



The vision of the Youth Learning Center is to positively impact children from underserved communities by becoming the premier provider of life-changing educational opportunities in St. Louis.

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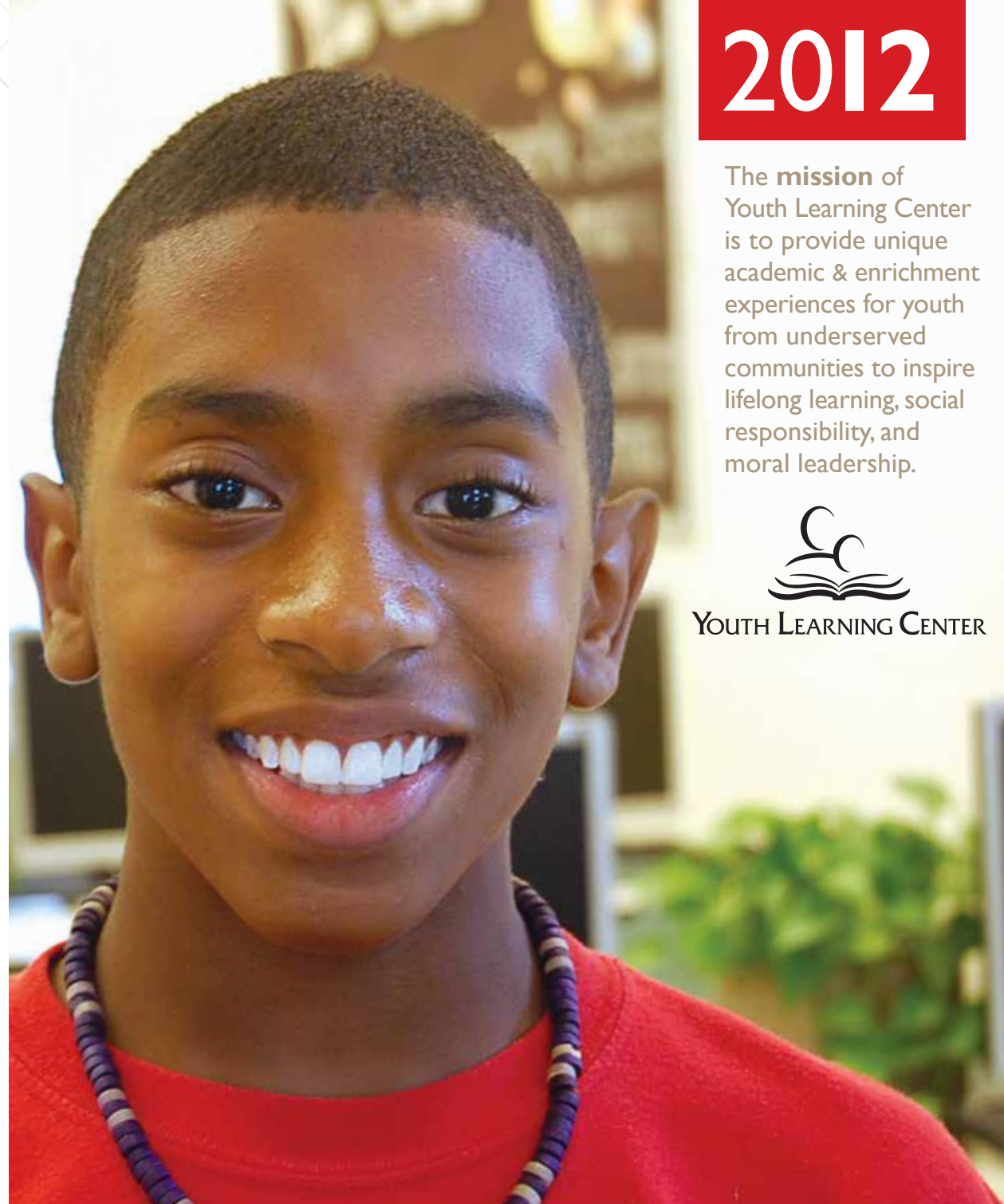
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The mission of Youth Learning Center is to provide unique academic & enrichment experiences for youth from underserved communities to inspire lifelong learning, social responsibility, and moral leadership.



