



Youth Advocate Services

2011 Annual Report



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.

Our Motto:

Promoting Positive Futures

Our Programs & Services:

Foster Care

Adoption

Emergency Shelter Care

Community Respite

Help Me Grow & Home Visiting

Community/ SchoolBased Mental Health

HomeBased Mental Health

Independent Living

Our Values:

We believe the family is an institution.

We believe ALL children have the right to be in a safe, secure, family-centered environment.

We believe that sound, culturally competent, clinically relevant services should be available and easily accessible to children and families.

We believe the short term interventions we provide should focus on promotion of health, wellness, and self-sufficiency of families.

We believe it is important to use placement ONLY as treatment for children and families.

Our 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.

Our Story:

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 33 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.

Over the past three years, YAS has branched out and now:

- Provides mental health and behavioral health services to children and families through a holistic, wrap-around approach;
- Coordinates services for families with children ages birth to three and links them with resources through the Help Me Grow programs;
- Offers respite and emergency care for children who must leave their families temporarily; and
- Provides family support, home-based and school-based programs to prevent the need for children to be placed away from home.

This strategic growth and expansion of services led to a need for larger office space, and YAS recently moved to 825 Grandview Avenue, one block north of the Grandview Avenue Exit off of I-670. The new YAS location provides better facilities, training space and opportunities for foster parents, children, families and staff. It enables YAS to continue and build on its tradition of serving thousands of children and families in our community.

Our Board of Trustees:

Edward Segelken, Esquire *President*

Rebecca Kim, Ph.D., Board Member

Steven Shkolnik, *President-Elect*

Brian Thomas, Board Member

Kay Marshall, *Treasurer*

Stacey Boumis, ACIP, Board Member

Jean Bohan, *Secretary*

Robin Howard, Board Member

Scott Bast, *Past President*

Otis Henderson, Board Member

Toski Flemister, Board Member

Amy Ita, Board Member

Dear Friends of YAS,

On behalf of Youth Advocate Services (YAS) I would like to thank you for your continuing support of our agency. So many great things happened this year we are excited to share. We appreciate your support to advance our mission “to support children, youth, and families to realize their potential, hopes and dreams.” Through our Foster Care, Adoptions, Early Childhood Mental Health, Help Me Grow, Home Visiting, Home Based and School Based Mental Health Programs we have seen many lives changed for the better.

The year of 2011 has been a full and exciting year for us at YAS. Every day, our Clinicians, Home Visitors, and Service Coordinators are providing needed services and supports to over 500 children and families in the Central Ohio area. To help support the needs of foster youth in our community, YAS has recruited, trained, and licensed 12 new foster parents so far this year with more parents on the way. YAS also added a state-certified Adoptions Program in order to provide forever homes to children and teens in our community this year. In the year 2011, YAS became a community partner of both Columbus City Schools and Whitehall City Schools. Currently, YAS Mental Health Clinicians are providing needed behavioral and mental health counseling to children in over 60 schools in Central Ohio. YAS also became a Qualified Provider of HomeBased and Independent Living Services to the department of Youth Services. Our Help Me Grow Program adapted well this year to major programmatic changes and began accepting many families into our new Home Visiting Program, all while continuing to successfully serve over 250 families in Help Me Grow with a high level of customer satisfaction & quality care each day.

Thanks to a warm welcome from our friends, colleagues, and local community partners in February at the YAS Open House, we are now settled in to our new home at 825 Grandview Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215. YAS was pleased to welcome Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, State Senator Jim Hughes, Grandview Heights Mayor Ray E. DeGraw, and President of the Grandview Area Chamber Dr. Fran Wilamosky for the Open House’s ribbon-cutting ceremony. We also love the YAS custom art piece produced by local artist Mac Worthington at the entrance of our new building.

2011 was also the year of our national reaccreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA) this summer. COA’s program of quality improvement is designed to identify providers that have met high performance standards and have made a commitment to their stakeholders to deliver the very best quality services. YAS excelled through the COA reaccreditation process, and was expedited through reaccredited as a result of not receiving any out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice standards. This was said to be an “amazing achievement” by Richard Klarberg, President and CEO of the Council on Accreditation.

