



annual 2015 report

inside

2 our agency

4 our services

4 foster care

6 help me grow

8 mental health

10 our financials

12 our COA achievement

14 our annual fundraiser

16 how you can contribute

inside back cover:

Key Staff & Board Members

Community Supporters

our mission

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

our vision

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

dear friends & colleagues,

Thank you for supporting Youth Advocate Services (YAS) in 2015. It was a very busy and successful year at YAS!

While we were serving 1,210 kids and families in our three programs, YAS underwent a rigorous national re-accreditation review and state recertification audits. Additionally, throughout 2015, **YAS welcomed 25 new foster and adoptive homes to our network.**

The Council on Accreditation made a four day long site visit to review our programs and services and ensure high quality standards are being maintained. COA was able to do just that. “We cannot express how impressed we were with this agency,” said COA reviewers. It is so well run and provides great services.” YAS received praise in many areas, including the following comment: “You are one of the only agencies we have seen that has an actual community-based approach.” Our community is of utmost importance and we are grateful for all of our partners that make it possible to serve families in our area. Our re-accreditation was expedited due to zero (0) findings on over 500 service standards. Kuddos to all of the staff for their hard work and effort!

YAS celebrated our successes with our foster and adoptive families through two events this year. The first was in June at our Annual Foster Parent Banquet where we honored those who have become an essential part of the YAS team. We celebrated our families again in December during our Annual Snowflake Festival where guests enjoyed a holiday meal, gifts donated by our community through a giving tree at Pathways—Members 1st Credit Union, holiday movies,

stories, face painting, crafts and pictures with Santa. Additionally, Buckeye Community Health donated hams and turkeys for our families again this year.

Our 5th Annual Youth Advocate Services All-Class Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show, newly dubbed “Wheel-O-Rama” was again presented by Rife’s Autobody. This year was our best turnout with 180 vehicles, that’s around 700 wheels! This event was again judged a success by sponsors, participants and spectators and helped **raise over \$16,000 for the children and families** served by our agency. In addition to a car show, YAS held an inaugural poker run which raised nearly \$2,000 and had an incredible turnout it’s first year.

The goal of Youth Advocate Services is to continue to make a difference in our community by strengthening families, which are the core of our community. Our vision is to improve every life we serve by putting quality care and customer service above all else. We are so grateful to all of our friends for your support of our efforts promoting positive futures. You truly help to make our mission and vision possible. May peace and good prosperity bless you in 2016.

Warmest Regards,

Tracey Jzard
Chief Executive Officer



connecting people to services



history

Youth Advocate Services (YAS) is a nationally accredited, state-certified, 501(c)(3), non-profit child/family caring agency who has served thousands of children and families since 1978.

For 38 years, Youth Advocate Services (YAS) has believed in the premise that all children, and especially those who are vulnerable or at-risk, should live in a family-centered, caring and nurturing home. As the oldest therapeutic foster care program in Ohio, YAS has provided high-quality treatment foster care, while working collaboratively with other child serving agencies to develop and implement a community support system for families.

YAS has since grown and is proud to also provide mental health and behavioral health services to children and families through a holistic, wrap-around approach as well as coordination services for families with children ages 0-3.



location

YAS is located at 825 Grandview Avenue, one block north of the Grandview Avenue Exit off of I-670.

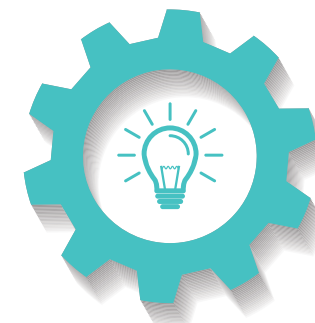
The YAS location provides state of the art facilities with a large training space, multiple meeting rooms, a spacious lobby, play room and opportunities for foster parents, children, families and staff to grow and develop. The building also has a private room that is utilized by our licensed psychiatrists to meet with clients confidentially. All of this enables YAS to continue and build on its tradition of serving thousands of children and families in our community each year.



philosophy

YAS applies innovative thinking along with evidence-based practices to partner with children and families in order to identify and treat their needs.

