Portland YouthBuilders provides opportunities for young people who want to further their education and become leaders in the community. We are proud to offer two programs: Our YouthBuild program offers high school completion and vocational training in either construction or technology. Our Bridge construction program provides intensive pre-apprenticeship training to youth who have already completed high school and want to explore careers in the trades. All students are provided with long-term support to help them reduce personal barriers and find a pathway to a rewarding career.

We serve students on two distinct levels. One is obvious and easy to quantify: education leads to high school completion, vocational training leads to living wage careers, counseling leads to securing housing or healthcare, and so on. The second level of services is just as important, if not more so, and includes a safe haven during the day, a sense of purpose, a school that is working towards anti-racism and equity, a community of motivated peers and caring adults, newly discovered confidence, and long-term support.

In 2020, PYB celebrated our 25th anniversary. Since 1995, we have impacted thousands of young adults. Our construction students have built more than 100 affordable homes for community members, and our computer technology students have refurbished thousands of computers that have been donated back to the community and taught technology classes to hundreds of local seniors. Thank you for being part of our journey.
2020 HIGHLIGHTS

We outfitted every student with a computer and internet connectivity

Thanks to our donors, we met students’ urgent needs for direct assistance, food, medicine, rent assistance, etc.

Staff provided counseling support throughout the transition to remote programming

We overhauled our curriculum and admissions policies to help even more young people than before

We expanded our Bridge construction program to Washington County

PERSEVERING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

When the spread of the Coronavirus required PYB to close, we pivoted to an online learning model to keep students and staff safe while continuing to offer a robust educational experience.

We are proud that we were able to offer uninterrupted support to our students during this difficult time. Beginning in March 2020, students were provided with computers to take home and transitioned to virtual classes. In June, GED testing resumed at PYB with new safety protocols in place. Hands-on construction training was restructured to serve small, socially distanced groups and technology students began providing classes to community members online.

Challenges such as unstable housing, unemployment, and mental health issues were heightened for many students as a result of the pandemic. PYB’s supporters stepped up and raised more than $100,000 for our Pandemic Relief Fund, which helped students with food, internet access, rent, and other necessities. We also debuted PYB’s Big Search Party, an online fundraiser and virtual scavenger hunt that raised more than $125,000 for PYB’s students.

While the year was challenging for students in many ways, we are proud that nearly 100% of students remained engaged in the program during the transition to remote learning. New students enrolled monthly, and we had so much interest in our Bridge program that our cohort sizes more than doubled. In 2020, PYB served 287 students and alumni.

PYB’S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM

PYB serves a very diverse community of low-income youth.

Nearly 60% of our students are people of color, with our BIPOC community comprised of Latinx, African American, Native American, and Asian/Pacific Islander students. We know from experience that it is ineffective and irresponsible to serve our students of color without a deep awareness of the existing white dominant culture within our walls, and the ongoing desire and effort to counter our own institutional racism.

PYB prepares students of color and young women for a workforce that is overwhelmingly led by white males. Not only are we compelled to provide our students with the best possible training so that they can be exemplary employees, we are also compelled to speak up and fight against racial injustice in order to create a more equitable space for our students to launch their careers once they leave PYB. The fight against racism is core to our mission. We commit – as individuals and as an organization – to working toward dismantling systemic and institutional racism in our organization, in our personal interactions, in our decision-making, and beyond. Our students deserve nothing less.

Equity remains at the forefront of what we do, especially given the additional challenges that our students faced in 2020. PYB’s Educational Equity Initiative seeks to eliminate existing program achievement gaps among PYB’s low-income, racially diverse enrollment. The goal is to fully integrate equity into PYB program design, hiring, and leadership and decision-making structures. Recent achievements include a narrowing of the racial achievement gap at PYB, the hiring and retention of new staff of color, active and impactful affinity groups for students and staff of color, and a shift in PYB’s leadership structure that allows for greater decision making among frontline staff, creating a greater diversity of viewpoints and experiences.
Program Highlights

BRIDGE PROGRAM EXPANSION

PYB’s Bridge program, a nine-week construction pre-apprenticeship training program for high school graduates, expanded in 2020 to serve youth from Multnomah and Washington Counties. During the pandemic, students attend 8 weeks of online classes and one week of socially-distanced hands-on training. Our curriculum includes classes such as Stretch and Flex, Labor History, Introduction to the Trades, Construction Math and Measurement, and Framing and Foundations. Doubling the capacity of this program has allowed us to serve more students of color, providing a direct path to employment. Now that apprenticeships have begun to reopen, our Bridge program graduates have been taking exciting next steps in their careers, enrolling at the Northwest College of Construction, the Pacific Northwest Carpenters Union, the Ironworkers Union, the Electricians Union, and the Plumbers & Steamfitters Union and starting jobs at local companies. Special thanks to the City of Hillsboro, Washington County, and Worksystems as well as our generous funders for making this program expansion possible.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS PROVIDE VIRTUAL CLASSES

PYB’s computer technology students have provided more than 20 classes to the community this year, reaching more than 150 participants (primarily seniors). Classes shifted online during the pandemic and cover topics including internet safety and smart phone accessibility. We partnered with the Hollywood Senior Center, Northwest Housing Alternatives, and Multnomah County Library, and SE Works to provide this service. Prior to the pandemic, students also provided technology demonstrations at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Student Stories

“I’m not taking this for granted. Without PYB I wouldn’t be working right now. I wouldn’t have a career. I wouldn’t have goals. I wouldn’t even be drumming, which is what I do in my spare time, because I never had spare time before. I was always so stressed out about the future. Now I can think of having a home and a family. Life is just so much better.”

