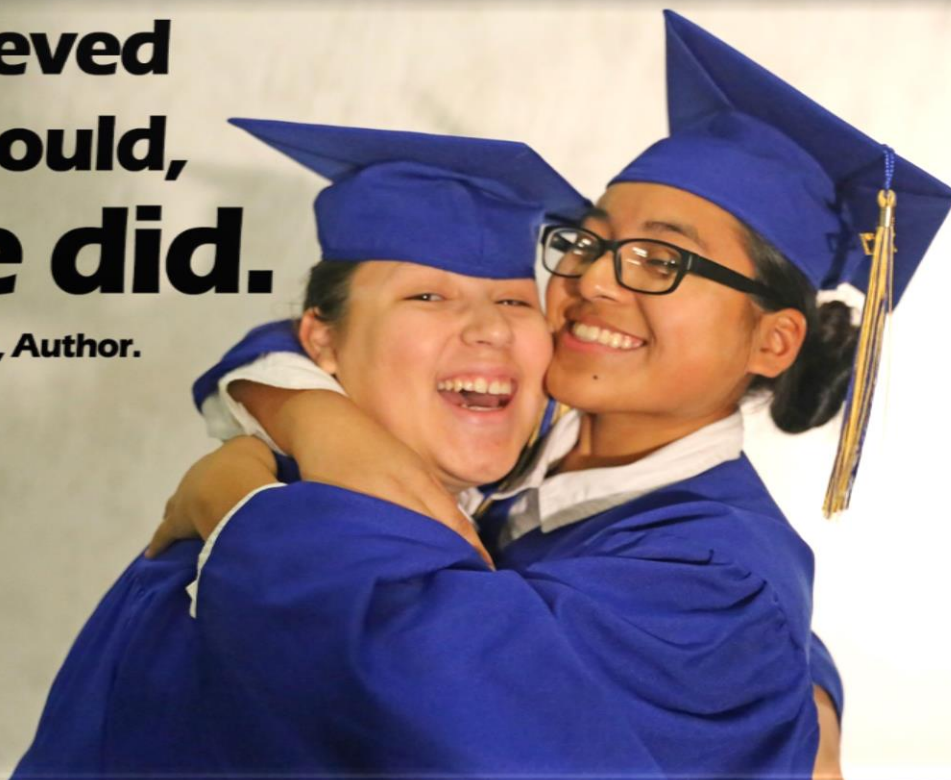


**She believed
she could,
so she did.**

— R.S. Grey, Author.



2017

Annual Report

Washington Youth Academy Foundation

1207 Carver Street W • Bremerton, Washington 98312

chair@wyafoundation.org • www.wyafoundation.org

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/WYAFoundation

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/WYAFoundation1





Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2017 Annual Report

Letter of Introduction

November 16, 2018

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 2017 Annual Report.

Our Foundation is dedicated to the student cadets and graduates who changed their lives at the Academy. The Foundation helps them reach their individual potential and goals through individual donors, grants and corporate sponsors. The Academy overview that follows shows the diverse population supported by the Foundation.

The Academy annually conducts two residential classes of students 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 keep 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 very few programs serving struggling students 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 collectively make a difference, one young person at a time.

Sincerely,

Joe Huden
Chairman

Washington Youth Academy Foundation



WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT – 2017



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 Board of Directors for the Foundation serves without compensation and represent 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. Board members volunteered over 5800 hours at a computed value of over \$178,000 (NOTE: the dollar value is computed from the Independent Sector formula for community service in the State of Washington). Our 2017 Board of Directors includes the following distinguished members:

Mr. Greg Allen – retired US Army colonel and Vice President of Operations for Work of Honor

Mr. Morgan Barney, Treasurer* – Vice President, J. P. Morgan Chase and Mentor of an Academy graduate

