



Dear BYEP Community,

As a parent of four, three of whom are teens, I know from personal experience that the last couple of years have presented unique challenges for teens and their families. Whether our youth are grappling with social anxieties, health concerns, economic instabilities, or any other combination of risks, the sudden change in norms and isolation created by the pandemic has amplified their impact on the vulnerable youth and families across the country and in the Gallatin Valley. Now, more than ever, our local teens are in need of Big Sky Youth Empowerment's support.

We are proud that the incredible staff and volunteer mentors at BYEP rose to the occasion, just as they have for the past 21 years. Together they delivered 37,808 hours to 164 participants throughout the winter, summer and fall seasons of 2021. Despite the challenges that the pandemic has presented, our team, mentors, and participants persevered, and in the summer of 2021 were able to return to 100% in person programming.

BYEP's work is only possible thanks to the generous support of our remarkable community, the backbone of our organization. We are grateful for our donors, volunteer mentors, gear sponsors, and business partners that allow us to execute our mission. Because of you, we are able to provide opportunities for vulnerable teenagers in Gallatin County to experience success with the goal of becoming contributing members of our community.

Looking ahead into 2022, we are propelled forward by gratitude for the support we receive from each and every one of you. Our new building, completed in the spring of 2020, is full of energy, transformation, and teens feeling empowered to face the challenges in their life. Teens who have learned that with a growth mindset, and with the support of their peers, they can overcome the obstacles that life throws at them.

Big Sky Youth Empowerment fills a need in the community and makes Bozeman a better place for all of us. We appreciate your trust and support as we steward this organization into the next chapter. Your belief in BYEP makes us excited for what's to come, and we are thrilled to continue our work with open doors!

Sincerely,

JOHN DICOLA
Board President

"When I think of BYEP, I think about all of the challenges that I faced, and how BYEP helped me get through that. There were points in my life where BYEP was the only place where I felt truly happy."

— Emily K., BYEP Participant



Get outside. Grow inside.

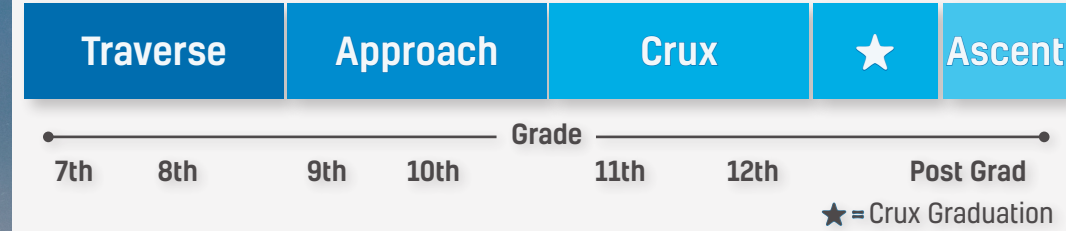
Big Sky Youth Empowerment provides opportunities for vulnerable teenagers in the Gallatin Valley to experience success and become contributing members of our community through group mentorship and experiential adventures.



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Follow us on instagram @bigskyyouthempowerment

Big Sky Youth Empowerment Annual Report 2021

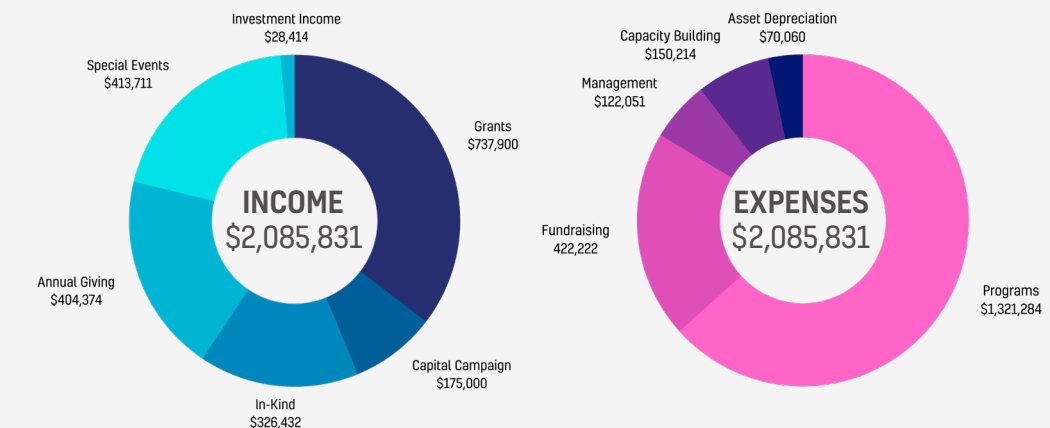
Program



37,808 Hours Offered
❄️ 14,208 ☀️ 10,640 🍁 12,960
to vulnerable youth in Gallatin County

**Adventures • Growth • Mentorship
Workshops • Friendships • Life Skills**

Financials



PROGRAM UPDATE

BYEP means many things to many people: a family, a community, a home, a place to belong. Our program is based on the concept that we are all connected in big and small ways. Individual connections weave the vibrant thread of our larger BYEP community that includes teens, families, volunteers, staff, donors, partners, and foundations. As we began 2021 with the now familiar feelings of uncertainty and isolation due to Covid-19, focusing on connection became our priority.

