



celebrating
TRANSFORMATION
annual report | **2016**



**YOUTH ADVOCATE
SERVICES**

PROMOTING POSITIVE FUTURES

TRANSFORMATION:

noun — a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance.

INSIDE

OUR AGENCY

mission

To support children, youth, and families to realize their potential, hopes and dreams.

vision

In order to improve every life we serve, Youth Advocate Services (YAS) dedicates itself to a culture that puts customer service and quality care above all else.

values

We believe...

- ▶ in family.
- ▶ **ALL** children have the right to be in a safe, secure, family-centered environment.
- ▶ sound, culturally competent, clinically relevant services should be available and easily accessible to children and families.
- ▶ short term interventions we provide should focus on promotion of health, wellness, and self-sufficiency of families.
- ▶ it is important to **only** use placement as a form of treatment for children and families.

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The oldest Therapeutic Foster Care program in Ohio.

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Strong leadership is key to a successful agency.

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A group of volunteers with a vast range of skill sets ensure YAS operates with integrity and accountability.

A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Dear colleagues & friends,

2016 was another busy and successful year for Youth Advocate Services and one that has started us on the path of transformation.

There were many achievements for us in 2016, all of which would not have been possible without the leadership and vision of our longtime CEO, Tracey Izzard, who brought about one of our biggest changes with her departure in November 2016. During Tracey's tenure, YAS more than doubled in size, added adoption, mental health and home visiting services. Her influence was far reaching and we are grateful for her almost 9 years of hard work and dedication to YAS.

On that note, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new CEO. I bring more than 10 years of experience in nonprofit work, the majority of that spent at YAS working in our Early Childhood Programs. Most recently I served as Help Me Grow Program Manager, overseeing both Early Intervention and Home Visiting programs. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Community Services from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Science in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University, am a licensed social worker and early intervention specialist. As an employee of YAS for more than eight

**In order to succeed,
we must first
believe that we can.**

Nikos Kazantzakis



Sarah Cochey MSSA, LSW, EIS
Chief Executive Officer

years, I am excited to lead the agency to continued success serving children and families in Central Ohio.

Another big transformation in 2016 impacted our Early Childhood services, with the lead agency of Ohio's Early Intervention Program officially transitioning from the Ohio Department of Health to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. This move signified a clear differentiation between our two early childhood programs, highlighting the differences in services offered by each. These changes impacted the need to redefine this department within our agency, renaming what was previously referred to as Help Me Grow to Early Childhood.

In our community based mental health program we began learning about and preparing for changes that are on the horizon in the coming year under the state behavioral health redesign. This included participation in state level workgroups and starting the process to upgrade our electronic health record to reflect the new billing and coding requirements that will take effect as of July 1, 2017. As we began the work to implement these changes, our seasoned staff of licensed clinicians continued to provide quality individual, group and family counseling services to positively impact the lives of children and families in Franklin County.

We were incredibly fortunate to partner with several organizations in 2016 that offered us the ability to provide activities and tangible items to our children in foster care that would not have been possible otherwise.

Our partnership with Mattress Firm blessed us with school supplies, clothing and monetary donations that allowed us to make the holidays brighter for foster children that attended our Annual Snowflake Festival. Many thanks to Polaris Church for generously donating their space for the festival and to Pathways Credit Union for sponsoring the giving tree which provided gifts donated by the community. We also thank Buckeye Community Health who donated holiday hams and turkeys to our families for the fourth year. Our 6th Annual Car Show, "Wheel-O-Rama," was presented by Rife's Autobody and raised nearly \$17,000.

As we look back on 2016, we are thankful for the support of our community and all of our partners. The commitment to improving every life we serve through high quality care and customer service remains our focus. With gratitude and respect, we wish you a successful 2017!

Warm Regards,

Sarah Cochey

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING.

Youth Advocate Services applies innovative thinking along with evidence-based practices to partner with children and families in order to identify and treat their needs. YAS incorporates a preventative philosophy into its model with the intention of strengthening children and families in their natural environment, while decreasing the need for more restrictive or out-of-home placements.

YAS is governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees, and maintains a multi-disciplinary professional staff that provides excellent services to our

children and families. The agency is unique in that it provides year-round cultural, educational and recreational events and activities for the children and families it serves.

