This material is available in an alternative format by calling 515.233.3341 or Iowa Relay at 711. For information about accessibility and non-discrimination policies related to YSS programs, please visit youthstandingstrong.org.
Dear Friends:

It’s with great pride that we share the impact and outcomes possible at YSS when we put kids first. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2016, YSS continues to impact the lives and futures of children, youth and families, giving what many have never experienced: hope and opportunity.

Our comprehensive prevention, treatment and transition programs allow young people to find their voice. Heal with compassion. Make healthy choices. Feel safe. Learn valuable life skills. Grow their confidence, and ultimately, stand strong.

With a renewed vision to create a world where youth are valued and empowered to stand strong, our 2016 included:

* A refreshed brand, including a new logo, compelling messaging and a campaign that leads with “Youth Standing Strong.”

* The opening of the Youth Opportunity Center in downtown Des Moines, offering at-risk and homeless youth safety, shelter, food and connection with a community of resources and support.

* The merger between YSS and Francis Lauer Youth Services in Mason City became official, creating a strong partnership that expands and strengthens the services we offer from Central Iowa to the Minnesota border.

* Teens Against Human Trafficking (TAHT) joining YSS’s comprehensive program offerings. This youth-driven program helps to educate and empower teens to inform their communities of this growing issue, including how to identify and help victims.

* YSS of Hamilton County broke ground on the first new construction facility in YSS’s history—the Adele and Dean Bowden Youth and Family Clinic. The new building improves and expands mental health services available in North Iowa.

* Expanding Reggie’s Sleepout in Des Moines to hold a second Reggie’s Sleepout in Ames at Iowa State University’s Jack Trice Stadium on Saturday, March 25, 2017. The awareness and funds raised will continue to benefit homeless youth.

Twenty years after graduating from the Residential Addiction Treatment program at YSS, I signed the contract to become the organization’s CEO. At 17 years old, downhearted and hurting, I was offered healing, hope and an opportunity for a second chance. YSS Founder George Belitsos believed in me more than I believed in myself. YSS saved my life.

At 19, I had the honor of speaking at the dedication of the building that now serves as YSS headquarters: the Richard O. Jacobson Youth and Family Center. After my remarks, I was approached by Dick Jacobson. He straightened my suit coat, gave me the tie from around his neck and encouraged me to keep pushing forward. Years later, when I asked Dick what I could do to repay him, he simply said, “Just keep making more Andrew Allens.”

Countless youth continue to benefit from the kindness, generosity and steadfast belief in the potential of each child, held by Dick Jacobson and YSS Founder Dr. George Belitsos. Their legacy—and that of the many others who support YSS—can be seen through the comfort, smiles, lessons and accomplishments experienced by the youth we serve.

Thank you for believing in the strength and potential of youth. Thank you believing in YSS. Together, we help youth stand strong.

Regards,

ANDREW ALLEN, CEO

YSS

... YSS continues to impact the lives and futures of children, youth and families, giving what many have never experienced: hope and opportunity.

– ANDREW ALLEN, CEO
YOUTH STANDING STRONG

The programs of YSS are more than a place for children and youth to go. YSS is a place where they can belong.

We believe every child has potential, and through our prevention, treatment and transition programs, YSS provides hope and opportunity to help them be healthy and achieve success.

Over the past 40 years, we’ve expanded beyond our beginnings as a youth and shelter organization, today providing a full spectrum of programs and services to support children and youth - from infancy to independence.

Whether we’re providing safe housing and pre- and post-natal care for young mothers, residential addiction treatment for teens, afterschool opportunities for children, or counseling for families, YSS’s comprehensive network of empowerment programs serve all ages of youth.

BELIEVE IN US. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN THEM.

We believe that prevention programs help kids make healthy choices.

We believe that treatment programs build better bodies and minds.

We believe that transition services provide guidance and support.

INNOVATION

Through our drive for continuous improvement, we challenge processes, programs and opinions to inspire and create new ideas, approaches and opportunities. We are eager to accept challenges with the intention of delivering the very best of our ability, every day.

INTEGRITY

Through consistently exhibiting honesty and respect, our reputation for having strong ethical principles instills trust in those we serve, as well as others who support our mission.

“CAN DO” SPIRIT

Through focus and commitment to our mission and goals, we are eager to accept and meet challenges with the intention of delivering the very best of our ability every day.

