



Est. **YDC** 1997
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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY/PAL

Annual Report 2024



**Empowering,
Educating,
& Committed
to Growth**

ydcpal.org

269-639-2489

PO Box 453

South Haven, MI 49090

A Message from our the Board President

Dear Community,

Since 1997, Youth Development Company (YDC) has been a catalyst for change in southwest Van Buren and Berrien counties. What began in South Haven has expanded to serve Bangor, Coloma, Gobles, and South Haven—impacting children, families, and entire communities. Through over 28 years of growth, YDC's guiding principle has remained the same: what is best for the children must always come first. This dedication has enabled children to thrive intellectually, socio-emotionally, and physically. As you explore this year's Annual Report, you'll find milestones that reflect YDC's impact on our community's youth.

Commitment & Dedication:

YDC's success is driven by the extraordinary commitment of its staff. Every day, they create a nurturing environment, offer quality education, and lead by example. Many staff members go beyond their roles by continuing their education to better serve children and families. It is inspiring to see staff who view their work not as a job but as a calling.

YDC also promotes giving back. Across its locations, YDC has led resource drives and partnered with schools, libraries, businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations. These collaborations strengthen our community and show the power of working together. A heartfelt thank you to our supporters, donors, partners, and the YDC Board of Directors. Your generosity makes our mission possible.

Looking to the Future:

YDC is focused on sustainability and elevating program quality. As resources shift, building new partnerships and nurturing existing ones will help fill gaps and enhance our services.

My sincere gratitude to YDC staff, supporters, donors, partners, and the Board for your continued support. I look forward to many more years of fulfilling YDC's mission: Empowering success and nurturing dreams while providing a safe haven for youth to grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

All the best,

Angelica Gallegos-Dickerson

YDC Board President



Dear Supporters and Friends,

At Youth Development Company (YDC), our mission is to unlock every child's potential through guidance, mentorship, and support. As we celebrate our achievements, we understand that long-term sustainability is essential for growing, evolving, and serving future generations. By strengthening our foundation, we can broaden our impact and build a resilient organization that adapts to the ever-changing needs of children and families.

Central to our success is the unwavering dedication of our YDC team. Their commitment goes beyond daily responsibilities—they continuously invest in their professional growth, pursuing education and training to provide the highest quality care and mentorship. Their passion for youth development and lifelong learning creates an environment where children not only thrive today but are equipped to lead tomorrow.

Investing in sustainable growth through strategic partnerships, financial stability, operational efficiency, and innovative programming ensures our mission remains strong. Together, we are shaping a future where today's vulnerable youth become tomorrow's confident leaders.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our remarkable staff, whose dedication and professionalism drive our mission forward, as well as to our donors, partners, stakeholders, and board of directors. Your unwavering support enabled us to serve more than 688 children in 2024 while building a brighter, more promising future.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the opportunities before us and the lasting change we can achieve together. Your continued support is vital to ensuring every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and succeed. Thank you for believing in our mission and joining us in creating a legacy of lasting impact.

Warm regards,

Brook Blanchard

Executive Director





OUR MISSION

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

Empowering for success and developing dreams while providing a safe haven for youth to grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

CORE VALUES:

