

Save OUR Youth
MENTORING

2025

IMPACT
REPORT





Table of Contents

- 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS**
- 2. LETTER FROM THE CEO**
- 3. ABOUT SAVE OUR YOUTH**
- 4. VISION & MISSION**
- 5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- 6. WHO WE SERVE**
- 7. WHO WE SERVE (CONT.)**
- 8. WHO WE SERVE (CONT.)**
- 9. OUR PROGRAM**
- 10. OUR PROGRAM (CONT.)**
- 11. OUR MODEL**
- 12. OUR MODEL (CONT.)**
- 13. OUR EVENTS**
- 14. OUR PROGRAMS**
- 15. OUR IMPACT**
- 16. OUR IMPACT (CONT.)**
- 17. OUTCOMES THAT LEAD TO HOPE**
- 18. EXPANSION LAUNCH**
- 19. ENCOURAGING MATCH STORIES**
- 20. ENCOURAGING MATCH STORIES (CONT.)**
- 21. SOURCES OF SUPPORT**
- 22. INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH**
- 23. PARTNERS (CHURCHES)**
- 24. PARTNERS (FOUNDATIONS)**
- 25. PARTNERS (ORGANIZATIONS & CORPORATIONS)**
- 26. IN LOVING MEMORY - JULIO IVAN VASQUEZ GONZALEZ**



LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends of Save Our Youth,

This past year was another incredibly meaningful and impactful year for our organization. Because of your support, we continued to do what matters most: **connect young people to hope through one-to-one, Christ-centered relationships.**

One of the clearest signs of overall impact is measured by the growth of mentoring matches. In 2025 alone, we launched 96 new matches! 96 young people now connected to a caring adult who is showing up, walking alongside them, and pointing them toward hope. That's not just a number. **That's 96 new stories currently being written.**

One of those stories comes from Hannah (mentor) and Jessica (mentee). When they first met, Hannah questioned whether mentoring was needed, given Jessica's strong support system. But after attending our Deep Dive training, she discovered new and meaningful ways to connect. In one of their latest goal setting meetings, their mentoring specialist asked what Jessica appreciated most about Heather, and she spoke highly of her presence, her advice, and her passion. As she described Hannah in those three words, Hannah fought back tears. Later, she shared with her mentoring specialist, **"I had no idea I meant that much to her."** It was a powerful reminder that simply being present can make all the difference.

We also took a significant step forward in expanding our mission through the launch of our **Hope Partner Program**. This initiative allows churches, ministries, and nonprofits to implement the Save Our Youth mentoring model within their own communities. In 2025, we established our first two Hope Partners in Longmont and Albuquerque.

This matters because it changes how we think about growth. Instead of needing to build full infrastructure in every new location, we can **equip others** to do the work of mentoring where they already are. It allows the mission to move faster, further, and more faithfully.

As we look back, we see evidence of God's faithfulness in every story, every match, and every place we had the opportunity to serve. As we look ahead, we see even more of the **Lord's faithfulness** in allowing us to continue to serve those we come across.

None of this happens without you, so we **thank you for believing in this work**. Thank you for investing in relationships that change lives: for every young person we serve, and for those we have yet to reach.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raul Davis".

President & CEO





ABOUT SAVE OUR YOUTH



Save Our Youth was founded in 1994 in response to Denver’s historic Summer of Violence—created to meet the urgent needs of disconnected and emotionally impoverished youth. At the time, a reported seventy-four gang-related deaths sparked concern for the social and emotional landscape of youth in Denver. A task force consisting of over one hundred socially conscious agencies, churches, and non-profit organizations gathered to identify the root cause of the citywide unrest. **Feedback from youth identified the need for positive adult role models who would listen, provide guidance, and encourage social, emotional, and educational growth.** The leader of the task force, Luis Villarreal, responded to this request and founded Save Our Youth.

Today, Save Our Youth continues in this effort by providing one-to-one mentorship to young people (ages 10-17) as a **pathway to help them overcome adverse experiences** and learn to embrace hope: the belief that they can have something better than they have now and that they have a role to play in making it better.

For over thirty-two years, Save Our Youth mentors have faithfully mentored thousands of youths across the Denver Metro Area. As a result, we have seen young people in our program break cycles of poverty, be the first in their families to graduate high school and/or college, and persevere through unimaginable circumstances. Because of the investment of a caring adult, many young people who had little hope of becoming anything more than a statistic are now on a course toward **purpose and hope**. In turn, we have also witnessed the many ways in which our mentors’ lives have also been positively affected by their mentees. It’s a two-way street, and we are simply honored to direct traffic!

VISION & MISSION

VISION

To see a world where every young person embraces their God-given worth.



