

**YOUTH
POLICY
INSTITUTE**

1987 ANNUAL REPORT

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Even a superficial look at history reveals that no social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. Every step toward the goal of justice requires ... the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

— *Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

"The institutions which affect the poor — education, welfare, recreation, business, labor — are huge, complex structures, operating far outside their control. They plan programs for the poor, not with them. Part of the sense of helplessness and futility comes from the feeling of powerlessness to affect the operation of these organizations."

— *Robert F. Kennedy*

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January 1988

Dear Friend:

1987 was a key year for us at YPI. In many ways it might be the most important year in our short history.

It was November of 1979 when the first issue of a 12-page newsletter called *Youth Link* rolled off the presses. We were still a part of the RFK Memorial then and 12 pages seemed like quite an accomplishment! Now *Youth Policy* is a 72-page monthly. Plus, we publish *American Family* monthly and *SPS NewsReport* biweekly. I believe that all of our publications have improved markedly in 1987. We have plans for further refinements in 1988.

The first year of a two-year sustaining grant from the Ford Foundation enabled us to purchase computers which speed up our publishing process and give the magazines a cleaner, more professional appearance. With the computers, we began the important task of automating our substantial database on federal youth policy. We hope to create a model database in 1988.

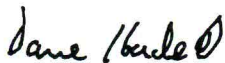
But our energies have been directed at more than publishing and the database. In 1987, we co-sponsored two forums. With the AFL-CIO, we held a forum called *Unions and Youth* in September which brought together union and non-union youth to discuss the role of the labor movement today. In November, we co-sponsored a forum on *Inner City Poverty and Youth* with the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation. This coming May, we plan to cohost with the National Collaboration for Youth, the California Collaboration for Youth and the Eisenhower Foundation a nationally televised debate of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates on youth issues.

Throughout our various activities we have trained a number of young people in journalism and policy analysis. We also have made plans to initiate three significant programs described later in this report. And we moved our offices to a more central Washington location.

It was an eventful year for us. One that has prepared us well for 1988.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make it so successful.

Sincerely,



David Hackett
Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

YPI: A UNIQUE POLICY INSTITUTE

YPI is a non-profit, non-partisan organization concerned with the future of America's youth. With the goals of policy *impact*, *research* and youth *training*, YPI is committed to a continuous examination and evaluation of youth policy. YPI is distinguished as the publisher of two monthly journals — *Youth Policy* and *American Family*, and one biweekly, *SPS NewsReport*.



YPI is different from most policy institutes. It is staffed by a mixture of young people and established professionals. The efforts are supported by a national network of professional senior associates and field editors.

Originally a program division of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, YPI became a separate organization in 1983. With the original mandate of monitoring all the federal programs that relate to youth, YPI has expanded its *impact* by creating a comprehensive **Database** of federal youth-related programs and notable state and local efforts. In 1988, YPI will add a new dimension to its impact by initiating a Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

Instead of generating new policy options, YPI conducts *research*, comprehensively covering the many policy options in the youth, child and family areas. To that end, YPI not only sponsors policy forums but systematically updates policy options in its magazines. YPI will expand its research activities in 1988 by unifying its forum and journalism capacities in the Policy Option Process.



Over 600 young people have benefited from YPI's "hands on" *training*. They receive invaluable experience in both journalism and policy analysis and many have gone on to distinguished careers in those fields. In the Service Training Program, YPI will intensify its training in 1988 to include community service.

YPI publishes one biweekly journal, the *Student Press Service NewsReport*, and two monthly magazines, *Youth Policy* and *American Family*. The *SPS NewsReport* is a news service for high school and college newspaper editors. The two monthly journals are widely distributed to youth-serving professionals, public agencies and corporations.

The magazines are uniquely designed for coverage of policy issues. Each issue is divided into three sections. The first section is devoted to articles by experts and concerned professionals in the youth policy field. Diverse subjects covered in 1987 included sex education, federally-backed home mortgages, and workfare. In the belief that refreshing policy options can come from the grassroots, YPI actively encourages articles by social policy practitioners who might not otherwise contribute to a national journal. For instance, in 1987, Edwin Joyiens of the Argus Community in New York and Beth Spence, a social activist in West Virginia, contributed articles.

