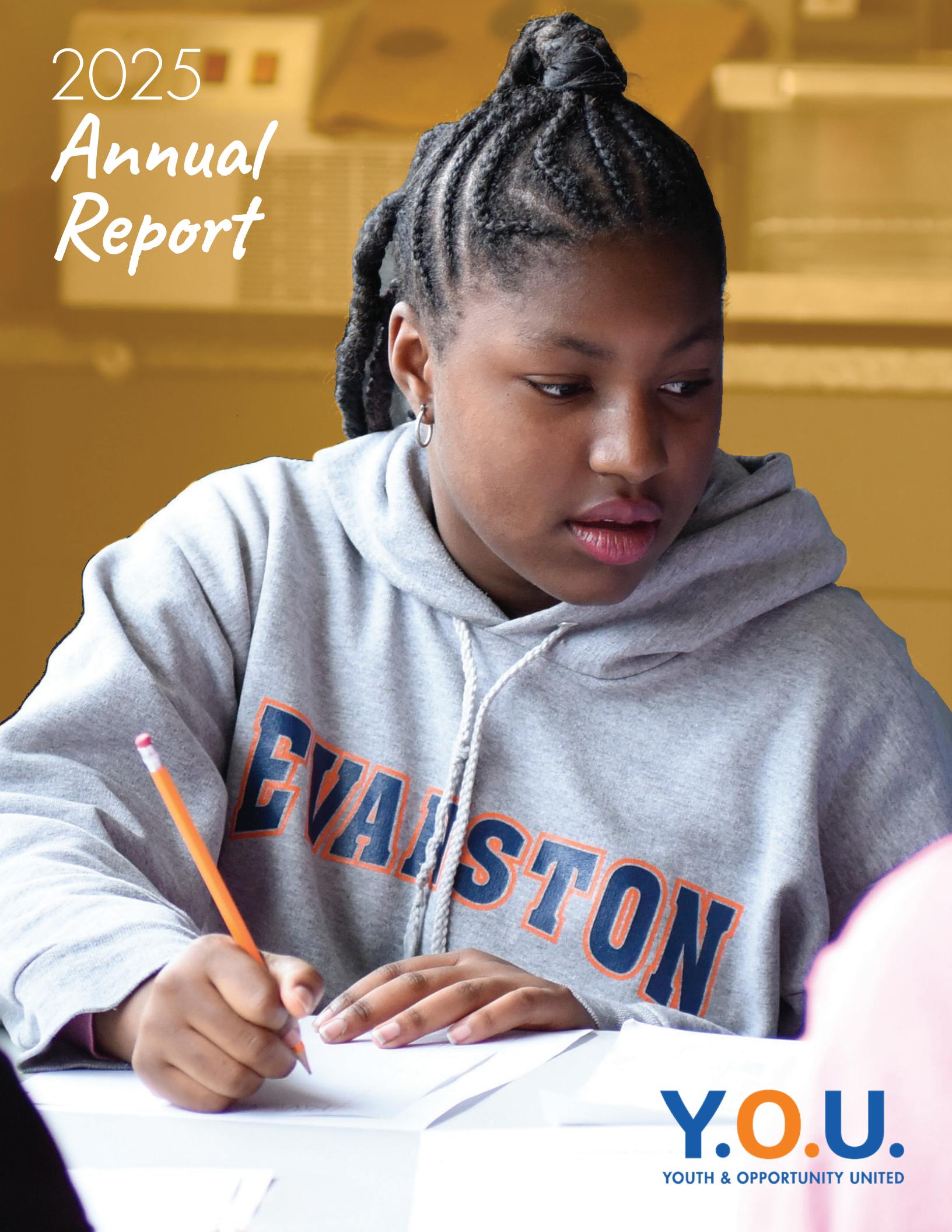


2025
*Annual
Report*



Y.O.U.
YOUTH & OPPORTUNITY UNITED

Dear Friends,

We are proud to share our results from the past year in our Y.O.U. 2025 Annual Report. This report demonstrates our creativity and resilience to meet the ever-changing needs of our youth and their families.

