2023

IMPACT REPORT

CHARTING NEW PATHS

Purpose & Progress in 2023

MILE HIGH YOUTH CORPS

IMPACT IN FOCUS

Mile High Youth Corps is a nonprofit powered by a network of young adults ages 18-24 who are justice-focused, committed to creating sustainable communities, and pursuing a meaningful path to career success. As a leader in positive youth development, workforce development and community-based service, our Youth Corps completes conservation, construction and healthcare projects across 24 Colorado counties.

2023 saw 296 service positions filled by 258 Corpsmembers participating in career pathway programs focused on land conservation, energy and water conservation, construction, and health and wellness. MHYC was able to serve 32 more Corpsmembers than in 2022. Youth are increasingly looking for opportunities to participate in training that provides sustainable career pathways; in 2023, MHYC received 1,490 applications from prospective Corpsmembers for its 296 open positions.

All MHYC Corpsmembers earned a stipend, earned certifications, participated in hands-on work based learning, received supportive services, and received education in the following areas: career readiness training, healthy lifestyles, civic engagement, leadership development, social justice, and environmental education.

MISSION

HELP YOUTH MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH MEANINGFUL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

VISION

YOUTH ARE EMPOWERED TO SERVE, STEWARD, AND SUCCEED.

FROM OUR BOARD

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to say that it has been a year of purpose and progress for Mile High Youth Corps. From the foothills of Gilpin and Jefferson County to the Eastern Plains of Colorado, we charted new paths in the pursuit of creating meaningful change in our communities and the world today.

The pursuit of meaningful change has been the heart of our mission. Through the courage of our Corpsmembers, the dedication of our staff, and the invaluable support of our partners, MHYC was able to fulfill its purpose this year by completing 114,862 hours of service, earning over 430 professional certifications and positively impacting the environment and people of 24 Colorado counties.

Whether in the fields of land conservation, energy sustainability, construction, or health and wellness, each Corpsmember took bold steps to chart new career paths and embarked on a journey rooted in the belief that their work would contribute to a brighter, more sustainable future. It has been a year where our Corpsmembers have not just served their communities, but transformed them, bringing purpose to every action they took.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain deeply committed to supporting our Corpsmembers and expanding their pathways toward fulfilling careers. Together, we continue to chart new paths—paths of opportunity, sustainability, and meaningful impact.

We are honored to have you alongside us on this journey and grateful for your trust and support.

Sincerely,

Mike Smith
Chair, Mile High Youth Corps Board of Directors







AT A GLANCE

LAND CONSERVATION

A total of 176 youth participated in the Land Conservation program, with 72 out of the Southern Front Range (SFR) office, and 104 out of the Denver office. MHYC continues to prioritize youth and career development alongside the valuable conservation services that Land Corpsmembers deliver.

This year, Corpsmembers received additional Career Readiness Training throughout their terms of service. MHYC's Supportive Services Team worked with program staff to identify opportunities for youth to participate in trainings such as Networking and Speed Interviewing, Career Panels, Career Fairs, Resume Building, and more. Program staff have also worked to restructure the in-field programming and education model in order to build more variety and flexibility into the model.

MHYC's education program consists of six core areas: Social Justice, Leadership Development, Civic Engagement, Healthy Lifestyles, Career Readiness, and Environmental Stewardship. All Corpsmember training and educational activities focus on one, if not more, of these six core areas.

114,862
HOURS OF SERVICE

322
ACRES OF LAND IMPROVED

61
MILES OF TRAILS & RIVERS IMPROVED

18,822
TREES REMOVED FOR FIRE MITIGATION



AT A GLANCE

ENERGY & WATER CONSERVATION

MHYC has expanded the career pathway opportunities for Corpsmembers in the Energy & Water program through the provision of new supplemental training certifications available after completion of five core program certificates. The core certifications include CPR/ First Aid; Defensive Driving; OSHA-10 General Industry; Sustainability Excellence Associate; and Building Science Principles.