The major fundraiser this year was our Inaugural and 1st Annual Youth Advocate Services All-Class Car & Motorcycle Show presented by Dublin Road Auto Care. This event was judged a success by sponsors, participants and spectators and helped raise nearly \$10,000 for the children and families served by our agency. In addition to the cars and motorcycles, the show featured former Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce as a celebrity judge, free ice cream from the Sunny95/Meijer Treat Truck, a fire truck appearance and educational materials provided by the Grandview Heights Fire Department, and a raffle and art and silent auction with more than 40 donated prizes. Free games were available for children and Digital Soundwaves provided music throughout the day. YAS also received over \$500 through The Columbus Foundations' fundraising event The Big Give this November.

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 customer service and quality care 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.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. May peace and prosperity bless you in 2012.

Best regards,

Tracey Izzard



Tracey Izzard, MA, MBA, LPCC-S, LICDC, LSW

Executive Director

Youth Advocate Services

www.yasohio.org

Our Programs & Services

Foster Care

YAS therapeutic foster care program serves youth ages 0-18 mostly in the Central Ohio area. YAS Foster Parents are trained to provide a therapeutic environment to children and teens. YAS licensed Clinicians provide counseling and case management to the foster youth, and provide support to the foster parents in order to achieve positive outcomes. YAS staff and foster parents work collaboratively with custodial agencies to assist the foster youth with reaching their case plan goals whether it be reunification or emancipation. YAS also recruits, licenses and trains foster parents in order to expand the number of quality foster homes in Ohio. Currently we have over 40 licensed foster homes.

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.

Emergency Shelter Care

Through this contract YAS provides short term placement housing to youth in crisis. Youth are placed in a Treatment Foster Home and assessed for needs to assist the youth with a plan to successfully discharge. The goal of this program is to provide a safe home, quickly assess youth's needs, and recommend the appropriate setting for each youth in order to ensure their success.

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 Part C

The Help Me Grow Part C program is a home visiting program for children 0-3 with developmental delays or diagnosed medical conditions likely to result in developmental delays. YAS Service Coordinators assist in providing developmental evaluations for children to identify needs and linkage to Early Intervention services if recommended. The service coordinators also assist families in learning about other community resources to help meet other needs. Service coordination also includes ensuring the Individualized Family Service Plan is complete and up to date. Service Coordinators also provide parent education regarding child development.

Help Me Grow Home Visiting

The Help Me Grow Home Visiting program began in July 2010, replacing the old At Risk program. It is a home visiting program for children of first time parents who are prenatal or under six months of age and at risk for developing developmental delays. Children under the age of 3 with one parent on active military duty are also eligible for Home Visiting. Home visitors provide parent education using the Parents As Teachers Curriculum and assist families in linking with community resources and other programs that may be helpful to their family. The home visitor is a support to the family and assists them in helping make sure that their child is developmentally on target.

Community/ SchoolBased Mental Health

YAS serves children in more than 60 schools in Franklin County 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 provide direction towards solutions for client success. YAS is able to provide individual, family, and group counseling as well as community support and psychiatric services.

HomeBased Mental Health

Franklin County Children's Services (FCCS) has put its trust in YAS to provide services to some of the most difficult cases with the hope of maintaining them in the home or helping them be successful following residential treatment. YAS works closely with families and FCCS staff to provide wrap-around treatment in order to meet the complex needs of the client and family. Clinicians, again, provide leadership and direction towards improvement and success. Clients presenting the need are also able to see the YAS psychiatrist on staff.

S.A.I.L. Succeed At Independent Living

The S.A.I.L. (Succeed At Independent Living) program is for youth ages 10-21 referred by The Ohio Department of Youth Services and others. It provides comprehensive, youth centered, family inclusive strength based services at the youth's home and in the community. YAS Clinicians provide individualized, asset-building independent living skill development with the goal of preparing youth for self-sufficiency within the community and to become more prepared to meet the requirements of responsible citizenship.