OUR MISSION

To create hope and opportunity by putting kids first.

OUR VISION

A world where youth are valued and empowered to stand strong.

OUR CORE VALUES

COMMITMENT

Through our passion for supporting youth in achieving their full potential, we are dedicated to the safety and health of those we serve.

COLLABORATION

Through supportive external partnerships and internal teamwork, we maximize our shared knowledge, skills and talents to create the best possible outcomes and celebrate our shared accomplishments.

COMPASSION

Through all interactions, we strive to be kind, empathetic, non-judgmental and open to understanding others’ perspectives.

INTEGRITY

Through consistently exhibiting honesty and respect, our reputation for having strong ethical principles instills trust in those we serve, as well as others who support our mission.

“CAN DO” SPIRIT

Through focus and commitment to our mission and goals, we are eager to accept and meet challenges with the intention of delivering the very best of our ability every day.
WE BELIEVE IN POTENTIAL.

YSS gives children and youth a place to find their voice, learn important life skills and feel safe and secure. Every day.

Our community-based programs work to address issues and overcome the challenges that prevent kids from achieving their potential.

We listen and let youth know that they are heard. That they’re understood. That they’re appreciated.

We want to encourage kids to be confident and make healthy choices, achieve their potential and, ultimately, stand strong.

FEATURED PROGRAM

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club at YSS gives children in kindergarten through sixth grade a safe place to go before- and after-school, and during summer breaks. Through quality and nurturing programming, Kids Club provides structured, interactive, educational activities that help children stretch their skills in mind and body.

And they love it. Kids Club lets children have a voice and a choice about which subjects they learn. Each month, Kids Club staff and youth brainstorm and come up with themes for “clubs.” The kids can choose to focus on topics related to art, music, science, literature and much more.

Dravyn, a 10-year-old, has participated in Kids Club since first grade. His mother says Dravyn has learned to make friends with kids of different ages through the experience. He’s more responsible, often taking initiative to help the Kids Club staff.

He’s comfortable there. The Roland-Story Kids Club is his safe place. He interacts with friends, develops leadership skills and participates in service projects.

To ensure all kids have access to this great program, Kids Club offers a sliding fee scale for payment based on family size and income. Because every kid has potential, and every kid deserves to stand strong.

FEATURED PROGRAM

MENTORING

The YSS School-Based Mentoring program reaches children in elementary and middle school. Trained volunteer mentors provide hope and opportunity by serving as caring, positive adult role models.

Students are referred to YSS by a teacher, school counselor or family member. There are also times when a child requests a mentor on his or her own.

Mentoring sessions take place at the child’s school and may involve eating lunch together, working on a craft project or simply talking about the child’s interests and ideas. Just 30-60 minutes each week creates life-changing, and often life-long, relationships.

What’s more, mentees who participate in the program report their mentor has helped them learn to be more respectful, helpful and understanding. Mentors help their mentees become more engaged students. And, ultimately, help youth succeed.

The YSS School-Based Mentoring program is unique in the communities we serve, with nearly 20 years of successfully matching children and mentors. We hold the distinction of being certified by the Iowa Mentoring Partnership, which requires adherence to strict guidelines and best practices established by MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership.

In 2016, YSS volunteers mentored kids for nearly 5,000 hours.

5,000
WE BELIEVE IN SECOND CHANCES.

Youth facing problems don’t have to face them alone. The highly trained, licensed professionals of the YSS Counseling & Clinic help children, youth and families work through challenges to find solutions. Using evidence-based programs that have been proven to be effective, the experts at YSS treat addiction, depression, anxiety, mental illness and more.

We are committed to turning hopelessness into hope. Because we believe every youth deserves a second chance. Every youth deserves to stand strong.

FEATURED PROGRAM
MULTI-DIMENSIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (MDFT)

Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) is a comprehensive, family-centered treatment program for teenagers and young adults who are struggling with addiction, are at risk for addiction, or are having behavioral issues. MDFT is structured, goal-oriented therapy that focuses on all of the relationships that may influence teens.

The program reconnects the family, uncovering issues that may impact a teen’s ability to recover and help work together to create trusting, supportive relationships. As an outpatient therapy, MDFT won’t disrupt families as they heal.

