

# Staff Team

























"Over and over again, I am in the land people

Listening to their stories of challenge, resilience and determination."

It's been an incredibly busy and eventful year, where we have finally seen construction begin on 'The Y Centre'. The old, derelict St Andrew's and Stephen's Church in Perth is being brought back to life! I can hardly believe that by the end of 2023 we will have finally moved into this remarkable youth centre. Where young people have been involved at every stage, including planning, construction and interior design. So much time and effort has been spent driving forward the development and fundraising to reach our 5 million target, that I need to remind myself what this innovative, welcoming safe space will provide for young people for generations to come.

It's such a privilege to be part of the YMCA Global movement, meeting community needs in 120 countries and 12,000 communities, reaching over 60 million people a year. We at YMCA Tayside have joined the global YMCA Vision 2030, committing to 4 pillars in our work.

#### Meaningful Work/Community Wellbeing/Sustainable Planet/Just World

We will continue to update our website during 2023, highlighting how our work sits perfectly under these pillars, supporting young people's personal, social and educational development.

Over and over again, I am inspired by the young people we serve at YMCA Tayside. Listening to their stories of challenge, resilience and determination. Where our youth workers have been able to walk along side with encouragement and the offer of somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to. These three simple steps can be truly life changing!

I am extremely grateful for our YMCA Tayside staff team and volunteers who continually work so hard with fun and enthusiasm, looking at ways to be creative in their youth work approach to keep things fresh and relevant. I wish to thank all our funders and individual givers for your continued support. This year we have seen an increased need for our services and the funding we receive enables us to meet both immediate and long- term need, having an incredible impact on the lives of hundreds of young people.

I trust you find reading all about our work and the individual stories inspiring and encouraging.

Jill McGrath, CEO



Our Y Launch programme has been a real help to young people in the community over 2022. Aimed at 16-17 year olds. Y Launch is a 3-week course that helps young people embark on their own unique journey towards employability. During which young people have the space to learn about CV writing, interview techniques and identifying the skills and qualities they can each bring to any workplace.

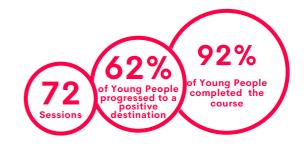
The course offers young people the chance to earn a National 4 qualification in Employment Skills, as well as a Dynamic Youth Award.

This is also a fantastic opportunity for those attending to meet other likeminded young people who happen to be in a similar situation who also want to enter into the world of work.

"The first day I was expecting to be really quiet but the people in the group

## definitely helped

bring the team work out of me"





Our 12 week Personal Development Programme was delivered throughout this year reaching our most in need young people aged 16-25.

This programme offered young people a variety of unique experiences from residentials, community projects, fundraising efforts, outdoor days as well as professional employment support from employers.

Young people gained qualifications in Team Work, Community Impact, Presentation Skills and even Money Management. These ranged from SQA level 4 awards to National 4 certificates.

Since completion of this course, young people have moved into positive destinations like our own construction and outdoor skills academies, employment in Perth and Kinross as well as further education.



proud of myself

I am the least likely person in my family to be doing this but here I am, doing it!



"It's a great place to hang out &



We are regularly seeing over 40+ young people on at our drop-ins. Outside of the numbers though it feels like there's a nice community developing with different groups mixing more than before and the atmosphere is really positive every session. One other aspect of the Universal work this year was our Summer programme. We ran a huge variety of sessions, from climbing and coding, to tabletop roleplay and cinema trips. Every week there was a great set of opportunities for young people to take part in and it all culminated in the second annual YGames, a joint event with our Universal partners that saw young people taking part in different competitions. Everyone had a great time and it was a real highlight for many.

With continued funding from The Gannochy Trust and Perth and Kinross Council our Universal work continues to support and provide positive spaces for young people all year round.



of our **Y's Girls Mentoring** programme which supports young girls aged 9 to 14 years old. The programme is evidence based and is aimed at young girls who display a range of risk factors including poor self-esteem, school exclusion, and lack of a positive role model or mental health issues. Funded by DCMS Tampon Tax Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation and the Penny Appeal.

Y's Girls Mentoring is a programme where mentors and mentees bond by taking part in a range of exciting 1 to 1 and group activities, as well as formulating meaningful goals which mentors helped their mentees achieve Over the year we have had some fantastic activities including baking, cinema and theatre trips, swimming, ice skating, group wellbeing days, group bush-craft and outdoor days, nature walks, horse grooming, created their own hoodies and tote bags, attended a team building activity day with the Royal Navy and more!

Y's Girls mentoring seeks to empower and guide young girls in the right direction with the help of positive influence in the form of a mentor.

## Buy a Brick















## Support the build

**Y Girls** 







Y Explore









#### State of the art youth centre for young people across Tayside.

Located on Atholl Street, the 130-year-old St Andrew's and St Stephen's building is being transformed into an advanced youth centre for young people across Tayside. We purchased the C-listed church in December 2000 with huge ambitions to transform it into an innovative space for young people containing a wide range of engaging facilities. Here, young people will have access and opportunities to learn where they can improve their confidence and skills, meet other young people and receive support from our dedicated youth workers.

You have 3 options when choosing a brick: Tile/metal/wood. Each option is used in different areas of the building. You personalised message engraved on the brick will secure your legacy as a supporter of YMCA Tayside forever.







