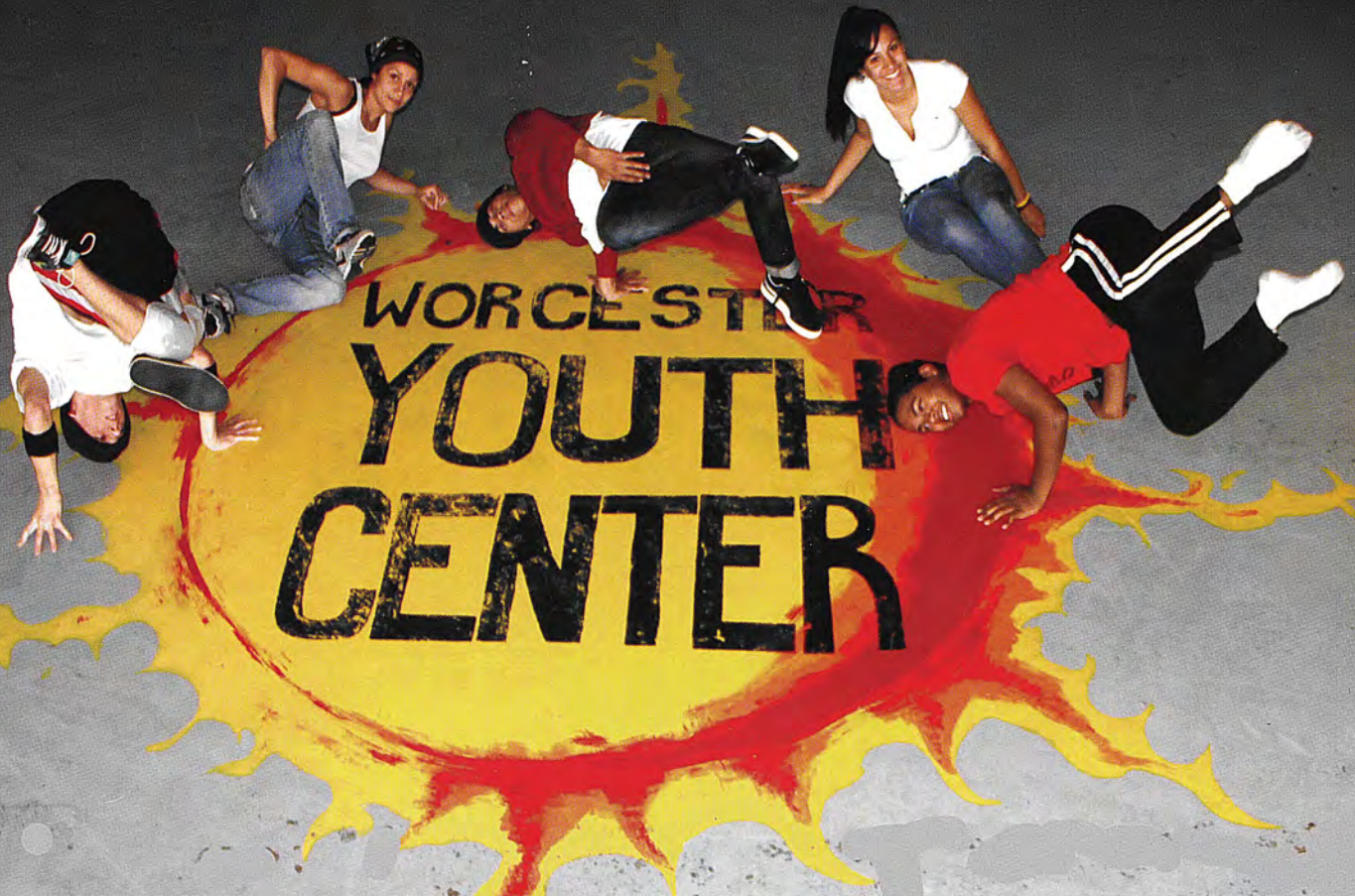


**WORCESTER  
YOUTH  
CENTER**

**Not just a place to go;  
a place to go farther**



**WE SEE THE PROMISE IN EVERY INDIVIDUAL**

**2010 Annual Report**

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Jeanette Roach  
Laura Suroviak  
Esayas Wureta

## Youth Staff

Andrea Garry  
Angela Lozada  
Rosa Medina  
Damien Pagan

Dear Friends of the Worcester Youth Center,

The Worcester Youth Center was recently described as the "go to" agency for developing effective youth development collaborations, and that sums up the growth in programs that we enjoyed in 2010.

