

Youth Service Bureau

Of Illinois Valley



CELEBRATING
OUR

50TH

Anniversary

Annual Report
FY26

Helping young people & families succeed by serving
them in their home, school, and community since 1976

Youth Service Bureau

In **1975** the founders of YSBIV received funding from the Illinois Commission on Delinquency Prevention to provide crisis intervention and emergency shelter to police referred status offenders. They incorporated as a 501c-3 on December 31 of that year. Having committed to offering service to troubled young people in the community, the history of YSB since then is a story of increasing its capacity and expertise to do so.

In **1978**, the organization received its child welfare agency license and began to build a system of licensed homes to provide **Foster Care**.

1979

YSB held our first staff retreat in 1979. They remained a popular annual event for many years.



1980

YSB moved its Ottawa office to 827 Columbus St.



1985 saw the launch of initiatives that planted the seeds of today's **Runaway & Homeless Youth** services and **Juvenile Justice** programs. 1985 also marked the year that we began serving outside LaSalle County.

Intact Family Services traces its roots to a **1989** Family First contract to provide intensive family services using the the Home Builder model.

50 Years



1994 the Board of Directors bought the building at 424 W. Madison, Ottawa. This remains the organization's headquarters.

In **1994** YSB became certified as a Medicaid provider of Mental Health Services. **Solutions Counseling** carries on that vital work today.

LaSalle County Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley took over the contracts and hired the staff of North Central Youth Services when they ceased operation in **1995**. Our service area **expanded to include Bureau, Marshall, Putnam, and Stark counties.**

Project Success began in **1997** to bring services to Hispanic families in the Mendota area. In **1999**, it expanded to a county-wide model. Today, the **Hispanic Services** program works to improve the well-being of Spanish speaking community members by providing access to services.

Jan. 1, 1996, LaSalle County Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley changed its name to **Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley**



1999

YSB was nationally accredited for the first time by the Council on Accreditation. We have maintained the accreditation ever since.

A Celebration of

2004

Ladd Afterschool Program was launched



In **2011**, YSB expanded throughout northern Illinois when it took over **Foster Care** and **Parenting** programs after Illinois enacted policies to prevent discrimination against LGBTQIA families.

2012 YSB was awarded the LaSalle County **Redeploy Program** by the Department of Human Services and received funding from the LaSalle County 708 Board to launch **Second Chance Program**. These evidence-based services are cost-effective and lasting alternatives to youth incarceration.

During the Covid pandemic in **2020**, YSB took steps to ensure the safety of clients and employees. Thanks to our dedicated team, our vital services to children and families were not interrupted.

2024

The Compassion in Action Fund was launched. Since then over \$80k funded by private grants and donations has helped families with urgent needs and provided extras that let kids be kids.



In **2026** we launched a yearlong celebration of 50 years of bringing wellness, safety and hope to the communities we serve!

History and Hope

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU'S

50TH

Anniversary

GOLDEN GALA

A CELEBRATION OF
HISTORY & HOPE

NOVEMBER 7

The Auditorium Ballroom

109 Wright St, La Salle

Dinner by Chef Sara &
Dancing by Boomin DJ

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

\$100 - INDIVIDUAL

\$750 - TABLE OF 8



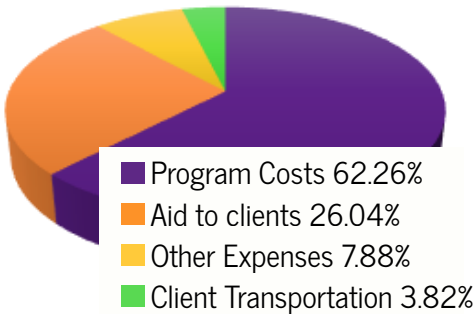
Our Year

While the majority of our revenue comes from state contracts, those funds are dedicated to basic operating costs.

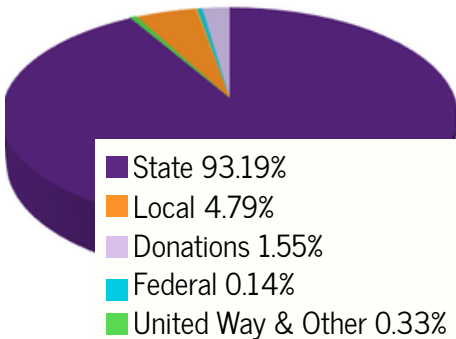
The portion that comes from donations supports the Compassion in Action fund which meets urgent needs of our clients in crisis, subsidizes counseling for those who need it, and provides much-needed 'extras' for the kids in our care.

Your generosity makes a meaningful impact!