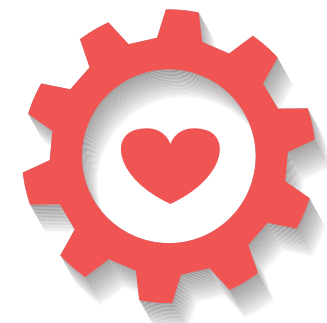
YAS incorporates a preventative philosophy into its model with the intention of strengthening children and families in their natural environment, while decreasing the need for more restrictive or out-of-home placements.



values

we believe...

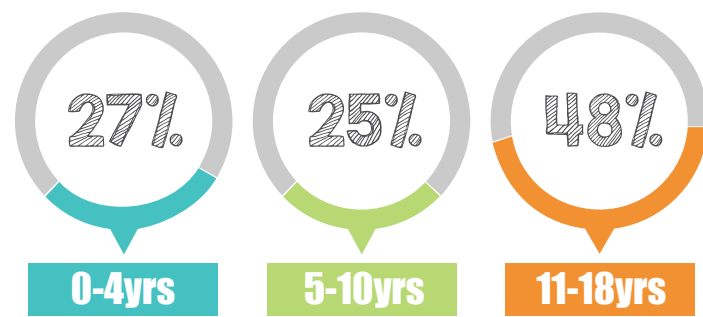
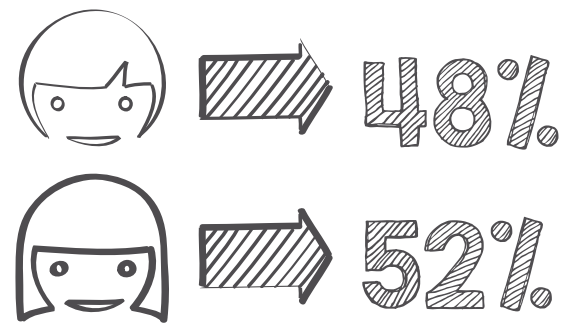
- in family.
- **ALL** children have the right to be in a safe, secure, family-centered environment.
- sound, culturally competent, clinically relevant services should be available and easily accessible to children and families.
- short term interventions we provide should focus on promotion of health,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



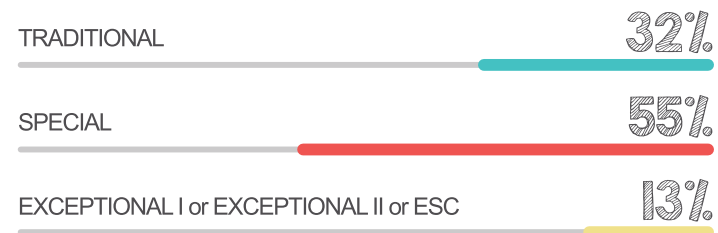
foster care

traditional & treatment foster placement

YAS provides family and therapeutic foster care services to youth ages 0-18 in and around the central Ohio region. Foster parents with Youth Advocate Services are specifically trained to provide a safe and therapeutic environment for children and teens of all races, genders and socioeconomic status'. Masters-level licensed clinicians provide ongoing and crisis support to foster parents. Clinicians also deliver home-based counseling and CPST services to foster youth in order to achieve positive outcomes and continued success. Program staff, clinicians, and foster parents work collaboratively with the custodial agencies of youth in care to achieve their case plan goals. Youth Advocate Services actively recruits interested foster/adoptive families in the local community throughout the year. Parents attend Pre-Service training and complete a home-study to become a licensed foster family. YAS offers licensed foster parents monthly on-going training opportunities as well as annual dinners and holiday events.

