
THE HEART OF THE

YUNION



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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to counter negative cultural influences that misdirect the lives of youth by raising awareness and strengthening families through innovative prevention programming, education, parental engagement, mentoring, and counseling.

CORE VALUES

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| • Faith | • Service |
| • Love | • Family |
| • Hope | • Accountability |
| • Compassion | • Transparency |
| • Integrity | • Teamwork |
| • Respect | • Excellence |

Letter from Founder & CEO Jason Wilson

Dear Yunion Supporter,

When I founded The Yunion, I was guided by a simple but enduring truth: culture shapes us, faith sustains us, and purpose directs us. That foundation has not changed. What has changed is the urgency of the times and the depth of our responsibility to the young people and families who look to us for healing, guidance, and hope.

This past year brought challenges that tested nonprofit organizations across our nation, including here in Detroit. Yet in every season, God provides clarity. What some experienced as uncertainty, we received as confirmation — a call to strengthen our vision, to innovate, and to ensure that the work of transformation entrusted to us will never depend on shifting systems, but will be anchored in purpose and sustained by the community.

Through the Cave of Adullam Transformational Training Academy and every Yunion program, I continue to witness the power of emotional healing, accountability, and brotherhood. Boys are becoming men of character. Families are being restored. Cycles are being broken. This is not simply programmatic work — this is legacy work. We are planting seeds that will outlive us and preparing leaders who will carry healing into the next generation.

Innovation for us is not about keeping pace with trends; it is about stewardship. It is about building pathways that allow this mission to reach further, stand stronger, and serve longer. We are committed to forging new models that protect the sacred responsibility we have to the youth — so that no matter the political climate or economic landscape, the doors of The Yunion remain open.

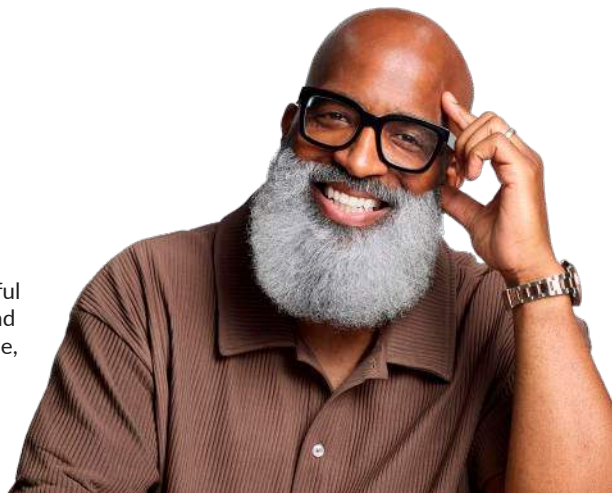
I am deeply grateful to our partners and funders who chose, even in a time of scrutiny and uncertainty, to lean in rather than step back. Your courage and conviction

have made it possible for this work to continue. To our staff and Board of Directors — your faithfulness, discipline, and love for our young people are the daily evidence that this mission is alive and well.

As we look ahead, I remain confident in what God has begun through The Yunion. The harvest before us is greater than what we have already seen. With your continued partnership, we will keep cultivating spaces of healing, raising leaders of character, and ensuring that future generations know that in their time of need, we stood, we built, and we did not waver.

With gratitude and purpose,

Jason Wilson
Co-Founder & CEO



Letter from Co-Founder & Executive Director Nicole Wilson

This year has asked much of all of us. Across our nation, shifting political winds have created uncertainty for organizations like ours that exist to serve those who are too often unseen. We felt that strain. Yet what could have been a season of hesitation became,

for us, a season of confirmation — a reminder that the work of The Yunion has never been dependent on circumstances, but on calling, community, and an unshakable commitment to our young people and their families.

We have always said that transformation is the natural outcome of The Yunion Way. In this season, that transformation has taken on new meaning. It has required us to think differently, to innovate boldly, and to build pathways that ensure our programs will stand strong regardless of the climate around us. Because the truth is simple: the youth and families who depend on The Yunion cannot be subject to the uncertainty of changing systems. They deserve consistency. They deserve belonging. They deserve a future that we are willing to fight for.

