



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Charitable #: 11884-1378RR 0001



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Who We Are

The Catholic Youth Organization has been making a difference in the lives of children and youth in the Diocese of Hamilton for more than 60 years. Our dedication and commitment to the formation of strong and productive children and youth is evident through the programs and services we offer.

The C.Y.O. is a non profit agency. The programs we offer are highly subsidized by the funds we raise through the service contracts, grants, personal donations, and our fundraising events.

The C.Y.O. is dedicated to teaching the Catholic faith and providing real life opportunities for children and youth to live, learn, and share their faith in a positive, supportive environment.

The C.Y.O. has a long history of reaching out to those less fortunate and creating equal opportunities for all children to live, work, and play together.

Since 1958, the Catholic Youth Organization of the Diocese of Hamilton has provided programs and services in leadership development, athletics, camping, youth ministry, and outdoor education for children, teens, and their families throughout Southern Ontario.

Today, nearly 40,000 children, teenagers, youth, adults, and their families participate in our faith based programs and services on a year round basis.

Our Mission and Vision



Our Mission

Involves breaking down barriers, whether they are physical, cognitive, behavioral, or financial and providing children with a sense of hope, success, and opportunity to grow in faith. Through our C.Y.O. programs, young people build confidence and the skills that will remain with them for a lifetime.

Our Vision

Is for all children and youth to be recognized as being integral to the Church of today, to have safe and encouraging learning environment to play, grow, and develop as leaders and to be invited to contribute to the growth of the Catholic community.

Inclusivity is the Hallmark of C.Y.O.'s programming which is grounded in our values;

- The dignity of each person
- The gifts of young people
- The call to justice and discipleship
- The wisdom of shared leadership



***"Children
are at the heart
of our mission"***

Executive Message



Children continue to be at the heart of our agency's mission. It is a mission that attempts to break down barriers whether they are physical, behavioral, or financial in order that children can develop a sense of hope, success, and the confidence and skills to give back to their community in the future.

The agency's ability to overcome the longevity of the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrates that our mission and vision have not only stood the test of time but that it remains the key to our success. Our hope is that this year's annual report will give you a greater insight and appreciation for the C.Y.O.'s capabilities and our role as agents that serve 40,000 children, youth, and their families each year.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John J. Spatazzo'.

John J. Spatazzo
Executive Director
Catholic Youth Organization



Marcie DeFaveri
President, C.Y.O. Board
of Directors

During our 2022-2023 fiscal year we were able to recover from the challenges posed by the global pandemic and continue our hard work of providing for our community's youth. Our programs returned to full capacity to ensure that our children and youth were able to stay active and experience camp.

Thanks to our tremendous community partnerships, the dedication, and hard work of our volunteers, staff and inspiring philanthropic support from the community, we were able to expand our youth leadership programs and deliver a solid operating financial performance

Performance Highlights

2022-2023



During our 2022-2023 fiscal year, we continue to make progress and recovery on our ambitious goals to improve our facilities, capacity, and overall day-to-day operations following the pandemic. And today as we celebrate the 65th Annual General Meeting we would like to thank Marcie DeFaveri, President, and our outstanding Board of Directors, along with our many volunteer committee members for their leadership over the past year.

In addition, our C.Y.O. Board of Directors and Staff would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to you, our supporting community agencies and advisors, teachers, volunteers, and funders. Without expertise, your knowledge, and the funding you provide, we could not administer our mission year after year. Your generous support ensures that our agency continues to offer programs and services that benefit children and youth of all abilities.

Performance	Future Endeavours
<p>This past year, thanks to C.Y.O.'s continued focus on inclusivity and the quality of our programming, all three camps; Marydale, Brebeuf, and Athletes in Action were near full capacity with waiting lists for nearly all of our programs.</p> <p>The unwavering focus has resulted in our agency serving nearly 40,000 children and youth of all abilities and financial situations from 70% of the communities within the Diocese of Hamilton.</p> <p>More of our performance information and achievements are listed throughout our Annual Report</p>	<p>During 2023 and beyond, the C.Y.O. Board of Directors, in consultation with C.Y.O. staff will be conducted an extensive review of our existing Strategic Plan.</p> <p>This new Strategic Plan will be used to set priorities and focus our energy and resources to strengthen our day to day operations. It will also ensure that our employees and other stakeholders work towards our common goals and intended outcomes/results.</p> <p>We will continue to explore new revenue, new sponsorship opportunities, and execute projects required to complete that expansion and renewal of our facilities</p>

Our Camps



C.Y.O. Camp Brébeuf

Adventure. Faith. Unplugged.