MHYC identified six areas of focus to categorize these trainings, which Corpsmembers are free to choose from: Green Building; Water; Renewable Energy; Sustainability/Compliance; Outdoor Conservation; and Outdoor Education. Beyond these offerings, staff continue to support Corpsmembers to research and identify additional trainings that will develop their resume and career prospects.

922

LOW-INCOME HOMES RETROFITTED TO INSTALL ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

12 MILLION+

GALLONS OF WATER SAVED

495,000

KWH ENERGY SAVED

$397,202

IN AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD FUNDS RECEIVED ACROSS PROGRAMS



"YOU KNOW YOU'LL LEARN THINGS THAT YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE DOING."

AT A GLANCE

YOUTHBUILD

MHYC was able to serve a total of 60 youth participants through the YouthBuild program via 3 cohorts in 2023. Of the youth served, 23 have successfully completed the program and 27 are still enrolled through 2024, resulting in an 83% retention rate. 14 Corpsmembers earned their High School Equivalency diploma, 21 received an industry recognized certification (Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training or Certified Nurse Aide), and 17 earned a combined total of $23,964 in AmeriCorps education awards.

821

LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY MEMBERS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH AUTO-IMMUNE DISEASES SERVED

430+

CERTIFICATIONS EARNED ACROSS PROGRAMS



CORPSMEMBER STORY

"In 2022, I started with MHYC as an LCL (Land Conservation Leader) and was very hesitant about the value I could bring to an already knowledgeable team. I had never done anything like this before but immediately found myself supported by the mentors and staff around me. I had never been at a job where I enjoyed showing up each day but I enjoyed it so much that I decided to come back as a Program Mentor. MHYC has allowed me to grow into a better leader and gain experience working on different projects. In my new role, I'm excited to improve the program and impact the Corpsmembers' experience in a positive way. Working with MHYC has made me realize that I was capable of more than I thought and showed me the importance of always having a growth mindset."

-JOSEPH OTERO, 2023 SFR LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM MENTOR

IMPACT TO YOUTH

86%

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR TERM OF SERVICE

81%

WERE PLACED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT

86%

EARNED AN AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD TO BE USED TOWARDS POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

96%

SAID THEY FELT A SENSE OF BELONGING AT MHYC

100%

SAID THAT MHYC HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR LIFE AND FUTURE

MOVING FORWARD

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

MHYC was able to exceed the organization's 2023 recruitment goal utilizing data analysis and reflection from previous years, resulting in more local youth being served across all program pathways. All board and staff have been intentionally trained on updated language and new messaging platforms, resulting in an increase in MHYC's social media presence. MHYC has also been able to deepen capacity of program staff by adding Program Managers for the YouthBuild and Energy & Water Conservation programs. This will facilitate intentional cross training and collaboration for all Corpsmembers, which will also benefit equity and completion goals across the organization. Finally, all MHYC staff were engaged in extensive DEI affinity groups from an external facilitator in 2023. These groups have allowed for more robust conversation and problem solving as staff continue to unpack how race impacts every single aspect of a Corpsmembers' journey at MHYC, and the organization's obligation to removing these barriers when possible.

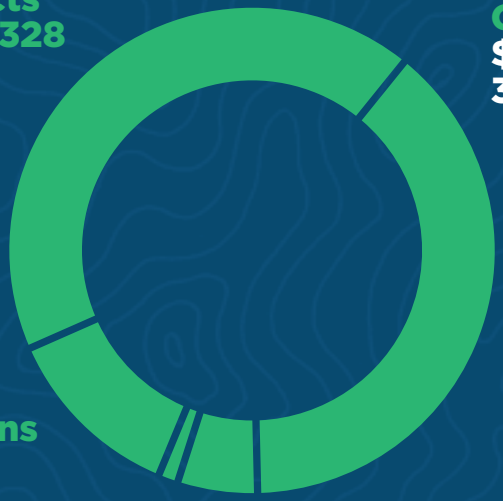
PARTNERSHIPS

This year MHYC hosted the U.S. Forest Service International Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) study tour. YCC representatives from Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon, along with Kristin Schmitt from the USFS National Partnerships Office in DC, were provided with a tour of MHYC headquarters, an overview of MHYC programs and operations, and a site visit with MHYC's Trailblazer crew at Standley Lake, a reservoir in Westminster, CO: "Everyone enjoyed learning about all of the programs, logistics, support and operations that your team puts into a successful corps program. We had a great time out on the project meeting Corpsmembers and seeing outstanding crew leadership in action." – Kristin Schmitt

