

# *Fostering Hope:* BACKED BY *Your Support*



## Annual Report 2024



THE CENTER FOR  
YOUTH & FAMILY  
SOLUTIONS  
[cysolutions.org](https://cysolutions.org)



# Letter from the President

Now more than ever, our communities need a place that children and families can count on to be there in a crisis and to restore hope. As Board President of The Center for Youth and Family Solutions, I am proud of our organization's impact over the last year, delivering the critically essential services on which children and families in our communities depend. A strong community doesn't just focus on boosting economic growth; it nurtures its members' mental and emotional well-being.

Throughout this report, we share with you examples of how The Center for Youth and Family Solutions has played a critical role extending far beyond providing immediate assistance to individuals in need; we contributed to the overall well-being, resilience, and connectedness of the communities in which our clients live. Most importantly, we provided a restored sense of hope to nearly 16,000 people, giving them the necessary tools to heal, cope, and thrive.

Throughout this FY 24 Annual Report, we share with you examples of how we continued to develop and deliver innovative programming and solutions for children, families, and individuals facing various life challenges.

We have examples such as how we added Foster Parent Mentors as professional positions throughout the agency to better support one of our most vital partners: our foster parents.

Our Behavioral Health program enhanced services in McLean and Vermillion counties for youth with significant behavioral health needs.

And we continued to find innovative and evidence-based practices to help children and adults who have experienced trauma heal through brain mapping assessments, and other innovative trauma-responsive approaches.

We could not accomplish this without the support of others like you — our donors, supporters, and volunteers- who share our vision. Thank you for being part of the solution. Your contributions remain essential for CYFS to continue providing impactful and life-changing services. Thank you for being part of our caring community as we achieve solutions together.

With gratitude,  
Neil

# By the Numbers

Last year, CYFS programs fostered hope for nearly 16,000 people by providing the tools they needed to heal from life-changing trauma, abuse and neglect, and other significant life challenges.



CYFS PROGRAMS  
HAVE HELPED OVER  
**16,000** PEOPLE  
HEAL, COPE AND  
*thrive.*



Strong families build stronger and healthier communities and contribute to overall wellbeing. CYFS helped 9,000 families restore hope, be well, and thrive.



CYFS HELPED  
NEARLY **9,000**  
FAMILIES  
ACHIEVE  
SOLUTIONS  
*together.*

# Child Abuse and Prevention

Our **Intact Family Services** program is designed to provide families with the linkages, support, and resources they need to make changes and prevent out-of-home foster care placement for their children. **94%** of the families who completed the program strengthened their capacity to protect and care for their children and had no further investigations by the Department of Children and Family Services.



When an abused or neglected child is referred to our **Foster Care Program**, CYFS provides a safe and loving temporary home with relatives or licensed foster parents. At the same time, we provide a hopeful path to biological parents, directing them to services that will help them make the changes necessary to provide a safe and nurturing home for their children — such as domestic violence counseling, substance abuse treatment, housing, jobs, and in-home support. **687** foster families provided safety, security, and support to **1,270** children in foster care in FY24.

*“ I appreciate how easy it is to talk to my caseworker, as well as how much I feel like she listens to my needs and concerns about my family. ”*

Biological parent who was reunited with her kids.

Our mission is to ensure that every child we serve grows up in a safe, stable, and loving family through successful reunification, adoption, and guardianship. This year, we ensured **409** children were either reunified with their biological parents or if that couldn't happen, we found a safe, loving, permanent forever family they could trust to care for them for a lifetime.

**94%** OF FAMILIES  
SERVED IN OUR  
INTACT PROGRAM  
HAD NO FURTHER  
INVESTIGATIONS  
WITH DCFS.



## Family Development

Nothing is more hopeful than when a child is matched with a forever family. Our compassionate Family Development Team from our Adoption Program matched **165** children – infants, toddlers, sibling groups, and teens – with loving forever families.



*“My adoption specialist really seems to care and is very kind. She’s been really good about getting back to us any time we’ve had a question, needed an update, or anything.”*

**New mom who now has a forever family.**

# Youth, Family, and Community Outreach Services

Youth, Family, and Community Outreach Services (YFCOS) supports children and adults by stabilizing families in crisis, intervening and teaching new skills to people involved in the criminal justice system, and bringing about lasting change for families in need of support.