Our 2011 Events

Open House

Youth Advocate Services (YAS) hosted the public at an Open House at its new location 825 Grandview Avenue, Thursday, February 10. Approximately 100 members of the Grandview and Columbus community attended the enjoyable event. Remarks about the agency were made by Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, State Senator Jim Hughes, Grandview Heights Mayor Ray E. DeGraw, and YAS Executive

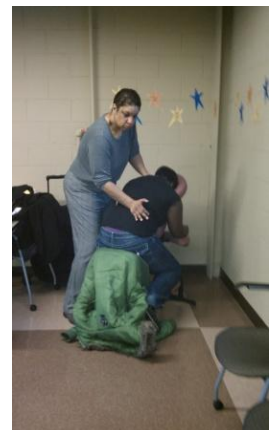


Director Tracey Izzard who were joined by YAS Board of Trustees Secretary & Franklin County Coroner Dr. Jan Gorniak, YAS Board President Edward Segelken, and President of the Grandview Area Chamber Dr. Fran Wilamosky for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony was the unveiling of a custom art piece for the agency by local artist Mac Worthington. The YAS relocation was made possible by the

generous contributions from local sponsorships and community donors who raised more than \$100,000 at the 2010 YAS Baskets of Hope Gala. This was largely possible due to a major grant from the Starlight Foundation, and sponsorships by Huntington, Porter Wright, Morris and Arthur LLP, Raven's Glenn, Odyssey Aviation, and ABC 6/ Fox 28.

Girls Empowerment Seminar

The YAS Girls Empowerment Seminar was hosted on March, 5, 2011, as an opportunity to give back to our teenage girls in foster care, offering them an “empowering” day of information and hands-on activities related to the independent living themes of well-being, self-care, healthy decision making and goal-setting. This event brought in volunteers from the community to address these themes and offer real-life motivational stories and advice for our girls in their journey towards discovering themselves. Generous donations were also given by members and organizations in our community that were used in a “goodie bag” filled with items pertaining to wellness. Each girl received one of these bags upon completion of the day.



Foster Parent Annual Dinner

Youth Advocate Services (YAS) celebrated this year's many successes at the YAS Annual Foster Care Dinner held June 16th, 2011 at the Berwick Manor. Tracey Izzard, Executive Director of Youth Advocate Services welcomed guests to the dinner and gave the annual agency update. Dr. Johannes Christian, YAS Foster



Parent, provided the invocation. Shayla Shavers, Foster Care Program Manager gave out the Shining Star Foster Parent Award, Shining Star Staff Award, Foster Parent Service Awards, Danielle Alexander Award, and acknowledgements to this year's newly licensed foster parents.



Annual Family Day Picnic

The Annual Family Day Picnic was held this year on August 13, 2011 at Whitehall Park for all YAS Foster Youth and Families to attend. Families enjoyed water balloon games, bubble play, card games, music, bingo, and barbeque rounded out this fun family-friendly event.



Inaugural All-Class Car & Motorcycle Show presented by Dublin Road Auto Care



The All-Class Car & Motorcycle Show presented by Dublin Road Auto Care was held on September 17, 2011 in order to raise awareness about its programs and services, encourage families to consider foster care or adoption, reduce the stigma attached to mental health and behavioral

health issues, and give back to the community that supports its efforts. The show had almost 50 registrants and helped YAS raise almost \$10,000 its inaugural year. In addition to the cars and



motorcycles, the show featured former Ohio State football coach Earle Bruce as a celebrity judge, free ice cream from the Sunny95/Meijer Treat Truck, a fire truck appearance and educational materials provided by the Grandview Heights Fire Department, and a raffle and art and silent auction with more than 40 donated prizes. Free games were available for children, and Digital Soundwaves provided music throughout the day.

Winter Snowflake Festival

The Winter Snowflake Festival was held on December 14, 2011 as a holiday celebration event for YAS Foster Families. Foster youth and Foster Parents enjoyed holiday treats, ornament decorating, and pictures with Santa while they mixed and mingled at Youth Advocate Services with other foster families, future foster parents and YAS staff. Each foster youth went home with gifts courtesy of Youth Advocate Services.

