

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Youth Outreach Services Annual Report | July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018



At Youth Outreach Services, our mission and values reflect a strong commitment to serving youth and their families. Working in partnership with clients allows us to create a foundation for their future. In return they commit themselves to developing the necessary skills that lead them to pursue positive choices that will impact them for a lifetime. During the 2018 fiscal year, we took a deep dive into what it means to collaborate to provide comprehensive services. The success of our work is built upon our strong partnerships, not only with our clients and their families, but with our funders and community stakeholders.

In 2018, YOS provided services to 4,167 people throughout our four program areas: Counseling, Juvenile Justice, Prevention and Child Welfare. We highlight these areas individually but, more often than not, the youth we serve are in need of more than one service to get them back on track. Our team of dedicated therapists and specialists, as well as our community partners, work together to ensure all of their needs are met cohesively and comprehensively.

While every program we offer consistently rises to meet the challenges that our clients face, in FY18, our counseling services notably demonstrated incredible results, which further incorporated counseling youth who exhibit problematic sexual behaviors (PSB). PSB is defined as child-initiated behaviors involving sexual body parts that are developmentally inappropriate and/or potentially harmful to themselves or others. As the only organization in the greater Chicagoland area tackling this very sensitive issue for adolescents by providing trauma focused, multi-faceted services to families, we strive to provide the highest quality, proven effective therapies.

In FY18, 100% of the youth and families we served successfully completed PSB treatment. Additionally, 100% of youth remained enrolled in school while receiving our PSB services, and 100% did not reoffend. These statistics far exceed the standard benchmark of 75-80% established by the average organization offering the same service model.

Throughout this Annual Report, take note of the families' transformative experiences and how their clinician guided their positive change. We invite you to read them and consider the time and commitment made by our dedicated staff and the clients they serve. Further, without our partners and stakeholders, whose contributions make this life-changing work we do possible, these families would not have found the healthy ways to provide support to their child. Bringing this issue to the forefront in Cook County has created inspirational systemic changes in the way we approach and treat these youth, resulting in the least amount of long-term trauma in their lives and of their victims.

Above all this past year, we have learned that when we work together, youth do better.

Sincerely,

Rick Velasquez Executive Director (1999 - June 2019) **Don-Rubin** Board President (2002-2006, 2016-June 2019) "Our Problem Sexual Behavior services are shifting the way our community and the systems within it are responding to youth engaging in PSB in order to keep communities safe and healthy. Our partnerships with community stakeholders have helped us succeed in diverting youth from more harmful, costly, and restrictive settings, like incarceration or in-patient mental health treatment."

Katie Harkrader, MST-PSB Program Manager



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CHILD WELFARE

Child Welfare Services effectively help youth prepare for independence while living in safe, stable homes. One of YOS's long-time licensed foster parents was honored at our annual gala, with the award for "Outstanding Commitment to Advocacy" for his constant drive to support youth and engage others in YOS's mission. YOS saw a 91% stability rate in our Specialized Foster Care program, for youth who required additional support services, meaning they stayed put in loving homes. In our Transitional Living and Independent Living Programs, 90% and 100% of the time, respectively, were present and willing to commit to services and support. Further, 80% of ILO clients attended post-secondary education and/or were employed, exceeding program expectations.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Juvenile Justice Services provide alternatives to detention, services to youth who are awaiting court, and support to youth reentering the community. YOS's Evening Reporting Center teamed up with the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health and Cook County Juvenile Probation to offer a new intervention called PHAT Life: Preventing HIV/AIDS Among Teens, designed to help youth on juvenile probation make healthy choices regarding sexual health and substance use. Further, YOS's staff at the Illinois Youth Centers hosted former Chicago Blackhawks hockey player, Daniel Carcillo, and the Fan Development team at the various IYCs to provide hockey clinics to the youth and to hear Daniel share his own personal struggles with overcoming substance abuse.

PROGRAM AREA DESCRIPTIONS

PREVENTION

1,710 Clients Served

Prevention Services help promote healthy life skills and positive activities through community and in-school curricula, to help youth be proud of their choices. In the summertime, through One Summer Chicago, YOS helps to employ 100 youth in job placements around the city, coupled with training by our YOS staff. In partnership with Lurie Children's Hospital, YOS's Prevention team co-chaired a coalition of community organizations, governmental agencies called Preventing Alcohol Abuse in Chicago Teens (PAACT). PAACT launched a citywide campaign, "I Got This", to curb underage drinking through public awareness and school policy reforms.