Like many other community-based organizations, Y.O.U. has faced significant difficulties this year, including significant declines in public funding and federal policies targeting the most vulnerable members of our community. In facing these challenges, we took to heart these words, "adversity doesn't weaken a mission—it sharpens it" and challenged ourselves to not just accept these unprecedented circumstances but evolve and grow in ways that strengthened our ability to support our youth. We are so proud that Y.O.U. staff were able to meet the moment, reinforcing how critical they are to our work.

In 2025, we served over 1,000 youth with enhanced and expanded programming. Our Out-of-School Time Program started offering programming on Saturdays and other non school days, and our counseling team began working with youth during the school day. We retooled programming delivered in our Lewis-Sebring MakerSpace to provide STEM enrichments that better align with educational standards and created more hands-on learning opportunities. We made community connections that built intergenerational relationships and encouraged civic engagement.

Perhaps most importantly, we continued to provide youth with new opportunities and experiences that expanded and challenged their worldview.

As we reflect on this past year, what stands out most are the relationships that make our work possible, whether that's our youth and their families who choose to be part of our community, our staff who work tirelessly to create meaningful experiences for youth, our schools and other partners who collaborate to expand our impact, and, of course, you. Thank you for your partnership, your support of our mission, and your belief in the power of youth. Together, we will continue to bridge the opportunity gap and create spaces for our youth to flourish.

With gratitude,



C. Lynch

Craig Lynch
Chief Executive Officer



David K. Hill

David Hill
President, Board of Directors

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
- Walker Elementary School
- Washington Elementary School
- Y.O.U. Headquarters

Y.O.U. IN 2025

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:

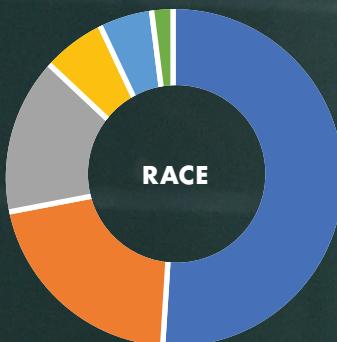
- ✓ Identity-affirming relationships
- ✓ Expanded learning opportunities
- ✓ Resources to meet emerging needs

375

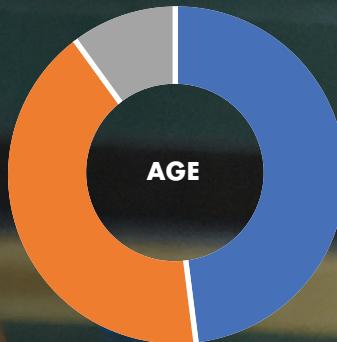
Out-of-School Time participants

628

Community-Based Services clients



51% Black/African American
21% Latinx
15% Multiracial
6% White
5% Asian
2% Other



48% Middle school
42% Elementary school
10% High school and young adults





443

Youth participated in 443 hours
of group therapy this year

93%

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

Expansion

One of our guiding principles is to meet our youth where they're at, and we're constantly striving to put that into practice. One way we do that is by finding new ways to offer programming that amplifies our impact.

