

Youth Service Bureau



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year **2022**

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

Established in 1976 Accredited since 1999



Ladd Afterschool Program

"Our program is a safe, fun place for Ladd students to go after school ."

YSB Board of Directors

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**YSB serves twenty counties in
north central Illinois.**

Outlined in black.



A Farewell, but really a Thank you!

This will be my final Annual Report address. It is really anything but a heartfelt good bye. It is a thank you for a wonderful nine years at YSB that has seen the agency grow and develop into a stellar child welfare/social service agency in so many ways, ultimately benefiting the children and families we serve.

With close to 150 full and part-time staff serving over 5262 clients annually in 20 counties in Illinois, YSB ranks highly with comparable non-profit agencies. Our staff ranks second to none, and due to their dedication and efforts our agency never closed one day during the pandemic. With strong protocols in place, our staff continued to see and visit clients throughout the difficult times of the pandemic.

During my time here at YSB, I have been blessed to have an Administrative team made up of 7 Directors who have been at YSB from anywhere from 10 years to over 30 years. This has and will continue to maintain stability in our programs and direction for our staff. That in itself speaks to the incredible communication network we have established with everyone at YSB, where transparency is of utmost importance. This transparency and the emphasis on communication was a commitment we made when we developed our CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) process throughout the agency. It involves every employee in the entire agency with teams meeting quarterly, and working on such issues as peer reviews, unusual incident reports, client surveys, and improvement projects. Staff identify trends and look to correct or improve upon them. I am proud of our whole agency's involvement in our CQI process and feel it ranks as one of the top programs in the state.

Again, I am thankful our agency has responded time and time again to demonstrate our excellence to those who monitor agencies such as ours. Since I have been with YSB, we have had two national COA (Council on Accreditation) monitoring visits, one in 2016, and another in 2020. This includes a team of outsiders who visit the agency for 3-4 days, and review every program, and every operation of the agency. Both times, our evaluations have been excellent, and ranked extremely high on a national level. This had never been accomplished at YSB previously and could only be done with a staff that is conscious and committed to the highest standards possible.

From the Executive Director, Frank Vonch

(Continued from page 2)

I am thankful for even the few bumpy moments that have occurred, especially with me being an outsider from the Ottawa area. I'm thankful for all the friends and donors of YSB who had a positive view and connection to me and the agency. I'm thankful for all the positive people in the community. I am appreciative of the Board members, past and present, who always looked at the entire picture and didn't get distracted with micromanaging things that they didn't have a full understanding of. They listened to the entire explanation putting things in the proper perspective. That was truly professional and helpful and has allowed me to move forward, with minimal distractions, keeping the focus on the agency with an ever-present shift toward a more staff inclusive mindset that was not part of its prior makeup.

Other achievements throughout my tenure included the creation of an Annual Risk report, a strong fiscal foundation in which to carry the agency forward, a formal QI (Quality Improvement department) internally monitoring the agency's programs, drastic improvements to employee benefits, a communication structure that goes from direct service to administration and also from administration to direct service, an all employee annual training retreat, continued updating of agency equipment & offices, restructuring of positions for better efficiency, real transparency, an annual report that has been revamped, reformatted, and made user friendly focusing on what we do at YSB, other marketing measures made more active, such as, Facebook, our "Because of You" newsletter, our Christmas holiday letter, and various community activities, our Basic Center grant being successfully renewed throughout my tenure, stabilization of all our agency locations with lease terms favorable to our needs, and something simple, but never done before, sending out Board materials one week prior to the meeting.

Most of all, I'm appreciative of everyone who was, is,

and will be part of the YSB community touching the agency in some way by giving their time, gift, or treasure, thus becoming indirectly, yet instrumental in our providing services to the children and families that come to our agency. Truly, YSB only exists to help prevent further harm that has occurred to the children. I have been honored to be part of YSB'S journey and know only good things await the agency down the road.

Donating to Youth Service Bureau

You have received this annual report because you have assisted us when we needed it! Thank you!

Don't forget, 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.***



Donating can be simple!
Just scan the code

"It takes you to make hope possible."
~Jennifer Betts

Meet the Staff

Lisa Gustafson, LCPC Treatment Director

Aaron Barajas, LCPC, Therapist

Jennifer Bauer, LCSW, Therapist

John Coutre, M.ED, Therapist

Michele Murphy, LCPC, Therapist

Nancy Carper, LCPC, Therapist

Stephanie Rosales, Clinical Assistant

Payment

Solutions Counseling accepts most major insurance payments as well as client self-payments based on household income.

