



JULY 2026

THE GOOD NEWS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF SAVE OUR YOUTH



LIGHTING THE PATH FORWARD - 2026 GRADUATION EDITION

This year, 13 of our 15 high school seniors graduated on time, and we had the honor of celebrating their accomplishments at our annual Graduation Celebration. With an 87% graduation rate, far exceeding the Denver metro average, their collective achievement was truly remarkable considering the additional barriers many of our mentees have overcome.

One graduate is nearly finished with barbering school, six are headed to college, one is pursuing welding after a gap year, one is joining the military, and others are continuing to explore the unique paths God has prepared for them. We also celebrated college graduates earning degrees in business, broadcast journalism, counseling, social work, and more, reminding us that the impact of mentorship extends well beyond high school.

This year's celebration, themed "Light Unto Your Path," honored everyone who helped illuminate the way: mentors, parents, guardians, family members, staff, and supporters. Together, we curated an evening that reflected the significance of the milestone, complete with a formal dinner, VIP lounge, heartfelt family tributes, an artifact walk with then/now posterboard pics, letters from their mentor, a time of prayer over every graduate, and gifts including a book that helps them dream for 5 years in the future, a light with the word "hope," a picture frame, Bible, framed letters from mentors, and more.

One of the evening's highlights was welcoming one of our Scholar graduates, Trayosha Decker as our keynote speaker. Now a graduate of Metropolitan State University, former Miss Black Colorado, youth mentor, and recording artist, she inspired graduates by sharing how resilience, purpose, and faith can transform life's challenges into hope for the future.

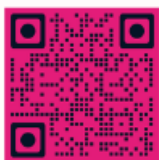
Although the class of 2026 did include some of our male mentees, it just so happened that all attendees who could make the in-person event were female! Talk about girl power!

Many graduates and family members shared with us how seen, honored, and deeply loved they felt at the event and all we could say in return is "you deserve it!" We are so grateful to have walked alongside these remarkable young people as they step boldly into their future, and we cannot wait to see what they will go on to do next.

Lala's Powerful Testimony of Perseverance and Hard Work



CONGRATS GRADUATES!



Scan the QR code to hear Lala & Davina's Speech!

One relationship can change the direction of a young person's life, and that outcome was evident in the match of Lala (mentee - pictured left) and Davina (mentor - pictured right).

This spring, Lala graduated from high school after being matched with her mentor, Davina, for 38 months. At our Graduation Celebration, Lala courageously shared about the mental health challenges she faced throughout high school and how Davina reminded her that she deserved to keep living and was worth fighting for.

Rather than offering quick fixes, Davina showed up consistently, listened without judgment, and created a safe space for Lala to process life's challenges. Over time, that trust became the foundation of a relationship Lala now describes

as a vital part of her support system. Today, Lala is looking ahead with confidence. After graduating, she plans to take a gap year and work, before pursuing a career in welding.

Although their formal mentoring match has ended, now that Lala has graduated and Davina has relocated out of state, they both shared that they were the perfect match for one another and plan to remain connected for life. Lala's story is a powerful reminder that measurable growth isn't always reflected in numbers alone. Sometimes it's found in a young person who discovers hope, believes in their own worth, graduates with a plan for the future, and knows they never have to walk life's journey alone.

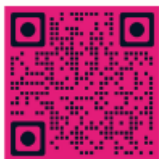
The 2025 Annual Impact Report is Available Now

Every year, we're reminded that hope grows through relationships, and this year's Impact Report tells that story in powerful ways. In 2025, our mentors continued to walk alongside youth facing significant challenges, helping them build confidence, strengthen support systems, and discover a brighter future. The results speak for themselves: 92% of our seniors graduated on time, 83% of mentees experiencing depression or anxiety showed measurable improvement, and mentees who remained in the program for two or more years experienced a 72% reduction in the struggles they faced.

2025 also marked an exciting new chapter as Save Our Youth expanded beyond Colorado through our Fast Start Mentoring Model, launching the first mentoring matches in New Mexico and extending the reach of hope to even more young people. Behind every statistic is a story of a mentor who showed up, a young person who discovered their worth, and a community that made it possible through faithful generosity.

We invite you to explore the full 2025 Impact Report and celebrate what God has done through the lives of our mentors, mentees, volunteers, partners, and supporters.

Thank you for being part of this mission of hope!



Scan the QR code to read the full Impact Report!



Tangible Support from Security Central



This year's Graduation Celebration was made even more meaningful thanks to the incredible partnership of Security Central. Through their ongoing commitment to our Senior Experience and Scholar programs, they are helping ensure students receive support during one of life's most critical transitions, from high school into adulthood.

Their investment extends far beyond financial support. Throughout the day of the Graduation Celebration, Security Central team members rolled up their sleeves to serve by setting up the venue, welcoming guests, serving meals, and staying late to help with teardown. Their enthusiasm, flexibility, and willingness to do whatever was needed helped create a truly special evening for every graduate and family.

While we are immensely grateful for our financial partners, there are teams like Security Central who take their role even further by offering hands-on help. Whether it's volunteering as a team, or bringing in new mentors, corporate partnerships make a lasting difference in the lives of young people in our program.

If your company is looking for a meaningful way to give back beyond financial support, we'd love to start a conversation. We have a variety of events that happen throughout the year that are completely reliant on volunteers, so we can think creatively as to how to get you involved! Please reach out to info@saveouryouth.org if this may be of interest to you.

And if you're looking for a security partner that values community as much as service, we encourage you to learn more about Security Central at securitycentralinc.com. **Thank you, Security Central!**

A Legacy of Mentorship Throughout the Decades

Some matches last for a few years; others turn into lifelong family relationships.

In 2006, Lianne was matched with a young girl named Mary through Save Our Youth, and as their relationship grew, Lianne became a trusted source of encouragement and support. After the official match through our program had ended, their relationship did not.

Lianne supported Mary as she continued to grow and stood by her through the birth of Mary's baby girl, Valerie. As Valerie grew older, she officially joined Save Our Youth as a mentee and was matched with the one person who had already been cheering her on since infancy: Lianne.

This spring, that story came full circle. At our Graduation Celebration, Lianne stood alongside Valerie (and Mary) as they celebrated Valerie's high school graduation. It was a beautiful reminder that mentorship doesn't have to end when a program commitment does.

Throughout Valerie's journey, Lianne faithfully encouraged her to keep going, especially when school was difficult. She prayed with and for her, celebrated her growth, and reminded her to keep moving forward, just as she did with her mother.

Relationships that endure through life's milestones can be hard to find, and even harder to keep; so, witnessing this journey has blessed us all in ways we could not have imagined back in 2006. We thank our mentors for offering consistent encouragement, wisdom, and hope throughout the generations.

One mentor, two decades, and an immeasurable impact. Countless stories remind us that showing up year after year can change the course of an entire family.

