DEAR FRIENDS,

What a year it’s been for YSS and those we serve! Our vision is a world where youth are valued and empowered to stand strong, and I am so proud to report on the impact we’re creating while bringing this vision to life for Iowa’s youth.

Here are just a few of this year’s accomplishments:

+ YSS received the highest level accreditation from the international accrediting body CARF, in recognition of quality programs and our commitment to pursuing excellence.

+ YSS of Hamilton County celebrated 35 years of community-based services and celebrated their one-year anniversary in the new Adele and Dean Bowden Youth and Family Center.

+ Reggie’s Sleepout Des Moines and Ames each raised over $100,000 to support programs that lift youth out of homelessness.

+ YSS opened Iowa’s newest Adolescent Residential Addiction Treatment facility at Francis Lauer in Mason City, alongside the governor and community leaders, to address the addiction epidemic.

I’m reminded daily that none of this would be possible without the commitment of hundreds of staff and volunteers whose passion for serving youth and families is unmatched.

As you take in this report, remember each statistic represents a young person who desires hope and deserves opportunity. Remember that each service required the dedication of a skilled YSS employee. And that our entire organization is built on a foundation of people like you, who’ve invested time, talent and treasure to help us transform lives.

I want to thank each and every person who makes this work possible. Let’s celebrate the impact of this past year as we look forward to the years ahead.

Best regards,

Andrew Allen
President and CEO
"Thanks to the mentoring program, I have someone to hang out with and makes me feel happy when I'm sad." - YSS mentee

**YSS received a $100,000 grant from the Children’s Well-Being Collaborative.** The grant allows YSS to focus on child and family well-being, including mental health, through prevention and early intervention.

**Teens participating in the Teen Outreach Program completed 1,118 hours of community service learning hours during the school year.** Service projects included teacher appreciation gifts, making toys for sheltered animals, hosting fundraisers for the animal shelter, creating “blessing bags” for a local food pantry, and making tie blankets for residents of a local nursing home.

A Kids Club participant was at risk of being removed for bad behavior. The child often yelled about how much he hated Kids Club and purposely misbehaved. His issues stemmed from a tough life at home, where he rarely saw his father sober and was mostly ignored by him. **Staff made an effort to give him positive reinforcement because he didn’t seem to get enough at home.** His behavior dramatically improved and he earned a “Staff Helper” badge. Now, he goes out of his way to help the younger kids and has asked to return to Kids Club next year.

**TEENS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

During a Teens Against Human Trafficking presentation, a girl recognized warning signs from her own life. She spoke with staff, but withheld any information that allowed them to help. Not long after, she went missing. A TAHT staff member and a school social worker who had also attended TAHT presentations made sure police knew the urgency of the girl’s situation and her high risk for human trafficking. Thanks to their persistence and the information TAHT shared in presentations, the girl was found and her life was saved.
“I learned ways to cope with my anxiety. I also learned how to step back and look at a situation before I react and that not every situation needs a reaction.” - 2018 Residential Treatment client

**Francis Lauer opened an outpatient clinic in July 2017.** It provides therapy, Behavioral Health & Integrated Services, and psychiatry to North Central Iowa.

**Systems Training for Emotional Predictability & Problem Solving (STEPPS) group therapy and Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment were added** to the Family Life Center’s continuum of care.

In June 2018, **YSS of Boone County expanded their outpatient clinic to serve clients on a full-time basis,** thus serving more clients.

A child told a teacher he planned to commit suicide. His mother reached out to us and staff determined he needed to be seen immediately, but there were no openings in his community. A therapist who had moved to another city offered to do a video assessment, after which the child was referred for counseling and medication management. **Thanks to the YSS team, a youth’s life may have been saved that day.**

**NEW TREATMENT FACILITY OPENS**

**Francis Lauer opened an Adolescent Residential Addiction Treatment facility in February 2018.** The ten-bed facility treats youth facing substance use disorders.
“If it wasn’t for this program, I don’t know where I’d be.”
-Natasha, 2018 Transitional Living client

Sarah participates in YSS’s Preparation for Adult Living (PAL), which aids Aftercare youth in furthering their education. Despite financial concerns, Sarah felt college would set her on the right path to success. However, she had received rejections from several schools due to her high school GPA. Her YSS advocate helped her get letters of recommendation from teachers and a counselor, which led to a meeting with admissions at Mount Mercy University. **Thanks to help from YSS and her community, Sarah was accepted and offered a full scholarship.**

Matt, a young man with special needs, became homeless. Staff from the Transitional Living Program provided temporary housing. **While he struggled to care for himself in the beginning, staff gave him encouragement and hope.** They connected him with numerous resources, including several other services available through YSS. Thanks to help from TLP, Matt is now receiving multiple services, getting the assistance he needs, and living on his own.

Brandon was placed at Rosedale Shelter due to severe conflict at home. He had no plan or place to live after aging out. **Staff helped Brandon develop a plan and got him accepted to Job Corps of Mid-America**, but his admission date was after his 18th birthday. Brandon faced becoming homeless when discharged from Rosedale, so his caseworker and his mother wrote an agreement allowing him to return home. Brandon lived there until going to Job Corps of Mid-America, where he is finishing school and working towards a trade profession.

**IHYC ROOFTOP GARDENS**

IHYC received a **$280,000 grant for the Rooftop Gardens project.** In addition to feeding and employing homeless youth, Rooftop Gardens produce will be sold at Hy-Vee stores throughout Central Iowa, creating a social entrepreneurial, self-sufficient business dedicated to helping youth grow.

**14,014**
Documented meals served at IHYC

**$1.42**
Average cost per meal served at IHYC.

**70**
Youth served in one quarter at IHYC.

**427**
Individuals served by Aftercare.
When you invest in YSS, we invest in youth.

ANNUAL FUND: $1,180,853

YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED: 4,437

COST ANALYSIS

- Program costs (89%)
- Administrative costs (11%)

Thank you...

to our youth for your COMMITMENT.

to our partners for your COLLABORATION.

to our volunteers for your COMPASSION.

to our donors for your INNOVATION.

to our staff for your INTEGRITY.

to our communities for your “CAN DO” SPIRIT.

Thank you to our youth, partners, volunteers, donors, staff, and communities.

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Shannon Duus
Chief Financial Officer

Chad Vogel
Vice President, Philanthropy & Community Engagement

Jason Haglund
Associate Vice President, Prevention & Treatment

Terri Johanson
Associate Vice President, Child Welfare & Transitional Services

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