

The
secret
of getting ahead
is
getting started.

— Mark Twain



2015

Annual Report

Washington Youth Academy Foundation

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Letter of Introduction

November 15, 2016

To our partners, donors and potential supporters:

On behalf of the Washington Youth Academy Foundation Board of Directors, I am honored to present to you our 2015 Annual Report.

Our Foundation is dedicated to supporting the Washington Youth Academy student cadets and graduates who changed their lives. The Foundation helps them reach their potential.

The Academy annually conducts two residential classes accepting one-hundred and fifty student cadets per class who have either dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out and represent nearly every county in the state. Each student cadet enrolled has done so voluntarily and volunteers to stay in the program. It is not an easy road, but with dedication and perseverance the student can recover eight high school credits during the five and one-half month residential program. After returning to high school, the students participate in one year of mentoring to stay on the right track. Over eighty percent of those who complete the program graduate from high school and are either employed, enter higher education, have joined a service program like AmeriCorps or Peace Corps, or have joined the military.

There are few programs that have such success.

Our Foundation goals are simple – we exist to support the student cadets of the Academy while attending the residential portion of the Academy and provide funding for summer school, continuing education, or job training after completing the program.

The next few pages will describe more about both the Foundation and the Academy and why it is important for you to be a partner in meeting our funding goals. We can make a difference, one young person at a time.

Sincerely,

Joe Huden
Chairman
Washington Youth Academy Foundation



WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY FOUNDATION Annual Report – 2015



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Washington Youth Academy Foundation (WYAF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Washington in 2008, EIN 26-2771686. Our mission is simple and focused—to support the students, staff, and mission of the Washington Youth Academy. The all-volunteer Foundation Board of Directors, who serve without compensation, represents a diverse cross-section of military, public, and private sector experience united by their desire to make a difference in the lives of Washington's at-risk dropout population. Our 2015 Board of Directors includes the following distinguished members:

- Mr. Joe Huden, Chair* – President, Huden Consulting
- Ms. Arel Solie, Vice Chair* – Homeland Security Section Commander,
Washington State Patrol
- Mr. Curt Pintler, Secretary* – Retired Air Force Colonel
- Mr. Gordon Toney, Treasurer* – Retired Army Brigadier General
Former Director, Washington Youth Academy
- Mr. Jim Peterson, Chair Emeritus* – Retired CEO and CFO
- Mr. George Cargill – Operation Homefront, Director of Programs, Northwest
Region
- Ms. Rene Savage – Vice President for Technology Solutions, Stellar Industrial
Supply
- Ms. Gail Oxley – Retired Counselor, Washington Youth Academy
- Mr. Craig Weddle – Retired Air Force Command Chief Master Sergeant and
parent of an Academy graduate
- Ms. Tammy Neese – Financial Manager, Junior Achievement of Washington and
parent of an Academy graduate
- Mr. Steve Bevins – Managing Director, Puget Sound Operations, Barrett
Business Solutions, Inc.
- Mr. Morgan Barney – Vice President, J. P. Morgan Chase and Mentor of an
Academy Graduate

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Mr. J. J. Durant – Partner and co-founder of Durant and Ziobro, LLC
Ms. Elizabeth Milliken – Teacher St Edwards Parish and Retired US Army Officer
Mr. Larry Pierce, Ex-Officio – Director, Washington Youth Academy

*Serves as member of the Executive Board

THE WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY (WYA)

I.T. – WYA Graduate

"I didn't have any good examples in my life. I didn't have any guidance. I didn't know where to go. And I got that here. This place is a blessing."

Legal Authority - the Washington Youth

Academy is part of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program which has 40 programs in 28 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Federal authority for the Youth ChalleNGe program is found in USC Title 32, Chapter 5, Section 509 while state authority for the Washington Youth Academy is found in various sections of RCW 28A

and Section 392 of the Washington Administrative Codes.