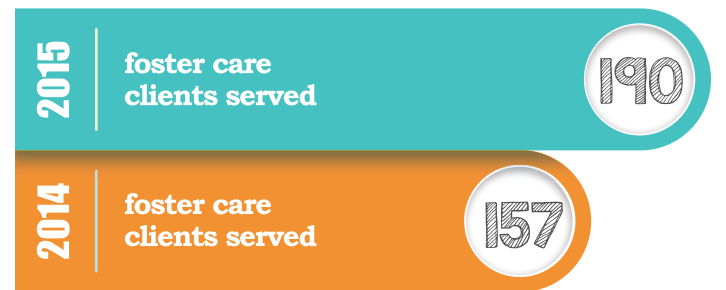
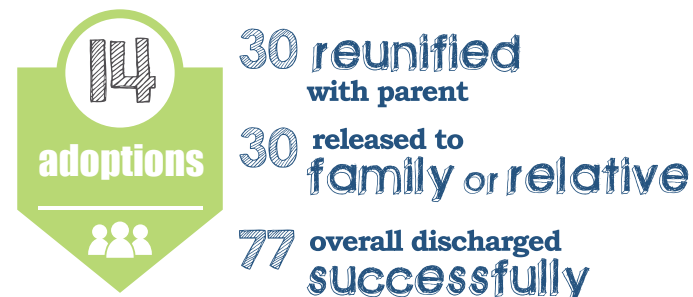


level of care



adoption

YAS supports those who are interested in adopting by providing the necessary training to prepare them for adoption as well as providing a thorough adoption home study. YAS also provides pre- and post- adoptive counseling as well as respite support to families that are growing their family through adoption.



community respite

YAS provides respite to at-risk families in the community through our Family Foster Homes as well as our Therapeutic Foster Homes. Through this program, families in our community are able to utilize respite in order to maintain their children in their home in order to prevent their children from being placed in foster care or another higher level of care. YAS provides both short term and long term respite for children and teens.

help me grow



The Help Me Grow (HMG) 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 Help Me Grow 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. Help Me Grow encompasses two components: Early Intervention and Home Visiting. Each component strives to ensure that parents receive the individualized care and support needed to live a healthy and happy life.



96%
client
satisfaction

early intervention

The Help Me Grow Early Intervention program aims to identify and serve children under the age of three with developmental delays and disabilities. YAS Service Coordinators communicate with parents, doctors, hospitals, child care providers and other community agencies to identify children with existing developmental delays, or those with medical diagnoses with a high probability of delay.

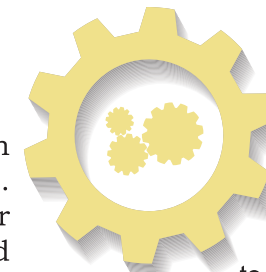
YAS Service Coordinators assist in providing developmental evaluations for children to identify needs and linkage to Early Intervention services if recommended. The Service Coordinators assist families in learning about additional community resources to help meet other needs. Service coordination ensures the Individualized Family Service Plan is complete and up to date. Service Coordinators also provide parent education regarding child development.

“it is programs like this that help prepare our children for success”

Mom of HMG Client

home visiting

The Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program began in July 2010, replacing the old At Risk program. The Home Visiting program provides expectant or new parents with the information, support and encouragement they need through a voluntary, high-quality home visiting service. 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, Home Visitors seek to create a sturdy foundation for future achievement. Ultimately, this approach is essential to the educational and economic success of children and families.



completed
state-wide
pilot program

The YAS HMG Home Visiting Team was asked by the Ohio Department of Health to take part in a nine month long Home Visiting Collaborative Learning Network, comprised of only 8 agencies throughout Ohio.

what's next for hmg in 2016?



Smoke-free Families

YAS HVs will be involved in a Quality Improvement (QI) project that hopes to reduce the prevalence of smoking before, during, and after pregnancy with the implementation of a brief counseling intervention utilizing "5 A's."