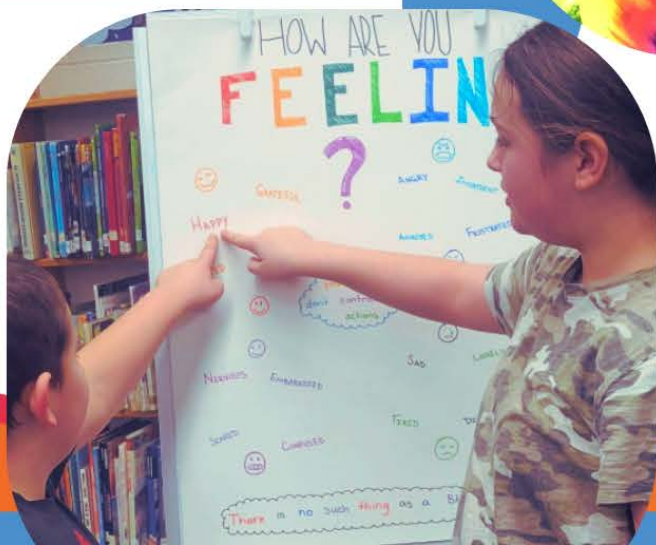
Safety First

Integrity

Excellence

Collaboration

Growth Mindset



OUR PROGRAMS

After School & Summer Camp

Preschool and Early Child Education

Youth Mentorship





YOUTH IMPACT

Improved Sense of Community

81% Increase in Active Volunteering and Engaged in Community events

Increased Physical Activity

92% Increased Physical Activity and Foundational Sports Skills & Healthy living



Improved Literacy

50% Improvement

Improved Overall Behavior

68% Improvement

82% Improved Social Emotional Skills

Leadership
Self-Awareness
Teamwork
Peer Relationships
Decision Making
Peer Socialization

GROWING LEADERS



Adriana O. 
YDC/PAL Parent

I literally couldn't have picked a better place for my babies to attend this summer. the amount of things they fo for them and the fun they have amazes me. The days I don't have to work they still manage to make sure i am up at 7am so they are dropped off in time. The staff and youth mentors do such an amacing job. We can't wait til next summer! ❤️❤️



POLICE ATHLETICS ACTIVITIES LEAGUE



HIGHLIGHTS

**80% Improved Student and Family Perception of
Law Enforcement and Uniformed officials**



- ✓ CPR/First Aid Training
- ✓ Staff Emergency Support
- ✓ Firefighter Water Days
- ✓ Career Day, Q&A's
- ✓ Armed Forces Q&A's



Preschool and Early Childcare Learning Center Successes!

Voted Best of South Haven Child Care 2024

26 Preschoolers Graduated to Kindergarten

Professional Development Achieved 1092 hours

76% of our Team is Highly Qualified

Coloma Learning Center Natural Playground Renovation



SOUTH HAVEN TRIBUNE - BEST OF 2024			
Best of South Haven	Furniture Store	Garden Center	Jewelry Store
1st. County House Furniture 2nd. Larkspur Interiors 3rd. Furniture's Daughter	1st. North Shore Garden Center 2nd. Larkspur Interiors 3rd. Minner	1st. Johnny's Larkspur Jewellers 2nd. Larkspur Interiors 3rd. Emerald Boutique	
SERVICES			
Auto Repair	Day Care	Hair Salon	House Cleaning
1st. Rocco's Standard Service 2nd. West Coast Car Company 3rd. E&R Auto Repair	1st. Youth Development Company 2nd. South Haven Play School 3rd. Camp Connection	1st. Hair by Mike 2nd. Larkspur Interiors 3rd. Larkspur Interiors	1st. Coastal Clean 2nd. Home West 3rd. Common Cleaning
Bank/Credit Union	Financial Planner	Hotel	Insurance Agency
1st. Home Credit Union 2nd. Chapple Bank 3rd. Consumers Credit Union	1st. Paul Wu - Edward Jones 2nd. Westshore Wealth Management	1st. Hotel Howard 2nd. Holiday Inn 3rd. Old Harbor Inn	1st. North Insurance 2nd. State Farm 3rd. Apple Insurance

THANK YOU SOUTH HAVEN COMMUNITY!!!

Thank you for your Votes!
Youth Development Company/PAL is proud to have been voted as the number one choice for Day Care Services in the South Haven community.

