

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year, I am so happy to report that YouthBuild Lake County has moved past the pandemic and has emerged stronger than ever. We have improved our programming and curriculums, completed a construction project, provided vital service to the community, developed a brand-new program to expand our reach in Lake County, and much more! We have big plans for the future, and we are starting to take those first steps as we speak.

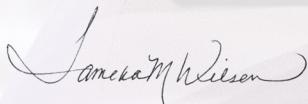
In the summer of 2021 we convened two task forces to help us determine the next steps for growth at YouthBuild Lake County. One task force focused on secondary education alternatives and the other on career training opportunities. These two groups met biweekly for several months and discussed possible areas of growth for YouthBuild Lake County. The recommendations from these task forces were presented to our Board of Directors. Our staff and Board of Directors took that information and incorporated it into the development of our 2022-25 strategic plan which was adopted in January of this year.

To jump start our growth, we implemented a 12-week pre-apprentice program for trainees 18 and older who already have their high school diplomas. The program officially began in May 2022 and has seen great success across its first two cohorts. This expansion is positioning us for exponential growth, allowing us a much larger impact area within our community.

This growth would not be possible without the extraordinary funding we received this year from the federal and state government, as well as a record-breaking year for private donations. During our 2022 Spring Benefit, All in For YouthBuild, we raised over \$247,000. This funding has allowed us to expand programming and hire and retain a skilled team of passionate, committed individuals. I could not be more proud of my staff as I watch them have a transformational impact in the lives of our youth.

I know there is still more to be done in our community. I look forward to continuing to expand our mission throughout Lake County by providing new and exciting opportunities for success in the upcoming year. Thank you for being a part of this life-changing work. Your support has played a critical role in the success of our agency and our members.

With gratitude,



Tameka Wilson