Most importantly, it works. In 2015, YSS was recognized by MDFT International as one of the top 10 MDFT programs in the United States based on outcomes. YSS was the only Iowa/Midwest MDFT provider to make the list.

Treatment Programs

- Access and Visitation Program
- Behavioral Assessment/Consultation & Education
  - Mental Health First Aid
  - School Behavioral Consultations
  - Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS)
- Health Screenings
  - Immunizations
  - Sports Physicals
- Individual and Family Therapy
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  - Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
  - Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing
  - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
  - Play Therapy
  - Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Integrated Health Services (IHS)
- Psychiatry: Evaluation and Medication Management
- Residential Addiction Treatment
- Substance Abuse Treatment
  - Motivational Enhancement Therapy/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Therapy
  - Intensive Outpatient Program
  - Motivational Interviewing
  - Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT)

FEATURED PROGRAM
RESIDENTIAL ADDICTION TREATMENT

Residential addiction treatment goes far beyond treating addiction: it’s a holistic approach to recovery. With more than 50 hours available per week of therapeutic and skill development guidance and support, we provide comprehensive assistance to youth and their families.

For Isaac, 17, the YSS Residential Treatment program was a choice—a reluctant choice—but one he’s glad he made. Licensed behavioral health therapists and certified addiction counselors lead him through gender-based treatment, and he successfully graduated from the program after four months. YSS gave Isaac the confidence to know that if he struggles he has something to fall back on.

Youth like Isaac prove that the program works. Improved mental health, strengthened relationships, increased success in school, gaining and maintaining employment, and avoiding hospitalizations and illegal activity are just some of the benefits reported by successful graduates.

80%

of the youth in YSS residential addiction treatment complete the program successfully.

FEATURED PROGRAM
THERAPY AND MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

YSS Family Counseling & Clinic is a place where children and youth who face abuse, bullying, anxiety or depression can find help. Using an evidence-based combination of counseling and medication, YSS therapists work with clients to build confidence, communication skills and hope.

Brandt is one of the most successful participants of this program. As a young boy he was severely bullied about his sexuality. He internalized the abuse, and he developed extreme anxiety and suicidal thoughts. Counseling and medication management helped him deal with the issues and even gave him the confidence to share his experiences with other children.

Today, Brandt volunteers as a sexual abuse advocate. He is currently pursuing a degree in counseling and is working to become certified as a rape advocacy reporter.
When a child, teen or young adult faces a transition, it is always a delicate time. Moving from homeless to safety and stability. Growing from youth to adult. And, transitioning from foster care to independence.

For many, YSS is the only positive and consistent influence they have experienced in their life.

Each transition comes with its own unique challenges and adversity. But, they can all be overcome. Our community-based programs partner with youth to help keep them moving forward.

**FEATURED PROGRAM**

**IOWA AFTERCARE SERVICES NETWORK**

For young adults who age out of the foster care system, meeting the challenges of independent living can be tough. Often, they are high risk for homelessness, unemployment, crime and poverty. The Iowa Aftercare Services Network provides encouragement, stability and guidance. We provide the opportunity to build a positive future.

For Becki, Aftercare was the lifeline she needed after aging out of the foster care system. At age 19 and recovering from substance abuse, she met at least twice a month with her YSS Self-Sufficiency Advocate to work toward her goals. Becki calls her Aftercare advocate her rock and says, “she never gave up on me.”

Today, Becki is 26 and sober. She has a bachelor’s degree in human services. In December 2016, Becki realized her dream of giving back and became a Self-Sufficiency Advocate at YSS.

**FEATURED PROGRAM**

**LIGHTHOUSE TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM**

Young mothers and their children find guidance and help navigating life’s rough waters through the Lighthouse Transitional Living program.

The Lighthouse serves pregnant and parenting women, ages 16 to 25, and their children. In addition to safe, stable living accommodations, these young adults work one-on-one with a Case Manager to set and achieve goals related to education, employment, family development, life skills, positive community engagement, pre and post-natal care and safe housing. Participants of the Lighthouse program can stay for up to two years.

Melissa, the 19 year-old mother of twins under the age of two, arrived at the Lighthouse without stable housing, was unemployed and without healthcare coverage for her and her boys. YSS’s Lighthouse Case Manager worked with Melissa to secure full time employment and connect to available resources, including health insurance. She also helped Melissa to create a budget and identify goals the two can work on together. Today, Melissa is back in school, working toward her high school equivalency test. She and her children are healthy, hopeful and poised for success.