Our Preschool and Early Childhood Learning Center and Out of School Time program are open for Enrollment at www.ydcpal.org

Charlee Carrillo is with Stephen Nicholas Carrillo.
about an hour ago

After staying home with Grayson for two years and Raleigh for 3 months, I was so scared to send both of these guys to any daycare or center in order to go back to work! It was a learning curve for us all to settle into the routine without it being emotional (mostly me). But I am so blessed to have the absolute best people caring for and loving on our little guys! Grayson is now sees me and doesn't even want to leave! Raleigh just soaks in everything around him!! Choosing the YDC in Gobles was hands down the best choice we made! Thank you Veronica [Kellee Elianna](#) and of course Graysons crew with Ms. Kim and Ms. Shelby!



You, Mary Swinehart and 17 others

Words from the YDC Community and Families



Holley M.

YDC/PAL Parent

Thank you for a great program! Sam had so much fun and gained a lot of confidence during this summer!



Angela LaBarca 

YDC/PAL Community Member

Everyone I know from YDC/PAL is incredible with kind hearts and creative spirits so I am sure you will love the organization 



Rachel D.

YDC/PAL Grandparent

YDC is so incredible  My granddaughter enjoyed every single day. I am mostly impressed with how Megan and the staff reminded the kids to care and respect each other at all times, and it really showed 



Serving our Community Community Give Back Event 2024

A heartfelt thank you to the First Responders Children's Foundation for their generous donation of new clothes, school supplies and household items, which helped over 600 families across YDC service areas. Through our Community Give Back event alone, 400 families had the opportunity to access essential items they may not have otherwise been able to afford. We also appreciate the 10 dedicated volunteers who helped our team organize these impactful events!

Thank you to South Haven Meijer for donating bags! Additionally, more than 3,700 pairs of Bombas socks were donated to the Maple Grove Elementary Socktober sock drive. These socks were distributed to local pantries, reaching numerous families across Van Buren County. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making a difference in our community!



It Takes a Village!

Serving our Community Events of 2024

More than
250 Boxes!



Gobles Afterschool partnered with Gobles Public Schools National Honor Society for a "Domino Effect" food drive, collecting full-size cereal boxes to create a domino chain in the school. The donations will go to the Community Pantry. The NHS is organizing a competition among middle school grades to earn points for their contributions. This collaboration aims to make a positive impact.

More than
600
Blankets!



GOBLES afterschool, with the help of other afterschool locations, KNOCKED IT OUT OF THE PARK!!!! They made over 600 blankets that were delivered to domestic violence shelters, throughout, Southwest Michigan and Bronson Methodist Pediatric Unit. We are so proud of all of our YDC kids, the Gobles student volunteers, and everyone else who helped make this happen! Huge shout out to Menards for the blankets!

It Takes a Village!

Serving our Community thru Collaboration of 2024



Coloma Public Library
July 3, 2024 · 🌐

We love doing outreach! We hosted kids from the [Youth Development Company/PAL Coloma Summer Program](#) for a library visit recently, as well as those from the Summer Migrant School Program!



South Haven Black River Lions Club
May 8, 2024 · 🌐

Tonight we hung out at the [Youth Development Company/PAL South Haven](#) open house offering free vision screening to those who visited. Lions Nila, Amy, and Blake worked with screening and Cub Zoey handed out stickers.

Our club is here to screen kids and help with any child or adult unable to afford their optometrist visit and eye glass needs.

Thanks for having us out to your event!



YDC Preschool and Early Childcare Learning Centers is at Gobles Public Schools.
20h · Gobles · 🌐

A huge shoutout to juniors Kylee and Daisy and senior Lily from Gobles High School's varsity basketball team! These amazing athletes visited our preschool classroom tod... See more



It Takes a Village!

