







FROM THE DIRECTOR

Have you ever wondered if what you're doing makes a difference? Have you caught yourself thinking, "Who cares? No one notices what I do and it probably isn't changing anything anyway"? We have all been there - questioning what we are doing and why. YouthZone decided 17 years ago to stop asking those nagging questions and find out. We wanted to determine whether our programs and systems were producing the desired results. From our evaluator, Dr. Jerome Evans, Ph.D., "Prevention of delinquency is more than providing informed, effective support to individual teens and their parents. It involves informing, inspiring, and challenging communities, one-by-one, in the unique qualities of their own youth and building capacity to reduce social and economic risk factors and promoting meaningful protective factors for youth."

Our most recent evaluation covers 2013-2016. It is about youth served, but it is equally intended to empower our communities to contribute where they can to benefit youth and the quality of life of every person – young and old. We hope that you find the highlights from this evaluation both useful and informative. For those of you looking for more thorough details regarding the 2013-2016 evaluation, comprehensive evaluation reports are available on our website at **youthzone**. **com.**

2016 proved to be an amazing and productive year for YouthZone. The organization celebrated

its 40th year of helping youth in Western Colorado. After 25 years, we retired the Kiss 'n Squeal fundraiser and moved on to the YouthZone Ascent – which raised more than \$157,000! More importantly, the YouthZone Ascent allowed teens from Aspen to Parachute to become more involved in their communities through the development and implementation of service-oriented projects. Whether they were assisting senior citizens, creating community art, or acting as stewards of the environment, our Ascent teams did amazing work.

In the words of our evaluator Dr. Evans, "For the worried and frustrated youth in trouble and for their family, it is deeply reassuring to be received at YouthZone by a caring case manager working in a well-run organization dedicated to positive youth development."

Each of you have helped make these results possible. Thank you for your support over the years, these kids could not do it without you.



Lori Mueller

Executive Director, YouthZone

Collaboration with local and state partners is an integral part of YouthZone operations.

In 2016, YouthZone staff collaborated with a variety of entities.

All Municipal, County and District Juvenile Courts from Aspen to Parachute

> Bridges High School Carbondale Rotary

Coalition for Families: A Collaborative Management Program in Garfield and Pitkin Counties

Colorado Mentoring Partnership Task Force

Eagle and Pitkin Counties Child Protection Teams Family Resource Center of Roaring Fork Schools

Garfield & Pitkin County Trauma Task Force

Garfield County Family and Community Engagement Teams (FACETs)

Garfield County Human Service Commission

Glenwood Chamber Business Women's Network

Pitkin County Human Services Team

Rifle & Glenwood Chamber Women in Business

School Resource Officer Meetings

Glenwood Springs & Pitikin Valley Marijuana Councils

YOUTHZONE WORKS!

YouthZone Screening for Postive Youth Development

Youth completed a 60-item survey when they began and ended services at YouthZone. These were scored in five areas:

- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use (using illegal and illicit substances)
- Optimism and Problem Solving (hope for the future and confidence in solving life problems)
- School and Community Involvement (school engagement and participating in activities)
- Delinquency and Aggression (antisocial attitudes and behavior)
- Self-Deprecation (trauma and abuse-related self- devaluation)

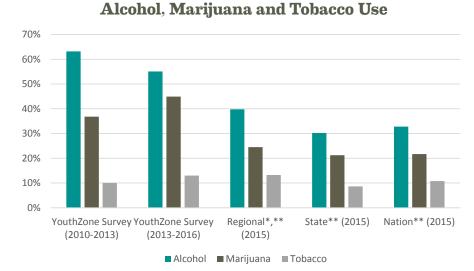
Community Results

- When all 579 clients who completed valid pre- and post-Screenings (from 2013 to 2016) were compared on their five intake and discharge scores, significantly higher improvements were revealed.
- Consistently, over the last six years, YouthZone's programs and services have had positive outcomes on Screening factors emperically linked with legal reoffending. Overall, positive outcomes have been sustained from 2013 to 2016.
- Evaluation results showed that YouthZone provides services that are culturally competent and equitable.
- YouthZone services have similar benefits for youth of different ethnicities.
- Some differences in program benefits for boys and girls suggest the importance of considering gender when individualizing programs for boys and girls.

Highlights From Various YouthZone Programs

- Clients involved in the Restorative Justice program showed very favorable responses to their participation. Youth assigned to Useful Public Service reported positive change in all areas of emotion and behavior assessed by the Screening tool.
- The Substance Use Class was highly effective. Substance use declined and other areas of risk and protective attitudes and behavioral issues improved.

