

**Florida Institute for Workforce Innovation d/b/a Project YouthBuild
Parenting Program
Children’s Trust of Alachua County
End of Year Report
October 12, 2020**

To be completed by the Providing Agency

How much?	Actual	How well?	Actual	Anyone better off?	Actual
Expected # of children to be served: 35-55	37	Exceeding YTD performance measures	n/a	yes	n/a
Intensity of Services: On-going engagement (weekly sessions)	At least 2 per week				

Project Narrative:

Describe what has been accomplished year-to-date.
Include any adjustments due to COVID-19 or any other helpful information

Accomplishments Year to Date

Launched in 2009, Project YouthBuild, is a 9-month educational, occupational, and leadership program for young people ages 16 – 24 who have dropped out of school and have a low-income. Traditionally, 45-60% of young people enrolled in Project YouthBuild are parents with few of them engaging in available parenting and home visitation programs. The PYB Parenting Program was developed to help meet the needs of young parents and their children living in our community who lack access to resources. Created using a blended model, the PYB Parenting Program, provides young parents with evidence-based parenting skills/education while increasing their engagement and participation with existing programs through effective advocacy and relationship building---while serving as an early intervention program for their young children.

To date, the PYB Parenting Program has served 23 parents, 37 children, 2 current pregnancies.

Parent Information:

Age Range: 18 – 27 years old
Average Age: 22
Total females: 20
Total males: 3
Single Parents: 15

Children Information:

Age Range: Newborn – 10 years old
Median Age: 1.5 years old
Female children: 17
Male children: 20

Variety of Course Offerings to Date (at least 2 course offerings per week since August):

Co-Parenting Seminar	Financial Literacy
Early Steps Developmental Screening Program	Meal Planning
Mindfulness & Stress Management	Family Planning
Time Management	Phono-Graphix Literacy Class
Read-a-Long & Navigating Library Website	Safe Playgroups Workshop
Cares Clinic (Assisted Parents with Completion of Alachua Cares Application)	

November Scheduled Courses:

Doula Birthing & Postpartum Care	Communicating with Children Class
Safe Sleep Class	Nutrition & Healthy Cooking Class
Healthy Discipline	Phono-Graphix Literacy Class
Post-Secondary Financial Aid Clinic	Fatherhood Initiative
Peer Support Groups	

Partner Collaboration Year to Date:

Early Learning Coalition	Santa Fe College
University of Florida	Library Partnership
Partnership for Strong Families	Bread of the Mighty
Big Brothers, Big Sisters	Stokes Center
Gainesville Thrives	Planned Parenthood
Community Action Agency	Friends of the Library
Healthy Start	Healthy Families
System of Care	City of Gainesville
River Phoenix Center for Peace Building	Meridian
BOOST Alliance	Head Start

Case Management/Support Services Overview:

Mental Health Counselling Referrals	Food & Nutrition Distributed
Baby Formula Distributed	Diapers Provided

+50 Books Given Away	FAFSA Assistance
Home Furniture Provided for Family of 6	Distributed Bus Passes
Distributed Gas Cards	Program Referral
Assisted with ELC childcare applications	Utility Assistance
Childcare payment assistance	Transportation to medical appointments
Assisted parents with Alachua Cares Application	

Parenting Program in Progress:

Jane

Jane is a 27-year-old mother of three. Since August, Jane and her 3-year-old daughter, 1.5-year-old son, and 6-month-old son have lived in an extended stay motel while their subsidized 1-bedroom apartment is being remodeled. The motel is located in Southwest Gainesville and her apartment is located in Northeast Gainesville. The PYB Parenting Coordinator was able to meet Jane at her temporary residence to complete an enrollment and intake assessment. Jane was able to outline barriers and challenges that were most pressing in her current situation. She shared that living in a small hotel room with no transportation made it difficult to go grocery shopping due to walking with her 3 children and carrying groceries back to her residence. In addition, Jane reported she had not been able to take her children to medical appointments since the Covid-19 stay at home order was issued in March. She expressed concerns related to her emotional well-being and feeling trapped in her motel room with no one to talk to for long periods of time. Lastly, Jane needed assistance finding a job as she had not been employed for over three years.

