



1972 - 2022

50 Years of Changing Lives



YSB Celebrates 50 Years

Let's think back 50 years, to 1972. A gallon of gas was 55 cents, M*A*S*H debuted on television, the first video game (Pong) was invented and man last walked on the moon.

Right here in our part of the world, YSB was created in partnership with the City of South Bend to help homeless and at-risk youth in our community. Much has changed over the years at YSB, but the commitment to ensuring young people have a path to a better life has never waived.

What started as one simple program with four employees, serving a small number of teens within the city, has grown into a multifaceted organization with more than 50 dedicated individuals serving thousands of youth each year throughout St. Joseph County.

For 50 years, YSB has worked to connect with and embrace at-risk youth in our community, keeping them safe and transforming their struggles into triumphant new beginnings. YSB knows that with the right support and opportunity, young people can become the heroes and heroines of their own life stories.

Reaching a 50-year milestone cannot be done alone. For the past five decades, YSB has received tremendous support from the community making it possible for the lives of thousands of young people to be transformed. YSB is incredibly grateful for your support and hope that you realize the critical part you have played in healing the lives of young people in our community.

Thank you for your continued generosity as we embark on the next 50 years.

Jennifer Pickering
Executive Director

50 Years of Changing Lives

Founded in 1972

YSB has helped more than **50,000** homeless and at-risk youth to be safe, have a clean place to sleep, recover from abuse, gain confidence, permanently exit homelessness, graduate from high school, enroll in college, embark on careers, raise their children, build supportive social networks, and realize brighter futures.

1976

Safe Station Youth Shelter

Young people can find a safe place, hot shower, clean bed, something to eat, someone to listen.

- Serves youth ages 12-18.
- St. Joseph County's only emergency youth shelter open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

1984

Safe Place Program

Community partners helping young people in crisis.

- 160 Safe Place Sites in St. Joseph County where youth in crisis can find immediate help 24/7, 365 days a year.
- In-school presentations and outreach.

1990

Youth Development Services

Youth Development Specialists helping students manage behavior and succeed in school.

- Available in the Penn-Harris-Madison elementary and middle schools.
- Specialists work with parents, teachers and staff to identify youth in need of assistance.

1991

Young Moms' Self-Sufficiency Program

The Young Moms' Self-Sufficiency Program provides opportunities for at-risk pregnant or parenting women ages 16 to 24 .

- Helps mothers overcome the many, complex barriers to self-sufficiency and decrease the possibility of child abuse and neglect.
- Teaches child development and parenting skills.
- Clients can further their education and learn financial literacy.

2003

Street Outreach

YSB's Street Outreach Program connects homeless and at-risk youth with resources to address immediate needs.

- Street-based education and outreach.
- Provides access to emergency shelter.
- Crisis intervention, information and follow-up support.
- YSB's Drop-In Center gives youth a place to meet, do laundry, get something to eat, and connect to YSB services.

2008

Porch Light Program

Illuminating a path to safety, housing, support and success for young mothers and their children.

- Serving homeless, pregnant, and parenting women between the ages of 16 and 22 and their children.
- Clients learn basic life skills, financial literacy, attend parenting classes, have access to a therapist, develop confidence, and work toward self-sufficiency.

2017

Transitional Living Program

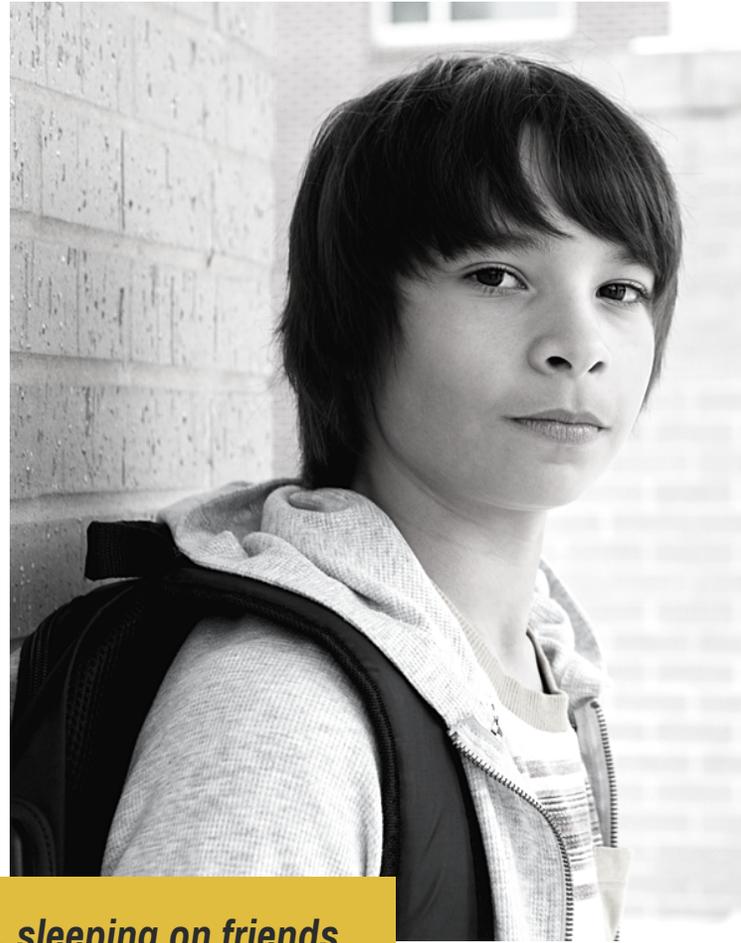
The Transitional Living Program provides housing, education, employment training for homeless youth and youth exiting the foster care system (ages 16-22).