01
JAN



Perinatal Collaborative

The YAS HV Team will also be contributing to a state-wide QI project in order to increase healthy pregnancies and decrease infant mortality.

02
FEB

EI

early intervention
clients served

284

HV

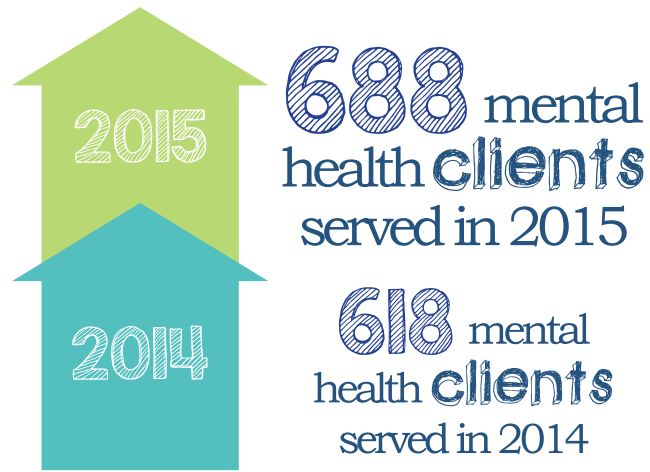
home visiting
clients served

68

mental health

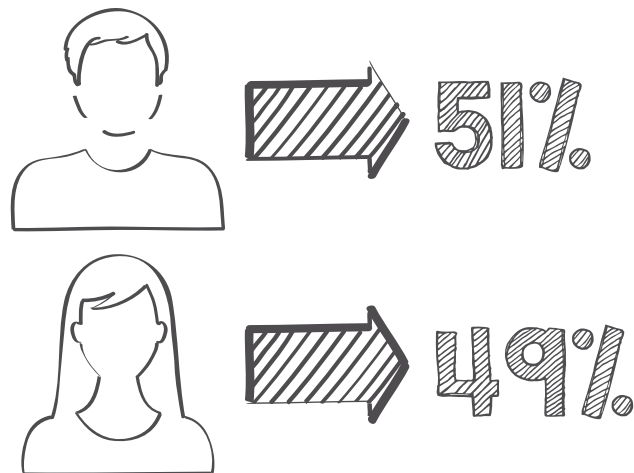
community-based

YAS serves children in over 180 schools in Franklin County and surrounding areas by addressing needs that present both in the home and in the school. Referrals often arise out of behavior management issues in the classroom as well as other needs that present as children acclimate to school and other life stressors or changes. Licensed clinicians meet with children and their families as well as school personnel in order to best identify and meet the needs of the client. YAS clinicians strive to empower families to identify their own goals. Together, families and clinicians set goals and celebrate successes large and small. YAS is able to provide individual, family, and group counseling as well as community support and psychiatric services.