We offer a multitude of services in Franklin County and surrounding areas. Our children and families benefit from this continuity of care structure and show greater recovery outcomes when they are able to get integrated services all from the same agency - often times from the same staff member.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

About the program

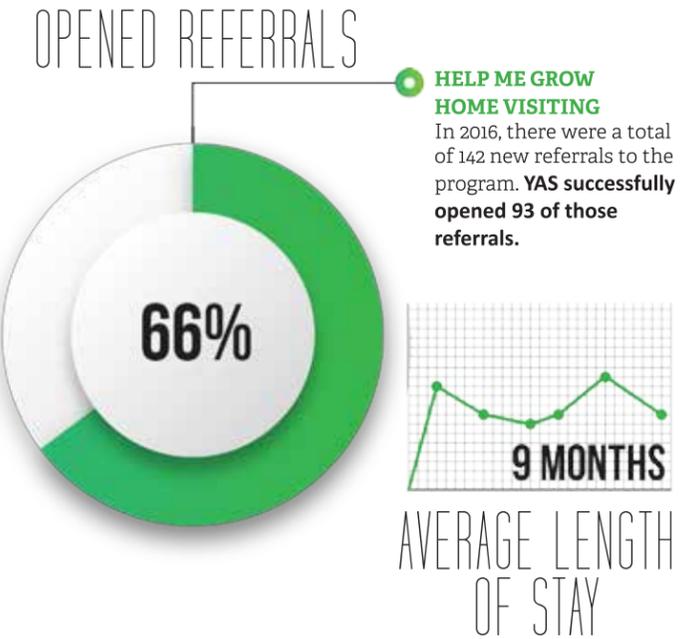
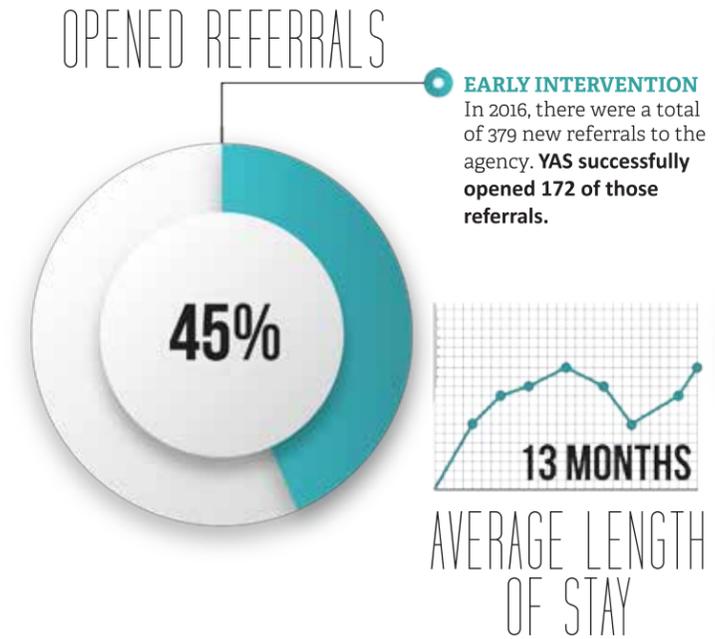
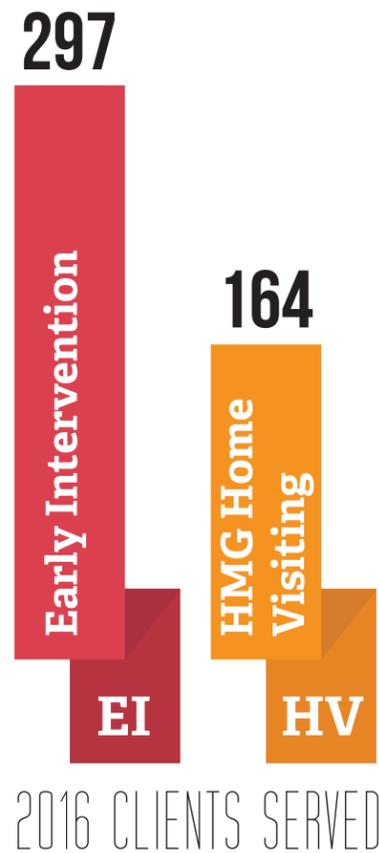
The Early Childhood (EC) program is designed to ensure Ohio's children receive a healthy birth and the resources to warrant a healthy and productive start in life. An integral part of Ohio's prenatal to age three system of supports, the services offered by EC equip parents with the means to help their child acquire the early building blocks necessary for long term success. These initial achievements last a lifetime, as scientific evidence strongly suggests that a child's success is significantly determined by the quality of nurturing in the first three years of life. EC encompasses two components: Early Intervention and Help Me Grow Home Visiting. Each component strives to ensure that parents receive the individualized care and support needed to live a healthy and happy life.

