

Youth Service Bureau



of Illinois Valley

Fiscal Year

2020 Annual Report

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



Our Mission

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

What a year it has been!!!



The entrance of Covid-19 for our agency posed multiple challenges. However, as difficulties mounted, the response by the agency and staff showed that providing services to children and families continued as our number one priority. Communication internally and to our clients

took on added importance, as well as, implementing protocols to ensure safety remained high for our staff and clients. Our Covid supplies, such as masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, thermometers, and disinfectants were made available to staff and clients.

Our staff was exceptional in seeing that each client situation was assessed for risk, and appropriate decisions were made with their supervisor on the level of contact that would be appropriate – in-person, videos/zoom conferencing, phone contact on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. Our agency kept in touch with the CCD and Public Health department's guidelines, utilizing the best information to make our decisions. However, as important as getting the right information, the willingness of staff to be flexible and understanding played a pivotal role on our response throughout 2020, and into 2021. Our agency's programs deal directly with risk to children, and monitoring those situation doesn't stop or pause during the COVID-19 period.

Our staff not only continued their job duties throughout, but without hesitation, handled some difficult, unexpected situations that arose, such as taking shifts and monitoring a child at a hospital on a 24/7 basis, driving to Nebraska to pick up a child for respite, and handling locked out adolescents in the middle of the night. These actions reflect on the type of staff we have, but, more importantly, the dedication they display for clients under extreme difficulties.

There was another challenge met by the agency after eighteen months of agency preparation involving our entire staff. Our agency experienced our COA (Council on Accreditation) reaccreditation virtual visit October 16 thru October 20. Due to the size of our agency's programs, the COA reviewers evaluated 1100 standards. After their thorough review, they cited only 1 standard out of 1100 that needed to be updated or further documented in the standards. In their letter to us, COA stated, *"Reaccreditation is a tremendous achievement that demonstrates that your organization is recognized as a provider that continues to successfully implement high performance standards and, as such, is delivering the highest quality services to all its stakeholders."*

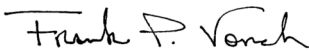
I am proud for our agency, our donors, and our friends that both our 2016 and 2020 reaccreditation scores were the highest ever achieved by YSB and ranks our agency at the top on national standards.

Along with our previous COA reaccreditation in 2016, in which the agency was granted an expedited license because all standards were met, that license (2016) and our present one (2020) has propelled our agency to national heights that put us in an elite group of agencies meeting standards. Our agency has demonstrated a high level of program services with these two accreditations for eight straight years, never before accomplished in our agency's history. Not only is that important for our agency internally, but demonstrates to our friends, donors, and funders the high criteria our agency not only strives for, but achieves when evaluated by those credentialed outside the agency.

Lastly, as indicated, this past year has posed unforeseen challenges, but through it all our donors have rose to the challenge. This past Christmas season was filled with an overwhelming request for gifts for the children and youth we serve. Our agency provided gifts, gift cards, food, and other items for over 958 children, youth, and families we had requests from. We were grateful to approximately 1393 individual donors, 60 corporate/business sponsors, and the over \$22k in gift cards received for those in need. This response was more than we expected and made for a very nice Christmas for the many children we serve.

Thank you to all, because we could not do it without your constant help and good will!

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank P. Vonch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank P. Vonch, MSW

Executive Director, Youth Service Bureau

YSB Programs

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.)*

Runaway and Homeless Youth Counseling Program

Serves youth 11-17 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.)*

Intensive Placement Stabilization

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, McHenry and Winnebago counties.)

Street Outreach

For young adults ages 16-23 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 16-23) 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 many 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.***

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: Ottawa, LaSalle, Princeton and Streator.)***

Hispanic Services

Hispanic Service provides immigrant families information on public benefits in their native language. In addition, Information and referral to other state and local agencies for assistance. Available in LaSalle , Bureau, Grundy and Ogle counties

Hope House

Provides supervised visitation and exchange for children in homes with a history of domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking or child abuse. The focus is to keep all parties safe. ***(Available in LaSalle county.)***

Traditional Parenting Program

Provides parents the opportunity to enhance their parenting skills, set appropriate expectations and limits. Clients must be 18 years of age or older. ***Referrals are made by the following: DCFS, Probation, self, Churches and Community. (Available in Rockford, Freeport and Belvidere.)***

Because of You...

A look at a few grants and donations made to the
Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley

Thank you **Beth Tuzak** from **Illinois Valley Mask Initiative** for donating hand sewn masks to us!
We really appreciate the kindness. ➡



Thank you residents and staff at **Heritage Harbor** for donating Easter baskets for our kiddos!

Thank you volunteer **Ray Barsztaitis** for continuing to volunteer and donate the use of your truck and trailer. ↩



Dormer Pramet partnered with **"Together We Rise"** so children who come into foster care have a bag of their very own for personal items. What can seem so small to us, makes such a BIG difference to the children.



