Emerald Youth

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Emerald Youth FOUNDATION

A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

In 2018, we launched our strategic plan and asked you to Imagine A City. Imagine a Knoxville, where every child, in every neighborhood can have the full life Christ spoke of in John 10:10.

We believe such a Knoxville can exist, and we thank you for coming alongside us as financial partners and believing with us.

As we move through our strategic plan, we stay steadfast and focused on our two main goals. By 2027, Emerald Youth will:

- Expand the number of young people relationally and comprehensively engaged in faith, learning and health annually from 300 to 2,400.
- Annually graduate 200 promising, Godly, young adult leaders who are on track to complete or pursue postsecondary education or training, Christ-centered community leadership and gainful employment.

As you read through these pages, you will see how Emerald Youth is progressing toward these goals through our programs in faith, learning and health.

At the core of our ministry is our partnership with the urban church. Through our urban church youth ministry, we partnered with two additional churches in 2018, North Knoxville Baptist and Woodlawn Christian.

Thank you for choosing to partner with us in ministry and impact the more than 2,300 young people that were a part of Emerald Youth in 2018.

Gratefully,

Doug Kennedy
Chair, Board of Trustees

Steve Diggs
President & CEO

"...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
-John 10:10

A LONG-TERM FOUNDATION

Smart, focused and a competitor – that's how Arendia Mitchell describes her niece, Arianna, of whom she's had custody since Arianna was an infant.

Mitchell, a longtime Lonsdale resident, connected her niece with Emerald Youth Foundation when Arianna was in the first grade.

"I appreciate the adults at Emerald Youth who steer her the right way. They teach kids to stay on track and do the right thing," said Mitchell. "Arianna is not easily influenced by negative peer pressure, and I'm really grateful for how Emerald helps keep her grounded."

Kevin DuBose, director of Lonsdale Area Ministries for Emerald Youth, has known the family for over a decade.

"Arendia is such a committed mother to her niece. I've seen such growth in Arianna's life, and it is a real joy to be in relationship with their family," said DuBose.

A Fulton High School senior, Arianna participates in Emerald Youth's urban church ministry, JustLead, and has received academic help through the Calling & Career Ministry.

Arianna is quick to point out the impact of the adults in her life, including her aunt and those with Emerald Youth.

"I have met so many people throughout the years at Emerald Youth, and they have helped make me into a better person and grow closer to God," she said. "Mr. Kevin (DuBose), especially – he's been like a father figure to me."

Arianna also invests time at Fulton through Project GRAD and as a member of the school's cheerleading squad. She participates in Young Life, sings on the worship team at her church, New Friendship Missionary Baptist pastored by Rev. Dr. Joseph Smith, and is a recent graduate of Youth Leadership Knoxville.

In 2018, 7% more youth were comprehensively engaged with Emerald Youth through faith, learning and health.

Arianna and Arendia together in Lonsdale Park.

TRANSFORMING THE BODY AND SOUL

Emerald Youth Foundation continued to focus on outcomes in faith, learning and health in 2018, and two programs in particular gained a renewed emphasis: performance training and worship arts.

Performance Training

New staff members were added to lead performance training: Britton Leitch and Walter Swint.

"Performance training at Emerald Youth has the best interest of the athlete at heart," said Leitch. "Athletes learn fundamental movement skills and develop a foundation of fitness. From there, they learn exercise progressions that fit their age and skill level with advancement coming only after mastery."

Performance training not only helps youth develop life skills and improve health and fitness, it also reduces the rate of injury.

Britton Leitch, left, and Walter Swint, center.

"A typical performance training session includes a combination of mobility, resistance, speed, agility and conditioning exercises that are skill and age appropriate," said Swint.

Leitch and Swint pray that each child who participates will learn to be good stewards of the gift God has given them in their physical bodies and that they will glorify Him with their actions and athletic abilities.