Innovative partnerships have kept us financially healthy in a challenging economy and expanded our capacity to offer programs that challenge, train, teach, and help youth to successfully transition to adulthood. Opportunities like our culinary arts program, micro-enterprise training, GED and Basic Skills, and a special partnership with the Worcester Art Museum offer a variety of ways for youth to get connected to education, a career path and civic life.

We have benefitted from a year of tremendous support from foundations, corporations and the community which has allowed us to branch out in to new directions. As we move into 2011, we are starting new programs such as our urban forestry venture that trains older youth in arboriculture and gives them paid experience in the field to provide an important service to the City of Worcester.

We wish to thank everyone who made the past year so successful: our funders, collaborators, board, staff and the youth we serve. We look forward to the opportunities awaiting us in the coming year.



Laurie Ross  
President, Board of Directors



Hilda Ramirez  
Executive Director



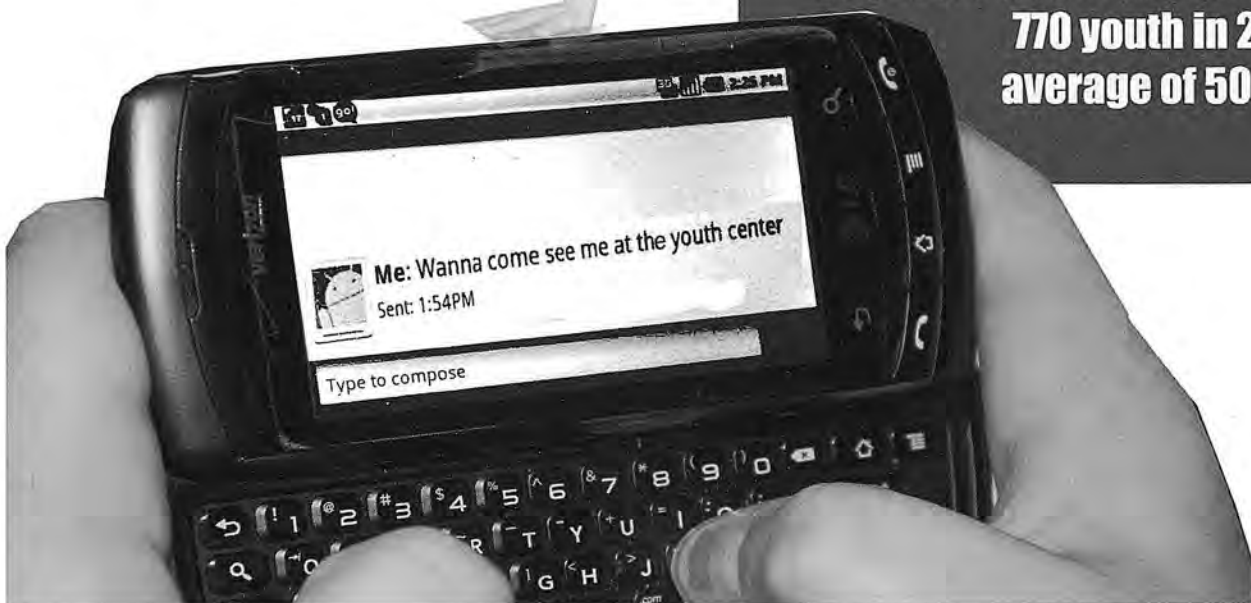
# Fulfilling our mission

The Worcester Youth Center (WYC) is an educational and social facility for youth between the ages of 14 and 24, a place where youth are empowered and allowed to grow in all aspect of their lives. The WYC started as a partnership between youth and adults. Opening its doors in 1994, the WYC was the culmination of three years of planning by youth, city officials, other youth organizations, and adult advocates. Together youth and adults envisioned a drop-in center that would be open to all youth in Worcester. It would not charge fees for membership or programs. Most importantly, it would be a place where youth could participate in operating the space, shaping programs, delivering activities, and be voting members of the Board of Directors.

Our mission is “to provide a place where young people can build lasting positive change in their lives.” We accomplish this mission by seeking resources, collaborations and opportunities that help young people to realize their full potential, sharpen skills and enable them to be vital, responsible and contributing members of society. WYC youth say “the power of working at the Center is to better the lives of our families, friends, and community so that we may grow in an environment of respect, integrity, and justice.” Young people at the WYC work to understand democracy. They engage in community organizing activities that support social justice to benefit everyone.