YOUTH LEARNING CENTER



# ANNUAL REPORT

VISIT US TODAY  
[www.ylc-stl.org](http://www.ylc-stl.org)



## YLC Kids Get GREAT Opportunities!

Coming to YLC is a special treat for any kid. As an organization, we work hard not only to provide incredible academic enrichment experiences but also to make those experiences translate into real-world applications for our kids.

- In April, our YLC Community Service Learning Class helped package over **21,708** pounds of food. We worked with other volunteers to provide **17,721** meals at the St. Louis Area Foodbank. Our kids are learning to give back!
- Thirteen outgoing YLC 8th graders participated in a High School Prep Class led by Washington University students. The Wash U students taught on various topics to help prepare our kids for a successful high school experience. The children learned things like note-taking, resume-writing, presentation skills, and **test-taking acumen**. The kids and their teachers also discussed the social aspects of high school and the challenges of making the transition – a great time was had by all!
- Some of our YLC kids took a “Spring Break” trip to Lincoln College in Jefferson City to visit the Aquaponics Farm. Students toured the agriculture department to learn about aquaponics and **green farming**. They visited the dorms, classrooms, library, and even the cafeteria - talk about exciting experiences! They had a ball and learned about yet another option for their bright futures.
- In 2012, we hosted the first official YLC Art Show. Held at a real gallery, Concrete Ocean, 10 of our YLC kids had the opportunity to create their own unique works of art, display and speak about them, sell their art, and then keep all of the profits except for expenses... just like they would if they were real, working artists. Together, they **earned \$1,800!**

At YLC, we are committed to ensuring that our children have the chance to experience life through a larger lens. Your support helps us offer these life-affirming experiences and enlarges the children’s world view, making their education truly relevant. **Thank you!**

“The program has helped my children to interact with others and has helped improve their grades in school.”

– YLC Parent



Contact Youth Learning Center today to make a difference.

P: 314.531.9916

F: 1.866.737.4308

[www.ylc-stl.org](http://www.ylc-stl.org)

## Volunteer Highlight

### KIM CURIA

Employer: Monsanto

YLC Volunteer since: January 2010

**Q: Why did you start volunteering at YLC?**

**A:** I started volunteering at YLC because I felt I could offer help to kids who needed a better understanding of reading and communication arts since those were subjects in which I excelled.

**Q: Favorite thing about volunteering at YLC?**

**A:** First and foremost, it's helping the students improve in these very skills. I like seeing how thrilled they are when they actually see the percentage of improvement in their workbooks. As time goes on, the program keeps getting better and better. The students are offered state-of-the-art tools to enhance learning, which in turn can really make learning fun! Finally, the staff is awesome; all of them. YLC is a class act, and I feel very fortunate and proud to be associated with such a rewarding program.

**Q: Most memorable YLC moment?**

**A:** My most memorable volunteer moment was when one of my students improved tremendously and ended up being one of the top students in his class AND had his name on the media screen for some time. He was so proud!

### ROSS FRIEDMAN

Employer: East-West Gateway Council of Governments

YLC Volunteer since: September 2011

**Q: Why did you start volunteering at YLC?**

**A:** When I was going to school, I was disturbed by constant reports of falling math and sciences scores in the United States. I had made up my mind that when I became older, I was going to attempt to do something about it. YLC offered a platform to not only aid students within mathematics but also to draw on life experiences as a mentor.

**Q: Favorite thing about volunteering at YLC?**

**A:** YLC has dedicated staff operating within a unified vision to ensure that students are given the best possible opportunity to succeed. The structure is dynamic in that it allows flexibility to adjust on the fly to individual student needs and learning strengths. This includes a wide variety of technology, Internet, resources, and workshops for tutors.