What has inspired me most this year is the way our community has responded.

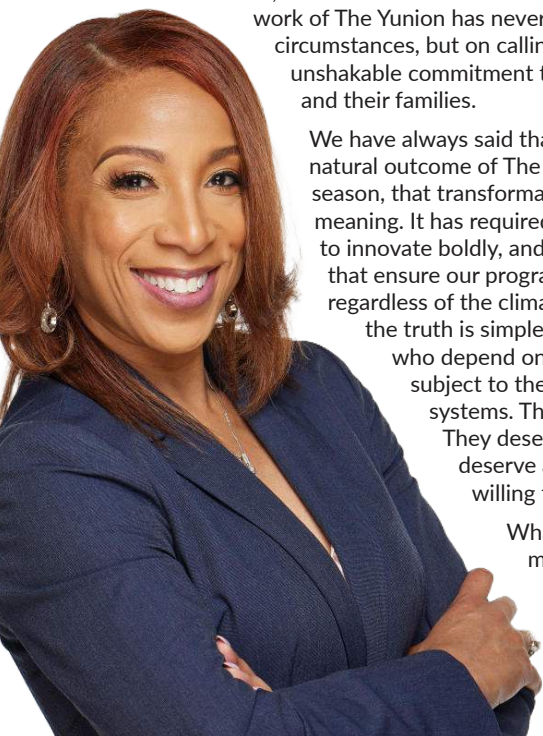
Our partners did not retreat in the face of scrutiny — they leaned in. They reaffirmed their commitment to equity, to impact, and to the young people we are called to serve. Our staff and Board of Directors continued to lead with excellence, compassion, and resilience, doing the daily, often unseen work that keeps our mission alive. This is what family looks like. This is what shared vision in action feels like.

We are not simply sustaining programs; we are forging a path forward. We are strengthening our ability to generate new opportunities, expand our reach, and create an innovative, faithful, and built-to-last model of impact. When future generations look back, I want them to know that we understood the times, that we rose to meet them, and that we refused to allow barriers to determine their access to healing, growth, and purpose.

To every donor, volunteer, board member, team member, parent, and young person — thank you for standing with us, believing in this work, and helping us move forward with courage. Because of you, The Yunion continues to be a place where transformation lives and where the next generation is being prepared not just to succeed, but to lead.

With gratitude and hope for all that is ahead,

Nicole Wilson
Co-Founder & Executive Director



THE CAVE OF ADULLAM TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY

Every boy who enters The Cave of Adullam Transformational Training Academy (CATTa) arrives with a story. Some are navigating challenges at home, struggling to process their emotions, or searching for a sense of belonging and purpose. Through Emotional Stability Training® (EST), CATTa helps boys transform those challenges into opportunities for growth, equipping them to become emotionally aware, spiritually grounded, and purpose-driven young men.



OUR WORK IS CENTERED ON FOUR KEY AREAS:

HEALING BOYS

Helping young men confront and overcome emotional barriers, trauma, and negative thought patterns.

MENDING MEN

Strengthening relationships between fathers, sons, mentors, and male role models.

FORTIFYING FAMILIES

Building stronger foundations through support, restoration, and accountability.

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Developing leaders who understand their purpose and responsibility to those around them.

The transformation we witness extends far beyond the individual. As boys gain confidence, emotional stability, and self-discipline, families grow stronger, relationships are restored, and communities are impacted. Through CATTa, young men are learning not only how to overcome life's challenges — but how to lead lives of purpose, character, and lasting impact.



Caden Ross, Cave of Adullam Transformational Training Academy Participant

When Caden first joined The Cave of Adullam Transformational Training Academy, he wasn't entirely convinced it was for him. "Honestly, I didn't really want to do The Cave at first," he shared. "But once I did it, I really started liking it." What began with hesitation soon became a transformative experience that challenged him to persevere, work harder, and push beyond his comfort zone. Through the program, Caden discovered a greater sense of fortitude, learned to put forth more effort, and saw improvements in his academic performance. "I've been doing better in school ever since, and it encouraged me to push through more and go outside my comfort zone," he said.

