



# DEAR FRIENDS,

**WITH YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT,** OPP has completed another remarkable year. We've increased participation in our major programs, launched our groundbreaking Opportunity High School in a unique partnership with Hartford Public Schools, and expanded our mission to include youth beyond Hartford.

Still, there is much more we can do, and the need for us to take action is more urgent than ever. Even as we celebrate our successes, we are dedicating our talents and resources to **continuous improvement in everything we do.**

We are proud of the strides we've made in the last 12 months. More than 500 youth took part in our summer employment program this year, gaining critical experience and skills that will help them in their careers and their lives.

We served nearly 1,100 youth in our proven Pathways to Success Program, a 10 percent increase over the year before.

And we now have 150 students enrolled in Opportunity High School. These are students who dropped out of other high schools and now have a second chance to earn their diplomas. Opportunity High School is a

particularly critical endeavor for us. A study we commissioned last year showed that the Connecticut economy loses \$500,000 for each high school dropout. We expect OHS to play a significant role in reversing that trend.

As part of our expanded mission, we're currently looking at other communities that would benefit from an Opportunity High School of their own. With generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, we're also planning to expand our core programs and become even stronger and more vocal advocates for the growing number of youth we serve.

For us, though, the true measure of continuous improvement remains the lives that we change. You'll read the inspiring stories of six youth whose lives have been touched by OPP. These young people, and the thousands of others we have served over the years, carry our hopes and dreams for the future.



**Bob Rath**, President and CEO



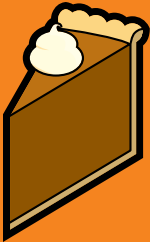
**Mike Connelly**, Chair of the Board,  
Fiscal Year 2011





# IN THE FAMILY

## Edwin Serrata Jr., 16



I first got involved with OPP when I was 14. My brother Alex was already working with the organization, and he convinced me to join. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. OPP taught me all about job readiness and the importance of working with others. I also met lots of new friends and youth advisors who made OPP a wonderful experience for me.

Right now, I'm in Junior Art Makers. We create products like holiday cards, airbrushed T-shirts, and theater costumes that are sold to the public. I love creative work, and I want to make it my life.

I'm currently a junior at University High School of Science and Engineering and I want to pursue a career in architecture. I don't really know what college I want to attend, but I'm confident I'll do well wherever I go.

My dream is to travel the world and design buildings that make life better for the people who live in them. OPP showed me that with hard work and a good education, anything is possible.

My mother, Jenny Serrata, is the other inspiration in my life. She's back in school right now, finishing her degree in early childhood education while she runs a home daycare business. With continuing support from OPP, and my mom as an example, I know I can achieve everything I want to in my life.



# ON TRACK AGAIN

## Xavier Cancel, 19



I attended Hartford High School for three years, but it just didn't work for me, so I dropped out. I was out of school for almost nine months, and I wasn't very happy with myself. I knew I could make more money with a high school diploma. I also wanted to give my son a better future.

I decided to try Opportunity High School, so I could turn my life around. I started last September, when the school first opened.

I love the teachers and the principal, and I feel like I'm part of one big family. I'm getting A's and B's in all my classes, and I'm going to graduate in June.

I'm involved in a lot of activities, too, like Student Council, the Prom Committee, and Positive Males, Inc. I like Opportunity High School so much, I got a friend of mine to enroll, and he's very happy here too.

OPP helped me in other ways. I had internships at City Hall and the Boys and Girls Club. I've gotten a lot from the community, and I want to find a way to give back some day.

My next step is to go to college. I have three brothers and two sisters, and I'll be the first one in my family to get a degree. I want to major in business and start my own company when I graduate. I really want to take care of my family, and with the education and experience I'm getting from OPP, I know I can succeed.



# READY TO GIVE BACK

## Rochelle Artis, 19



My mother passed away on December 1, 2008 and my father hasn't really been involved in my life, so I'm currently living with a family member.

I graduated from East Hartford High School in June of 2009 and I'm now a sophomore at Capital Community College. I'm the first in my family to graduate from high school and attend college, so I'm very proud of myself.

My case worker at the Department of Children and Families referred me to OPP when I was 17. He knew they could help me find a job and learn how to be more independent.

I've been involved in a number of different programs at OPP, including Job Readiness Training, Allied Health and the Junior Art Makers fashion business. I learned critical skills, like writing an effective resumé and cover letter and being successful in a job interview. My Youth Development Specialist also helped me to further my education and to keep myself healthy.