Our prevention, diversion, and intervention services reached over **3,200** children and adults last year, stabilizing families with on-the-spot crisis intervention, promoting healing, and bringing about lasting change.



*“My caseworker genuinely cared about me. My goal was to get an apartment at the end of this treatment, and I’ve got one.”*

A former homeless teen supported by our YFCOS program.

OUR YFCOS SERVICES  
REACHED **3,200**  
CHILDREN AND ADULTS.



# Behavioral Health



At some point in our lives, we may experience an emotional or relational problem that wears us down, makes us feel hopeless, and one where we can't just "work it out" on our own. CYFS is committed to improving access to behavioral health services in the **37** counties we serve. That is why we offer a sliding scale fee so that financial constraints do not become obstacles.

Last year, our compassionate and family-focused therapists provided **32,574** hours of therapy to children, families, and individuals, helping them address the issues affecting their overall wellbeing. **309** youth received some form of care coordination service, helping link their families to services and resources to support their mental health.

*“I have brought my son to many therapists, but this one has been the absolute best fit for him. He has a gift of being able to gain my son's trust, relate to him, and come up with creative solutions. I have never felt judged by him. He sets a tone of care, compassion, understanding.”*

The mother of a teenage son receiving counseling services.

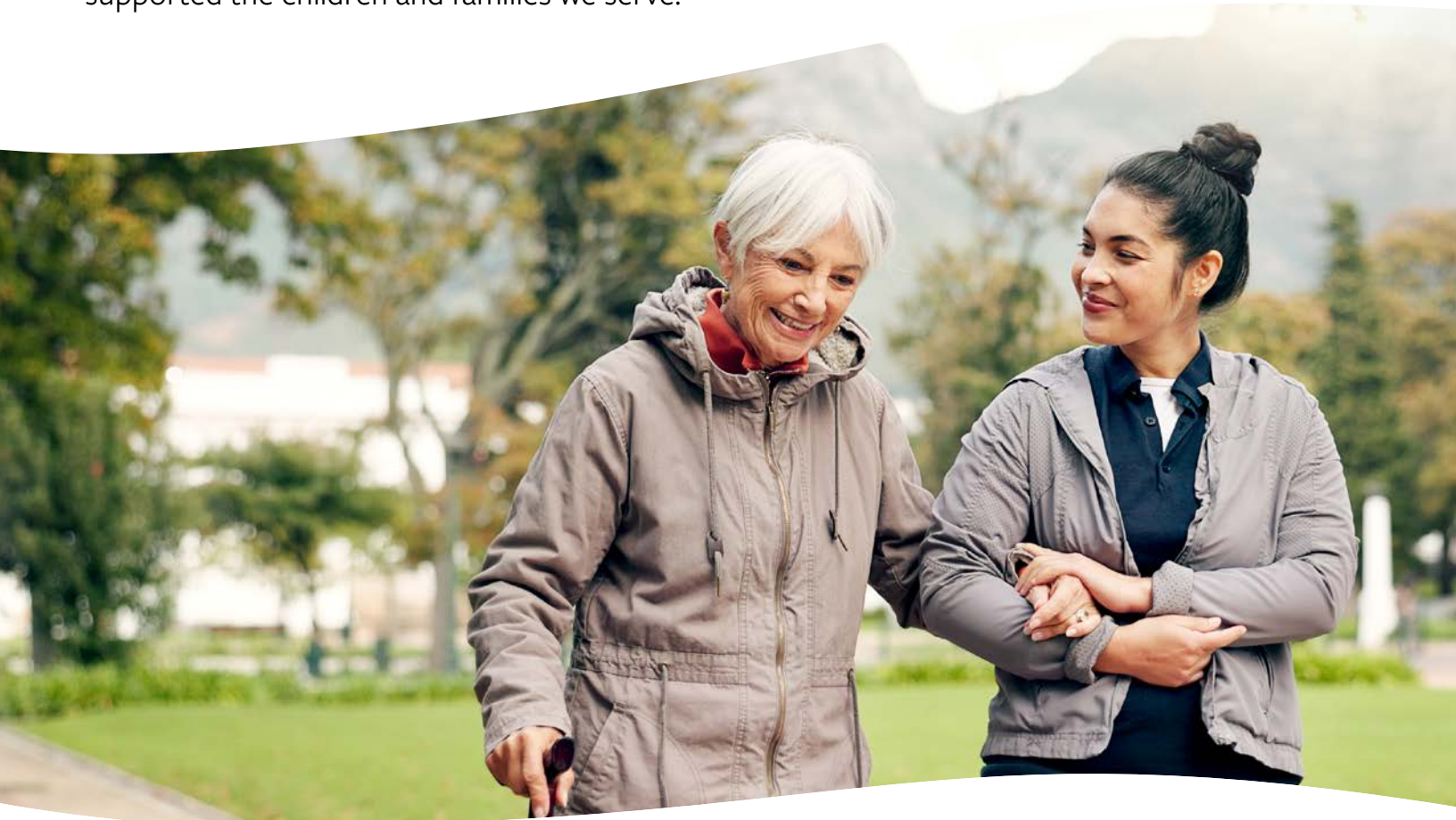
**32,574**  
HOURS OF  
THERAPY TO  
CHILDREN,  
FAMILY, AND  
INDIVIDUALS.