In 2018, 80% of Emerald Youth participants maintained a healthy weight - a significant increase from 62% in 2017.

Worship Arts

The choir at Emerald Youth has been a staple for over two decades, yet opportunity exists to grow the worship ministry, and Kenny Moore was hired to lead worship arts.

Worship arts teaches youth how to worship God through the performing arts and to be another avenue for them to grow their faith.

"We desire to see youth grow from just participating in singing and dancing, to connecting and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ," said Moore.

Choirs, dance and piano lessons are current offerings in worship arts, as well as a new program called Life & Lyrics, which guides young writers through expressing their heart for God.

"One of our youth shared her struggle with self-worth. At a recent worship service, she began to get emotional during the song 'Reckless Love.' She said the Lord is the only one in her life who consistently and perfectly loves her. The young people are really learning that God loves them no matter what," said Moore.

BECOMING A SERVANT LEADER

It didn't take much more than one conversation for Marissa Patrick's mother to get her involved with Emerald Youth Foundation.

That brief exchange her mom had with Emerald Youth staff member Cory Carmichael happened in the school pick-up line at Belle Morris Elementary over a decade ago.

Today, Marissa is a sophomore at Middle Tennessee State University pursuing a career in elementary education. Her desire to teach is rooted in part due to her engagement with Emerald Youth: first as a child then teen, and now as a summer staff member.

"I have been a part of Emerald Youth as long as I can remember," she said. "It helped me become the woman I am and continues to be an amazing experience as a college student."

"When I was younger, it was great to have someone outside of my parents give me a different perspective on life. The staff and volunteers at Emerald were always there for me with a smiling face, hug and encouraging words, especially when I needed them most to walk with me through tough times…that's when they would really dig in and encourage my faith."

Marissa is particularly grateful for the guidance she received during high school and continues to receive during college through the Calling & Career Ministry.

"The workshops on time management and organizational and people skills were very helpful. I also appreciate my life coaches, Cathy and Ricky Bean, and the difference they're making in my life. They are amazing people," she said.

Marissa's experience has certainly come full circle: she is helping lead Emerald Youth's summer 2019 day camp as an AmeriCorps member.

At least 71% of the young adults who were involved with Emerald Youth's ministry regularly attended a church or campus ministry post high school.

Marissa Patrick, right, serves in JustLead.

EXPANDING MINISTRY IN NORTH & SOUTH KNOXVILLE

In early 2018, Emerald Youth Foundation launched a partnership with North Knoxville Baptist Church to serve area children.

Located on the outskirts of the Western Heights community, North Knoxville Baptist was founded in 1930.