EARLY INTERVENTION

YAS' Early Intervention Program serves children birth to three with developmental delays and disabilities, as provided in collaboration with Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD).

Parents and caregivers with concerns regarding their child's development can have their infant or toddler evaluated by an interdisciplinary team at no cost to the family. Children are evaluated for delays in the areas of adaptive, cognitive, communication, physical, and social-emotional development using a standardized assessment

tool. Should intervention be deemed necessary, individualized services are provided to the child and family through YAS' Service Coordinators who guide the family through every aspect of the process, from program entry until the child transitions out by age three.



HELP ME GROW HOME VISITING

For many families, being pregnant or having a newborn or a young child is both wonderful and challenging. Home visitors can help link families to resources they need and offer encouragement and support, right in their own home.

As part of a statewide program through the Ohio Department of Health, YAS Home Visitors aim to educate at-risk parents with the resources to understand and capitalize on the optimal early years of a child's life. By supporting the positive interaction with children in stable and stimulating environments, our Home Visitors seek to create a sturdy foundation in families for future achievement utilizing the Healthy Families America evidence based home visiting model. Ultimately, this approach is essential to the educational and economic success of children and families.

Available for expectant mothers, as well as parents of young children birth to age

three, the Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program can help guide parents on things such as breastfeeding, feeding, safe sleep and home safety.

A program highlight in 2016 was a site visit from Healthy Families America, the evidence based home visiting model that we follow to structure our Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program. The two-day visit brought reviewers from other parts of the country to our site and provided us with important feedback on the strengths of our program and guidance on the work that still needs to be done to achieve accreditation. This model is new to our state and as one of the sites on the front end of this process we feel fortunate to have had the experience and already feel that it has strengthened our HMG Home Visiting Program.

WE'VE TRANSFORMED

The department previously referred to as Help Me Grow is now Early Childhood.

Help Me Grow took on a new title when the lead agency of Ohio's Early Intervention Program officially transitioned from the Ohio Department of Health to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. The Home Visiting portion still remains under ODH's Help Me Grow.

YAS has offered both services since 2010 and will continue to do so as these changes evolve and both programs grow into their own.

FOSTER CARE

255
2016 CLIENTS SERVED

AGES OF YOUTH SERVED



About the program

YAS provides both Traditional and Therapeutic Foster Care services in and around the central Ohio region, with over 75 Foster Homes in our network. As the oldest Therapeutic Foster Care program in Ohio, YAS has provided high-quality treatment foster care since 1978. Our team works collaboratively with other child serving agencies to develop and implement a strong community support system for families. Currently, YAS serves and supports foster children in 14 Ohio counties: Ashland, Clark, Clinton, Franklin, Licking, Marion, Mahoning, Montgomery, Morrow, Pickaway, Richland, Tuscarawas, Union, and Warren.

Under the Foster Care program YAS also provides supportive services such as respite to at-risk families in the community through our network of Foster Homes, as well as Pre- and Post-Adoption Support.

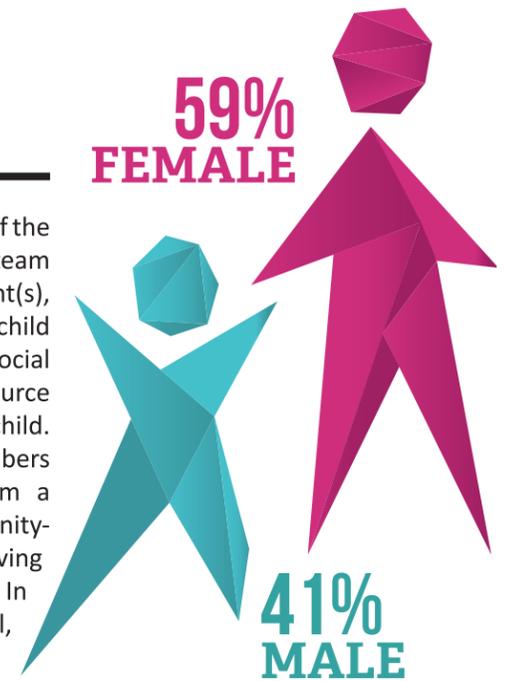
We believe every child (whether in a foster home, adoptive home, or living with his/her birth family) has the right to love, hope, security, and stability.

