

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Y.O.U.
YOUTH & OPPORTUNITY UNITED

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share Y.O.U.'s 2024 Annual Report, reflecting a year of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to our mission of bridging the opportunity gap for youth and their families.

This year, we navigated significant challenges, including a \$700,000 reduction in public funding. In response, our board and staff collaborated closely to reorganize our youth development programming while keeping youth success as our north star. Together, we faced these headwinds with determination, ensuring that our services remained impactful and true to our mission.

Despite these financial pressures, Y.O.U. achieved remarkable milestones in 2024. We delivered more than 260 hours of afterschool and summer programming, serving 382 youth across ten school sites. Additionally, our Clinical and Street Outreach teams provided vital mental health services and case management support to over 1,100 youth and their families—all at no cost to those we serve.

At Y.O.U., relationships are at the heart of our work. Our dedicated staff pour their energy, compassion, and expertise into building strong connections with our youth, empowering them with the confidence and agency needed to pursue their academic and life goals.

As you explore this year's report, I hope you see the impact of your support reflected in the stories and achievements we share. Your partnership is critical to our success, and we are deeply grateful for your belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to bridge the opportunity gap and create pathways to brighter futures for the youth we serve.

With gratitude and optimism,



David K. Hill

David Hill

President, Board of Directors



C. Lynch

Craig Lynch

Chief Executive Officer

Our Sites

- Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies
- Chute Middle School
- Dawes Elementary School
- Evanston Township High School
- King Arts Literary & Fine Arts School
- Nichols Middle School
- Oakton Elementary School
- Old Orchard Junior High
- Walker Elementary School
- Washington Elementary School
- Y.O.U. Headquarters

Y.O.U. IN 2024

Y.O.U. works to bridge the opportunity gap by providing academic, social, and emotional support to youth through the Out-of-School Time Program and Community-Based Services. We use three primary strategies in our work:

- » Identity-affirming relationships
- » Expanded learning opportunities
- » Resources to meet emerging needs

382

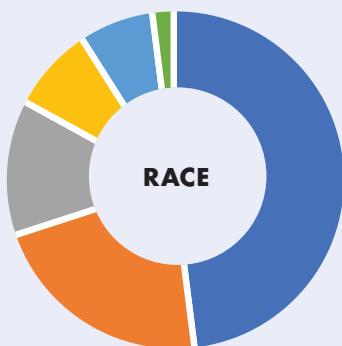
Out-of-School Time participants

1,158

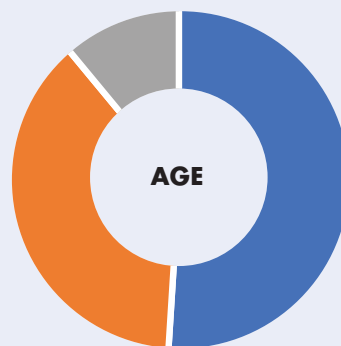
Community-Based Services clients

80%

of youth are eligible for free and/or reduced lunch



- 48%** Black/African American
- 22%** Latinx
- 13%** Multiracial
- 8%** White
- 7%** Asian
- 2%** Other



- 51%** Middle school
- 38%** Elementary school
- 11%** High school and young adults



“

Through enrichments, Y.O.U. has exposed my kids to areas of interest they didn't even know they had. That exposure has been tremendous.

Y.O.U. caregiver

94%

of caregivers feel positively about the overall quality of Y.O.U. programming



Experiences

In our Out-of-School Time Program, youth take part in a wide variety of enrichment activities. This exposure to the culinary arts, athletics, STEM, art, entrepreneurship, and so many other topics allows youth to discover their interests and follow their passions.

The Culinary Lab

Last spring, elementary sites piloted a new enrichment called Chemistry in the Kitchen, where youth explored the science behind cooking. The lessons, which staff developed to align with science standards at District 65, encouraged curiosity and experimentation. A popular lesson centered on citric acid—youth tasted pure citric acid and compared it to their favorite sour candies.

