

THE APPRENTICE OF PEACE YOUTH ORGANIZATION

# IMPACT REPORT



AN OVERVIEW OF AOPYO'S  
COMMUNITY IMPACT IN 2022

COMMUNITY BUILDING • WELLNESS  
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



# ABOUT US



## History

The Apprentice of Peace was founded in 2013 by Ronnie Qi and D.L. Pos Lu Chan, two friends with a powerful connection to the practice of *Tai Chi*. After many years of collaboratively facilitating community Tai Chi classes, the duo expanded the organization to create *The Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization*, with a shared mission and vision that whole-person development can be nurtured in young people through the principles of Tai Chi.

## Mission

To develop the wellbeing of students through a whole-person approach – integrating mentoring, enrichments, and career pathway programs.

## Vision

A world where students are resilient, self-sufficient, and socially responsible while leading their community.



# PROGRAMS



## Enrichment Programs

OUR ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN WORKSHOPS FOCUSING ON THE VALUES OF COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP, AND IDENTITY.

## Mentoring

AOPYO OFFERS ONE-ON-ONE AND GROUP MENTORING SESSIONS FOCUSING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MENTAL HEALTH WITHIN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SETTINGS.



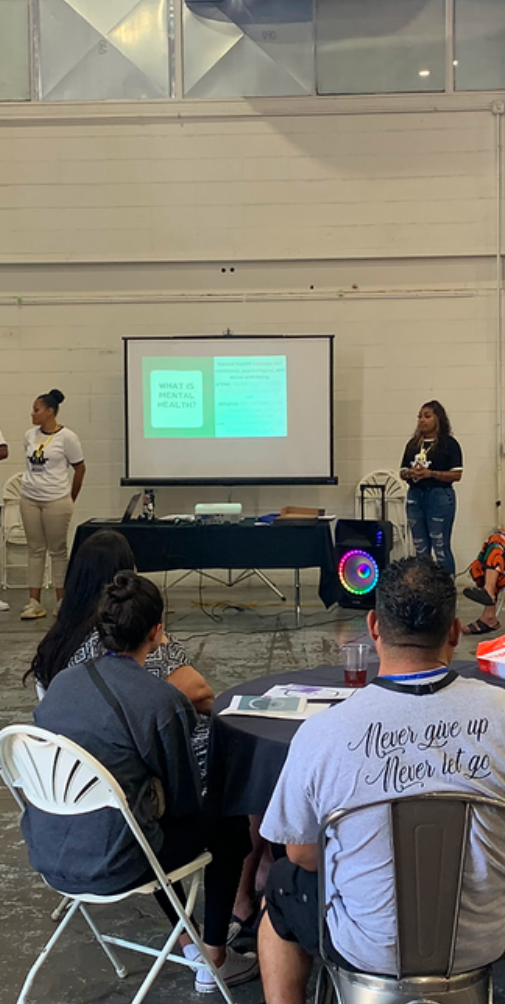
## Career Pathways

OUR CAREER PATHWAY PARTNERS OFFER OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 18-24 THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS IN A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIES, WITH DIRECT CONNECTIONS TO CERTIFICATIONS.

## Student Council

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATIONAL AND EMPOWERING ACTIVITIES, DIRECTLY WITHIN THEIR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES.





# AOPYO Young Adult Council & The Value of Life Movement

The Young Adult Council (YAC) was established in 2018 when two violent incidents occurred while YAC participants and partners were present. This group is now the chapter of AOPYO tasked to work within our *Value of Life* campaign – a movement that seeks to prevent youth violence at the intersections of mental health by addressing the effects of systemic racism, poverty, and lack of community belonging.

In 2022, the YAC was activated through participation in policy forums, personal development workshop offerings, offering resources at community events, and developing their own ***Sparcs4Good Value of Life Challenge!***

(Use the QR code to learn more and take the challenge)



**Participate Now!**



# asop40 BY THE NUMBERS



188

STUDENTS CURRENTLY  
ENROLLED ACROSS  
PROGRAMS

17

PUBLIC SCHOOL &  
ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

29

COMMUNITY EVENTS

1529

STUDENTS & COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS SERVED THOROUGH  
EVENTS



