

**Youth
Empowerment
for
Advancement
Hangout
(YEAH Philly)**

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Reaching Philly Teens The Right Way

Mission & Vision

YEAH creates safe and authentic hangout spaces with culturally relevant programming and teen led interventions to address the root causes of violence. Utilizing teen led action, YEAH interrupts the cycle of youth community violence at the neighborhood level through peer led mediation and conflict resolution, community engagement, and economic opportunities.

YEAH envisions a Philadelphia where teens and young adults lead the way in successfully resolving violent conflicts with bold and culturally relevant practices.



Our Story

- ❓ We serve teens and young adults ages 15 to 24 in West & Southwest Philly
- ❓ Black led, youth led organization focused in these neighborhoods due to limited resources and high rates of youth violence.
- ❓ Created in 2018 to change the narrative around young Black people & serving them from their own perspective.
- ❓ Started off by talking with young people outside and surveying them about themselves and their neighborhoods.
- ❓ Teen groups were started at the local rec centers and libraries based on the surveys and door to door outreach.
- ❓ Our groups outgrew the rec centers and from there we built different components and formed an organization.

Our Beliefs

- ❓ That young people should have spaces they can go to where they can have fun, be themselves, and get the things they need.
- ❓ That regardless of circumstances, young people should be invested in properly and have access to support they need.
- ❓ Community investment is directly related to gun violence.
- ❓ That systems are oppressive, and our communities need to step up to support our young people in the ways they need and deserve.
- ❓ That evidence-based practices should be developed specifically for our people and our communities with a heavy focus on culture.

Kizzy's Story

- ❓ I grew up in North Philly
- ❓ I am 20 years old and graduated from CB Community School
- ❓ I like to sleep, make money, and do activities with YEAH.
- ❓ I went to CB Community School which is a school for DHS or juvenile court youth
- ❓ From there, I was referred to YEAH Philly in 2021
- ❓ My experience with YEAH so far
- ❓ Me dealing with gun violence (cousin)
- ❓ Challenges me and my peers face as young adults
- ❓ Things that adults and community leaders can do to support us





Things We Do At YEAH

- ❑ Groups and trips
- ❑ Give young people job & internship opportunities
- ❑ Cook together
- ❑ Squash beef (conflict resolution & peer mediation)
- ❑ Help with immediate and long-term needs (Vital docs, transportation, driver's licenses, household bills, groceries etc).
- ❑ Build confidence & self-esteem
- ❑ Help young people engage & invest in our communities (teen led food & resource bank)
- ❑ Advocate in the best interest of young people from their own perspective in court, home, school etc.
- ❑ Individualized case management & goal achievement.

Supporting Young People Impacted by Gun Violence

- ❑ Listen to young people & mentor them from their perspective
- ❑ Understand the culture & how things are different today
- ❑ Show them you love & care for them
- ❑ Be and stay consistent
- ❑ Stand up against people and systems that oppress them
- ❑ Peer support works
- ❑ Don't just talk; take action
- ❑ Hold organizations & agencies accountable
- ❑ Make sure they have spaces to express and be themselves
- ❑ Think critically and holistically about gun violence. It is a public health issue

Hit Us Up!

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