TRADITIONAL AND THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) is different than Family, or Traditional, Foster Care in the way that it caters to the physical, emotional and social needs of children and youth in a supportive family setting until the natural family can be reunited or a permanent placement through adoption can be arranged.

The Foster Home is the primary treatment setting for children that have experienced trauma within their family and communities. Foster Parents are trained and supported by YAS to provide the needed trauma-informed care as they implement the goals outlined in the child's individualized treatment plan. Every home with a foster child placement has a Family Counselor assigned, who not only works to support and coach the Foster Parents but also, if needed, provides mental health counseling to the foster child.

Foster Parents are vital members of the the child's treatment team. The team is made up of the Foster Parent(s), a YAS Family Counselor, the child and his/her family, the county social worker and other community resource professionals (as needed) for the child. Support from all of the team members allows the child to benefit from a home environment and community-based setting while receiving counseling and clinical services. In addition to providing individual, family, and sibling counseling, the Family Counselors also regularly meet with each Foster Parent to discuss observations of behavior and assess the effectiveness of current interventions. This collaborative and dynamic treatment process ensures that both foster children and Foster Parents have the support and resources they need.



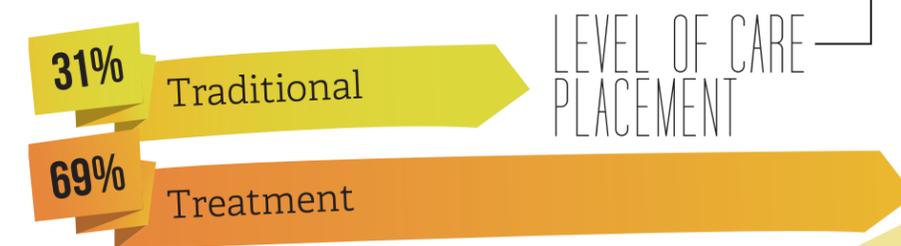
COMMUNITY RESPITE

Community Respite Services are designed to provide families/caregivers a safe place in the community that offers relief during difficult times, including emergency situations. The goal of our Respite Program is to prevent children from being placed in foster care or another higher level of care.

Typically, Community Respite Services are provided at times when other types of services are not available such as evenings and weekends. YAS has both short term and long term respite options for children and teens.

A TOP 10 AGENCY IN OHIO FOR # OF TREATMENT PLACEMENTS IN 2016

Source: ODJFS SACWIS



75% of the youth discharged from our care were **planned, successful discharges.**

more about
FOSTER CARE

SUPPORT FOR THE FOSTER-TO-ADOPT JOURNEY

Ideally, we seek to reunite the child with his/her natural family and then support the family so they can remain intact. However, that's not always the best course of action for the child or the family.

For a child in foster care with no prospect of reunification, adoption into a caring family is a lifeline. Parents who grow their families through adoption find that the experience is a gift to them as much as it is to their new child.

The joys of adoption, however, come with challenges. For the child and parents, there are very real emotional challenges involved in coming together as a new family. Our Family Counselors work alongside our foster parents during this journey and are able to understand and help with

all of the issues that Adoptive families experience before and after adoption. Pre- and Post-Adoption Support Services offer individual and family therapy and clinical case management designed to meet the needs of children and youth who will be adopted, or have been adopted from the foster care system. A contract-for-services is available for children and youth adopted privately.

YAS also supports those who are interested in adopting through the Foster Care System by providing the necessary parent training to prepare them for adoption as well as providing a thorough adoption home study.



“You have to have compassion to be able to really relate to each child and what they are dealing with and overcoming.”
YAS Foster Parent
3 years

JOIN OUR FAMILY NETWORK.

Is fostering or adopting right for you?

YAS can assist you in finding that out. Our most successful foster parents are open-minded, dependable, and willing to try different parenting styles for children with different needs. Having a flexible schedule, being patient and demonstrating the ability to work as a member of our team are all important qualities for success.

“As a single gay man, it has been a pleasure to find an agency like YAS that is so supportive and operates with the best of intentions for the children.”