Thank You to Our 2011 Sponsors

Dublin Road Auto Care	US Laser, Inc.
Key Bank- Grandview Office	Porter Wright Morris & Arthur
LOTH, Inc	Kay & Paul Marshall
Affiliated Resource Group	Bill Powelson
Matesich Distributing Company	Molino & Associates Inc.
Barnes & Thornburg	James and RoseAnn Graff
Brexton, LLC	Tom Standish
Bluth Companies, LLC	NAPA Auto Parts
O'Reilly's Pub	On Call Handyman & Co
Structured Employee Benefits of Ohio	LGR Realty
Lauterbach & Eilber, Inc.	NASCAR Garage
Members First Credit Union	Buffalo Wings & Rings
Huntington	Studio Spiral

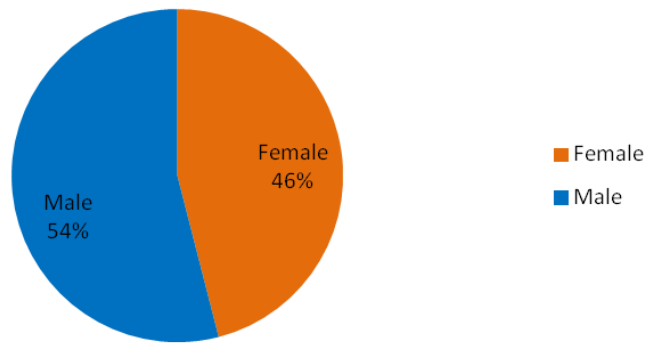
Thank You to Our 2011 Donors

31 Gifts	Columbus Zoo & Aquarium	Matt the Miller's Tavern
7up Columbus		Newport Aquarium
A.D. Farrow Co.	Cooks Balloonyery	Quaker Steak & Lube
Arena Grand Movie Theatre	Cowtown Pizza	Rendezvous Hair Salon
Autozone	Digital Sound Waves LLC	Rent-A-John
BalletMet	Donatos Pizza	Sax Car Wash
Barley's Smokehouse & Brewpub	Earle Bruce	Scotty's Café
Basi Italia	Evolved Body Art	Snow Trails
Big Burrito Restaurant Group	Fort Rapids Indoor Water Park Resort	Splatter Park Paintball Games
Buffalo Wings & Rings	Funny Bone Comedy Club	Target
Cameron Mitchell	Grandview Fire Department	Technicare
CAPA	Highlights for Children	Tecumseh
Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal	Historic Roscoe Village	The Archive
Columbus Crew	Kay Marshall	Tim Horton's
Columbus Golf Academy	Kobo Live	United Skates of America
Columbus Radio Group (Sunny 95, Mix 107.9, Rewind 103.9/104.3)	LOTH Inc	Vital Film Works
	Mac Worthington Gallery of Contemporary Art	Walmart
	Magic Mountin Fun Center Polaris	Western Reserve Historical Society
		Yun Fitness Bootcamps

