

YSB

Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley

2015

Annual Report



Our Mission

“Helping young people and families succeed by serving them in their home, school and community.”

It's been a tough year, but let's focus on the positive...



On July 1st, everyone knew a showdown between the Governor and the legislature would occur. For months, it appeared little or no conversations between the two sides had taken place. Most observations concluded that a budget wouldn't occur before November, 2015. It is now March, 2016 and nothing has changed, except many programs providing needy services to the most vulnerable children and families have been curtailed, downsized, or eliminated throughout the state. Both sides in state government bear responsibility for what has occurred.

At Youth Service Bureau, we have tried to make the Governor and legislature aware of the dangers their inactions have fostered. But, it seems to have fallen on deaf ears. So, we have carried on as best we can. And we have been fortunate, lucky, as well as, blessed to be standing today. Our agency continues to have staff committed to providing vital services under trying circumstances. Though our Community Services program and Hispanic Services program were eliminated by state funding cuts, we continue to operate both to some degree. We have not lost any staff since July 1st due to revenue cuts, but instead have moved these experienced workers to supplement other programs as we have looked for alternative funding and expense consolation. Our agency has continued to improve by revamping our internal agency structure, and this has brought recognition by outside monitors praising our CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) process as a leader among non-profits throughout the state. In addition, our agency was recently singled out by the Department of Children and Family Services to absorb a specialized foster care program when another agency left the state. Our foster care teams have maintained the highest level ratings – 3 teams on level 1 (one being the highest rating), one team on level 2.

As an agency working together, we had 126 staff and Board members participate in our Strategic Planning process, and currently, have all departments involved in our upcoming agency reaccreditation later in September 2016. Our new Marketing /Development department, which includes a newly comprised volunteer staff advisory committee, is enthused about ways of getting out the message of YSB and its impact. These are just some of the positives that are occurring, bringing much excitement to YSB.

As we continue to strive to improve our agency and our services, we continue to keep an eye on why we exist. What we do that makes a difference includes: being there to handle a crisis at a police station at 2 am to mediate a situation involving adolescents locked out of their home, providing a “Second Chance “ to youth who would be removed from their home and community due to high-risk and unmanageable behaviors, and sent to correctional facilities, providing affordable day-care services for working low income families that have nowhere else to turn, having one of our counselor’s thanked by a client with these words “Thank you for helping me recognize how special life really is and how much it can change even when things seem completely hopeless.” It’s being there for a homeless youth to not only locate a place to live, but to assist them with life skills, such as appropriate decision making, education, job skills, etc... at a time when they have nowhere to turn. These are our stories every day!

However, what we have been able to accomplish during these trying times can only happen because of our many friends and donors who have continued their support of our work. We are thankful to all of you for your gifts of time, talent, and monetary support, especially with the extra stress the State budget impasse has created. On **May 14th**, our agency will be celebrating our “**40th Anniversary**” at the Knights of Columbus in Ottawa, beginning at **6 pm**. Our honoree is **Caterpillar** for all the tremendous support they have shown toward helping assist our services to children and families. **Tickets** are **\$40**, which includes entertainment, raffles, a live auction featuring wonderful prizes and trips, and outstanding food catered by the **Cheese Shop/Monte’s Riverside Inn**. Please join us for a wonderful evening and help support our work. For more information on how to get **tickets** go to our **website – ysbiv.org** or contact **John Zavada at 815-431-3008** or at **johnz@ysbiv.org** *Hope to see you there!*

Thank you for all you do to support YSB,



Frank P. Vonch

Executive Director, YSB

The Work We Do

Foster Care

A program for children *in state custody* who are unable to remain safely in their home. Children in foster care stay with a family who provides safety, nurturing, support and role models for change. Foster care is meant to be a temporary, short term solution to an emergency situation. Foster placement may be for a single day or several weeks and some continue for years. (Available in 20 counties)

Children First

For divorcing parents *who have been mandated by a Family Court Judge in the 13th Judicial Circuit of Illinois* to participate in an educational program regarding problems and issues of divorce when children are involved. (Available at YSB offices in Ottawa, LaSalle and Princeton)

