2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
MISSION:
Grand Canyon Youth offers educational outdoor expeditions that connect young people to the transformative power of the rivers and canyons of the Southwest.

VISION:
We envision a diverse and equitable world where all youth are empowered to live with purpose while discovering and caring for self, community, and the natural world.
To Our Amazing GCY Community,

At GCY, we try to mirror the values we hope the youth learn while on expedition in our day-to-day operations. One of these values—curiosity—comes up time and again as we strive to share the highest quality expeditions possible with the youth we serve. How does what we do make a positive impact? What changes could we make to decrease barriers to participation for youth who don’t typically have access to the rivers and canyons of the Southwest?

This past year, we have had the pleasure of working with collaborators from Northern Arizona University and the NARBHA Institute to take a deeper look into our evaluation processes. Through this project, we have taken a retrospective look at 15 years of GCY’s survey data. In addition, we piloted a new, innovative evaluation method, inviting youth into deeper reflection spaces as they evaluate their experiences. This project, called “GCY Speaks”, is showcased in this report along with other ways that GCY is making a difference for youth, the natural world, and our community. Thank you for being part of this important work!

Sincerely,

Emma Wharton, Executive Director

What GCY volunteers have been up to...

Before, during & after: Sustainable landscaping project at Grand Canyon Youth’s entrance (Thanks to City of Flagstaff grants & over 300 hours of volunteer labor!)
**GCY Speaks:**

An Innovative New Evaluation Method Launched on Youth Trips

In 2022, GCY piloted a new educational evaluation model on two expeditions where reflection and youth voice were at the heart of the process. Youth participated in creating art while on expeditions (photography, visual art, and creative writing) and then curated their art and reflected upon their experiences through facilitated post-expedition “meaning-making” interview sessions.

Themes that emerged from the youth interview sessions:

- Honor the Place
- Living in the Moment
- The Joy in Everything
- A Sense of Community
- Connections to Others

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**Horizon Lines**

Each horizon line a new beginning
Every rapid leaves me wondering—
What comes next?
When the river drops away
And you can’t see what lay—
In the future.
Life is like a river
Continuously sending those horizon lines
With no sliver—
Of an idea for what’s ahead.
As I summit this rim above
And am greeted with mumbling hydraulics of—
Society I ponder my next horizon line.
Dropping into university.

– Ben, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks
“On the river there is time to do everything, even look at the canyon upside down on the raft just because you can.”
- Cal, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks

Youth Artist Statement:
My goal was to capture aspects of this canyon that I found beautiful and connected to with a variety of mediums. Each time I created one of these pieces, I felt very connected with the place I was at or the things that I was with. I used pencil, pens, watercolor, and block printing materials to create four unique pieces of art that highlighted various things I saw on my trip, including this native fish block print. I encouraged myself to use mediums I had less comfort with (watercolor and block printing) and tried to make each piece have a different feel.

- Holiday, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks

GCY’s educational framework was designed in conjunction with the GCY Speaks evaluation project as a way to integrate our goals into expedition planning. The graphic above illustrates the three categories educators use to create custom curriculum for river expeditions while incorporating GCY values. The framework was designed by Alex Metter, GCY’s Expedition Design Manager.
GCY Alumni Reflections:
We talked to past GCY participants about their experiences. Here are some of the highlights...

Sarah
GCY alum (2008-2009) who stayed involved for the next 10 years as a volunteer, trip coordinator, driver, and guide

What are some of your memories from your GCY trips?
I made so many lifelong friends on GCY trips! Emma has also always been such a constant and bright light from my time as a youth through adulthood! There were so many fun times on GCY trips where the energy was high and the adventures were wild, but some of my most impactful memories were during moments where we stopped and sat in silence, reflecting on ourselves and our lives, and focusing on the things that really matter. Being on the river really puts things into perspective, and I cannot even count the number of times I was filled with a sense of completeness and gratitude while reflecting in silence on the river.

What did you gain from your GCY experience?
GCY instilled within me a love and appreciation for rivers. I have been a river steward since my first GCY trip at age 16, and I have gone on to make river protection and management my career. There really aren’t words to express how grateful I am for my GCY experiences!

