

Fighting Back Against
Bullying Since 2016

Our Mission:

JABS Believes that

Educating, Supporting,
and Empowering Youth

Impacted by Bullying,

Promotes Equity and

Creates Promise-Ready

Students.

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hope-thru-navigation.org

Justice Against Bullying @ School (JABS) is an Anti-bullying Student initiative Powered by HOPE (Helping Other People Exceed) thru Navigation.





Wednesday, April 3, 2024,

For Immediate Release!

HOPE thru Navigation's 7th Annual YOUth Connect 7 - "The Art of Equity" was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without supporters like YOU! We're ever so grateful for your participation at YC7 and want to give you all a shout out for going above and beyond! Thank you for believing in Our Mission of Equity and Leveling the Playing Field by connecting youth of all ages to a variety of out of school time resources. Each year we are blown away by how you all come through for the youth!

A Very Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:

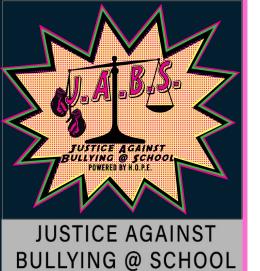
Food Equity Sponsor ISAAC, Communities in Schools, Kalamazoo Public Library, Parents for Transition, People's Food Coop, Prevention Works (thanks for the Breakout Presentation!) and YWCA Kalamazoo. We very much appreciate your Sponsorship and unwavering support for the work we do!

Many Thanks To Our Connectors and Collaborators:

Bill Play for all the FREE gear for the Culture, Charlie's PLACE for prioritizing your participation and holding the exclusive distinction of attending every YOUth Connect since it's inception! The Community Healing Center's STREET Program, Confections with Convictions, Davis Delectables, Ed Genesis for the Hip Hop Coloring Books donations, Lamar Blanchard of Iconic Cuts, Dontray Hemphill & the Exclusive Barber Team, Cuts by Dajon (JABSpreneur), HMG Navigation & Planning, LLC., Kalamazoo County ID Program, Kalamazoo Junior Girls, KRESA Career Connect, KYD Network, New Connections of Kalamazoo, OutFront Kalamazoo, Tyrone from Polar Bear for the box of Sweet Treats; Smile Savers, South Michigan Food Bank, and the Workforce Development Institute. Thank you all for showing up for the youth by providing an abundance of resources and doing what you do best!

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EXCEED THRU NAVIGATION





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Much Appreciation to Our Entertainment Superstars: Thank you to Jennifer, Quincy and Crew from Sounds of the Zoo for setting the bar high and kicking off the event; DJ Playhouse for keeping up the energy and getting us all movin & groovin; and the Vibin' Selfie Room for going all the way completely out with the fire YC7 photo backdrop and selfie room! You all showed up & showed out to make this event one to remember!

A Big Thanks To Our Partners: Douglass Community Association for your attention to detail, cooperation, professionalism, and overall being an AWESOME Partner for the 4th year in a row! Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo for providing volunteer support, their office space, and youth room for all the activities; ISAAC Anti-Gun Violence Task Force, NO SLEEP, RAWK, Vine Neighborhood Association, Grieving Into Future Triumphs (GIFT), and Kalamazoo Alliance to Prevent Gun Violence (KAP). We deeply value your continued support and partnership!

Special Thanks to Our Volunteers:

We had an extraordinary crew of volunteers this year! Thanks to each and every one of you for sharing your time and talents helping out with the registration, food, face painting (Donna "The Clown" Wilinski), the henna All-Stars, slime, haircuts, cotton candy, popcorn, and more. We appreciate all of your support making YC7 not only fun but safe, organized, and run ever so smoothly!

To the JABS Club LIT Members (Leaders in Training) and HOPEtN Staff: Thank you all for your dedication and amazing teamwork making The Spring Break Event of The Year a huge success! Your unique talents and leadership skills shine so bright! Keep up the great work!

Event Feedback:

Sharing your event feedback helps our Mission of Leveling the Playing Field each year at our Annual Youth Connect. We look forward to hearing from you! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KLHFPZK

SAVE THE DATE for Youth Connect 8! Always the Wednesday of Kalamazoo Public Schools Spring Break!

#YC7 #YouthConnect7 #TheArtofEquity #POWeredbyHOPE #LevelingthePlayingField

With gratitude,

Shaina McLain Gwendolyn Hooker Justyce Calvert Event Navigator Chief Executive Officer JABS Co-Founder

