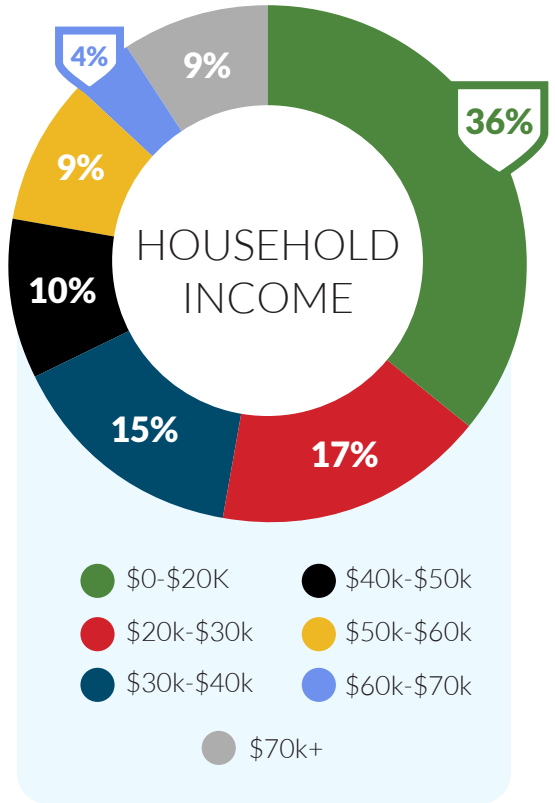
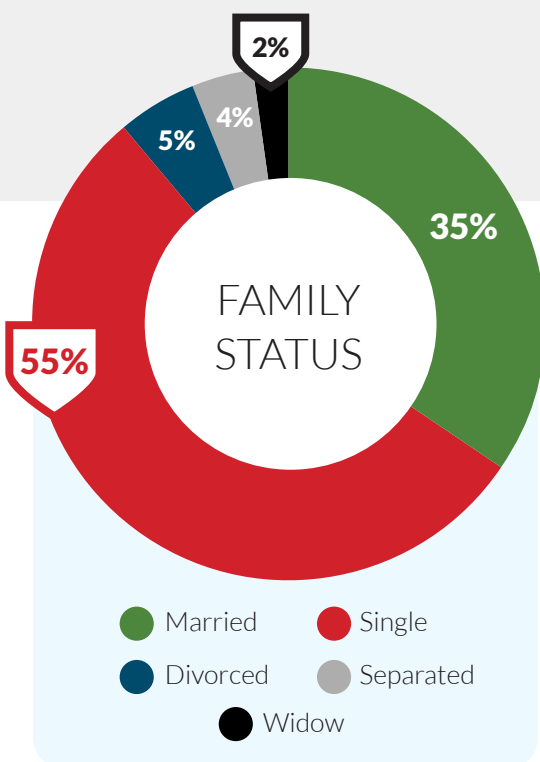
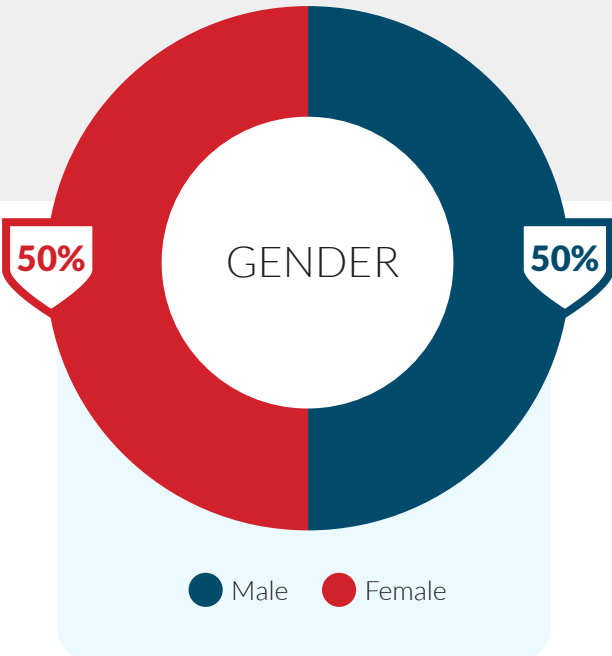
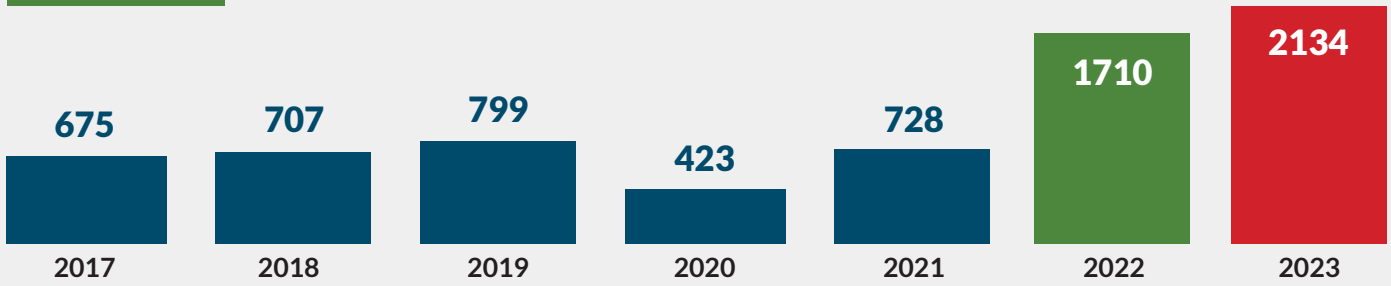
BCYL insists on parent involvement which has evolved into a community with entire families assisting and sharing in the activities. Various family functions, such as picnics, outings, sports, and community events, are scheduled throughout the year.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BCYL's Alumni Association helps us keep in touch with alumni to ensure success through every stage of life. Alumni gather to share stories, renew friendships and give back to new Caribe members.

