

December
2020

EDUCATE YOUTH : UPDATE

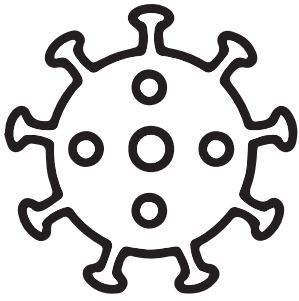
SURVIVING 2020

2020 has been a bumpy year for our amazing Ypsilanti-based after school program, with both great leaps forward and almost insurmountable struggles to keep our students on a path to success. As you know, we have been proud of our mission, which is to **empower middle school and high school students to become leaders by receiving the necessary resources, tools, and skills to earn their high school diploma.**

The goal of the **Educate Youth Program** is simple: Help teens graduate from High School with a 2-year plan for their future through a combination of mentorship, dialogue, and engagement activities. We provide on-site educators and social workers who are able to meet kids where they are and we provide a safe place for students to become lifelong learners. We have a 100% graduation rate for students who finish their senior year with us. All of our former participants are currently in college or are working in a skilled trade.

The Educate Youth after-school program supports students as whole people, regardless of the cards they've been dealt. They receive academic support, SAT preparation and teen-led activity planning. Students are supported with consistent, positive mental health interactions and role models. Programs are developed by and for teens living in the 48197-48198 area. The curriculum and programs are constantly adjusted to meet the needs of each teen to improve their academic standing.





HOW DID WE RESPOND TO COVID-19?

Because of our commitment to supporting its students in any way they need support *we have haltingly but steadily created a positive **virtual** learning environment this year.* Our students didn't have laptops at the beginning of the quarantine, so we found donors to provide laptops. They couldn't meet with their tutors, so the tutors reached out via Zoom.

Despite the quarantine, our students

- continued art classes,
- created a video,
- participated in the local Ethics Bowl
- created a book of poetry. (more on that later.)
- For the past several Ypsilanti Community School Board elections, students from Educate Youth have organized a community event to meet the school board candidates. This year the event was Virtual and we partnered with Student Advocacy Center to virtually reach approximately 500 Ypsi citizens.
- **AND THEY KEPT UP WITH THEIR SCHOOL WORK!**

We continue to be dedicated to making a change in our students lives showing these students that they are gems of great value, and that education is critical for their future success.

**Keep
Calm
and
Wash
Your
hands**



You may remember that in 2011 Gail Wolkoff saw a need in the Ypsilanti community for an afterschool program as the local graduation rate continued to hover around 60%. During a student-led trip to build houses in the 9th Ward after Hurricane Katrina, Gail and her students came up

with the name “Dedicated to Make a Change” and this was the beginning of the program that soon morphed into “Educate Youth 501 3c” with a working Board of Directors and more emphasis on sustainability.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

The Educate Youth after school program has actively sought community support since its inception. Individual donors are the bedrock of our support, although we have seen larger donors stepping up to help and more of our grant requests have had a positive response. This funding maintains our current location, purchases school supplies and clothing for our students, occasionally pays salary to the director and pays stipends to students who fulfill all requirements (ie grades, homework, attendance.) Funds also supported our summer program with an emphasis on physical activity and improving reading skills. Please consider a donation to keep our program alive, and to keep our students on a good path.

POETRY BOOKS!!!

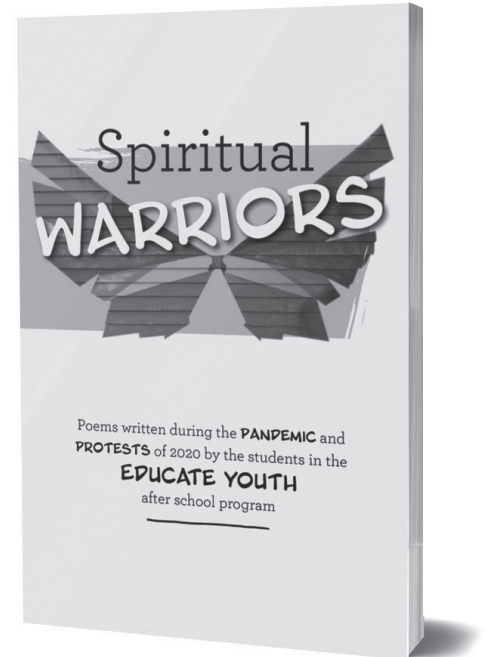
THIS YEAR THE STUDENTS HAVE WRITTEN A REMARKABLE BOOK OF THEIR POETRY AND WE ARE OFFERING IT AS A BONUS FOR INTERESTED DONORS.

One of our recent graduates found that getting into college was a full time job. This is his literary response.

PORY_(JUST KEEP SWIMMING)

A system built for me to fail
 Without the clubhouse I wouldn't prevail
 Having to leave voicemails a lot
 I'm really surprised how far I got
 The journey was crazy and there were a lot of walls
 Lots of miscommunication and of course zoom calls
 I knew it would be challenging but this was just tiring
 And at the same time I'm looking for who's hiring
 I'm finally in college the hard work paid off
 And through this whole journey one lesson was taught
 If they say "no" it's not the end
 And if you get stuck try and try again

-QUINCY MOORE



Spiritual Warriors:

Poems written during the pandemic and protests of 2020 by the students in the Educate Youth after school program

2021 SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES:

Premier Sponsor Package: \$5000

- Company name listed on website
- Company name acknowledged on YouTube
- Opportunity to welcome audience to one virtual event
- Opportunity to welcome audience to one annual in-person event
- Opportunity to add a business video to EDUCATE Youth website
- Verbal recognition as the premier event sponsor at all EDUCATE Youth events for one year
- Opportunity to participate in EDUCATE Youth events

One-Year Participation Package: \$1920

(sponsors one participation for one year or 12 participants for one month)

- Company name listed on website
- Company name acknowledged on YouTube
- Opportunity to welcome audience to one virtual event
- Opportunity to add a business video to EDUCATE Youth website

Six-Month Participation Package: \$960

(sponsors six participants for one month or one participant for six months)

- Company name listed on website
- Company name acknowledged on YouTube
- Opportunity to welcome audience to one virtual event

Three-Month Participation Package: \$480

(sponsors three participants for one month or one participant for three months)

- Company name listed on website
- Company name acknowledged on YouTube

One-Month Participation Package: \$160

(sponsors one participant for one month)

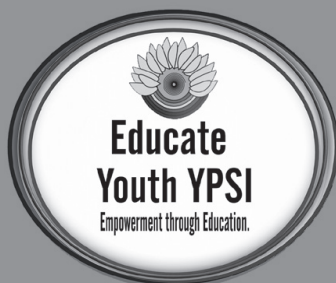
- Company name listed on website

In Kind donations accepted.

HOW TO DONATE

Make checks payable to **EDUCATE Youth** and mail to 104 S. Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, Attn: Gail Wolkoff

Or donate securely online at <https://educateyouthypsi.org/>



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