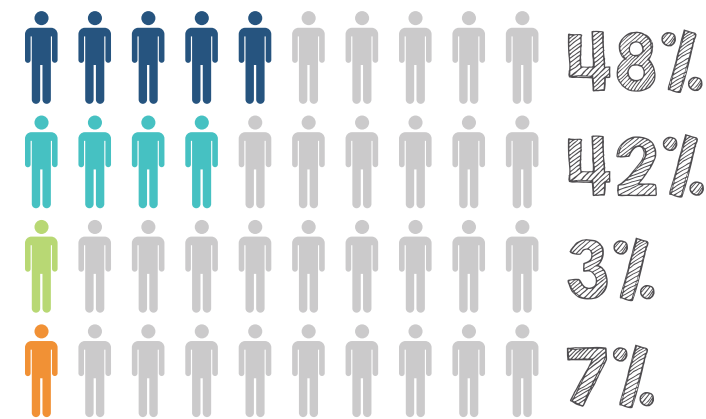
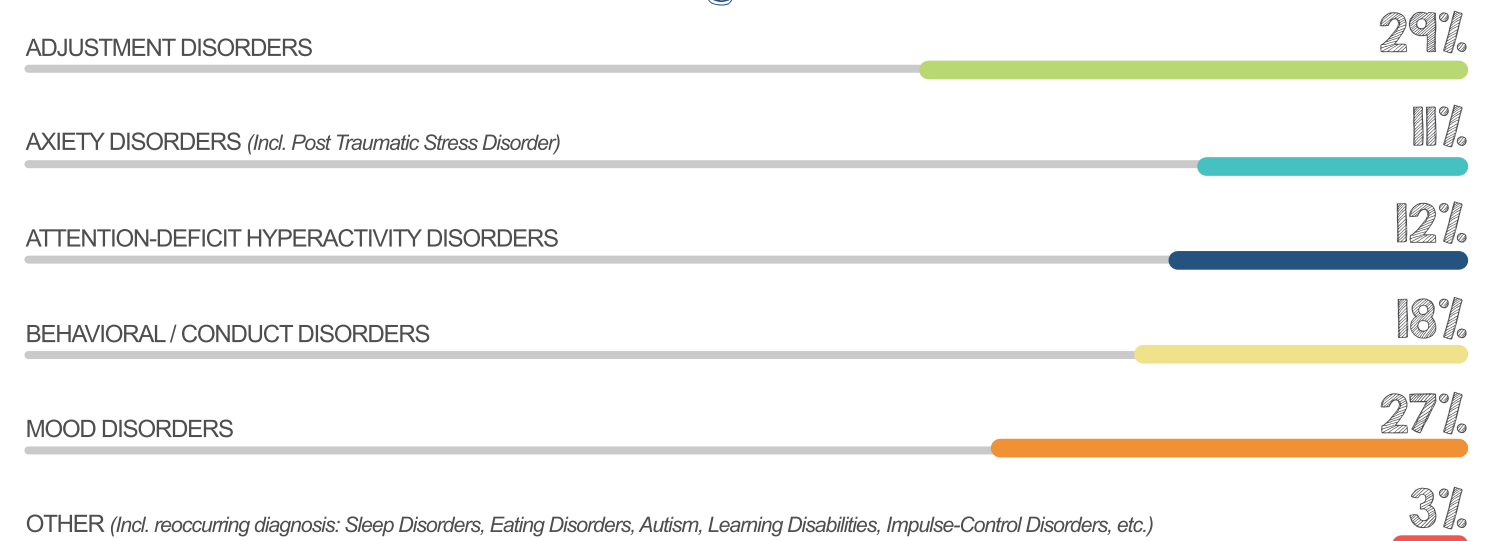


partnered with hamilton stem academy as the exclusive counseling provider for its students

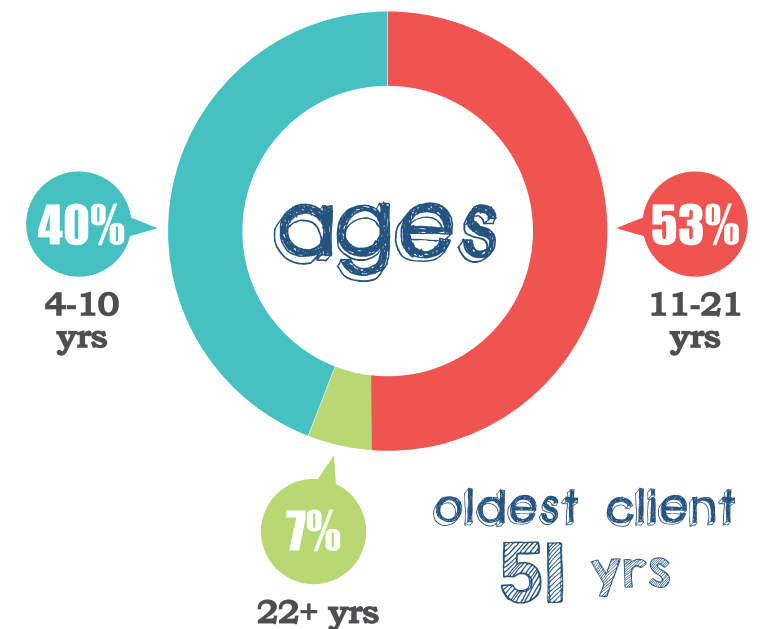
and provided services in 181 schools in Franklin County & surrounding areas.