In 1941, The Diocese of Hamilton was gifted 110 acres, located in Rockwood, Ontario. The wish was that it be transformed into a place for children to enjoy outdoor recreation and adventure in faith. In 1977, the Diocese of Hamilton asked the C.Y.O. to take over the day to day operations of Camp Brébeuf. Today, Camp Brébeuf is the C.Y.O.'s largest year round outdoor facility, offering programs such as overnight and day camping, outdoor education, convocation retreats, and leadership development programs.

How We Did:

- **841** campers attended our five weeks of overnight camp, summer 2022
- **403** campers attended our five weeks of day camp, summer 2022
- **234** campers with special needs attended summer camp 2022
- **201** young people participated in our yearly weekend retreat programs



C.Y.O. Camp Marydale

Experience. Nature. Together.

In 1963, under the direction of our first Executive Director, Father Kyran Kennedy, the C.Y.O. created Camp Marydale to serve inner city children. Today, Camp Marydale is an award winning camp. Located at Marydale Park, this summer day camp offers boys and girls ages 4-13, a summer of new experiences and exciting outdoor wilderness activities that will give them a lifetime of memories.



How We Did:

- **2,503** campers attended Camp Marydale for the summer of 2022
- **70** campers with Special Needs attended camp with One-to-One care
- **13** teens participated in the C.I.T. Leadership Program for 2022
- **70** staff were hired for the summer of 2022 through Canada Summer Jobs



Our Camps, Continued



In 2021, under the direction of the Crusader Athletic Program, the C.Y.O. opened its first all sports day camp, Athletes in Action. Located in Ancaster, Athletes in Action provides children the opportunity to play a variety of sport games at a high energy camp. Athletes in Action's vision is to create a safe space for children to play in a multi-sport camp, to inspire children to play sports, stay active, and have fun doing so.

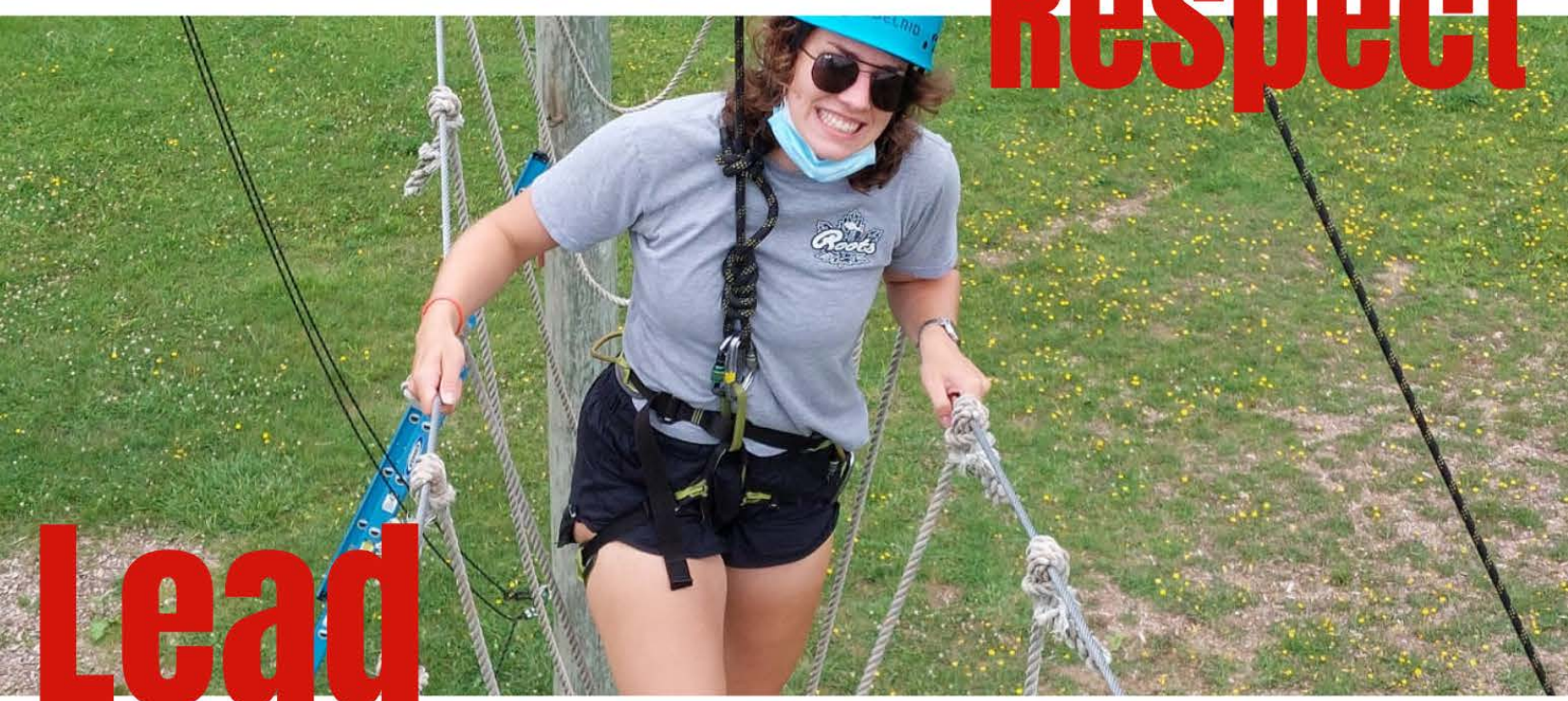
How We Did:

- **245** campers attended our second summer of Athletes in Action Sports Camp 2022
- **24** campers with Special Needs attended with 'One-to-One' care
- **22** staff were hired for the summer of 2022 through Canada Summer Jobs funding
- The 2022 season saw an increase in registration and attendance





Respect



Lead



Inspire

One To One



Respite Care camping programming began in 1972, when the C.Y.O. was one of the first organizations in Ontario to integrate children with special needs, ages 4-13, into our mainstream camping programs.

Each summer, hundreds of young children attended Camp Brébeuf, Camp Marydale, and Athletes in Action. Many of them have a combination of physical, cognitive, behavioral, and/or developmental disabilities.

Our 'One to One' program integrates these children into our summer day and overnight camping programs to offer them and their families a fun, safe, and emotionally rewarding experience.



How We Did:

Thanks to the wonderful donations we receive each year from those who support our annual C.Y.O. Children's Fundraiser, we continue to offer this service to families who have a child with Special Needs, at no additional charge.

- **70** One-to-One Camper for Camp Marydale Summer 2022
- **28** One-to-One Campers for Camp Brébeuf Summer 2022
- **24** One-to-One Campers for 'Athletes in Action' Summer 2022
- **Over 13,000** families have used this service since 1972
- **65%** of the cost of our one-to-one program is offset by the funds from our annual Campership appeal and Gala Fundraising Dinner

Crusader Athletics



The C.Y.O.'s community wide, after school program serves boys and girls of all abilities ages 6 to 13. Our five core athletic programs include; Flag Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Spring and Fall Cross Country, and Track and Field. Central to these activities is the emphasis on participation, sportsmanship, skill development, and above all-fair play. Our belief is that sports provides everyday opportunities and competitive situations for children and teens to grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The C.Y.O.'s Crusader Athletic programs provides children, regardless of their ability, the opportunity to participate in healthy activities. Athletics provide real life situations for young people to develop positive self-image, honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship. In addition, young people are given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through officiating, scorekeeping, and timekeeping.

How We Did:

- **2,618** Volleyball Athletes (boys and girls)
- **3,075** Track and Field Athletes (boys and girls)
- **1,630** Flag Football Athletes (boys and girls)
- **2,328** Basketball Athletes (boys and girls)
- **15,250** Cross Country Athletes for both Fall and Spring Meets
- A total of **24,901** young people participated in the Crusader Athletic Program in the last year.



Outdoor Education



The C.Y.O. has been offering Outdoor Education (OE) programming for over 45 years. Both of the C.Y.O.'s Brébeuf and Marydale Park facilities offer OE programming. Each facility has its unique and distinctive wilderness setting that offers outdoor educational activities that utilize their locations' natural beauty and resources.

Both Marydale Park and Camp Brébeuf's OE programs are based on the Ministry of Education's academic curriculum guidelines. We connect students to the natural world around them, where they gain knowledge through experimental learning that cannot be duplicated within the walls of the classroom.

How We Did:

- **6,675** students attended Marydale's O.E. programming between April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
- **7,200** students attended Camp Brébeuf's O.E. programming between April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
- By early 2022, all O.E. programming had returned to onsite learning since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdowns



Leadership



Counsellors in Training (C.I.T.)

The C.I.T. Program is designed to teach young people how to be strong, effective leaders, offering them new skills that can be used at school, home, work, or in the community. Our goal is for each participant to learn more about themselves as individuals and team members, allowing them the opportunity to develop their confidence and skills.

Young people received leadership training via instructor seminars and our exclusive mentoring system. Our C.I.T. program is critical to our ongoing need for new camp counsellors who are responsible for our thousands of annual campers in our care.

How We Did:

- **13** young people completed Camp Marydale's C.I.T. Leadership program 2022

Leadership in the Crusader Athletic Program (L.C.A.P.)

