

# Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition



*2021 Annual Report*

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## ***From the President:***

When I was nominated to step into the role of President at the close of the 2020 calendar year, I accepted and was excited to grow the reach and impact of NWDYC. After serving on the Board since 2018 and working with a team that included the organization's founder, I still remember accepting a request to put together the Coalition's annual report in early 2019. What I learned as I combed through the prior years' reports, reviewed the photos and video content shared from our camp, Little Free Library, and soccer activities helped to broaden my understanding of the value that NWDYC programs provide to youth and families in and around Northwest Detroit. I recall being shocked at just how well our partnerships and leveraged support, alongside funding made possible through our grant partners, delivered so much programming to so many children. Later that year, when I had the opportunity to participate in my first strategic planning session with the Board, I walked away wanting to know more about how we could transfer the vision and ideas documented that evening into programming in 2020.

While program implementation looked a bit different in 2020, I was able to support the Coalition in finding new mechanisms to engage with the youth and families who filled our camp classrooms, listened to stories at our Little Free Libraries, and practiced drills on soccer fields the prior year. Adding online registration, text and email reminders, and refreshing the NWDYC website showed how our Coalition embraced virtual service delivery and facilitated youth enrichment and engagement remotely while it was unsafe to gather in person.

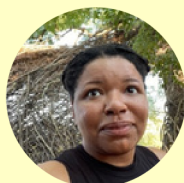
2021 marked the 25th anniversary for the Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition! We extended our Little Free Library season and kicked off programming with an Easter Egg hunt themed reading event in April. For the second year in a row, we operated a single summer camp updated to deliver programming through a hybrid model that engaged youth ages 4-16 in 2 days of academic enrichment virtually and a half day of in-person programming each Friday. Our Little Free Library Summer Safari reading series rotated programming throughout the 6 locations where boxes are maintained in Northwest Detroit. We welcomed 2 new board members. Mary Mathis has a wealth of experience writing and managing grants for non-profits in Northwest Detroit. Jeff Smale brings a passion for engaging the community directly and has helped to maintain and care for NWDYC Little Free Libraries each year.

We bid farewell to three Board members in 2021. James Ngare led the O'Hair Park Summer Program from 2016 to 2019, and filled each camp day with a variety of sports activities made accessible to Northwest Detroit youth at no cost. Between 2015 and 2021, Sister Rita Valade penned more than 20 grant applications which generated \$219,250 to support NWDYC programs. Helen Hart maintained meticulous records of all meetings, communications and programs for nine years as the Coalition's secretary. Although these members retired from their formal roles as directors, the work they completed prepared the coalition to continue forward. Each of them continues to keep the Coalition in the loop with additional opportunities that have been pursued to support our programming in 2022.

The NWDYC closed the 2021 calendar year with a plan to aggressively raise funds to support the return of soccer programming at O'Hair Park, grow the reach of Little Free Library programming, and expand the Summer Camp to offer unique and engaging academic, enrichment and recreation opportunities that will support NWDYC children to be ready to learn when they return to school in the fall of 2022.

I am committed to serve the Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition in the year ahead, and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes our programs help each youth to achieve.

*-Alexis M Alexander*





# Mission and Background

The mission of the Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition is to bring together community and resources to support and initiate programs and activities which enhance the positive growth and development of youth in Northwest Detroit.

NWDYC was established in 1996 and received its 501c3 non-profit, tax-exempt status in 1999. The Coalition came together to address the barriers that prevented youth from participating in organized sports and extracurricular programs. The lack of communication, transportation, trained leaders, financial support and collaboration were barriers that had to be addressed in order to provide needed youth programming.

The target area identified by the Coalition is the area bounded by Woodward Avenue on the east, Telegraph on the west, Eight Mile Rd. on the north and Fenkell on the south.

# NWDYC Goals

**Identify** existing programs for youth in the community

**Increase** communication about area programs and opportunities available to youth

**Increase** and facilitate the coordination of programs for youth when needed

**Support** and enhance existing programs in the community

**Increase** emphasis on a preventative approach to youth-related issues

**Develop** new programs and activities for youth

**Promote** planning and a shared community vision for youth development





# 2021 Programs

Since our inception, the Coalition has implemented many programs, utilizing quality improvement principles. Programs have been modified, improved and reevaluated in order to develop content based on community need and available resources.