MISSION

We connect young people to hope through long-term, one-to-one mentoring relationships.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RUSSEL DAINS

President & CEO
Save Our Youth

SARAH ANDERSON

Hiring Director,
Licensed Agent
Globe Life Family Heritage

KIRK ROBERTS

SVP of Strategic Development
BONA

SARAH JULIANELLE

Nurse Practitioner
Highlands Health & Wellness

REV. CHERYL MENDES-ELLIS

Director of Community Engagement
Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church

SHANNON DREYFUSS

VP of Campus Development
Colorado Christian University

MATT MANNING

Senior Pastor
Crossroads Church

CHRISTINA ISON

HR
TekStream Solutions

MATT MISEGADIS

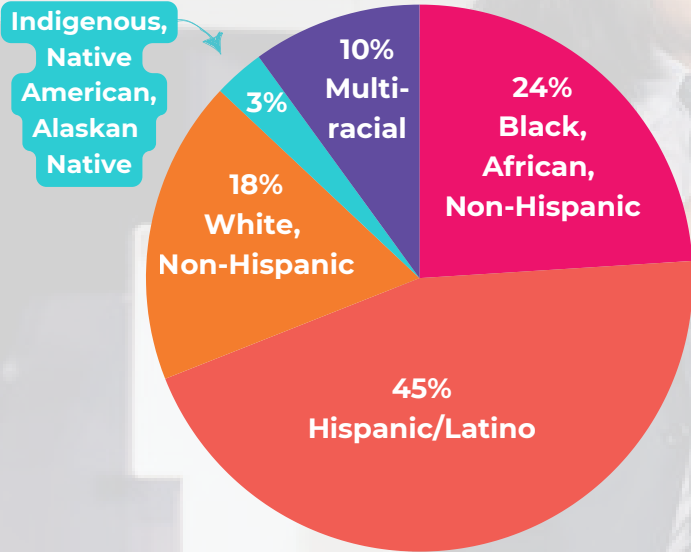
Tax Accountant
Misegadis & Associates
LLC

DAVID BROOKS

Chair Elect CEO
Cirrus Secure

WHO WE SERVE

RACE & ETHNICITY



309



COLORADO YOUTHS SERVED IN 2025

6.2%



INCREASE IN NEW MENTOR/MENTEE MATCHES FROM 2024

GENDER

55%

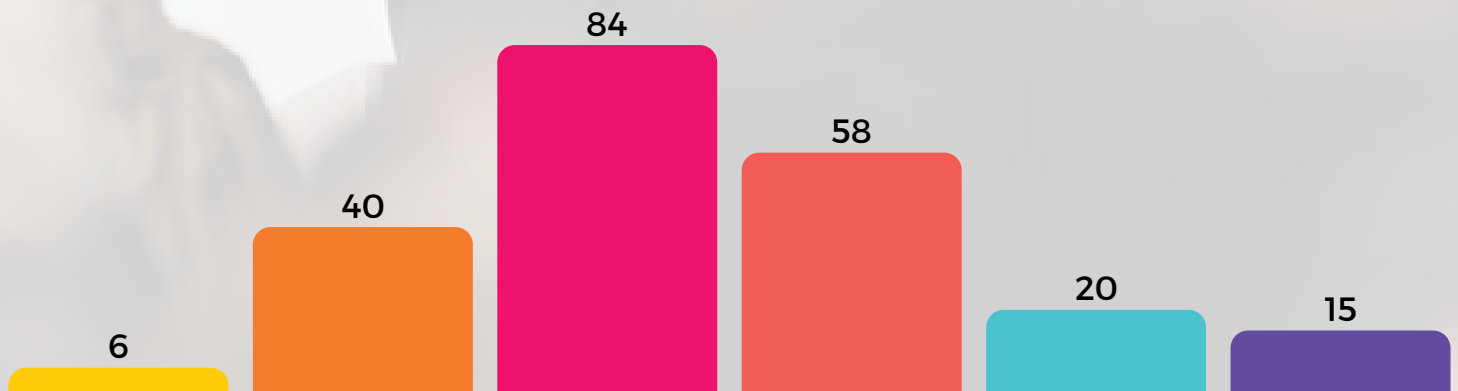


45%



AGE

● 10 or Under
 ● 11-12
 ● 13-15
 ● 16-18
 ● 19-21
 ● 22-25



NUMBER OF PROGRAM YOUTH BY AGE

WHO WE SERVE

The following numbers represent the percentage of mentees who have experienced or are experiencing the following risk factors. (Including but not limited to:)

55% SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLD 

25% STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

25% ALCOHOL ABUSE IN THE FAMILY

19% DRUG ABUSE IN FAMILY

16% INCARCERATED FAMILY MEMBER 

16% SOCIAL SERVICES INVOLVEMENT 

7% LIVE IN A BLENDED FAMILY

7% HAVE A DECEASED PARENT

7% HOMELESSNESS

6% DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

5% LIVE WITH EXTENDED FAMILY

3% IMMIGRANT FAMILY

2% REFUGEE FAMILIES 

1% ARE IN ADOPTIVE OR FOSTER CARE 

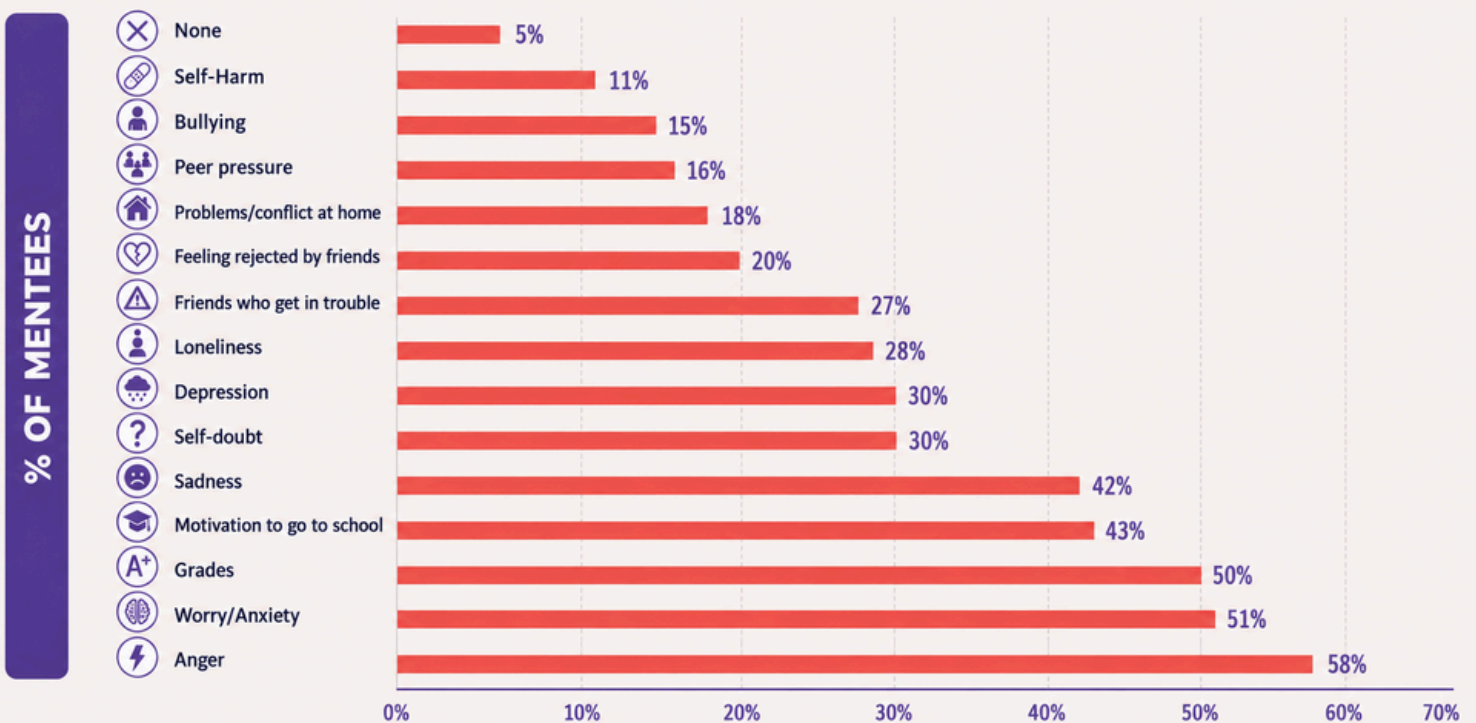
**Families may opt out of sharing specific information on this page.*



WHO WE SERVE

From our intake data, on average, every new mentee at Save Our Youth walks in carrying more than four different struggles at once—most often anger, anxiety, and academic pressure—and 64% are facing three or more challenges before they meet their mentor.

% OF MENTEES REPORTING EACH CHALLENGE AT INTAKE



OUR PROGRAM



ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING

We focus on one-to-one youth mentoring to help address financial, emotional, educational, spiritual, and relational poverty among young people across the Denver Metro Area.



CASE MANAGEMENT

We hire intentional case managers, called Mentoring Specialists, who focus on caseloads of no more than forty mentor/mentee matches.



MENTEE PROCESS

Mentoring Specialists interview interested youth, ages 10-17, to ensure a proper understanding of our mentoring program. They also help discover interests and talents so that the mentee can be matched with a mentor who shares their passions and is best suited to help them grow and develop.



MENTOR PROCESS

We extensively vet potential mentors to ensure the safety of mentees; those who qualify are then thoroughly trained, matched, and fully supported by their Mentoring Specialist.





OUR PROGRAM



MENTOR COMMITMENT

Mentors commit to meeting with their mentee for an average of one to two hours each week, for at least one year. They help their mentee set goals for the mentoring relationship.

EFFECTS OF MENTORING

We believe that “Mentoring can be an effective instrument to improve youth outcomes including: better attendance and attitude towards school, greater chances of obtaining higher education, less propensity to use alcohol and drugs, and increased social attitudes and relationships.”

(Hair, Jekielek, Moore & Scarupa. *Mentoring: A promising Strategy for Youth Development*).