diagnosis



■ Black/AA
■ White
■ Hispanic
■ Other
Includes Alaskan, Native & Asian



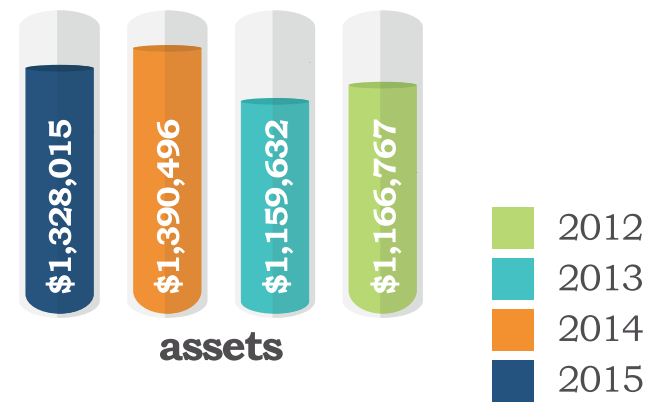
financial highlights



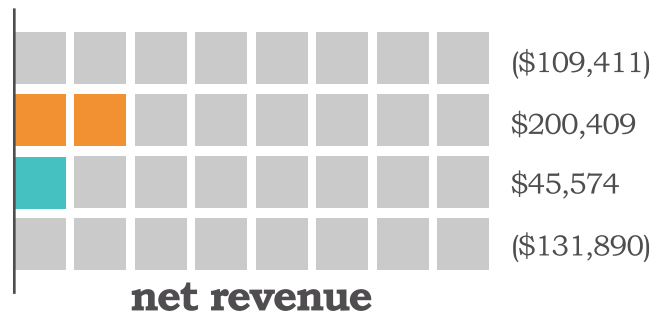
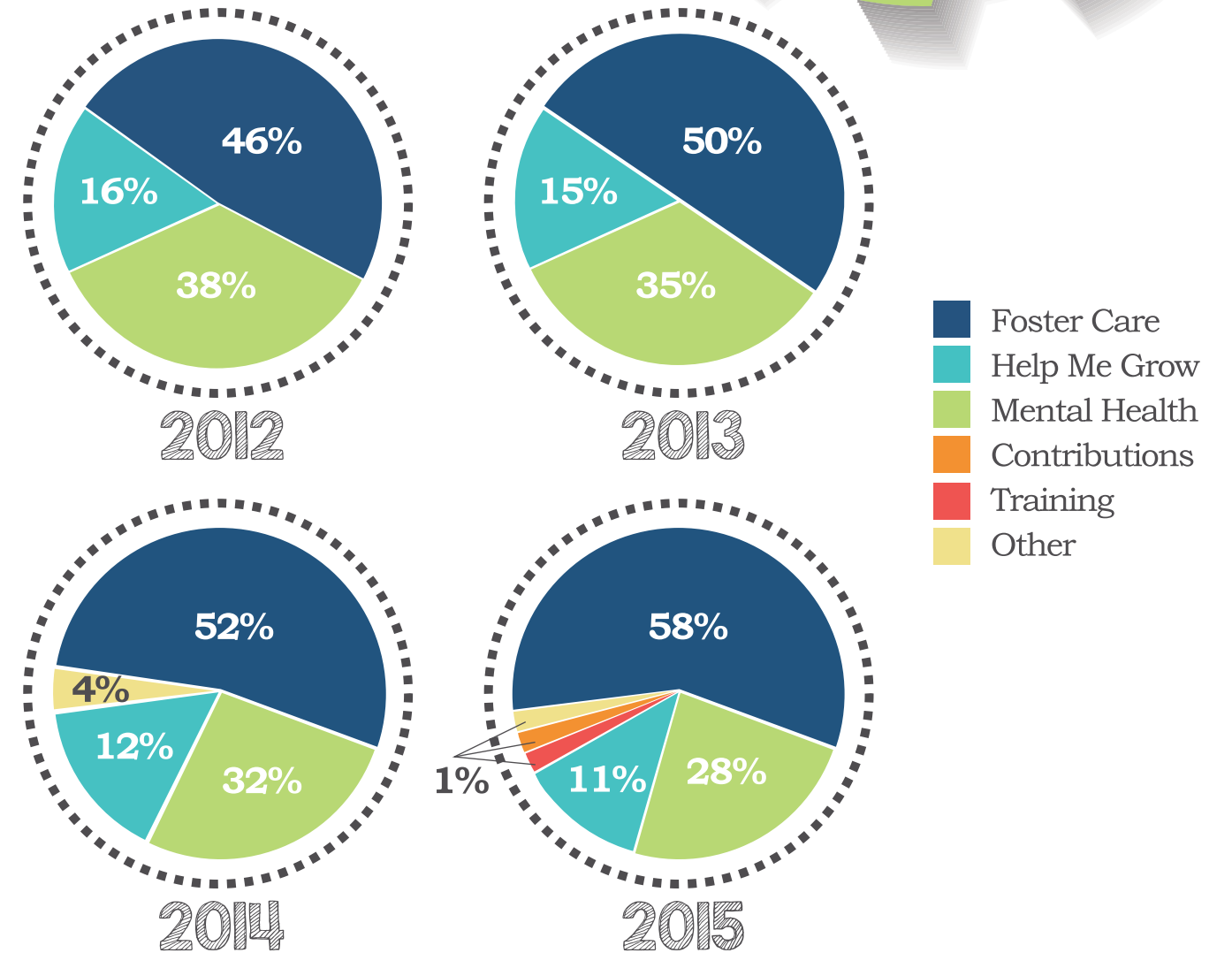
agency revenue