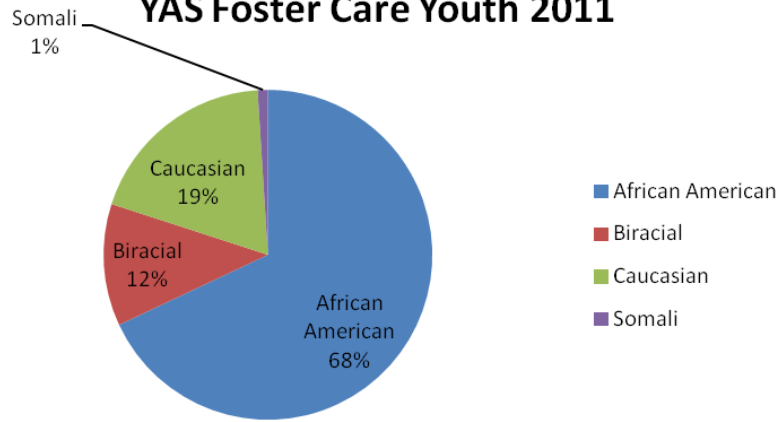
Our Accomplishments of 2011

- YAS added an Adoptions Program for Foster Parents interested in the foster-to-adopt option in order to help keep families together
- YAS excelled through the Council on Accreditation (COA) reaccreditation process, and was expedited through reaccreditation in September of 2011
- YAS was successfully recertified by both The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and The Ohio Department of Mental Health
- YAS became an official community partner of Columbus City Schools in order to provide needed schoolbased mental health programming to children with behavioral and mental health concerns
- 93 youth found foster homes in YAS' foster care network within the year 2011
- YAS provided needed mental/ behavioral health services to 417 youth and 48 adults in the year 2011
- Foster Parents continue to report maintaining a high satisfaction with YAS
- YAS has worked diligently to decrease the wait time for mental health services down to 13 days between referral and linkage with services
- Planned discharges have increased in both Foster Care and Mental Health. Currently Foster Care is at 79% planned discharges and Mental Health is at 71% planned discharges
- YAS raised almost \$10,000 at the inaugural year of its All-Class Car & Motorcycle Show presented by Dublin Road Auto Care
- Caregivers with children in the Help Me Grow Program demonstrate extremely high satisfaction with services provided by YAS
- YAS continued their commitment to increasing the number of quality foster homes for Ohio youth in need by recruiting, training, and licensing 12 new foster families and accepting 7 transfers from experienced foster parents
- 98% of Caregivers with children in the Mental Health Program report satisfaction with services, including 78% who were "extremely satisfied" with services provided by YAS

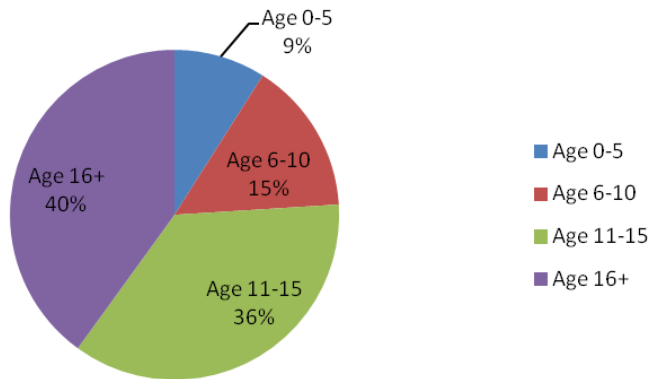
YAS Foster Care Youth 2011



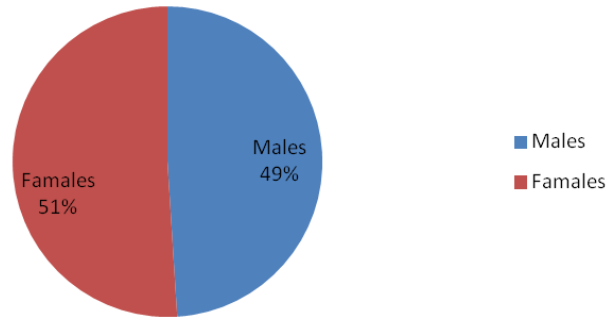
YAS Foster Care Youth 2011



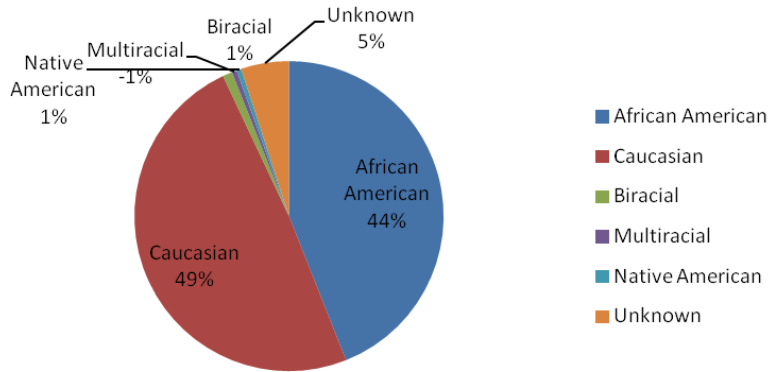
YAS Foster Care Youth 2011



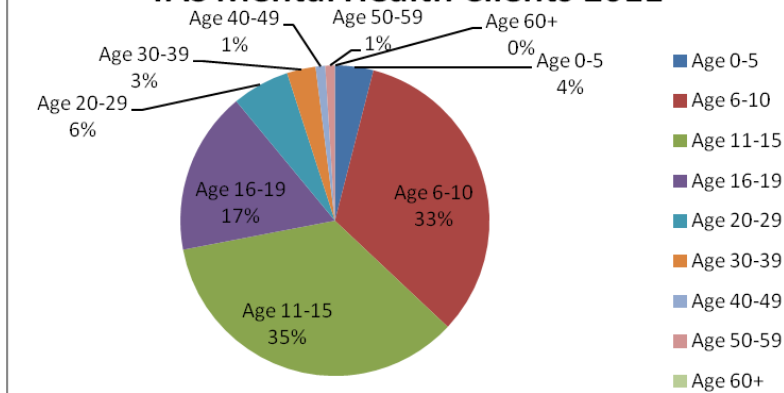
YAS Mental Health Clients 2011



YAS Mental Health Clients 2011



YAS Mental Health Clients 2011



YOUTH ADVOCATE SERVICES
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2011 and 2010