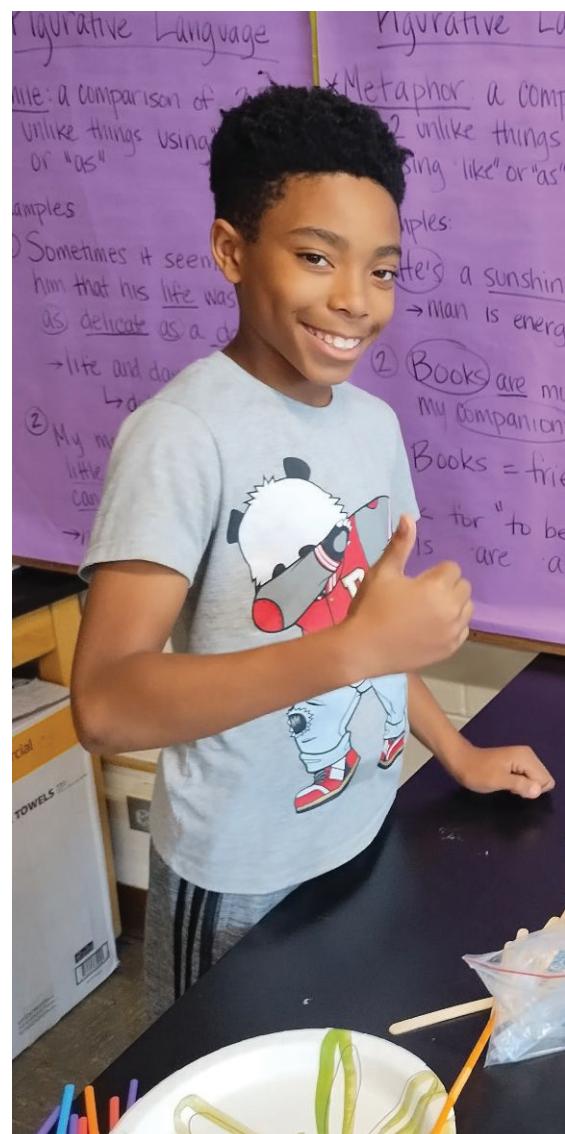
Teen REACH

Last August, Y.O.U. began operating Teen REACH sites at Nichols Middle School and Washington Elementary School. Teen REACH is an Illinois Department of Human Services afterschool program. As part of this programming, we increased our operating hours to serve youth on Saturdays, non-attendance days, and during school breaks.

This additional time with youth allowed for more flexibility with our activities. One highlight was museum week, a week of field trips to different museums including the National Museum of Mexican Art and the DuSable Black History Museum. In total, youth in the OST Program enjoyed 4,654 hours of field trips this year!

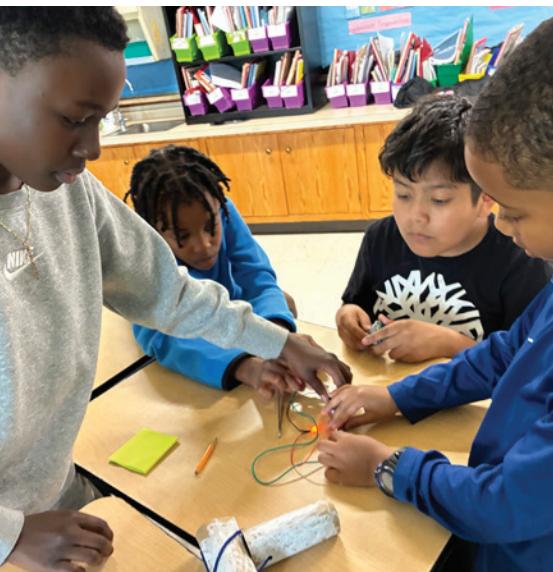
Counseling in Schools

The demand for our mental health counseling and outreach services is as high as ever. We have been offering support wherever we're needed most—providing outreach in the community, working in partnership with other organizations, and conducting therapy at Y.O.U.'s building and at schools. Over the past year, we have been offering counseling at schools during the school day in order to reach more youth at a convenient time for them. Y.O.U.'s Master's-level interns have also been leading group therapy sessions during the OST Program.



Reimagination

Our Lewis-Sebring MakerSpace has been a core part of our programming ever since we moved into our headquarters in 2017. Last fall, we embarked on a revisioning process to better meet our youth's needs, updating our goals for the space and reviving all of our equipment and technology.