His father witnessed the transformation firsthand. Beyond the skills and lessons taught, he was struck by the patience and intentional mentorship demonstrated by The Cave's instructors. He also noticed meaningful changes in Caden's behavior and decision-making. "Now he definitely thinks more before he responds," his father explained. "He responds logically based on the overall circumstance of what's going on versus just reacting off emotions." Reflecting on his journey, Caden recalled the pride he felt after successfully completing a major milestone in the program. "I was looking forward to passing, but I was nervous. Once I passed, it was just wow." Today, both Caden and his father describe The Cave as a life-changing experience and highly recommend the program to other young men and families.

STUDENTS WITH AWARENESS AND GOALS LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM



Navigating adolescence can be overwhelming for many of today's youth. Questions about identity, relationships, decision-making, and the future often arise during some of the most formative years of their lives. Through Students With Awareness and Goals (S.W.A.G.), The Yunion meets students where they are — providing trusted mentors, meaningful conversations, and a safe space for growth.

In partnership with teachers and parents, S.W.A.G. Life Guides serve as relatable mentors who build authentic relationships with students in schools and partner sites throughout the community. By creating environments that are engaging, supportive, and educational, students are encouraged to open up, ask questions, and explore topics that impact their daily lives, from self-esteem and communication to personal responsibility and goal setting.

The impact of S.W.A.G. extends far beyond the classroom. When young people feel seen, heard, and valued, they gain the confidence to make informed decisions, strengthen their relationships, and envision a brighter future. Through trusted guidance and consistent support, S.W.A.G. helps students develop the awareness, resilience, and purpose needed to thrive both today and tomorrow.



“WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SEEN, HEARD, AND SUPPORTED, THEY BEGIN TO SEE NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR THEIR FUTURE.”



LEVEL UP WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

“

BEFORE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN PURSUE
A CAREER, THEY MUST FIRST BELIEVE
IN THEIR POTENTIAL.

”





Potential is everywhere, but opportunity is not always equally accessible. Through Level Up Workforce Development, The Yunion helps young people bridge the gap between where they are and where they aspire to be. By introducing participants to new possibilities and equipping them with practical skills, we help them build confidence in both their future and themselves.

At the center of Level Up is a commitment to mentorship and relationship-building. We know that meaningful conversations about careers, financial responsibility, life skills, and personal growth begin with trust. By creating supportive environments where young people feel encouraged, challenged, and valued, our team is able to guide participants toward making informed decisions about their education, careers, and future goals.

Through engaging workshops, real-world learning experiences, financial literacy training, career readiness development, and hands-on opportunities, participants gain the tools needed to thrive. The result is more than workforce preparation — it is a generation of young people equipped with hope, purpose, and a vision for what is possible.



Level Up Workforce Development - Zackary Bokach Testimonial

Zackary joined The Yunion in 2023 feeling like the world was stacked against him. When Zackary first connected with The Yunion's Level Up Workforce Development Program, he was a determined young man balancing the demands of school, work, and family responsibilities. While he possessed the drive to succeed, he needed access to the right opportunities, mentorship, and career-focused experiences to help turn his ambitions into a clear pathway forward. Through Level Up, Zackary found more than a program; he found a community that believed in his potential.

Over the course of his journey, Zackary earned industry-recognized certifications in data analytics, digital marketing, Lean Six Sigma, and drone technology while gaining hands-on experience as a youth mentor, drone instructor, and hospitality trainer. These opportunities strengthened his leadership skills, expanded his professional network, and equipped him with the confidence to navigate both higher education and the workforce. Today, Zackary stands as a powerful example of what happens when preparation meets opportunity. As he balances Advanced Placement coursework, dual enrollment studies, and real-world work experience, he is building a future defined not by obstacles, but by possibility. His story reflects the mission of The Yunion: empowering young people to discover their purpose, develop their talents, and lead with confidence.