Information

Each and every clinician is looking forward to the opportunity to be of service to you and your family.

For more information

815.431.3051



Solutions Counseling is an expansion of the quality outpatient counseling services that have been provided by Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley for more than 35 years. Solutions Counseling continues to provide therapeutic services in alignment with the mission statement of YSBIV. We are working to help individuals, couples and families as a whole to succeed in managing mental health issues while continuing to reside in their communities.

Intensive, out-patient mental health treatment is provided by Master degree/licensed therapists specializing in working with adults, couples, children and families. Clients present with symptomology related to depression, anxiety, emotion dysregulation, trauma including abuse and neglect, relationship issues as well as other mental health needs.

Therapy is administered in a comfortable confidential environment. Services are provided at the following YSB offices: Ottawa, Peru, Princeton and Streator. Services are also provided when appropriate outside of the office including in the schools and community.

Solutions Counseling also provides mental health services to students in need of mental health counseling in their school environment. Currently Solutions Counseling is providing services in the school setting for five elementary/middle schools and one high school.

We continue to offer written resources to the community for special mental health events. These resources include, flyers, lists of community mental health resources and programs as well as clinician biographies of YSBIV. We also participate in community events and can provide clinicians when needed for community sponsored groups including grief support groups and other self-help recovery groups.

YSBIV offers a sliding scale fee in an effort to make services available to all. We assist clients in meeting their location needs by providing services in the office, community, school or personal residence when appropriate.

*"Thank you for always being available to us.
Whether it be a suggestion or spending time with the kids,
you were a huge help to us all."*

“I don’t know what I would have done without the help from YSB Hope House.”

Hope House Visitation and Exchange Program

Hope House’s service philosophy and approach is to arrange for non-residential parents to have access to their children in a safe and impartial setting under the observation of a third party who is responsible for intervening, as needed, to promote safety of service delivery.

Supervised visitation and exchange services enable children to maintain or renew connections with parents by protecting the physical and emotional safety of the children and their families, including parents



who have been the victim of domestic violence. Hope House services are considered a solution in the majority of divorce or custody issues. Hope House does not provide therapeutic visitation or opinions as to custodial or visitation arrangements.

Services are typically ordered by the court or another referring agency in dependence or family law cases, such as an order of protection, or outlined in a divorce decree, or when contact with the non-residential parent may present a risk to the child or to the other parent.

Visits may be as temporary as a 2 to 6-week time frame, or up to 3 months, 6 months, one year or more to a certain age of the child (very rare). Hope House is open Monday-Saturday, scheduling is based on caseworker availability. Visits are held in a family friendly room.

At no time will the parties involved have contact (physical, audible or visual contact) as a matter of Hope House guidelines. A two-door entrance locked facility is available. Upon referral, Hope House will contact the parties involved and conduct an intake before visits are scheduled. Both parties are expected to comply with Hope House rules of safety and conduct. Services can be terminated if parents do not cooperate. Visitation reports can be requested if parties sign a release form or subpoenaed if needed for future court dates.

Major funding is currently provided by the LaSalle County 708 Mental Health Board. The Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley administered the former Hope House/Safe Haven program for six years under a Federal Government grant. As of December 2013, the 708 Mental Health Board of LaSalle County committed to fund Hope House, once again, for LaSalle County residents.

YSB Hope House Visitation and Exchange Program is available for FREE if at least one client is a LaSalle County Resident. If not, \$25.00 per visit. YSB does not take responsibility to determine which parent pays, or if they share in the long term. The ideal arrangement would be to have payment arranged by court order. Arrangements will be made for clients to pay prior to service.

If you would like more information please contact Lindsay 815-431-3020 or LindsayR@ysbiv.org



How your donation helps...

Earlier this year our **Intact Family Services program** was assisting a single, teenage mother of two. The client has a daughter who was born with only one functioning lung. The child was living at an assisted care facility for children located in Peoria. She had a second child who was born 6 weeks premature, weighing only 2 pounds.

Both children were at OSF in Peoria at the same time and it was been extremely overwhelming for this mother.

