



# *Masterpiece in the Making*

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2025

**Engaging Community Partners  
to Improve the Lives of Children  
and Families**

**YOUTH  
ALLIANCE**  
St. Joseph, MO

# Substance Use Prevention MY JOURNEY, MY MASTERPIECE

This year's *My Future, My Choice* Youth Summit painted a vivid picture of what's possible when young people are given tools, encouragement, and vision for their future. High school students from the St. Joseph School District came together for a powerful day of inspiration, learning, and empowerment—all centered on the theme of making healthy decisions and building a strong foundation for life. Keynote speaker Tim Crowley challenged students to discover their "Natural High," reminding them that purpose, passion, and connection can fuel their lives far more than substances ever could. Breakout sessions added depth, offering strategies for mental health, substance use prevention, and coping with stress and anxiety. By the close of the summit, students recognized that every choice they make adds another brushstroke to the canvas of their lives. With new tools for resilience, healthier coping strategies, and a stronger sense of community, they left empowered to shape a brighter tomorrow. The Youth Summit reminded each participant that they are not finished works, but masterpieces in the making—growing, learning, and creating futures filled with promise.



**577** Students Served

**192** Compliance Checks Completed to Help Reduce Underage Drinking & Smoking

**2,992,758** R<sub>x</sub> Take Back

**1,572** Lbs of unused Medication Collected, serving **402 People**



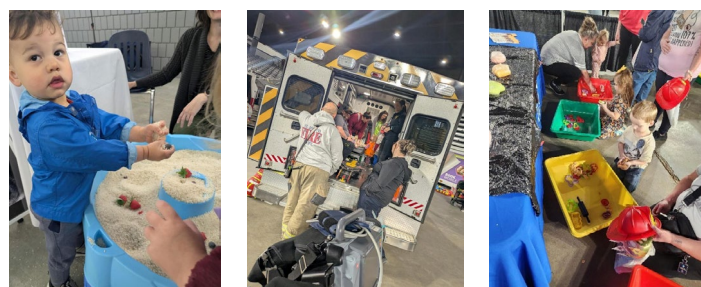
## Early Childhood Development BECOMING SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

### Community Leader

The Northwest Missouri Childhood Community Leaders initiative is a collaboration designed to enhance early childhood services across the region. In partnership with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), this program aims to ensure that families with children from birth to age five have access to high-quality early childhood education and resources. The Northwest region encompasses the following counties: Atchison, Nodaway, Worth, Gentry, Holt, Andrew, DeKalb, Clinton, Buchanan, Platte, Clay, Jackson, Cass, Bates, and Vernon. Each county benefits from tailored strategies and resources to meet its unique needs.

### Collaborative Network

*The earliest learning experiences are the first strokes on the canvas of a child's life.* The Collaborative Network supports Home Based Child Care, Infant/Toddler Care, and Preschool programs, ensuring that every child has access to high-quality care and the opportunity to thrive. These initiatives enhance both the quality and accessibility of child care for families



across our region. In Northwest Missouri, this important work is strengthened through collaboration—coordinated by the Mid America Regional Council and funded by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### Annual Children's Fair

This year's Annual Children's Fair, held at the vibrant civic area, was more than just an event—it was a canvas of discovery, imagination, and growth. Children explored interactive exhibits designed to engage their senses and minds, each one a brushstroke in their journey of early education. Among the highlights was the chance to climb aboard a real fire truck and ambulance—an unforgettable experience that brought community heroes face-to-face with future dreamers. The Annual Children's Fair is more than a day of fun—it's a reminder that every child is a masterpiece in the making. With each giggle, question, and wide-eyed moment, we see the strokes of brilliance forming.

### COMMUNITY LEADER

**27** Teachers

**643** Children

**615** Parents Received Community Leader Services

### COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

Childcare Centers Received Best Practices Training, Affecting **70 Teachers** and **457 Children**



## Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Every career journey begins with a spark, and we're here to help shape that spark into a masterpiece. With the right opportunities, support, and tools, anyone can thrive in the workforce. Through the WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and SkillUp programs, we're committed to unlocking that potential. The WIOA Adult Program ensures access to career services and training, especially for those facing employment barriers. For dislocated workers, we offer retraining and job placement to help restore stability and confidence. And through SkillUp, we empower SNAP recipients with job search assistance, skills training, and support services to build lasting career success. At the heart of each program is a belief in people—their resilience, their ambition, and their ability to shape a brighter future. Because when we invest in individuals, we help create masterpieces that uplift entire communities.

### P.O.W.E.R.

Just like an artist carefully shaping their work, the POWER Project helps parents craft new possibilities for themselves that can positively impact their children. With the right guidance and support, parents have the power to transform their circumstances. This program serves parents who are not working and owe child support by providing access to enhanced child support services, employment assistance, and personalized case management. Step by step, participants begin adding new brushstrokes of stability, responsibility, and hope to their lives. As they strengthen their economic footing, they also become a more reliable source of both financial and emotional support for their children. By empowering parents to see their own potential, the POWER Project helps create brighter futures—masterpieces that will continue to unfold for generations to come.

