

MILE HIGH YOUTH CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

FROM OUR CEO

Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) celebrated 30 years of service to the community in 2022. That is an incredibly long history of providing impact to youth, community and the environment across 23 Colorado counties! This anniversary year also marks my arrival as MHYC's newest CEO, a role I am grateful for and excited to help lead MHYC into the next 30 years of impact.

During my first months in the CEO role, I hosted a listening tour with staff, board, members of the Founders Circle, alumni, partners and Corpsmembers. I understand that with any transition there can be fear of change and the unknown, and I wanted to make sure stakeholders had a chance to establish a relationship with me rooted in honest and candid feedback. I learned so much during these conversations:

- Mission achievability was viewed as a strength.
- Innovation was a consistent strength across all stakeholder groups.
- People felt very aligned with our mission in their personal values.

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FROM OUR CEO

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The conversations also left me with some lingering questions based on stakeholder feedback

- How do we make our programs more accessible to BIPOC individuals?
- How do we make sure all Corpsmembers feel like they belong?
- How do we elevate MHYC to ensure that young adults are able to access this experience?

By addressing our opportunities and challenges alike we will continue to advance the mission of MHYC.

MHYC is in the business of youth and workforce development, and we strive to provide our youth with a pathway that leads to the next step. I am looking forward to continuing to build on the work over the last 30 years alongside staff, board of directors, alumni and the community to keep the great work of MHYC moving forward.

I recognize that in order to advance this mission we will need the help of the entire MHYC community as well. I am here to listen, to learn and to understand so that we can innovate and advance the mission alongside each of you.

Only working together can we ensure that our youth are empowered to serve, steward and succeed.

In Partnership,

KIA ABDOOL
CEO







> “YOU KNOW YOU’LL LEARN THINGS THAT YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU’D BE DOING.”

MHYC HOSTS SPECIAL GUESTS

On August 1, Colorado Day, MHYC’s Land Conservation crew had the opportunity to host Governor Jared Polis and Lt. Governor Dianna Primavera at an El Paso County service site. The visit was an opportunity to highlight the impact of the Colorado Climate Corps, in which MHYC has a number of enrolled Corpsmembers. The Colorado Climate Corps is an AmeriCorps program through which young adults provide critical capacity and support to local governments to develop and execute climate action plans and projects, implement wildfire and flood mitigation projects and conduct water and energy efficiency projects.

The Colorado Day visit provided MHYC Corpsmember Philip P. with the chance to highlight the work of the Corps as a stepping stone toward a career in forestry or botany. “You know you’ll learn things that you never thought you’d be doing. You’ll grow in so many ways personally, professionally and interpersonally, and you’ll get to have a lot of fun doing unique things out here that no one else gets to do.”





PHILIP, LAND CONSERVATION

Phillip began his journey at MHYC-Southern Front Range as a Land Conservation Leader in 2021, leading both trail and saw crews. He returned in 2022 as a Senior Crew Leader, furthering his technical skills and seizing the opportunity to help train this year's cohort of crew leaders. Peers have noted that Phillip excels at inclusivity, empowerment and mentorship. He fundamentally understands MHYC's goals and is passionate about youth development.

Much of the program's success in 2022 can be attributed to Phillip's versatility and willingness to support every crew. He volunteered to join crews in the field when they were short-staffed, assisted in trail trainings, and was an evaluator for the S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws training. Over time, he built skills to manage conflict within and between crews while applying a growth mindset to each challenge. Phillip is invested in the work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and created thoughtful Land Acknowledgements with associated discussion questions for every unique project location. He continues to find ways to improve the functionality of the MHYC warehouse, improve trainings, and involve the greater Pikes Peak community in the Southern Front Range Land Conservation program.



MADDIE, ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION

"I HAVE NEVER WORKED SOMEWHERE THAT I WANTED TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY COLLEAGUES. AT MHYC, I HAVE HAD LOTS OF INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS WITH MY CO-WORKERS WHO COME FROM DIFFERENT PLACES AND HAVE HAD DIFFERENT LIFE EXPERIENCES. I HAVE BEEN MOST SURPRISED BY THE ATMOSPHERE AND CLOSENESS WITH MY CREW DURING MY TIME AT MHYC."