High school and middle school sites also learned about the culinary arts thanks to Chef Brady, one of Y.O.U.'s Afterschool Instructors. Youth had the opportunity to work on their knife skills, learn about baking, and practice cookie decorating, among other things. They also learned about the food system and farm-to-table cooking, using produce from Y.O.U.'s garden to make dishes like pumpkin lasagna.

Future Game Changers

Thanks to a partnership with TrueNU, Northwestern student-athletes volunteered with the OST Program. Student-athletes from sports such as football, soccer, women's lacrosse, basketball, and women's volleyball have all spent time with our youth. In the spring, they worked with elementary youth in preparation for the 2nd Annual Dawes-Oakton Kickball game, which Dawes won for the second year in a row.

In addition to bringing Northwestern student-athletes to the OST Program, Y.O.U. has been able to take youth on field trips to sporting events thanks to support from the Bill Nelson Memorial Foundation. Over the past three years, youth have cheered on the Cubs at Wrigley Field and attended Northwestern football and basketball games.

SUPPORTING Each Other

Prioritizing relationships is one of our core values, and we strive to create a safe space where youth feel supported and encouraged to lift each other up. Being part of a community empowers them to aim higher, knowing they're not alone.

Clinical and Outreach Expansion

Y.O.U.'s mental health counseling and outreach services are a critical support to many families in Evanston, and the demand for these services has risen over the past few years. Most of these youth also participate in our OST Program; this year, we expanded our footprint so we could serve more youth across Evanston. We began providing mental health counseling at the McGaw YMCA during the summer, and we started working with youth at Willard and Lincolnwood Elementary Schools at the beginning of this school year. We're also expanding our Outreach services, providing hygiene kits to partner organizations like the Moran Center and Curt's Cafe.