What would you say to a young person contemplating going on a GCY expedition?
Make it happen and don’t worry about whether or not you have any friends on the trip– I guarantee you’ll make new friends and have the time of your life!

Jean-Philippe
GCY alum (2007-2008) who stayed involved for the next 16 years as an intern, guide, driver, and now as GCY’s Logistics Director

What are some of your favorite memories from your GCY trip(s)?
More than a decade after my first trip, I still have vivid recollections of my experiences. Guides yelling “hot drinks;” epic hikes to places only a handful of people have been to, swimming in side canyons, and making new friends. My favorite part of these memories is being able to connect with others that shared the experience with me. A number of folks from my first trips are now guides that I work with year after year, and it feels like the trip has never stopped. Let’s do an alumni trip!

What did you gain from your GCY experience?
GCY has made my career. Not just in the office, but in other pursuits I have. I think for both myself and the other youth joining a trip, it opens the door to new opportunities, perspectives, and challenges. I found a community willing to support my growth, praise my success, and welcome me home– every time.
Amanda

GCY alum (2017-2021) is now a GCY guide-in-training

What are you up to now?
I am studying Parks and Recreation Management with an emphasis in Outdoor Leadership and Education at NAU. I worked for GCY last summer in the warehouse. I will be doing the same this summer as well as being a guide-in-training. I love to go hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, unicycling, hammocking, and to read.

What short or long-term impacts do you feel your GCY experience had on you?
I really came out of my shell during my first trip. My love of the outdoors grew exponentially. I gained a sense of self. I was able to connect with others on the trip and share my passion for the outdoors.

What would you say to a young person contemplating going on a GCY expedition?
Do it! It will be one of the best things you have ever done! You will start the trip with strangers and leave as a family.

Alexander

GCY alum (2017-2019) and volunteer

What are you up to now?
I am in school to become an IT Specialist and working in technical support and logistics.

What are some of your memories from your GCY trips?
All of my memories are great. I remember a handful of the big rapids. I remember the waterfalls. I remember climbing up and finding a solo-spot in the canyon... there are a lot of memories I look back on. I still stay in touch with people from my GCY trips!

What short or long-term impacts do you feel your GCY experience had on you?
Being able to go down the Canyon, and hike in and out of it was awesome. It had a great impact on me. If you have the chance, you should go.
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Tracy Smith
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United Way of Northern Arizona
Jeff Wheless
Nathan Whitfield
Dania * & Daniel Wilson
Christine & Paul Wolfe

“THANK YOU!
It changed my life and
has been so impactful.
I would not have been
able to go without
scholarship support.”

–Madeline, GCY Alumni
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John Blaustein
Nancy & Robert Bochsler
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Snow Mountain River
Linda Stedman
Caitlin Thompson
Tonsmeire Charitable Foundation
Jon Trustman
Warners Nursery & Landscape Co
Wildland Trekking Company

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Nancy Goulson **
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Hufford Horstman
Alan Humphrey
Teresa Hylton
Braid Imman
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Cliff Louches **
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# GCY Alumni

Note: To be as inclusive of our diverse donors as possible, all couple names are listed alphabetically.

“The words to express how grateful I am, as a parent, are insufficient. The fact that my son wanted to go exploring with you and came home happy and excited and confident is a true testament to your organization and your people. Thank you for taking him! Thank you for growing him as a person! And thank your scholarship program for helping us during a difficult time to make this possible!”

–Amy, parent of a GCY participant
2022 Highlights

754 youth participated on 61 expeditions

Served 46% non-white identifying youth & 51% white identifying youth (3% prefer not to say)

Awarded $75,510 in direct financial aid scholarships to 301 youth (the highest financial aid & highest number of youth yet!)

Offered ALL 5th graders from 4 Flagstaff, AZ elementary schools introductory kayaking expeditions on the Verde River

Launched 2 all-Indigenous youth expeditions through Grand Canyon for the 2nd year in a row

84% of all 2022 expenses spent on programs

Participants paid only 29% of total expedition costs (the rest is covered by grants & contributions like yours!)