My plan for the future is to keep going to school until I get a Master's degree. I'd like to be a social worker in a school or a doctor's office and help other young people reach their full potential.

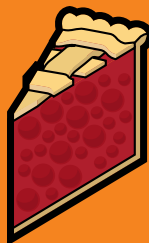
I love OPP because everyone there has helped me get to where I am today. They've also given me the confidence to pursue my goals and dreams for the future.





# PROMISING CAREER

**SuezEmith Vallanilla, 22**



I graduated from Capital Community College in 2009 with an Associate's degree in Computer and Information Systems. I'm now working for Girl Scouts of the USA, and I was just promoted to Community Development Coordinator.

I got involved with OPP when I was a sophomore in high school. On the first day, they asked me what I was interested in doing and what I wanted to learn. I started with an internship, so I could get some work experience. Of course, I was scared, because I had never done an internship before, but I really liked it.

I took a lot of different classes after that to improve my skills and get ready for a full time job. The Youth Development Specialists taught me a lot, and even helped me get over my shyness. They also showed me how important it is to have a college education. They helped me fill out all the paperwork when I applied, and supported me until I graduated.

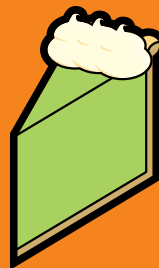
I plan to go on and get a Master's degree and become a registered nurse. I also want to raise my first child to experience all the things that helped me in my life.

Everyone at OPP has done so much for me, that my mom bakes them cakes as a way to pay them back. OPP helped me grow mentally, physically and emotionally. My life would be very different if I didn't have the help that they gave me.



# EXCELLENCE REWARDED

**Ashley Mallard, 22**



I'm the oldest of four children and I'm also a mother to my 2 year old daughter. I was raised in East Hartford and began my college career at the University of Connecticut, majoring in childhood education. During my sophomore year I decided to take time off to raise my daughter. Knowing that I had primary responsibility for another life I prepared to work harder than ever.

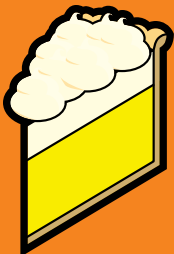
A family friend told me about OPP. I was intrigued by the different services they offer and applied to the Office Procedures and Technologies program. I later joined Hartford AmeriCorps, also through OPP. I worked as a tutor in Hartford, earning a national service award and an education award for my work.

My efforts didn't go unnoticed. I was offered a temporary position as an assistant instructor for the summer session of OPP's Hartford Voices Youth Business. Based on my experience and job performance, I was eventually hired as a permanent staff member. I currently work as an Integrated Youth Trainer for the Junior Art Makers fashion youth business, and I'm president of the Youth Advisory Board. I also plan to re-enroll at the University of Connecticut and continue my studies in childhood education.

I credit much of my success to the staff and services at OPP. The organization has impacted my life in a very positive way. Their mission is to help urban youth become successful adults and I'm living proof that they're succeeding.

# EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

## Lauren Martin, 22



There are many young people in the City of Hartford who feel trapped, but they refuse to readjust their perceptions, to do something new and to allow others to help them. I am not afraid to say that I used to be one of those people.

I'm a very different person today. I graduated from St. Lawrence University in December and I'm now working for a major corporation in Connecticut. My father has always been my anchor and

I love the support my entire family has given me. OPP has played an important role in my life as well.

I've been a part of OPP since I was in middle school and I stayed involved until I graduated from college. OPP offered me my very first work experiences, some of which I still have on my resumé today. Perhaps the most memorable was an internship with Congressman John Larson, before I entered my sophomore year at St. Lawrence.

I plan to continue my education, and I will soon begin pursuing a joint MBA and law degree. I still haven't decided on a career, but I know that whatever path I choose, I will be the standard for excellence.