Mission Statement – the mission of the Washington Youth Academy is to provide a highly disciplined, safe, and professional learning environment that empowers at-risk youth to improve their educational levels and employment potential and become responsible and productive citizens of the State of Washington.

Overview – the WYA provides a highly structured state-run residential and post-residential program for 16 – 18 year old boys and girls who have dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out. The Academy conducts two classes each year (22 weeks long) and draws students from all over the state with King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, Thurston, and Spokane counties typically having the largest number of students in attendance. Demographically, in 2015 the largest ethnic groups represented in the two classes were Caucasian (32 percent), Hispanic (43 percent), African American (11 percent), Native American (3 percent), and multi-racial (6 percent). The certified teaching staff is provided by Bremerton School District and the curriculum has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; students who complete all academic requirements will earn eight high school credits. These eight credits allow Academy graduates to return to their home high school to complete their education and earn their diploma.

Academy Eight Core Components

- Academic Excellence
- Leadership/Followership
- Responsible Citizenship
- Service to Community
- Life-Coping Skills
- Physical Fitness
- Health and Hygiene
- Job Skills

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HOW THE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS THE WYA



Since the Foundation was chartered in 2008 our guiding principle has been to provide multiple forms of financial support to the students while attending the Academy, continuing their education after graduating, or preparing to enter the job market. We also provide support to enhance or expand Academy programs. Examples of available support include:

- Scholarships for continuing education (including college, vocational school, trade school, and specialized training)
- Scholarships to attend Washington Business Week courses
- Funding for summer school classes
- Job training (including special clothing requirements)
- Academy program support; i.e. robotics, scientific equipment, physical fitness, computer lab, vocational-technical
- Special clothing needs
- Service to community project support
- Team building events; i.e. fun runs, flag ceremonies, and community events

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship support remains the Number One priority of the WYA Foundation. There are three primary areas of focus in our scholarship program—summer school, continuing education, and Washington Business Week.

Summer school scholarships – because the WYA is a credit retrieval program, Academy graduates typically return to their home high school to complete their education and earn their diploma. Often these graduates must take one or two summer school courses to complete specific diploma requirements and our Foundation provides valuable financial aid to students in need. In 2015 the WYAF awarded \$4,195 in summer school scholarships to 12 WYA graduates.





Continuing education scholarships – during 2015, the WYA Foundation awarded a total of \$7,500 in continuing education scholarships to eight Academy graduates. These eight graduates, in pursuing their individual goals, will be attending community college, beauty school, vocational school, or a four year college/university. It is important to note that the Foundation's commitment to help these young men and women may continue for up to five years.

Y.A. – WYA Graduate and Scholarship Recipient

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the generous scholarship you have awarded me. I appreciate your recognition of my potential. This scholarship allows me to continue my education at Green River Community College pursuing my ultimate goal of a career in medicine. Being unable to pay for school can be stressful, but by having the Washington Youth Academy Foundation support, it makes it easier for students like me. Thank you again."

Washington Business Week – for several years the WYA Foundation has partnered with Washington Business Week to provide a special learning opportunity for Academy graduates; in 2015 we awarded \$250 scholarships to 20 graduates (total value was \$5,000). These scholarships enable students to spend seven days on the campus of Seattle University, Pacific Lutheran University, Gonzaga University, or Central Washington University and earn two college credits while taking survey classes in business, manufacturing, healthcare, energy, or agriculture.



The WYA Foundation's scholarship support in 2015 totaled \$16,695. While we're happy to provide that support, it represents a fraction of the total need and our pursuit of additional funding is on-going.

DIRECT PROGRAM SUPPORT



It is important to note that Foundation support for the Academy is not limited to scholarships. Starting with the first class in January 2009 we recognized there would be recurring and "one-time" needs that the Foundation could support— beyond the authority or availability of appropriated funds—that would be a significant contribution to the program and the cadets collectively and sometimes individually. In 2015 this support totaled \$9,433.



Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2015 Annual Report

- **Director Discretionary Fund** - every year the Foundation provides the WYA Director with up to \$1500 in discretionary funds (\$750 per class) to support those requirements that are in the best interests of the program but not authorized from federal or state appropriated funds. In 2015 the Director spent a total of \$748 on purchases including trophies, plaques, and framed certificates to recognize outstanding students, a special Dinner with the Director to honor academic leaders in each class, purchasing refreshments and meals for visiting dignitaries, purchasing clothing items for needy students, and other miscellaneous purchases in support of the Academy and the students. The Foundation also provided \$385 to purchase an airline ticket for a student to travel home on emergency leave.
- **Equipment and supplies purchased** - the Foundation purchased a 3D printer and supplies for the Academy at a cost of \$2,100 and 40 backpacks for the CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) program at a cost of \$4200.
- **Cell Phone Support** – the Foundation partnered with Sprint to provide 30 cell phones so students can call home during authorized free time each Sunday afternoon. Before the cell phone program was introduced, 150 students had to share three telephones. These calls are critical in maintaining student morale and parent support and the program has been a huge success. In 2015 the Foundation paid \$2000 in reduced rate usage fees and state/federal taxes.



SERVICE TO COMMUNITY



Students attending the Washington Youth Academy are required to complete 40 hours of service to the community. Students typically get into the spirit of the program and greatly exceed that minimum requirement. To support this program the Foundation purchased tools (tree pullers) at a cost of \$989 and 150 pairs of rubber over-boots at a cost of \$5,448 for a total contribution of \$6,437. Organizations that benefited from the Service to

Community program included the Retsil Veterans Home, Kitsap County Parks, Camp Parsons (Boy Scout camp), Bremerton Wellness Campus, Illahee Forest Preserve, Crista Camps (Miracle Ranch and Island Lake), Port Orchard Rotary Club, West Sound Improvement Club, Embassy Education Center, Kitsap Rescue Mission, West Sound Wildlife Refuge, Howe Farms, and Miller Woodlawn Cemetery. The hours donated totaled 15,101 with a computed dollar value of \$415,889 to the receiving organizations.

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The value is computed from the Independent Sector formula for community service in the State of Washington.

C.H. – Parent

“How many of us parents find ourselves in a very different place as we consider the future opportunities opening for our kids? I was in a bad place with my child last year, nearly hopeless in considering the future when I began desperately exploring solutions, and hit upon WYA. I wasn't confident he was up to it, but I was so wrong. I lack sufficient words of gratitude for all the heroes at the academy. Thank you for caring about my child and all the power and potential I always knew he had.”

FUND RAISING

The WYA Foundation Board of Directors, with the help of an active WYA Booster Club (numbering over 2,000 members), conducts several fund raising activities throughout the year. Fund raising activities include annual personal donations by Board members, applying for charitable foundation grants, marketing Academy logo-wear apparel, participating in Federal (CFC) and state Combined Fund Drive (CFD) charity campaigns, and soliciting individual donations from Academy supporters.

The Academy program has many unfunded requirements. The Foundation works tirelessly to help fund these requirements to enhance the learning environment and provide additional resources for student and graduate success. You can help. To find a catalog of specific funding projects visit our website at www.wyafoundation.org/donate.html then follow the link to the Giving Catalog.

During a recent visit to the Bremerton campus, General Frank Grass, Chief, National Guard Bureau, called the Washington Youth Academy “the best Youth ChalleNGe program in the nation.” That is singularly high praise considering the WYA is only six years old and there are 40 other Youth ChalleNGe programs in 28 states, some dating back to 1993. The WYA Foundation is also recognized as one of the best 501(c)(3) foundations supporting a ChalleNGe program; our scholarship program has become a model for other foundations supporting ChalleNGe programs.

FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Washington Youth Academy Foundation IRS 990 can be found on our website at www.wyafoundation.org/reports.