**Q: Most memorable YLC moment?**

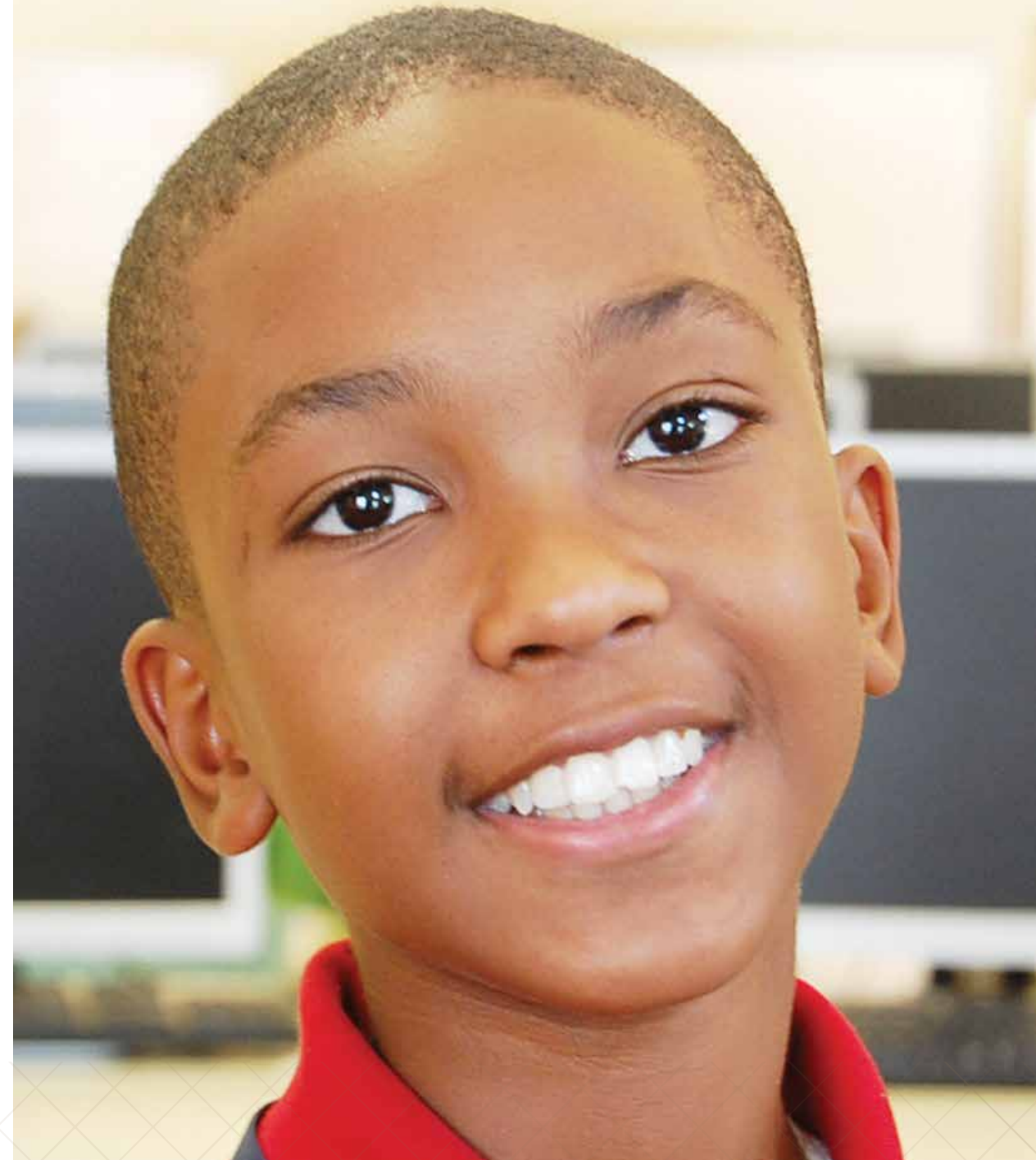
**A:** My favorite moments are when students grasp concepts they had been previously struggling with. The joy, triumph, and exhilaration that comes from overcoming obstacles makes tutoring exciting and is a reminder of the various opportunities that occur to place lasting deposits of knowledge and wisdom within the students.