Mr. J. J. Durant – partner and co-founder of Durant & Ziobro, LLC

Mr. Joe Huden, Chair* – President, Huden Consulting

Mr. Michael McBreen – Accounting Manager/Retail Control with Wireless Advocates

Supporting the Cadets of the Washington Youth Academy

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Washington – EIN 26-2771686



Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2017 Annual Report

Ms. Tammy McNeese – Financial Manager, Junior Achievement of Washington and parent of an Academy graduate

Ms. Gail Oxley – retired Counselor, Washington Youth Academy

Mr. Jim Peterson, Chair Emeritus* – retired CEO and CFO

Mr. Larry Pierce, ex-officio member – Director, Washington Youth Academy

Mr. Curt Pintler, Secretary* – retired US Air Force colonel

Ms. Arel Solie, Vice Chair* – Homeland Security Section Commander, Washington State Patrol

Mr. Gordon Toney – retired US Army Brigadier General and former Director, Washington Youth Academy

* Executive Committee member

THE WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY (WYA)

K.R. – WYA Graduate

Thank you Cadre for teaching me more about character in 6 months than anybody else did in my previous 17 years before meeting you. A lot of men tried to tell me with words, but you are one of the few that showed me by your action. Your existence is appreciated.

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 section RCW 28A and Section 392 of the Washington Administrative Codes.

Mission Statement – the mission of the Washington Youth Academy (WYA) 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.

Supporting the Cadets of the Washington Youth Academy

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Washington – EIN 26-2771686



Overview – the WYA provides a highly structured state-run residential and post-residential program for 16 to 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, Clark, Yakima, Kitsap, Thurston, and Spokane counties typically having the largest number of students in attendance.

Demographically, in 2017 the largest ethnic groups represented in the two classes were Caucasian (40 percent), Hispanic (28 percent), Pacific Islander (11 percent), African American (8 percent), multi-ethnic (7 percent), Asian (3 percent), and Native American (1 percent). Over 60 percent of the

2017 student population came from low income families. 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 school to complete their education and earn their high school diploma.

Academy Eight Core Components

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

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 support include:

- Scholarships for continuing education (including college, community college, vocational school, trade school, and/or 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, library, and vocational-technical equipment and supplies

Supporting the Cadets of the Washington Youth Academy



Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2017 Annual Report

- 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 four primary areas of focus in our scholarship program—summer school, continuing education, Washington Business Week, and in certain circumstances driver's education training. During 2017 the Foundation awarded a total of **\$25,213** in scholarships and financial aid.



Summer school scholarships – because the WYA is a credit retrieval program, Academy graduates typically return to their home high school to complete any remaining academic requirements and earn their diploma. Often these graduates must take one or two summer school courses to complete specific diploma requirements and our Foundation paid the tuition for seven needy students. In 2017, these seven summer school scholarships to WYA graduates totaled **\$3,270**.

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. 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."

Continuing education scholarships – during 2017 the Foundation awarded a total of **\$16,353** in continuing education scholarships to 23 Academy graduates. These graduates, in pursuing their individual goals, are attending community colleges, four-year universities, and trade schools throughout the state. It's

important to note that the Foundation's commitment to help these young men and women is virtually open ended—there is no arbitrary age or time limit and if they need help, and meet the requirements for continuing assistance, they can apply for and receive assistance.

Washington Business Week – for several years the WYA Foundation has partnered with Washington Business Week (WBW) to provide a special learning opportunity for Academy graduates. In 2017 we awarded scholarships totaling **\$4,060** for seven Academy graduates to attend an intense seven-day business-oriented survey course at one of three

Supporting the Cadets of the Washington Youth Academy

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Washington – EIN 26-2771686



Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2017 Annual Report

Washington colleges—Seattle University, Gonzaga University, or Pacific Lutheran University. Students participating in the WBW program earn two college credits.