> "THE CREW WAS SO WONDERFUL AND HARDWORKING. CONTINUED TO WORK HARD EVEN THROUGH TOUGH DAYS. THEY WERE SUCH A JOY TO WORK WITH AND GET TO KNOW!"
>
> CASSIE ROGERS, FIELD COORDINATOR AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

Revenue

$7,197,689



Contracts
$3,032,328
42%

Government Grants
$2,828,350
39%

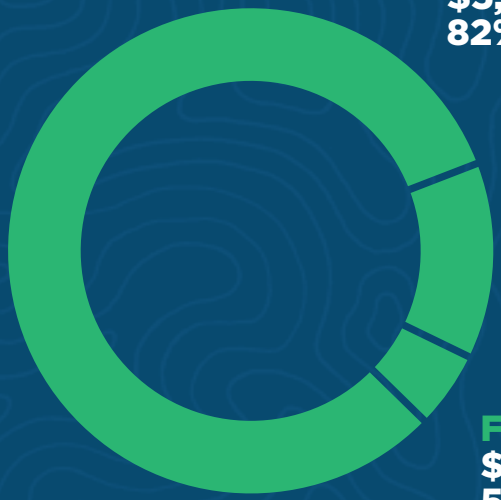
Contributions & Grants
$869,091
12%

Pass Thru
$366,182
5%

Other Income
$101,738
1%

Expenses

$7,048,376



Programs
$5,802,084
82%

Management
$890,382
13%

Fundraising
$355,910
5%



PARTNERS

A Precious Child
Ability Connection Colorado
Adams County Parks, Open Space, & Cultural Arts Department
AmeriCorps
Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
Aspen Valley High School
Association of General Contractors
Atrevida Brewery
Aurora Water
Barr Lake State Park
Battle Mountain Brewery
Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area
Bergen Peak State Wildlife Area
Bevara
Black Forest Community Center
Bluff Lake Nature Center
Bobcat of the Rockies
Boulder Ranger District (US Forest Service)
Boulder Watershed Collective
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver
BuCu West
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 Broomfield
City and County of Denver Parks & Recreation
City of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department
City of Boulder Climate Initiatives
City of Boulder Open Space & 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 Westminster Parks, Recreation, and Libraries
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 College
Colorado Department of Natural Resources
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Finishing Trades Institute
Colorado Firecamp
Colorado Health Corps
Colorado Low Income Energy Assistance Program
Colorado Open Lands
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Sheet Metal Workers Apprentice Program
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
Concrete Couch
Conservation Colorado
Conservatory Green High School
CORE Partners/WORKNOW
Council of Neighbors and Organizations
Craig Hospital
Craig's Power Equipment
Denver Dream Center
Denver East High School
Denver Economic Development & Opportunity
Denver Food Rescue
Denver Health
Denver Housing Authority
Denver Human Services' Youth Empowerment Program
Denver Joint Electrical Apprenticeship Training Committee
Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, Resiliency
Denver Office of Nonprofit Engagement
Denver Parks and Recreation
Denver Pipefitters Local 208
Denver Probation
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
Discovery High School
Diva Cup
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Douglas County Conservation District
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Douglas County Open Space & Natural Resources
EarthLinks
E-Creek
Educational Opportunity Center at the Community College of Denver
Eldorado Canyon State Park
Emerson St. a program of WellPower
Emily Griffith High School
Emily Griffith Technical College
Energy Outreach Colorado
Environmental Learning for Kids
Evergreen Fire/Rescue
Family Tree