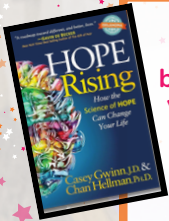
We wish to see a world where every young person embraces their God-given worth.

OUR MODEL

VISION

The ability to imagine a future that is brighter and better than the past, inspiring hope and purpose.

THE SCIENCE OF HOPE



Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past and that you have a role to play in making it better.
-Adapted from *Hope Rising*

HOPE

THE BELIEF THAT YOUR FUTURE CAN BE BRIGHTER AND BETTER THAN YOUR PAST AND THAT YOU HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN MAKING IT BETTER.

WILL

The personal drive, skills, mindset and support needed to walk the path, overcome challenges, and stay on course.

WAY

Exposure to undiscovered pathways helps inform decisions as a way to turn visions into reality.

OUR MODEL

THEORY OF CHANGE

HOPE PROMOTER

A person who cultivates their own hope and invests it back into their relationships and community, creating a lasting legacy of hope.

LONG TERM OUTCOME APPLIED VISION

- Clarity of Purpose
- Passion
- Emerging Hope Promoter

LONG TERM OUTCOME APPLIED WAY

- Strong Support Network
- Identify Purposeful Pathway
- Confident Life Navigation

LONG TERM OUTCOME APPLIED WILL

- Sustained Drive
- Self-Directed Success
- Lifelong Resilience

SENIOR/ YOUNG ADULT

Senior Experience
Graduation
1:1 Check Ins & Coaching

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME STRENGTHENED VISION

- Expanded Mindset
- Career & Education Exploration
- Guided by Hope

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME STRENGTHENED WAY

- Expanded Support & Resources
- Skill Development for Growth
- Adaptability

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME STRENGTHENED WILL

- Stronger Follow-Through
- Strengthened Confidence
- Developed Coping Skills

YEAR 3-5

Accountability
Career & Education Exploration
Goal & Vision Exercises
Mentor Guided Discussions
Skills for Success Library
Resource Navigation

SHORT TERM OUTCOME INCREASED VISION

- Future-Oriented Thinking
- Strength Recognition
- Increased Hope

SHORT TERM OUTCOME INCREASED WAY

- Develop Trust in Mentors
- New Experiences
- Problem Solving Skills

SHORT TERM OUTCOME INCREASED WILL

- Program Engagement
- Building Confidence
- Growth from Experience

YEAR 1-2

Mentee Interview
Establish First Step Goals
Personality Discovery
Skills for Success Library
Activities & Time with Mentor
Events & Workshops

OUR EVENTS

FAMILY FUN DAY

A day of fun and games for our mentors and mentees, as well as their families.



GRADUATION

A celebratory event to recognize our graduating seniors and their families.



BACK TO SCHOOL

A chance to collaborate with several local churches to provide free backpacks/supplies to our mentees and their siblings.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

A time to celebrate the end of the year with our mentors and mentees. Music, food, games, gifts, and more!



WE PLEDGE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AT ALL OF OUR EVENTS!

OUR PROGRAMS



SKILLS 4 SUCCESS

A plan that provides ways for mentors to teach, cultivate, and encourage the use of hard and soft skills throughout middle and high school.



Mentees choose from a variety of skills to work on with their mentor, including goal setting, time management, initiative, self-advocacy, basic math, and communication skills.

Mentors are equipped with training and research-based skills sheets to implement during mentoring sessions to cover the chosen skill.

THE SENIOR EXPERIENCE

Specifically tailored for our seniors to support them as they prepare for graduation.



A year-long Senior Experience with a series of workshops, activities, and guest speakers. Our aim is to help prepare seniors for a post-secondary transition which may include an intentional gap year, trade school, college, or career pathway.

SCHOLARS

Specifically tailored for our mentees as they consider post-secondary options.



All mentees are assigned an advisor to help navigate emotional and academic challenges, while making sure students are aware that they aren't alone in this new transition and phase of life.

Through this program, we also provide financial scholarships for tuition and books to help bridge some of the financial gaps our mentees face. We aim to provide the needed support and resources for them to complete a post-secondary program.



OUR IMPACT



The Average Mentor/Mentee Match Length = 30 Months
THAT'S 2.5 YEARS

92% OF SAVE OUR YOUTH SENIORS GRADUATED ON TIME

60% OF MENTEES WHO INITIALLY LACKED SCHOOL MOTIVATION SHOWED IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR DESIRE TO ATTEND SCHOOL

55% REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL STRUGGLES THEY FACE

54% OF MENTEES EXPERIENCING SELF-DOUBT SHOWED INCREASED CONFIDENCE AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM



OUR IMPACT

AMONG MENTEES TRACKED
ACROSS MULTIPLE SURVEYS:

42 MENTEES STARTED WITH
DEPRESSION/ANXIETY

23 MENTEES REPORTED A COMPLETE
RESOLUTION

12 MENTEES REPORTED A PARTIAL
IMPROVEMENT



**83% OF MENTEES SHOWED SOME
LEVEL OF IMPROVEMENT IN
DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY**

“THE MENTORING EFFECT”

BY MENTOR: THE NATIONAL MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

81% MORE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

78% MORE LIKELY TO VOLUNTEER REGULARLY.

