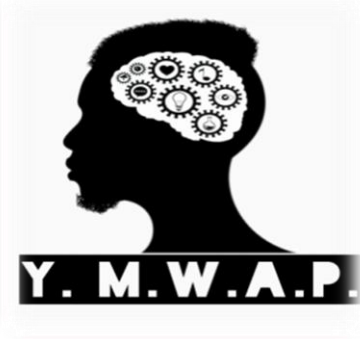


**“The best part of the program is gaining a sense of direction in life and being surrounded by people who will drive me to succeed.”**



**Young Man with a Plan Director Jaykyri Simpson Named a Finalist  
Massachusetts Nonprofit Network Excellence Awards  
"Young Professional" Category**

**Every year, the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network honors the passion and impact of nonprofit professionals and organizations in the state's nonprofit sector with the Nonprofit Excellence Awards. This year, a panel of judges reviewed over 130 nominations that represented the work of nonprofits and professionals across the Commonwealth. They selected 28 finalists across 6 categories. Winners will be announced at the virtual event *Nonprofit Awareness Day: A Celebration of Nonprofit Excellence* presented by Citizens Bank on Wednesday, June 24.**

**<http://massnonprofitnet.org/2020-nonprofit-awareness-day-celebration-nonprofit-excellence/2020-nonprofit-excellence-awards/>**

**Excellence Award Finalists in the Young Professional category:**

- 1. Consistently go above and beyond their job description to address needs or challenges in their organization and/or community**
- 2. Show a passion for and dedication to their organization's missions and the communities that they serve**
- 3. Have overcome obstacles to grow and succeed in their role**
- 4. Have produced meaningful and measurable outcomes through their vision, innovation, interpersonal skills, and hard work**

**In response to Jaykyri being named a finalist, Shannah Varon, Executive Director of Boston Collegiate Charter School, one of the schools whose students are served by YMWAP, said this about his leadership:**

**"Jaykyri is a fierce and humble leader. He brings kindness and compassion to his work with the young men in his program as well as vision and deep commitment to the organization he leads. Young Man with a Plan has positively thrived under his leadership and we are all so grateful!"**