YAS Foster Parent
2 years

Take the first step in learning more about what being a Youth Advocate Services Foster/Adoptive Parent means by contacting us today.

“My favorite thing about fostering is having the chance to give the kids experiences they otherwise wouldn't have.”

YAS Foster Parent
1 year

614.258.9927

www.yasohio.org
www.facebook.com/YASohio



MENTAL HEALTH

577

MENTAL HEALTH
CLIENTS SERVED
IN 2016

About the program

Through our team of licensed professionals, YAS provides the highest quality of Community Based Mental Health Services. These services, offered in Franklin County, are delivered in outpatient settings, including children's and their family's natural environments such as home, substitute care setting, school, and community.

YAS currently collaborates with, and has a presence in, over 120 Franklin County Schools. Referrals to our Mental Health Services often arise out of behavior management issues in the classroom as well as other needs that present when children acclimate to school and other life stressors.

The overarching philosophy of YAS' Community Based Mental Health Program is to promote the recovery and resiliency of persons with behavioral challenges or mental health issues through prevention, education, and support services. The goal is to assist the client in developing skills that promote socially appropriate functioning in family, community, and academic settings, following the recovery model of healing.

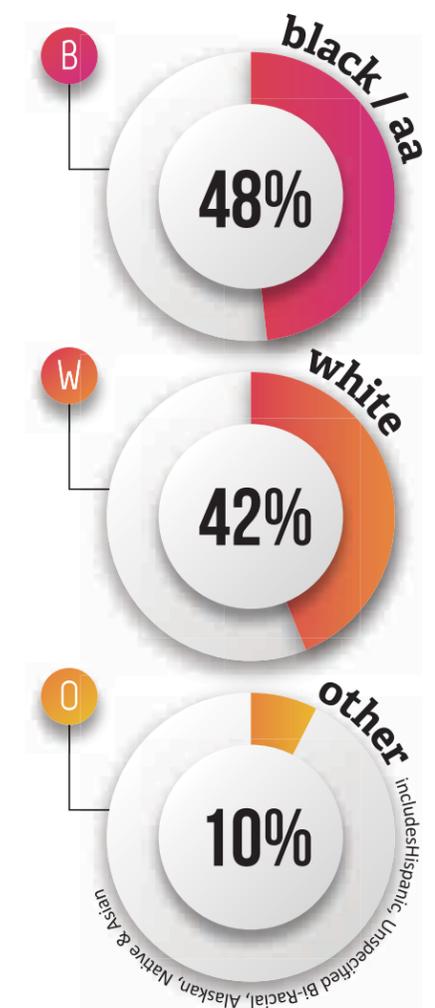
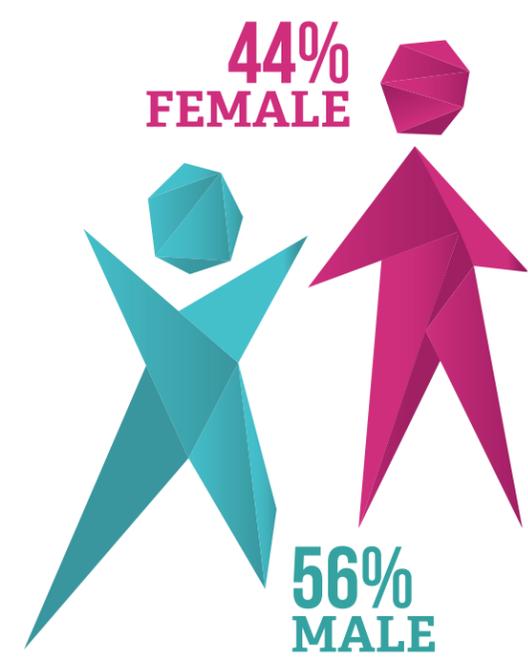
12%
PLANNED DISCHARGE
INCREASE FROM 2015

We provide easy access to **faster, simpler, effective and more comprehensive behavioral health care** by having **in-agency psychiatric services**, including medication management.