“I now have hope in the future, and I believe I can create a great life for me and my kids."

**FEATURED PROGRAM**

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER**

When his parents kicked him out of the house after getting into trouble with the law, Ian found Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC). The concerned staff at IHYC’s Youth Opportunity Center gave him a hot meal, a warm bed and help in taking the first steps toward a brighter future.

IHYC in Des Moines is YSS’s community-based location serving Polk County and surrounding areas. The Youth Opportunity Center is a refuge for youth who are at-risk of being or are currently homeless, with services specifically designed to meet their needs. Simply referred to by youth as “612” (the address is 612 Locust), the Youth Opportunity Center offers a drop-in center, commercial kitchen with daily meal program, laundry and shower facilities, a studio for creativity and art therapy, a computer lab, private therapy and counseling rooms, and emergency beds for short-term shelter.

The IHYC staff helped Ian to find steady employment, apply for college and locate safe and affordable housing. His goal is to enter Iowa State University in 2017 and become a mechanical engineer.

“*The Youth Opportunity Center didn’t just give me a place to stay—it gave me the confidence to reach my dreams.*"
WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF YOUTH.

Smart. Kind. Resilient. Driven. YSS believes the youth we serve can be described with these characteristics, and so many more. They have dreams and desires for their future. We have the good fortune to help kids in achieving them.

With hard work, togetherness and a commitment to improving their lives – children, youth and young adults are standing strong.

OVERCOMING GREAT ODDS

DESIRE, 18
A child of generational poverty, Desire’s mother left her at a young age with no support. As a teen, Desire became pregnant. However, striving to create a better future for herself and her child, she moved in with her father where she could continue her education through an alternative high school. Desire graduated, and now is looking to attend college and becoming the first in her family to receive a bachelor’s degree.

MAYTE, 18
Abused as a child, Mayte was placed in foster care while in middle school. As a teen, she moved in with family after finding out she was pregnant. When issues arose, Mayte was forced to spend many months homeless. Despite her unstable past, Mayte has not repeated the pattern of abuse. She loves and responds to her son’s needs and has raised an emotionally healthy and happy toddler. Through unwavering tenacity and hard work, Mayte graduated with her high school diploma in 2016.

For the 18th year, YSS hosted the annual McCay Parenting Achievement Awards, honoring young parents who have overcome great adversity. During the 2016 event, nine scholarships were given to deserving recipients, including Desire and Mayte. This generous award is in honor and memory of Rose and Dale McCay through endowment funds established by their children. Thank you McCay family!

My counselor at YSS gave me the tools I needed to build my child’s self-esteem with love and praise, by listening and supporting, and reassuring that my child is heard.

— A mother who participated in YSS Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

AMP DAY ON THE HILL

The motto of Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) is “Nothing about us without us.” The group empowers youth to influence positive change for the issues important to them. Each year AMP members write a new legislative agenda based on their experiences as those who have been in and out of home placements, including foster care and adoption. They take their agenda to the capital and meet with law makers to share their stories, advocate for themselves and other young Iowans.

During the 2016 legislative session, AMP championed several laws to fruition:

- The establishment of an office within the Department of Public Safety to oversee efforts to combat human trafficking.
- Sealing official juvenile court records as confidential.
- Requiring a written transition plan to assist children in preparing for the transition from foster care to adulthood.
- Increasing the statute of limitations for kidnapping and human trafficking.

9,405 individual sessions provided for all treatment services

1,942 family sessions provided for all treatment services

9,405 individual sessions provided for all treatment services
FROM INFANCY TO INDEPENDENCE. 
FROM TODDLERS TO TEENAGERS. 
FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO PARENTHOOD.

WE BELIEVE IN THE 
POWER OF POTENTIAL.
WE BELIEVE IN GROWING OUR ORGANIZATION TO IMPACT MORE LIVES.

THE ADELE AND DEAN BOWDEN YOUTH AND FAMILY CLINIC – YSS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

Thanks to the generous support of dedicated community leaders Adele and Dean Bowden, YSS of Hamilton County surpassed the capital campaign goal of $650,000 in 2016, and cut the ribbon ahead of schedule on the first new construction project in the 40 year history of YSS.

