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2020 Annual Report

Grant funding received by Youth Futures in 2020 supported the delivery of emergency overnight shelter and/or temporary residence in our low-barrier shelter facilities (16 beds each in Ogden and St. George) and ongoing supportive services to assist youth in reuniting with families or finding safe housing options. Youth Futures officially opened Utah's first Residential Temporary Youth Shelter in Ogden on February 20, 2015. A second location was opened in St. George, Utah on October 20, 2018, to serve youth in Southern Utah. Youth Futures is the only licensed organization in Utah providing shelter and drop-in services specifically to minor youth and young adults ages 12-18, as well as basic necessities, meals, intensive case management, life skills classes, group activities, therapy and connections to community resources.

Youth Futures was established in 2012 to lower rates of youth suicide and homelessness, build youth self-sufficiency and resiliency and increase the rates of education, employment and mental health among homeless youth as they approach adulthood. We have six main strategic goals which align with programming and capacity building:

1. Assess and meet the immediate needs of youth, ages 12 to 18, experiencing homelessness or in crisis (Crisis Response);
2. Design and deliver interventions that encourage permanent self-sufficiency for youth (Intervention);
3. Provide follow-up and aftercare services to prevent shelter youth recidivism or future homelessness by increasing youth self-sufficiency (Aftercare);
4. Conduct outreach to build relationships with target youth population in Northern and Southern Utah (Street Outreach);
5. Develop strategic partnerships with community organizations and service providers to increase awareness about programming (Community Awareness); and
6. Ensure financial resources are available to support organizational sustainability and program growth (Capacity Building)

Program Impact

Youth Futures staff had the opportunity to help a 14-year-old boy who entered shelter in the fall of 2020, after getting into a physical altercation with his father and aunt who were housing him, and his two siblings, in a two-bedroom apartment. Initially, he was very jaded and wouldn't give us many details about his life or what had happened that led him to homelessness. Eventually, during his three-month stay in shelter, we learned that he had been in foster care for some time due to extreme abuse from his mother; he had multiple scars on his back that looked like stab wounds; which he never remembers receiving. The amount of trauma this young boy experienced, was more than anyone should have to endure.

This is one example of how challenging child welfare systems can be. He was stuck in a loop where his aunt refused to house him, his father was working to get his own housing, DCFS was investigating his father for abuse, and he had an open case in juvenile court for an incident involving a high-speed chase with law enforcement.

None of the systems involved were able to take full responsibility for the case and kept passing him back-and-forth between case managers; no progress was being made on his case. His drug use increased, he found himself in more and more risky situations; meeting random people on the street who would lead him to unsafe situations. We finally requested an emergency staffing meeting with all human services parties who were involved. The staffing resulted in DCFS moving towards reunification with his father, instead of revoking parental rights. The boy had been terrified that he would be sent back to his mother, and the relief on his face was indescribable.

He was taken into the State's custody and sent to a temporary boys home until he could be placed with a foster family. Two months later, he came to the shelter to drop in and informed us that he has finished mental health treatment and is living with a nice couple in Roy, Utah, who are supportive of his dreams, and most importantly, he was happy!

It doesn't matter what challenges our youth are facing, we give them the care and support they need to allow them to grow from their barriers and trauma and we help them transition into a healthier adulthood. Some of our youth leave to better things immediately after they exit our shelter, while others take more time to heal and build their self-esteem to succeed. Either way, Youth Futures is here for them to lean on 24 hours of the day, seven days of the week, and 365 days a year.

Youth Served

Of the 121 (and three children) RHY being sheltered at both locations, 19.8% were between the ages of 12-15, 47.9% were between the ages of 16-17 and 22.3% were non-emancipated 18-year-olds. Gender identity was defined by 49.6% as male, 46.3% as female and 4.1% as non-binary. Youth reported having sexual orientations of straight (71.1%) and LGBTQ (28.9%). The causes reported to us by youth as to why they are homeless tend to fall into three inter-related categories: family problems, financial crisis or residential instability. The number one reason RHY listed for leaving home and coming to Youth Futures was family discord (52.4%). Alleged parental substance misuse, abuse or neglect was reported by 32.3% of RHY, with 13.8% having a homeless parent/financial insecurity and 1.6% presenting for other reasons. About 59.3% of youth who entered shelter reported suicidal ideation and previous suicide attempts.