Grand Canyon Youth operates on the homelands of the Nuciu (Ute), Pueblos, Dine (Navajo), Hopitutskwa (Hopi), Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute), Havasu Baaja (Havasupai), Hwal-Pai (Hualapai), Pipa Aha Macav (Mojave), Nuwuwu (Chemehuevi), Hohokam, Yavapai-Apache, Jumanos, and Shiwinna (Zuni) peoples.
## 2022 Financial Statements

### 2022 Statement of Revenue & Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$459,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program fees (including financial aid)</td>
<td>$428,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions (Individuals)</td>
<td>$218,926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions (Businesses)</td>
<td>$42,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment &amp; estate gifts</td>
<td>$46,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind contributions</td>
<td>$51,667</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special event (net of direct costs)</td>
<td>$34,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment loss (net of fees)</td>
<td>($23,678)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise sales &amp; other (net of direct costs)</td>
<td>$7,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$1,267,197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll &amp; payroll taxes</td>
<td>$658,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition food, transportation, permits</td>
<td>$124,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid awarded</td>
<td>$75,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outfitter services (including in-kind)</td>
<td>$73,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>$68,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance &amp; background checks</td>
<td>$46,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$37,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies (expedition &amp; office)</td>
<td>$27,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on building loan</td>
<td>$23,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted services</td>
<td>$18,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities &amp; property taxes</td>
<td>$11,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences &amp; training</td>
<td>$9,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; postage</td>
<td>$9,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees (audit, legal, etc)</td>
<td>$8,575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>$8,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Database &amp; website</td>
<td>$7,860</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchant &amp; bank fees</td>
<td>$3,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,214,881</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Revenue over Expenses

| Net Revenue over Expenses                     | $52,316       |

For more detailed information, please see the “Audited Financial Statements & Independent Auditor’s Report” for 2022 at gcyouth.org

### Balance Sheet at December 31, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$771,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables &amp; prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$85,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$266,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property &amp; equipment (net of depreciation)</td>
<td>$893,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$2,015,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable &amp; accrued expenses</td>
<td>$11,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedition deposits for 2023 received in 2022</td>
<td>$29,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building loan</td>
<td>$551,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$591,868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without donor restrictions</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board-designated Endowment Fund</td>
<td>$18,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor Restricted Endowment Fund</td>
<td>$114,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions (programs)</td>
<td>$222,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,423,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total Liabilities & Net Assets**             | $2,015,700    |

### 2022 Revenue

- Grants ($459,864): 36%
- Contributions ($261,316): 34%
- Program Fees ($428,780): 21%
- In-Kind Contributions ($51,667): 9%
- Fundraising & Other ($18,926): 7%
- Endowment/Estate Gifts ($46,644): 4%

### 2022 Expenses

- Program Services ($1,024,533): 84%
- Management & General ($82,810): 9%
- Fundraising ($107,538): 7%
We invite you to make a legacy gift through our planned giving program: GCY Futures

Because Grand Canyon Youth holds meaning for you, consider leaving a lasting legacy by giving the gift of the river to the next generation. Here are some of the ways you can include GCY in your estate planning:

- Leave a bequest in your will or trust
- Name GCY as a beneficiary on your IRA or life insurance
- Designate a gift of stock or real estate
- Create a charitable remainder trust or donor-advised fund
- Make a qualified charitable distribution (in lieu of IRA RMDs)

Including GCY in your estate plan is easier than you might think. In your will or living trust, you may designate a percentage or a specific amount to Grand Canyon Youth by simply including our name and tax ID number 86-0905180. Learn more about making a gift in your will or living trust at gcyouth.org/plannedgiving, and as always, consult with your financial advisor.

If you have already named Grand Canyon Youth as a beneficiary, please let us know. We would like to thank you and welcome you to GCY Futures.

For more information, please contact GCY’s Development Director Clare Magneson: 928.773.7921 or development@gcyouth.org

Keep track of what we are up to!
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