## Did you know?

**The Worcester Youth Center served  
770 youth in 2010 with an  
average of 50 youth daily.**



# Restoring hope

**"I was a part of the Teen Action Group and the Urban Community Action Planning for Teens. Basically, what I did there was in the leadership program and I was a very active member of the Youth Center. It helped me to become a better person and helped me to move on to college."**  
-Barend Woode, 19

## Did you know?

**14 youth earned their GED in 2010.**

**"As a female of the Worcester Youth Center I feel obligated to be a leader for young ladies, and through the Worcester Youth Center I have not only been able to do that but also prosper as a young lady of today and a better woman of tomorrow."**  
-Angie Lozada, 17

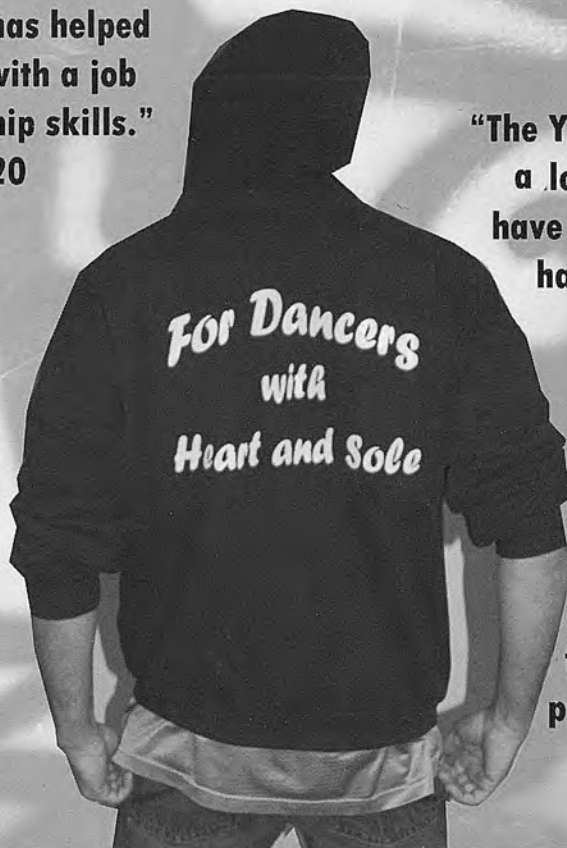
**"They help me find work and acquire different skills and push me to stay positive. But most of all they help me build character and become the man that I have always wanted to be."**  
-Steven Rodriguez, 19

**"I like the Worcester Youth Center because it is a great place to hang out after school."**  
-Jake Carreau, 17

**"Worcester Youth Center has helped me out by providing me with a job and teaching me leadership skills."**  
-Corey O'Leary, 20

**"The Youth Center has helped me a lot in my life because they have been there in moments of happiness and sadness."**  
-Rosa Medina, 17

**"They help me with school, advice, support with my art and also gave me my first job to support myself and my family."**  
-Arnelle Broda, 15



**"Without them I probably would not have graduated from high school because they pushed me to do the best I can."**  
-Carlos Rivera, 19

## Youth blend art, community advocacy

A group of fifteen youth chose to focus on cleaning up trash after undertaking several community walks around the Worcester Youth Center's neighborhood last fall. They observed what was there, and more importantly, what wasn't. They didn't find much community pride. They did find a lot of trash.

Facilitating the group's weekly discussion was Esayas Wureta, a first-year graduate in Clark's International Development Program and Jeanette Roach, Ambassador of Mentoring who selected the participants, after reviewing their applications for the year-long project. Part of the Urban Community Action Planning for Teens (UCAPT) initiative, this collaboration between the Worcester Art Museum (WAM) and the Youth Center was funded through a Youth Reach grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Program participants spent eight two-hour sessions at WAM in the fall of 2010, meeting artists and exploring different art forms, including watercolors, sculpture, and print making. They visited an exhibit on art as social change in Boston, and closer to home, a photography exhibit. Alex Dunn, WAM's outreach coordinator, oversaw this part of the program.