For the past decade, OPP executives and Youth Development Specialists have been role models for me. Although my days at OPP are slowly but surely coming to an end, I feel confident in the future of the organization and I will continue to cherish the relationships I built there.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the year ended June 30, 2010

## OPERATING REVENUES

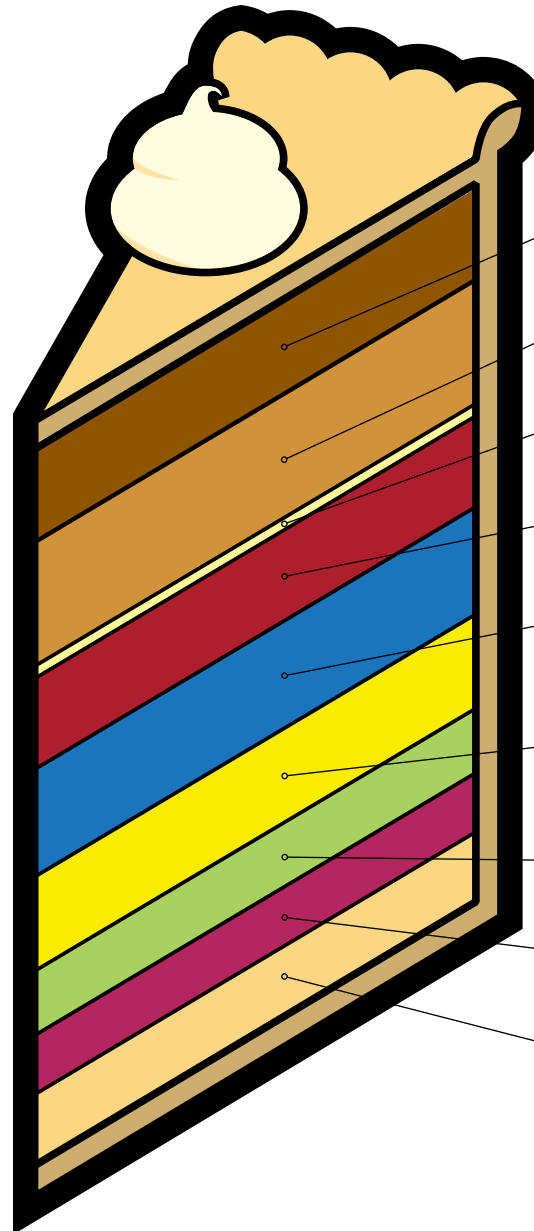
Government Grants	\$2,855,167
Contributions from Corporations, Foundations and Individuals	\$1,576,728
United Way	\$307,292
Program Fees	\$15,430
Interest Income	\$1,243
Miscellaneous Income	—
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,755,860</b>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Youth Development Services	\$615,264
Youth Business	\$844,896
Childcare	\$82,112
Opportunity High School	\$616,957
Youth Employment Services	\$728,251
AmeriCorps	\$638,714
Education	\$433,099
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$3,959,293</b>
Management and General	\$401,240
Fundraising	\$470,585
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$871,825</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,831,118</b>

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$149,000
Change in Net Assets	\$73,742
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$1,416,387
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$1,490,129</b>

# EXPENSES 2009-2010



## PUMPEIN

Youth Development

## APPLE

Youth Business

## BANANA CREAM

Childcare

## CHERRY

Opportunity High School

## BLUEBERRY

Youth Employment Services

## LEMON MERINGUE

AmeriCorps

## KEY LIME

Education

## RHUBARB

Management and General

## BOSTON CREAM

Fundraising

# FUNDING SOURCES 2009-2010

\*Donations in memory of Betty K. Rath

## FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS

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J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Inc.  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Charles Nelson Robinson Fund  
Community Partners in Action  
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Ensworth Charitable Foundation  
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The Fund for Greater Hartford  
Greater Hartford Arts Council  
H.A. Vance Foundation  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co.  
Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation  
John Hunt Scholarship Program at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
Lincoln Financial Foundation  
Nellie Mae Education Foundation  
NewAlliance Foundation  
Nutmeg Foundation  
The Phoenix Foundation, Inc.  
Prudential Foundation  
State Farm Companies Foundation  
TD Charitable Foundation  
The Tow Foundation  
Travelers Foundation  
United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut\*  
Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation  
Webster Bank  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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Connecticut Department of Children & Families  
Connecticut Department of Education  
Connecticut Department of Social Services  
Connecticut Judicial Branch  
Connecticut Office of Workforce Competitiveness  
Hartford Public Schools  
United States Corporation for National and Community Service  
United States Department of Health & Human Services  
United States Department of Labor

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Helping urban youth become successful adults

Administrative Office  
20—28 Sargeant Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06105  
860.761.7300

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

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Hector Rivera, *Vice President of Pathways to Success*

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