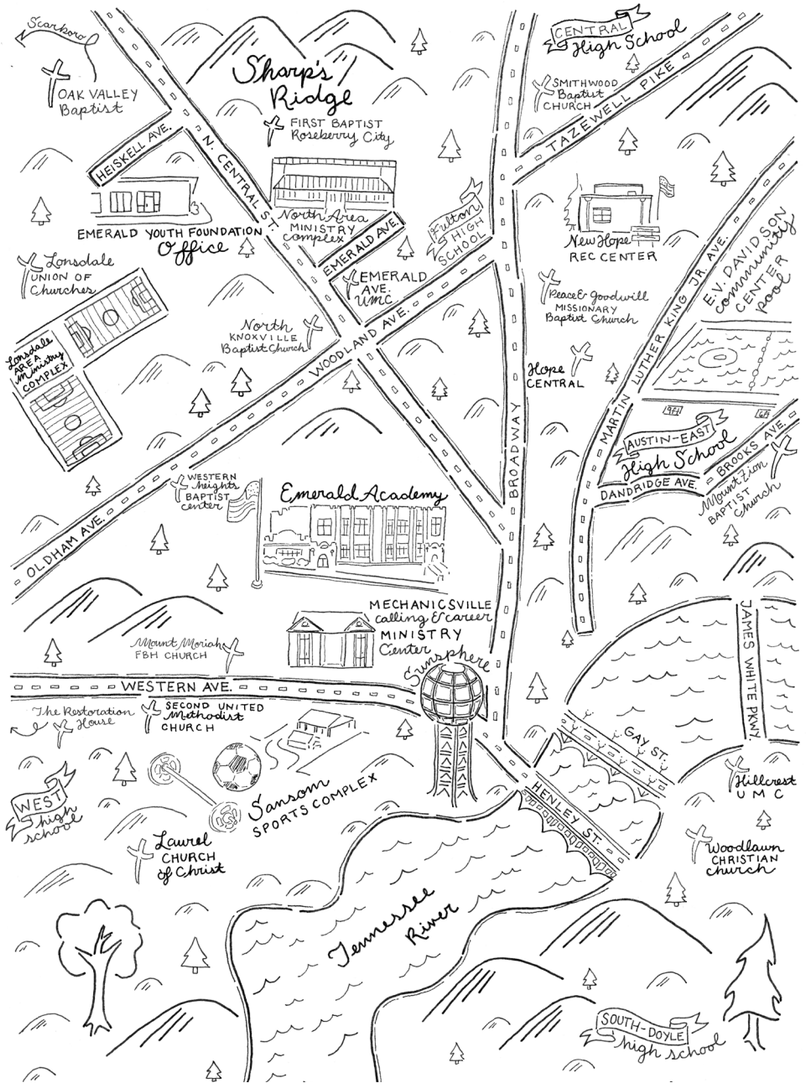
“Over time, we grew to be a neighborhood church with deep impact in our community. As students grew and moved out of our neighborhood, the focus naturally shifted outward to where these families now lived. Today, our focus is on becoming a 100-year-old ‘new’ church,” said North Knoxville Baptist Pastor Joe Emmert.

“Our partnership with Emerald Youth and its JustLead Ministry has become a critical component in helping North Knoxville Baptist once again rise up as an impact agent for Christ.”

Additionally, in 2018, Woodlawn Christian Church became an Emerald Youth church partner and began serving young people in south Knoxville.

High school students participate in Wednesday night Bible study at North Knoxville Baptist Church.

1,275 youth participated in faith programming with Emerald Youth in 2018.



Imagine a City

The Lonsdale Area Ministry Complex is expected to open in fall 2019.

MOMENTUM IN LONSDALE

The Lonsdale Area Ministry Complex groundbreaking was held on July 20, 2018 and attended by more than 200 guests from across the city.

This spring at the 2019 Emerald Youth prayer breakfast, plans were announced to create a Health Center to be housed inside the complex.

The Health Center will be operated independently by Cherokee Health Systems through a collaborative agreement between Cherokee Health Systems, The University of Tennessee Medical Center and Emerald Youth Foundation and will provide a continuum of patient-centered health care services with an emphasis on wellness and prevention, as well as treatment of acute and chronic conditions.

As construction continues, Emerald Youth staff serving in Lonsdale have already engaged with over 200 young people through the JustLead, Calling & Career and Emerald Youth Sports ministries at other neighborhood facilities and churches.

IMAGINE A CITY

In 2018, Emerald Youth Foundation launched IMAGINE A CITY, an initiative focused on raising Knoxville's next generation of promising, Godly leaders.

OUR GOALS

By 2027, Emerald Youth Foundation aims to accomplish TWO ESSENTIAL GOALS:

- **Increase Comprehensive Program Participation:** Expand the number of young people who are comprehensively engaged in faith, learning and health programs. We aim to increase the number of young people who are comprehensively involved in all three program areas from approximately 300 children each year to more than 2,400, or 20 percent of the urban youth population.

- **Develop Leaders:** Annually graduate 200 Godly, young adult leaders who are on track to complete two years of postsecondary education or training; show evidence of a lifestyle with exemplary behaviors regarding academics, spiritual maturity and health; and are confidently moving toward gainful employment and community leadership.