87
CLIENTS UTILIZED
PSYCH SERVICES



60%
of clients are
UNDER THE AGE OF 10



Funded by the individual's Medicaid Health Plan, YAS provides the following services and interventions to children and families:

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Family Support/ Education
- Family Reunification Counseling
- Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment
- Mental Health Assessment
- Therapeutic Play
- Independent Living Assessment
- Early Childhood Mental Health
- Home Based Services
- LifeBook Group Activities
- Full Clinical Assessment
- Individual Treatment / Planning
- Clinical Social Work
- Positive Behavioral Intervention
- Public School Special Education Testing Advocacy
- School-based Behavioral Interventions and Academic Support
- In-Agency Psychiatric Evaluation and Medication Management
- Discharge Planning (including, but not limited to: Transition to Family Home or Foster Family Placement, Support for Treatment Foster Parents, Skills Training for youth, and Supportive Therapy for youth)

IN ONE YEAR WE'VE...

RECEIVED IN-KIND DONATIONS

\$1,100 + CLOTHES AND SUPPLIES

YAS' partnership with Mattress Firm continues to support and benefit our foster children.

MATTRESS FIRM

BUCKEYE HEALTH PLAN

16 HAMS + 4 TURKEYS

Buckeye Health Plan's generous donation supplied some of our most in need families with a little holiday cheer.

#40

RANKED AS A TOP 50 Nonprofit Organization in Central Ohio
by Columbus Business First



Raised
\$16,983

from our annual **Wheel-O-Rama Car Show**

PROVIDED OVER
216 HOURS
of Continuing Education Training

to more than
704 people



Completed our HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA SITE VISIT

The first step in achieving accreditation for our Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program



Celebrated our dedicated **FOSTER PARENTS**

at our annual *Foster Parent Banquet*

Our foster parents have been with YAS for an average of

4 YEARS

LICENSED
18
NEW FOSTER HOMES



FESTIVAL SPACE DONATED BY
Polaris Church

Given gifts to
75 FOSTER YOUTH
at our annual Snowflake Festival
with the help of
PATHWAYS CREDIT UNION
& donations from the community

client & staff

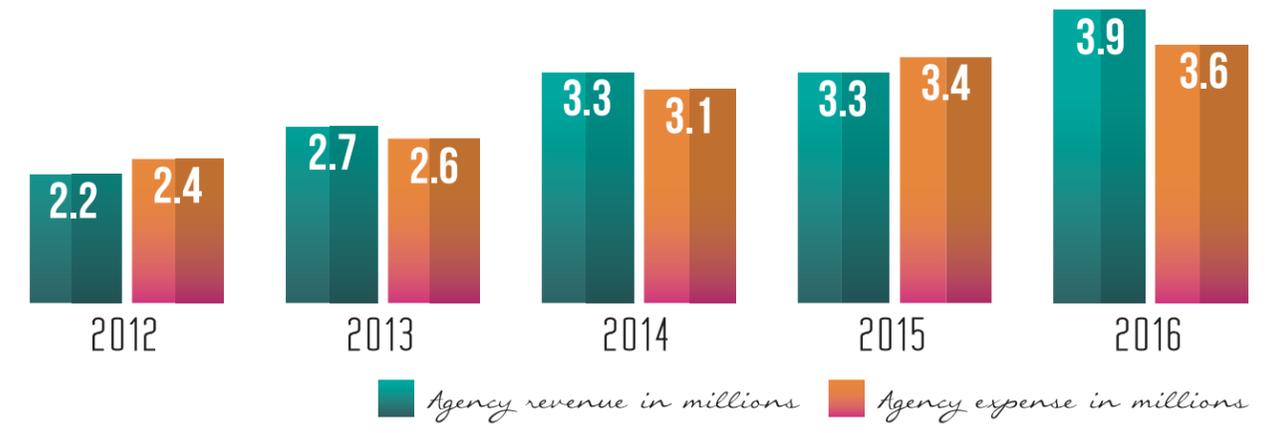
93%
SATISFACTION

Achieved **high satisfaction** from our clients and staff.
Based on Client Satisfaction Questionnaires and YAS Annual Staff Satisfaction Survey