Drivers Education – Washington State law now requires all applicants for a driver's license to complete an approved driver's education course. There have been occasions when an Academy graduate needed to get their driver's license for work or school and had to enroll in an expensive commercial course to meet that requirement. After reviewing the extenuating circumstances, the Foundation approved three scholarships to fund driver's education training totaling **\$1,530**.

DIRECT PROGRAM SUPPORT

WYA Foundation support for the Washington Youth Academy is not limited to scholarships. The Academy staff is committed to ensuring the curriculum is current and relevant to today's current and emerging job markets and to that end they have introduced, with funding support from the Foundation, the following classes or training programs:

- Hydroponics – the science of growing plants without soil; **\$12,500** provided by the Foundation to purchase supplies and equipment
- Garden project – a fruit and vegetable garden that provides fresh produce to the Academy kitchen; **\$8,200** provided by the Foundation to purchase supplies and equipment, a storage shed, and fencing materials to enclose the garden area



- Robotics – the Foundation provided **\$3,000** to purchase ten Lego Robotics Flybrix kits (drones)
- CERT kits – WYA students have the option to receive emergency response training and the Foundation contributed **\$700** to supplement a \$7,500 grant from Puget Sound Energy to purchase 165 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) kits. Students who have completed the emergency training can take a kit with them when they graduate and register as a trained volunteer with their local city or county emergency response agency

H.S. – WYA Graduate

"The cycle is tough. Each day is a challenge, but you grow up and learn to be a young adult. ... It's worth it if anyone is struggling right now and needs help to come here. ... This is the best decision I have ever made, and I think it has saved my life."



Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2017 Annual Report

- Class yearbook – the Foundation contributed **\$1,500** to help underwrite printing costs of the two class yearbooks
- Cell phone support – the Foundation negotiated a contract with Sprint to provide 30 cell phones to equip a “phone bank” for students to call home during authorized free time. The Foundation paid **\$2650** in support of that contract during 2017

C.B. – WYA Graduate Parent

“I received a letter from my son. He told me on Sunday that it would be about his plans after WYA. I’m so proud that he is making goals and working towards having them be his reality. Before WYA, he was afraid of what his future might be and wasn’t very optimistic about anything really. I was scared for what path might have been put in front of him. Thank you so much to all the staff and the Cadre for showing him that he is worth it and helping him take those first steps towards being a good person and responsible adult. I’m proud of the young man he is becoming. I love this kid!”

- Director Discretionary Fund – each class the Foundation provides the WYA Director with authority to expend up to \$1,000 in support of those requirements that are in the best interests of the program but not authorized from federal or state appropriated funds; i.e. 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, etc. Proposed expenditures are coordinated and approved in advance by the Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors.

During 2017 the Academy Director spent **\$807** from his Discretionary Fund.

- Mock interviews – an important learning opportunity for each class is participation in mock job interviews (as part of the Job Skills core component). Board members, who individually and collectively have several years of senior management experience in the private and/or public sectors, conduct a mock job interview with each student. The interviews are conducted in a “real world” format with easy questions, tough questions, follow-up questions, etc. followed by an honest evaluation of the student’s appearance, demeanor, answers, and attitude. While these interviews do not involve financial support, they represent a very tangible and positive contribution by Board members to the success of the Academy in educating and preparing their students to enter the workforce.

Foundation contributions for direct support of the Academy program, staff, and students totaled **\$28,550** in 2017.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Supporting the Cadets of the Washington Youth Academy

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Washington – EIN 26-2771686



Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2017 Annual Report



The curriculum of the Washington Youth Academy is developed around eight core components that are designed to not only educate students academically but also expose them to critical life skills and civic responsibility and involvement. One of these components is service to the community and students are encouraged to complete a minimum of 40 hours of service during the 22-week class period. Agencies and organizations benefitting from the program (18 in total) include Habitat for Humanity (clearing home building sites), Seeds of Grace (built and maintained organic gardens for local food bank), Pierce Conservation District (tree planting to help restore salmon run in Murray Creek/American Lake), Bremerton Parks and Recreation (grounds maintenance

and landscaping in city parks), Minter Creek Hatchery (grounds maintenance and facility maintenance), and Bremerton School District (teacher aids in elementary classrooms). While there were no requests for funding support during 2017, in past years the WYA Foundation has purchased thousands of dollars for supplies and equipment in support of the Service to Community programs. This year the Academy students and staff accumulated over 18,500 volunteer hours with a computed value of over \$500,000. (NOTE: this value is computed from the Independent Sector formula for community service in the state of Washington).