The **Starved Rock Yacht Club** Charities gave more than \$4,500 to local agencies in November 2019. YSB was fortunate to receive a donation.

Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley has been an ongoing recipient of donations of merchandise from the **Wal-Mart Distribution Center** in Spring Valley. The donations are picked up by YSB and brought back to the Ottawa office, where the merchandise is sorted and given to our clients. The donation pictured here helped parents who attended parenting classes in Rockford.

**We Appreciate All That You Do
For YSB!**



UAW Region 4 donated proceeds from their annual Charity Golf Outing held at Deer Park in Oglesby on August 24, 2019. A check was presented to Frank Vonch, YSB Executive Director.



July 23, 2019... **Marmion Academy**

School Supply Drive

Ottawa Savings Bank presented a check to YSB through their Customer Appreciation Day.



Laborers' Local 393 in Marseilles donated 10 food baskets for our clients! What a great way to make their holiday much better.



We couldn't do it without you!



verilife donated 43 backpacks filled with supplies for our youth clients!! Pictured delivering this donation is Anna Johnson.

Foster Parent Spotlight



Jessica and Kamron Majerus were licensed in December 2015. They have one son, Harrison. As a faith based family, they felt God had always planned for them to provide foster care. They believe that they were called to be flexible providing reunification with the biological family and to adopt those who could not, and that they

were to help children while they were separated from their parents. Over time, Jessica and Kamron accepted placement of a boy, and later, his two sisters. They were adopted into the family in April of 2017 when a return home goal was not possible. Later the Majerus's accepted placement of a pair of siblings. As these children's case went on, it became apparent that they were not going to be reunified with their biological parents. The Majerus's worked with YSB to obtain a waiver, expanding their capacity, to reunite the children with their two elder sisters. During this process, it was discovered that Jessica was pregnant. The family recently completed the adoption of the sibling group of four and their infant daughter is now just a little over one-year-old.

The Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley is always looking for new foster homes to care for children who have been abused or neglected. Foster parents are role models, teachers, friends and support to the children.

Being a Foster Parent is a rewarding experience that can positively change the life of a child forever.

If you would like to open your home and heart to a child, [please call Terri at 630-474-9601](http://www.ysbiv.org/our-services/foster-care.aspx) and we will be happy to help you explore foster parenting. For more online information, please visit our website at <http://www.ysbiv.org/our-services/foster-care.aspx>

Program Spotlight

The **Parenting Plus Program** is designed for parents of children up to 17 years who have any or all of the following concerns: Children who are not cooperating, ignoring parents directives concerning homework, chores, bedtime routines, sibling rivalry and/or constant arguing and fighting. For parents who feel they are repeating themselves and feel no one is listening.

The program is designed to enhance parenting skills by helping parents manage difficult behaviors and teaching constructive discipline techniques. The program teaches effective communication skills as well as ways to increase children's self esteem.

This class is for parents, foster parents, grandparents, guardians, child care providers and those who may be involved with the Courts, DCFS or probation. Fees may be at no cost to participants or based on a sliding fee scale. Certificates will be provided upon successful completion of program requirements.

Meet the team...

Elaine Gaither, is the Parenting Coordinator for the Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley. She is a Certified Parent Educator whose formal education is in Child Development and psychology. Prior to her 30 years of working at YSB, Elaine worked as an Outreach worker at Rock Valley College, where she taught Parent Education and Life Skills. Elaine previously was a Crisis Intervention Specialist through the Rockford Police Department for 10 years. Elaine is known throughout this region for having some of the largest groups for mainly court-ordered adults and effectively guiding them and cultivating their desire to become better parents.

Lee Hicks, Jr. is a Certified Parent Educator for the Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley. Lee has a M.S. Ed. in Counseling and a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to joining YSB, he worked for a number of years at Catholic Charities, worked as a Juvenile Detention Counselor, supervisor at a residential treatment facilities and a homeless & runaway shelter. He was employed for over 12 years at the Rockford Health Systems, Employee Assistance Program, as a Counselor and a Training Specialist. Lee has 35 plus years working with children, adults, and families in crisis

Sarah Holsinger, Sarah Holsinger states her purpose for working with the parenting program was to take her many years of experience in working with children and become instrumental in strengthening the parents with the tools to raise emotionally healthy children and increase the number of intact families in our community.

Holiday Giving Through YSB

Christmas is an exciting time at each of our offices. Many people donate to the various gift giving programs designed to ensure a happy holiday for our clients who are in need. Showcased on this page are a few of the many kind people who donated their time and love to make sure our youth have a great holiday!



Associates at PetSmart donated gifts for the Star Tree, Ottawa YSB



The **University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)** team is united in our shared mission to improve the lives of children with special healthcare needs and their families. The regional offices work together to provide gifts and Christmas magic to children and families in their communities.



Thank you **Allstate** for donating Christmas gifts and **Two Brother's Moving** for delivering the gifts.



Tangled Roots Brewing Company, Ottawa

Sponsored Star Tree youth!

