





Emerging ChallengesCreative Solutions



Our Mission

New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) improves the well-being of youth and families in the child welfare system with an emphasis on older youth aging out of the system. NYFC provides direct educational, financial, and emotional support and develops programs to fill gaps in the system in partnership with foster care agencies, community organizations, and the NYC Administration for Children's Services.

Our Vision

New Yorkers For Children is working toward a city where child welfare organizations have an abundance of resources to care for youth and families at risk or in need of support to lead safe, healthy, and rewarding lives.



Improving the well-being of youth and families



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Letter from Leadership

Dear Friends,



2021 was a year of growth and perseverance for New Yorkers For Children (NYFC). Though in 2021 the immediate effects of COVID-19 were less visible than in 2020, the continued fallout from the pandemic was certainly felt by the youth we serve, who even before COVID-19 experienced challenges connected to housing, healthcare, childcare, and education, to name just a few. This year, we aspired to move beyond the immediate crisis and lay the groundwork for systemic changes to ensure a better future, thus making this a year of Emerging Challenges, Creative Solutions.

In 2021, NYFC dramatically expanded our service offerings and staff capacity to provide deeper support to youth connected to NYC foster care. We have a long history of providing direct cash support to youth, but in 2021 this became even more important as the demand grew exponentially as a result of the pandemic and the growing cost of living in NYC. Unconditional cash support coupled with supportive services—NYFC's unique approach—allows us to meet the holistic needs of youth who have experienced foster care and empower them to take agency over their lives.

We aspired to move beyond the immediate crisis and lay the groundwork for systemic changes to ensure a better future, making this a year of Emerging Challenges, Creative Solutions.

The following accomplishments reflect the many faces of NYFC's "cash plus services" approach in 2021:

- Nick's Scholars, one of our longest-running programs, provides monthly cash stipends coupled with support from qualified mental health professionals to help youth succeed in college. In 2021, we supported 10 Nick's Scholars and provided them with over \$100,000 of cash support.
- Since 2012, our Emergency Grants program has provided microgrants to youth in care and those who have aged out to alleviate immediate crises in housing, healthcare, education, child support, and more. In 2021, we fulfilled 483 awards for a total of \$270,500 cash aid.
- The Back to School Package program provided 389 youth with 525 packages that included laptops and gift cards worth approximately \$90,000 to help them succeed in college and beyond.

- Our two educational scholarships, the Spirit Award and Financial Empowerment Fund, provided \$37,500 in funding to 8 students.
- The Financial Empowerment Fund provided \$22,500 to 5 people coupled with expert financial coaching from an external financial services partner.

Along with our existing Signature program portfolio, we also began planning for the launch of the Post-Permanency Support Program (PPSP), a new initiative, which aims to strengthen adoptive and KinGAP families, as well as the NYC Small Grants Program that brings together grassroots organizations in the child welfare space. Through all these initiatives, NYFC has helped cultivate a supportive ecosystem of empowering services for young people across NYC.

NYFC has also grown as an organization to better serve the needs of youth and combat the isolating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Programs team doubled its staff in 2021 with the addition of two new full-time positions – a Youth Counselor who holds a master's in social work and a Youth Coordinator who is an alumnus of NYFC's programming. With these new roles, NYFC has been able to double our mental health capacity, provide more opportunities for connection among youth, strengthen our network of Peer Mentors, and begin more outreach to our alumni community.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without valuable support from our donors. As the last year has made clear, it may never be possible to "return to normal" from the COVID-19 pandemic, but your contributions have ensured that NYFC is able to not only weather the crisis but grow from it as well. Thank you for committing to being a New Yorker For Children!



Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez
Executive Director
New Yorkers For Children

2021 Accomplishments



\$100,000

of cash support provided for 10 Nick's Scholars



483

Emergency Grants awarded



525

Back to School Program packages of laptops & gift cards for college students



Who We Are

| Signature Programs

There are approximately 7,000 youth in NYC foster care today. Of these, about 250 manage to enroll in college every year, overcoming tremendous odds. This group of young people will not receive the same guidance, support, and tools as their counterparts. For many of these deserving young people, the resources provided by NYFC will be the only support they receive during their transition from foster care to independent adulthood. NYFC Signature Programs provide direct services that focus on enrolling youth in college, supporting them through graduation, and helping them gain the skills they need to enter the workforce feeling empowered.

\$500,000 total monetary support



727 youth served

Nick's Scholars

Nick's Scholars is a comprehensive program that helps students realize their educational and personal goals by providing essential financial, academic, emotional, and peer support services. Services provided include:

- Individual in-person college advisement and coaching meetings with NYFC's Youth Academic Advisor
- Monthly stipends to cover living expenses
- Tuition assistance and stipends for textbooks
- Funding for summer/winter courses not covered by financial aid
- Various networking and community-building social events
- Referrals to personalized services such as academic tutoring, housing resources, specialized career counseling, and private mental health services

What We Do



Provide Direct Services
Serve youth and families in
the child welfare and juvenile
justice systems, with a focus
on youth in foster care



Manage Programs
Provide program design
and implementation support



Incubate Programs
Test strategies with promising outcomes



Fundraise Engage New Yorkers through multiple philanthropic channels



Manage Grants

Manage the fiscal and
data aspects of funding

In 2021, we supported 10 Nick's Scholars and provided them with over \$100,000 of cash support.





Emergency Grants

NYFC's Emergency Grants program was established in 2012 to support older youth in foster care as well as youth attending school who were experiencing an emergency that would interrupt their education. We expanded eligibility when COVID-19 struck in 2020 to also include youth who are not in school. This decision has allowed us to reach thousands more vulnerable young people during this critical time.

Since the start of the pandemic through 2021, the Emergency Grants program served almost 900 people and distributed about \$700,000 in direct cash to youth. Of youth who were enrolled in school and received funding, 78% persisted to their next school year or graduated.



Back to School



Since 1999, the Back to School program has provided current or aged-out foster youth who are enrolled in college or vocational programs with various tools needed for educational success. In 2021, the package consisted of:

- A brand-new laptop computer
- Two gift cards per year for educational expenses such as textbooks
- Youth development events
- A heartfelt letter from NYFC staff wishing them good luck with their studies

Spirit Award

The Spirit Award is a merit-based scholarship awarded to young adults currently or formerly in NYC foster care who are attending a four-year college with plans to complete a bachelor's degree.

Since 2004, this scholarship has given up to \$20,000 annually in scholarship funding to hardworking students. Students can receive up to \$10,000 per award.



In 2021, three awards were given, providing \$15,000 total support

Financial Empowerment Fund

The Financial Empowerment Fund is a merit-based scholarship of up to \$5,000 that aims to ease the financial burden of pursuing a college education and to alleviate current debt and/or prevent students from incurring debt.

Each Financial Empowerment Fund scholarship recipient will meet with a Financial Coach – provided by First Republic Bank – once per semester, where they will receive instruction on navigating student loan debt and learn how to establish credit.



disbursed to five awardees from the Financial Empowerment Fund



YAB/Peer Mentoring

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is NYFC's signature non-scholarship program. The mission of the YAB is to support NYFC by shaping public awareness and perceptions of youth in foster care and to inspire peers to become advocates in their communities.

In this peer leadership initiative, youth meet on a monthly basis to create community, fight stigma, advocate for change, and educate the public about NYFC programming, resources pertaining to affordable housing, pathways to post-secondary opportunities, college scholarships, and more.

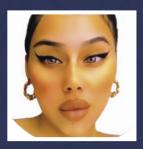
In 2019, the YAB launched its Peer Mentoring Program. In collaboration with youth, NYFC staff designed a comprehensive Wellness Curriculum with modules about mental health, educational success, financial management, and more. In 2021, NYFC began training Peer Mentors in the elements of the curriculum, who will then deliver their knowledge to youth at partnering agencies in a credible messenger model.