WEBSITE
ydcpal.org



**Growing
Careers
With YDC**

OUR COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TEAM

**Congratulations To Our Six Team Members
Who Achieved their Child Development
Associates Credential this Year!**



**COUNCIL
for
PROFESSIONAL
RECOGNITION**



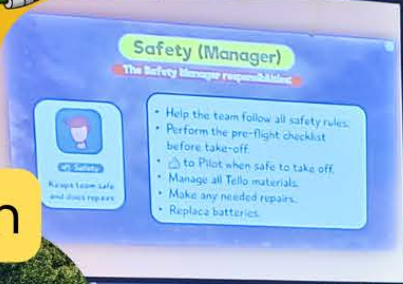
**Thank you for
your
commitment
to Lifelong
Learning**



**BUILD, REPAIR,
& FLY DRONES!**



Thank you
South Haven
Community Foundation





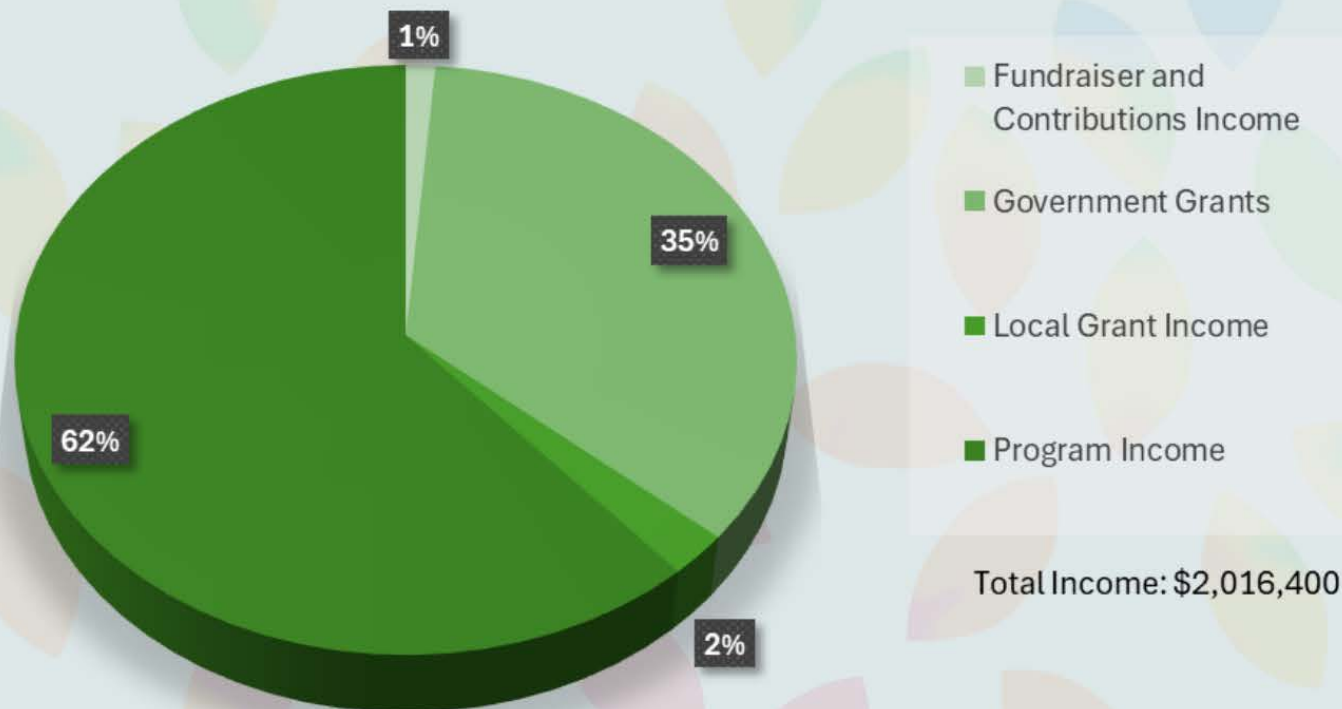
Thank You Rotary Club of South Haven Your Donation Helped Provide Funds for the Intergenerational Outdoor including the Garden and Playground