The second section of the three magazines, the Updates, is unique. One of the major shortcomings of most policy journals is the lack of systematic tracking of previously reported policy options. To remedy this, the middle section updates options that were either suggested first in one of the YPI publications, or are notable in the policy debate.

In the third section of each magazine we track legislative, executive and nongovernmental action, including regulations, pending legislation and program evaluations. Since funding levels best represent current programs, YPI carefully documents all federal announcements and grants that relate to children, youth and family policy.

Although YPI does not itself generate policy options, it does solicit articles and conduct interviews. In 1987, YPI editors interviewed C. Everett Koop, the Surgeon General, and Gary Bauer, assistant to the President for policy development. Strictly nonpartisan in its coverage, YPI solicits the contributions of writers spanning the political spectrum.

Significant articles in 1987 came from a variety of contributors, including:

- Jule Sugarman, Secretary of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services;
- Leonard Duhl, Professor of Public Health and City Planning, University of California at Berkeley;
- Sar Levitan, Director, Center for Social Policy Studies;
- Mitchell Sviridoff, Professor, New School for Social Research;
- David Kearns, CEO, Xerox Corporation;
- Pablo Eisenberg, President, Center for Community Change;
- David Blankenhorn, Executive Director, Institute for American Values.

YPI TRAINING: JOURNALISM

In 1987, YPI editors interviewed C. Everett Koop, the Surgeon General, and Gary Bauer, assistant to the President for policy development.



YPI IMPACT: THE DATABASE

1987 was a key year for the YPI database — the pivot for all of our operations. We have begun the process of automating the database, in order to have easier access to our continuing history of programs and policies.

YPI does not claim to have a data bank of all programs that relate to children, family and youth. That task is better left up to more technically oriented research and archivist organizations. What we do offer is an inclusive repository of information on all federally funded programs and notable state and local programs that relate to children, youth and family.

There are two major characteristics of the YPI database: our unique matrix for storing the data and the particular perspective we bring to selecting notable options and effective local programs.

The YPI matrix for the database stores data and options according to the following:

1. What is the scope of the problem? What are the parameters of the issue and its inter-relation with other issues?
2. What has been past policy? Or, how much federal money has been spent on which programs?
3. What is current policy? That is, how much federal money is now being spent on specific programs addressing this issue?
4. What are some notable options for the future? What are the new proposals addressing this issue?
5. What are some exemplary local programs? Which efforts and programs characterize this new option?

This unique matrix for data storage is combined with YPI's distinct perspectives for viewing issues and options. YPI believes that youth policy is best analyzed through the three lenses of *programs*, *neighborhoods* and *planning*. YPI believes that social policy is best discussed as concrete *programs* with precise dollar figures attached. Not constructed in terms of generalities, the database monitors policy by examining the minutiae of funding, regulations, contracts and evaluations.

The second perspective is *neighborhoods*. YPI records and tracks policy options particularly from the neighborhood or local perspective. It does not ignore policy options implemented on the municipal, state and federal level, but pays special attention to the neighborhood level. It is YPI's experience that truly innovative social solutions will percolate up from the local level.

The third perspective is *planning* — especially integrated planning. YPI is promoting local integrated planning in the belief that although there have been many notable economic and social development programs, they have not been integrated into one effective whole. Integrated planning is discussed later in this report in the proposed **Neighborhood Revitalization Program**.

In 1987 YPI expanded its research capacity by facilitating two very successful forums. One forum, held in September and co-sponsored by the AFL-CIO, was an examination of the role of youth in labor unions. In November, YPI and the Eisenhower Foundation jointly conducted the second forum, *Inner City Poverty and Youth*. These experiences make us comfortable in utilizing forums as an active research vehicle. In one of our proposed programs on the next page, we describe how forums are pivotal for a complete examination of policy issues.