In the winter of 2021, we expanded our programming to include 7th graders, worked with Big Sky Resort to offer 5 days of skiing and snowboarding for each participant, and offered tutoring 3 days a week in addition to weekly social-emotional workshops. By the summer of 2021, we felt comfortable transitioning back to 100% in person programming. We weren't meant to interact with one another only via computer screen — it was time to reconnect with each other in person. Our participants hiked, biked, rafted, and zip-lined, and in doing so, discovered their own strengths and learned how to show up for one another. **As the fall 2021 program season came to a close, we witnessed what we have always believed to be true: our participants are resilient and courageous, even when faced with circumstances beyond their control. Through connecting with one another, BYEP participants develop the skills they need to overcome their challenges and experience success.**

The connection between participants and mentors is one of BYEP's greatest strengths. Our volunteer mentors range in age from 21-35 and come from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. Week after week, they show up with genuine curiosity, kindness, and compassion for the youth we serve. Through this commitment and support, our mentors create a safe place for BYEP participants to explore who they are and who they want to be.

As we look ahead, we continue to explore ways in which each small connection can contribute to impactful outcomes. We look forward to building out our elective programming, implementing an alumni tracking system, and developing a robust training program focused on personal and professional growth for mentors and program managers. We believe that cultivating relationships within our community will make our corner of the world a brighter place for the youth we serve. We can't wait to see new connections form, and existing ones deepen in 2022!

BRITTANY DEKOCH
Program Director



The BYEP Family

"You're providing the pillars to hold up a safe space for a bunch of kids who come from less fortunate situations than most of the population of the community we live in."

— Karston H., BYEP Mentor, Former BYEP Participant



Volunteers

80 mentors donated a total of 13,896 hours of their time

MENTORS AND TUTORS

Sydney Austad
Carson Berry
Nick Bidegaray
Nathaniel Bowen
Ethan Bowen
Erin Brophy
Sydney Brown
Ally Buhr
Alexander Burreece
Jacob Carvalho
Eleni Comstock
Beau Cook
Bailey Curtis
Isabelle Cybula
Ryan Decker
Hali Ehresmann
Derek Ellingsen
Daniel Flavin
Matthew Ford
Kaden Ford
Amelia Fountain

Charlotte Furman
Colin Gillespie
Gabriela Groth
McKinley Hall
Karston Harding
Cole Herdman
Alice Heriza
Emiliano Hernandez
Maisy Hoffman
Sophie Hojnacki
Emily Holmes
Adam Howard
Jacob Hubert
Sam Hull
Jordan Hunsaker
Dana Janes
Anthony Johnson
Eli Karsh-Lombardo
Colin Kennedy
Daniel Kern
Amanda Kimball

Stevie Knodel
Celia Krichman
Alexis Lamere
Amalia Laughlin
Ingrid Lindquist
Paige Lisowski
Emily Lyon
Henry MacEachern
Charles MacMillan
Rochelle Maderal
Alexis Martens
Sallie McCann
Rory Molacek
Joey Morrison
Jordan Mueller
Courtney Naumann
Ari Nejad
Ravenna Nelson
Jack Pemberton
Veronica Petrillo
Shayla Prince

Nico Rhea
Rozalyn Richmond
Julia Romero
Will Sanzone
Howie Seim
Sina Seyedian
Matt Sitter
Eloise Somerby
Lissy Southworth
Brody Steere
Tierney Strandberg
Shae Swenson
Rachel Tilton
Ethan Town
Delaynie Treat
Teresa Turco
Bryn Wilkerson
Samuel Wilson
Daniel Zavadil

Youth Participants

164 teenagers participated in BYEP's programs in 2021

In one word, BYEP is community. To me byep is family.

My favorite thing is how you never feel not included, it's like a second family. BYEP is 'community'!

one word I would describe ByeP's A Home.

In one word, BYEP is... Amazing! My favorite thing about BYEP is how kind and caring everyone is.



Our Donors, Sponsors, and Partner Organizations

BYEP exists within the context of our incredible community. We wouldn't be able to do this work without the generous support of hundreds of donors, partner organizations, foundations, and sponsors. Thank you for believing in BYEP's mission! Your commitment to empowering the youth in our community is what carries and inspires us, every single day.

To see all of our business partners and sponsors, visit www.byep.org/partners

Staff

ROBIN HILL Executive Director °
BRITTANY DEKOCH Program Director
ANNA GRAY Grants & Data Manager
CRYSTAL KRAMER Business Development & Events Manager
MARIE-LUISE KLOTZ Marketing & Communications Manager
MCKENZIE SELDEN Operations Manager
BENNETT KERN Program Manager
KRISTIN KAWASHIMA Program Manager °
MIRANDA SEIM Program Manager °
MORGAN DURBIN Program Manager °
MAREN YOUNGQUIST Program Manager
JAMES YOUNG Program Manager
GRANT CARROLL Program Manager
ETHAN TOWN Office Assistant

° Outgoing staff

Board of Directors

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