



# YouthHope

Annual Impact Report

2024





"The system gives up on kids like my son. Who's here to lift him up?"

Sheniyah, Single Mom





# The Need

Mental Health | Youth Suicide | Academic Difficulties | Anger Issues  
Juvenile Crime | Chronic Absenteeism | Addiction | Teen Pregnancy

21%

CHILDREN AGE 5-17 ARE  
LIVING IN **POVERTY**  
IN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY



1 IN 7 YOUTH ARE  
**FOOD INSECURE**

54%

OF YOUTH **LACK**  
**TRANSPORTATION** TO  
ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

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Programs are available to low-income children and teens at no cost. Students learn life skills and behaviors to succeed in school, family, and the workplace. We provide Mentoring and Life-skills training.

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EVERY Youth Center program includes a meal for every student! Each day at Camp Summit, kids and teens receive three delicious and nutritious meals. Our Food Pantry is available for any-one needing food assistance.

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YouthHope provides transportation to and from programs. We pick up kids and teens from school or home to ensure transportation is not a barrier to attend. YouthHope partners with 18 Public Schools and serves 36 low-income neighborhoods.

## Dear Friend,

I am filled with immense gratitude for all God has done in and through YouthHope this past year! 2024 was a season of transition, growth, transformation, and hope for our community. Our work has been defined by both challenges and tremendous victories, each one reminding us of the importance of our mission. We are reaching more kids than ever, offering a safe space with fun, connection, and HOPE! Every challenge we encounter is an opportunity to love kids well and minister to their needs in meaningful ways.

### In 2025 our vision is clear . . . **MORE KIDS!**

Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." The Quad Cities are full of kids and teens who need the life-changing love and hope of Christ, and we are called to answer that need. We are focusing on three key areas:

- **Maximizing our current programs,**
- **Amplifying outreach efforts, and**
- **Pursuing growth opportunities.**

As we continue to do this amazing work, we ask for your continued prayers and support. Together, we can bring more kids into the life-changing love of Jesus!

With gratitude and hope,



**Esther Joy King**  
Executive Director







# Snapshot of IMPACT



- **Average Monthly Attendance is 424** at-risk kids and teens!

- **384 kids and teens** attended Camp Summit!

- **9,779 Student Meals** served in 2024!

- **11,323 individuals** served through Food Pantry!

- **5 Church Mission Trips and Service Projects** hosted!

- **604 Students** heard Gospel message!

- **20 Public School Partners** for Mentoring, Art, and Program Pick-Up!



# Methods of Ministry

Every Program includes a meal and access to transportation for participating kids and teens. Programs are offered at no cost to low-income students and families in-need.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Food Pantry  
Holiday Food Baskets  
Children's Book Room  
School Collaborations  
Summer Park Programs  
Housing Complex Fairs

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## YOUTH CENTERS

After School Programs  
Weekend Programs  
CRE8 Studios  
Mentoring & Tutoring  
Leadership Club  
Life & Job Skills Training

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## CAMP SUMMIT

Sleep-Away Camp  
Screen-Free  
Surrounded by Nature  
Positive Role Models  
Character, Courage & Confidence Building



## OUR MISSION

To bring at-risk children and teens from low-income areas into a life-changing relationship with Christ by encouraging, empowering, and equipping them through Community Outreach, Youth Center, and Camp Summit Programs.

## OUR PURPOSE

We passionately and persistently pursue at-risk kids and teens through authentic relationships to lead them to HOPE in Jesus! We utilize holistic curriculum and programs to meet the Spiritual, physical, emotional, educational, and vocational needs of low-income and at-risk youth.

- **Spiritual:** Jesus is the answer to every need. We present the Gospel always.
- **Physical:** Programs integrate physical activity and games.
- **Emotional:** Teaching spiritual basis for emotional processing.
- **Educational:** Provide mentoring, tutoring and homework help.
- **Vocational:** Life skills, scholarships, and exposure to opportunities.

## OUR HISTORY

YouthHope has been serving the Quad Cities community for the past 89 years! A strong, volunteer-led beginning started in 1936 by a women's Bible Study Group in Rock Island, Illinois. With the original name of Christian Friendliness Association, our beginning was in response to the needs of immigrants and families in low-income areas. YouthHope has a legacy of impact and continues to faithfully serve at-risk youth and families in need.



# Community Outreach

**Our Fall Party was our largest Evangelism Event yet in YouthHope's history!**

Families from the community came for the bounce houses, fun games, entertainment, prizes and a free meal. During this outreach event, 220 kids (plus parents) heard the Gospel message shared, and more than 100 kids raised their hand to accept Christ!