Runaway and Homeless Youth

Serves youth 9-17 providing crisis intervention, short term counseling and linkage to appropriate services for runaway and homeless youth that are at risk of running away or becoming homeless. (Available in LaSalle, Putnam, Bureau, Stark and Marshall counties)

System of Care

Provides various services to assist in stabilizing a child in foster care placement. (Available in LaSalle, Bureau, Marshall, Putnam and Stark counties)

Intact Family Services

A program established by the **Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)** meant to provide reasonable efforts to preserve families to enable children to remain safely at home and avoid separation and/or placement of

the children. (**Referrals by DCFS only** in Bureau, Du Page, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam, Stark and Winnebago counties)

Street Outreach

For young adults ages 16-22 years of age who are living in unstable and non-traditional living arrangements. Youth are linked to area services, taught independent living skills, and aided in finding jobs. It is the goal of YSB to keep youth off the streets and safe. (Available in LaSalle, Putnam, Bureau, Stark and Marshall counties).

Transitional Living Program

Homeless youth (ages 16-22) are helped in finding safe and stable living accommodations and services that provide basic life skills, job searching, mental health services and educational opportunities to make a successful transition to self-sufficient living. (Available in LaSalle, Putnam, Bureau, Stark and Marshall counties).

Redeploy Illinois

Redeploy Illinois was created in 2004 by the General Assembly to provide services to youth at risk of commitment to the Illinois Department of Corrections. The program is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The 13th Judicial Circuit is one of 11 Redeploy sites in the state. Youth Service Bureau provides intensive service to these youth and their families, thus reducing the incidence of criminal recidivism in the community and incarceration of adolescents in the Illinois prison system. ***Referrals are made by the 13th Circuit Court Juvenile Probation Officers and the State's Attorney's from Bureau, Grundy and LaSalle Counties, working in conjunction with the Juvenile Judges and the Public Defender.***

The Work We Do

2nd Chance

Second Chance provides services to youth who would otherwise be removed from their homes and communities due to high-risk, unmanageable behavior. These adolescents have demonstrated significant emotional concerns which may include mental health and trauma issues. Intensive services are provided to the youth and their families through Youth Service Bureau. The program is funded through the LaSalle County 708 Board. ***Referrals are made by the LaSalle County Juvenile State's Attorney's office and the LaSalle County Juvenile Probation Department.***

Solutions Counseling

Offers intensive out-patient and mental health therapy treatment by Master degreed and licensed therapists trained in child and family centered intervention; Includes individual, marital and family counseling. **Counseling is available for Children and Adults and most insurance companies are accepted.** (Available in the following offices: LaSalle, Ottawa, Princeton and Streator).

Youth Giving Back

Community Services/Restitution works closely with local courts, Peer Courts, Police Departments and Juvenile Probation to involve young people in meaningful work projects to "pay back" their community for petty delinquent offenses. (Available in LaSalle County.)

Hispanic Center

Provides families with information in Spanish and links them to services in Spanish. Includes collaboration with

Illinois Valley Community College literacy programs. (Available in Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, LaSalle, Lee and Putnam counties)

YSB Child Development Center

A child day care facility licensed by DCFS, the National Council of Accreditation for Children and Family Services, and QRS. Accepts children ages 15 months to 6 years of age. (Located in the city of LaSalle)

Traditional Parenting Program

Provides parents the opportunity to enhance their parenting skills, set appropriate expectations and limits. Clients must be 21 years of age or older. ***Referrals are made by the following: DCFS, Probation, self, Churches and Community.*** (Available in Rockford, Freeport and Belvidere)

M.I.S.T.E.R. Parenting Program

A parenting empowerment program, culturally based for African-American fathers. The goal is to increase the number of intact families and help fathers recognize their significant role as core to the success of the family unit, clients must be 18 years or older. (Available in Rockford and Freeport)



THANK YOU!

Thank you to every person, family, business, or organization who has donated to the Youth Service Bureau in the past year.

Your gift to YSB means much needed help for the children and families we serve. Your gift could mean a warm place for coming in from the cold for a teenager who can't go home, it could mean counseling "in the nick of time" for a child/family in crisis, it could mean placing a child in a safe home when abuse/neglect requires he or she be removed from their own home and it could mean helping the YSB staff improve and expand the necessary skills for each of them to deliver the best services.

