



BACKGROUND

MISSION

The **mission** of Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) is to help urban youth make a difference in themselves and their community through meaningful service opportunities and educational experiences. Mile High Youth Corps is part of a network of more than 100 youth corps nationwide, which works to improve communities and the lives of youth by putting young people to work in urban neighborhoods, public parks and open spaces. MHYC serves Denver metro area youth ages 16-24. MHYC strives to meet the needs of a diverse community by offering year-round programs for out-of-school youth, summer programs for high school and college students and intensive specialized programs for high school drop-outs.

HISTORY

Mile High Youth Corps was founded as Year One, Inc. in 1992 by Boulder County Commissioner Josie Heath. Spawned from the tradition of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the '30s, MHYC gives youth a chance to earn, learn and serve in their community. During its 13-year history, the Corps successfully transitioned from a small, seasonal, neighborhood based organization to a comprehensive, year-round, metro-wide program that integrates work experience, education, career preparation and life skills training. The Corps changed its name to Mile High Youth Corps in 2000 to better reflect its mission and goals. Through partnerships with multiple community, state and federal agencies, MHYC now offers a full range of services to assist youth in meeting their career and educational goals.

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Through paid work experience, community service and educational activities, MHYC helps youth develop the skills they need to succeed in the classroom, the workforce and everyday life. MHYC's programs are designed to meet the agency's goals through the integration of three key elements: *community service projects, education & lifeskills training and Corps-to-Career activities.*

➤ *Community Service Projects*

Members earn wages and develop technical skills working on team-based projects like tree planting, housing renovation, trail building, landscaping and painting.

➤ *Education And Lifeskills Training*

MHYC uses creative strategies to meet the diverse needs of youth in the program. These techniques help youth achieve their educational goals and develop the skills they need for responsible adulthood.

➤ *Corps-To-Career Activities*

Corps-to-Career activities provide youth with the educational and vocational tools necessary to compete effectively in the job market and in higher education.

RESULTS

In the past five years alone, MHYC has provided 755 youth with opportunities to learn and serve in their community. These youth earned over \$448,600 for post-secondary education while contributing over 100,000 hours of service to the metro Denver community. 77 youth earned a GED. 183 youth transitioned into the workforce. 65 youth entered post-secondary education. The most important accomplishment of Mile High Youth Corps is how it transforms the attitudes and perceptions of urban youth. Corpsmember Elizabeth Baumann summed it up:

"Mile High Youth Corps helped me find my direction. Before, I was just drifting. They opened my eyes to the opportunities that are out there. Now, I know I want to keep working to help the community."

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