Connect with Us

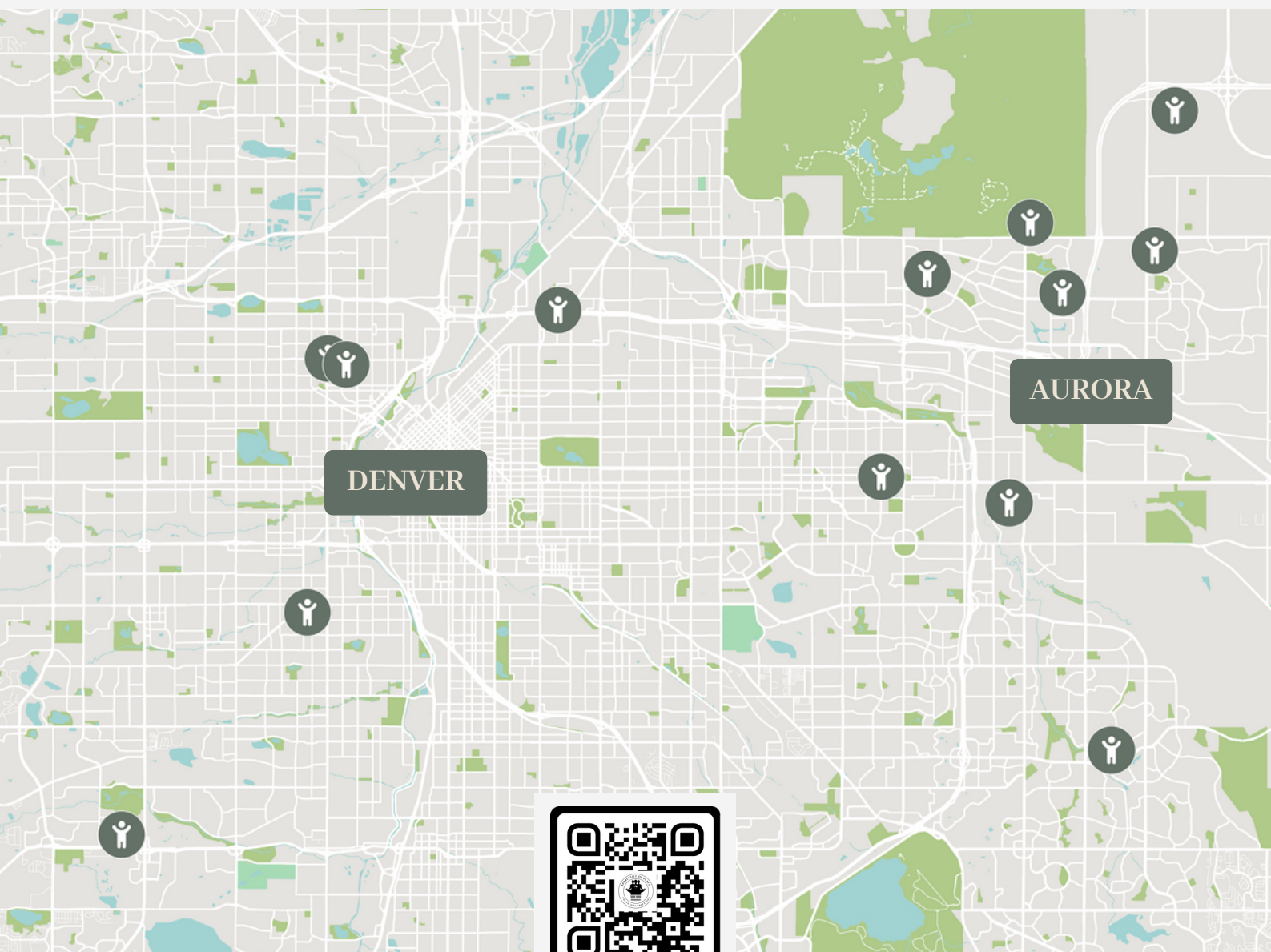
CONNECT WITH  
US ONLINE!



# School & Program Partners



- Rangeview High School
- Aurora East Middle School
- North High School
- Bruce Randolph
- AUL (Formerly the Academy of Urban Learning)
- Highpoint Elementary
- Kepner Beacon Middle School
- Robert F. Smith STEAM Academy
- Aurora Central High School
- Spring Creek Youth Service Center
- Mount View Youth Service Center
- AOPYO Community Circle
- McGlone Elementary
- Rocky Mountain Communities



Partner with Us

GET INVOLVED AT [AOPYO.ORG/PARTNERS](https://aopyo.org/partners)

# a letter from the Executive Director



Being an *executive director* of a nonprofit organization is often a lonely space. The days are inundated with emails, putting out fires, consoling staff members, and endless meetings. You can generally find me out and about, wearing multiple hats, and exchanging them throughout the day - most often focused on the task of striving for consistent and reliable funding.

Then there are those breakthrough moments that remind me of why I do what I do – why our entire team is dedicated to The Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization. Because we hear things like, “...this program provided me an opportunity to experience and learn more about myself and my community.” And, “I don’t want the program to end because I enjoy having a place to come each week that helped me grow.”

The expression “*you don’t pick the fruit the day you plant the seed*” rings true under our daily circumstances. Running an organization like ours often comes with a natural level of resistance. Yet through persistence, nurturing, wellness, and patience, we see transformation in the students we work with. And this is the reward of the work. Being committed to their growth and development. In this process, we grow as people, as leaders, and as community activists. The journey is not about reaching a peak but continuing to climb.

Over the past year, we have doubled our staff which presents its own challenges and excitements as pioneers in a space full of intersections. We have honed in on our programs and offerings, and continue to focus on improving organization-wide with every step, emphasizing the same principles we are founded on – wellness and self-care – first.

As we enter into 2023 with our passions ignited, we are thankful for all of our supporters and partners! Without you, there is no us.

With intention,

*D.L. Pos Ryant*

Co-founder & Executive Director