### Safe Sleep Program

A baby is a beautiful 'Masterpiece', and Safe Sleep 4 Babies works to keep it that way. This program is managed by the Safe Sleep 4 Babies Coalition who provides Safe Sleep awareness information, education and training to families of children under the age of one year in Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, and DeKalb counties. Caregivers who complete online training are eligible to receive a pack n' play and a safe Sleep kit to ensure that every infant can sleep the ABC way—Alone, on their Back, and in a Crib.

### JUMP

Journey to Unite Mentors and Parents provide services to individuals up to age 24 that are pregnant and parenting. Through the program, individuals receive case management, opportunities for social interaction, and mentor support from a community-based mentor. These young parents craft a 'life plan' to help them navigate the road to adulthood, free of unplanned pregnancies and strong in education/job readiness training. The outcome is truly a 'Masterpiece'!



### WIOA

**768** Adult Participants Served

### P.O.W.E.R.

**114** Clients Enrolled

**468** Provided Child Support Information

**\$112,310.56** Child Support Collected from Enrolled Clients

### SAFE SLEEP PROGRAM

**79** Cribs Distributed to Families in Need

### JUMP

**106** Children Served

**95** Parents/Care Takers Served

### LFPA

**10** Distribution Sites

**18,126** Pounds of Food Distributed

**7,304** Individuals Served



### LFPA

**Funding from the Local Food Purchase Agreement (LFPA) is helping paint a brighter picture for Northwest Missouri.** By connecting socially disadvantaged farmers and producers with underserved communities, LFPA brings fresh, locally desired foods directly to those who need them most. In partnership with Second Harvest Community Food Bank, LFPA funds are fueling mobile food distribution sites across a 12-county region, transforming food deserts into places of nourishment and hope. Each delivery is another brushstroke in creating a stronger, healthier future for families and farmers alike.

## Youth Employment & Mentoring BRILLIANCE UNFOLDING

Every young person holds the raw potential to shape a future full of purpose and possibility. With the right support, that potential becomes a masterpiece in the making—crafted through education, skill-building, and personal growth. Our dedicated staff work alongside young adults ages 17–24, helping them earn their high school equivalency, develop occupational skills, and build job readiness through programs like YouthBuild, WIOA Youth, and Missouri Mentoring Partnership. Current training opportunities include Construction, CNA, and Culinary, each one a brushstroke toward a brighter future. Because when we invest in young minds, we help them paint lives of resilience, confidence, and success.

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**24** Earned a High School Equivalency or Diploma

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**21** Earned a NCCER Construction Credential

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**12** Became a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)

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**15** Restaurant Ready Credentials

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## Youth Asset Development CREATION IN MOTION



Every young person is a canvas full of potential, and at Youth Volunteer Corps of St. Joseph, we are honored to be part of their masterpiece in the making. Through service-learning, our youth design and lead projects that not only meet community needs but also build their confidence, leadership, and sense of purpose. This year, we celebrated Daniel's selection to the International Youth Advisory Board, and now Landon is preparing to join for the 2025–2026 Project Year—highlighting how youth voices from St. Joseph are

being heard on a global stage. We are also honored to co-host the YVC Summit in Kansas City, bringing together youth from across the country to share their service and leadership experiences. Our Motivational Monday after-school program at Museum Hill Apartments continues to thrive, and we are preparing to expand into another housing complex so even more youth can take part, regardless of transportation barriers. Believe in the masterpiece our youth are becoming and watch their impact ripple through the community.

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**2,732** Youth Volunteer Hours

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**141** Service Projects Completed

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**26** Agencies Served by Youth Volunteers

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**95** Youth Volunteers

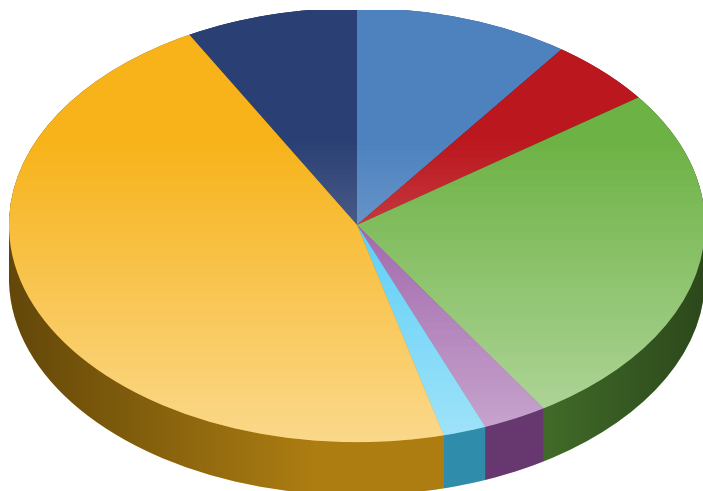
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## Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Revenues

The Youth Alliance has supported individuals and families in Northwest Missouri by bringing in more than \$42 million in resources over the past 34 years to address crisis prevention, substance use prevention, early childhood education, employment/mentoring, and youth asset development. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, program and cash revenues totaled \$2,774,398.56. Volunteers logged 3,364.38 hours valued at \$107,057.28. In-kind donations totaled \$230,283.74. Overall, the Youth Alliance's total contributed resources for fiscal year 2024-2025 were valued at \$3,111,739.58.