# Making a *Difference* in Our *Communities*

Last year, CYFS provided **48** interns with enriched, hands-on experience in the human service field, including opportunities to perform clinical services and case management support. We proudly offer direct experiences that lay a critical foundation for the next generation of social workers and counselors.



Last year, our volunteers and interns provided **16,670** hours of compassionate service. Our volunteers tutored and mentored youth in care, visited isolated seniors, and assisted with administrative tasks that supported the children and families we serve.





# New Day Senior Services

CYFS provides in-home counseling, volunteer companion services, training, and outreach to isolated older adults coping with depression, grief, loss, and loneliness.

**98%** of seniors served in our program last year continue to live independently, and **93%** of seniors in our community outreach program learned new skills contributing to better physical and mental health.

*“My counselor really has helped me after my spouse’s death. Wonderful with her kindness.”*

New Day Senior Services client who received in-home counseling.



**98% OF  
OLDER ADULTS  
CONTINUE TO LIVE  
INDEPENDENTLY.**

# Guardian Angel Home

Guardian Angel Home in Morton offers young boys aged 6-12 an opportunity to heal from significant trauma, abuse, and neglect, all while learning new coping skills so they can thrive.

*“What I like best about Guardian Angel home is the staff- they are nice to me and are helping me to be more respectful.”*

9 year old boy who is a current resident at Guardian Angel Home



**100%** of the boys served felt their caseworker was a voice for their needs and that they felt safe at Guardian Angel Home.

# It F.I.T.S with CYFS

CYFS achieves solutions together by approaching those we serve from a **family-systems, inclusive, trauma-responsive, and strength-based perspective**. Here are some of the more impactful ways we have used each of these four pillars over the last year:



## Family Systems



We recognize that each child, family, and individual we serve has a family system that is central to their development, identity, and relationships. Approaching our clients from a family-centered perspective is our bedrock. When a child goes into foster care, we try to reach out to known biological family members and discuss becoming the child's foster parent. This past year, we enhanced the ability to locate extended family through our **Family Finding Resource Specialist** role. Their primary goal is to investigate extended family members who could care for the youth, as well as help build a plan for the child with resources and referrals that will aid in developing resilience during an uncharted time. Last year, our Family Findings team were able to match **277** youth with extended family members to care for them while in foster care.

## Inclusivity



We embrace everyone's distinctive skills, experiences, and perspectives and actively work to remove systemic barriers, challenge inequities, and ensure equal access to resources and opportunities.

This past year, our Behavioral Health program received grant funding to provide services of the **Mental Health Juvenile Justice** program for youth in McLean and Vermillion Counties by providing linkage and referral services to youth with a possible behavioral health need, whether at risk for contact with or for more intensive involvement in the juvenile justice system.