SERVED

1293
CLIENTS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



Annual revenue

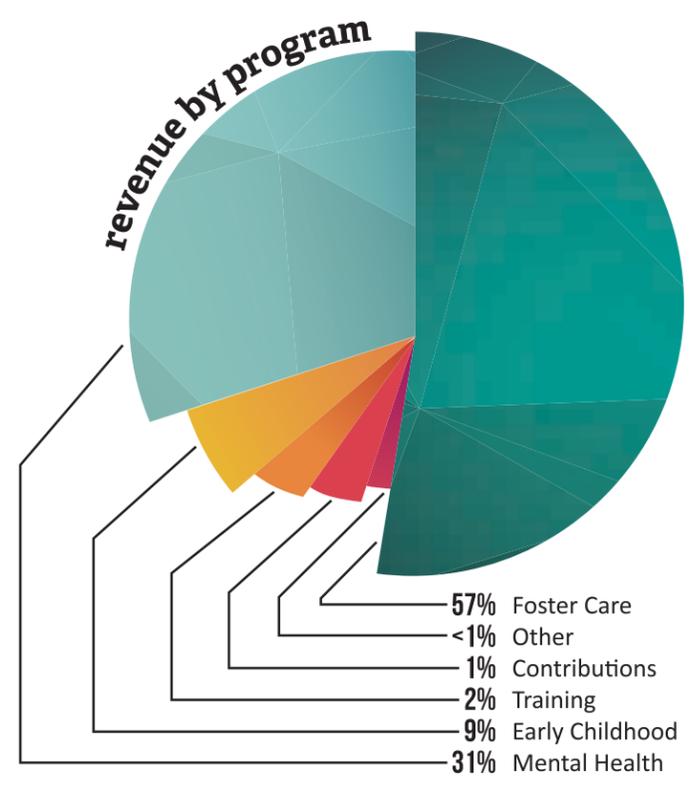
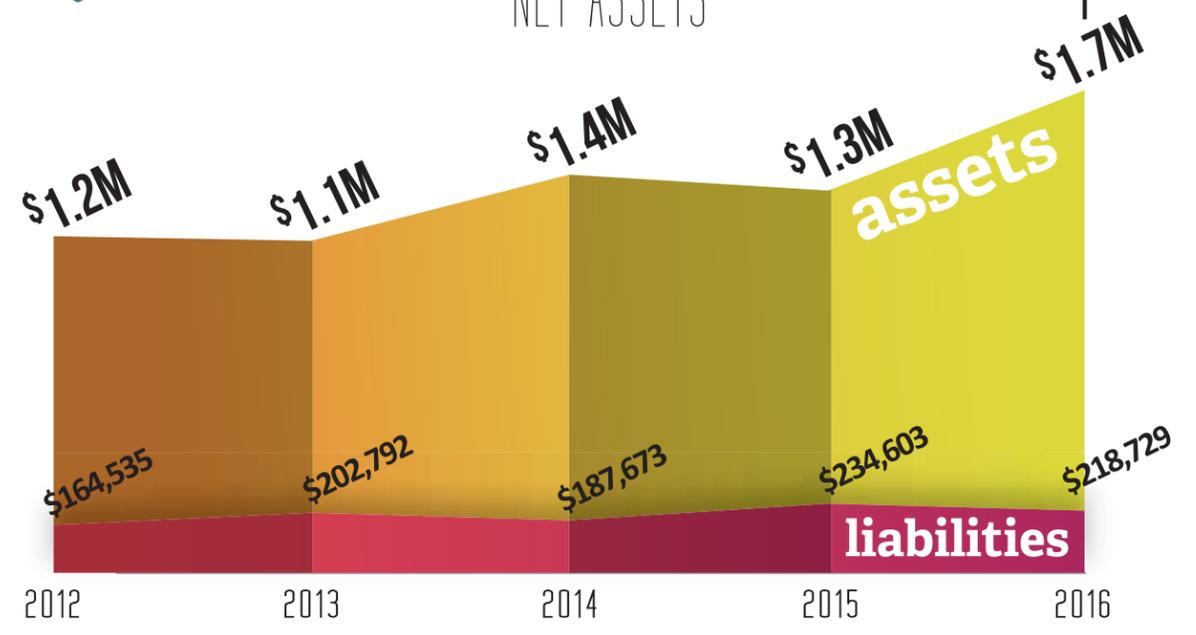
\$3,932,985

2016 Investments
\$260,695

\$1.5M
NET ASSETS

2016 net revenue
\$368,413

432%
NET REVENUE INCREASE
FROM 2015



What you do today
can improve all
your tomorrows.
Ralph Marston

THANKS FOR MAKING OUR KIDS YOUR BUSINESS.

A generous donation of any amount is always accepted and very much appreciated - not just by Youth Advocate Services but also by our many clients and their families. You can contribute throughout the year, become a sponsor and/or donate auction items for our annual Wheel-O-Rama, or donate children's holiday gifts for our annual Snowflake Festival. Again, no donation is too small and all donations are tax deductible.