The beautiful 3,340 square-foot building has 10 offices, a conference room, play therapy and family therapy rooms, with additional space for future expansion.

IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTERS

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CENTER

In March 2016, a refurbished, century-old building in downtown Des Moines opened its doors to youth who are at-risk or currently experiencing homelessness. Special in many ways, the Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) Youth Opportunity Center is a safe place dedicated to exclusively serving the needs of youth.

Through the new IHYC Youth Opportunity Center, young people – age 16-21 – are able to meet with our staff and connect with services, while working on a plan towards self-sufficiency.

In addition to providing daily meals, showers, laundry facilities and more, nine emergency beds are available for temporary stays. The lower level houses a large donation center of clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets and more.

FRANCIS LAUER YOUTH SERVICES

When YSS and Francis Lauer Youth Services officially merged on July 1, 2016, a long-term relationship became a formal partnership to serve Iowa’s children, youth and families from Central Iowa to the Minnesota border.

Francis Lauer has been a beacon of hope in North Iowa for 48 years, with programs to protect, serve and heal children. Its strong community-based approach and culture focuses on the needs of those they serve making Francis Lauer a great partner for YSS. Together, we will continue providing valuable services and identifying new opportunities to expand our community support.

TEENS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This year, YSS welcomed the Teens Against Human Trafficking (TAHT) program to our comprehensive range of services. Originally founded by 17 year-old Lexi O’Connor as a powerful movement “by teens, for teens, to save teens,” TAHT works with youth, communities and schools to provide education about human trafficking in Iowa and how it can be stopped.

We are young, but that doesn’t mean we have to wait to make a difference.

LEXI O’CONNOR
Former Ankeny High School student and founder, Teens Against Human Trafficking

Leveraging the strength of peer influence, TAHT works in schools to build awareness, create advocates and help young people identify potential human trafficking victims. Through this growing program, YSS hopes to engage 140 schools in 15 counties across Iowa by 2019.

MIKE FERJAK, YSS Executive Consultant for Human Trafficking, is part of the Teens Against Human Trafficking team. Ferjak is a former Senior Criminal Investigator with the Iowa Department of Justice and former Director of the Human Trafficking Enforcement and Prosecution Initiative, a position appointed by the Iowa Attorney General.

AFTERCARE COMES TO ELDORA STATE TRAINING SCHOOL

In April 2014, YSS introduced Aftercare services to young men in the State Training School in Eldora. These services are designed to help young adults move toward stability and self-sufficiency.

With 35 years of experience at the school, Ralph Albee was the perfect choice to serve as the YSS Aftercare Liaison, and he jumped at the chance. He loves helping youth with transition, because without it, the likelihood of students moving into a healthy adulthood is incredibly challenging.

In the first year the program was available, every eligible student — nearly 100 — approached Ralph. Since 2014, he has worked with 233 students. Ralph says the reason Aftercare works is the youth are not forced to participate; they have control. And the outcome — finding a job, continuing their education, finding safe and affordable housing — is positive.

CONGRATULATIONS BOONE COUNTY!

YSS of Boone County has been providing hope and opportunity to young people and families for 35 years. Beginning with substance abuse intervention in the Boone High School, then counseling services for child abuse victims and their families, YSS of Boone County is proud to offer the community comprehensive prevention, treatment and transition services.
WE BELIEVE YOUR INVESTMENT MAKES AN IMPACT.

Volunteers help us reach more.
Serve more. Succeed more.

YSS is committed to helping youth stand strong. We believe in them. We’re dedicated to them. And we couldn’t give them the meaningful support and services they need without your help as champions for their success.

Your time has an impact. Your gifts have an impact. And this year, the investments you made in our youth created more impact than ever before.

Program Extensions

YSS was awarded another six-year grant from the Department of Human Services to continue statewide services through the Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN). YSS is the lead agency for the IASN, a role we have been honored to hold since the program’s inception in 2002.

Grants

YSS works hard not only to gain support from individuals and groups, but to provide quality programs that allow us to receive grant funding from federal, state, county and city sources.