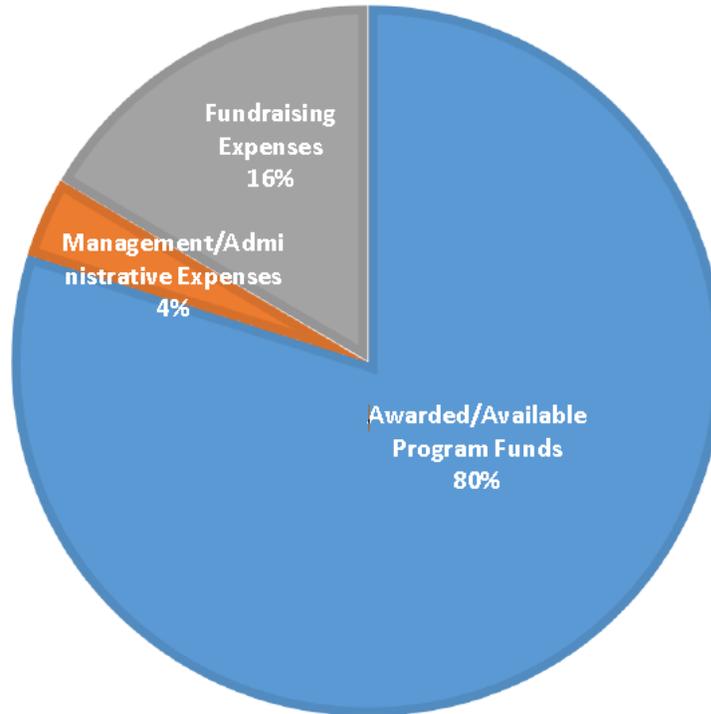
The Foundation is proud to be responsible stewards of the donations we receive. The following chart provides you a view of our financial stewardship.

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2015 WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY FOUNDATION FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



BUSINESS HOURS: The Chairman of the Washington Youth Academy Foundation is Mr. Joe Huden; Joe can be reached at the Foundation number (425) 223-2987 or home number (360) 331-4945, e-mail jhuden@whidbey.com. The Foundation e-mail address is chair@wyafoundation.org and the Foundation website is www.wyafoundation.org.



In Conclusion

The Board of Directors of the Washington Youth Academy Foundation is proud of our support to the young men and women attending the Washington Youth Academy (WYA). The testimonies in our annual report from student cadets and family members provide a glimpse of the achievements of the young men and women who grabbed a second chance to a better future.

Our Foundation goal is to ensure their achievements are supported and recognized as another step on the road to success. The Foundation supports the student cadets by providing educational tools and program support during the program and scholarships and job training after they earn their high school diploma.

The Foundation can only be successful with the financial support of those who see the value in helping a high school dropout replace dismay with confidence and hope. Our annual report has outlined our financial goals and the many areas we can help maintain a quality educational program for these outstanding young men and women.

Please find it in your heart to help today.

For more information, please contact us at chair@wyafoundation.org or contact our Chair or Vice Chair for additional information.

Chair, Mr. Joe Huden, jhuden@whidbey.com

Vice Chair, Ms. Arel Solie, olymom@comcast.net

D.F. – High School Counselor

“I wanted to write thank the Washington Youth Academy for all you do for students in the State of Washington. I have been a School Counselor, for over ten years, and an educator for twenty years. I have seen many programs come and go for students in my profession, but want to say I fully support the Washington Youth Academy because I have seen first-hand positive results for the most vulnerable students in our school. We recently had a student return to us from WYA and I have been working with him since he has re-entered our school as a senior. He is currently on-track to graduate with his class. I have seen tremendous growth in him as a young man. I believe the Washington Youth Academy made the difference in his life. I believe your program has fidelity and sustainability in our overall school system. Because of the impact the Washington Youth Academy has had, it has given me the inspiration to become a mentor for another of my students who is applying for your next cycle.”

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