Y-Explore is now in its seventh year as an outdoor provider. Our capacity as an AALA licensed provider and our experience in delivering immersive outdoor experiences has gone from strength to strength. Our staff have continued to deliver activity days and residential sessions. Our staff have also continued with their own personal development to ensure that we are delivering the best experiences to the young people we support. Y-Explore challenges and supports young people as they're encouraged to not only explore their environment but themselves. We look to challenge the young people to think differently and we can tailor the activities to suit the needs of the group.

As we move beyond Covid restrictions more and more delivery partners and agencies are looking at how best to support young people and at Y-Explore we have seen an increase in requests from these agencies to deliver and support the young people of Tayside.

Mental health issues are on the increase in young people and delivering experiences that develop the mind, body and spirit will be beneficial to all. Y-Explore will continue to expand and increase the benefits of outdoor activities on our young people.

"Doing activities that I wouldn't usually participate in and throwing myself outside my comfort zone, helped

build up my confidence

and overcome my fears of heights and water."



"I'm really excited to

### start this business

I've never done anything like this before."

2022 has been an exciting year for our project. With the breadth of work we now offer, it was apt for us to change our name from Y Media to Y Innovate! That better captures the creativity of our young people and the ethos of the project. We have achieved a great deal this year but we will let the achievements of our young people speak for us.

Ryan and Sarah took part in our summer programme sessions and helped to make a retro 'Street Fighter' style game with the two of them as playable characters!

This pilot activity was a great success and thanks to their involvement we have been able to offer the activity to Tulloch Primary for some pupils who had been referred to the YMCA due to issues with school engagement. Both groups made their own versions of the game with every pupil a playable character.

Charlie is one of the young people who attends our Tech Drop-In. This Drop-In regularly received 20 or so young people a week and gives them a chance to try the different technologies we have on offer at Y Innovate. Young people can try the VR headsets, Graphics tablets for art, 3D printer for modelling their own ideas. It was Charlie's first time trying Virtual Reality and he loved it. This is the story for many of the young people who attend. The facilities we have are unique and usually only available to young people if they go to college or university; Y Innovate removes that barrier!





#### **Aberuthven**

Aberuthven is a small village where we provide youth clubs for Primary 5 to 7 and S1+. We have established relationships with local primary schools in the area, and provides regular fun activities and community events. The Aberuthven Village Hall committee have worked hard this year and have obtained funding to purchase new equipment for the club.



#### **Perth Baptist Church**

The young people we had coming along were mostly not of any church background which led to some good conversations around the basics of Christianity happen and lots of questions now being asked.

In the Spring we ran a series of sessions using the NUA material which resulted in some great discussions around doubts and finding your own faith after growing up in church.



#### Congregational

The weekly junior youth club for p6-7s offers an existing range of things including a safe space for young people to meet, lots of fun games and arts and crafts. We also have things like bouncy castles and a tuck shop. Our team of youth workers and the consistency of the service each week enables us to continually support the young people that attend.





#### **Chalmers Ardler**

We have partnered with the Chalmers Ardler Church in Dundee to help develop youth work within their local community. This is being done by building relationships with local young people in Ardler and through connections with local schools and partner organisations. We run a weekly youth club full of great local young people. Early next year we are excited to launch our teen youth club.



#### Craigie & Moncreiffe

Things we have done this year are having themed nights like pjs and pizza nights, lots of bouncy castle nights and lots of yummy food. We have also built a committee and our team have worked more closely with them, they are working on developing their skills and working as a team.



#### Kinnoull

Phoenix Youth Club offers Primary 5 to 7 and S1+ weekly sessions with a range of exciting facilities and activities. These youth clubs provide young people with a safe space where they can have fun, receive a warm meal and meet other young people their age, whilst being supported by our highly trained youth workers.



**Employability** 

YMCA Tayside's latest skills academy allowed young people the opportunity to develop skills within the construction industry. Working in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council, Taylor and Fraser Construction and Hadden Construction, YMCA Tayside have worked with 10 young people giving them hands on experience at the new Y Centre development.

The young people experienced hands on work with a mix of trades from Joiners, Electricians, Plumbers and Bricklayers. They also took part in a number of workshops delivered by the tradesmen that are working on the Y centre.

Young people are working towards their CSCS card as well as gaining qualifications in Manual Handling, First Aid and Health & Safety.

**Youth Voice** 

Youth Voice are a group who work towards positive change for young people in their area. Currently the group has 8 members from different backgrounds, who all bring their own life experiences together to work on projects that they and their peers care about.

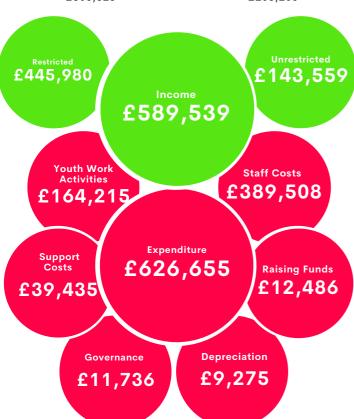
Their main event this year was a conference bringing together around 50 young people from across Perth and Kinross to discuss mental health, climate change, and discrimination. The event had various speakers including the CEO of Perth & Kinross Council, Thomas Glen.

This led to the group having key input into the Council's youth strategy. The conference was a huge undertaking for the group but ensured these young people had their voices heard as strongly as possible.



Total funds brought forward £305,323

Total funds carried forward £268,205























Northwood





















Foundation









Cranfield























This work would not be possible!





