To respond to their community concerns through art, the students elected to create a sculpture made of cigarette butts. Once they secure funding and the city authorization, they plan to decorate new trash cans to encourage people to keep trash off the streets. Outreach to local elementary school students is another focus. The group's artwork and a chronicle of their year's effort will be exhibited at the Worcester Public Library in September 2011. "The youth are engaged," said Esayas. "They determine the end goal. I'm just following them and facilitating."

## Hanover Theatre blends art, community support

Part mime, part mystery, the internationally renowned Mummenschanz troupe held a benefit performance at Worcester's Hanover Theatre on October 26, 2010. Without sound or dialogue, the four-person Swiss troupe's performance brought life to everyday objects. The show delighted a nearly sold-out audience of all ages, and their responses became part of the performance. A portion of the ticket sales benefitted the Youth Center, as did generous corporate sponsors and a program book with advertisements.

# CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

At 23, Jose Herrera can honestly say he owns two businesses, and he's training for a third. He's a DJ for parties and special events through Grupo Euro, and with his business partners (and fellow Center members) he organizes events with Party Peepz Entertainment, initially founded as a Center micro-enterprise. In March 2011, he began forestry training with the Worcester Tree Initiative. After this nine-month paid internship, he wants to start a landscaping or tree service business. He'll hire fellow trainees and disadvantaged youth.

"Our crew is a little family," he said of the group of 11 youths who venture across Worcester County, learning to plant new trees in the area ravaged by the Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation, and to care for the city's existing trees. Along the way, they encounter urban wildlife, like a garden snake that surprised a few crew members.

Jose is the founder of the DOiversity Group at the Center, another micro-enterprise which recently won \$1,000 in seed money from the United Way's Youth Venture Program. Twice a week, they bring youth together to learn new skills, regardless of socioeconomic background. Whether it's dancing, cooking, or writing poetry, "we all have different skills to share," he said, "economic differences mean nothing." Events to connect the broader community to DOiversity's activities are in the planning stages.