MATT, PYB ’17
Matt is currently a carpenter, musician, church leader, and music teacher.

DONOVAN, PYB ’04
“I’m really happy with my career. PYB gave me something to focus on and helped me figure out what I wanted to do in life. I needed a long term job and a career, but I didn’t know what that was supposed to look like or how to get there. I learned what it takes to get a good job, get a promotion. It was life-changing for me. I went to college and totally changed my trajectory.” Donovan is currently the executive producer of a national radio show.

ANGELICA, PYB ’17
“Anything is possible. PYB helped me change from a teenage mentality to taking myself seriously as a professional and an adult. I received the skills I needed, but they also helped me grow as a person. I learned to set goals and how to communicate openly with others. All these skills have opened professional and personal doors for me.” Angelica is currently a mason and a businesswoman.

NAT, PYB ’20
“My one-year work anniversary ended with me having gotten two raises, learning to weld, handle vinyl, and complete electrical signs glowing with LEDs and neon, some of the coolest stuff I have ever done and it’s a job I love. I just want to say again how incredibly grateful I am to the staff at PYB. I made it so far and like the rose sign you put downtown at the beginning of this pandemic, you have given me hope. I am hardworking, kind, and intelligent and you guys helped me recognize my strengths and what I have to offer this world. I am much happier with the life I’ve given myself.” After graduating from PYB’s Computer Technology program, Nat worked at Ramsay Signs for over a year and recently began a new job at Microchip Technology Inc.

HAILEY, PYB BRIDGE PROGRAM ’20
Hailey was a part of our pilot Bridge cohort in Washington County. She completed over 250 hours of worksite training while at PYB, earned her TIER 1 Certificate from the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, completed her OSHA 10 safety training, First Aid/CPR and Flagging certifications, and was a leader for her crew. Hailey always carried herself with the utmost professionalism and was great in supporting her peers on the worksite. Hailey is now an apprentice with the Northwest Carpenters Union. She reports that she spent a lot of her time helping build a new school, as well as affordable housing, which are two things she’s very passionate about in her life outside of work.

TEYONNA, PYB ’20
Teyonna graduated from PYB’s computer technology program after overcoming challenges with health, family, and financial issues. During her time at PYB, Teyonna became a leader among her peers, mentored local seniors as they learned to use their smartphones, and created five classroom lessons about finding creativity and connection in a remote learning environment. She is currently working in digital marketing using software to produce materials related to health and safety.

JACQUELINE, PYB ’20
Jacqueline is both an attentive parent and an exceptional student. She earned her GED after attending online classes while also tending to her child. Despite the difficulty of multitasking, she was able to focus on her assignments and submit high quality work. With her strong drive and motivation, Jackie may very well have been able to find success with in-person programming, but the realities of remote programming, and her exceptional tenacity, allowed her to excel in both her role as a student and a mother. Now she is completing her construction training and planning to start her career.
**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Make a tax-deductible contribution to PYB

Hire a student in an entry-level job

Volunteer goods, services, or time to our program

Donate new or used computer equipment

Host students for a tour of your worksite or business

---

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Jill Walters

**2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Steve Rudman, President, Community Volunteer

Maurice Rahming, Vice President, O’Neill Electric Inc.

Tom Simpson, Vice President, Community Volunteer

Molly Mink, Secretary, Gilbert Bros. Commercial Brokerage

Rob Prach, Treasurer; Network for Oregon Affordable Housing

Andy Hedberg, Walsh Construction

Bob Wendel, Connected Community Solutions

Gilbert Leon, Bridgeport Interiors

Julie Kopet, Portland Community College

Julie Piyprczak, Robert Half

Matt O’Donnell, Marquam Partners, LLC

Michael Burch, Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters

Sarah Einowski, Tonkon Torp LLP

---

**2020 ADVOCACY BOARD**

Amanda Showunkeen, Co-Chair, Nike

Brittany Varriano, Co-Chair, Nike

Chris Frager, Flywheel Leadership Collective

Jasper Koemen, Nike

Kelsey Skidmore, First Citizens Bank

Michael Cummings, Andersen Construction

Natalie Whitlock, Community Volunteer

Methaniel Roeta, Ekanaka

Paige Frederick, The Portland Clinic

Rianna Lowrance, FFA Architecture

Robyn Suslow, P&K Consulting Engineers

Sara Quitugua, Bremik Construction

Walker Cahall, Wadsworth Press

---

Portland Youth Builders is an equal opportunity employer and an equal opportunity program and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions, sex stereotyping, transgender status, and gender identity), national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, disability, political affiliation or belief, or any other classifications applicable by law. Auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. TTY 1-800-735-2900. To place a free relay call in Oregon dial 711.

This program is funded 25% through a Federal award of $1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Labor - ETA for the YouthBuild Program Initiative as well as financed with funds provided through Worksystems, Inc. from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act and the City of Portland.