## Trauma-Responsive

As leaders in trauma-responsive care, we recognize that behaviors are often the result of traumatic experiences, and we promote healing and recovery by integrating progressive interventions into our work. We utilize the **Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT)**, where a ‘brain map’ is completed by one of our certified NMT clinicians, which can provide information on how well a child is functioning. A treatment plan is developed to meet the child’s needs. We also utilize **Polyvagal Theory**, which gives a neuropsychological understanding of the nervous system and its role in emotion regulation, social connection, and fear responses. When our therapists and social workers utilize these approaches, we can uncover how significant past trauma has affected those we serve and give them tools to heal, cope, and thrive.

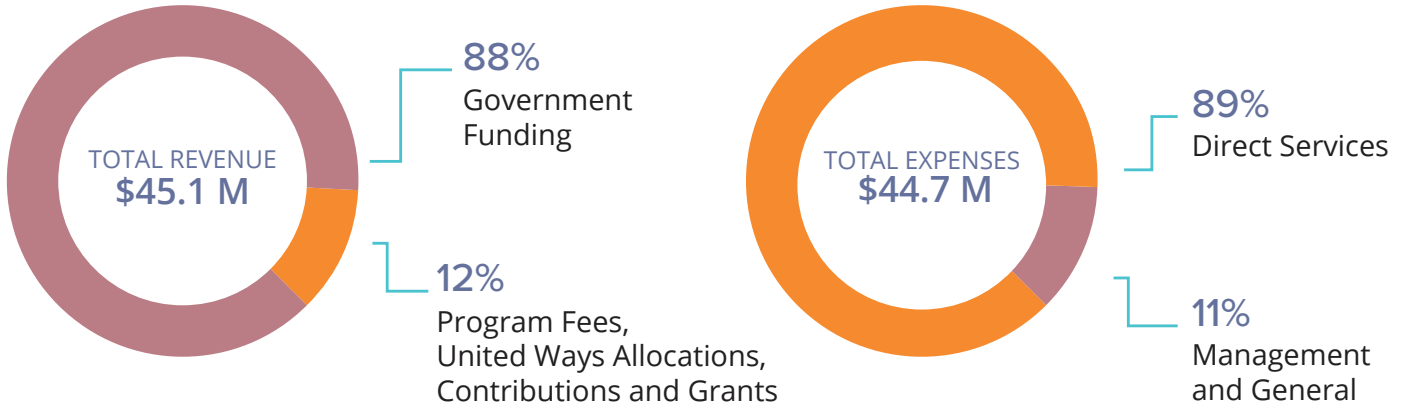


## Strength-Based

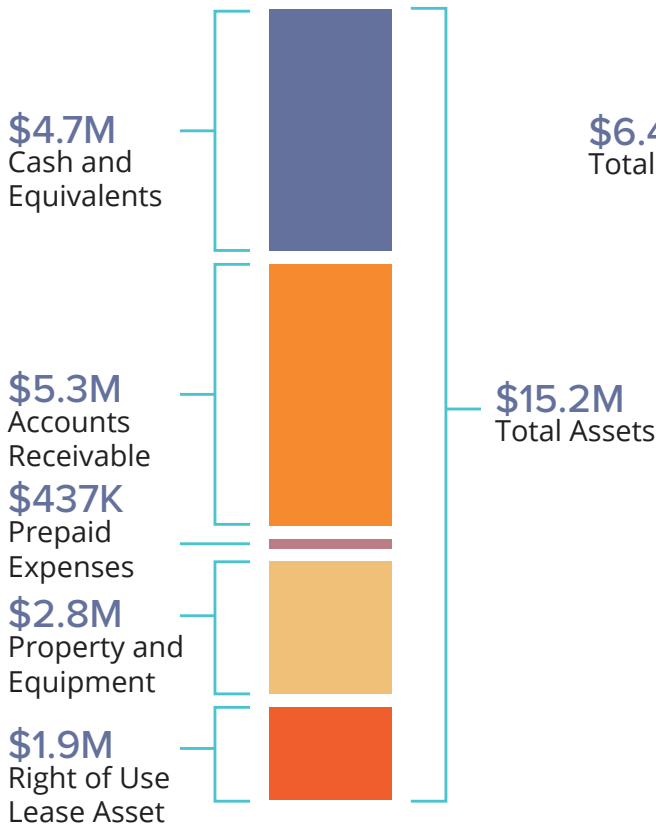


We affirm that every person has inherent worth, and when we help identify strengths, it empowers all involved to see potential solutions. While this practice is critical to all our programs, it is the foundation of our child abuse prevention and intervention