



YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE WE ARE ENCOURAGERS



 2022

Year-In-Review Community Report

YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE COMMUNITY REPORT 2022

Dear Friends of Young Women on the Move -

If Young Women On the Move were to pick one aspect that speaks to our impact in the 2022 service year, it is our role as encouragers. As the world continues to recover from a global pandemic, we've seen incredibly positive individuals emerge as role models and heroes. That includes YOU, our kind and caring community.



You have generously shared your resources, your time, and your efforts so that our team and volunteer mentors can make vital connections to area youth. As these young women continue tapping into their own resilience to confront the challenges of the day, your support empowers them to look beyond the moment.

They have their sights set on goals, ambitions, and dreams. As we all should!

We're excited to shine a light in this community report on the growth and opportunities Young Women on the Move pursued in 2022. New programs and collaborative partnerships for positive youth development are opening pathways of promise and potential for young women in our community.

As we look to a healthy, hopeful future, we stand united in gratitude for all that your support makes possible. One of our young women recently said it best, "This will be a time in our lives that we will always remember. It's been rough, but it's definitely made us stronger."

That's the voice of courage. That's the power of encouragers at work!
Thank you for believing in our mission and sharing your support.

With gratitude,

Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Encouragers

From left: Jeni Zimmer, High School Coordinator
Phyllis Crockett-Barbosa, Administrative Assistant
Malayah Fields, Facilitator
Frankie Banuelos, Project Manager
Mary Beth Gentry, Executive Director
Asia Upton, Middle School Coordinator
Sherrie Pucket, Building Bridges KC
Jeanne Hayes, PhD, Project Director
(not pictured)



Our Mission

To unleash the power of girls to create a more vibrant, healthy & peaceful world.

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Spotlight on Love Notes

Crucial conversations with youth about personal responsibility and healthy decision-making aims to prevent risky behaviors and promote bright futures.



Positive change is happening!

Last year, more than 1,516 ninth grade students learned skills in personal responsibility and healthy decision-making through Young Women on the Move’s partnership with the Wyandotte County Health Department and Kansas City Kansas Public Schools.

Beginning in fall of 2020, our organization was awarded a multi-year grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) to adolescents in Kansas City, KS. The objectives of the program are to:

- implement Love Notes, an evidence- and medically-based, curriculum that is age- and culturally-appropriate, and recognizes the experiences of youth from diverse communities and backgrounds.
- teach proven strategies for pregnancy and poverty prevention; and,
- provide participants with information and resources to strengthen communication and self-advocacy skills.

Love Notes incorporates a powerful, proven formula - the Success Sequence - to help young people succeed in life. The formula involves three steps: obtaining a high school education, working full time, and building a healthy, sustainable relationship before having children.

“Youth are actively listening, changing behaviors, and reporting how they are supporting their friends in making better life choices,” says Mary Beth Gentry, Founder and CEO of Young Women on the Move.

Young adults who follow the sequence – even in the face of adversity – are more likely to overcome challenges and achieve economic success. *(American Enterprise Institute).*

“ Love Notes is a great experience because you can learn about healthy relationships and the consequences of rushing into relationships before you’re ready. You also learn about protecting your own safety and values in a relationship. ”

- Ninth Grade participant at a KCK high school



Students from Gloria Willis Middle School participated in Love Notes.

Why SRAE?

U.S. teen birth rates have decreased steadily since peaking in the early 1990's but remain higher among Kansas youth across all age groups.

Youth who complete their education and delay parenting until they are employed and in a committed relationship are less likely to live in poverty by age 30, regardless of the socio-economic status of their families.

Only 40%

of adolescent mothers graduate from high school and fewer than 2% receive a college degree by age 30.

97%

of millennials who follow the Success Sequence are not poor upon reaching adulthood. *(Brookings Institute).*





“ We have to believe in these girls long enough for them to believe in themselves. ”

- Mary Beth Gentry, Founder & CEO



31 PARTNERSHIPS

Community collaborations expand our reach, leveraging our capacity to do more.

- THE ARTS
- CORRECTIONS
- FAITH COMMUNITIES
- GOVERNMENT
- HEALTH SYSTEMS
- MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES
- MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS
- NEIGHBORHOODS
- PUBLIC HOUSING
- UNIVERSITIES
- YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS



194

Number of youth participants (unduplicated) in Love Notes (SRAE) Initiative, After School Activities, Summer Camps, and School-Based Programs.

300

Families benefiting from supportive services.

3,995

Hours of service provided by dedicated volunteers.

264

Hours of after-school and summer programming providing opportunities for mentoring, leadership and character development, and skill-building.

1,516

Number of students in KCK schools benefiting from Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) in 2022-23 school year.



▲
VMLY&R Employees Volunteer on
VMLY&R's Worldwide Foundation Day

YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE ENCOURAGEMENT IN ACTION

Though we may be living in uncertain times, the human spirit not only endures, but flourishes. Here are just a few reflections of courage, perseverance, strength and resilience from 2022.



With your help, Young Women On The Move purchased a new, highly rated curriculum for mental health self-care. Trained staff and volunteers are now integrating self-care strategies in all aspects of our programs for youth, parents, staff and volunteers.



Your support provided our capacity to build strong partnerships and collaborations. In January 2022, we helped to create the KCK Youth Opportunities Collaborative, a partnership of four youth-serving agencies committed to providing high-quality after-school and summer enrichment activities to address socio-emotional learning opportunities and learning loss.



Grants from Wyandotte Health Foundation and Health Forward Foundation provided access to resources to relaunch and expand outreach to youth and families coping with post-pandemic challenges of learning loss, isolation, social-emotional issues, and illness.



Stand up **straight** and realize **who** you are,
that you **tower** over your circumstances.

- Maya Angelou

WITH GRATITUDE

Many thanks to *all* of our kind and generous individual, corporate and community donors and partners who advance our mission.

Beloved Community Church
Karen Duff, International Express Trucking
James K. and Mary Beth Gentry
Ken Harder
Health Forward Foundation
Drs. Frederick and Grace Holmes
Jack and Jill Foundation of America
Jennifer and Michael Johnson
Kansas City Kansas Public Schools
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Phil and Shary Kreiling, 411 Impact
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Richard M. Schulze Foundation
Ted Sims
Unified Government of Wyandotte County
Marie Wilkie
Wyandotte Health Foundation

Represents donors of \$1,000+

RENOVATE & RENEW



Exciting changes are in the works for our historic, century-old building.

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas recently awarded Young Women on the Move one of 19 grants from the American Rescue Plan Act county appropriations.

The funds will allow for interior and exterior renovations for fitness, STEAM education, and a healing garden. It will be a fulfillment of our dream to create a robust resource center for youth and families to enjoy.

TOGETHER >>> WE ARE STRONGER

Young Women On The Move welcomes your support and involvement. Here's how you can make a difference.

- Volunteer (individuals or groups)
- Mentor
- Share a Gift
- Join our Giving Circle
- Share Knowledge/Teach a Class



Reach out

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Share a gift!

Mail a check:

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Give Online