agency assets



revenue by program



COA expedites re-accreditation of yas

The Council on Accreditation (COA) is an international, independent, nonprofit, human service accrediting organization. With the support of over 30 national and international organizations, a cadre of over 1,000 volunteers and a highly skilled and dedicated board of trustees and staff, the peer-driven COA community is committed to championing quality by promoting best practice standards. COA accredits the full continuum of child welfare, behavioral health, and community-based social services.



“we cannot express how impressed we were with this agency”

YAS earns respect of COA reviewers

In September of 2015, COA conducted a four day site visit to review YAS programs and services in order to ensure that high performance standards were met and that we were committed to deliver the very best quality services. COA approved the accreditation of YAS through September 30, 2019. YAS was first accredited by COA in 2007.



“you are one of the only agencies we have seen that has an actual community-based approach”

YAS received praise in many areas, including the following comments:



“You are one of the only agencies we have seen that has an actual community-based approach.”

“We are overwhelmed by the Performance Quality Improvement that is being done here.”

“You are so honest in your assessment of areas needing improvement and then you do it.”

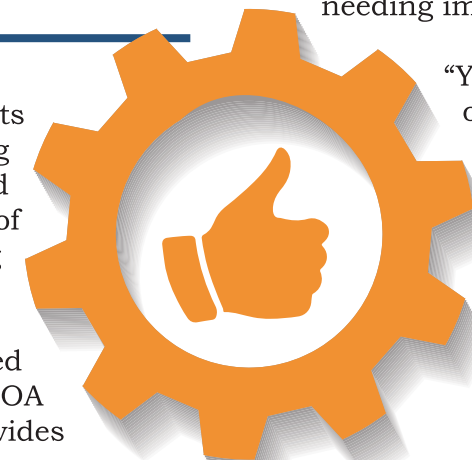
“Your case records organization is one of the best we’ve ever seen.”