In 2021, we offered two programs:

- *Little Free Library*
- *Hybrid Summer Camp*





# Little Free Library

NWDYC library boxes opened a little earlier in 2021, on April 1st to gauge 2021 participation as COVID-19 continued to impact daily operations.

The first event of the year was an Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th. Books and Easter baskets were given away, and the children were able to take pictures with the Easter Bunny while collecting eggs and winning prizes.

A total of 550 new books were purchased in 2021. 135 books were donated in 2021. 170 books were given out during the 2021 season.

Libraries were stocked with an average of 15 to 20 books per week, following COVID-19 safety guidelines.





In addition to the season-opening Easter Egg Hunt, several other events were hosted, including:

- On August 14th, NWDYC partnered with the O'Hair Park Community Association's ARISE Detroit in the Park day. 61 books were given away.
- The Little Free Library picnic was held on September 11th at the Pembroke and Edinborough Pavilion, with grilled hot dogs and snacks.
- To show gratitude to NWDYC LFL volunteers who donated 200 hours of their time, an Appreciation Luncheon was hosted on October 20th. The NWDYC Board was also invited to join the the get-together.

In 2022, NWDYC Libraries will open on May 1st. Libraries will continue to be stocked and sanitized to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. The program will focus on quality as well as quantity. A replacement for the Library box that was stolen from Pembroke and Edinborough will be identified. Events will be updated to include "perks" for parents (a best selling novel, gift card, etc).









# Hybrid Summer Camp

**The 2021 summer camp combined 2 virtual camp days with one in-person day each week from July 8-30th.**

**Virtual camp content consisted of Science Activities, Interactive Learning, Arts and Crafts, Mentoring, Self-Awareness Building Skills, Martial Arts (Aikido), and Hip-Hop Dance.**





**In-Person  
Fridays:  
Arts and Crafts,  
Interactive  
Learning,  
Basketball,  
Tennis,  
Aikido,  
Bounce House,  
and In-House  
Field Trips!**

Students learned from interactive videos how to deal with emotions, bullying, self-esteem, and how to positively view themselves in the world. They also made their own pieces of art and learned self-defense through Aikido!

Magician **DYNAMIKE's** show was geared towards kids loving themselves, and Campers had a blast!



**The EXOTIC ZOO! Each camper who wanted to was able to engage, interact and feed live animals - from turtles to parrots to snakes! Campers truly enjoyed this experience. Social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing was encouraged during all in-person camp activities.**

**All in all, the 2021 Camp was a HUGE success! Students had a great time while also learning about building a positive self-image, increasing self-esteem and self awareness. Campers learned extensively about the ill-effects of germs and how they spread, bullying, and how to properly deflect negative situations. NWDYC hopes all Campers will return in 2022!!!**





# Financial Report

**\$21,058**

Total Revenues from Grants, Donations and Fees

**\$34,711**

Total Expenses

**\$21,993**

Designated for 2022 Program Expenses

In 2021, grants were secured from:

- Adrian Dominican Sisters Ministry Trust
- Archdiocese of Detroit
- Comerica Charitable Foundation
- Hitachi Astemo Detroit Regional Community Action Committee



# Collaborative Partners and Donors

- Adrian Dominican Sisters Ministry Trust
- Archdiocese of Detroit - Office of Black Catholic Ministries
- Comerica Charitable Foundation
- Corpus Christi Parish – Detroit, MI
- Data Driven Detroit
- Hitachi Astemo Detroit Regional Community Action Committee
- Inform Yourself Youth Development
- Leroy Webster
- New Saint Paul Head Start Academy
- O'Hair Park Community Association
- Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community
- Saint Francis of Assisi Church – Ann Arbor, MI
- Susan Stellar



# NWDYC Leadership

## Administration

Curtis Simpson Jr. – Programs Administrator  
Arthur Cartwright - Summer Assistant Programs  
Administrator

Pierre Lamarre - Soccer Programming  
Pat Tillery – Little Free Library Programming

## 2021 Board of Directors

Alexis Alexander – President  
Michael Sears – Vice President  
Shirley Sands – Treasurer  
Pat Tillery – Secretary  
Sister Sharon Hagen, D.C.  
Helen Hart  
Sister Therese MacKinnon, D.C.  
Mary Mathis  
James Ngare  
Sister Ellen Schmitz, O.P.  
Jeff Smale  
Sister Rita Valade, R.S.M.



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