55% OF YOUTH WITH MENTORS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE.

46% LESS LIKELY TO USE DRUGS.



OUTCOMES THAT LEAD TO HOPE

Sustained Engagement Matters: Mentees who stay in the program for 2+ years show a 72% reduction in struggles vs. 45% in year one.

Trust Takes Time: 97% of mentees say that they feel safe with their mentor; 93% of mentees report that their mentor listens when they need support.

Skills Compound: Every additional year shows continued skill growth, particularly in stress management and emotional regulation.

Network Effects: More than one third of our mentees (37%) report a larger circle of supportive adults than they had at intake.

High Success Rate: 83% of mentees tracked over multiple years show measurable improvement in emotional well-being: tangible proof that mentoring helps lead to increased hope.





EXPANSION LAUNCH

EXPANSION THROUGH HOPE PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, Save Our Youth took a faithful step forward and piloted our expansion plan: the Fast Start Mentoring Model. After 30 years of mentoring young people in Colorado, we began asking a bigger question: **What if hope could travel?**

Our Fast Start Mentoring Model is simple and relational. We partner with like-minded nonprofit organizations, equipping them with our proven mentoring framework while walking alongside them with training, coaching, and support. Instead of starting from scratch, we build together, multiplying impact and sharing decades of mentoring experience for the sake of young people.

We began close to home in the spring, partnering with The Pearl in Longmont, a ministry serving single mothers. Together, we **launched our first five mentor-mentee matches**, strengthening families already rooted in community.

In Q4, hope crossed state lines. We partnered with Juntos, a Christian youth leader organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico, deeply invested in their city's youth. **In December, we celebrated our very first five matches in New Mexico: a milestone moment for Save Our Youth and a glimpse of what's possible.**

Looking ahead beyond 2026, we're continuing with thoughtful growth. We plan to launch one more pilot group in Springfield City, Ohio, refine and strengthen our expansion model, and then take on our first two official partner organizations over the summer and winter.



**FIRST 5 MATCHES MADE
IN NEW MEXICO!**



ENCOURAGING MATCH STORIES

KELLON & AIDEN

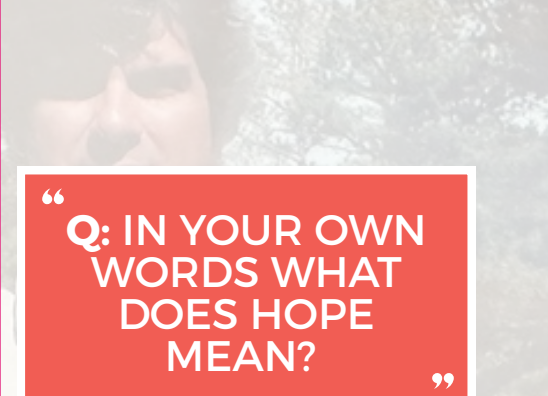
Kellon and his 12-year-old mentee, Aiden, have been matched for nearly three years, and in that time, **this match has grown into a relationship that the mentee truly relies on.**

When Aiden's mom has faced multiple medical emergencies and needed hospitalization, his mentor stepped in without hesitation to drive him around, stay with him at the hospital to ensure he is cared for, and to give him a sense of stability during uncertain times. Without a father figure and with limited support from extended family, Aiden relies on Kellon for help in all kinds of situations, **from dire moments to something as simple as getting help to reset the breaker over FaceTime when he is home alone and the power goes out.**

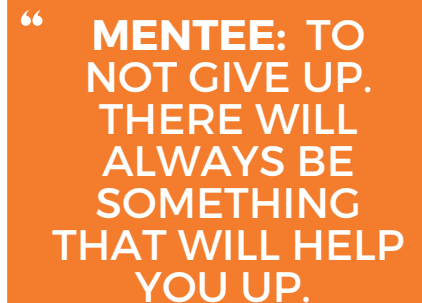
They've also built a level of trust that allows for honest conversations including talking through what it means to grow up, making good decisions, **taking responsibility for actions**, and helping him to avoid getting into fights at school.

Additionally, every Sunday, Aiden sits with Kellon and Kellon's family at church: **part of a routine that has become steady and meaningful in his life.**

This match is a testament to what it looks like when someone shows up consistently and creates a safe space where a young person knows they belong.



“ Q: IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT DOES HOPE MEAN? ”



“ MENTEE: TO NOT GIVE UP. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP YOU UP. ”



ENCOURAGING MATCH STORIES

MEL & EVELYN


Evelyn and her mentor, Mel, recently celebrated their one-year match mark. This milestone was truly a milestone given that their start was pretty rocky: Evelyn struggled with anxiety and side effects from a new medication, resulting in her rarely showing up to attend their hang outs.