FUND RAISING

The WYA Foundation Board of Directors, with the help of an active and involved Booster Group (numbering over 2,000 members), conducts several fund-raising events throughout the year. Fund raising activities during 2017 include annual personal contributions by Board members (\$5,482); marketing WYA logo-wear (\$41,000); participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and state Combined Fund Drive (CFD) charity campaigns (\$4,983); applying for charitable foundation grants (\$7,500 from PSE); and soliciting individual and corporate donations from Academy supporters and other donations (\$24,789). In 2017 these fund-raising efforts earned a total of \$83,754.

J.W. – Parent

“The rating for this program and the amazing staff is far beyond 5 stars!! What this program has done for our daughter is nothing short of a miracle and truly saved her life. I wish it was mandatory for ALL teenagers to go through this type of program. The Cadre and teachers truly care for our children as if they were their own child, there is no safer place for them to be. Thank you just doesn't seem like enough WYA.”

Supporting the Cadets of the Washington Youth Academy

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Washington – EIN 26-2771686



UNFUNDED REQUIREMENTS

As part of its authorizing charter the Washington Youth Academy undergoes an annual independent evaluation directed by the National Guard Bureau in Washington DC. In 2017, as in past years, this evaluation rated the WYA “the best Youth ChalleNGe program in the nation.” Despite its unparalleled success, limited federal and state appropriated funding leaves several unfunded requirements. Most of these requirements are beyond the ability of our Foundation to support and we are continually seeking corporate and charitable grants...a difficult and highly competitive endeavor. We refer you to our Giving Catalog at www.wyafoundation.org/donate for additional information.