Graduate Features



T'coy AdamsCUNY Lehman College | Psychology Major
Spring 2021 Bachelors Graduate

"The Nick's Scholar's program is for people who are truly making the full effort to have more than what they seen and what they have. Although I have aged out of foster care and ACS, I am grateful for the efforts they have made to help me. Now I just want to pay it forward by being the greatest version of myself that I can be."



Kristal Cires
CUNY Queens College | English Major
Spring 2021 Bachelors Graduate

"It was an honor for me to have had the Nick's Scholars experience. I will always keep you all in my heart and my mind to keep pushing for success, and more importantly to make a change by teaching others in need. I am beyond grateful for NYFC I can't thank you enough. Take care. Cheers!"



Gabrielle Rodriguez
CUNY City College | Early Childhood Education Major

Spring 2022 Bachelors Graduate

"Whenever I had a challenge with other support programs, NYFC stepped in on my behalf to advocate for me. I have had such a positive experience with New Yorkers For Children, and I hope to one day be in a position to contribute to the organization so that they may continue to help ambitious youth in care achieve their goals."



Josselyn Flores
CUNY BMCC | Biotechnology Major
Spring 2021 Associates Graduate

"I appreciate the significant amount of support given to me throughout my academic journey... I'm not taking a break because I have a few goals I want to achieve to make my and my son's future better."



Dominique "Dylan" Tatom
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice | Criminal Justice-Law
Society Major
Summer 2021 Bachelors Graduate

"NYFC created spaces where one's voice is not limited but be transparent about issues that are unique to the foster care experience."



Maria Pangilinan Long Island University – Brooklyn | Nursing Major Fall 2021 Bachelors Graduate

"Words cannot express how thankful I am to have gotten this opportunity. This not only helped me academically and financially, but it has also motivated me to one day help out other kids in care."



Nadyia Hamid CUNY Hunter College | English Major Fall 2021 Bachelors Graduate

"I am very grateful to part of such a fantastic program and family. I hope they are always able to give support to youth in care who need the extra help and motivation to shine through as their best selves. We all have potential but being a Nick's Scholar motivates us to live up to that potential."



Fadwa Alami-SounniCUNY City College | Biology Major
Fall 2021 Bachelors Graduate

"I am so thankful to be a part of Nick's Scholar's Program. The amount of relief and support I get from this program is incomparable to any advisement I get at my school. No matter how much of a failure I feel everyone in this program brings some sort of light to all my rainy days. The Nicks Scholar Program has been a true battle shield for me."

Innovative Programs

As part of its thought leadership role in the child welfare field, NYFC incubates, pilots, and refines promising programs on its own and in partnership with foster care agencies, community-based organizations, and ACS.

These backbone initiatives have included bringing the LifeSet model of support for youth aging out of care to NYC, offering services for adoptive/KinGAP families, and providing grassroots community-based organizations with much-needed resources. Overall, with innovative programming we aim to enrich the landscape of support for a variety of historically underserved communities.

355 A Speople served through innovative programs

LifeSet

In partnership with ACS and Youth Villages, NYFC brought the highly promising LifeSet model to NYC in 2018. Designed to improve life outcomes for youth ages 17-22 who are transitioning out of foster care, LifeSet pairs a highly trained specialist with each young person to help them identify and accomplish goals and successfully prepare for independence. The program provides comprehensive supports including basic life skills, employment and education coaching, and social support.

Through 2021, 345 youth have been served through four participating foster care agencies, with the goal of expanding to two more.

Post-Permanency Support Program

Created in partnership with Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children and with input from ACS, the Post-Permanency Support Program is a pilot project designed to ensure children exiting foster care to adoption or kinship guardianship remain with their families. In addition to providing much-needed specialized services to the families served, the project is helping to identify quality and replicable models and helping to lay the foundation for similar programs throughout New York City. This fiveyear initiative was developed in 2020, with a soft launch beginning in the final months of 2021.



