CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

YOU'RE THE STAR OF THE STORY! CHOOSE FROM INFINITE ENDINGS.

ICAH FY17 ANNUAL REPORT



ICAH.ORG

DEAR ICAH FAMILY, 2017 IS OUR YEAR!

As ICAH turns 40, we're called to honor our history and our position as leaders of the reproductive justice movement in the Midwest. We more boldly commit to centering youth voice and supporting young people who deserve safety, affirmation, and health. Our deep belief in their power and potential propels us to disrupt our culture's dominant narratives about youth, especially those regarding their sexual decision-making. With this report, we invite you to explore better narratives by choosing your own adventure.

ICAH's annual report leaves the choice up to you. In this choose-your-own-adventure style zine, we invite you to step into the shoes of folks whose gender or identity may be unfamiliar to you, whose age or expertise leads you to reconsider your next move, whose choices and fates are ultimately left to you... Do you overcome the oppressive forces you encounter? Do you unify adult accomplices and young people to build solidarity across intersectional movements? Do you flip back and try something new?

This year, we claim victories and incremental policy change that proves monumental in the context of our national landscape. Our inaugural public season in 2017 was a full display of FYI performance magic. Our organizing and comprehensive sexuality education has changed over 4,700 hearts and minds throughout Illinois, increasing the knowledge, skills, and behaviors of people who may influence countless others. We entered this milestone year with a new three-year strategic plan that will guide our work through 2020. It is exciting to envision the possibilities of what we can achieve.

You've brought unique value to ICAH each time you've shown up for us, whether by coming to our events, donating, volunteering, or sharing our mission with others in your life. Thank you for your support during this important year!

In solidarity,

Michael K. Vega, MS, CAE Interim Chair, Board of Directors

Tiffany Pryor Executive Director

At any given moment, we are all called to be revolutionaries. The Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) has had a 40 year history of partnering with some of the Midwest's most revolutionary youth and adult organizers, educators, and artists. We've been a growing home for youth leaders as they develop passions for reproductive justice, for adult accomplices as they better understand how to show up for the young people in their lives, for healthcare and school professionals looking to improve their youth-centered care, for families, for you.

Mission & Vision

The Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) is a network of empowered youth and allied adults who transform public consciousness and increase the capacity of school, family, and healthcare systems to support the sexual health, rights, and identities of youth. We envision a world in which youth use their own power to achieve health and well-being in their own lives and for their communities.



Our work remains deeply invested in the stories and lived experiences of young people. In our education, organizing, advocacy, and cultural work, we center youth as the primary authors of their own narratives, the protagonists of their own lives. So now, in this "choose your own adventure"-style zine, we invite you to become the central character in our story. Seat yourself in the experience of a youth leader at ICAH and wander your way through different options for transforming the world. And have some fun while you're at it! With ongoing attacks on our wellbeing from villains and bullies, our pleasure matters now more than ever.



If you want to skip out on pleasure, turn to page 15.

> If you're ready for an adventure, turn to page 3.

It is summer of 2016.

You've been working with the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health for the past three years as a youth organizer and educator. You sip lemonade at the organization's 39th birthday party, wondering what life will be like for you at 39. With how much social change you've catalyzed in just 19 years on earth, your imagination wanders to the many ways you'll use the next two decades to support reproductive justice for all.



This lemonade is tasty! If you've quenched your desire for revolution for the day, turn to page 15.

If you're still thirsty to make the world a better place, turn to page 4.

Fall arrives.

You round the bus stop corner, dreamstrolling home after a fiery CHAT (Change, Heal, Act Together) meeting at ICAH. You connect a campaign idea you have in the CHAT meeting to a workshop you participated in during the Head Heart Hands Institute last month with 35 youth and adult stakeholders.

As the lightbulb goes off in your head, your phone alert sounds. Distracted from your inspiration, you wonder if that news app is getting in the way of your self-care.

The blue light of your phone turns up an anxiety provoking truth: election results are coming in.