Despite this fact, **Mel showed up every week** and even checked on her at home to make sure she was okay (with permission). For several consecutive weeks, Evelyn would cancel plans, but **Mel stayed consistent**, always encouraging her to **try again the next week**.

Over time, Evelyn began joining, and now the two are nearly inseparable. Mel attends Evelyn's school games with her, cheering on her mentee's now boyfriend. Evelyn has also started attending youth group, **showing new confidence and curiosity**.

One of the most memorable moments for Mel was watching Evelyn, once terrified of the deep end of the pool, work up the courage to jump off the rope swing. **Now, her next goal is the diving platform.**

Evelyn has special needs and her immediate response to pretty much everything is “no” but Mel has been incredibly patient and has witnessed many “no’s” turn into “okayyy’s.” Mel’s presence has helped Evelyn **grow immensely** and develop a **strong sense of confidence in just one year.**

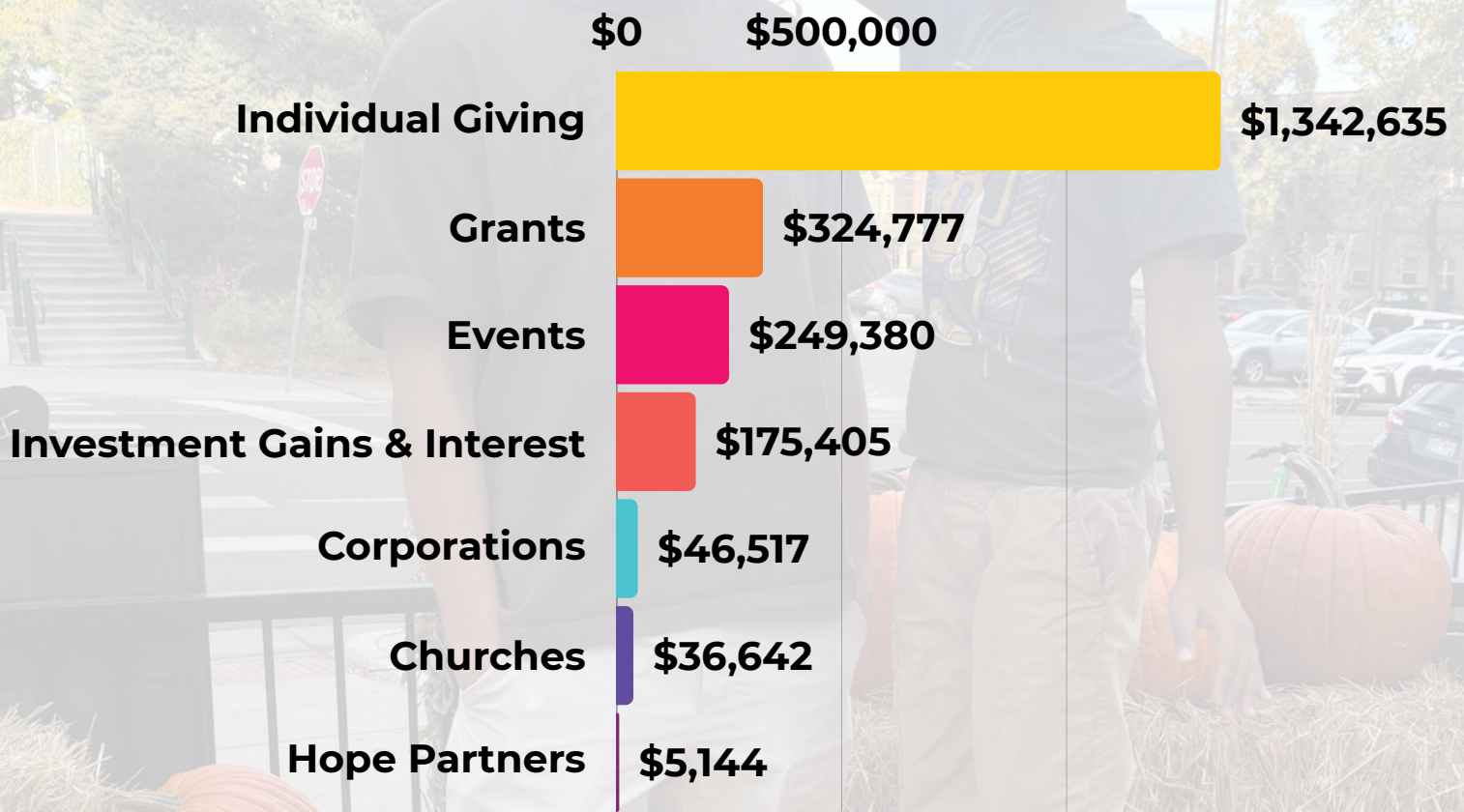


“ Q: IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT DOES HOPE MEAN? ”