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**“I like it when I am getting smarter and have courage to teach other kids.”**

*–YLC 4th grader*





## Mission 100

### Meet Mary Jo & Jim Brown!

You'll certainly never meet two nicer people than Mary Jo and Jim Brown. Long-time Kirkwood residents, Mary Jo and Jim were introduced to YLC by their friend and one of our founders, Judy DeLuca-Ford. After a tour and meeting the YLC kids, the couple decided to get more deeply involved.

As members of the YLC family, Jim and Mary Jo attended the inaugural Superman Gala Ball and Auction, where they first learned of the Mission 100 (MI00) Partnership program, a financial and relationship support program for YLC kids. That night, they joined the Mission 100 club and were soon matched with their partner child, Antwain.

Antwain is a YLC 4th-grade student. Soon he and the Browns met and began building a relationship. As a Board member AND the Chair of the MI00 Committee, Jim was already committed to helping kids – but meeting Antwain has increased his passion for YLC's mission.

Jim says, "It's been a really good experience. Being at YLC, seeing the program in action, and getting to know Antwain better have all helped me better understand just how committed YLC is to providing the kids with a full range of life experiences, many they might not have otherwise."

Jim is now tutoring and mentoring Antwain weekly. Although the initial meetings were a bit awkward, they've formed a friendship. Jim teaches Antwain a variety of "life skills," like how to shake hands, make eye contact, and ask good questions when meeting someone. It's not all work, either: Jim and Antwain take time out to play games, ask each other questions, and just have fun and further develop their friendship.

At YLC, we are so very grateful for Mary Jo's and Jim's leadership on the Mission 100 program and for all of our Mission 100 partners. Your gifts AND your time are really making a difference in the lives of kids like Antwain, and we are thankful.



"I would describe our Mission 100 experience as mutually rewarding - definitely for us, and hopefully, for our Mission 100 partner, Antwain. In addition to providing some financial support for Antwain to attend YLC, the opportunity to give a young person time and attention in the present and hope for the future has been a means to pay back and make a difference in someone's life. Trying to impart life skills, build confidence and self-worth; appropriately laugh, play and be serious; teach and emphasize the importance of education; experience multi-generational and ethnic differences - have been part of building a caring relationship that I hope will continue for a long time. That's our purpose and intent as Mission 100 partners." – Jim Brown, Mentor

### Programs Continue to Evolve

YLC is committed to growing its programs and staying on the cutting edge of technology to give our kids the best we can offer. In 2012, YLC introduced GameSalad as our new video game design tool. GameSalad is an icon-based software program that provides a more user-friendly interface and greater flexibility. With GameSalad, our students can create iPad, iPhone, Android, and web games that can be uploaded to the App Store with one simple touch!

This year, we also offered our exceptional Computer Animation and Intro to Computers Class at our first satellite site. We partnered with Jamaa Learning Center, a local charter school, to provide three classes to kindergarten, 3rd, and 6th grade students.

During our summer session, we worked with Antonio French, Alderman of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward, to support more kids from North City. We invited 60 kids from the 21<sup>st</sup> Ward to attend two weeks of our YLC summer programming, which included video game design and computer animation classes. In just two short weeks, we saw a significant increase in the kids' math scores and a jump in their interest in science education.

Each year, we at YLC strive to grow and improve our programs while continuing to build relationships with our kids to help in their overall youth development. It's a win-win for everyone!