Please take a minute to visit our website at www.ysbiv.org. On the YSB website and on the YSB Facebook page you can explore volunteer opportunities, learn more about the programs and services you are supporting and read inspiring stories of the children and families you are helping. Take time to enjoy and embrace the family and friends you have and find comfort in your generosity to help those who need it most---children!

Program Statistics

	FY14	FY15
Hope House	45	34
Youth Outreach	218	228
Runaway & Homeless	57	51
Solutions Counseling	269	290
Foster Care	1037	779
Community Services	375	580
Hispanic Services	1599	787
YSB Child Development Center	111	95
Street Outreach	87	77
M.I.S.T.E.R./Parenting	254	260
Redeploy & 2nd Chance	41	56
Intact Families	122	127
Grand Totals	4,215	3,364

Celebrating
40
Years

Anniversary
Celebration

A Benefit for the Youth Service Bureau

1976 2016

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Knights of Columbus

401 W. Main Street, Ottawa, IL.

6:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner provided by Monte's & The Cheese Shop

7:00 p.m. Program

8:00 p.m. Live Auction/Raffles/Jewelry Raffle

\$40 Per Person

2016 Honoree: CATERPILLAR

To purchase tickets by May 1st, please contact Sue Trost at sue@ysbiv.org,
or call 815-431-3035, OR contact John Zavada at johnz@ysbiv.org, or call 815-431-3008,
OR purchase tickets online at www.ysbiv.org.

All proceeds go directly to the Youth Service Bureau, a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization
The Mission of YSB: "Helping young people and families succeed by serving them in their home, school and community."



424 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, 815.433.3953, www.ysbiv.org



YSB Program Spotlight Series

Redeploy/Second Chance Program gives hope to struggling families.

At the Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley, we provide many programs that are designed to help children and families succeed in life. One such program is called “Second Chance”, which provides services to youth who would otherwise be removed from their home and community due to high-risk, unmanageable behavior. These adolescents have demonstrated significant emotional concerns which may include mental health and trauma. “Second Chance” utilizes the “Parenting with Love and Limits” (PLL) model which involves the entire family so as to make positive lasting changes in the functioning of the family.

Lewis and his family are one such success story. He was adopted as a young boy by a childless couple. The family had previously adopted three sisters through the foster care system. Lewis was referred to the Second Chance program by his Probation Officer because his parents reported he had stolen money from them, did not observe his curfew, and had attempted to pawn his sister’s bicycle. They insisted criminal charges be filed against their son.

The Second Chance team at Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley began to work with Lewis and his family, immediately enrolling them in the next Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) Cohort. The entire family began weekly group therapy and the team also met with them in their home every Wednesday evening, as well as individual sessions with Lewis. The team learned that while Lewis’ adoption had been a “Subsidized Adoption” (an adoption with medical assistance and other payments provided for on a monthly basis until the child is 18, or even 21) through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), he was not allotted any of that subsidy for himself. Lewis had wanted to participate in sports and extra-curricular activities his whole school career, but had been told by his parents that he had to find a way to pay for those expenses himself. Consequently, Lewis was not able to participate in most of the activities he so deeply wished to.

Lewis’ mother shared with our team that she suffered from anxiety and was not able to address conflict and stress. She acknowledged that she would ignore

issues with her children until they were intolerable, then she would “explode” and bring her husband, who was at work a great deal of the time, into the conflict. The children would then receive a consequence for arguing with their mother that was severe and unrelated to the infraction. These included being grounded for many weeks at a time and not being allowed to participate in extracurricular activities that the children had paid for. They would then be dismissed from the various activities because they missed so many meetings.

Lewis admitted that he had taken the money to pay for football fees so he could participate his junior year. He had detasseled corn every summer since entering 8th grade to earn money to play football. His parents had confiscated the \$800 he had earned to pay for car insurance, claiming that it had significantly increased because of him, but they had not allowed Lewis to even take Driver’s Education yet or ever drive any of their cars. Lewis was extremely angry with and resentful of his parents. He had begun to not come home until late and was not adhering to their rules.