“ MENTEE: TO LOOK FOR A LIGHT, EVEN IN DARK TIMES. ”

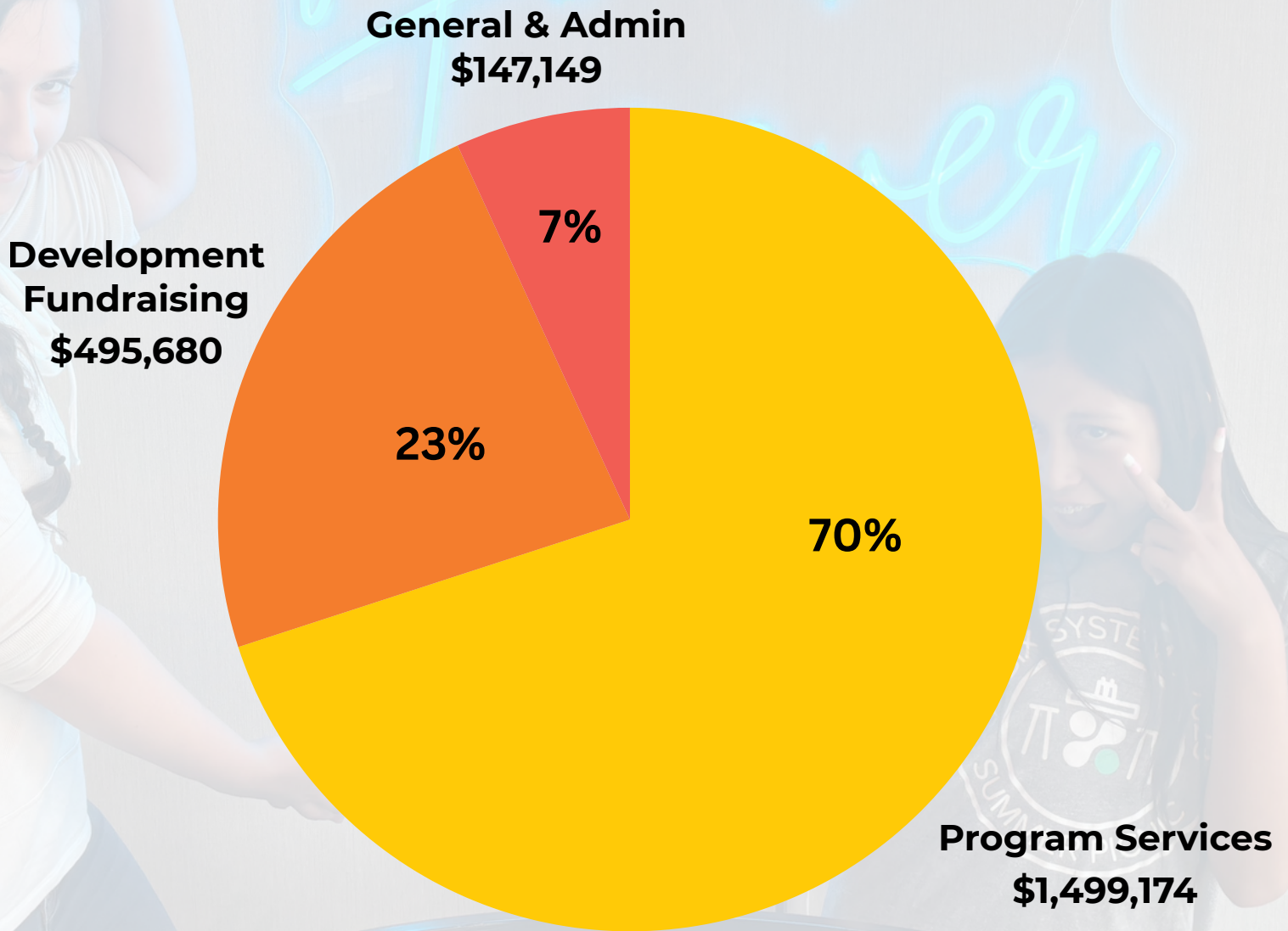


SOURCES OF SUPPORT



TOTAL REVENUE = \$2,180,500

INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH





PARTNERS

Save Our Youth would not exist without our church partners. They are where many of our mentors first hear the call, where backpacks get packed before the school year starts, and where activities, meeting spaces, and steady encouragement come from when we need it most. The congregations listed here don't just write checks: they show up. They send their members to walk alongside our youth, they open their doors for events, and they pray for kids and mentors they may never meet by name. Every mentee in our program is touched by this generosity, whether they realize it or not. To each of these churches: thank you for believing in our youth and for putting that belief into action.

