

Impact Report 2022



Youth Center for North America

~ Coming together to build community ~



Vision - A united world where fraternity is lived among all people.

Mission - YCNA inspires and mobilizes young people from all backgrounds to live for a more united world.

We create and plan opportunities for young people to come together and build community through activities and programs that help develop the whole person. YCNA's core value is respect for each person as expressed in the Golden Rule: *"Do to others what you want them to do unto you; don't do to others what you don't want them to do unto you"*.



Leadership program

“The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails” by John Maxwell

The YCNA leadership program began this year with a 5-day leadership workshop entitled *“Adjusting the Sails”*. It was a program that offered a holistic approach to leadership where participants integrated their strengths, character and values into their leadership while bringing their whole selves to the role: body, mind and spirit. It was inspired by the spirituality of unity that prepared participants to lead and journey towards building a more fraternal and united world. [Website](#).



“Checking the Sails” zoom sessions followed with key points from the workshop, stories of leadership and new ideas for leadership: discovering our social identity and the effects of positivity, in words and actions. Two sessions were held in September and December 2022. [Summary](#)



Gen 2 congress

YCNA hosted 2 conferences for the gen of the Focolare; one in New York, June 2022 and a second one in Vancouver Canada, December 2022. The gen strive to live Focolare spirituality in their everyday environment of school, home, at work and come together regularly to share, support and encourage each other. Once a year they come together from across North America. Topics in June included living a balanced life-style in our relationship with God, others and ourselves, communication and the communion of goods. In December, the group reviewed aspects of their lifestyle through the lives of Focolare youth in the process of canonization, and reflected on how to handle suffering, living a balanced life, prayer life and various possible vocations.



Luminosa Youth School

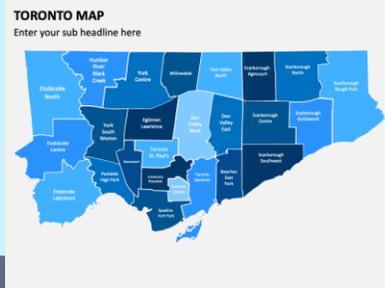
The Luminosa Youth School was back in full force this past summer after the 2-year shutdown. As with many companies and programs, we too had time to regroup, refocus and improve what we offer. While the restart can be slow, we tried to remain flexible to help the participants have the best program possible. The visa application process remained a challenge, but 9 young adults were able to attend from the US and other countries. Through lessons, educational trips, volunteer work sessions and community life, the program offered an experience of growth and development. Click [HERE](#) to read about the experience of Miriana Dante, one of the participants from Italy.

Blessed Chiara Luce Badano prayer service

A “prayer reflection” was held on October 29th which provided the opportunity to review her life and voice our intentions in prayer. The fact that she was listed as the 13 patron saints of World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, remained in our hearts and encouraged us along our way. The session also included the WYD prayer in her name and a collection of her own quotes.



YCNA is motivated by the life of Blessed Chiara Luce Badano to live out its mission, to inspire and mobilize young people from all backgrounds to live for a more united world.



Around the country

On Labor Day Weekend, the youth of Central **California**, LA, and Orange County gathered in Los Angeles to spend much needed time with each other after a couple of years of lockdown.

The Gen and young adults of **Quebec and Toronto** met during the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend. It was a joy to meet again in person despite the distances. The weekend was filled with various activities: community service for people in need; sightseeing in downtown Toronto; visit at the Cathedral; watching the movie about Chiara Lubich and lots of sharing, dancing and laughter.

Almost every Friday night, the **Atlanta** focolare houses host a "young adult pizza night." At times there's a program after dinner like watching the movie on Chiara Lubich together or a documentary on ecology, but mostly it's an informal opportunity for the young adults to talk. Gen, young adults new to the Focolare, and those who don't know anything about it are invited. Not everyone knows each other, but they've found a "safe space" (as some have called it) in the focolare, where they can have time for deep conversation and connection. One young adult who just met the Focolare even wanted to celebrate her birthday in the focolare one Friday and invited all of her friends to come. It seems this is a fruit of the love she's felt which she wants others to experience.