The **Ottawa Noon Rotary** along with **Chuck and Pamela Beckett** donated money which was used for gas cards for the mother to travel to Peoria so she could be trained to care for her daughters once they were released to return home.

The care facility did not provide diapers for the two children so part of the donation was used for diapers.

Their thoughtful donation came at a critical time for this family as it had been a long road and mom was running out of resources.

Once the children returned home, YSB staff stayed involved to make sure the children are receiving the care they need.

Intact Family Services

Intact Family Services is designed to work with families who have come to the attention of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as a result of a referral about an abuse/neglect investigation. The program provides efforts to preserve families so that children can remain safely at home and avoid foster care placement.

The overall objectives of the program are to reduce the risk of neglect and/or abuse, ensure the child is safe at home and enhance family functioning.

The real focus in serving these families are addressing issues that led to abuse and/or neglect. When the most common underlying factors are established, this will reveal what services are needed the most for families to be successful. The program is designed to be conducted from 5-7 months, at which time parents must meet minimum parenting standards.

Services provided include:

- Assessment of family issues
- Crisis interventions provided by workers 24 hours through a hotline that clients may utilize if a crisis develops.
- Referral linkage to community providers. Families may be referred to providers for counseling for issues of domestic violence, substance abuse, anger management and psychotropic medication appointments for a diagnosed mental illness. They can also be referred to medical providers for health issues, public aid for cash assistance and also to the Housing Authority for housing issues.
- Parenting education is provided through a parenting curriculum.
- A budget may be established utilizing worksheets and budgeting material.
- Transportation is provided to all appointments if the family is unable to get to the appointment.
- Advocacy is provided if the family involved with the court by writing court reports.

Progress is reported to families within the quarterly service plan .

A child's life is like a piece of paper in which every person leaves a mark.

UAW Charity Golf Outing



YSB is fortunate to be one of the three beneficiaries of proceeds from the **UAW Charity Golf Outing**.

Thank You!

“YSB workers were all nice and were honest with me about other options. I want to thank everyone that was involved with my case.”

More 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 is a role model 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.

Whenever possible, YSB preserves the child's family. A child should be separated from his or her family only when the family is absent or is unwilling or unable to provide a minimally acceptable family life.

The purpose of foster care is to provide safety, continuity, consistency and permanency in a family setting for the growing child. When returning home is not possible, alternative permanent plans must be pursued.

Current foster care policy directs the case worker to appropriate service delivery and timely permanent planning decisions.

To improve results for children and families in the foster care system, four key strategies are used:

Active community partnership

Neighborhood-based recruitment and retention of foster homes

Self evaluation and data driven decisions

Team decision meetings involving both birth parents and foster parents, when appropriate.

(Available in all 20 counties of our service area.)

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.)

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. 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.*

Second Chance

Second Chance provides services to youth who would otherwise be removed from their homes and communities due to high-risk, unmanageable behavior. 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.**

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.)*

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.**

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.)*

Trinity Lutheran Church Ottawa

Church members have been donating to YSB since last winter.



They have also placed a giving tree in the church so members can donate specific items needed by YSB clients.



Last winter they donated hats, gloves, mittens and scarves.



El Roi's Mission Parkview Christian Academy Yorkville

A Ministry of Parkview Christian Academy.

The goal of El Roi's Mission is to provide high-quality items for children in the foster care system that had to leave their belongings behind suddenly to be placed with their new family.



We will provide a hand-picked package (or, we welcome you to come in and choose for yourself) of essential items ranging in sizes from birth to 18 youth. This package will include pajamas, several everyday outfits, a "Sunday best" outfit, and a pair of shoes based on availability. If the child is an infant or toddler, diapers, wipes, and

other necessary toiletries will be included.

If you would like assistance in those first few weeks of gathering essentials for your foster child, please contact Jennie Thompson at jthompson@parkviewchristian.net or 815-830-6303 to check the availability of items and set up an appointment to pick up items.



Becoming a foster parent...