FY26 Expenses



FY26 Revenues



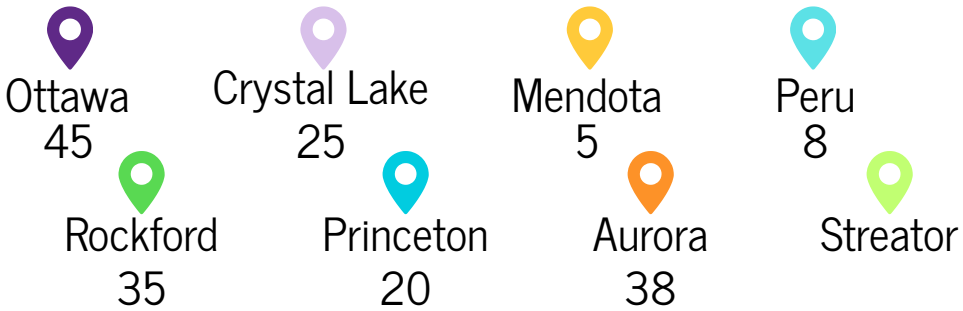
Clients Served (includes youth & families)	
Foster Care	2415
Intact Family Services	657
Juvenile Justice	86
Treatment	206
Hispanic Services	1651
RHY/HY/Crisis	191
Ladd After School	15
Hope House	33
Parenting	315
SOC/IPS	22
Total:	5566

In Numbers

In FY26 the **Compassion in Action Fund** distributed \$45,559 to meet the needs of 152 families.

Category	Requests	Total	Percentage
Clothing/School Supplies	24	\$3,847	8%
Court Costs	3	\$619	1%
Education	6	\$2,055	5%
Kids' Essentials	7	\$1,001	2%
Extracurricular Activities	14	\$3,587	8%
Food	6	\$1,300	3%
Furniture/Appliances	27	\$6,475	14%
Housing	16	\$8,286	18%
Medical Expenses	4	\$780	2%
Transportation	27	\$9,993	22%
Utilities	15	\$5,352	12%
Other	3	\$2,264	5%

Our team of 176 serves clients from 7 offices throughout 20 counties.



Our local presence makes a difference. It means children and families have greater access to support close to home. Being part of these communities allows YSB to build trusted relationships, collaborate with local partners, and respond quickly to the needs of the families we serve.

Program

Foster Care

In FY26, our foster care program supported 842 children and their families across the region. They've been working with the Department of Children & Family Services to implement a new licensing model that makes it easier for kinship care providers to get the support they need.

The greatest challenge faced by the foster care team is an ongoing need for more foster homes. Children entering care need families who can open their homes and their hearts.

YSB is committed to supporting foster families every step of the way, from training and licensing, through placement and beyond. As we enter FY27, we are exploring new partnerships and putting new programs in place to do that. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in learning more about being a foster parent please visit our website at www.ysbiv.org/programs-services/foster

Hispanic Services

The Hispanic Services Program supports the well-being of Spanish-speaking children and families by ensuring access to vital services. The team provides clients information and referrals in their native language. They work closely with many other programs and agencies to connect clients with services, including providing interpretation where necessary.

This year, the team relocated their office to a more visible, welcoming, and accessible location in the heart of the community to meet the needs of clients and staff.

In FY26, they once again met and exceeded their outcome goals, ensuring that funders will continue to support their vital program!

Highlights

Juvenile Justice

Our Juvenile Justice programs provide intensive, community-based services that create an alternative to incarceration. Through our Redeploy/Second Chance program, 51 young people and their families found support, guidance, and opportunities to build a better path forward. These are resilient young people who are attending therapy, completing community service, staying engaged in school, and making positive choices for their futures. This year 73% of participants successfully completed their probation and court requirements. This achievement reflects the hard work and commitment of the young people themselves, along with the families, staff, and community supports helping them succeed.

Redeploy/Second Chance successfully implemented its Step-Up parent and teen group, giving families opportunities to strengthen communication, accountability, and relationships. The program also introduced a rewards system that allows clients to redeem earned points for meaningful incentives.

Solutions Counseling

Solutions Counseling is a team of highly qualified, licensed therapists who specialize in working with children, adults, couples, and families. Each therapist holds a master's degree and appropriate professional licensure.

Through trauma-informed treatment for a wide range of mental health needs, therapy helps individuals and families build resilience, navigate challenges, and move toward greater wellness.

Program

Homeless Youth Services

The Homeless Youth Program provides services that link unhoused youth aged 16-23 with caring professionals who make connections and build relationships. The outreach workers prioritize the safety and well-being of the clients they serve.

In FY 26, 100% of the youth the program served were in stable living situations and had achieved independence at the close of their cases. More than a statistic, this means that these young people have the skills and security they need to build their futures.