Unions and Youth was held at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in Silver Spring, Maryland. Young organizers from affiliated unions around the country and young non-union participants gathered for a day-long exchange of ideas and information. Six presentations were made by veteran labor organizers and young union members on such topics as teaching labor studies in the schools, organizing unorganized workers, training and apprenticeship programs, collective bargaining and legislative policy. The forum also gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and bring up issues they wanted to learn more about. AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Thomas R. Donahue spoke at the lunch on labor's effort to organize youth. YPI and the AFL-CIO hope that this forum is the first step in a continuous dialogue on youth and the unions.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of President Kennedy's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, YPI and the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation sponsored a forum on *Inner City Poverty and Youth*. The purpose was to develop specific recommendations for the next president in January 1989. The proceedings will serve as background papers for a two-day national forum at the LBJ School of Government at the University of Texas at Austin in late 1988. The March forum will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of President Johnson's Violence and Kerner Commissions. In early 1989, the recommendations of both the November and March forums will be published as a memo to the president on urban policy and the inner city.



The November forum was divided into three sessions at which experts in the field gave their recommendations for the next President:

Housing and community development

Sylvester Murray, former city manager for Ann Arbor and San Diego, and Raul Yzaguirre, chief executive of the National Council of La Raza, an advocacy group for Hispanic Americans.

Education and employment policy

Felicia Lynch, vice president of the Hitachi Foundation; Paul Weckstein, director of the Washington office of the Center for Law and Education; and Robert Taggart, director of the Remediation and Training Institute.

Human resources policy

Edwin Joyiens, director of the Argus Learning for Living Center in New York; Raymond Shonholtz, of the Community Boards of San Francisco; and Jule Sugarman, secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services of Washington State.

A summary of the forum was published in the December *Youth Policy*.

YPI RESEARCH: FORUMS

new programs for 1988

THE POLICY OPTION PROCESS

an added dimension to
YPI's research

Aware of the inadequacies of forums alone as a policy impact instrument, YPI is proposing a way to systematically prepare an issue before a forum and track that issue afterwards. Called the **Policy Option Process**, it is a multi-faceted approach to policy discussion in which a specific policy issue can be comprehensively examined and the results disseminated, on a non-partisan basis:

1. Research

YPI will initiate an Adjunct Fellows Program in which M.A. and Ph.D. candidates will work out formal arrangements with universities where, in exchange for having their work published, the Fellows will prepare an in-depth exploration of at least 10-15 pages on a specific issue. Using the YPI database matrix—scope/past/current/options/programs (see page 6), the Fellow will submit the paper to a review committee of three experts to certify that the paper represents a balanced presentation of the issues and options. The paper will then be distilled into a three page summary with emphasis on the options.

2. Dissemination

YPI will publish the paper in one of its three magazines and distribute it to people concerned with that issue. These people will be polled for reactions to the article. This will aid in the selection of Forum participants and the solicitation of other articles on the issue.

3. Forums

After at least one other article on the issue is published in our magazines, a one day Forum will be held. Academics, practitioners, public service employees, and concerned neighborhood people will be invited to participate. The forum procedures will solicit involvement beyond the standard participants' questions of speakers. For instance, all the participants might be asked to write a short response to one of the speakers. Some of the responses could be read at the forum; others would be published in one of the YPI magazines.

4. Tracking

Coverage will not stop with the article on the forum. The proposed options will be covered in the Updates section of the magazines for at least six consecutive months following the forum. The forum participants also will continue discussions of the options in informal meetings.

5. Distribution

The final part of the tracking process will be to make short summaries of policy options and programs available to local neighborhoods. In tandem with the **Neighborhood Revitalization Program** described on the next page, the summaries generated by the Policy Option Process will be made available at community forums. This step, potentially the most important, completes the "loop" of policy dissemination.

Since his tenure as executive director of President Kennedy's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, David Hackett has believed that effective local development requires integrated planning.

We have witnessed successful local economic and development programs over the last two decades. Head Start is almost universally acknowledged as effective. There are proven interventions in job training, adult education, and local housing. The problem is that these programs are not integrated into one comprehensive whole. There is unnecessary duplication of efforts — teen pregnancy and teen dropout programs aimed at the same problem behavior, for instance. One solitary program, no matter how effective, makes little systemic difference to the swirl of problems that envelop our disadvantaged neighborhoods. There needs to be a process where proven economic and social interventions are integrated into one comprehensive whole.