OUR VISION

Our driving vision is to make Knoxville a city where EVERY CHILD in EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD has the opportunity to lead a full life.

THE CHALLENGE

Only 20 percent are known to be engaged in organized sports.

Fewer than half of the youth do not have a mentor like a coach, tutor or youth worker.

Urban youth lag 50 percent behind academically to their suburban peers and the gap is widening.

Less than 15 percent of youth are known to be engaged in faith development.

WHO WE SERVED

2,376
TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED

GENDER

50% MALE

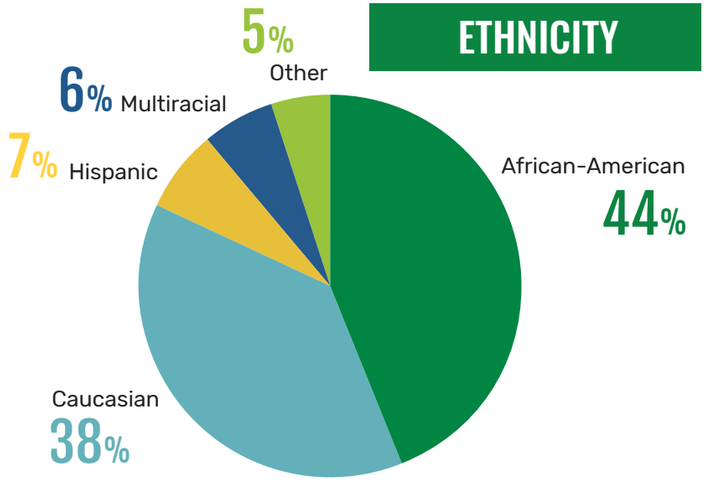
50% FEMALE

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

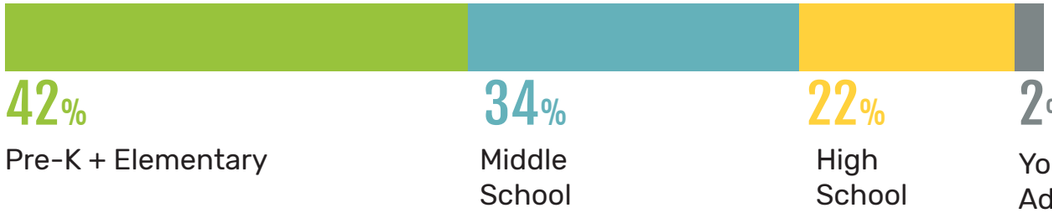
74% of youth served lived in urban neighborhoods

26% of youth served lived in suburban neighborhoods

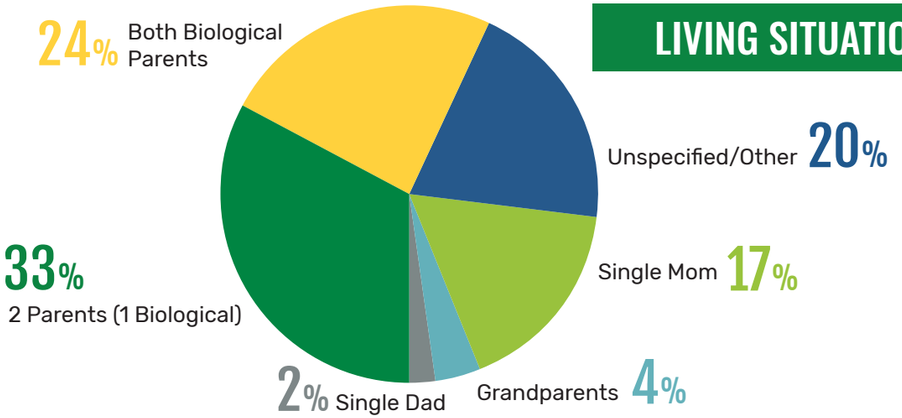
ETHNICITY



GRADE LEVEL



LIVING SITUATION



United Way of Greater Knoxville

"Our greatest need is Jesus Christ, and who better than the church to share the love of Jesus with their community, kids and families. Britton has become more outgoing and flourished through Emerald Youth and its partnership with the church. As parents, having a safe place for your child to go to is priceless, and the adults help foster a positive environment for spiritual and academic growth."