services. We have expanded our child welfare team with professional **Foster Parent Mentors**, who work alongside our foster parents, giving them enhanced support and working with them directly on coming from a strength-based perspective when nurturing and caring for the children entrusted into their care.

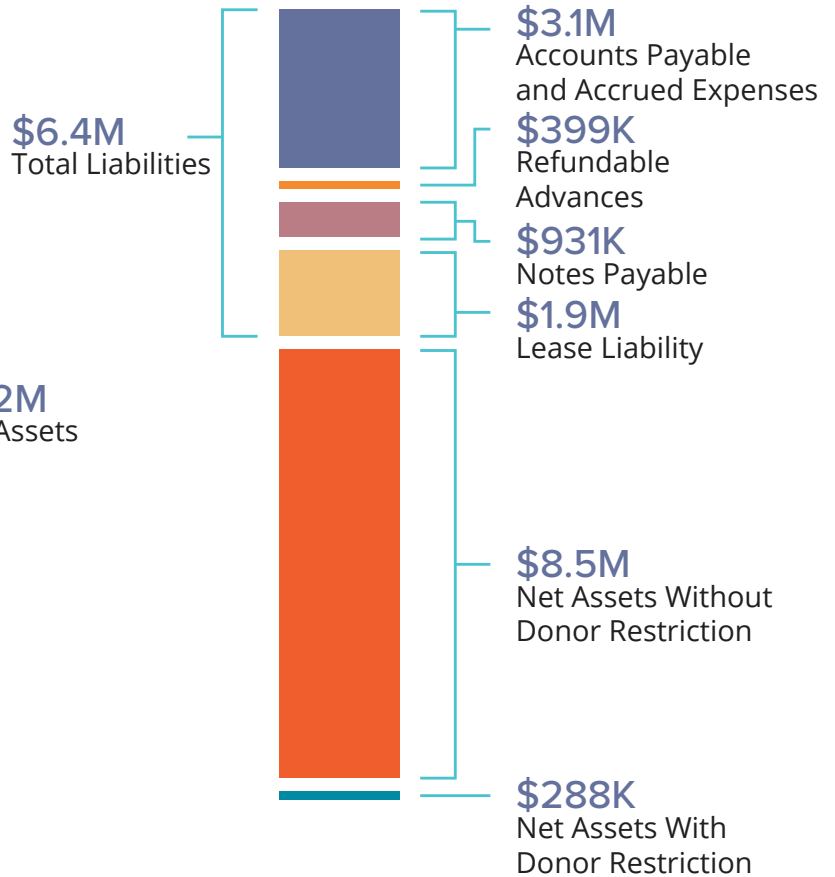
# Financial Position



## TOTAL ASSETS



## TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS



# CYFS is *Grateful* and *Strengthened* by your support

3Bros Hospitality LLC  
Dorothy Abbott  
Lindsey Adams  
Jennifer Addis  
Kim Aldus  
Cathy Algas  
Amanda and Jerry Allen  
Kami Anderson  
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Archer Daniels Midland  
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Cheryle Pruitt  
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Bill Reagan  
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Rex and Nelle Jackson Foundation  
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Judith Rullman  
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River Russell  
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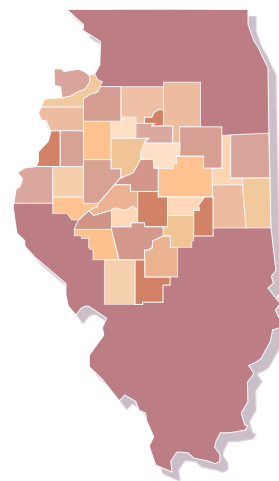
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