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**79%**  
of students  
report that YLC  
helped them  
improve their  
school grades

**100%**  
of students  
report that YLC  
staff members  
expect them to  
try hard and do  
their best

**97%**  
of parents  
believe their  
children's  
futures will  
be positively  
impacted by  
YLC programs



## Deaconess Foundation Provides Organization-Changing Gift

October 8, 2012, will forever be known as a pivotal day in YLC history. Around 3:00PM, Executive Director, Bill Kent, Jr., got the call from the Foundation, letting us know that YLC had been chosen, out of 135 invited non-profits, as one of six "Impact Partners."

Launched in 2004, the Deaconess Impact Partnership is a capacity building effort to strengthen the operations and leadership of youth-serving nonprofits in the St. Louis region. Deaconess Impact Partners receive focused multi-year support and participate in a range of consulting, peer exchange, and training opportunities. This grant-making initiative is an intensive, four-year program designed to build the organizational capacity of youth-serving nonprofits in the St. Louis community.

To date, the first year's support has enabled YLC to add its first Chief Administrative Officer, Steve Cross, who manages all of the finances, HR, information technology, operations, and a host of other "duties as assigned." The gift will also support increased program development and marketing efforts, the exploration of a charter school concept, and a host of other capacity building opportunities.

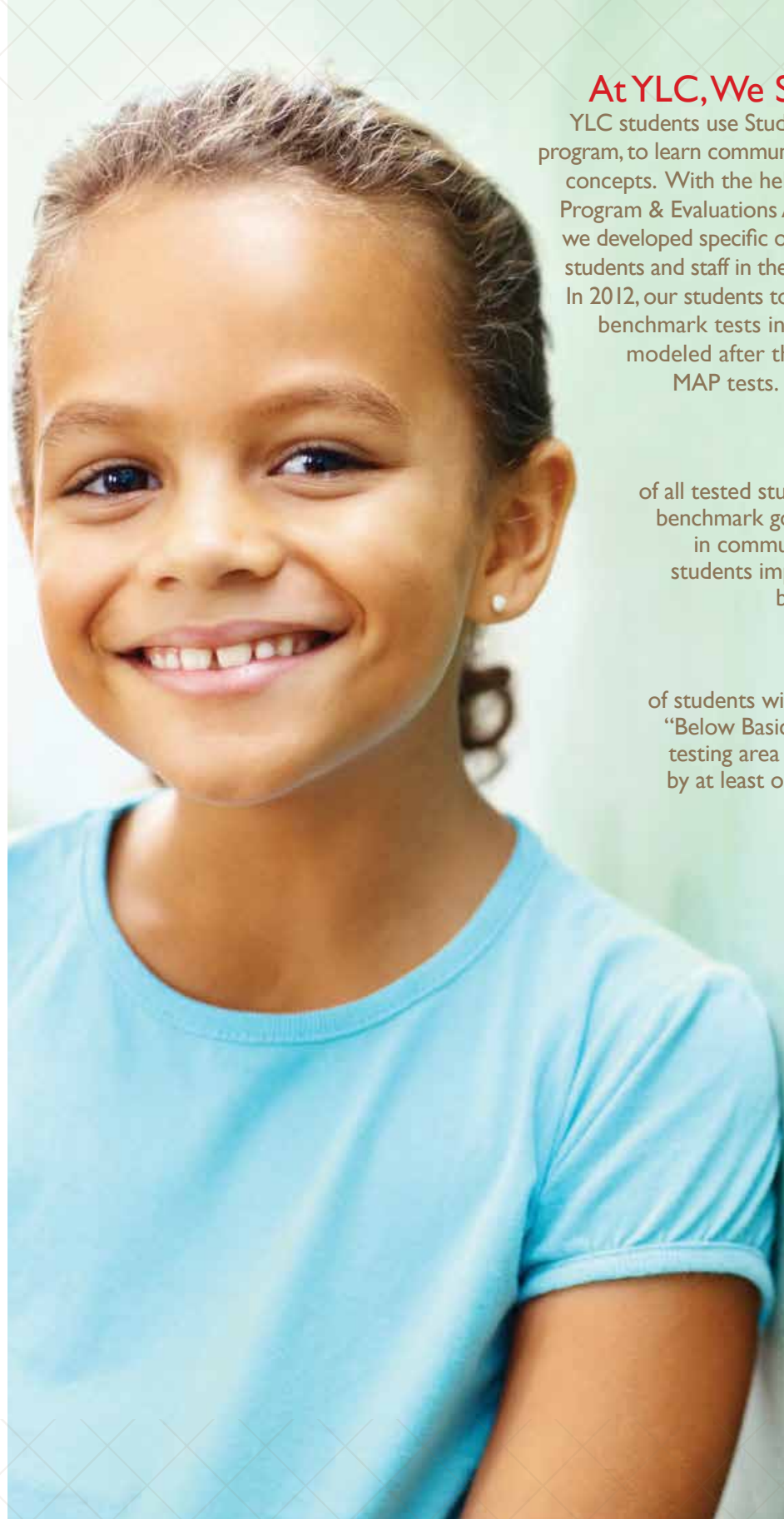
The YLC family is exceedingly grateful to have been chosen as an Impact Partner and to receive the generous and much-needed support of one of St. Louis' premier foundations. Thanks, Deaconess!