If you'd rather not face election results today, turn to page 15. If you feel brave and prepared, turn to page 5. Three faster blocks and you make it home.

You say to yourself: "Eat a little, go to sleep, dream of the world I want to live in, wake up, and meet whatever world awaits."

You do.

And when you awake, the world you dreamt of hasn't arrived. A villain has slipped in through the cracks.

You decide to get to work.



If you choose to EDUCATE to fight the villain, turn to page 6.

If you choose to ORGANIZE to fight the villain, turn to page 7.

You understand that the villain wants to prevent access to information about sexuality in order to control people's bodies. You fight back by providing 27 peer education workshops and 27 performance-based workshops, reaching 1,349 youth with comprehensive sexual health, rights, and identities education.

One young person in a workshop tells you, "All people deserve to learn about sex; even youth should be trusted to make their own decisions." Another says, "Young people have a choice and can make a difference in their lives and communities. I now know more about my own capabilities." Stealing your heart even further, another peer shares, "After this session, I feel better about my body."

Their words embolden you to do more.

To develop and design new sex ed CURRICULUM as your next step, turn to page 8.

To help create original PERFORMANCES as your next step, turn to page 9.

Amidst many of the villain's threats is a promise to remove reproductive freedoms of all kinds. You know that young parents, youth of color from low income households, LGBTQQIA+ youth, and young people seeking abortions could be significantly impacted by these actions. You fight back by organizing to stop the Parental Notification of Abortion law in Illinois, which mandates that medical providers have to notify the adult family members of youth seeking abortions under the age of 18. While standing up for the right of youth not to parent, you also support the right of young people to parent by creating a model Title IX policy for Illinois schools. The policy demands that schools support the success of pregnant and parenting youth. In just a year of organizing, 288 people sign policy support petitions, write Stop PNA postcards, and engage in #StopPNA social media campaigns. You know you've just barely scratched the surface of what's possible. You brainstorm ideas for more organizing.

To design and lead EVENTS as your next step, turn to page 10.

To help create original PERFORMANCES as your next step, turn to page 9.

Floored by the changes you witnessed in leading peer education workshops, you work with ICAH staff to create 5 new workshops while updating all existing workshops to center the voices of ICAH youth leaders. In alignment with the National Sexuality Education Standards and the Illinois and Chicago Public Schools Social Emotional Learning Standards, the workshops are even more inclusive of LGBTQQIA+ youth, can stand on their own or as part of a 25+ workshop residency, and hold a new structure that supports youth and adult facilitators who work together to tailor workshops to meet student needs. Co-creating curriculum and co-leading workshops with adults makes you wonder what other partnership opportunities exist.



To explore youth and adult PARTNERSHIPS at ICAH, turn to page 11. Your investment in the connection between organizing, education, and cultural work is stronger than ever. You know that in order to change people's minds, you have to change their hearts because cultural problems demand cultural solutions. And the villain isn't short of cultural problems.

You work with ICAH's FYI Performance Company to develop three original plays for their first-ever public season of new works: one on virginity, one on the experiences of pregnant and parenting youth, and one on consent. The plays reach 152 youth and 584 adults.

By attending development workshops for the plays, you become curious about what other partnership opportunities exist with adults.



To explore youth and adult PARTNERSHIPS at ICAH, turn to page 11. You feel stronger as an organizer than ever. Full of visions for gathering people to take action on the issues you care about, you work with ICAH staff to plan three events: Let's Talk, for hosting sexuality conversations with given and chosen families; Strike A Convo, a bowling alley event to #StopPNA; and a summit for pregnant and parenting youth. 115 people attend campaign events.

After just a program year of organizing together in this way, you and your CHAT peers increase your understanding of organizing from 79% to 89%. Your knowledge of Title IX skyrockets from 60% to 89%, and 85% of you feel more confident making healthy decisions after a year of work together.

Filled with excitement about the success of your organizing, you wonder what's possible with more adult partnership.