Our Second Chance team worked diligently to address the numerous issues within their home. They taught the parents skills to utilize in raising teenagers and how to avert the tremendous conflicts. The team intervened on the kids’ behalf to budget money that was intended to be utilized for their needs. Initially the parents stated, “Well we gotta do what’s good for us. What about our needs?” when approached about the subsidies. With encouragement the parents began to support their children in their activities. The family has thanked the Second Chance team for its support and education. The father stated, with tears in his eyes, “We had no idea how to parent. We were trying to do our best. Thanks for saving our family.”



Left to Right: Roger Miskell, Sarah Price, Lauren Data, Loni Meyer, Cindy Robinson, Jill Conrad, Jordan Jackson.

Not Pictured: Megan Martin

YSB Program Spotlight Series

Providing support for Endangered Runaway & Homeless Youth



Pictured is our Runaway and Homeless Counseling Program Staff.

Left to Right: Kirby Gustafson, Reggi Gerding (Director), Diana Beams, Denise Rick-Lupascu, Kim Quick, and Jeff Highsmith (inset)

For 40 years, Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley has created programs that have helped endangered youth throughout our communities to find a way back into a productive, healthy environment and life. One such program for those in immediate and desperate need is the Runaway and Homeless Youth Counseling Program. When a child is left to the streets (or in danger of being on the streets) they feel that, not only do they have nowhere to go, but that they also have no one to talk to. Youth Service Bureau can and will be there to help pull a youth up from the onset of depression that comes from being or the threat of being homeless.

Stacey is one such youth who desperately needed our help. She started with the Runaway and Homeless Youth program when she was 15. Her mother and father were both alcoholics. Stacey struggled in school and had very few friends. Her home life was very depressing and both of her parents were on a collision course with self-destruction. She bonded quickly with her case worker. It was so nice to have an adult to talk to that could listen to her and understand what she was feeling. She set goals with her worker and accomplished them all. The case was closed as successful.

Two months later the case was referred again due to the same issues. The worker met with Stacey and it was clear that she needed the extra support that the worker provided. Over the next two years, Stacey remained an open client. If she was doing well, the worker would only see her once a month, but when she was strug-

gling, she would see her weekly. During the two years, Stacey's mother died of alcoholism and her father is barely able to take care of himself. She graduated from high school and has since moved in with a relative who is devoted to making sure that Stacey goes to college and gets her CNA certificate.

Even though Stacey is now 18, her worker continues to stay in touch.

Although nothing stands out as remarkable in this case, having watched it over these past few years we know that the remarkable part is the worker's continued belief that Stacey could make it if she had someone who cared for her.

If you know of someone in trouble who needs the help that Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley can provide, please contact us at 815-433-3953.

People and Friends of YSB



Children's Challenge Golf Outing



The children of the Child Development Center in LaSalle during story time.



Cindy Robinson (Dir. of Juvenile Justice Services), Frank Vonch (Ex. Director), and Lisa Gustafson (Treatment Director)



Ottawa area children helping to make their community more beautiful.



Fairmount Santrol Minerals donating bicycles to YSB clients.



Foster Care having fun at the Halloween Strategic Planning Event at the Grand Bear Lodge in Utica, IL.

Foster Care Parent Spotlight

Darcy and Jesus Mateo



Darcy and Jesus Mateo are being honored for all the love and dedication that they have provided for the foster children who have entered their home.

The couple have been foster parents since April 2013. Since they have been licensed they have fostered five foster children, two of which are specialized. They are in the process of finalizing their adoption of one of the two specialized children they have fostered.

Not only do Darcy and Jesus work tirelessly with the foster children that are in their home, they are also involved in their church as Directors of the Care Ministry and Group coaches to train other leaders who want to lead different church groups. Jesus also works full-time in the financial industry and Darcy has an in-home day care. At one point she stopped doing day care to accommodate the needs of the foster children that were new to their home.

They are fortunate to have two wonderful adult sons, one of which has recently had a baby. Darcy and Jesus state that being a foster parent is a great experience and they enjoy sharing information to others who are interested in becoming foster parents. Darcy and Jesus are in the process of implementing a foster care advocate group through their church. They feel they have been blessed to help with children's lives, help them through any issues that arise, see them grow, and build self-confidence. Darcy and Jesus are true advocates for children.