Maddie joined Mile High Youth Corps' Energy and Water Conservation program in May 2022. She recently moved to Denver after completing a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont. Before MHYC, Maddie had worked with middle school aged students around environmental education and knew she wanted to apply education to her next role. She saw the Climate Action Corpsmember role and knew this would align with her interests, so she applied for the position.

At the end of 2022, Maddie had received industry-recognized certifications in Roots of Success and Building Science Principles, both of which will help give her an edge in future hiring prospects. The MHYC Supportive Services team helped her develop a resume and ensured her food security as she settled into her new home in Denver. Maddie decided to return for another term of service in 2023, and as a returning Corpsmember she will use her experience and leadership to help train other Corpsmembers on the crew.

As a Climate Action Corpsmember, Maddie helped support energy and water-saving measures in income-qualifying homes across the Denver metro area. On average, households save $192 by taking simple measures in their homes, including the installation of sink and shower aerators, ultra-high-efficiency toilets, and LED lightbulbs. Maddie was able to apply her experience as an educator towards clients in their homes. "Some households were encouraged to adopt simple conservation measures when they understood the financial benefits to their annual utility bills."



"THE GRADUATION CLASS OF 2022 WE CELEBRATE TODAY IS TRULY AN EXTRAORDINARY GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SO MUCH TO BE PROUD OF AND FOR WHOM THE SKY IS TRULY THE LIMIT!"

XAVIER JENNINGS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF YOUTHBUILD

YOUTHBUILD

75%

OF PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED AND GRADUATED FROM THE PROGRAM

73%

OF GRADUATES EARNED BOTH THEIR GED AND AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION

67%

OF GRADUATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT OR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

MHYC — Environment Youth Community

YB YOUTHBUILD — BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES TOGETHER

30 YEARS OF IMPACT

Our impact in the last 30 years on Corpsmembers and our community is staggering. Mile High Youth Corps has created over 4,900 positions for young people, providing $4.9 million in AmeriCorps scholarships to those Corpsmembers. Our community has felt the results of 1.8 million hours of service over the last 30 years in tangible ways. MHYC Corpsmembers have built or maintained more than 420 miles of trail, helped build over 1,200 affordable housing units, and retrofitted over 45,000 low-income homes for energy and water savings totaling over 5 million gallons of water saved!

4,900
TOTAL CORPSMEMBERS SERVED

470+
MILES OF TRAIL CREATED

4,958
JOBS CREATED
*DUPLICATED #S (TERMS OF SERVICE/POSITIONS)

194
TOTAL GED/HSE EARNED

$4.9 MILLION
TOTAL EDUCATION AWARDS

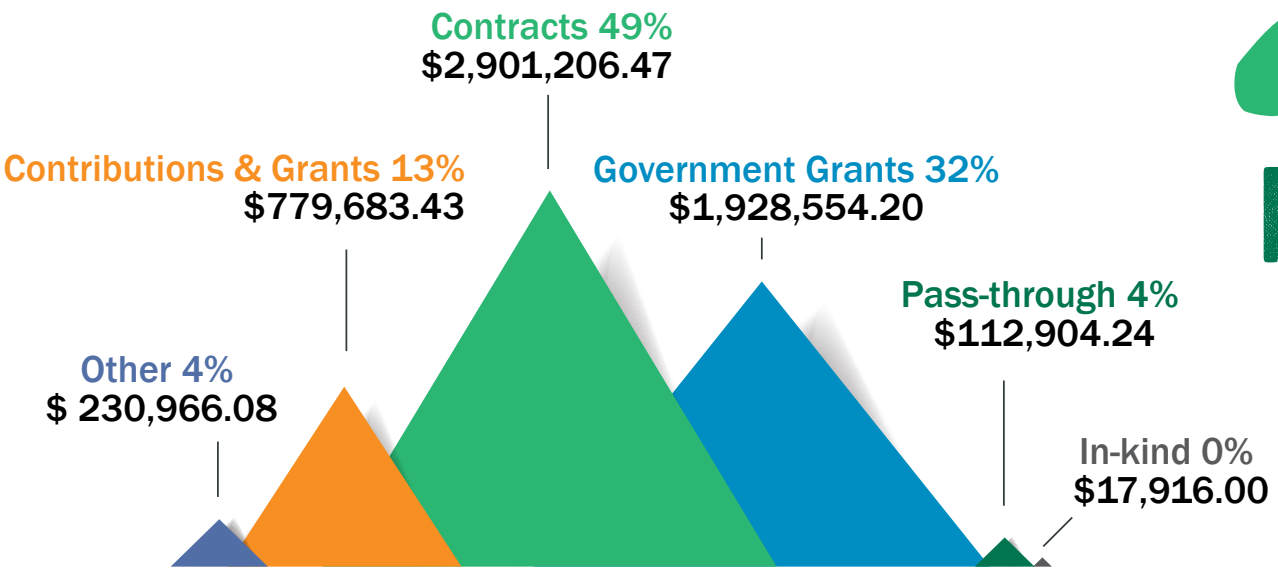
1,296
TOTAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS BUILT