ASSETS

	2011	2010
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 819,623	\$ 609,471
Accounts receivable:		
County and other agencies	353,101	338,017
Prepaid expenses	24,030	25,064
Deposits	0	42,200
Total current assets	1,196,754	1,014,752
Property and equipment		
Leasehold improvements	21,982	-
Land and building(net)-pending auction	-	333,163
Furniture and fixtures	70,150	89,487
Less accumulated depreciation	(9,986)	(76,454)
	82,146	346,196
Other assets		
Deposits	12,554	11,867
	\$ 1,291,454	\$ 1,372,815

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 72,285	\$ 68,712
Deferred income	-	2,213
Line of credit (Note 4)	-	-
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	131,531	113,567
Total current liabilities	203,816	184,492
Net assets - unrestricted	1,087,638	1,188,323
	\$ 1,291,454	\$ 1,372,815

YOUTH ADVOCATE SERVICES

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY

Year Ended June 30, 2011 and 2010

UNRESTRICTED

	2011	2010
Support:		
Franklin County Children Services/other placements	\$ 1,374,045	\$ 1,350,265
Help Me Grow Grant	421,351	391,417
Mental Health	834,215	499,621
Contributions	51,294	63,646
Training revenue	54,700	31,568
Other income	0	6,164
	2,735,605	2,342,681
Expenses:		
Program expenses		
Foster Care	\$ 1,107,420	\$ 1,038,022
Help Me Grow	422,464	392,785
Mental Health	661,196	273,428
General and Administrative	451,391	384,382
Fund-raising expenses	1,714	17,772
	2,644,185	2,106,389
Operating income (loss)	91,420	236,292
Other income and (expenses):		
Realized loss on investments/assets	(192,987)	(5,703)
Interest income	882	864
	(192,105)	(4,839)
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(100,685)	231,453
Net assets, beginning of period-unrestricted	1,188,323	956,870
Net assets, end of period-unrestricted	\$ 1,087,638	\$ 1,188,323

“As a COA accredited agency, Youth Advocate Services has evidenced that it adheres to national standards of best practice. For over 33 years, it has been a valuable resource to the Central Ohio community and has assisted many families through difficult situations and have promoted positive outcomes. We are pleased to be associated with such a wonderful association.” –**Richard Klarberg, President and CEO of Council on Accreditation**

“I've had 3 children involved with Help Me Grow and I am very impressed with the quality of service we've received. I know the staff and services have made a significant difference in our children's lives.” – **Mother of a child in the YAS Help Me Grow Program**

“As an educator, it is heartwarming to see the positive changes that many of our students have made with the help of the professional staff of YAS. They share our concern for children and the obstacles they often face. By helping our students improve their behaviors, our mutual educational goals can be attained.” – **Judith Dobbert-Meloy, Superintendent of Whitehall City Schools**

“Our clinician Heather is responsive and quick to help. Everyone is very friendly. The facility is great!” – **YAS Foster Parent**

“Katie has worked wonders! She goes above and beyond! The agency is great- we love having a doctor right there! Everyone is so nice.” – **Parent of a child in the YAS Mental Health Program**

The Help Me Grow Program was wonderful. I have really received help with my child. Everyone was really nice and the cared about my child. I am very sad that the program is over for us. I would like to thank everyone for their help. I wish you all the best. This is truly was a wonderful program. – **Parent of a child in the YAS Help Me Grow Program**

“The staff works well with me. The staff cares about my kids. They are there when I need them.” – **YAS Foster Parent**



Youth Advocate Services

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www.yasohio.org

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Department of
Mental Health



One Voice. One Community.

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