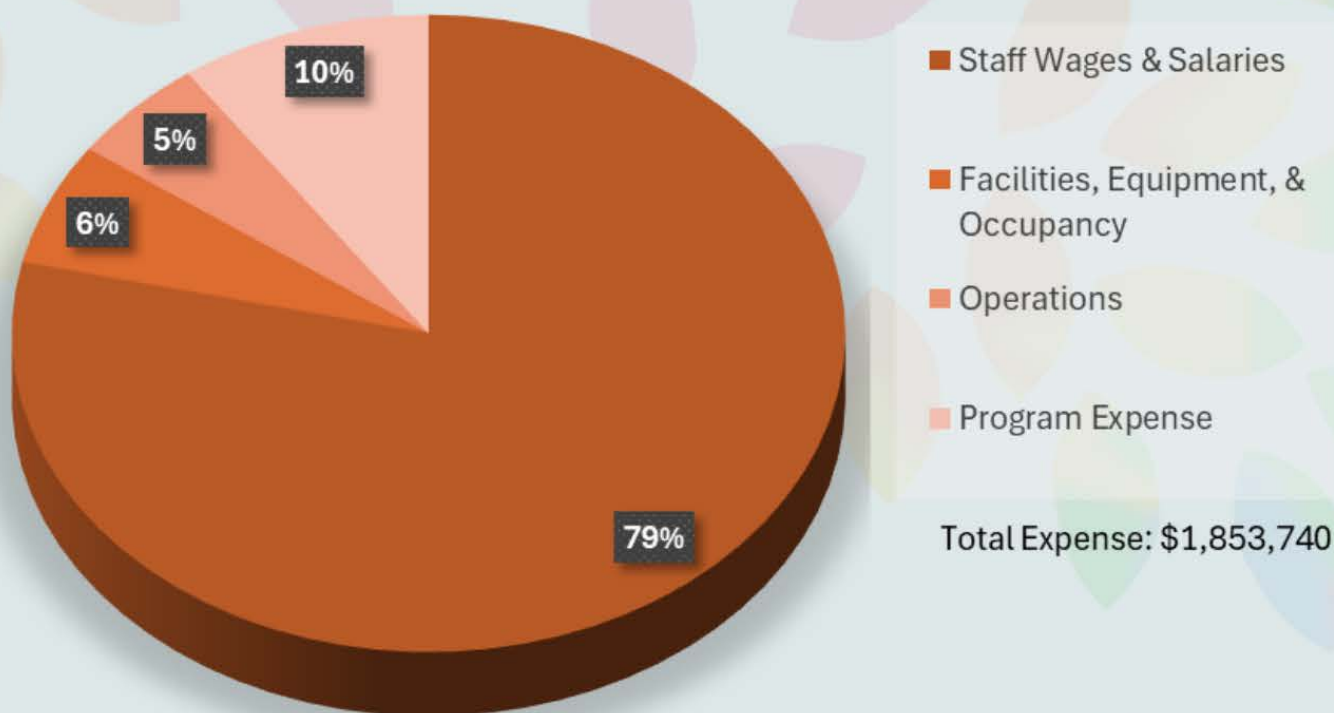


2024 Transparency Reporting

Income By Source 2024



Expense Breakdown 2024



Unaudited



A VERY SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PARENTS, PARTNERS, SPONSORS, AND DONORS!

**It truly takes a village and team effort to create meaningful experiences
for children in our communities!**

Our mission would not be possible without your support!

THANK YOU TO OUR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Angelica Gallegos-
Dickerson**

Board President

John "GB" Richmond
Treasurer

Robin McGinnis
Secretary

Anthony McNair
Board Member

Larissa Osterbaan
Board Member

Rob Byrd
Board Member

Scott Whiteford
Board Member

Ken Overholser
Board Member



FREDERICK S. UPTON
Foundation



**First
Baptist
Church**

Hotel Nichols
South Haven, MI



HARBOR LIGHT
BREWERY
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN



Bangor Public Schools

Providing Educational Excellence as a Pathway to Success



HARDT INSURANCE
SINCE 1906



BERRIEN
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
For Good. For Ever.™

