



2011


YouthZone
ANNUAL REPORT



Since 1976, YouthZone has provided opportunities for all youth to be responsible, contributing members of society.



YouthZone continues to make statistically significant improvement in the lives of youth in the following measured areas:

- 1. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use** Measures a youth's frequency of substance use, including prescription medication, the potential harm of use, risk behaviors closely associated with extent of use (sexual activity and contact with police), and peer use of substances
- 2. Optimism and Problem Solving** Measures a youth's positive value of themselves, optimism about his/her future, and report of important skills for solving problems and in setting and achieving goals for his/her future
- 3. School and Community Involvement** Measures a youth's commitment to achieving in school, attendance, grades, and satisfaction with school, as well as his/her involvement in non-academic activities in school and the community
- 4. Delinquency and Aggression** Measures a youth's antisocial outlook toward rules and other people, as well as his/her readiness to engage in verbal and physical conflict and tolerance of use of clearly dangerous substances, e.g., huffing and using illicitly obtained medication
- 5. Self-Deprecation** Measures a youth's perception of themselves as a victim of verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, tolerance of substance use, and thoughts and plans to attempt suicide



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Neighbors,



Debbie Wilde

YouthZone is dedicated to providing opportunities for real change for young people. This, combined with our commitment to use every donor dollar to its fullest, provoked our search for reliable evaluation of our work. We wanted to know if and how we were making a difference for the youth who came through our doors.

By working with an independent evaluator, we created a screening tool that today is being recognized beyond our local area for its value in identifying youth needs as well as measuring change. The YouthZone Screening for Positive Youth Development™ helps us measure five risk and protective factors, described at right, that research shows can critically hamper the success of teens in our communities.

Understanding where a teen falls in relation to risk, average or assets in these areas helps YouthZone case managers quickly get to the root of problems and create effective plans with teens and their families.

Connect and grow,

Debbie Wilde
Executive Director
YouthZone



You make the difference!
Donate now at
www.YouthZone.com
or mail your check to
803 School Street,
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.



A YEAR TO BE PROUD OF 2011

Celebrating
35 years
transforming the lives of kids and families

Learn more about the YouthZone Foundation. The YouthZone Foundation provides a lasting financial legacy of opportunity, empowerment, and a future of choice for YouthZone and the youth, families, and communities they serve.
www.youthzone.com/yz-foundation



- YouthZone served 1,155 youth and families from Aspen to Parachute.
- YouthZone currently has two Colorado youth organizations using our copyrighted online assessment tool.
- YouthZone continued to make statistically significant improvement in the lives of youth in the following seven measured areas: decreased alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, decreased delinquency and aggression, decreased self deprecation (perception of self as a victim and plans to attempt suicide); increased optimism and problem solving, and increased school and community development.
- 75% of youth referred to YouthZone by the courts do not repeat another offense.
- Individual and business contributions increased 70% from 2010 to 2011
- YouthZone received a 3-year grant from the Women's Foundation of Colorado to prevent middle school girls from dropping out by matching them with a mentor and tracking their progress.
- YouthZone received the 2011 Colorado Mountain College Foundation Jim Calaway Award



YOUTHZONE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

My son encountered some trouble during his middle school tenure in the Roaring Fork Valley. It wasn't life-threatening, but the administrators took it very seriously and suspended him for a long time. This left a stigma on my son and he lost many of his friends. He had previously been a very popular student. Unfortunately, in such a small valley, filled with gossip, it really wore on his self-esteem. A year later he still wasn't exactly himself, but he had developed a gift of masking his feelings through humor. I figured he was "just being a teenager."

A year later my son managed to get into another bout of trouble. Again, it wasn't anything too serious or out of character for a teenager, but it did land him at the doors of YouthZone. While filling out the standard evaluation form, my son indicated that he had suicidal thoughts over the past year. It was late in the evening and while some individuals might have been in a hurry to get home, our YouthZone case manager was rightly concerned and didn't have us leave until every rock was overturned. Out of this crisis came the realization that my son had very seriously contemplated killing himself and had several plans to carry them out. None would have landed him hurt, all would have left him dead. Case Manager Randy worked with us, a suicide prevention team, and a therapist late into the night. Our family went into immediate intensive therapy and the outcome has been a happier, stable child who has improved self-esteem as well as the words to express how he feels instead of bottling his feelings up. Without Randy and Youth Zone, I might have been the parent whose child commits suicide and says, "but he seemed like a normal moody teenager, how did this happen?" Thank you YouthZone for the services you provide this community. You saved my son's life.



YOUTHZONE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

YouthZone serves youth from ages 6 – 18 years. We see each young person as a multifaceted human being with many needs, desires, interests, and motivations. To meet their diverse needs, YouthZone provides each youth with an individualized, comprehensive program.

INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Counseling
Case Management
Juvenile Court Services
Useful Public Service
Restorative Justice
Drug and Alcohol Education

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Pals Mentoring Program
Family Mediation
Girls' Circle
Boys' Council
TITAN, Trained Involved Teens
Assisting Non-profits

PARENT PROGRAMS

Parenting Through Divorce
Parent Consultations
Parent One-on-One Education

For a detailed list of statistics on YouthZone service and program participation go to www.youthzone.com

YOUTHZONE PROGRAM EVALUATION RESULTS

Below are some significant findings from the most recent evaluation (4/11) prepared by Jerome Evans, PhD, covering 2007 - 2010:

- One in five youth indicated they were victims of abuse
- Reported marijuana use declined significantly overall for YZ clients from intake to discharge
- The outcomes for each case manager were similar, which means YouthZone's assessment and case management model is working consistently.
- Only 10% of youth fail to complete the YouthZone process before re-offending.
- 42% of youth clients were Hispanic, 49% of youth clients lived with both parents, and 72% of youth clients lived with at least one biological parent.
- The most likely clients to re-offend are males age 16 with substance abuse issues and a low level of school and community involvement.
- One in 10 youth clients is suicidal or has had thoughts of suicide.
- YouthZone is as effective for girls as for boys.
- Girls tended to have lower self-esteem and some experience as victims of abuse.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Collaboration with local and state community partners is an integral part of YouthZone operations. In 2010-2011, YouthZone staff was active on 21 committees and provided 189 hours of technical assistance to 759 adults/youth.