Holiday Giving Through YSB



Thank you **Caterpillar** for your continued generosity to our kids and their families. Your continued support is very much appreciated.



Trudy and Larry delivering gifts they purchased for the Star Tree. They also delivered gifts donated by the United Methodist Women of Lamoille.

Carlos helps with the Stuff Our Stockings donation from **McDonalds**.



Saint Peters Church donates Christmas gifts!

Vactor Manufacturing Inc., Streator and employees donated gifts and gift cards for the YSB Star Tree! Awesome donation!



Ottawa Savings Bank and staff donated tons of gifts for the Ottawa Star Tree!

Fundraising at YSB

Pumpkin Flotilla Festival October 2019 at Heritage Harbor Ottawa



Thank you to all who made the Pumpkin Flotilla Festival possible: Heritage Harbor Ottawa, Armstrong and Associates, Ottawa Women's Group, Dimmick 4H Club, Pet Project, PetSmart, Ottawa Visitor's Center, Marquette Academy, Novak Rinker Veterinary Clinic, American Legion Post #33, Ottawa Children's Dentistry, Dr. Bobbi J. Laun D.D.S., Ottawa Lions Club, Marseilles Lions Club, Black Socks Stables and Skydive Chicago. We couldn't have done this without all of the volunteers! Thank you.

Donating to Youth Service Bureau

Don't forget that when you are doing your online shopping this year, you can donate back to YSB simply by shopping through **Amazon Smile**. By choosing Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley, you ensure that these **funds stay within your community** to help youth in need. Please visit Amazon Smile at <https://smile.amazon.com/>, or you may donate online to YSB directly at www.ysbiv.org/donate.aspx.

Planned Giving



There is yet another way for you to express a commitment to the goals of YSB through a planned gift. Once you have provided for loved ones in your will, you may want to consider a gift of money, stock or property to the Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley. A gift will be a lasting tribute, while guaranteeing YSB's long-term future. It is a gift that ensures underprivileged youth are taken care of well into the future.

Congratulations YSB!

On January 11, 2020 the **Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley** achieved its national Council on Accreditation (COA) Re-Accreditation, a process that is necessary in order to operate as a child welfare agency in the State of Illinois.

Our Great Staff at Work...

Youth from all over the area attended an **LGBTQ+ Youth Leadership Summit** hosted by Ottawa High School on Saturday January 25th. Pictured here are YSB Homeless Youth Program staff Stephannie Neumann and Heather Steele.



YSB attended this year's "Kid's Corner" at Streator's Fourth of July Celebration on Friday, June 28th. A Match Game with kiddie prizes and candy were offered. Pictured here is one cool young player choosing her prize.

April is... 

Child Abuse Prevention
and Awareness Month

Training Our Staff

On August 5th and 7th, 2020, YSB provided **Behavior Support and Management (BSM) Training** that included the review of the agency's BSM policy, Trauma Informed Care, and De-Escalation training in Ottawa, while following CDC guidelines for in-person gatherings. Forty-four new staff attended one of the all-day trainings. By August 23, 2020, seventy-two of the agency's other staff completed the on-line version. This is a required training for all new staff and must be re-certified every 2 years.

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***YSB serves twenty
counties in northern
and central Illinois.***

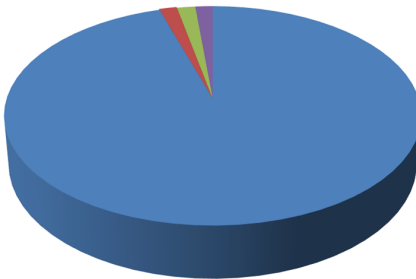
Program Statistics

	FY19	FY 20
Hope House	84	92
Transitional Living Program	16	26
Outreach Counseling	171	183
Solutions Counseling	1,275	945
Foster Care	1,320	1856
Restitution	59	31
Hispanic Services	572	410
Homeless Youth	81	82
Parenting Plus	401	384
Redeploy & 2nd Chance	82	95
Intact Families/Intensive Placement Stabilization	254	240
Grand Totals	4,315	4,344

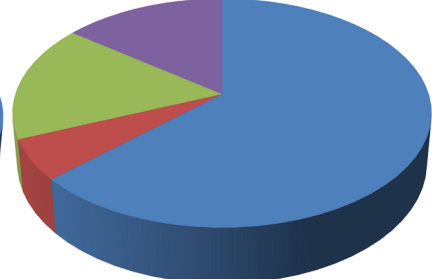
2020 Financial Profile

Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley FY2018 Operating Revenue and Expenses

FY20 Revenue



FY20 Operating Expenses



■ Fed, State & Local 95.20%
■ Family Fees 1.58%
■ United Way & Other 1.65%
■ Donations 1.57%

■ Program Cost 63.09%
■ Client Transportation 5.68%
■ Aid to Clients 16.57%
■ Other Expenses 14.65%

Audited financial report available upon request.



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