Since that initial meeting, Jane has started a part time job working 4 days a week and was given a bus pass which she now uses to get to and from work. Prior her first day of work she shared that she wasn't able to purchase scrubs that were required for her position and we were able to assist her with purchasing her uniform. She has established a positive relationship with a licensed mental health counselor and is meeting weekly via zoom or in person. The PYB Program Coordinator took her to the grocery store, so Jane could stock up on groceries. Staff also assisted Jane with making a formal request to her landlord for a 3-bedroom apartment at her housing complex and the management committed in writing to provide a 3-bedroom apartment versus the 1-bedroom apartment she currently occupies. Jane applied for utility assistance through the LIHEAP at Community Action Agency and staff are assisting her with a childcare application with the Early Learning Coalition. Finally, she hadn't been able to take her two children to the doctor since the COVID-19 stay at home order began in March, so the PYB Program Coordinator picked up her and her children from the motel and transported them to the doctor's office, where her children were updated on their immunizations. She has been actively in contact with staff at PYB, and has attended and participated in weekly parenting classes.

Mary

Mary is a 22-year-old single mother with a 2-year-old daughter. Mary is a current student at Project YouthBuild and was one of the first applicants to the Parenting Program, attending the open house August 3rd with her daughter. Mary's goals for the Parenting Program included learning about developmental milestones for her daughter and making sure she was reading to her daughter regularly. Since enrolling in the program, she has been an active participant in courses such as family planning, financial literacy, and more. Mary has not only been involved as a participant, but she had advocated for other young parents with young children by recommending class topics that would benefit her peers. We have invited her into partnership

meetings with other organizations, so she can speak to the needs and interests of parents involved in our program. Mary participated in one of our Alachua CARES clinics to apply for funding after losing her job in the spring due to the pandemic and she received funding assistance for her and her daughter. Once she graduates from Project YouthBuild, Mary's future goals include attending Santa Fe College to become an EMT. Parenting Program staff are assisting her now with completing financial aid and college applications, so she can enroll this Spring.

Adjustments as a Result of COVID- 19

Like many organizations and programs, the Project YouthBuild Parenting Program operational plan and delivery has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Program modifications for the Parenting Program have been based on CDC, state, and local guidance always placing the safety of staff, young people enrolled in the program and their children, and our community partners. Program recruitment has been impacted by the pandemic as it has limited our ability to present to groups, host open houses, and other activities involving contact with the community. With the exception of limited instances, all classes and workshops have taken place via distance learning and meeting on Zoom. Relying on distance learning and virtual meeting platforms has limited our course and workshop offerings that would require hands on learning activities. Due to the majority of partner locations being closed throughout the pandemic it has limited our ability to host classes and workshops in outlying communities in the community.

One of the most significant adjustments we have made is to develop a comprehensive strategy to mitigate food access, housing and financial hardships that the majority of the families we work with have experienced since March. The Parenting Program Coordinator has spent significant time assisting families to secure assistance related to food, utilities, housing, job losses and health crises. One of our core priorities has been to help young parents and their children stabilize their current living situation, so they can focus on positive development.

With the everchanging environment, we have learned valuable lessons. For example, we now utilize tele-counseling when appropriate. This adjustment has helped young people with lack of transportation meet regularly with their counselor. We have developed courses and workshops that work well using a virtual meeting environment and we will continue to offer a variety of learning and support opportunities to young parents and their children utilizing virtual platforms. We have been able to teach young people how to utilize technology that will help them in their educational, occupational, and personal development pursuits.

Lastly, given all the challenges, obstacles, and limitations the pandemic has imposed on our community and program, we have been extremely encouraged with the participation by young people and their children and we continue to see growing interest. We are confident that the PYB Parenting Program is helping meet an unmet need in our community and addressing the Trust's four overarching points of emphasis: All children are born healthy and remain healthy; all children learn what they need to be successful; all children have nurturing, supportive caregivers and relationships; all children live in a safe community. We look forward to collaborating with the Trust and community partners to provide important and timely supports and services to young parents and their children.