



**Behind every
mask there is a
face, and behind
that a story.**

— Marty Rubin

2014

ANNUAL REPORT

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


YouthZone
CONNECT AND GROW

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We aspire to be an essential partner with youth and families to restore their hope and view of what's possible.

We created that statement in order to stay focused on our families and for you, our partners, to understand the core of what we do. We find great rewards when we partner with youth and can share their joy and the hope they have for their future.

We evaluate our services based on how that statement and how our actions are filling gaps in services for youth. This past year, we discussed just how our services could impact youth who were most in need. The decision was made to review our programs and ensure we were available for those most at risk. Our work began in May of 2014. We scoured the community and spoke with everyone we collaborate with, including schools, counselors and colleagues. The list is lengthy but the effort was incredibly valuable.

We learned that young people in every community in which we work, from Aspen to Parachute, are struggling with issues at an earlier age. We learned that what we once called our "prevention" programs can now be seen as early intervention programs. We learned that changing and growing programs is difficult, but when the community supports the change and it is truly a need, we do find incredible support.

Three things you can expect from us for 2015: First, we are further developing our current programs, including our Pals Mentoring Program, to include those youth most at risk. Second, we are moving towards having a higher level of substance abuse intervention options for our youth. And third, we are focusing on providing help for parents with a support group

and encouraging increased parent engagement through educational workshops.

YouthZone is incredibly grateful for all of you who believe in the good work we do, for having the core belief that young people are assets to our communities, that they are brilliant and whole and are valued in our communities. Thank you for working with our youth and their families and for allowing us to do the same.

Great words from a teen client:

"I have learned that in life there is no shortcut to getting what you want. Like a goal if you want something you work for it. It's unfair to take something other people work hard for, while you do not. Stealing isn't right morally or in any way. I made a decision to steal and there were consequences. I believe I deserve these consequences, and I'm happy people can still trust in me, and know that this will not define my life. I messed up once and do not plan on doing it again."

This client renewed his hope for his future, and we are so grateful to have been a part of that for him. Thank you for making our work possible.



You make the difference,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Mueller".

Lori Mueller
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.



YOUTHZONE BY THE NUMBERS

971 clients plus 1,366 family members served in 2014
2,380 hours that Teen and Adult Pals Mentors volunteered with their Jr. Pals
12% Pitkin County
1% in Rio Blanco and West Eagle County
87% Garfield County: Carbondale to Parachute

YOUTHZONE CLIENTS:

50% boys **40%** Hispanic
32% girls **60%** Caucasian
18% adults

90% Success Rate for youth not to repeat another offense while at YouthZone

42 Restorative Justice sessions took place involving more than **200** volunteers

WHY KIDS ARE COMING TO YOUTHZONE?

32% YouthZone clients referred by schools, parents, counselors, other youth organizations, or self-referrals

68% of youth are referred to YouthZone for the following charges:

- Substance related charge 40%
- Danger to others 22%
- YouthZone services such as group and counseling 16%
- Petty Theft 16%
- Crimes Involving Property 6%

COST OF SERVICES

6 MONTHS



National* Colorado* YouthZone
 \$26,000 \$24,000 \$1,200

*National or state-run facility

RECIDIVISM RATE



National* Colorado* YouthZone
 55% 45% 10%

HEAR IT HERE YOUTH



In my short time at YouthZone, I made connections with people that will be appreciated for a lifetime.

It made me realize that not everyone is perfect and that no matter what, everyone needs help every now and then, and that there are people willing to help.

I love being influenced by people who have been through what I'm going through.

I learned that even the smallest decisions can cause a huge effect on people around you.

An experience that made a difference is that my case manager showed me how to express myself and love myself.

YouthZone was not intense and instead guided me without really changing who I was.



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

YouthZone serves youth from ages 6 to 18. 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.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Pals Mentoring Program
Girls' Circle
Boys' Council
Trained Involved Teens
Assisting Non-profits
(TITAN's)

PARENT PROGRAMS

Parenting Through Divorce
Parent Consultations
Parent One-on-One Education
Parent Classes and Workshops

INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Counseling
Case Management
Family Mediation
Juvenile Court Services
Useful Public Service
Restorative Justice
Substance Abuse Education

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Collaboration with local and state community partners is an integral part of YouthZone operations. In 2014, YouthZone staff was active on a variety of committees.

All Municipal, County and District
Juvenile Courts from Aspen to Parachute
Aspen Community Foundation Cradle to Career Initiative
Basalt Middle School Weekly Resource Meetings
Carbondale Rotary
Coalition for Families (9th Judicial District):
A Collaborative Management Program
Colorado Mentoring Partnership Task Force
Eagle and Pitkin Counties Child Protection Teams
Glenwood Chamber Business Women's Network
Garfield and Pitkin Counties Family and
Community Engagement Teams (FACET's)
Garfield County Human Service Commission
Pitkin County Human Services Team
Rifle Chamber Women in Business
Roaring Fork Leadership
School Resource Officer Meetings

HEAR IT HERE PARENTS



YouthZone helped my son realize his talents, personality, and character, all of which makes him special.

[Our case manager] was amazing in giving my son the self-confidence and support that he needed. At 14, he would leave her meetings excited about how she made him feel.

YouthZone worked one-on-one with my granddaughter, and definitely made a connection with her and us.