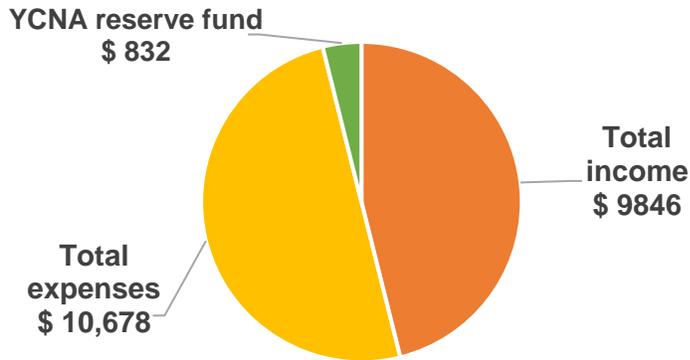
Feedback/impressions/comments

- "This was an amazing program."
- "This was one of the most motivating events and changed me. It helped relight my passion."
- "Very helpful for the future."
- "The assignment/exercise they had us do was very beneficial to leadership and communication skills."
- "I really loved learning about other people lives/experiences, and learning about the different vocations in life..."



2022 in numbers

Leadership Workshop



8 activities (200+ participants)

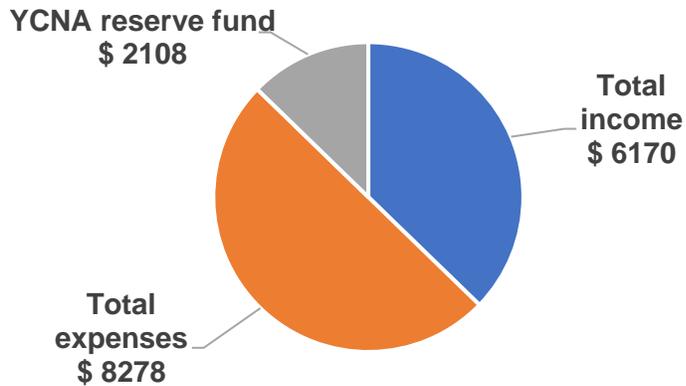
Participant location

7 locations in Canada

14 US states

7 countries

Gen 2 Congress



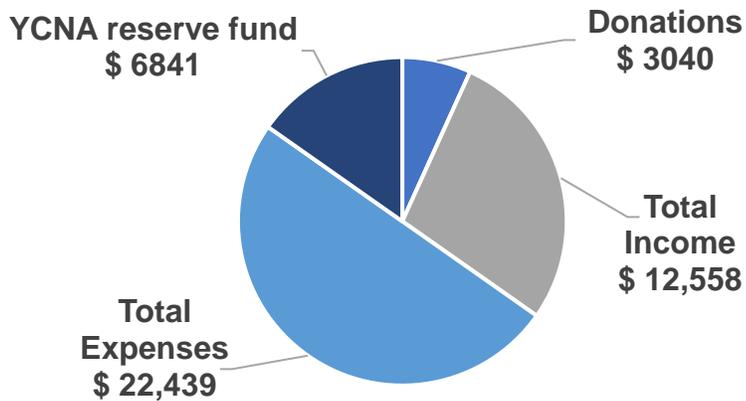
857 Facebook reaches

5787 user engagements, website

11,118 page views, website

4145 First time users, website

Operations



Social media

Youtube channel. Over 25 videos.

Most viewed video - *Principles of Social Teachings of the Catholic Church*, by Mark Shea

Instagram. Over 500 followers.

Facebook. “A wonderful place....hope for our planet.”

Linktree. <https://linktr.ee/ycna>

Sign up for the [YCNA newsletter](#).

We remain very grateful to all our donors!

Here at YCNA, as we carry out our mission to inspire and mobilize young people from all backgrounds to live for a more united world, we are committed to providing young people with spiritual and human development, building up a lifestyle based on the gospel message, rooted in the Focolare spirituality.

2023 fundraising goal: \$10,000

Donate @ <https://ycna.focolare.us/donate/>