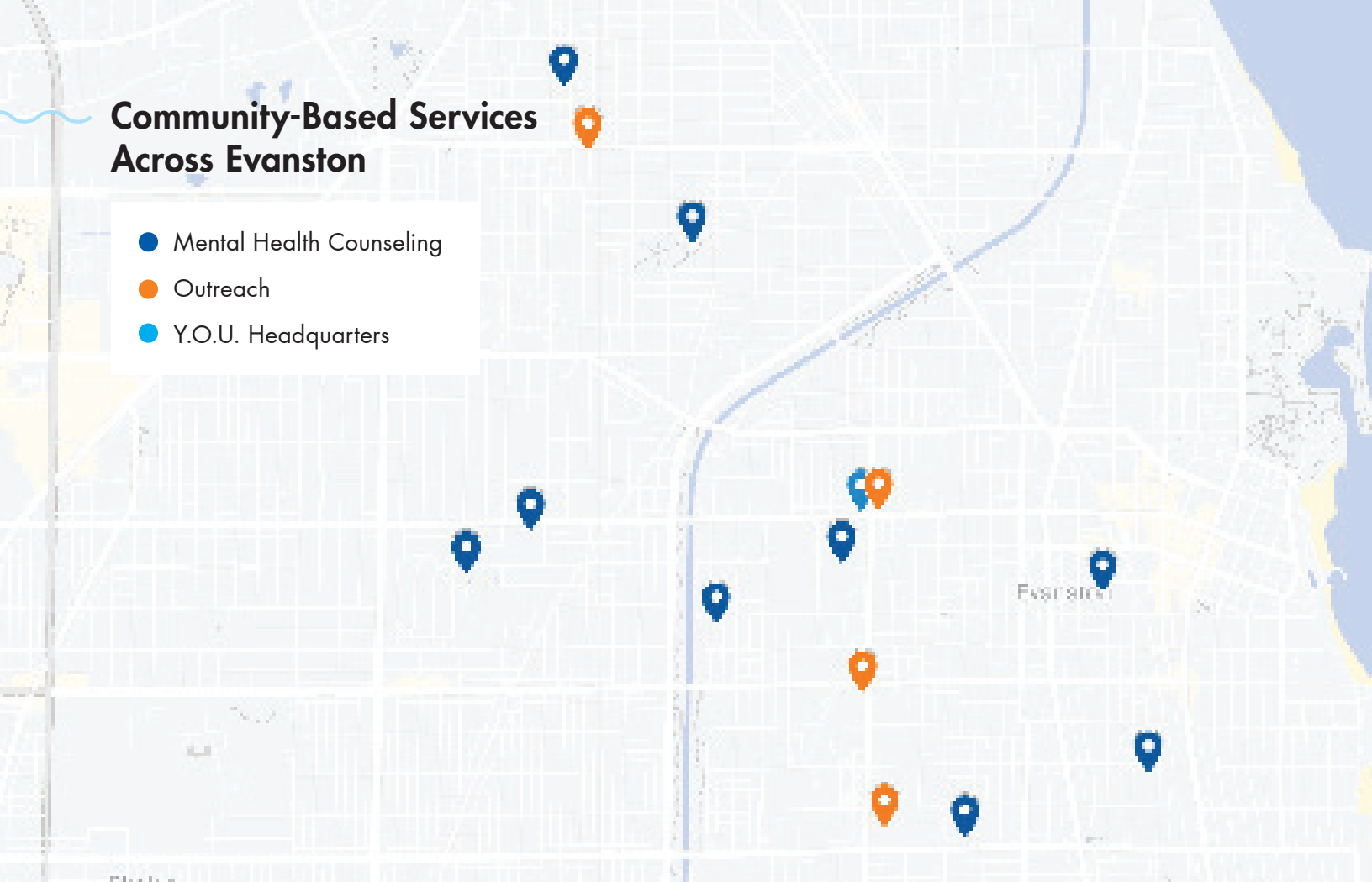
Impact Crew

Y.O.U.'s Impact Crew is a group of high schoolers who are dedicated to making a difference in our community. Over the past year, they have prepared and donated food for a nearby community fridge, created garden beds at a local nonprofit farm, and volunteered at other OST Program sites. The Impact Crew helped out once a week, serving as mentors and leaders to elementary youth. Amanda, an elementary Afterschool Program Manager, said she appreciated the opportunity to see youth build relationships across age levels and learn from each other.



Community-Based Services Across Evanston

- Mental Health Counseling
- Outreach
- Y.O.U. Headquarters





“

Y.O.U. staff has been supportive of my child's self-expression and encouraged her to try new things.

Y.O.U. caregiver

96%

of caregivers feel
Y.O.U. builds confidence
in their youth



Exploration

Encouraging imagination, self-expression, and self-reflection are all important for young people's development. We provide opportunities where youth can take the time to explore who they are and who they want to be.

Mixed Media Artwork

Last spring, high school students imagined new worlds through the creation of mixed media artwork. They first photographed each other and objects of interest around them, then used those photos as a starting point for their pieces. Their re-imagined photos combined cutouts from magazines, supplies like crayons and markers, and in some cases 3-D objects for their work. Their finished pieces, which created the extraordinary out of the everyday, then went on display at the entrance to the Y.O.U. building.

Sound Healing

Michelle Weinman has partnered with Y.O.U. for years to offer musical enrichments for youth. Last winter, youth participated in a sound healing enrichment. Sound healing is an ancient practice where someone plays an instrument like singing bowls to create lo-fi vibrational sounds. In this popular enrichment, youth took turns playing instruments for each other to create a calming space for youth to relax and de-stress.



SETTING Goals

At Y.O.U., we believe that success looks different for everyone. A critical piece of reaching a goal starts with setting it and developing a plan to achieve it. Our staff provide encouragement and support to youth as they work towards their individual definition of success.

CCBYS Expansion

Last fall, we received a grant to expand our Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services and begin working with youth involved or at-risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system. Our Community Case Manager supported youth as they completed community service and fulfilled other probation requirements. While working with one youth, they learned that he also wanted to graduate from high school. They supported him in re-enrolling in school, and he's now on the way to achieving his goal!

