

# YOS Believes...

## FY14 Annual Report



*Because YOS believes in the potential of our clients, they in turn believe in themselves... and get on the right path to becoming successful adults.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

At the heart of everything Youth Outreach Services (YOS) does is the belief that we're making a difference in the lives of our clients, their families and their communities. As we look back at our strategic goals for fiscal year 2014, we're heartened by tremendous progress made in our four service areas: Counseling, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Prevention.

We're equally pleased that the community believes in YOS' programs and philosophy and has rewarded us with grants.

- *Get in Chicago* awarded YOS a \$150,000 grant for the Adolescent Domestic Battery Project to provide alternatives to detention for youth aged 11 to 18 who are arrested for offenses related to family violence and conflict.
- *Cook County's Recidivism Reduction Demonstration Project* grant for \$100,000 funds mentoring and positive activities for 75 YOS clients to reduce the likelihood that they will re-offend.
- *The IL Department of Human Services* award for \$200,000 helps homeless youth by expanding the YOS' temporary shelter and transitional living facility in Bellwood.

Our corporate partners' belief in YOS helps us provide new opportunities for our clients.

- About 100 youth were placed at 29 job sites across Chicago as part of the *Summer Youth Employment* program.
- With the partnership of Harley Ellis Devereaux, IFF, Fragoso Construction and Henricksen, YOS completed the renovation of our Austin office.

YOS also believes in advocating for a better way of providing services.

- The State of Illinois selected YOS as one of seven youth service providers to participate in the first *Pay for Success* project, an innovative approach to serving at-risk youth through performance-based contracts funded by private investment.

While we celebrate our successes, we also believe in looking forward and doing even more. We need your support to increase the number of youth we serve and expand the programs. By working together, we believe it can happen.

Sincerely,

Rick Velasquez Executive Director Sandra Williams YOS Board President



Counseling helped Nate gain sobriety, focus on school and return to his true passion—hockey.



With the support of a loving foster home, Nicholas finished high school, found a job and now attends college.



Joseph learned how to work with his parole officer and holds a full-time job with a path to the future in the culinary arts.



Heaven jumped at the chance to put her creative skills to work as an editorial assistant on *Pulse* magazine, part of a YOS teen pregnancy prevention program.

# YOS Believes in Results

## PARTNERING WITH PARENTS TO DELIVER SERVICES

Isaiah's future looked bleak. He'd spent time in temporary detention and was on probation. He'd been expelled from his high school for fighting and wasn't taking his medication. "He would not go to school and wouldn't listen," said his mother, Bridget Britton. "I know he needed help and I couldn't give it to him."

Britton reached out to YOS. In stepped Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Therapist Peggy Moulton. MST therapists collaborate with families to keep juvenile offenders on track to finish school and avoid probation violations. According to Moulton, this method of counseling is effective for today's youth because it involves families, peers and school relationships.

"We believe the best and most ethical way to treat youth behavior is working with parents," said Moulton. "If you can work with systems that are close to the youth, you have a better chance of sustainable outcomes."

Moulton collaborated with Britton to develop a safety plan for her son and a specific plan for medication monitoring. "The people there were very supportive of me and my son. I was never ashamed to ask for help. I know I needed it," said Britton.

The highly structured plan paid off. Isaiah graduated from high school, stayed away from gangs and drugs, got positive probation reports and developed strong relationships with his mother and younger brother.



Britton was honored at the 2014 YOS Leadership for Youth Celebration for the impact she's had on helping Isaiah get his life back on track.

*"YOS helped him to achieve several of his goals as a young man," says Britton. "I can tell that my son believes in himself."*

## HELPING YOUTH THRIVE WITH TIMELY INTERVENTIONS

At age 13, Geovanny was already heavily involved in gang activity and substance abuse.



"I was just not listening to adults and doing whatever I wanted back then," said Geovanny. "I knew the

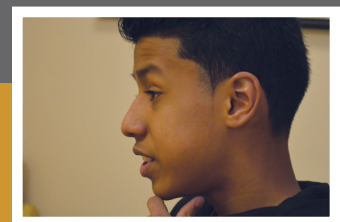
things I was doing were bad for me, but I just wanted to have some fun. I guess I was just 'young dumb' as grown ups would say."

Youth does have its advantages, though. The earlier teens seek help, the better their chances of achieving long-term success in changing behaviors.

Fortunately for Geovanny, he was referred for services at YOS' Irving Park office.

Working closely with his counselor, Geovanny learned strategies to make better choices and set personal goals for which he is accountable.

"Had I not come to Youth Outreach Services when I did, I may not even be alive to share my story," said Geovanny. "There were a lot of times I could have lost my life because of what I was doing."



Now 15, Geovanny is a high school freshman. He has broken ties with his former gang and stay away from drugs and alcohol.

He has also found a new definition for what it means to have fun by taking a leadership role in planning and leading events with other clients at the YOS office.



## FY14 FINANCIALS

### OPERATING REVENUE

Contracts & Grants	\$8,167,982
Noncontract Revenue	\$19,796
United Way	\$15,680
Contributions & Donations	\$325,355
Other	\$44,919

**Total Revenue \$8,573,732**

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Total Direct Program Expenses	\$7,077,402
Child Welfare	\$1,941,297
Counseling	\$3,078,329
Juvenile Justice	\$984,922
Prevention	\$1,037,374
Other	\$35,479
Total Indirect Expenses	\$1,434,407
Administrative & General	\$1,225,490
Fundraising	\$208,917
Total Expenses	\$8,511,808

**Total Program Reserves \$61,924**

## SIGNING UP CHICAGO-AREA UNINSURED

YOS Counselor Dianne Wilson loves a challenge. This summer with the deadline looming to sign up for healthcare insurance through the Affordable Care Act, Wilson was hard at work reaching out to Chicago-area uninsured as part of a partnership between YOS and Get Covered Illinois.



*"I have a lot of experience navigating my way in communities," Wilson. "I'm happy to be able to use my skills to help people get access to health insurance."*

Her work had a larger impact than just health insurance. At a homeless shelter, she found a family (mom, dad and two daughters) living in their car. In addition to getting them signed up for health insurance, Wilson found them housing through a residency program, which also helped the dad find work at a loading dock.

Her weekly quota from Get Covered Illinois for new sign-ups was 15. She easily quadrupled her quota (some weeks even more) by going out into the community to find the uninsured at homeless shelters, plasma centers, church groups and home visits. Her persistence was so great, she's become known as the "Obama lady" in some of the neighborhoods where she worked, like Melrose Park.

In the end, Dianne registered 823 people through the Affordable Care Act who did not have health insurance.



Heaven, center, was the chief student editor who lead a team of youth journalists to write, design and produce *Pulse* magazine as part of YOS' Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. The publication serves multiple purposes. Participants learn valuable health information while developing writing and project management skills.

# Thanks for your support

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