CHURCHES

Altitude Church
Bear Valley Church
Calvary Church Englewood
Calvary Familia
Calvary Wellspring
Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church
Church of the Advent
Colorado Community Church
Connect Church
Crossroads Church - Thornton
Denver Presbyterian Church
Denver United Church
Dwell Church
Eastern Hills Community Church
Elevation (Journey)
Fellowship Denver Church
Fellowship Denver Church-North Metro
Foothills Calvary Church
Iglesia Orchard

Iglesia Victory
Lifegate Denver
Lowry Community Christian Church
Mission Hills Church
Mission Point Church of Christ
MOSAIC - A Jesus Centered Community
Northglenn Christian Church
Orchard Church
Park Church
Redeemer Temple
Renovate Church
Riverside Church
Roah Israel
Sola Church
Southwest Community Church
South Sub Church
St. Francis Cabrini Parish
The Bridge at Bear Creek
The Hills Church
The Neighborhood Church
The Summit Church
ThornCreek Church
TNL

THANK YOU!



PARTNERS

Behind every match is a foundation that made it possible. As public funding for nonprofits grows more uncertain, the partners listed below are the reason Save Our Youth can keep our promise to our mentees and mentors. We are profoundly grateful for their trust, and for the individuals who give alongside them.

FOUNDATIONS

- Adolph Coors Foundation
- Autrey Foundation
- Colorado Gives Foundation
- Denver Post Community Foundation
- El Pomar Foundation
- Eugene Curtis and Florence Ann Armstrong Family Foundation
- Humphreys Foundation
- Lloyd J King and Eleanor R King Foundation
- McKinstry Charitable Foundation
- Nord Family Foundation
- Northwestern Mutual Foundation
- Perry Family Foundation
- Pete Morgan Foundation
- PeyBack Foundation
- TyL Foundation
- Virginia W Hill Foundation



THANK YOU!





PARTNERS

From event sponsorships to donated tickets and experiences, the companies below help our mentees and mentors create memories that wouldn't be possible otherwise. Thank you for putting your resources behind our youth.

ORGANIZATIONS & CORPORATIONS

- American Family Mutual Insurance
- CHFA (Colorado Housing & Finance Authority)
- City of Lakewood Department of Community Resources
- Climbing Collective Longmont
- CMP Capital LLC
- Colorado Symphony Orchestra
- Dana Cain Events
- Delta Dental of Colorado
- Ecolab
- FirstBank Holding Company
- Gusto
- Guys Who Give
- Hensel Phelps Construction Inc.
- IMEG
- Innovest Portfolio Solutions
- JEDI Balancing
- King Soopers Community Rewards
- Long Building Technologies, Inc.
- OXY Occidental Petroleum
- PayPal Giving Fund
- Pindustry
- Prosperity Denver Fund
- Raptive
- Sisters of St. Francis - Sacred Heart Charitable Fund
- Symetra
- TEN Inc.
- The Erie County Investment Co.
- The Neighborhood Church Network
- VISA Corporation

THANK YOU!



IN LOVING MEMORY



In early December '25, our city was shaken by a tragic accident that captured public attention: a bus carrying high school wrestlers collided with an SUV. While much of the news focused on the van, there was another story unfolding more quietly—one deeply connected to our Save Our Youth family.

Julio was a Save Our Youth mentee and a passenger in the SUV. Despite best efforts at the hospital, Julio passed away a few days after the accident. His younger brother and sister, who were also in the vehicle, returned home from the hospital in March but are still recovering from life altering injuries. Julio was a senior in high school, the oldest of five children, and would have been a first-generation college student. He dreamed boldly of becoming an astronaut or joining the military, desiring to help people and share his light with the world. **Anyone who knew Julio was blessed by his calm, innocent, steady presence.**

For five years, Julio was matched with his mentor, Trevor. Their relationship was real, steady, and deeply rooted. Together they had fun and navigated life's milestones. Julio was an active member of JROTC for three years and participated in our Senior Experience program last year, stepping into adulthood with courage and curiosity. Those of us at Save Our Youth often saw Julio and Trevor together laughing at events, creating art, competing in watermelon-eating contests, simply showing up side by side. **What we witnessed was not a program requirement, but a genuine bond.**

During Julio's hospitalization, his mother, Suleyma, invited Trevor and one of our staff members to critical medical meetings. We were able to witness the deep care this family had: supporting each other in what felt like an impossible tragedy. Suleyma called Trevor a brother to Julio, and Trevor later served as a pallbearer at Julio's funeral, held on Christmas Eve. This is not what we prepare mentors for, but what a blessing for Trevor and Julio to have enriched each other's lives these last five years, not knowing we would also be needing to say goodbye too soon. Through the generosity of our donors, Save Our Youth was able to cover Julio's funeral expenses: **an act of care and dignity offered during a season of profound grief.**

When praying with Julio's mother, one word was spoken: hope. After the prayer, she lifted her head and said, "That was his favorite word. **Hope.**" Mentorship does not remove hardship. But, **it anchors young people to hope** and sometimes, it carries that hope forward when words fall short.

Please continue to keep Julio's siblings, family, and Trevor, in your prayers.



Save
OUR
Youth
MENTORING

ELET DONOR
WEST COAST
FIRE DEPT.
EST. 1943
vitalant.