



February 2023

Paul Meunier, Executive Director
Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA)
3020 160th Ln NE,
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Dear Mr. Meunier,

We are so grateful for the YIPA's support over the years. YIPA has supported us in having a long-term impact with measurable outcomes. With your support last year, Bolder Options youth increased their decision-making skills with the lifelong learning events that we hosted. 87.5% of youth who graduated at the end of the year agreed they had accomplished at least one goal they set for themselves, and 75% of our graduating youth agreed or mostly agreed that they make good decisions. YIPA also helped us accomplish our goals of maintaining relationships between positive, caring adults and youth and increasing the youth's school attendance. At the heart of the Bolder Options experience is the commitment made by each pair to complete the three physical challenges, where mentors help model how to set and incrementally work towards challenging goals. Our staff is available to address challenges in the mentoring relationships and frequently provides referrals to youth and their families to access housing, food, healthcare, and other community resources through our partnering agencies and organizations.

Being around for 30 years means that we're starting to see generations of folks come through the program. A recent story of our long-term commitment and impact is when we ran into Chaleiah a couple of weeks ago. She recognized Bolder Options immediately because her younger brothers have been active in our program and alumni program for years. Chaleiah is currently an AmeriCorps Fellow with the Foundation for Essential Needs but was looking for additional ways to impact her community. After seeing the impact Bolder Options mentorship has had on her brothers, Chaleiah decided to become a mentor herself! She's in the process of applying, and we're excited about the prospect of keeping the Bolder Options connection with her family! This is just one example of the thousands of lives we can impact thanks to supporters like YIPA.

Thank you, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darrell Thompson
President