The integration of programs by itself, however, is not sufficient. If it were, a few outside experts could evaluate a community's needs and make summary recommendations. For a social program to succeed it needs to have the profound participation of the local community. The community's participation must go beyond commenting on an outside produced plan; the community needs to be intimately involved in its own planning.

To address these gaps of integration and participation in local development, YPI is initiating the **Neighborhood Revitalization Program**. In collaboration with other social service agencies, YPI seeks to use local integrated planning for ten comprehensive social and economic community projects. The first two years of a projected ten-year plan are designed as the developmental phase in which YPI will seek resources, refine planning methods and develop collaborative partnerships. We hope that 1988 will see the implementation of some community-based planning forums as preparation for the launching of the 10 demonstration projects.

YPI feels fortunate that Neil Vance will be the project manager of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. He has over 20 years experience in the design and implementation of social and economic development projects. He has lived and worked in Japan, Micronesia, Belgium, Venezuela and the west side of Chicago, where he honed his community development skills. His central concern in all his work has been community-based planning.



new programs for 1988

NEIGHBOR- HOOD REVITALIZA- TION PROGRAM

an added dimension to
YPI's impact

new programs for 1988

SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM

a new dimension
in training

More than 600 young people have benefited from their service at YPI in the past ten years. Because opportunities for service are decreasing in number and the allure of the acquisitive culture beckons our young, YPI is planning to broaden the training experiences it offers youth.

Called the **Service Training Program**, the program will allow for hands-on training in *journalism, policy analysis, and community service.*

Young people have always been given substantial responsibility in the production of YPI's three journals. All editors, researchers and reporters are young people. They become experienced in all facets of magazine publishing — skills that are easily transferable to other jobs. Past YPI staff and interns hold positions with major newspapers and magazines.



YPI learners also become skilled in *policy analysis*. We hope that young people can play an integral role in the proposed **Policy Option Process**. YPI learners will be assigned specific policy issues to research and describe, much like the Adjunct Fellows, and will gain invaluable experience from the exposure to real policy issues.

The third arena of service training available to YPI learners is community service. As the **Neighborhood Revitalization Program** is launched, YPI learners can become skilled in facilitating neighborhood forums.

Three points distinguish the **Service Training Program** from most Washington internships. First, the learners are given responsibility in various positions. Second, YPI is committed to making this training available to minorities. While YPI was a part of the RFK Memorial, we had the funding to recruit a high percentage of minorities for our

staff — usually more than 40 percent. We want to be able to subsidize young learners to have at least that percentage of minority participants.

Finally, we view this service as ethically enriching to our emerging leadership. We hope the STP can become a prototype of an alternative service scheme.

In tandem with the November 4 forum on *Inner City Poverty and Youth*, YPI held its first annual Awards Dinner to commemorate the 25th anniversary of President Kennedy's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency. In line with the thrust of the Committee's work, YPI chose to honor individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to the revitalization of neighborhoods. In particular, the awards were given to groups and individuals who have pioneered in local programs, neighborhood development and integrated planning. Here are profiles of the award winners:

The Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law was created to address, through national advocacy, the common problems that poor people were bringing to their neighborhood lawyers.

Sister Isolina Ferre is the founder and director of the Centro de Orientacion y Servicios (Center for Orientation and Services), a delinquency prevention project which noted sociologist Charles Silberman has described as the "best example of community regeneration I found anywhere in the United States."

Michael D. Hughes, a Hopi-Tohono O'odham Indian, is a professional staff member of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, where he is responsible for analyzing the federal budget and its policy implications.

John R. Lewis, a Mohave-Pima-Tohono O'odham Indian, is the director of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, an organization of 19 tribal governments in Arizona.

Alejandro Rodriguez is an extraordinary school principal. For the past 19 years, Rodriguez has been principal of P.S. 192, an elementary school in New York located in a community that is home to the largest legal and illegal immigrant populations in the city. It is also the worst "crack" infested area of the city.

Lawrence Schumake, the executive director of Kansas City's Black Economic Union, has been an active force in economic development in Kansas City, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Alberta Tippeconic, a Navajo Indian, is assistant director of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona and has been responsible for tribal program development in the areas of environmental protection, renewable resources and health and education.