To explore youth and adult PARTNERSHIPS at ICAH, turn to page 11. You deepen your belief that adults and youth are stronger when they work in partnership. You learn that there was an increase of 15.4% in the number of adults who received training from ICAH from 2016 to 2017. It dawns on you: our work to disrupt systems with internal activists is growing. You become curious about the work adults need to do with each other to better support youth like you.



To watch ICAH's ED truth-tell at the Chicago Women's March, turn to page 12.

To watch ICAH Adult Educators spread the word about youth-centered sexuality education, turn to page 13. You walk through a crowd of 250,000 women and allies at the Women's March on Chicago, held in solidarity with Women's Marches across the nation. A little overwhelmed by the crowd, you consider retreating. ICAH moved into a new office this month, and you picture the youth-made artwork and purple walls to cultivate a feeling of safety. Should you turn back and hang out there for the day? No, you set your vision forward.

You search for the stage where Tiffany Pryor, ICAH's Executive Director, will speak. With 2.6 million other people marching at the same time across the world, you thirst for a dose of youthcentered reproductive justice amidst the chaos. You know Tiffany will deliver. Just when you think it's too late, you arrive at Tiffany's stage. She walks on, catches your eye, finds her way to the microphone, and gives you a wink before beginning:

"Supporting young people means actively dismantling a system that is designed to silence their voices and instead making space for their creativity, brilliance, and self-love to blossom." You convince a teacher at your school to sign up for ICAH's Adult Accomplice Certificate program, which reaches 212 adults, including her. She inspires your school to obtain professional development from ICAH, just like 26 other schools that chose to invest in professional development for their staff, resulting in 473 trained professionals.

You reach adults in non-traditional spaces too: you support performances of Forecast, ICAH's reproductive and racial justice play in spaces like Loyola's Black Lives Matter Conference, which received a standing ovation from over 200 people.



To put all the pieces together, turn to page 14. Reflecting on your organizing, education, and cultural work for reproductive justice, you sense that the ecosystem is changing. You know the seeds you have planted this year are growing. You feel them cracking open in the soil beneath you, under the same ground that the villain stands. You envision the near and distant future.

Choose your own ending (remember that endings are also beginnings!):

If you feel in the spirit of giving, consider donating to ICAH.

If you're an artist, consider creating art that advances ICAH's mission, vision, and values.

If you have some spare time, consider volunteering for ICAH.

If you're a youth leader, consider joining our CHAT network.

As an everyday revolutionary, think of another way you can change the world with ICAH and beyond: Looking forward into the near and distant future, ICAH and I will... In FY17, ICAH reached 4,743 people, including 2,847 youth ages 14 to 24 and 1,896 adult accomplices ages 25 to 35. We provided 27 peer education workshops, 27 performance workshops, 26 professional development trainings, 10 adult ally trainings, three organizing events, and three participatory plays via the inaugural public season of FYI. ICAH leaders presented in 11 conferences to national audiences. By the end of FY17, ICAH's online activism reached 60,566 people on Facebook, engaged 44,472 on Twitter, and 848 on Instagram.

Our impact, which continues to ripple outward, would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and funders. THANK YOU TO THE ICAH TEAM

FOR THEIR DEDICATION

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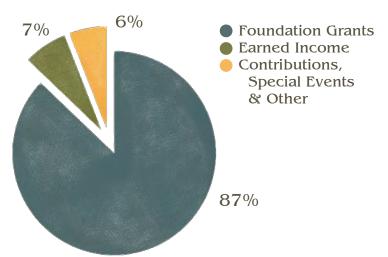
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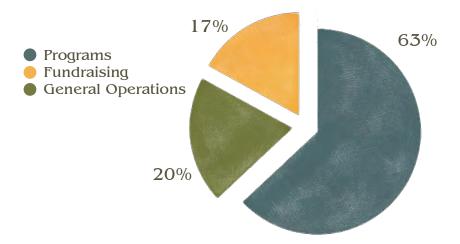
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FY17 FINANCIALS

Total Revenue: \$677,318



Total Expense: \$591,573



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TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS REPORT POSSIBLE

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