KEYS TO LIFE

At Keys to Life, creativity becomes a catalyst for growth. Through hands-on experiences in the performing arts and digital media, students gain confidence, develop leadership skills, and learn to express themselves in meaningful ways. As they explore their talents through music, dance, acting, media, and storytelling, they also build critical life skills, strengthen relationships, and develop a deeper sense of self-worth and purpose.

By nurturing both talent and character, the program empowers young people to discover their voice, embrace their potential, and become positive contributors in their schools, families, and communities.





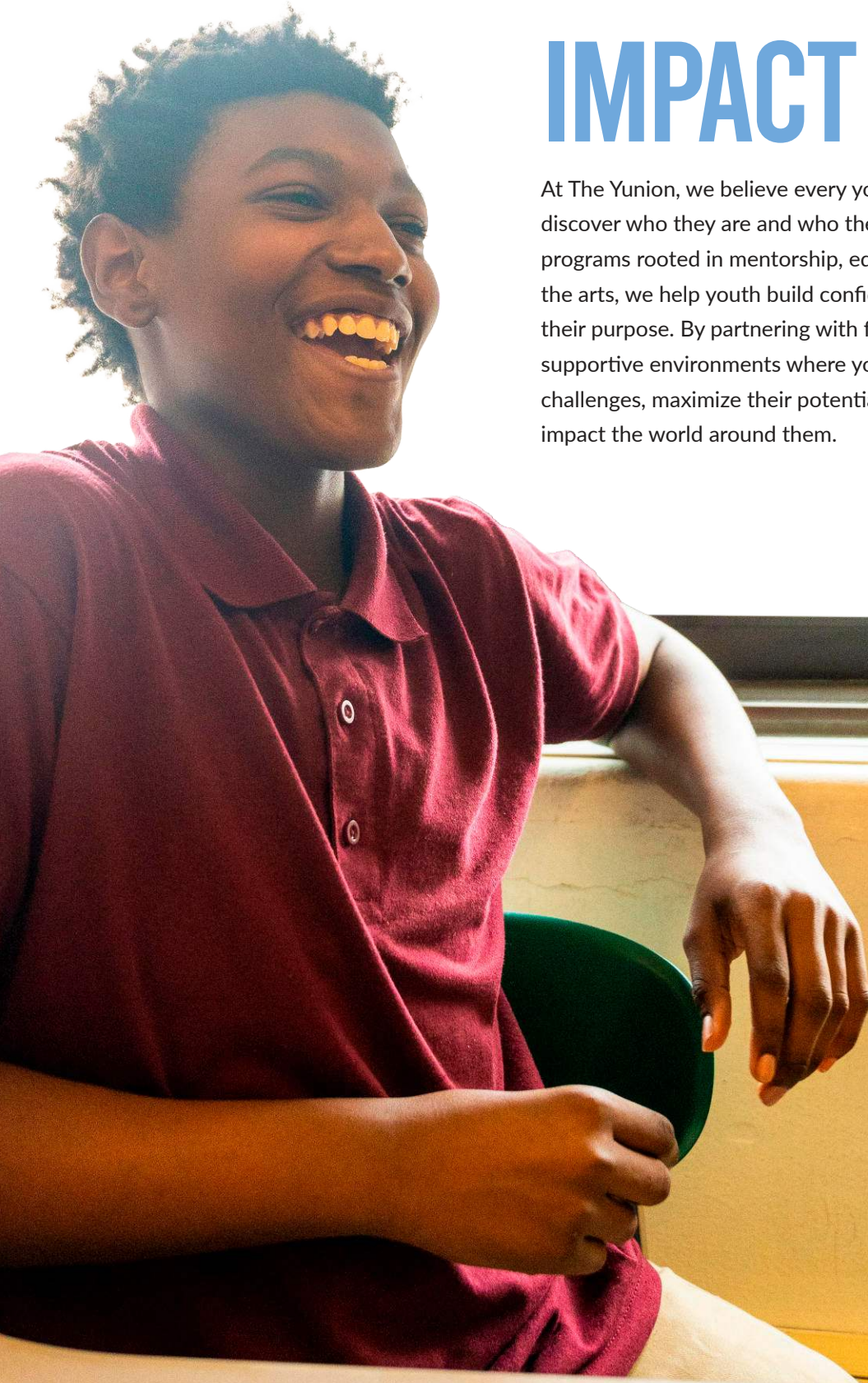
Noelle Chapman, Keys to Life Testimonial