Lewis-Sebring MakerSpace Relaunch

In the spring, we relaunched our STEM programming across all age groups, focusing on engineering, computer science, and robotics. Elementary youth from Walker and King Arts completed engineering design challenges, and middle school youth from Nichols and King Arts worked with Micro:bit hardware and Cutebots. During spring break, Y.O.U. staff and staff from Oakton College worked together to offer an AI Camp for middle schoolers, learning about AI during the mornings and engineering principles during the afternoons. One popular activity involved working in teams in a competition to build the tallest tower.

Summer STEM

Recognizing the importance of STEM for today's youth, we offer STEM-focused enrichments throughout the entire year. During our summer camp, we led STEM activities everyday, both in the Lewis-Sebring MakerSpace and at the schools. A couple of youth's favorite activities were designing and building boats and a LEGO robotics enrichment. Our summer STEM programming was supported by two iKit STEM interns from Evanston Township High School who helped to facilitate the LEGO activities and provided youth with thought partnership and hands-on support.



“I wasn't really interested in [coding or computer science] before we started coming to Y.O.U. to work with those cute little robots, but now I really like it.

King Arts youth



6.4k

Youth participated in
6,446 hours of academic
enrichment this year

97%

of Y.O.U. youth maintained or
improved their ability to listen and
understand others' points of view

Connection

As an Evanston organization, we're always looking for new ways to become even more engaged with the community. For us, that means building relationships where youth can both learn from others and serve as sources of support.

Reading Buddies

One of the most rewarding ways to get youth excited about reading is reading with someone, and a summer reading partnership with The Mather, a senior living center in Evanston, did just that! Twice a week during the summer, elementary youth were paired up with a reading buddy from The Mather to read a book that was donated by a community member. The youth and their buddy then completed a creative activity based on what they just read. Thank you to the 25 volunteers from The Mather who spent 338 hours reading with Y.O.U. youth this summer!

Giving Back

Civic engagement helps youth build leadership skills, strengthen relationships, and make a difference in their community. Last year, middle grades youth from King Arts developed all of these skills with a yearlong enrichment from the Civic Leadership Foundation. Once a week, they met to work on a civic engagement project, which was divided into three phases: identification of an issue important to youth, planning of a project based on this issue, and implementation of the plan. Youth divided themselves into two groups and worked on projects benefiting Meals on Wheels and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.



Exploration

Exposing youth to new opportunities and interests is a high priority at Y.O.U. We believe that youth should have the freedom to define their own goals. By providing new experiences for them, we help expand their vision of what's possible.



Entrepreneurship

In the spring, the high school program ran an entrepreneurship enrichment utilizing the Lewis-Sebring MakerSpace to imagine and design their own products. They created prototypes of goods such as resin coasters, wooden planters, and wooden birdhouses. This enrichment culminated in a Maker fair, where community members got to talk to youth about their design process and buy their products.