Ladd Afterschool

Since 2004, the Ladd Afterschool Program has provided children a safe place to go after school where they learn and make friends.

The program is strongly supported by the residents of Ladd and the surrounding area, including the annual Rip's Fried Chicken fundraiser that provides significant funding.

Intact Family Services

When a report is made to DCFS, they investigate and determine what is in the child's best interest. Families may be offered Intact Family Services to help address challenges and keep children safely at home. Those who accept this opportunity work with a case manager and receive a variety of services designed to meet their unique needs.

These supports help strengthen families before displacement occurs, giving parents the tools, resources, and support they need to create a safe, stable, and healthy home for their children.

Highlights

Hope House

The Hope House Program provides LaSalle County residents facing divorce or custody disputes a safe alternative to maintain vital parent-child connections and offers supervised visitation and exchange services in their Ottawa office.

Parenting Program

The Parenting Plus Program is designed to enhance parental knowledge and proficiency in using age-appropriate guidance and discipline techniques, while promoting healthy intact families. The 12-week Parent Training is committed to equipping parents with essential skills to foster a secure and nurturing environment for their children and family.

A total of 315 parents and children benefited this year from the classes and coaching services offered. 97% of the 160 participants successfully completed the parenting classes and 18 out of 23 successfully completed the rigorous parent coaching program.

Runaway & Homeless Youth

RHY provides 24 hour crisis intervention to youth who have run away or been locked out of their homes due to family conflict in LaSalle, Putnam, Bureau, Stark, and Marshall counties.

In FY26, 94% of the youth the program served were in stable living situations and had achieved permanency at the close of their cases and 92% remained out of the child welfare system. These outcomes mean the children are experiencing the stability and security they need to thrive, and families are better equipped to move forward together.

In addition, RHY provides family-centered casework to any youth age 11-17 and their family residing in those counties.



The Brighter Futures Fund continues to be generously supported by an anonymous donor, enabling and inspiring us to make significant impacts in the lives of children.

This year, the fund allowed us to stock each office with Comfort Cases. These are backpacks filled with age-appropriate personal grooming items, pajamas, underwear, a small comfort item, a blanket, a snack, and a book. Available to all clients, in any program, they help ensure that kids going through a difficult situation have what they need and a tangible reminder that they matter, someone cares, and they are not alone.



We're also very excited to launch our **Brighter Futures Extracurricular Fund**. Parents or caseworkers can fill out an application on our website to take part. The Extracurricular Fund helps children participate in opportunities that support their growth, confidence, and development. The fund is designed to remove financial barriers so children can participate in meaningful enrichment activities.

ysbiv.org/programs-services/brighter-futures

This year, need for the Compassion in Action Fund increased significantly, with both the number of families served and the amount distributed rising by 83%.



Requests ranged from less than \$20 for equipment needed to participate in a sport to more than \$1,000 to help maintain safe housing. The average amount provided was about \$300 but the impact was often much greater. For a family facing an unexpected expense, knowing that help is available can turn a moment of panic into one of relief and hope.

We also saw significant increases in requests for basic necessities such as food, clothing, and school supplies. As consumers face ever rising costs and families work to make ends meet, the Compassion in Action Fund remains committed to helping meet essential needs and bring wellness, safety, and hope to the families we serve.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you we will continue assist when families face challenges.



Your donation online at www.ysbiv.org or by mail will ensure that assistance is there when it's needed.

Beyond the Numbers

Permanency is always the goal for kids in foster care.

That might be returning home, or adoption. But sometimes, for older kids, that means helping them to achieve independence. This year we had six youth from foster care start college or trade school, and one join the Air Force. In addition five of our RHY youth and one from our Intact Services program are continuing their education.

We're cheering them all on and supporting their success however we can!



A foster parent sent us this picture. These boys are always excited to see Sydney, their caseworker!

“

“Good morning, hope all is well. I just wanted to text and thank you and everyone involved for everything that you guys did for me and my daughter. Having the facility for me to be able to go see her is absolutely amazing and for you guys to take your time that is so precious away from your own families so you can help another family see each other is amazing.

God bless you all and please share this with everybody who helped. Thank you I will never forget what you guys have done for us.”

~From a Hope House Parent

The People We Serve

Noelle was referred to our Intact Families services after concerns arose about her ability to safely care for her one-month-old son. A young mother navigating unexpected parenthood, single parenting, and postpartum depression, Noelle immediately engaged in services and welcomed support to become a stronger parent. Although she initially felt discouraged and questioned her decision to parent, she quickly gained confidence as she learned new skills and connected with her social worker.