For Noelle Chapman, Keys to Life provided more than just a summer program — it created a supportive community where she felt welcomed, encouraged, and inspired to grow. From the moment she arrived, she found the staff and fellow participants to be warm and inviting. She especially enjoyed the engaging classes, spending time with friends, and memorable experiences like trips to the beach. “Everybody there is just so supportive and sweet,” Noelle shared. “You can tell the people there really actually care about you.”

Crystal Chapman credits the program’s dedicated staff and structured enrichment opportunities, including the S.W.A.G. classes, as some of the most impactful aspects of Noelle’s experience. She believes programs like Keys to Life play a vital role in exposing young people to positive opportunities and helping them discover new interests and strengths. Reflecting on her daughter’s experience, she described the program as one where children are set up to succeed, adding, “I don’t see how your child could miss.” Together, their story highlights the lasting impact that caring mentors, meaningful experiences, and a supportive environment can have on a young person’s development.

IMPACT & REACH

At The Yunion, we believe every young person deserves the opportunity to discover who they are and who they can become. Through transformative programs rooted in mentorship, education, leadership development, and the arts, we help youth build confidence, strengthen life skills, and uncover their purpose. By partnering with families and communities, we create supportive environments where young people are empowered to overcome challenges, maximize their potential, and become leaders who positively impact the world around them.





In 2025, the Level Up Workforce Development Program supported 114 youth

- 33 youth were employed through Grow Detroit's Talent or community worksites
- 10 youth have continued to post-secondary education or advanced training
- 59.3% of youth obtained employment in the fourth quarter after exiting the Workforce Development Program
- 91% reported having the skills necessary to make healthy decisions supporting their future goals
- 85% reported intending to avoid risky behaviors to achieve their future goals
- 80% exited the program achieving a positive outcome



LifeSkills consisting of Keys to Life and S.W.A.G. has served 920 youth

- 76% of participants strengthened their ability to envision, plan for, and pursue their personal goals
- 100% of participants left the program with a stronger sense of confidence, self-worth and belief in their potential



CATTA served 130 youth

- 11 youth baptized
- 92% suspension-free during the final month of programming
- Increase in students earning mostly A's
- 94% proud of Black history and accomplishments
- Increased family support for extracurricular participation
- Improved emotional regulation, focus, and school engagement
- 96% of students avoiding contact with the juvenile justice system



Keys to Life and CATTA saw an 15.5% increase in proficiency for ELA and a 28% increase in proficiency in Math during the Summer Discovery Program, which is above the Summer Discovery program average

- We served a total of 224 students through Summer Discovery

GROWING OUR IMPACT

As we look ahead, The Yunion is committed to expanding opportunities for youth and families through mentorship, education, workforce development, the arts, and emerging digital media. By embracing innovation, strengthening programs, and deepening community partnerships, we will continue to equip young people with the skills, support, and confidence they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

With gratitude

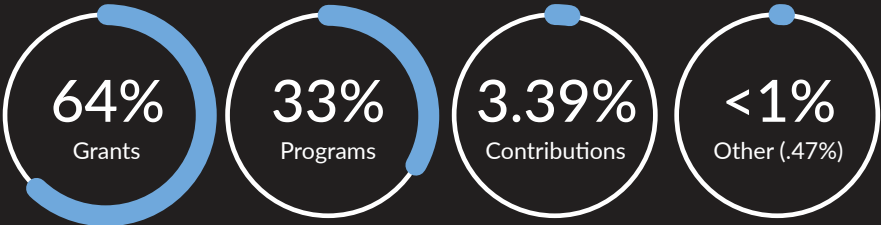
Behind every milestone, success story, and life changed is a community of supporters who believe in the potential of young people. Because of their generosity, The Yunion is able to provide transformative programs that equip youth with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to thrive.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the funding partners whose investment helps make this work possible.