Becoming a **traditional foster home** means providing a home for siblings to keep them together. The demand for foster parents is growing daily. The demand for homes to be able to provide care for siblings is a daily occurrence. If you know someone or are interested in becoming a foster parent to provide care for sibling groups of two or more children, please contact Jami Valenzuela 815-431-3031 or jami@ysbiv.org

Becoming a **foster parent for Crisis placement** means you are willing to take adolescents on an emergency basis for 1-21 days. You will have 24/7 access to our professional on call support team. You will also receive a stipend to assist with costs. If you are interested please contact Lindsay Rossi 815-431-3020 or LindsayR@ysbiv.org

Clients Assisted from July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022

	FY 21	FY 22
Hope House	96	75
Transitional Living Program	21	19
Outreach Counseling	197	180
Solutions Counseling	955	875
Foster Care	2022	2610
Hispanic Services	637	851
Homeless Youth	59	76
Parenting Plus	305	241
Redeploy & 2nd Chance	123	80
Intact Families/Intensive Placement Stabilization	233	255
Grand Totals	4648	5262

Office Locations

Ottawa, IL 61350 (Main Office)

424 W. Madison St.
815.433.3953
Fax: 815.433.3980

Aurora, IL 60505

1700 N. Farnsworth
Suite #18
630.820.6303
Fax: 630.820.6306

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

475 W. Terra Cotta
Suite D
815.313.7632
Fax: 815.433.3980

Mendota, IL 61342

728 Main Street
815-261-4101
Fax: 815-433-3980

Peru, IL 61354

4231 Progress Blvd.
Suite 1&2
815.223.4151
Fax: 815.433.3980

Princeton, IL 61356

1702 1/2 W. Peru St.
P.O. Box 516
815.872.2119
Fax: 815.433.3980

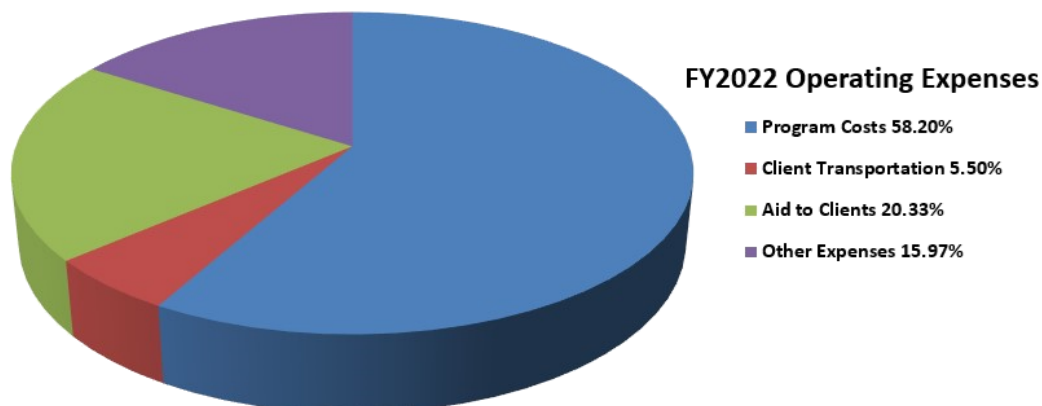
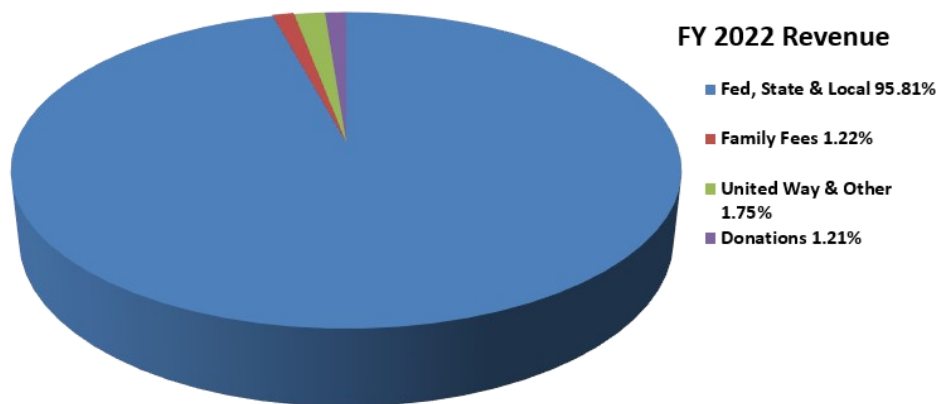
Rockford, IL 61101

308 W. State St.
Suite 475
815.316.1977
Fax: 779.221.3098

Streator, IL 61364

205 Pratt St.
815.665.0012
Fax: 815.433.3980
Fax: 815.433.3980

YSB Financial Profile FY22



Meet the Staff

Nancy Piccatto
Program Coordinator-9 years
Preschool teacher for 17 years

Julie Kobold
Educator-5 years
Preschool teacher 15 years

Nancy and Julie also teach
preschool at the Illinois Valley
YMCA.