NYC Small Grants Program

In 2021, building on a long history of supporting small and large nonprofits, NYFC launched the Small Grants Program with funding from the Hilton Foundation in an effort to support the ecosystem of child welfare nonprofits in New York. The program provides subgrants to smaller organizations who are carrying out direct service, policy change, or research work. Subgrants support organizations doing innovative work in one or more of the following nine concept areas: Housing, Transition Age Youth, Education and Career, Mental Health, Expectant Parents, C-SEC (youth who are victims of sex trafficking), Caregivers, Youth Voice, and Equity.

The vast majority of subgrantee organizations are BIPOC-led and/or led by those with lived experience in foster care, and all are based in New York City. In addition to receiving funding, selected organizations participate in a learning community through a teach-and-learn approach, cross-pollinating innovative ideas and supporting each other. Through this project, NYFC provides smaller organizations with targeted support–both financial and technical–to grow their service offerings, and in doing so enriches the quality of services across the NYC child welfare landscape.

Cash Plus Services Support

Throughout 2021, as the intermittent waves of the COVID-19 pandemic continued in New York City, NYFC worked to meet the needs of the youth we serve in a holistic way, most notably by providing supportive services coupled with unconditional cash transfers. We recognize that youth often experience crises such as high medical bills, overdue rent, childcare costs, groceries, tuition, and more, that simply cannot be alleviated without cash support. Moreover, NYFC places an emphasis on unconditional cash transfers because we believe that giving young people agency to decide how to spend funds is the best way to empower them and help them feel in control of their lives.

Our most intensive "cash plus services" support is provided through Nick's Scholars. This program engages youth with monthly academic coaching, peer-to-peer networking opportunities, and mental health support, along with a regular stipend that youth can use at their own discretion. Typically, youth participate in the program for five years, and during this time earn approximately \$60,000 in stipends. We have seen great success with this model, which consistently yields a graduation rate of approximately 75%, compared to a 3% national graduation rate for students who come from the foster care system.

Direct Cash Disbursed Across All Programs



Additionally, NYFC maintains a suite of other cash-based supports, most notably our Emergency Grants program, which provides youth with cash microgrants to overcome immediate crises in their lives. From the start of the pandemic through 2021, the Emergency Grants program served approximately 900 young people and distributed approximately \$700,000 in direct cash to youth. Additionally, we have a robust portfolio of conditional cash transfer programs, including scholarships like the Spirit Award and Financial Empowerment Fund, as well as the Back to School program, which provides new students with brand-new laptops and gift cards for educational expenses.

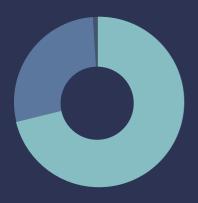
Emergency Grants



483 people served \$290,000 total funds in 2021

It is important to note, however, that our cash-based support would not be nearly as effective without the dedicated time of NYFC staff members to provide complementary supports to youth, including mental health support from qualified counselors, academic coaching, financial advice, peer networking, and more. In 2021, NYFC doubled our mental health capacity in response to requests from young people for more support to combat the isolation of the continued COVID-19 pandemic. We hired an MSW-credentialed Youth Counselor to support our existing Programs team as well as a Youth Coordinator who herself is an alumnus of our programs. Together, the increased staff capacity has allowed NYFC to facilitate more connections between youth, broaden our outreach to our alumni community, and enrich our Peer Mentoring program, among many other benefits.