- Youth work on financial literacy, improving physical and mental health and have access to community resources.
- Clients learn basic life skills, financial literacy, have access to a therapist, develop confidence, and work toward self-sufficiency.

Connecting - Safety - Healing

Teachers could see Jordan was having issues. Jordan was a bright student, but was failing almost every class, often disruptive and defiant. There was a story behind the misbehavior and Jordan's teachers recognized help was needed.

Once introduced to YSB's Youth Development Specialist, Jordan learned how to address a chaotic home life and learned healthier ways to channel some really big emotions.



"We were scared, stressed, sleeping on friends couches and changing clothes in a parking lot, until this nice person from YSB found us."



YSB's Street Outreach team connects with young people right where they are in the moment — on the playground, at school, or in Claudia and Renee's case, a parking lot.

These two teenage friends bonded over their similar stories, having both been kicked out of their homes by their fathers. They'd been living on the streets for quite some time until a YSB Street Outreach team member led them to immediate safety and stable housing.

Housing - Opportunity - Success

Education



- 75% of youth experiencing homelessness will drop out of school.
- Youth without a high school diploma or GED are 346% more likely to become homeless adults.
- The unemployment rate is 3 times higher for youth with no high school diploma.

- Young people staying in our emergency shelter continue attending their own school.
- Over 95% of our young people feel confident enough to set educational goals.
- YSB school-based programs provide support for students in crisis so they can achieve academic success.

Shelter & Housing



- 47% of youth (62% of LGBTQ-youth) report physical harm while experiencing homelessness.
- 43% of ALL homeless youth experienced physical abuse before leaving home.
- 44% of young women age 18-25 who face homelessness are parents or pregnant.

- Every young person we reach has access to a safe and stable place to live.
- Young people who come to us in crisis have food, shelter, a shower, and a place to sleep.
- Young people at YSB learn self sufficiency by living in supported transitional housing.

Physical & Mental Health



- 69% of homeless youth live with mental health issues.
- Homeless youth are more likely to become victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Homeless youth are at a higher risk for illness, depression and suicide.

- Young people at YSB improve their social, mental, and physical health.
- Youth in the emergency shelter at YSB can access medical care.
- YSB counselors help young people to navigate social situations and learn conflict management skills.

Employment & Community Connections



- Young people living in a household with an annual income \$24,000 or less are 162% more likely to experience homelessness.
- Homeless young people have little opportunity to develop job skills needed to gain employment.

- YSB works in many ways to help youth become productive members of the community.
- Young people at YSB learn skills to obtain and maintain employment.

New Beginnings

43% of all homeless youth report they have experienced physical abuse before leaving home.

Some stories you read are so unimaginable they're hard to believe. Brianna's is one of those. The physical, emotional and sexual abuse she experienced for most of her young life put her on a path of despair. Her developing mind's way of coping with the cruelty was to lash out and self-harm.

Her behavior made it difficult to thrive in foster care and as a result she was at risk of being placed in a long-term mental health facility.

Brianna turned a new page after seeking protection and shelter at YSB's Safe Station. The determination, kindness, and patience of YSB's therapist encouraged Brianna to address her trauma and begin the healing process. Brianna was finally able to thrive with a safe and loving foster family.

Because of a generous community that supports YSB's life-changing interventions and programming, Brianna found the tools to write her new and hopeful life story.



A Bold New Chapter

After 50 years, YSB is excited to share news of a capital campaign that will transform the lives of young people and our community for generations.

The **YSB Center for Youth Success** will be a welcoming space where young people can find immediate safety, shelter, and connect to the resources and support they need to exit homelessness permanently.



Highlights

- To serve more youth in crisis, the Safe Station shelter will double in size.
- Youth will now have access to showers and laundry at the Drop-In-Center.
- There will be more opportunities for youth to participate in educational activities, interact with volunteers, and connect with community partners.
- Youth will have a commercial kitchen space to learn about proper nutrition, food safety, job skills, and the opportunity to participate in a youth-led business endeavor.
- To improve physical and mental health, there will also be youth-centered recreation space, health and wellness area, and a sensory-friendly cool-down room.



YSB's services and programs help our community's at-risk youth transform their struggles into triumphant new beginnings, helping them become heroes and heroines of their own life stories.

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Serving the youth of our
community since 1972

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Strong Foundation - Bright Future

YSB's growth and unwavering commitment to helping young people is due in large part to Bonnie Strycker, YSB's former Executive Director. For more than 40 years Bonnie dedicated her life to ensure that all young people were safe, had stability, and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Because of the strong foundation she helped build, thousands of young people are safe, and YSB is thriving. With support from our incredible community, we are looking forward to the next 50 years.



Visit ysbsjc.org for details on 50th Anniversary celebrations and the YSB Center for Youth Success.