1.8 MILLION
TOTAL SERVICE HOURS

45,000+
TOTAL HOMES RETROFITTED FOR ENERGY & WATER EFFICIENCY

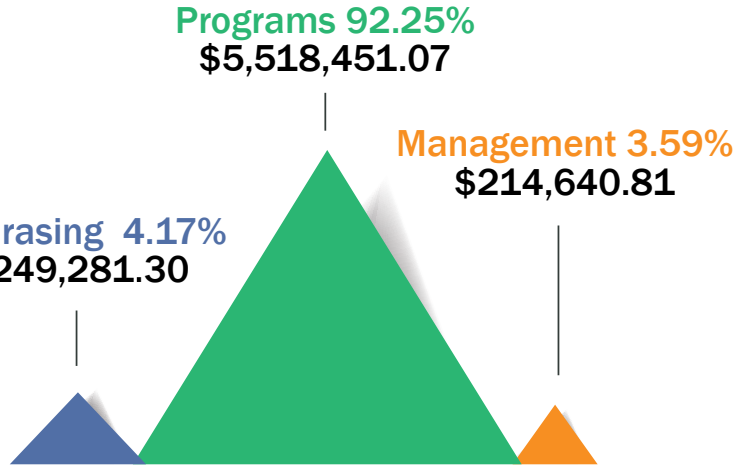
2022 FINANCIALS

*UNAUDITED FINANCIALS



TOTAL REVENUE

$5,971,230.42



TOTAL EXPENSES

$5,982,373.18

(before depreciation)



PARTNERS

A Precious Child
Ability Connection Colorado
Adams County Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Arts Department
AmeriCorps
Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
Association of General Contractors
Atrevida Brewery
Aurora Water
Battle Mountain Brewery
Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area
Bevara
Bluff Lake Nature Center
Bobcat of the Rockies
Boulder Ranger District (US Forest Service)
Bureau of Land Management: Royal Gorge Field Office
Café 180
Cañon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District
Castlewood Canyon State Park
Catamount Institute
Central Colorado Mountain Riders
Cheyenne Mountain State Park
CHIC
City and County of Denver Parks and Recreation
City of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
City of Colorado Springs Downtown Partnership
City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City of Lakewood
City of Manitou Springs
City of Trinidad
City of Westminster
City of Wheat Ridge Parks, Forestry and Open Space
Clear Creek Ranger District (US Forest Service)
Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning Center
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education
Colorado Attorney General's Office
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Finishing Trades Institute
Colorado Health Corps
Colorado Low Income Energy Assistance Program
Colorado Open Lands
Colorado Springs Health Foundation
Colorado State University
Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Colorado Workforce Development Council State Youth Council
Colorado Youth Corps Association
Colorado Youth for a Change
Community College of Denver
CORE Partners/WORKNOW
Council of Neighbors and Organizations
Craig Hospital
Craig's Power Equipment
Denver Economic Devlopment & Opportunity
Denver Health
Denver Housing Authority
Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, Resiliency
Denver Office of Nonprofit Engagement
Denver Parks and Recreation
Denver Pipefitters Local 208
Denver Santa Claus Shop
Denver Water
Denver Workforce Development Board & Youth Committee
Denver Workforce Integration Network
Denver Workforce Services
Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Diva Cup
Douglas County Conservation District
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Douglas County Open Space & Natural Resources
EarthLinks
Educational Opportunity Center at the Community College of Denver
Eldorado Canyon State Park
Emerson St. a Program of WellPower
Energy Outreach Colorado
Family Tree
Fiskars
FleetPool
Food Bank of the Rockies
Food to Power
Forge Evolution
Fountain Creek Watershed District
Friends of Ute Pass Trails
Front Range CPR
Generation Wild – Pikes Peak Region
Global Machinery



OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Goodwill of Denver
Great Outdoors Colorado
Grow Local
Guardians of Palmer Park
Habitat for Humanity
Hickman Trailer
High Line Canal Conservancy
Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation
HistoriCorps
Hugo State Wildlife Area
I-kota
Inside Out Youth Services
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 81
Janus Henderson
JeffCo Eats
Jefferson Conservation District
John Martin Reservoir State Park
Kenny Electric
KeyBank
Kinship Landing
Kirkpatrick Family Fund
KPMG Data Citizens with Purpose
Lake Pueblo State Park
Lakewood Probation
Las Animas County Fairgrounds
Lathrop State Park
Leave No Trace
MEDIC SOLO
Metric Brewing
Metro Caring
Mi Casa Resource Center
Mile High 360
Mount Evans Outdoor Lab
MTech Mechanical
Mueller State Park
Namaste Solar
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Forest Foundation
National Park Foundation
National Park Service: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
Native Governance Center
Nurse Family Partnership
Old Town Bike Shop
Open Door
Palace Construction
Palmer Land Conservancy
Pikes Peak BOCES – School to Work Alliance Program
Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance
Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Pikes Peak Ranger District (US Forest Service)
Pikes Peak United Way
Pikes Peak Workforce Center
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Precious Child
Preservation Tree Care
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Project FosterPower
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Purgatoire Watershed Partnership
Ramah State Wildlife Area
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RK Mechanical
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Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Roundup Riders of the Rockies
Salida Ranger District (U.S. Forest Service)
San Carlos Ranger District (US Forest Service)
Serve Colorado
Service Year Alliance
Shrewsberry Construction
South Platte Ranger District (US Forest Service)
Spirit of the Sun
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The Action Center
The Corps Network
The Davey Tree Expert Company
The Ember Alliance
The Opus Group
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The Urban Farm
The Village Institute
Tire World
Tony Grampsas Youth Services
Town of Green Mountain Falls
Trails and Open Space Coalition
Trinidad Lake State Park
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Unite Colorado
VF Foundation
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Walls Counseling
We Don’t Waste
Welsh Electric
Western Colorado Conservation Corps
Wildland Restorations Volunteers
Young Invincibles
YouthBuild USA



OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE

$50,000+

Anonymous
City of Lakewood
Colorado Attorney General/ UNitedHealthcare
Colorado Climate Corps
Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Colorado Workforce Development Council
Corporation for National and Community Service - AmeriCorps
Denver Economic Development & Opportunity
Denver Housing Authority
Denver Office of Climate, Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency
Great Outdoors Colorado
I-kota
National Forest Foundation
The Opus Foundation
Tony Grampsas Youth Services
US Department of Labor
YouthBuild USA

$49,999–$15,000

Climate Equity Fund of The Denver Foundation
Colorado Springs Health Foundation
Colorado Watershed Assembly
Kenneth King Foundation
Kirkpatrick Family Fund
GLP Capital Partners
National Park Foundation
The Denver Foundation
United Airlines
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Xcel Energy Foundation

$14,999 AND BELOW

Aloha Foundation
BNSF Foundation
Cross H Foundation
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Giving Generations Foundation Fund
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MILE HIGH YOUTH CORPS

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MILE HIGH YOUTH CORPS

ENVIRONMENT YOUTH COMMUNITY

MH YC