“You have wonderful foster parents and a dedicated staff.”

“Your program for orienting staff through trainings and shadowing is impressive.”

COA congratulated YAS for its “amazing achievement” of receiving an expedited accreditation, based on no out of compliance ratings of over 500 service standards during the recent study of the agency.

“We cannot express how impressed we were with this agency,” said COA reviewers. It is so well run and provides great services.”



car, truck & motorcycle show

wheel-o-rama

What a beautiful day it was on Sunday, September 20th, 2015 to raise funds and awareness for Youth Advocate Services!

Our 5th Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, or more affectionately renamed "Wheel-O-Rama," was a record event! There were 180 beautiful cars and motorcycles (that's around 700 wheels!!), over 750 people in attendance throughout the day, and a grand total of **over \$16,000 raised**. Families and friends of all ages came out to enjoy the show, enter raffle and 50/50 drawings, and help support our services.

We appreciate each and every one who helped out before, during and after – including ALL of our sponsors and community supporters. Without their assistance we couldn't have had such a successful day.



A special thanks to our **Presenting Sponsor, Rife's Autobody**. This marked 4 straight years of Rife's gracious sponsorship and commitment to make every year better than the last for YAS. It has also been confirmed that they will be coming back in 2016 as the Presenting Sponsor for our 6th Annual Wheel-O-Rama!

Everyone played an important part in our success, including those who brought their amazing rides! You didn't even have to like cars to appreciate what came to visit. We are truly grateful for those who continuously show up every year and bring a bigger crowd with them each time. With over more than 70 available awards, we were able to recognize these fantastic vehicles and their owners.

Again, we thank everyone who was involved in making this last event such a success and we hope the community will consider supporting us again on **September 18th, 2016** at the Grandview YARD

for Youth Advocate Services' 6th Annual Wheel-O-Rama! Our car show page on our website (www.yasohio.org) and Facebook have all the details.



with this annual fundraiser, we hope to:



- Raise awareness about our programs and services.
- Encourage others to truly consider fostering a child and assist YAS in our mission to promote positive futures.
- Reduce the stigma attached to mental and behavioral health issues and strengthen the sense of family.
- Promote philanthropy and raise funds for additional programming and activities for our youth
- To give back to our community by providing a day of fun family time.

we're in this together



donate

Donate time, services, unused goods, money, or even resources. 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 or donate auction items for our annual Wheel-O-Rama, or donate 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.**



become a foster/ adoptive parent

Consider joining our ever-growing foster family network! Our dedicated foster parents are an essential part of the Youth Advocate Services team. We greatly appreciate and respect their ongoing commitment to provide a safe, nurturing home to a child or youth in need and the time and perseverance it takes to be a foster parent. Learn what it means to be a foster/adoptive parent, the process for becoming a foster/adoptive parent, and how YAS works to assist you in your journey and help you find out if becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent is right for you.

tell your friends

Tell everyone you know about YAS! The more people know about our services and our mission to promote positive futures, the more families and children we can help. Together, we can raise awareness and reduce the stigma attached to mental and behavioral health issues and strengthen the sense of family. Find out more on our website at www.yasohio.org.

our team

Tracey Izzard
Chief Executive Officer

Glenn Richard
Chief Financial Officer

Jocelyn Hasenbalg
Performance & Quality Improvement Coordinator

Makayla Fisher
Executive Administrative Assistant

Heather Gutierrez
Foster Care Program Manager

Lisa Chakroff
Foster Care Clinical Supervisor

Sarah Cochey
Help Me Grow Program Manager

Ann Hemphill
Mental Health Program Manager

Matt Ksiazk
Mental Health Clinical Supervisor

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Columbus Children's Theatre
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The Reiki Center
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Tom Hatem Automotive
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www.yasohio.org