Carbondale Rotary

Coalition for Families (9th Judicial District)

Eagle County Child Protection Team

Garfield County FACET

Garfield County Human Service

Commission

Women's Business Network

Garfield County Collaborative Mgt. Program

Garfield Juvenile Evaluation Team

Glenwood Springs Noontime Rotary

Governors Juvenile Justice and

Delinquency Prevention Council

Pitkin County Child Protection Team

Pitkin County Human Services

Pre-Collegiate Program



RE-2 School-based Health Center

Rifle Chamber Women in Business

Senate Bill-94 Coordinators Group

State Restorative Justice Council

VALE Board

**Just hearing them say that I wasn't out of control or a bad kid made me feel so much better. My parents thought the complete opposite and YouthZone helped me prove it to them.**  — John, age 17

2010 - 2011 ACTUAL REVENUE

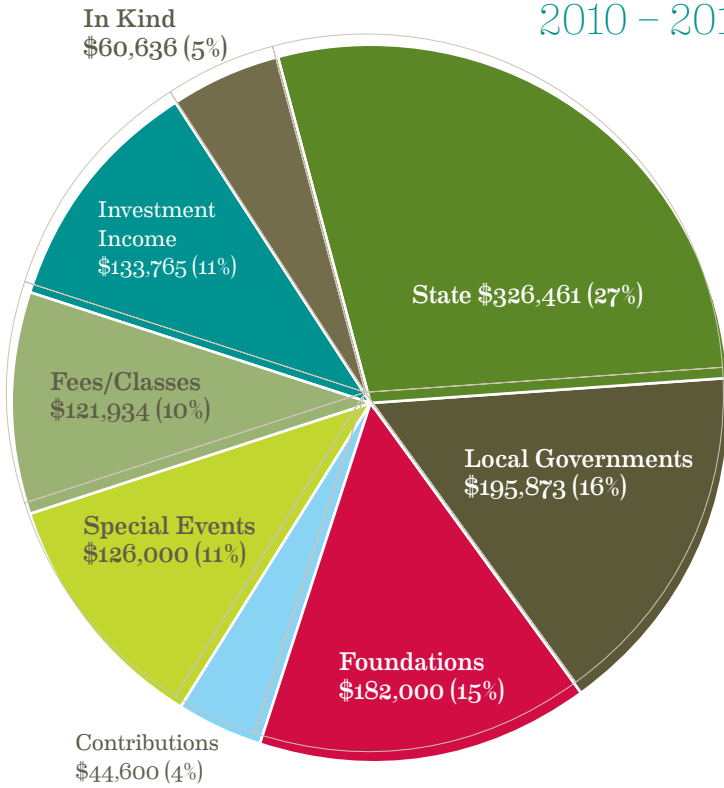
\$ 1,216,539.44



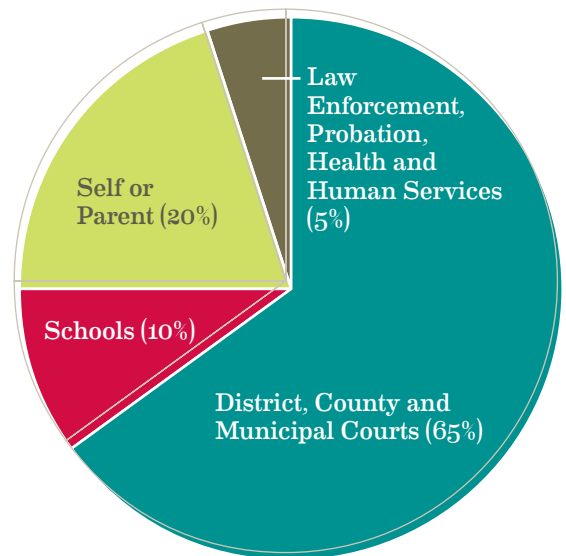
YouthZone is a HUGE time saver for the police and court system through their interfacing and screening of youth and family.



— Terry Wilson,
Chief of Police in
Glenwood Springs



REFERRAL SOURCE



CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Youth ages 6-18	68%
Boys	66%
Girls	34%
Parents	28%
Latinos	42%
Anglos	58%

Total no. of clients served = 1155

SMALL COST, GREAT GAIN

The juvenile detention system cost for offending youth can be almost \$63,000 per year. We know there's not a lot of hope for restoration to a healthy life in this system. Detention is a holding period for youth, not a growth period. Compare those costs to what it cost YouthZone to intervene and restore a child to a healthy life-- \$1,000, and YouthZone's success is not assumed - it is documented.

Instead of punishing kids and making them feel guilty, the YouthZone staff creates a trusting and deep connection with them. The staff asks the kids about their dreams, helps them explore their strengths, and shows them how they can participate in the world around them.



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CONNECT AND GROW