STATISTICS

BCYL PARTICIPATION



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

BCYL has partnered with various organizations in the community allowing BCYL to collaboratively offer more activities to our members. Partnerships have been developed with:




AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS


- 2018 Greater Bridgeport NAACP Humanitarian Award
- 2018 USB Central New England Market Community Leader Award
- 2017 Fairfield County Sports Commission Bridgeport organization of the year
- 2014 New York Knicks Connecticut's Community organization of the year
- 2012 Latinos & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission Community Service award
- 2008 Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County Community organization of the year
- 2004 Bridgeport Hispanic Officers' Society Community Service Award
- 2004 Hispanic Professional Network Hispanic Excellence in Athletics Award
- BCYL has received Official Citations from Senator Richard Blumenthal, Congressman Jim Himes, Secretary of State Denise Merrill, the State of Connecticut General Assembly, and the City of Bridgeport.




CONNECT

 www.BCYL.org

 @bcyl.03

 /BCYLeaders

 @CaribeYouthLeaders

BCYL 2023 FUNDERS

PLATINUM FUNDERS



GOLD FUNDERS



SILVER FUNDERS



BRONZE FUNDERS



COPPER FUNDERS



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSOR \$20,000

- Full page ad in program book
- Recognition as event sponsor throughout event
- Organization name on four team jerseys
- Company logo displayed on sponsorship billboard
- Company name and logo on marketing materials
- Highlighted on BCYL website
- Title sponsor recognition at events
- Highlighted on BCYL newsletter
- Opportunity to display promotional material
- Five-minute presentation at event

GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR \$15,000

- Full page ad in program book
- Recognition as event sponsor throughout event
- Organization name on three team jerseys
- Company logo displayed on sponsorship billboard
- Company name and logo on marketing materials
- Highlighted on BCYL website
- Title sponsor recognition at events

SILVER LEVEL SPONSOR \$10,000

- Full page ad in program book
- Recognition as event sponsor throughout event
- Organization name on two team jerseys
- Company logo displayed on sponsorship billboard
- Company name and logo on marketing materials

BRONZE LEVEL SPONSOR \$5,000

- Full page ad in program book
- Recognition as event sponsor throughout event
- Organization name on a team jersey

COPPER LEVEL SPONSOR \$2,500

- Full page ad in program book
- Recognition as event sponsor throughout event



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorship will go towards at least one of the following:

- Caribe Youth Saturday Academy (SAT Prep & Math Reading Tutoring program)
- Girls Empowerment Program
- Educational material and supplies
- Caribe Honor Roll Incentive Trips (three held throughout the year)
- Uniform support for calendar year-round sports programs for 580 youth
- Equipment support for sports programs
- Title Sponsor Family Day Banquet at Quassy (over 800 attendees)
- Title Sponsor Fall/Winter Programs Banquet (350 attendees)
- Caribe Russell Colon High School Scholarship Awards
- Caribe College Scholarship Awards

PLEASE NOTE: BCYL is a tax-exempt public charity, a non-profit organization.

All donations are 100% tax-deductible as provided by the law of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders
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