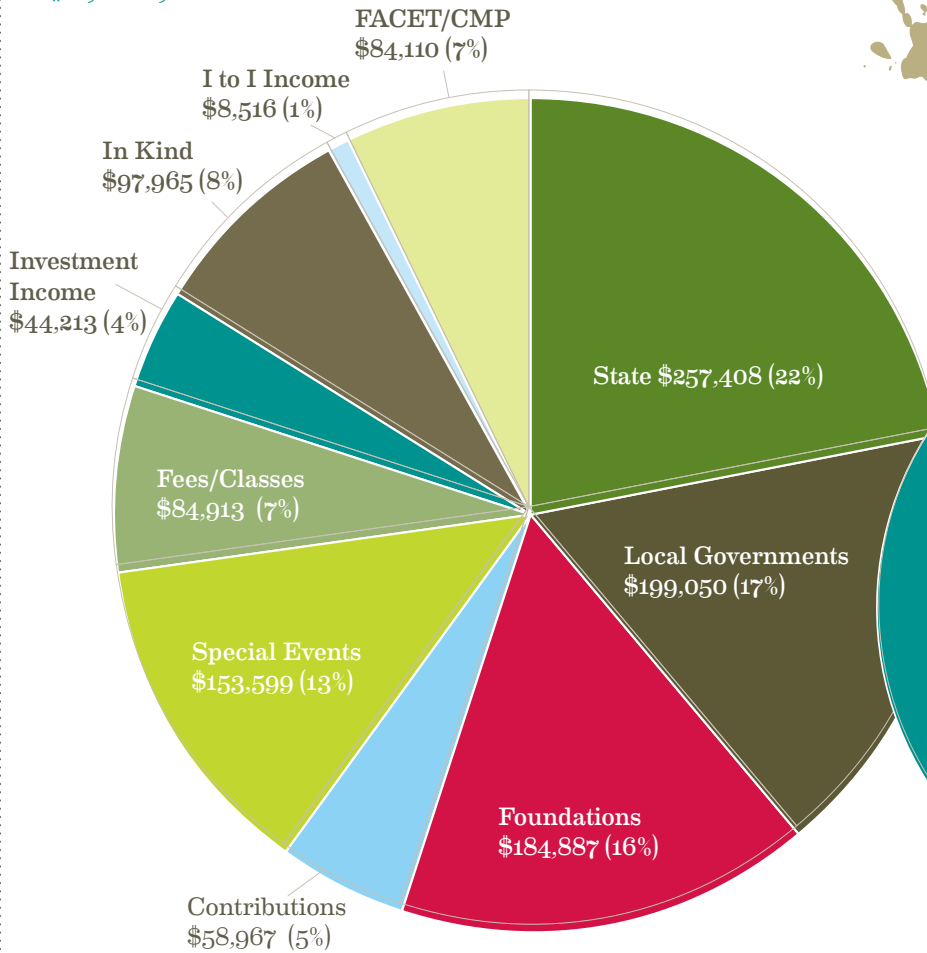
Just knowing help was available made a difference for us.

My son left YouthZone a better and happier person. It makes me happy knowing he had such a strong relationship with someone outside of our family.

YOUTHZONE

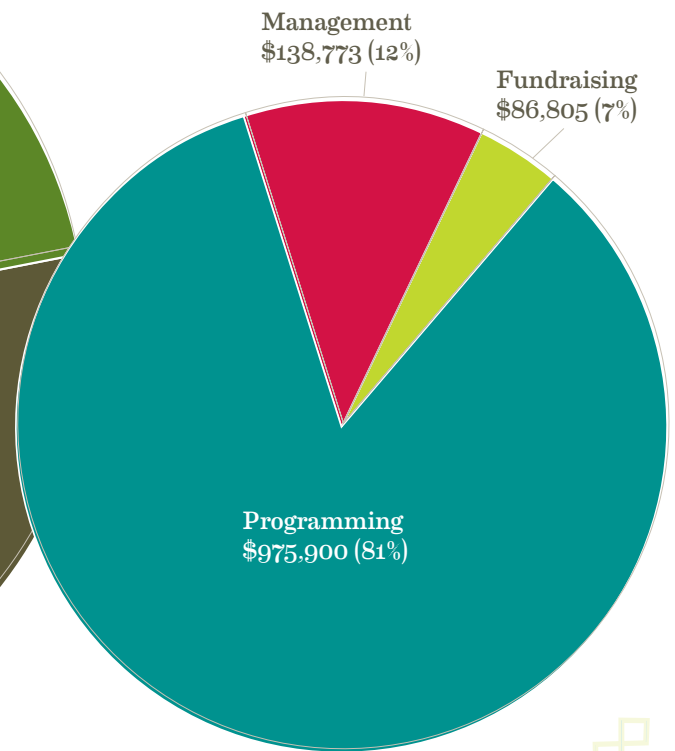
2013 - 2014 ACTUAL REVENUE

\$1,173,627



2013 - 2014 ACTUAL EXPENSES

\$1,201,478



YOUTHZONE FOUNDATION: STEADY GROWTH

In this, the YouthZone Foundation's 11th year, we are so fortunate and thankful to our donors for bringing the fund to support YouthZone close to the million-dollar mark.

As the YouthZone Foundation fund continues to grow, the distributions each year to YouthZone operations grow also. The Foundation was able to contribute close to \$30,000 to YouthZone during 2014 to aid in supporting the valuable services provided to the youth and families of our communities.

Donors often ask what the difference is between donating directly to YouthZone or to the Foundation. The simple answer is "None"; all monies go to the benefit of sustaining YouthZone. But Foundation donations are not intended to be "used"; they are preserved in a fund that is managed for growth and earnings for years to come. Only the earnings from the investments are distributed back to YouthZone operations each year, enabling the fund to continually grow over the years.

So whatever your philosophy on philanthropy - short term or long term - be assured that any donation to the YouthZone Foundation meets both criteria.



We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

— Sir Winston Churchill

**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](http://www.youthzone.com/yz-foundation)



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