## Second-Annual Superman Gala Ball and Auction – A Rousing Success

It was a night of Superheroes, both literal and figurative. Nearly 200 friends and benefactors of YLC joined together on October 25th to celebrate our kids and our mission. Greeted at the door by Superman AND his friends, guests enjoyed an incredible evening of dining, dancing, and giving at the Palladium. A few of YLC's child ambassadors were on hand to showcase their work, displaying video games and computer animations they had designed – what a great way for them to share their talents and accomplishments! More than **\$100,000** was raised to support the YLC mission and the incredible kids we are privileged to serve.

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## At YLC, We See RESULTS!

YLC students use Study Island, a cool online program, to learn communication arts and math concepts. With the help of members of our Program & Evaluations Advisory Committee, we developed specific objectives to challenge students and staff in the afterschool program. In 2012, our students took three Study Island benchmark tests in reading and in math, modeled after the state standardized MAP tests. Here are the results!

**88%**

of all tested students increased their benchmark goals in either math or in communication arts (51% of students improved in both areas) by the end of the year.

**72%**

of students with a baseline grade of "Below Basic" or "Basic" in either testing area increased their grade by at least one performance level.

**72%**

of students reached their individual goals.

**11.5**

**Percentage Points**

average increase in Math scores, which is a statistically significant improvement

**5.3**

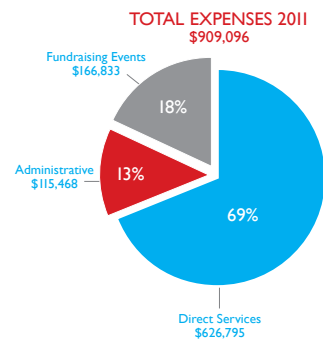
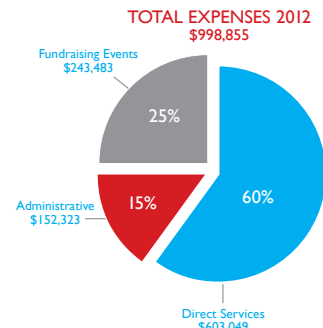
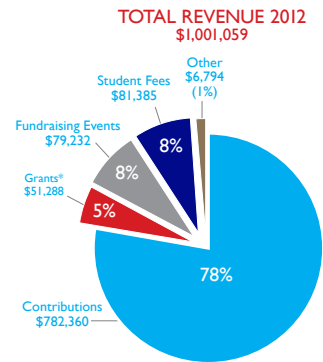
**Percentage Points**

average increase in reading scores

# SUPPORT

## Audited YLC Financials

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