A primary goal of our programming, whenever possible, is to reunite the youth with their family or with kinship care. In 2020, 37.1% of youth were reunified and 24.2% moved to an independent living situation or joined Job Corps, 10.5% entered a group home, 7.3% were placed in Foster care or State custody and 4.8% were still accessing shelter. Reforms to the Utah Juvenile Justice System in 2018 increase the number of citations a youth must receive to be placed in detention, which, when combined with community awareness, has increased the number of RHY with a higher prevalence of mental health diagnosis and/or substance misuse disorders accessing shelter. Last year, 2.4% RHY exited shelter by entering detention or being asked to leave the program due to violent behaviors, 2.4% were admitted to the hospital due to suicidal ideation or self-harm and 11.3% returned to the streets or another unsafe situation.

Program Performance Measures

A total of approximately 600 runaway and homeless youth (RHY) are annually served by Youth Futures Utah through the shelter, aftercare and drop-in programs in Ogden and St. George. We estimate that an additional 3,400 youth and community members are reached through community outreach tabling and school presentations.

MEASURE	OGDEN	ST. GEORGE	TOTAL
RHY Sheltered	81	43	124
Shelter Nights	2,148	1,361	3,509
Average Shelter Nights per RHY	26.9	31.2	29.05
Case Management Incidences	825	467	1,292
RHY Accessing On-going Aftercare	115	59	174
Drop-In Incidences	479	245	724
Meals Served	8,081	4,384	12,465
Resource Room Access	338	252	590
RHY Encountered on Street (ages 12-24)	338	17	355
Street Outreach Hours	807	46	853
RHY Diverted from Shelter	34	12	46

The numbers below are statistics from 2019 to 2020 operational years at Youth Futures:

- Number of youth sheltered decreased by 11.4% (140 RYH in 2019 to 124 in 2020)
- Total shelter nights decreased by 23.5% (from 4,585 nights to 3,509)
- Case management incidences increased by 13.8% (from 1,114 incidences to 1,292)
- Average meals served increased by 4.1% (from 11,972 meals to 12,465)
- Number of youth in ongoing aftercare decreased by 17.9% (from 212 to 174)
- Number of aftercare contacts increased by 84.2% (from 215 to 396)
- Drop-in service incidences decreased 66.7% (from 2,172 incidences to 724) due to several months of suspended or limited program services due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Direct street outreach hours increased by 48.5% (from 574 hours to 853)

Youth Futures continues to make a conscientious effort to minimize the amount of time youth stay in shelter through focused case management, whereby we help youth create exit and safety plans earlier in their stay. Case managers and therapists have frank and open conversations with RHY during intake to promptly address medical, mental health and substance misuse issues, then offer connections to community resources to address a youth's faulty coping strategies. Our staff quickly build rapport with the youth who access services by using trauma-informed approaches and positive youth development methods when interacting with the youth. We see great success in speaking to a youth “where they are” and on their level.

COVID-19 Impact

The year 2020 brought about unprecedented circumstances, making Youth Futures services more needed than ever before. Most of the RHY we serve are not “troubled kids,” but often the victims of unfortunate and perilous circumstances. Our programs stayed open as much as possible connecting RHY with food, housing and resources while guiding them in a loving, supportive and productive way to build the skills needed to support a successful transition into adulthood, even during this most difficult time. Drop-in and aftercare programming helped give youth a safe haven from life on the streets, as well as provided essential resources such as hot meals, take-home food bags and weather-appropriate clothing. During weekly street outreach efforts, we provided food and hygiene kits and encouraged youth to access our drop-in services, resources and the shelter facility. RHY are never charged for any services.