## Family-Centric Events



### Back to School Bash

321 kids received backpacks & school supplies



### Community Fairs & Parades

Connecting with families & collaborating with partners



### Fall Party

220 kids plus parents heard the Gospel Message



### Holiday Food Baskets

302 families received food, gift cards encouragement & prayer





# Community Outreach

Our goal for all our Community Outreach programs and events is to meet new students, offer enrichment opportunities, engage them in Youth Center and Camp Summit Programs, and introduce them to Jesus! Meeting Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, Educational, and Vocational Needs

## YOUTH HOPE FOOD PANTRY

**Food assistance** for families in need.

## AFTER SCHOOL ART CLUBS

Providing **Positive Art Enrichment Classes for THREE Public Elementary Schools** where art is not included in the curriculum for any students.

## STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAMS

**Two Elementary Schools** during in-school hours for students selected by school counselors as high-risk and need emotional encouragement, behavior support, and positive influence.

## QUAD CITY YOUTH CONFERENCE

**Engaged 500+ junior high/high school students** with information, support, and ministry moments.

## PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Neighborhoods, Parks, Community Organizations

## NEIGHBORHOOD & HOME VISITS

Staff and Volunteers **connect with families and neighbors through prayer** walks, pop-up booths, and food deliveries.



# Youth Centers

An 8th-grade boy attended our Teen Guy's Night Program after being kicked out of his home. His mother, troubled by the choices he was making, gave him an ultimatum: Go to YouthHope to show he was ready to change. Staff sat down with him, and shared how his choices will lead him to Heaven or Hell. In that moment, He chose Heaven! Our team led him in a prayer to receive Jesus. He is now a regular in our Youth Center programs!

**Stories like this highlight why we do what we do—bringing hope, transformation, and the love of Christ to those who need it most.**

**Every challenge we encounter is an opportunity to love kids well and minister to their needs in meaningful ways.**

YouthHope offers after-school, evening and weekend programs for kids and teens grades K-12. Youth have a safe, structured and supervised place to learn, play and grow all year! CRE8 Studios, a creative arts ministry, incorporates life skills and arts enrichment through sewing, dance, music, theatre, spoken word, ceramics, and art. Kids and teens play and decompress after school, enjoy free gym time, work on homework, and have fun! Every student receives a meal at EVERY program!

Transportation is provided to and from the youth center programs. Bible Lessons, Scripture Memorization, Worship, and Prayer are always the center of programs. Kids read God's Word, learn about His love, and find HOPE in Christ.

Average  
Attendance

**424 students**

901 unique  
students  
attended





# A Safe Place for Youth





# Summer Camps & Retreats

**HIKING • FISHING • BOATING • ZIPLINE • ARCHERY •  
SWIMMING • NATURE • WORSHIP • TRANSFORMED LIVES**

Camp Summit is owned and operated by YouthHope. It is located on 65 acres of beautiful forest in New Windsor, Illinois. Life-long memories are made by at-risk and low-income kids and teens at Camp Summit!

## **2024 Summer Camps: 384 Campers Attended!**

- 8 week-long sessions of sleep-away camp
- Bible lessons about who God Is (Exodus 34:6)
- Live Worship and Guest Speakers
- A break from screens and poverty-related stress
- New friends, s'mores and more!

Teams work together and learn communication, forgiveness, and teamwork. Camp Staff are positive role models who exhibit patience, conflict resolution, and respect. Campers have group devotions, worship, and a place to ask all their questions about God!









# From A Board Member

"I am excited to be part of this vibrant organization that is sharing Jesus while loving and nurturing at-risk kids. I feel that God called me to be part of the board of directors to utilize my passions, gifts, and experiences to support the mission of YouthHope. I strongly believe in supporting YouthHope financially to enable current ministry programs and to facilitate future growth in an effort to reach more and more children and youth.

— Kathy Ramp, YouthHope Board Member





# Your IMPACT?

## Help Bring Youth Hope

### **PARTNER IN PRAYER**

Join us in praying for all areas of ministry and impact! Pray for: kids, teens, and families we serve, board, staff, and volunteers, safe transportation, programs and facilities, clear vision, decision making, and growth opportunities, and for all needs to be provided for!

### **JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER**

Bring your skills, talents, and experiences to serve students, and support staff, and help YouthHope operate efficiently and effectively. If God is calling you to get involved, there is a specific volunteer need that you will fit!

### **BECOME A FINANCIAL PARTNER**

Join our support team as an investor in the eternity of kids and teens! Help send kids to camp, provide food for families in need, or directly support a YouthHope staff. Whether through a monthly ACH donation, an annual gift, or a planned gift, your investment will help bring youth HOPE!