During 2013-2016, there has been a shift among clients to greater consumption of substances, with fewer clients having no marijuana use and some using it more regularly. Now, essentially every other boy and girl at intake will be a substance user of one degree or another. About one-in-four clients 16 years and older were dependent/habitual users. Among YouthZone clients, ethnic status did not seem to influence their access to and use of marijuana, nor does their type of family.



- *Region includes Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Pitkin, and Summit Counties.
- **Data taken from the Healthy Kids Colorado 2015 Survey

When youth's behavioral and legal problems are intertwined with their use of marijuana, their condition when arrested and referred to diversion was more serious and, though they did progress toward a more typical youth development during diversion, ended services with lower levels of adjustment and greater risk for reoffending than non- or occasionally-using clients.

In a special report, evaluation looked closely at clients with histories of traumatic experiences, extended toxic stress and neglect. Review yielded the concerning result that the weightier a client's trauma history – as seen from their perspective – the more troubled they were in terms of alcohol use, lack of hope, school involvement, delinquency and personal valuing.

YOUTHZONE BY THE NUMBERS

908 clients plus 1,326 family members served in the 2015 - 2016 Fiscal Year 2,380 hours that Teen and Adult Pals Mentors volunteered with their Jr. Pals **10%** Pitkin County

4% Rio Blanco and West Eagle County

86% Garfield County: Carbondale to Parachute

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

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



WHY KIDS ARE COMING TO YOUTHZONE?

35% YouthZone clients referred by schools, parents, counselors, other youth organizations, or self-referrals

65% 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%



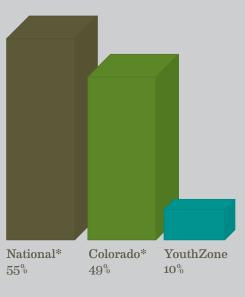








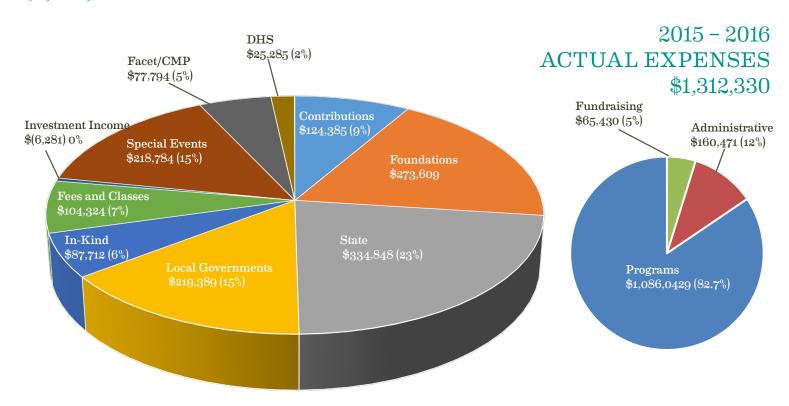




RECIDIVISM RATE

YOUTHZONE

2015 - 2016 ACTUAL REVENUE \$1,460,276



OUR CORE VALUES

We do what we say.

We stick to our mission and we are accountable for our actions.

We are stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

We maximize our resources to create opportunities for others.

We have regard for the welfare of others.

We empower people by creating a climate of non-judgemental support.

We operate in integrity.

We create an environment of direct, honest, and open communication.



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

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 Use Education

Substance Use & Trauma Therapy





The YouthZone Foundation Board and the YouthZone operations board have merged into one!

The YouthZone Foundation is the endowment fund for the future sustainability of YouthZone programs from Aspen to Parachute.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Back Row: Marci Pattillo, Tim Braun, Susie Richardson, Lindsay Busk, Martha Robinson (Chair), Tim Burns, Mike West.
Front Row: Corinne Diemoz-DeRaddo, Alicia Crandell (Vice Chair), Ismelda Irigoyen. Not Pictured: Ted Edmonds (Secretary/Treasurer), Hollis Kelley, Tim Kelly, Dan McCaslin.

We asked our Board ... What Values Do You Share with YouthZone?

"Focus on the greater good & believe in second chances"

"Nothing is more important than youth"

"Success in youth breeds success in the future"

"Protect, serve, and save children and families"

"Be non-judgemental, be passionate, and empower staff and clients!"



STAFF



Back Row: Brandy Clouse, Linda Green, Yareli Huerta, Kerri Cheney, Jennifer Keener, Cinthia Lopez, Andie Scott, Patty Schaffner, Lisa Sobke. Front Row: Lori Mueller (Executive Director), Courtney Dunn, Robin Tolan, Jonathan Greener, Glenda Cortez, Lisa Detweiler, Cameron Daniel. Not Pictured: Samantha Lovas, Nancy MacGregor.

YouthZone

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