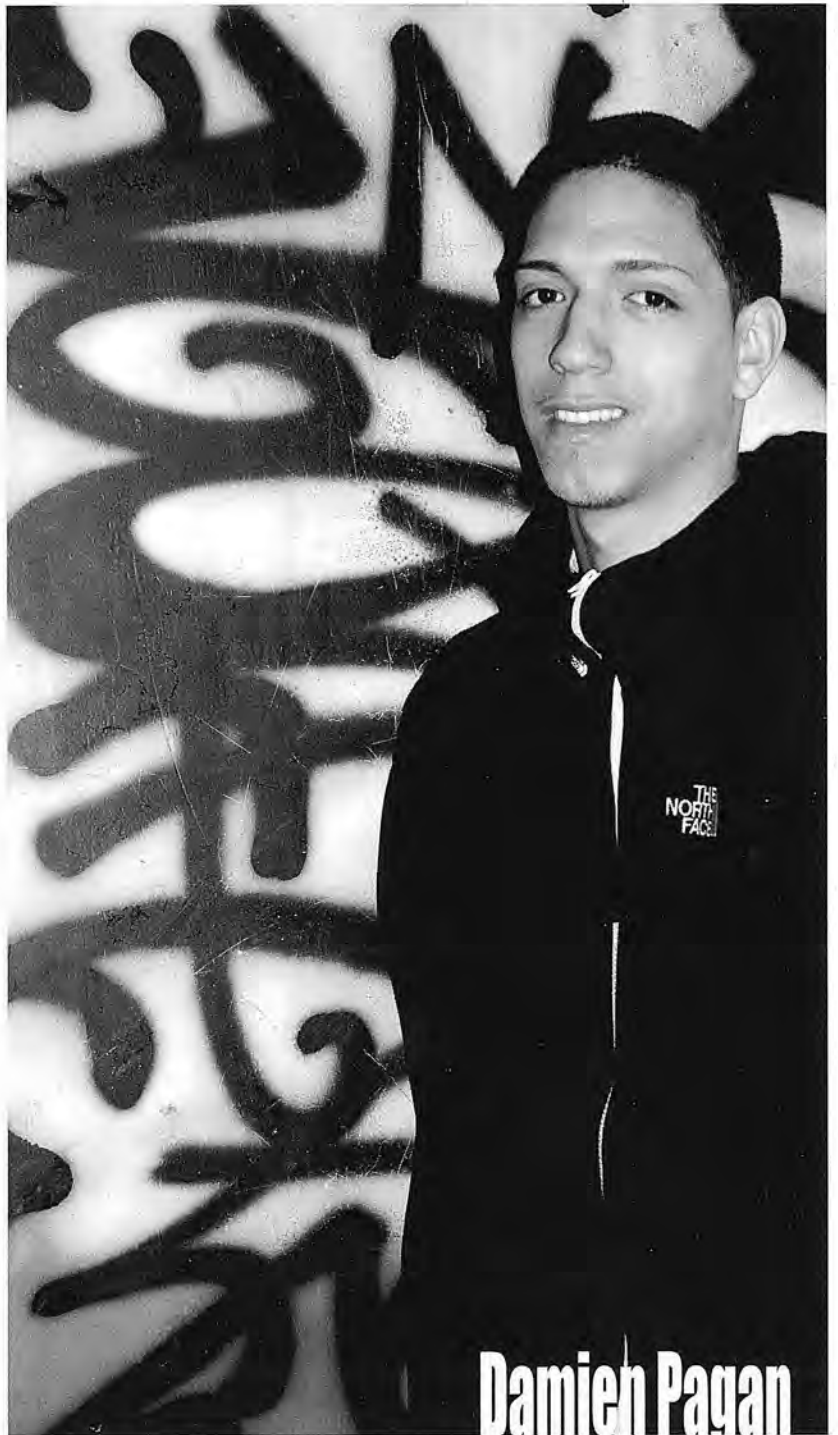


**Did you know?**  
We served 110 youth  
in internship and job  
opportunities

## Going Further

It all goes back to Forest Grove. That's when Damien Pagan was assigned to help the new kid, Steven, learn his way around middle school. Steven returned the favor when he showed Damien around the Worcester Youth Center. That was five years ago. Damien's involvement in many leadership and youth development programs has proven a solid source of support for him.

As he recalls, "I was messing around in Photoshop at the Center one day, and a staff member asked me to make a flyer for an upcoming break dancing event." A graphic designer was born. Damien continues to produce flyers and posters for the Worcester Police Department's Youth Summit, club parties, fashion shows, and other youth events. His biggest project so far has been the 2009 Worcester Youth Center annual report. Hilda Ramirez was ready for a new look to tell the Center's positive story. She turned to Damien for help, and other Center materials now feature his signature look.



**Damien Pagan**

Damien tested his skills in party planning as a Micro-Enterprise project in 2009. Teaming up with a friend, they created Party Peepz Entertainment. By the end of the summer, 10 people worked with him to plan and promote under-18 and under-21 parties at local clubs. He's also expanded from graphic design to sound design, working two afternoons a week at the Center's recording studio to help performers mix and master their sounds.

He juggles this work while taking five courses as a Becker College freshman, where he plans to major in criminal justice. His future may involve working with court involved youth, and then Homeland Security.

## Inspiring her peers

Angie Lozada has grown up in the Worcester Youth Center. Arriving as a shy ninth grader with friends from next door, she quickly got involved in the Teen Action Group's store. Known as "the panini girl," she parlayed that experience into a summer job making lunches and snacks.

Today, she has moved from the kitchen to the front desk. There she greets visitors, checks in members, and answer phones. She keeps tabs on everyone, which helps in board meetings when, as secretary of TAG, she shares youth members' thoughts and opinions with board members.

**"I'm always a part of something here. I can never say no."**

A Doherty Memorial High School student, Angie fell in love with chemistry, motivated by a teacher's high expectations. Selected for a senior internship program, she helped second graders with math and science activities. Whether she chooses criminal justice or medicine, she wants to work with teens.

She has run a business, and in the process, encouraged more girls to join the Center. During her junior year in the UMicro program, she learned about entrepreneurship and developed a business plan for a nail and hair salon. Last summer, Nu Nails was open for business every day.

Reconized for her leadership, Angie recieved the Hispanic Achieving and Celebrating Excellence Award from Quinsigamond Community College. She's excited that she will be a freshman at Westfield State University in the fall.



**Angela Marie Lozada**



## Serving Youth

The Worcester Youth Center is the only free drop-in program in the city. In addition to the drop-in component, the Center provides a variety of structured recreation, leadership, educational and mental health and wellness programs to Worcester's youth. Many of these young people are not connected to other agencies in the community, including the public schools. There is no membership fee to belong in the Center and all activities at the Center are free.



### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Academic Support (Computer Lab)  
GED Preparation (Basic Skills and Diploma)

### WORK READINESS

Lifeline to Success (Partnership with Police Department)  
Street Outreach Team (Partnership with Police Department)  
Summer Jobs (Worcester Community Action Council)  
Micro-Enterprise Training  
Culinary Arts (Partnership with Quinsigamond Community College)

### LEADERSHIP

Urban Community Action Program for Teens  
Teen Action Group (TAG)

### RECREATION

Basketball League  
Flag Football (Fall, Beaver Brook Park)  
Indoors (Pool, basketball, ping-pong, and computers)

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Healthy Snacks  
Care Mobile (UMass Service Medical Team)  
Counseling and Support Service (MSPCC)  
Martial Arts  
Mentoring Partnership for Success

### PERFORMING ARTS

Recording Studios  
Dance Classes and Dance Crews  
Dance Competitions (Hip-Hop & Break-dance)

# OUR CORE PROGRAMS

# Thank you to our generous donors for their support in 2010

## Corporation, Foundation, Government, and Individual Donors:

### Up to \$1,000

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 Bartholomew & Company, Inc.  
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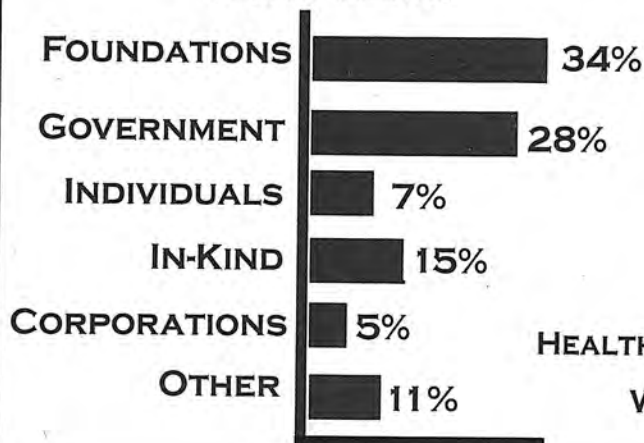


# WORCESTER YOUTH CENTER, INC.

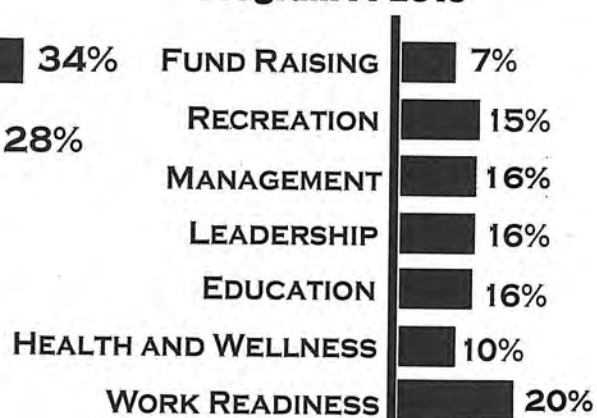
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2009

ASSETS	2010	2009
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 148,651	\$ 93,335
Marketable securities	674,829	649,066
Grants and contracts receivable	17,114	15,345
Prepaid expenses	7,678	5,395
 Total current assets	 848,272	 763,141
Property and equipment, net	611,764	647,798
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,460,036</b>	<b>\$ 1,410,939</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,258	\$ 8,004
Accrued expenses	18,252	2,825
Total liabilities	22,510	10,829
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	1,386,374	1,361,657
Temporarily restricted	51,152	38,453
 Total net assets	 1,437,526	 1,400,110
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,460,036</b>	<b>\$ 1,410,939</b>

### Breakdown of Income by Source FY 2010



### Breakdown of Expense by Program FY 2010



# WORCESTER YOUTH CENTER

## Worcester Youth Center

326 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602

Phone: (508) 791-4702

Fax: (508) 791-3613

[www.worcesteryouthcenter.org](http://www.worcesteryouthcenter.org)

[info@worcesteryouthcenter.org](mailto:info@worcesteryouthcenter.org)

WORCESTER YOUTH CENTER

A black and white photograph of the Worcester Youth Center building. The building is a single-story structure with a large sign above the entrance that reads "WORCESTER YOUTH CENTER". The sign is mounted on a dark background. The building has large windows and a door on the left side. The overall scene is dark, suggesting a nighttime or low-light setting.

Creative Services and Photography By: Tut Liu