Direct Cash Support Recipients Demographics



- 72% Female
- **27%** Male
- 1% Other



- **79%** Black/African American
- **12%** Other
- 5% White
- 2% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 1% Asian
- 1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Corporate Partner Spotlight

| Northwell Health

One of the longest-running partnerships NYFC maintains is with Northwell Health. Since 2004, the Spirit Award has provided young people who have experienced foster care and are attending college with necessary financial support. Northwell has been a consistent sponsor of this award, one of our longest-running Signature Programs. For the past 18 years, the Spirit Award has given \$20,000 to one winner each year, for a total of \$360,000 worth of support.



total disbursed from Northwell Health's support of the Spirit Award scholarship Additionally, Northwell was a key partner in NYFC's Youth CAN! Program, which offered vocational training to empower youth with crucial skills, knowledge, and support to become competitive in the job marketplace. Northwell has also been instrumental in co-sponsoring our annual Network to Success event, which provides opportunities for youth to network among professionals from a variety of fields, including healthcare. We are also honored to have Dr. Jennifer Mieres, the Senior Vice President of Northwell's Center for Equity of Care and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, serving as an active member of our Board since 2017.

We are thankful for the ever-evolving role Northwell has played and are hopeful for what the future holds!



"Northwell is on a mission to Raise Health for all by establishing trusted partnership across communities, and I am honored to represent Northwell and partner with New Yorkers For Children to ensure stronger futures for youth and families in foster care. Through the Spirit Award and beyond, Northwell is committed to building a city where well-being is ensured for all. As a Board member I have enjoyed watching our relationship evolve and grow to provide much-needed support for NYC youth in foster care and those who have aged out. I look forward to what the future brings for our partnership!"

Dr. Jennifer Mieres, MD Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Northwell Health

Financials

Statement of Activities

Revenue			
Individual	536,193	478,941	176,274
Foundation and Corporate	7,739,992	4,535,722	685,004
Government Grant	147,492	323,301	324,013
Donated Materials & Services	88,521	191,583	115,189
Special Events (net)	-	-	901,488
Investment Income	254,289	129,142	387,465
Other Income	-	-	-
Total Revenue	8,766,487	5,658,689	2,589,433
Expenses			
Program Services	3,544,697	4,226,759	2,742,558
Management	657,210	590,085	567,551
Fundraising	78,636	123,232	175,482
Total Expenses	4,280,543	4,940,076	3,485,591
Change in Net Assets	4,485,944	718,613	(896,158)
Net Assets - Beginning of the year	7,684,290	6,965,677	7,861,835
Net Assets - End of the year	12,170,234	7,684,290	6,965,677

2021

2020

2019

Donors



Institutions

\$1 million +

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation*
Doris Duke Charitable
Foundation*
Spence-Chapin Services
to Families and Children*
W.K. Kellogg Foundation*

\$500,000-\$999,999

Anonymous*
Redlich Horwitz Foundation*
Youth Villages, Inc*

\$350,000-\$499,999

Annie E. Casey Foundation* Casey Family Programs

\$100,000-\$349,999

Hopeland*
Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC
Mother Cabrini Health
Foundation*
van Ameringen Foundation*
William Randolph Hearst
Foundation*

The New York Community Trust*
The Sirus Fund

\$50,000-\$99,999

Bridge Investment Group, LLC*
First Republic Bank
LME Foundation
The Ichigo Charitable Fund, an
advised fund of the Brooklyn
Community Foundation*
Proskauer Rose LLP**
Robin Hood Foundation

\$20,000-\$49,999

Anonymous
Fireswamp Fund
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JPMC Foundation
Macy's & Bloomingdale's*
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Ruth K. Nelson Revocable Trust
The Allen Foundation
The Brightwater Fund
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The Seth Sprague Educational
and Charitable Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

Brooklyn Community Foundation* CD& R Foundation Goldman Sachs Gives Jay and Kelly Sugarman Foundation JNR Health and Wellness, INC** May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc." MNR Fund Northwell Health Nuttall Charitable Fund NYC Administration for Children's Services* Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison**" Proskauer Rose IIP The Edlow Family Fund Inc The Sunshine Foundation The Rona and Randolph M. Nelson Foundation The Warburg Pincus Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

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\$1,000-\$4,999

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*Multi-year grant
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\$20,000-\$49,999

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\$10,000-\$19,999

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\$1,000-\$4,999

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