Fifty-mile walks began with Theodore Roosevelt, who challenged the Marines to walk 50 miles in 20 hours. President Kennedy discovered and reissued the challenge to his administration. In February 1963, Attorney General Robert Kennedy set out with four Justice Department aides — Edwin Guthman, David Hackett, Louis Oberdorfer and James Symington — to walk the C&O Canal towpath along the Potomac. Kennedy finished alone, late at night, the only one to have gone the full fifty miles. Since 1981, when YPI renewed the Challenge Walk, we have used this annual event as a fundraiser to support our various activities. Last year the Walk raised over \$19,000.

This spring, in honor of the 25th anniversary of the original Challenge Walk and the tenth anniversary of YPI, the Walk will begin in Georgetown, follow the C&O Canal to Seneca, Maryland, turn around, and end at the Justice Department. Food, drinks and moral support will be provided along the way.

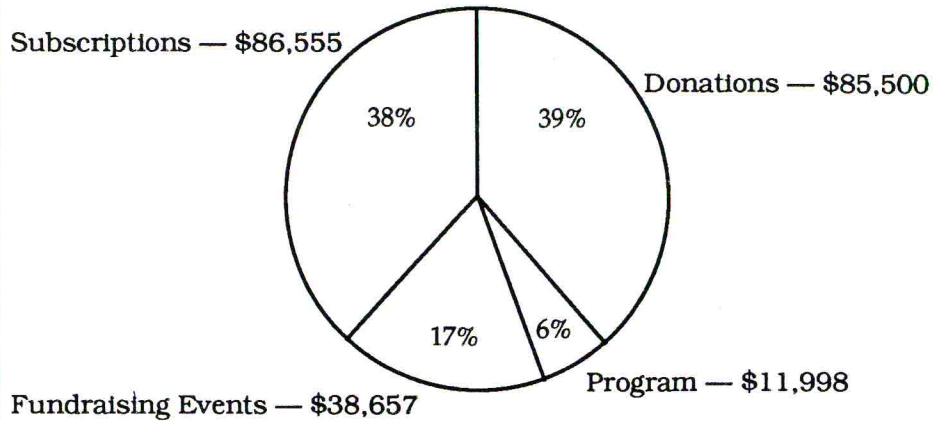
FIRST ANNUAL AWARDS

THE 7th ANNUAL CHALLENGE WALK

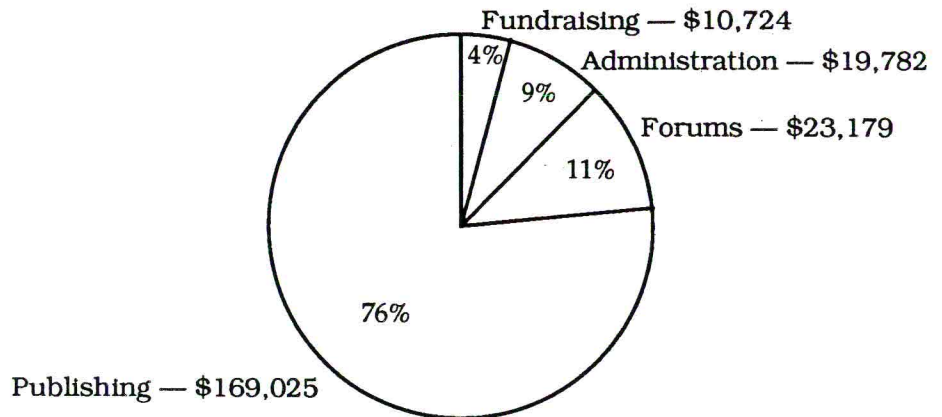
FINANCES 1987

The three YPI magazines provide a base of financial stability, with more than 38% of total income coming from subscriptions. Our two annual fundraisers — The 50-Mile Challenge Walk and the Awards Dinner — provide another 17% of income, leaving only 45% to be raised from other sources. YPI's expenses are noteworthy by the small amount spent on fundraising.

Income — \$222,710



Expenses — \$222,710



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