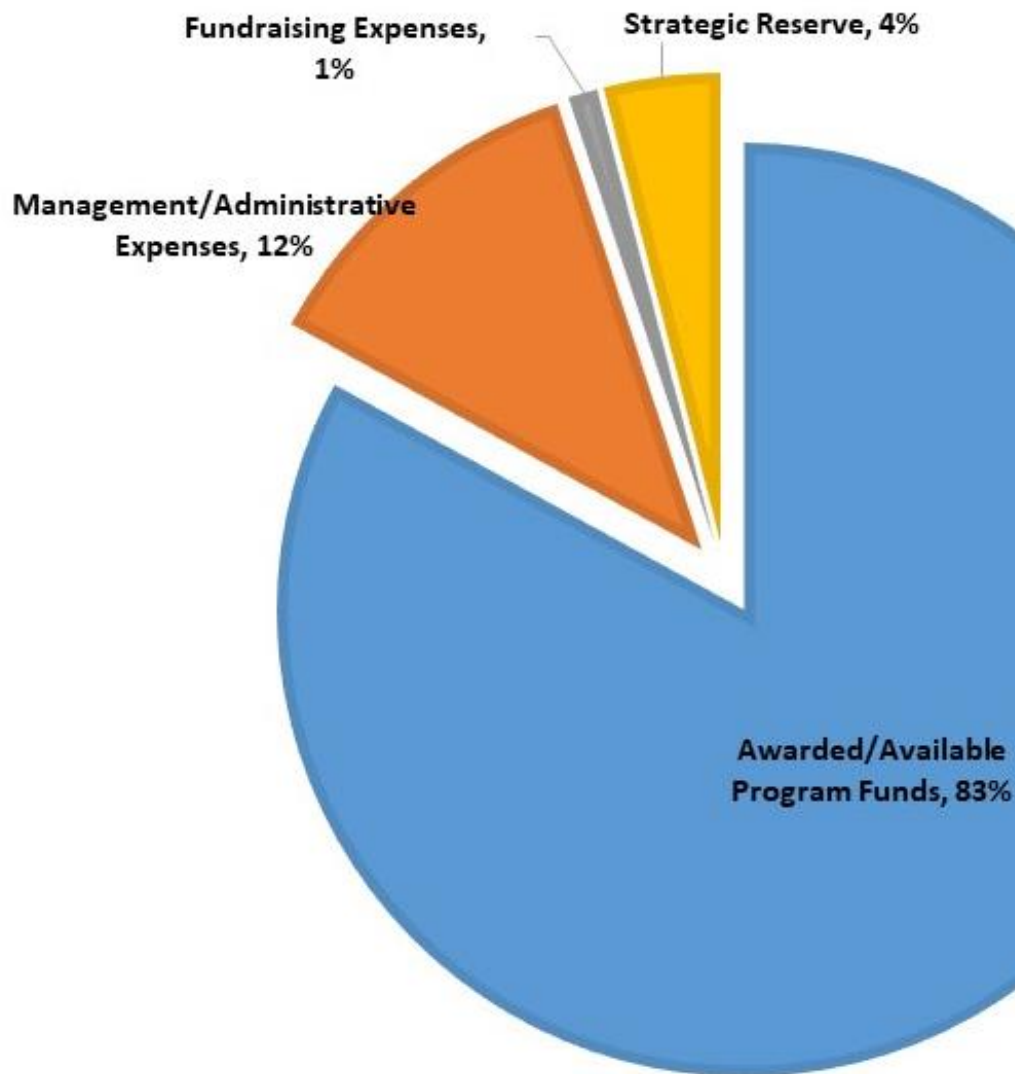
In the end, it is important to remember that we cannot become what we need to be, by remaining what we are.” -Max DePree



FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Washington Youth Academy Foundation IRS Form 990 can be found at our website www.wyafoundation.org/reports. We are proud to be responsible stewards of the donations we receive; other than D&O insurance, independent audit fees, and fundraising expenses 100 percent of our funds go to student and program support. As noted earlier, Board members serve in a volunteer status with no remuneration. The following chart provides a view of our financial stewardship:

2017 WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY FOUNDATION FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY





Washington Youth Academy Foundation
2017 Annual Report

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Chair of the WYA Foundation is Mr. Joe Huden. Joe can be reached via email at chair@wyafoundation.org or directly by phone at (Toll Free) 1-877-554-8885.

IN CONCLUSION

The dedicated volunteer members of the Washington Youth Academy Foundation work tirelessly in support of the Academy programs, students, and staff because we recognize it is a sound investment in the future—the future of these young men and women as responsible, productive citizens of our community, state, and nation. Our methodology is simple—we identify program, group, and individual needs in pursuing their collective and individual goals and provide financial support within our corporate charter, by-laws, and policy and procedural guidelines. We're proud of what we're able to do...but we always hope to do more. If you would like to help, we invite you to make a contribution at www.wyafoundation.org/donate. Thank you in advance for helping at-risk youth achieve their dreams.

K.K. – WYA Graduate

"Words can't explain how much the Washington youth academy means to me. I went in not knowing what was going to happen. But believe me it changed my life FOREVER! My outlook on life changed in the right direction the very first hour I was an official cadet. Straight from the get go! The staff their genuinely care for you otherwise they wouldn't be there. They can choose to do other things, but they don't. They'd rather mold the generations to come into strong young adults. That's exactly what happened to me and other past cadets I know. If you know anyone that needs a push in the right direction this is the place for them. Truly a life changing experience to say the least."



Supporting the Cadets of the Washington Youth Academy

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Washington – EIN 26-2771686