We cannot thank Darcy and Jesus enough for everything that they have done and everything that they continue to do. We are truly thankful to have them as foster parents!

Being a Foster Parent is a rewarding experience that can positively change the life of a child forever. YSB is looking for more people who are willing to open up their homes and their hearts to children in need. If you are interested in becoming a Foster Parent and would like more information about becoming a Foster Parent, please contact YSB at 630-820-6303, or follow us to our website at www.ysbiv.org

Foster Care Parent Spotlight

Karen Sanfilippo



Karen has been a foster parent for 5 years, and in that time she has cared for over 20 children. She was nominated for this honor due to her work with teenage foster children. Two of her placements have graduated from high school and continued on to College.

Karen is a single mom, with 3 adult children and a 10 year old son at home. She also has 2 grandchildren and works full-time. She is involved in her community, and serves on a local football board. Karen believes that keeping children busy and involved in activities, such as wrestling, helps them cope and heal.

Thank you, Karen, for everything you have done!

Holidays at YSB



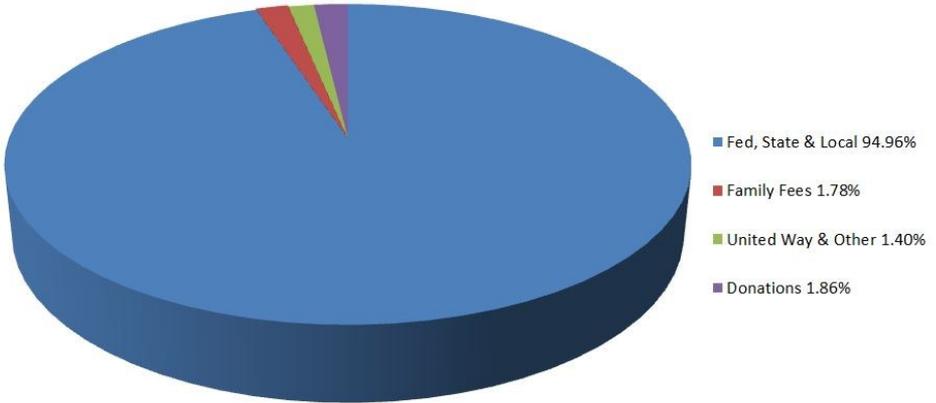
In 2015, 690 children received Christmas gifts from 65 sponsors. The number of sponsors is higher because often times, a company or sponsor will take the names of the children and employees will buy gifts for them. The approximate value of all of the gifts received was \$34,000.00

In addition to the gifts, foster care held three family Christmas parties, one in Rockford, one in Ottawa, and another in Batavia. A total of 510 youth and adults attended and had a chance to greet Santa.

2015 Financial Profile

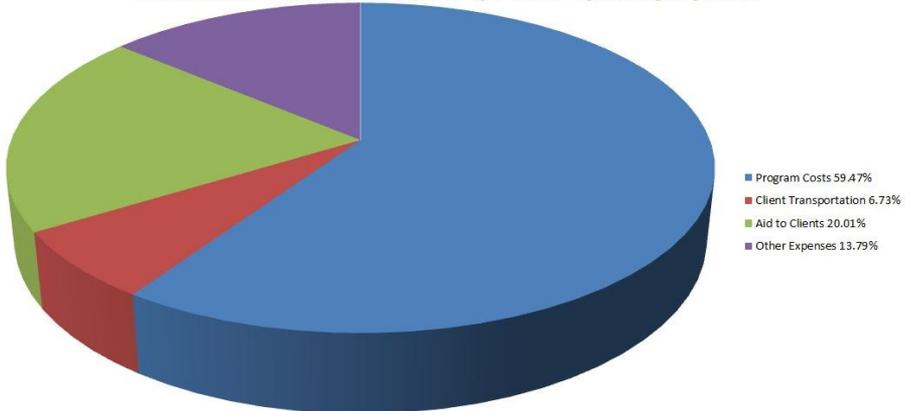
Revenue

Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley FY 2015 Revenue



Expenses

Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley FY2015 Operating Expenses



Audited financial report available upon request.

2015 YSB Board of Directors

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