Noelle shared, “DCFS involvement ended up being a blessing in disguise because they connected us with an amazing social worker. My worker made my family feel seen and heard... The agency helped me become a better mother to my son, who has become my whole world.” Her story demonstrates how compassionate, consistent support can help families overcome challenges and build a hopeful future.

More often than we'd like in the past year, when a child's placement has become unavailable or disrupted, we haven't had a home available. This means that children sleep in offices while they wait for a safe, welcoming place to stay.

Have you ever considered becoming a foster parent? Single or married, homeowner or renter, young or old... the important thing is a willingness to open your heart to a child in need.

Homes are needed for both emergency and traditional placements.

Learn more



at YSBIV.org

Board of Directors

Providing support & leadership

YSB is committed to having a Board of Directors that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We are extremely grateful to these board members for lending us their time and talents.



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Serving since 2021

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Dear Donors, Volunteers, Partners, and Advocates,

When I reflect on the past year at YSB-IV, I am incredibly proud of the adjustments and decisions made to strengthen this agency and better serve those who rely on us. Our staff are forward-thinking, creative and constantly looking for ways to improve. We have made thoughtful business decisions that have strengthened the stability of the agency while piloting new projects and approaches that have made a meaningful difference in the lives of our clients.

As we look toward the year ahead, that work will continue. We will continue finding ways to strengthen YSB-IV, ensure the agency is thriving and explore new opportunities to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

But this year is different. YSB-IV turns 50.

Our focus is shifting, at least for a little while, toward celebration. Not in a way that diminishes the work ahead, but in a way that honors how far we have come. Fifty years of changing lives. Fifty years of creating generational change. Fifty years of transforming communities. This incredible legacy belongs to everyone who has been part of the YSB-IV story—staff, volunteers, donors, partners, advocates and community members.

This year, I encourage each of you to join us in celebrating this remarkable milestone.

Thank you for all that you do for YSB-IV. We truly cannot do this work without you, and we deeply value your commitment to our mission. I hope to see you as we celebrate 50 years of changing lives, creating generational change and transforming communities.

With much respect,
Rici D. Cook
YSB-IV Board President

Together We

For 50 years YSB has brought wellness, safety, and hope to our community.

We have served tens of thousands of people over the years and always remain committed to the unique needs and goals of each individual served.

Many of those served by YSB have experienced trauma, isolation, and uncertainty. Our team is dedicated to building the trust and confidence necessary for people to fully embrace and benefit from our services. We support them through challenges and accomplishments, always hoping for the best life for each person we serve.

YSB consistently engages with a wide variety of stakeholders to help our clients thrive. We value partnership and understand that people receive the best possible services when they have a broad base of support. We are grateful for everyone who makes what we do possible.

Successfully operating any business for 50 years is an amazing accomplishment. It is a testament to YSB's strong history of governance, high quality services, stewardship of resources and sincere care for our community.

We thank the past and present staff that have carried out our life-saving mission and the volunteer Board members who provide leadership.

Make a Difference

We recognize that each YSB team member has made the important choice to work here. We value that choice, understand the vicarious trauma and impact of the work, and proactively make the development, wellness, and safety of all staff a priority.

In FY26 we saw high demand for all our services driven by increased mental health needs, economic strain, and domestic crisis situations. Our team displayed their 24/7 resiliency and flexibility to meet this need.

We are demonstrating our commitment to their well-being in multiple ways, including providing safety alarm buttons and embarking on external partnerships to provide staff trauma training.

In this year of celebrating our past, we are also planning for our future. In FY27 we are adding several new positions to manage increased caseloads, meet operational needs, and establishing new partnerships to recruit additional foster homes. We are strategically assessing opportunities to expand existing YSB programs into areas of the state where we already have a presence through other YSB services.

With the ongoing support of our partners and supporters, the YSB team remains committed to meeting the needs of our community for many more years!

SAM TENUTO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Giving Today Building Tomorrow

There are many ways to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children and families served by YSB both now and in the future.

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

A Donor-Advised Fund is a simple and flexible way to give. If you have a DAF, you can recommend a grant directly to YSB, creating an immediate impact in our community. Many donors appreciate the ease and tax advantages of giving through their DAF while continuing to support the causes they value most.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a gift to YSB directly from your IRA through a Qualified Charitable Distribution. A QCD counts toward your required minimum distribution, may reduce your taxable income, and provides immediate support to the youth and families we serve. To begin, simply contact your IRA administrator.

Planned Giving

One of the most powerful ways to sustain YSB's mission is by including us in your will or estate plan. A bequest costs nothing today, yet creates a lasting legacy, ensuring that children and families continue to receive care, stability, and hope for generations to come.



Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley is licensed charitable organization designated as a 501 (c)3 not for profit by the Internal Revenue Service.

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