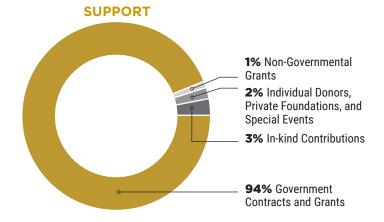
COUNSELING

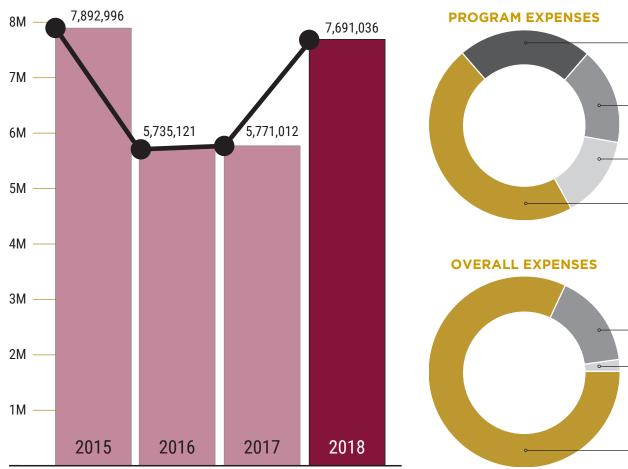
Counseling Services help youth and their families learn how to overcome the challenges they face that keep them from living healthy and successful lives. In FY18, YOS expanded its referral networks for our family therapy options for youth with problematic sexual behavior. Our crisis intervention services increased significantly since FY17, serving almost triple the amount of youth from the prior year. YOS hosted hundreds of Austin neighborhood residents for an end-of-summer bash, with partners including police districts 15 and 25 as well as local community youth organizations, thanks to The Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities, from the Chicago Community Trust.

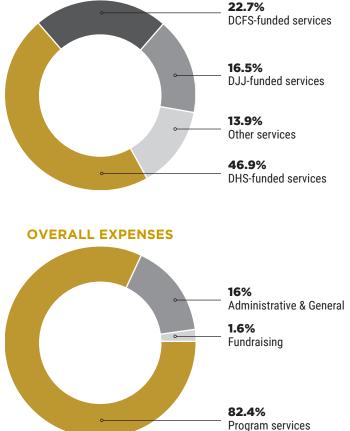
1,212 Clients Served

At YOS we are always striving for more. We consistently seek out opportunities that will influence our ability to provide the highest quality of services possible to those who need it most. Whether that means new funding sources, diverse collaborations, or innovative, evidence-based programs, we are committed to refining our work in order to improve the lives of the youth we serve.

Fiscal Year 2018 was an impressive year, as we saw financial growth and improved programmatic impacts despite the challenges we faced due to the State of Illinois' Budget Impasse that spanned three fiscal years prior (FY16, 17 and 18).







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\$10.000+

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> Find out more. vos.org



yos.org

"Shock, embarrassment and shame are the three things I felt when I found out my son, Tony, was engaged in problematic sexual behavior with his cousin and we had absolutely no idea. My wife could not eat for months and I was losing sleep. My wife called the Chicago Police Department when she felt she had no other option and they referred us to YOS. Our therapist worked one-on-one with our son, and with all of us as a group, and we learned so much about Tony. We were made aware of many things about his life that we did not know. Because of YOS, we have addressed many issues that were contributing to his behavior. Since receiving services, we have more patience now. We listen more intently and we have adopted a new set of expectations that help decrease further incidents of PSB. Tony's life has changed for the better, too. He is more social, and is engaging in healthy activities in our community and at school. Without YOS, my son would not be the person he is today. We are so very grateful."

Robert, Tony's Father

Youth Outreach Services 2411 W. Congress Pkwy. Chicago, Illinois 60612

TOGETHER, we're removing barriers for young people to lead healthy lives and make sound decisions.

WE find the best in each youth by using strength-based approaches.

- · Evidence-based, innovative interventions
- Safe and welcoming spaces to allow youth to hope and trust
- Trauma-informed practices and policies

WE rely on the collective strength and experience of youth, community, providers, funders, families, and supporters.

- Education and advocacy, breaking down stigmas and discrimination
- Positive connections in the community offering youth new opportunities and experiences
- Trained and skilled staff to drive impact

WE are growing our reach to new communities as well as programmatically.

- Continuous reflection and evaluation of why and how we guide youth
- Comprehensive, holistic approaches with over 20 programs available
- Identifying systemic gaps and promoting progressive change