$80,000

YSS of Marshall County

YSS of Marshall County was awarded a Child Welfare Decategorization Project grant to provide Spanish in-home counseling for youth involved in the juvenile court system. The project is an effort to significantly change the child welfare system to one that is needs-based, family-focused, easily accessible, more intensive, less restrictive and cost-effective.

$185,837

Youth-Targeted Labor and Sex Trafficking Victim Identification Program

Awarded by the Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) of the Iowa Department of Justice, this funding extends the Teens Against Human Trafficking program to include victim identification and referral services in 15 Iowa counties through local schools and communities.

$185,236

The Youth Opportunity Center

This funding provided by the CVAD will allow new services for transition age victims of crime (16-20) to be offered at Iowa Homeless Youth Centers’ Youth Opportunity Center through emergency bed and meals programs.

$25,000

Human Trafficking Education

The Teens Against Human Trafficking staff will be able to provide human trafficking awareness and prevention education to middle and high school administrators and staff in 10 Iowa counties. This grant is provided by CVAD.

Across YSS 1,466 volunteers invested 24,548 hrs
WE BELIEVE IN OUR WORK.
WE BELIEVE WE CAN DO MORE.

Our community-based programs have experienced years of success helping youth with prevention, treatment and transition services. We’re proud of all our programs and the milestones they’ve achieved.

With the help of our communities, our volunteers and donors, and the commitment of the youth and families we serve, YSS will continue to provide hope for generations to come.

FEATURED PROGRAM
SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

In 2016, YSS joined several other youth-serving organizations in rolling out the Story County Summer Enrichment Program. In July, Governor Terry Branstad visited one of the program sites, and signed a proclamation making July 6, 2016, “Summer Reading Day” in Iowa.

SUMMER MEETING OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

YSS CEO Andrew Allen and YSS Founder Dr. George Belitsos were guest presenters for the nation’s first spouses during the 2016 summer meeting of the National Governors Association. The presentation included the story behind Allen’s and Belitsos’ passion for serving youth and the trends facing today’s young people.

FEATURED PROGRAM
11TH ANNUAL REGGIE’S SLEEPOUT

Named after Reggie Kelsey, Reggie’s Sleepout raises awareness about youth homelessness. Less than four months after aging out of the foster care network in 2001, Reggie was found in the Des Moines River. As a result of his death, YSS led the effort to develop the Iowa Aftercare Services Network to provide services to those aging out of foster care. Reggie’s Sleepout has been raising money and awareness ever since.

In 2017, Reggie’s Sleepout will expand to Iowa State University’s Jack Trice Stadium.

In 2016, more than 1,000 people raised more than $114,000.

Since 2005 Reggie’s Sleepout has raised more than $1.6 million.
We believe that every child, youth and young adult deserve the chance to reach their potential. It is our commitment to help them have every opportunity to do so.

That’s why we do our best to ensure the vast majority of support we receive goes where it will have the greatest impact: to programs that help youth stand strong. In 2016, 90 cents of every dollar raised went directly to YSS programs.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS A GIFT.

TO VIEW RECENT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, VISIT YOUTHSTANDINGSTRONG.ORG
WE BELIEVE 
YOU DESERVE 
THANKS.

YSS cannot exist without you. So we’d like to offer you our gratitude.

Thank you to our staff and volunteers who believe in our children and youth, and always put them first.

Thank you to our donors who believe in what we’re doing, and help make it possible with your generosity.

Thank you to our communities for believing in our programs and helping us make them better.

Thank you to our partners, who complement our efforts to help children and youth with their own exceptional programs and staff.

And thank you to the children and youth for believing in yourselves. Your hard work, resiliency, energy and courage motivates all of us to continue working for you.

LEADERSHIP

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Robertta Milinsky
Associate Chief Executive Officer

Tim Carson
Chief Financial Officer

Anna Andrews
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Belinda Mais
Quality & Innovation Director

Jason Haglund
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Toby O’Berry
Iowa Homeless Youth Centers & Transitional Services Director

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YSS of Marshall County Director

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YSS of Eastern Story County Coordinator

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Forty years ago in Ames, Iowa, several visionaries saw that at-risk youth needed help. And instead of waiting for others to address the problem, they made it their own. Since that time, YSS has lived our mission. We provide prevention, treatment and transition services to children, youth and families. We advocate for them with local and state government. We counsel them and mentor them. We shelter them. We encourage them. And we show them that someone cares for them.