

# Mano a Mano

Youth Empowerment Program (Y.E.P.)



**Graduate!**



**Work!**



**Thrive!**

## Helping Youth who are Disconnected

Mano a Mano Family Center focuses on prevention. Since the mid-nineties, we work with youth who are disconnected from family, school, community and their own selves. We are expanding our supports for youth already in gangs or involved in the juvenile justice system. All of our program activities support one or more of the following promotive or protective factors:

- 1**  
RESILIENCY
- 2**  
SOCIAL CONNECTIONS
- 3**  
KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- 4**  
CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED
- 5**  
SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE
- 6**  
COMMUNITY ATTACHMENT

## All youth should thrive

Our programs are youth-led. They are offered on a long-term basis, for as long as the youth wants to be engaged. Although we do not directly focus on academic supports, our programs aim is to ensure youth are ready to learn. We also work to engage the family of the youth, to help ensure a greater chance of success.

Mano a Mano’s Youth Empowerment Program (Y.E.P), established in 2000, brings together all of Mano a Mano’s youth programming. Its core is the Latinos Unidos Siempre (L.U.S.) Youth Organization, a youth-led program sponsored by Mano a Mano since 1996.

Additional supports are added to address the needs and goals of participating youth. This may include, the **Cuidate!** or the **Strengthening Families** programs, in partnership with Marion County Health Department; or the **All4You** program, in partnership Planned Parenthood.



Family supports include **parent cafes**, the **Strengthening Families Program**, and the **Family Check Up Program**.

In 2015, Mano a Mano entered a partnership with the Washington, D.C.-based **Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)**, to replicate their successful **Promotor Pathway Program** for disconnected youth.

**For More Information:**

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### MIGUEL’S STORY: ONCE IN NEED, NOW HELPING YOUTH THRIVE

As a teenager, Miguel was involved in gangs and became a teen parent. Like many other disconnected Latino youth in Salem in the nineties, Miguel found very little support from adults. His family came to Mano a Mano where our staff encouraged Jose to join the L.U.S. youth organization. Over the next ten years, he found adults who believed in him, and peers who were trying to make a positive impact in the community.

Miguel is now a father, a college graduate, and an educator in the Mid-Willamette Valley, helping a new generation of youth to thrive!

