

 NEWARK  
**OPPORTUNITY**  
YOUTH NETWORK

 **LEAD**  
CHARTER  
SCHOOL

 **YB**  
YOUTHBUILD  
NEWARK

 **MBKN**  
MY BROTHER'S  
KEEPER NEWARK

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



**Robert Clark**

*Founder & CEO  
Newark Opportunity Youth Network*

When we first started YouthBuild Newark in 2003, we were determined to give young people another chance. A chance to earn their GED, to gain on-the-job training, and to transform their lives.

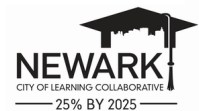
Nearly 20 years later, that is still at the core of what we do. While our work has evolved into multiple initiatives designed to address youth disconnection, the power of transformation is the throughline that connects it all.

It is my hope that the stories shared below provide a window into the work of Newark Opportunity Youth Network and into the potential of each young person we serve. Despite all the challenges of this past school year, there is much to be celebrated. From post-secondary placements to the passage of legislation, we are proud of the work that's been done - but know there's much more that lies ahead.

Together with our partners, we look forward to the coming year and to sharing the stories of even more young people as they transform not only their own lives, but their families and communities as well.

Robert Clark

**GLASS ROOTS** HENRY E. NILES FOUNDATION, INC.





### Education

Alumni So'nya Jordan penned [an op-ed in support of A4663](#) - which Lt. Gov. Oliver signed in July



### Workforce Development

Awarded grant from **Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey** to strengthen Allied Health track



### Policy Advocacy

MBKN released [Reimagining Public Safety in Newark](#) report with City Hall and Equal Justice USA



### Systems Building

[GlassRoots](#) joined the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative

*"When I came to LEAD, I actually stepped up and started doing my work. The teachers made sure everybody was on the same page and that everybody knew what to do. They made it easier."*

*Adrien Freeman  
2021 LEAD Graduate*



*"It's rare that you can find a school that really cares deeply about their students, that's why I'll recommend anybody struggling or trying to find themselves or trying to get back into high school, I'd recommend this school in a heartbeat."*

*Shennel Baggot  
2021 LEAD Graduate*

*"My past is always going to be my past, but I am more than my mistakes. Every student deserves someone in their corner, so they can know that success is possible for them too."*

*So'Nya Jordan  
2020 LEAD Graduate*

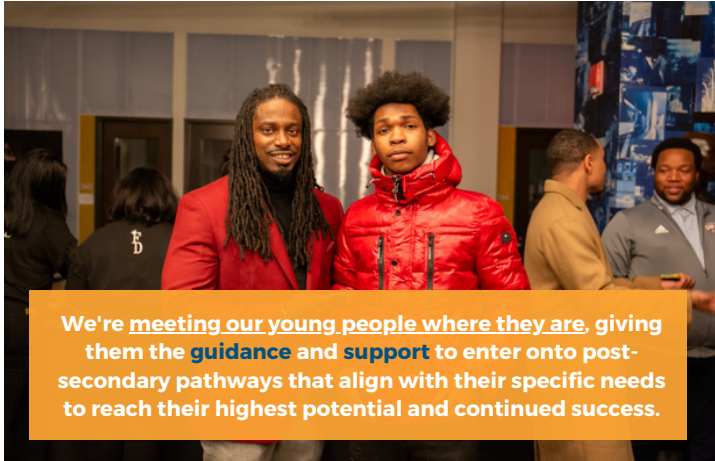


*"(YouthBuild)...made me feel like I was wanted, like a family. It made me feel like I could be a better man. It made me want to be a better person."*

*Isaiah Brown  
2018 Uplift Graduate*

# LOOKING FORWARD

## NOYN IN ACTION



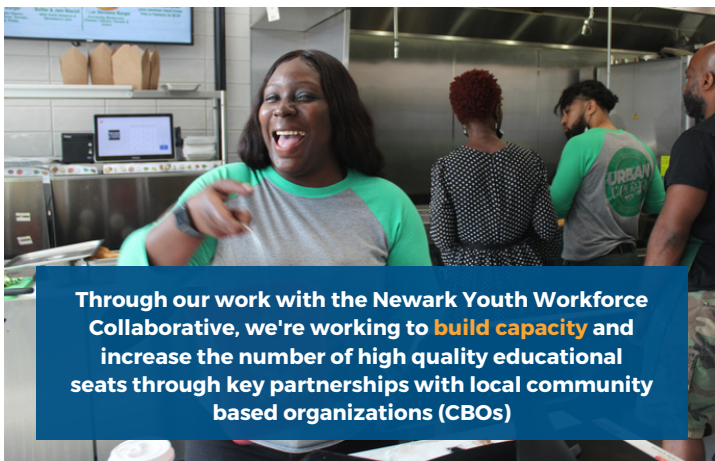
We're **meeting our young people where they are**, giving them the **guidance** and **support** to enter onto post-secondary pathways that align with their specific needs to reach their highest potential and continued success.



We're expanding **partnerships** with organizations that share our mission -- like the **Healthcare Foundation of NJ** and **Henry J. Niles Foundation** -- to grow resources dedicated to opportunity youth in Newark.



We're supporting legislation like **S1553**, working with the **Senate Education Committee** to permit the State Board of Education to authorize alternative teaching certificates, recruiting more educators dedicated to our young people.



Through our work with the Newark Youth Workforce Collaborative, we're working to **build capacity** and increase the number of high quality educational seats through key partnerships with local community based organizations (CBOs)



## HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

**Looking for ways to support NOYN's work? Here's how:**

1

**Follow** us on social media platforms and share our posts + stories.



[OYN\\_Newark](#)



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[NewarkOYN](#)



[Newark Opportunity Youth Network](#)

2

**Engage** with opportunity youth throughout your community + **connect** them to us.



Learn more [here](#).



**Apply here** to get a high school diploma or GED and an industry-recognized credential

3

**Donate** to NOYN, contributing to funds that will support **education, workforce development, policy advocacy, and systems building.**



Make a pledge to OY [here](#).



Learn more about us and our approach [here](#).