PARTNERS

Fire Adapted Colorado
Fishers Peak State Park
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
Genese Foundation
Global Machinery
Golden Gate Canyon State Park
Goodwill of Denver
Great Outdoors Colorado
GRID Alternatives
Groundwork Denver
Grow Local
Guardians of Palmer Park
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Harrison High School
HD Supply
Heart and Hand Center for Youth and Their Families
Hickman Trailer
High Line Canal Conservancy
Historic Green Mountain Falls Foundation
HistoriCorps
Hugo State Wildlife Area
I-kota
Inside Out Youth Services
Institute for the Built Environment
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 81
James M. John State Wildlife Area
Janus Henderson
JeffCo Eats
Jefferson Conservation District
Jefferson County Open Space
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
Lifespan Local
Lucky to Ride
MEDIC SOLO WFA
Metric Brewing
Metro Caring
Mi Casa Resource Center
Mile High Youth Thrive YVP Coalition
Mile High 360
Montview: Middle and High School
Mount Evans Outdoor Lab
MSU Denver
MTech Mechanical
My Outdoor Colorado Coalition
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
Northeast Metro Coalition
Nurse Family Partnership
Old Town Bike Shop
Open Door
Owen Boys and Girls Club
Palace Construction
Palmer Land Conservancy
Patriot High School
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 State Wildlife Area
Pikes Peak United Way
Pikes Peak Workforce Center
Pike Ride
Polsinelli
Preservation Tree Care
Project Foster Power
Pueblo State Fish Hatchery
Purgatoire Watershed Partnership
Ramah State Wildlife Area
Realizing Aptitudes
Red Rocks Community College
REI
RK Mechanical
Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Roundup Riders of the Rockies
Roxborough State Park
Russell Square Park
Salida Ranger District (U.S. Forest Service)
San Carlos Ranger District (US Forest Service)
Sandcreek Regional Greenway Partnership
Serve Colorado
Service Year Alliance
Servicios de la Raza
Sheridan High School
Sheridan Inspire Coalition
Shiloh House
Shrewsberry Construction
Souls 4 Soles
Southern Colorado Trail Builders
South Platte Ranger District (US Forest Service)
South Suburban Parks and Recreation District
Southwest Denver Coalition
Spirit of the Sun
Spring Creek Youth Services
Sprout City Farms
St. Joseph Hospital
STRIVE Prep Charter Schools
Struggle of Love
Sun Valley Community Coalition
Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center
Sun Valley Youth Center
The Action Center
The Corps Network
The Davey Tree Expert Company
The Ember Alliance
The Opus Group
The Place Colorado Springs
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
TruNorth
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Unite Colorado
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University of Colorado Boulder
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University of Colorado Springs
University of Denver
Unite Us
VF Foundation
Villa Park Neighborhood Association
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Volunteers of America
Walls Counseling
We Don't Waste
Weifield Group Contracting
Welsh Electric
West Colfax Association of Neighbors
Western Colorado Conservation Corps
Westwood Unidos
Wildland Restorations Volunteers
Young Invincibles
YouthBuild USA
Youth Exploring Stewardship Coalition



OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE

$50,000+

AmeriCorps
Anonymous
Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Workforce Development Council
Denver Broncos
Denver Economic Development Office
Colorado Climate Corps
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Great Outdoors Colorado
Opus Foundation
Serve Colorado
Tony Grampsas Youth Services
US Department of Labor
YouthBuild USA

$49,999–$15,000

Anschutz Foundation
Colorado Springs Health Foundation
Denver Housing Authority
GLP Capital Partners
Keltner Family Foundation
Kirkpatrick Family Fund
Rose Community Foundation
United Airlines
Xcel Energy

$14,999 AND BELOW

American Trails
Colorado Energy Foundation
Cross H Foundation
The Denver Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
KeyBank Foundation
Kum N Go
McKinstry Charitable Foundation
MDU Resources Foundation
Pinnacol Assurance
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RK Foundation
Rollie R. Kelley Family Foundation
Schlessman Family Foundation
Suncor Energy



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