Book It!

Looking for a way to encourage youth to get excited about reading, Y.O.U. sites participated in the Pizza Hut Book It! Program last year. Each youth set an individual reading goal for the year. Evanston Public Library's mobile library visited sites so youth could check out their favorite books like the Dog Man series and Guinness World Records, and each site provided daily independent reading time. When youth reached their goal, they earned a certificate for a personal pan pizza. Seeing the first group of youth succeed built enthusiasm for the entire group to achieve their goals.



91%

of the youth who
attend our programs
feel confident in their
ability to succeed!



Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 6.30.24

	FY24	FY23
Cash & Restricted Cash	2,594,691	2,818,818
Receivables, net of allowance	556,770	508,427
Facilities & Equipment	5,302,353	5,458,672
Endowment	2,981,008	2,780,385
Other Assets	48,207	60,442
TOTAL	11,483,029	11,626,744
Liabilities	271,428	337,157
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	7,374,517	7,586,763
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	3,837,083	3,702,824
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	11,483,029	11,626,744

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF 6.30.24*

	FY24	FY23
Government	2,709,770	2,148,405
Contributions	1,287,983	1,158,994
Special Events	192,239	335,759
TOTAL REVENUE	4,189,991	3,643,158
Program Services	3,281,190	3,169,970
Management & General	765,194	925,966
Fundraising	421,149	413,873
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,467,533	4,509,809
OPERATING INCOME	(277,542)	(866,651)

* These results reflect total revenue less restricted endowment investment income.
The FY24 audit was being conducted at the time of publication; thus, these figures do not represent audited financials.

Our Partners

Each year, Y.O.U. partners with a host of organizations to enhance program offerings, connect youth and families to additional community resources, ensure efforts are not duplicated, and work towards collective impact.

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PUBLIC

City of Evanston
Evanston/Skokie School District 65
Evanston Township High School
District 202
Skokie School District 68
Village of Skokie