For over 30 years the C.Y.O.'s Leaders in the Crusader Athletic Program has served as a stepping stone in the development of our young Catholic volunteers and leaders, not only for the C.Y.O. Crusader Athletic Program, but also other organizations within their communities.

L.C.A.P. is an intensive six-day training experience for young people ages 12 to 14, and teaches them how to be strong, effective leaders, while offering them a chance to learn new skills that can be applied at school, at home, and especially as volunteers in our C.Y.O. athletic programs.

How We Did:

- **45** young people completed the L.C.A.P. program from August 28-September 2, 2022
- The L.C.A.P. program returned in full capacity after the previous years cancellation due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.



Youth Ministry



As a member of the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Network (CCYMN) at both the provincial and federal levels, the C.Y.O. Youth Ministry Consultants facilitate year-round retreats and rallies in support of our Diocese and their parish's Youth Ministry Programs. This also involves consultation with parishes who wish to initiate, further develop, or evaluate their parish's Youth Ministry program.

The C.Y.O. is also responsible for coordinating many of the Youth Ministry training and formation opportunities for youth and adult leaders. This includes supporting those wishing to complete the Canadian Catholic Youth Ministry Certificate Program. All year long we work closely with the Diocesan office of Youth Ministry, as well as, parishes and Youth Ministers to assist in planning or facilitating their youth retreats both on and off site.

How We Did:

- **165** youth attended our weekend Youth Ministry programs in the last year.
- Youth Ministry programs returned in 2022 after the closures of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Fiscal Responsibility



Expenses

C.Y.O. operating expenses are grouped into three categories; mission delivery, fundraising, and expenses related exclusively to general operations and administration. The Finance Committee carefully reviews the annual operating budget before it is approved by the Board of Directors and monitors performance monthly.

**For a full set of our Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31st, 2023, please contact John Spatazzo, Executive Director at 905-528-0011 ext. 3600*

Revenue

The C.Y.O. is a fee for service agency that generate revenue related to the delivery of our mission for the purpose of offsetting costs. We also engage our community in our philanthropy to support the delivery of our mission, the funding of the new programs, and our capital requirements. Per Board policy, a reserve fund representing 10% of our annual operating expenses plus \$50,000 for emergencies is held and invested.

2022-2023 was another year of balancing revenue challenges against investing in our future growth and expansion needs.

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Revenue	2023	2022
Mission Delivery	\$ 1,944,129	\$ 1,059,421
Fundraising	\$ 114,990	\$ 94,626
Grants and Donations	\$ 1,004,062	\$ 1,318,179
Memberships	\$ 8,090	\$ 11,875
Investment Income	\$ 6,798	\$ 9,273
Operating Revenue	\$ 3,078,069	\$ 2,493,374
Operating Expenses		
Mission Delivery	\$ 2,358,399	\$ 1,839,400
Fundraising	\$ 82,593	\$ 27,447
Administration	\$ 292,761	\$ 226,006
Operating Expenses	\$2, 733,753	\$ 2,092,853
Excess Revenues Over Expenses	\$ 344,316	\$ 400,521
Operating Fund at Beginning of Year	\$ 1,094,343	\$ 693,822
Operating Fund at End of Year	\$1, 438, 659	\$ 1,094,343

2022-2023 Governance

Board of Directors



President
Marcie DeFaveri



Vice President
Paolo Fidanza



Pamela Aleman



Christina Ciapanna-Kurpis



John DeSimone



Kelly McCowell



Hermon Mayers



Fr. David Reitzel



Bruno Ugenti



Paul Taylor



Dean DiFrancesco



Carm Spadafora

Our Community Partners



We are honoured to be active members of the Council of Catholic Service Organizations committee, chaired by Bishop Crosby



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

900 CHML Children's Fund
 Catholic Children's Aid Society
 Catholic Women's League
 City of Hamilton, Recreation
 Community Living Hamilton

GOEMANS
 DO APPLIANCES RIGHT



HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Diocese of Hamilton
 Good Shepard
 Goemans Appliances

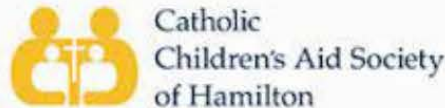
Hamilton Community Foundation
 Hamilton Spectator, Summer Camp Fund
 H-W Catholic District School Board

Knights of Columbus
 Ontario Camps Association
 Ontario Physical Literacy
 United Way Halton & Hamilton
 Youth Serving Agency Network



Hamilton

COMMUNITY LIVING
Hamilton



At the C.Y.O., we are grateful for the community partnerships that we have established. The C.Y.O. recognizes that we can achieve more for the children and youth when we all work together.

Community Partners

THANK YOU!



Catholic Youth Organization

Charitable # 11884-1378RR0001

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