- 10% Community Partnership
- 5% Early Childhood Education
- 26% Crisis Prevention
- 3% Substance Use Prevention
- 2% Youth Asset Development
- 46% Youth Employment & Mentoring
- 8% Administration

*Thank you*  
to everyone who made  
this a successful year.  
We appreciate your support.

**Seated front:** Amy Riddle

**Front row (from top to bottom):** Kristin White, Kathryn Hernandez, Callie Healey, Annette Barker, Amber Thorp, Natasha Christmas, Tara Curtis, La'Sherrie Tyes, Erica Hodge, Stephanie Tam, Shannon Neal

**Back row (from top to bottom):** Julie Wiedmer, Michelle Schildknecht, Lewis Rice, Anita Jolly, Ricky Morton, Robin Hammond, Ben Girard, Misty Coyle, Rick Stepanek



## Board of Directors

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**Roger Lenander** *Honorary*

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Buchanan County	Hillyard Industries, Inc.	Mosaic Life Care	STJ Downtown Investment Fund
Commissioner's Office	Hofheimer Charitable Trust	Murphy, Watson, Burr Eye Center Inc.	Summers Motors
Buchanan County Court, State of MO	Jason & Stefanie Strong	Natasha Christmas	Summit Truck Bodies
Buchanan County Prosecutors Office	Jeff & Kristi Langdon	Northwest Health Services	Sunshine Electronic Display Corp.
Buchanan County Sheriff's Office	Jerry Mogg	NW Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #3	Susan Campbell
Central High School PTSA	Jill Gaiser	Optimist Club of St. Joseph Foundation	T.S. Conard
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City of St. Joseph Police Department	Justina Hammond	Rick & Alice Stepanek	Tilton, Thomas, Morgan Inc.
Cody & Missy Vaughn	Kathy Wessler	Roberts Roofing	United Fiber
Colten Joseph	Kenton Randolph	Robin Hammond	University of Missouri
Commerce Bank (Felix Street)	Kerry Ames	Roger & Randi Leander	Wayne Graeff
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DDS H. Steven Hoerath	Larry Stobbs Jr		Woods & Bruce Electric, LLC
Family Investment Center	LeeAnn Leonard		Wyatt Park Christian Church
	Lewis Rice		

## Business Partners

Action Electric	Hazel's	Second Harvest Community Food Bank
Al J. Mueller Construction	Heritage Guttering	Sisters of Solace
Altec	Hillyards, Inc.	Society for Human Resource Managers (N.W. Chapter)
Bellevue Care Center	Missouri Association of Nursing Home Administrators (MANHA)	Sunflower Homestead
Benedictine Living Community	Missouri Job Center	St. Joseph Housing Authority
Café Belle Epoque	Missouri Restaurant Association	St. Joseph School District
Carpenters Local Union 110	Missouri Western State University	St. Joseph Transit
Chara's Table	Mosaic Life Care	Tarkio Tech
Clark's Custom Meats	Mosaic Life Care Foundation	Thrivent Financial
City of St. Joseph	MWSU Nursing Department	Vocational Rehabilitation
Citywide Plumbing	NWMO Psychiatric Rehab. Center	Wal-Mart
Equus Workforce Solutions	Olive Garden	Warehouseman Training
Family Guidance Center	Peak 2 Peak Roofing	YWCA
First Lutheran Church	Pivotal Point	
Gower Convalescent Center		

## Individual Members

Christopher Connally	Kailee Smith	Richard Bird
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Jeannie Knowles	Melissa Lawyer	Sharon Ritchey
Jeff Langdon	Michelle Fagerstone	Susan Campbell
Jenni Jimenez	Pam Klaus	Wayne Wilson

Youth Alliance is an equal opportunity employer/program. All applicants will be considered for employment/the program without attention to race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran, or disability status.

### Steven's Amendment Statement 2024-2025

The Youth Alliance is supported by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Labor (DOL) as part of financial assistance awards totaling \$1,716,197 with 46% funded by ETA/DOL, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at \$1,488,804 with 40% funded by ACF/HHS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at \$202,656 with 5% funded by USDA, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at \$20,000 with 1% funded by HUD, and the amount of \$294,099 and 8% funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ETA/DOL, ACF/HHS, USDA, HUD or the U.S. Government.

## Agency Members

Buchanan County Sheriff's Office  
City of St. Joseph Health Department  
First Lutheran Church  
Junior League  
Missouri Western State University  
MWSU Center of Workforce Development  
Northwest Health Services  
Randolph Mobility & Wellness  
Saint Joseph School District  
Second Harvest Community Food Bank  
SJC Marketing  
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce  
St. Joseph Parks & Recreations Department  
St. Joseph Public Library  
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5223 Mitchell Avenue  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
816-232-0050 • youthalliance.org