Summer Sewing

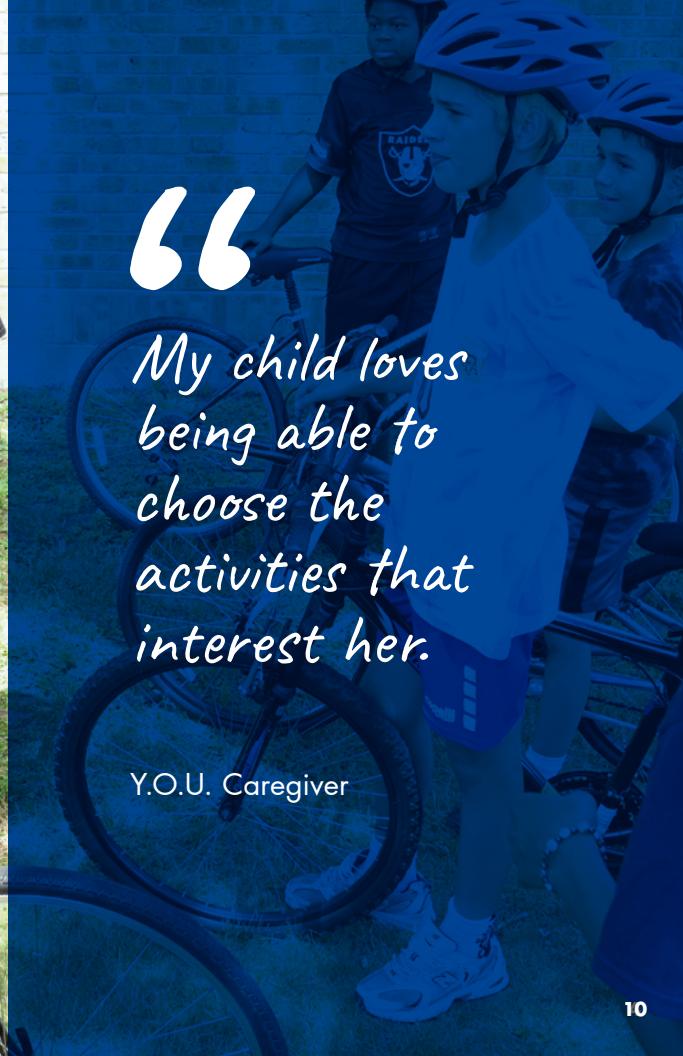
One of the most popular activities during the summer program was our sewing enrichment. Taught by Ms. Weinman, a longtime partner of Y.O.U., youth learned how to follow a pattern and use a sewing machine to make their very own tote bags, wallets, and pencil pouches.

Cycle Squad

In partnership with The Recyclery and the City of Evanston, Y.O.U. started a biking club for middle school youth. They learned bike safety and road rules, went on biking trips after school and during the summer, and earned their own bike at the end of the program!



98%
of caregivers feel
positively about the
overall quality of
Y.O.U. programming



Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 6.30.25

	FY25	FY24
Cash & Restricted Cash	\$2,375,103	\$2,594,690
Receivables, net of allowance	\$427,136	\$534,197
Facilities & Equipment	\$5,145,224	\$5,302,353
Endowment	\$3,175,426	\$2,981,008
Other Assets	\$77,447	\$48,207
TOTAL	\$11,200,336	\$11,460,455

Liabilities	\$223,310	\$271,428
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$7,901,523	\$8,265,385
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$3,075,533	\$2,923,643
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$11,200,366	\$11,460,456

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AS OF 6.30.25*

	FY25	FY24
Government	\$1,929,350	\$2,709,938
Contributions	\$1,128,317	\$1,271,001
Special Events	\$196,747	\$192,239
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,254,414	\$4,173,178
Program Services	\$2,486,970	\$3,281,190
Management & General	\$818,338	\$765,194
Fundraising	\$320,882	\$421,149
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,626,190	\$4,467,533
OPERATING INCOME	(371,776)	(294,355)

* These results reflect total revenue less restricted endowment investment income.
 * These results are unaudited.

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

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.
The Bridge Youth and Family Services
The Collective
The Harbour, Inc.
The Night Ministry
Youth Job Center
YWCA Evanston/North Shore

OST PROGRAM PROVIDERS

Art Encounter
DIME (Dance Is My Everything)
Evanston Public Library
Hot Shots Sports
The Mather
Michelle Weinman (African Drumming & Sound Healing)
Open Studio Project
The Recyclery
The Talking Farm
True NU
Sticky Fingers



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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and Mark Zivin



Donors

Y.O.U. is grateful for our many generous donors in Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). Every effort is made to list donors accurately. We sincerely apologize for any omissions or errors in spelling.

\$100,000+

City of Evanston
Mary and Paul Finnegan
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois State Board of Education
Lewis-Sebring Family Foundation
US Department of Health and Human Services

\$25,000+

James Blake
Cless Family Foundation
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Julius N Frankel Foundation
Adele and Roland Martel
Steve and Sue Wilson
United Way of Metro Chicago
US Department of Agriculture

\$10,000+

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Rich Silver

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Beth Valukas

In Memory of James Babbitt Sr.
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