**Make an infinite IMPACT!**

## **Board of Directors**

**Richard Willard**

*President*

**Brett Van**

*Vice President*

**Amy Tessmer**

*Treasurer*

**Sheryl Darrell**

*Secretary*

**Esther Joy King**

*Executive Director*

**Mark Drake**

**Angelo Julien**

**Dave Kunzmann**

**Steve Layer**

**Kathy Ramp**



**555**

Total  
Volunteers



**5,185**

Volunteer  
Hours



**\$175,045**

Value of '24  
Volunteer Hours

# Volunteer IMPACT

**Volunteers make a significant impact on our mission:** serving families, building community, and bringing youth HOPE! The passion, skills, commitment, and faithful service of our amazing volunteers contribute to the overall strength, efficiency, and effectiveness of YouthHope.

*“YouthHope changed my life, and I’m so glad God brought me here.”*

- Laurie, Volunteer





# 2024 Partnerships & Collaborations

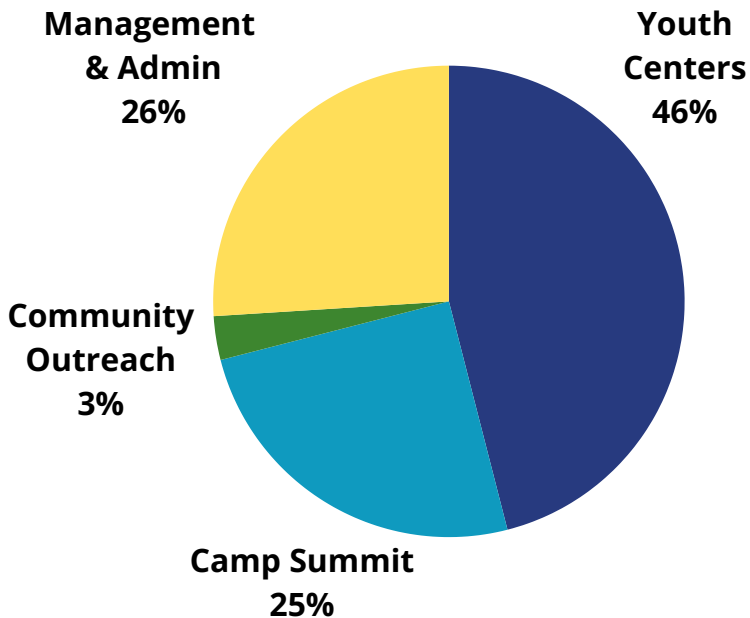
- 20 Public Schools from 4 Quad City School Districts
- TEEN REACH Program with MLK Community Center
- YMCA NOURISH Program for meals for kids & teens
- East Moline School District YouthHope Art Clubs
- United Way Quad Cities School Partners Coalition
- Local and Regional Food Banks & Food Distributors
- 5 Church Urban Missions Trips & Service Projects

**We are grateful for our  
83 Church Partners who help share  
the Gospel & bring HOPE!**

Local Missions Support  
Food and Program Material Drives  
Work Days & Special Project Teams  
Camp Summit Event Rentals

# Financial Report

2024 ANNUAL BUDGET



## Financial Strength, Sustainability, & Stability

- YouthHope Operates Debt Free and fully own all facilities.
- Cash Reserves, Endowment and Long-term Investments.
- YouthHope has operated in the black for the past 38 years.
- YouthHope does not directly receive Government Funding.

## 2024 Annual Operating Budget

- Program Services & Expenses \$1,035,180
- Management & Admin Expenses \$ 363,410





# Planned Giving

## LONG-TERM & ETERNAL IMPACT THROUGH LEGACY PARTNERSHIP

There are smart and creative ways to increase your impact - often benefiting your family too.

### GIFTS IN A WILL

When you give to ministry from your will or trust, you model a legacy of generosity. You also help ensure YouthHope will continue to have an impact for generations to come.

### GIFTS THAT PAY INCOME

Lifetime income gifts are a wonderful solution if you wish you could give more and receive steady income for the rest of your life.

### GIFTS THAT REDUCE TAXES

By giving non-cash assets, you experience tax benefits and increase your impact. Examples of Non-Cash Gifts Include:

- Retirement Accounts
- Stock
- Business Interests
- Farm Commodities
- Personal Property
- Real Estate



## LegacyCircle

**Coming in 2025, to honor  
all of our faithful  
supporters!**

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If you are 70 1/2 or older, you may qualify for an extraordinary giving option from your IRA for significant tax benefits!



***Together, we bring youth HOPE!***