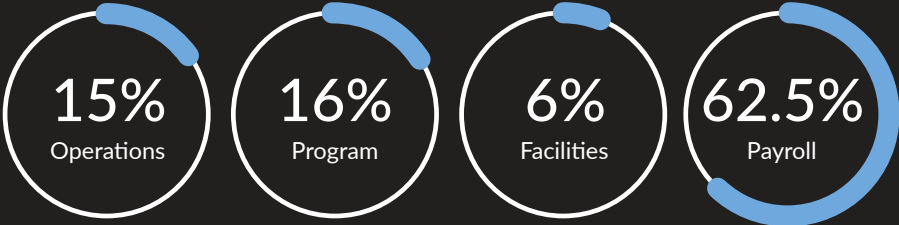


FINANCIAL REPORT

Amount Raised in 2025: \$2,601,915.33



Total Expenses in 2025: \$3,208,586.19



OUR TEAM



Jason Wilson
Co-Founder & CEO



Nicole Wilson
Co-Founder &
Executive Director



Kourtney Neloms
Interim Chief
Operating Officer



Keri Wallace
Director of Program
Operations



Kimberly Benjamin
Human Resources
Director



TaQuinda Cylar
Marketing and
Communications
Director



Christopher Norris
CATTa Lead
Instructor



Justin Pitts
CATTa Program
Coordinator



Darius Samples
Assistant Lead
Instructor



Sheriese Johnson
Executive
Administrator



Arabia Little
Program Coordinator



Latanya Satawhite
Data Quality
Specialist



Sidney Bishop
Diversion Care
Manager



Kishana Eastmon
Diversion Care
Manager



Donesha Peoples
Diversion Care
Manager



Antoine Crowder
Level Up Workforce
Development Career
Manager



Marc Spight
Level Up Workforce
Development Career
Manager



Taria Pearson
Level Up Workforce
Development Career
Manager



Jazzmin Pitts
Level Up Workforce
Development
Program Manager



Charyse Marshall
Keys to Life
Coordinator



Mya Williams
Program Assistant



Johnathan Shropshire
Community
Engagement Manager



Ronald Lee
Facilities Safety
Manager



Sean Smith
IT Specialist



Jason Wilson
Peer Instructor



Jeremiah Nunn
Peer Instructor



Elijah Huff
Peer Instructor



David Horne
Peer Instructor



Elisha Nunn
Peer Instructor

Not pictured
Josiah Humphries
Peer Instructor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jason Wilson
Chair



Natalie M. King, Esp
Board Member



Kirk Englert
Treasurer



Kourtney Neloms
Secretary



Jaunice Kellar
Board Member



Louise Morigan, III
Board Member



Cameron Young
Board Member

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jonathan Shropshire
Community Engagement
Coordinator

Diamond Carswell
Parent

Kaila Pickett
Previous Participant

LaKisha Brown
Community Leader

Lashawnda Denson
Community Leader

Nicole Byrd
Community Leader

Nicole Williams
Community Leader

Sheri Pickett
Parent

Vester Waters
Community Leader

Dexter Sullivan
Community Leader

Juliett Johnson
Parent

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

Our community is uplifted through our relationships with those around us. We encourage you to contact us with questions, suggestions, and support for the continued transformation of our youth.

Visit Us Online
theyunion.org

Follow us on social media

Facebook - facebook.com/theyunion

Instagram - instagram.com/theyunion

LinkedIn - linkedin.com/company/theyunion

Twitter - twitter.com/theyunion

TikTok - tiktok.com/@TheYunion

Reach out any time

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