It is because of supporters like you that make it possible for us to continue providing services for children and families in Columbus and surrounding areas.

2016 community supporters

Byers Imports • AllState: The Giving Campaign • Barnes and Thornburg • BASF • Blagoi's International Car Service • Brant K. Rhoad, Esq. Scherner, Sybert & Rhoad, LLC Attorneys and Counselors at Law • Buckeye Health Plan • Byers Imports • Car Guy Garage • Cincinnati Museum Center • Cleveland Browns • Cleveland Gladiators • Columbus Blue Jackets • Columbus Children's Theatre • Columbus Clippers Baseball Team • Columbus Crew • Columbus Funny Bone • Columbus Museum of Art • Columbus Zoo & Aquarium • COSI Center of Science & Industry • Courtyard By Marriott Columbus OSU • Cowlin Insurance for Hagerty Classic Cars • Crown Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM of Dublin • David Small • Dewey's Pizza • Donatos Pizzeria • Dublin Rd. Auto Care • EasyIT • Eddie Georges Grille • Enterprise Advisory Group, LLC • Evolved Body Art • Experience Columbus • Farmers Insurance • GFS • Ghostly Manor Thrill Center • Grandview Yard • Hampton Inn and Suites • Hilton Garden Inn • HMB • Hofbrauhaus Columbus • Hugh White Honda • Hyatt Place Columbus/OSU • Independent Motorsports • Indus Hotels • JEGS • Katzingers • Kenneth's Hair Salons and Day Spas • Kent Studebaker • Kim Chapman • Kraft House No. 5 • Kristy Etling & Merrill Lynch • Lauterbach and Eilber • LGR Realty • MadLab • Magic Mountain Fun Centers • Mattress Firm Foster Kids • Moo Moo Car Wash • National Cinemedia • Pathways Financial Credit Union • Paul and Kay Marshall • Polaris Church • PowerSheen • Refectory Restaurant & Bistro • Ricart Automotive Group • Rife's Autobody • RockAuto, LLC • Roscoe Village Foundation • RPM Powder Coating • Scrambler Marie's • SEBO • Shadowbox Live • Shaffer Capital Investments • Skyward Grille • Snow Trails Ski Resort • Splatter Park Paintball Games • Summit Racing Equipment • Target • Tecumseh! • The Fan/RadiOhio • The OhioHealth Chiller Ice Rinks & OhioHealth Ice Haus • The Reiki Center • Third & Hollywood • Tim Helfrich Photography • Tom and Jerry's Automotive Repair • Tom Hatem Automotive • Tri-Village Self Storage • United Healthcare Community Plan • United Skates of America • WASCO • Watershed Distillery • Western Reserve Historical Society • Whit's Frozen Custard of Pataskala • Williams Sonoma • Yun Strength & Fitness Systems LLC

OUR

LEADERS

MANAGEMENT TEAM

We've been privileged to play a role in helping thousands of children and families in central Ohio. As our community's needs have grown, we've been able to grow along with it. Our services now touch the lives of people in more than 14 counties every day. We credit our strength and endurance to a consistent approach to managing our business, and to the character of our people.

Sarah Cochey *MSSA, LSW, EIS*
Chief Executive Officer

Glenn Richard
Chief Financial Officer

Jacqueline Diaz
Human Resources / Executive Administrative Assistant

Jocelyn Hasenbalg
Performance & Quality Improvement Coordinator

Lydia Boles *MSW, LSW*
Director of Early Childhood

Heather Gutierrez *MA, LPC*
Director of Foster Care

Lisa Chakroff *MSW, LSW*
Foster Care Clinical Supervisor

Ann Hemphill *MSW, LISW-S*
Director of Mental Health

Matt Ksiazk *MSW, LISW*
Mental Health Clinical Supervisor

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Strong corporate governance is essential for a successful business, and our board members ensure YAS operates with integrity and accountability. Feel free to contact our members at boardoftrustees@yasohio.org

Aimee Stitt
Board President

Edward Segelken
President Elect

Kay Marshall
Past President

Jean Bohan
Secretary

Stewart Smith
Treasurer

Amy Ita
Kathryn MaGuire-Jack
Warriet Savage
Board Members





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www.yasohio.org

 *follow us to watch us grow with our community*