Who is YES!?

• A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that started in 2008

• Staff is comprised of adults and high school students

• Mission: To empower youth, in partnership with adults, to create community change

#YES4Change
Youth Empowered Solutions

Real Food, Active Living

Teen Tobacco Use

Substance Abuse

Access To Health Care

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YES! Youth Empowerment Model ©

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Tips to Begin To Involve Youth
Why Involve Youth in Food Access Work?

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YES!’s Healthy Corner Stores Redesign

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The issue: Asheville has a large population that is food insecure – especially in communities of low-wealth.

Youth:
- Surveyed customers
- Conducted environmental scan
- Made recommendations
- Shared with store owners
- Advocated to make changes

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Healthy Corner Stores Toolkit

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What is Corner Store Redesign?

Corner Store Redesign is an advocacy project that focuses on increasing the availability and sales of healthy food options by implementing easy, low-cost, and effective methods for store owners. This project has been used across the nation to bring healthy affordable foods to neighborhoods that don’t have a grocery store nearby or adequate public transportation. It was developed by youth and adult staff of Youth Empowered Solutions (YES)!

The goal of the project is to make healthy food options an easy and accessible option even when the only food retail store in an area is a corner store. Offering healthy options in local corner stores allows those who rely on the store for their food supply to make healthier dietary decisions and gives healthier options to those just stopping in for a quick snack. The Corner Store Redesign may not completely change the food selection at the corner store at first, but will increase the amount, accessibility, and appeal of healthy options in the store.

*Please note: for the purpose of this project, the term "corner store" can be used interchangeably with the terms of convenience store, gas station, country store, or any other small food retail store in a community.

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YES! Resources

- Additional Toolkits - Healthy Vending, Lunchroom Redesign, and More!
- Youth Trainings
- Adult Trainings
- Consulting

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