Funding

The program is funded by grants, community fundraisers, donations as well as, registration and daily fees.

Each year the afterschool program hold a **Rips Chicken** dinner fundraiser and a bake sale to offset costs.

Funding Sources: All after school programs are sustained through one or more of the following; fee income, community fundraising/donations, or grants.

Each year the program holds a Rips Chicken Dinner fundraiser.



Our Ladd After School program received a \$1000.00 grant from **Upscale-Resale in Spring Valley**. Thank you so much!

Program hours

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Coverage on 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. release days

K-through 8th grade

For more information please contact Nancy at 815-228-1967 or nancyp@ysbiv.org and Julie K@ysbiv.org

Ladd Afterschool

YSB's philosophy regarding after school program services is to expand the range of choices and opportunities that enable, empower and encourage youth to achieve positive growth and development, improve expectations and capacities for future success, and avoid and/or reduce risk-taking behavior during after school hours.

Children and youth who participate in Out-of-School Time programs gain the personal, social, emotional, and educational assets needed to support healthy development, increase well-being, and facilitate a successful transition through childhood and adolescence, and into adulthood.

Based on emerging research, the goals of the after school programs are to provide youth with a safe environment and caring adult role models in support of their academic, social, physical



health & nutrition and creative enrichment needs. In order to meet these goals, the after school programs provide six prevention-focused core services.

Improving educational performance

Includes time to do homework, tutoring in basic skills, and enrichment programs that encourage creativity.

Life skills education

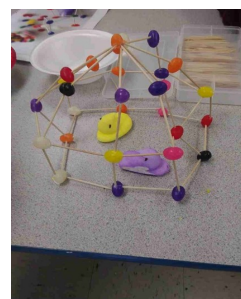
Encompasses training and education that promotes the development of healthy lifestyles choices.

Parental involvement

Includes opportunities for parents and/or guardians to meet with staff to discuss their children's activities, and to participate in events that strengthen parent/child bonds and community involvement. The after school programs utilize information obtained from families and participants in decisions related to overall program design and activities.

Recreation, sports, cultural and artistic activities

Includes providing activities and arranging safe outlets for youth to try new skills and develop new interests, to build friendships, find their place in a group, and gain developmentally relevant experiences. The picture above shows a STEM activity the children worked on using peeps, jelly beans and toothpicks. They were very creative and had a blast!



The Ladd After School Coordinator is Nancy Piccatto and Julie Kobold is the Educator.

Their favorite things are...

Allie- "Seeing friends, outside play and coloring"

Charlie- "Going outside"

Scarlett- "Hanging out with all the kids and I like the teachers too"

Jase- "I just like it"

Ruth Anne- "Love snack time"

Alivia- "It's very fun!"

out
OF
OFFICE



Heritage Harbor Ottawa
Memorial Day Parade



Our Hispanic Service staff participated
in the community celebration for
Cinco De Mayo.



Lisa Gustafson, Treatment Director at YSB, provided a presentation regarding the stages of grief to a newly established grief support group hosted by **Norberg Memorial Home** in Princeton.



Ottawa Family Pride Fest



April is National Child Abuse
Prevention month.

*"If you see something, say
something."*

To report child abuse...
1-800-25-Abuse

Follow us

YSB Website
www.ysbiv.org

Instagram
ysbiv17

Twitter
YSBoFILValley

Facebook
fb.me/ysbiv

Holiday Giving Through YSB

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.

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.



Star Tree: To sponsor a child in LaSalle, Bureau, Stark, Putnam, Grundy or Marshall County please contact Sue Trost 815-431-3035 or sue@ysbiv.org.



Stuff Our Stockings: To sponsor a child in one of our northern service areas please contact Laureen Beck 630-631-0589 or LaureenB@ysbiv.org.

Last year we were able to provide gifts to more than 850 children and their families thanks to your donations!

424 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