Starting in March 2020, the pandemic disrupted services to homeless youth, particularly those accessing drop-in programming, aftercare case management and street outreach. Comprehensive safety plans and protocols were quickly implemented (i.e., temperatures checks upon entrance to the facility, additional cleaning and sanitizing measures, an isolation & quarantine area was established, personal protection equipment (PPE) purchased, visitations suspended, etc.) as a result of the pandemic. The rise of COVID-19 caused Youth Futures to be extremely adaptable as we maneuvered through state, local and licensing restrictions to ensure that the needs of vulnerable, homeless individuals continued to be served. While the shelter remained operational (24 hours per day), COVID restrictions required:

- Initially decreasing the shelter home's 16-bed capacity by half. Bedrooms were quickly re-arranged to allow for acceptable social distancing and restored capacity at each location to 16 beds.
- Implementing a hazard pay differential of \$4-per-hour for essential staff.
- Suspending the drop-in service from mid-March to mid-June; resuming limited drop-in for three hours per night (serving youth from the porch); and returning to full services returning (6 a.m.-8 p.m.) in September.
- Providing street outreach services five days per week from April 17 to June 30 to all homeless individuals in Ogden. Street outreach services leveled out at 20 hours per week, with 730 meals being served per month to any individual that approached the van.

Throughout the year, Youth Futures staff continued to be on the frontlines helping people surviving on the streets, living in unsafe conditions, or experiencing financial or food insecurities. Due to the lack of early testing among the homeless population, their congregate living circumstances, inadequate supplies of PPE and the chronic comorbidities found in the homeless population, Covid-19 passed quickly and swiftly through large numbers of homeless individuals throughout Utah. In spite of these challenges, Staff members remained committed to helping the homeless population, resulting in them working extra hours to meet pandemic needs and creating complications for Youth Futures to cover budgeted operation and program expenses. Additionally, we suspended the acceptance of donated items and purchasing items directly, thereby adding more stress to the budget. We dedicated even more time for outreach to work with partnering youth service providers, school administrators and other nonprofit human service organizations as we came together to provide crucial services.

Overall, the pandemic strained staff productivity, emotional fortitude and general resilience for both our staff and the youth we serve. Thankfully, Youth Futures received approximately \$477,206 in COVID-related crisis funding from public and private sources to weather the pandemic storm.

2020 Financials

Youth Futures continues working to build a strong foundation of diversified funding better stabilize the organization and to strengthen long-term relationships with funders. In 2020, the organization had total unaudited revenues of \$1,459,351, with \$605,999 from contributed revenues (28.6%), \$829,469 from government grants including COVID-19 crisis funding (56.8%), \$23,883 from earned income (1.6%) and \$188,193 from in-kind donations (12.9%). Total unaudited expenses in 2020 were \$1,433,437, of which program expenses are estimated to be \$1,132,416.

An audit of 2020 Youth Futures revenue and expenditures is currently in process.



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2020 Financials
 (unaudited as of 5/31/21)

INCOME		
Earned Income & Events		\$23,883
Public Support		\$829,469
Federal	\$483,493	
State	\$90,334	
Local	\$242,000	
United Way/Federated	\$13,641	
Private Support		\$417,806
Foundations	\$213,250	
Corporations	\$75,559	
Individuals	\$85,305	
Indirect	\$43,692	
In-Kind		\$188,193
TOTAL INCOME		\$1,459,351
EXPENSES		
Personnel Expenses		\$949,357
Salaries & Benefits	\$924,408	
Contract Services	\$24,949	
Occupancy		\$70,810
Mortgage & Utilities	\$60,229	
Facilities Maintenance & Janitorial	\$10,581	
Operations		\$58,284
Supplies & Postage	\$4,356	
Telephone & Technology	\$20,542	
Insurance	\$22,824	
Licensing & Dues	\$5,568	
Processing Fees & Interest	\$4,994	
Marketing & Advertising		\$1,599
Travel & Meals		\$8,265
Staff Development & Training		\$5,229
Professional Fees		\$87,836
Legal & Accounting	\$12,836	
Planning & Evaluation	\$22,500	
Development Consulting	\$52,500	
Program Supplies		\$161,005
Personal Needs & Clothing	\$73,754	
Food	\$46,968	
Equipment & Household Supplies	\$20,517	
Client Incentives	\$6,203	
Vehicle Insurance & Fuel	\$12,110	
Outreach & Volunteers	\$1,454	
Events Production		\$41,981
Depreciation		\$49,071
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,433,437
NET		\$25,914