Phillip and Natalie Reyes
Britton's parents and longtime Emerald Youth supporters

Britton Reyes

Britton is in the 7th grade at Emerald Academy, attends JustLead and plays on the Emerald Force baseball team.

In 2018, 83% of JustLead afterschool participants saw an improvement in reading or math.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR ★★★★ Four Star Charity

FINANCIALS

	2016	2017	2018
Total Unrestricted Income	$4,345,557	$5,645,537	$6,915,860
Total Expenses	$3,920,736	$4,103,263	$6,560,721

A complete copy of Emerald Youth Foundation's annual audit by Mitchell Emert & Hill, P.C. is available online at www.emeraldyouth.org.

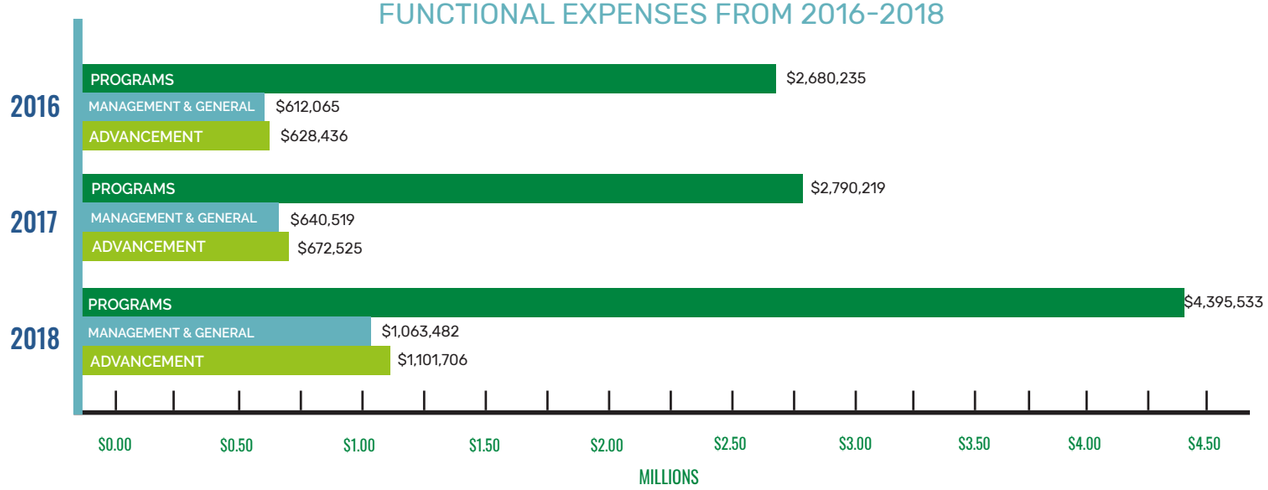
2018 INCOME

- 88% Contributions & Grants
- 8% Earned Income
- 4% In-Kind
- <1% Other

2018 EXPENSES

- Programs 67%
- Advancement 17%
- Management & General 16%

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FROM 2016-2018



BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT...

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Youth	1840	2097	2103	2214	2376
Comprehensively Engaged	276	271	293	324	346
Revenue	$3.3mm	$3.8mm	$4.3mm	$5.6mm	$6.9mm
Donors	1245	1277	1462	1475	1594
Full Time Employees	27	29	33	47	67

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Each year individuals, churches, businesses and other philanthropic organizations support the work of Emerald Youth Foundation. Below are individuals who had a gift made in their memory or honor.

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Shirley Miller Belcher
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