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

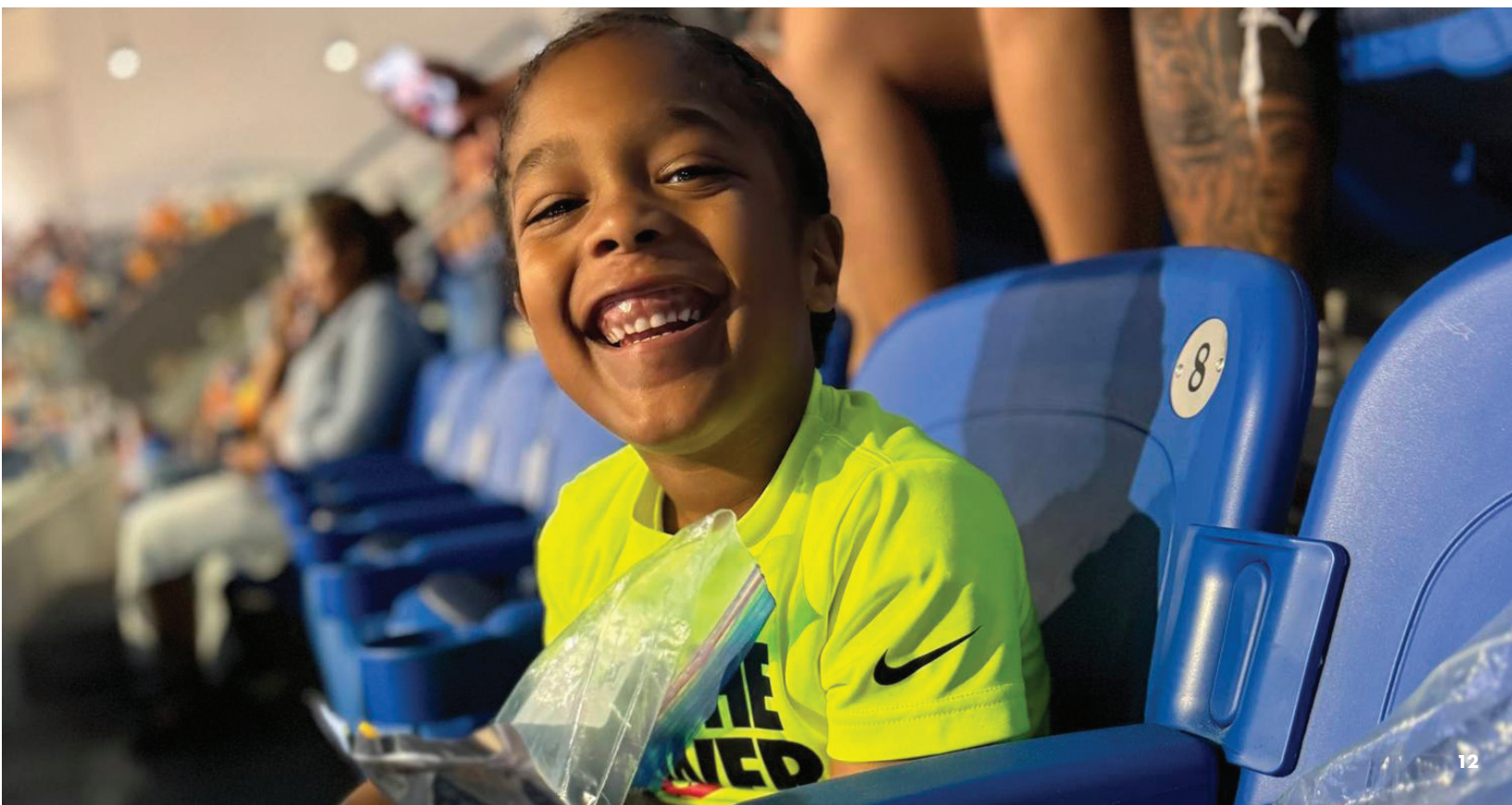
Alliance to End Homelessness in
Suburban Cook County
Bundled Blessings
City of Evanston's Youth and Young
Adult Division
Connections for the Homeless
Curt's Café
Erie Family Health Center
ETHS Health Center

EvanSTEM
Evanston Art Center
Evanston Coalition to End
Homelessness
Evanston Cradle to Career
Evanston LAN40
Evanston Public Library
Evanston Scholars
Family Action Network (FAN)
Family Focus
Foundation 65
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois Safe Schools Alliance
Infant Welfare Society of Evanston
James B. Moran Center for Youth
Advocacy
McGaw YMCA

Northwestern University
Neighborhood and Community
Relations
Oakton Community College
OMNI Youth Services
PEER Services
Response for Teens
Shelter, Inc.
Skokie LAN41
The Bridge Youth and Family Services
The Collective
The Harbour, Inc.
The Night Ministry
Youth Job Center
YWCA Evanston/North Shore

OST PROGRAM PROVIDERS

ARTSiE
Art Encounter
Culture Shock
DIME (Dance Is My Everything)
Evanston Art Center
Evanston Public Library
Hot Shots Sports
Michelle Weinman (African
Drumming & Sound Healing)
Noggin Builders
Northlight Theatre
Open Studio Project
Sam Says Let's Play Tennis
Sticky Fingers Cooking
The Talking Farm
TrueNU



Don Baker Circle for Youth

Named for our visionary founder and Director Emeritus Don Baker, the Don Baker Circle for Youth is a giving society established to recognize supporters who make annual fund contributions of \$1,000 or more to Y.O.U. We are grateful for this generous support.

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Y.O.U. is grateful for our many generous donors in Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We sincerely apologize for any omissions or errors in spelling.

\$100,000+

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Illinois State Board of Education
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\$50,000+

Cless Family Foundation

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\$5,000+

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