

A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark, curly hair, resting her chin on her hands. She is smiling gently and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Youth Dynamics

Empowering **Youth & Families**
for a **Brighter Tomorrow**

2022-2023
Annual Report

Our Vision

Partnering with people to build strong foundations and belonging.

31 LOCATIONS
STRATEGICALLY POSITIONED ACROSS
MONTANA

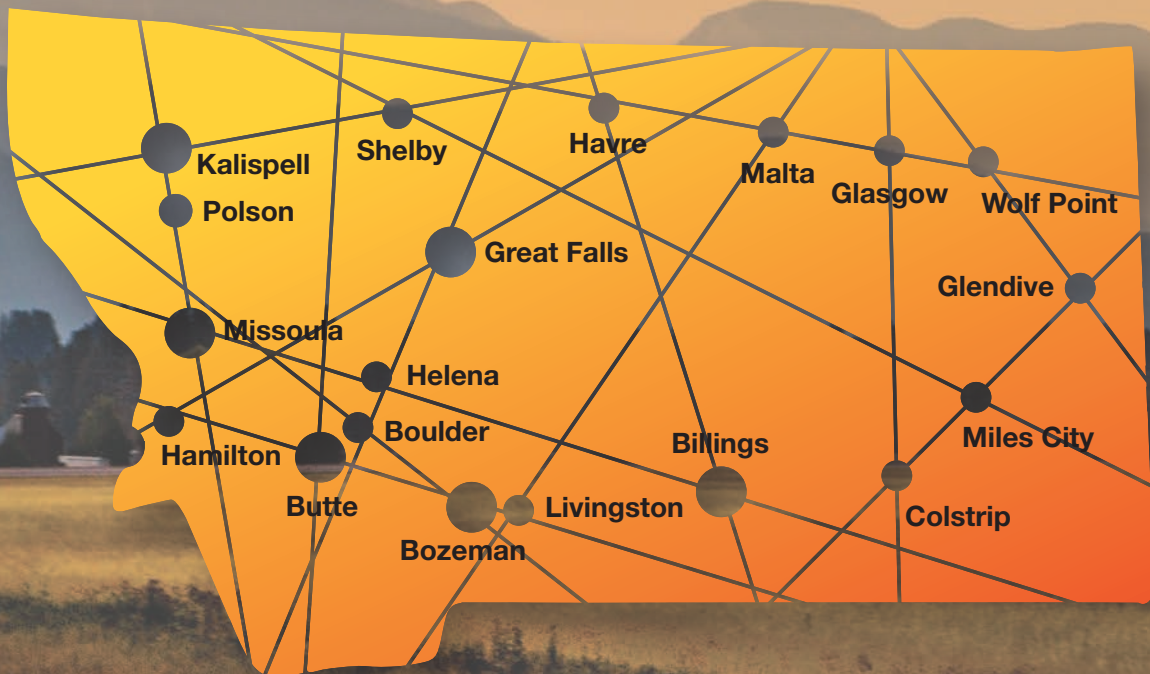




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A Message

From Our CEO



There is optimism in front of us, although the challenges remain. A good number of our school-aged children are at risk. Nearly 1 in 5 high school students have seriously considered or attempted suicide. As loving and caring adults, that is a statistic that is of grave concern. Life is abundantly more precious than our children experience. From the throes of a pandemic to the sensationalizing of violence, death, and destruction that is depicted in many forms of our media, arises hope for a better future for our children. A future that the great people of Youth Dynamics are willing to shape, change, and realign into a life that is fulfilled. We are thankful for you, the people reading this report.

Challenges continue for our children at risk of self-harm or harming others. Often anger, fear, and anxiety manifest in violence, and our children become either victims or the targets of trauma associated with those negative actions and emotions. We must do our part to keep our children safe and, when they experience trauma, provide them with a healing environment. This is the mission of Youth Dynamics, to provide them with the time, space, and interventions needed for recovery. We are equipped with the tools to make change and ignite resilience in our youth for future generations. We witness first-hand the healing power of caring concern for the less privileged and most vulnerable of children and families.

In the current state of our world, mental well-being is at the core of our happiness. Mental wellness creates hope for our future and our social connectedness. A happy mind is a healthy mind and is directly correlated to the wellness of the body and soul. It is critical we take time to consider our mindset and do self-checks regularly for the sake of the kids we are intentionally developing into their full potential. The children are the future, and a bright outlook for our kids goes a long way to social and civic harmony. Every child is important. We are children centered in our wellness at Youth Dynamics.

Please look through this annual report and note how this past year, the people of Youth Dynamics have helped youth in every corner of the State of Montana. We are proud to say that through our partnering with people to build strong foundations and belonging throughout our 41 years of serving children, we are making a difference. This report is evidence of the difference we made this past year and is predictable for future years of healing, loving, and caring in making this world a better place to belong for the kids of Montana.

We are grateful for the public support on behalf of the people of Youth Dynamics. If you are asking yourself, how can I help? Please find out more by reading this report, offering to join our team, sharing your talent and treasure, and taking time for the children wherever they may be. Our kids need caring adults, just like you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dennis Sulser, Ed. D.
Chief Executive Officer



*“The children
are the future,
and a bright
outlook for our
kids goes a
long way”*

Who We Are

We opened our doors in 1981, and in forty-plus years of service, we've touched the lives of over 20,000 Montana kids and families.



OUR MISSION

Youth Dynamics provides family-focused behavioral health treatment founded on the principles of an actively caring and trauma-sensitive culture in which people can realize their full potential.



OUR CORE VALUES

EMPOWERMENT • PARTNERSHIPS • COLLABORATION
OPEN AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION
INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY STRENGTHS
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION
TEAM DECISION MAKING AND INDIVIDUALIZED CARE
ACTIVE CARE AND TREATMENT
TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
TRAUMA SENSITIVE CULTURE



OUR CONTINUUM OF CARE

At Youth Dynamics, we offer a variety of services designed to wrap kids up in care—helping them heal and find resilience in the face of mental health challenges.

Each child and family who turns to us for support is unique. Therefore, the behavioral health care we provide is tailored to their individual needs and built on a foundation of their strengths.

We serve kids affected by a wide range of mental health conditions.

Mental Health Conditions Impacting Kids in Our Care

- ▶ Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders
- ▶ Impulse-Control and Conduct Disorders
- ▶ Depressive Disorders
- ▶ Anxiety Disorders
- ▶ Other Conditions that May Be a Focus of Clinical Attention
- ▶ Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- ▶ Substance-Related & Addictive Disorders
- ▶ Bipolar and Related Disorders

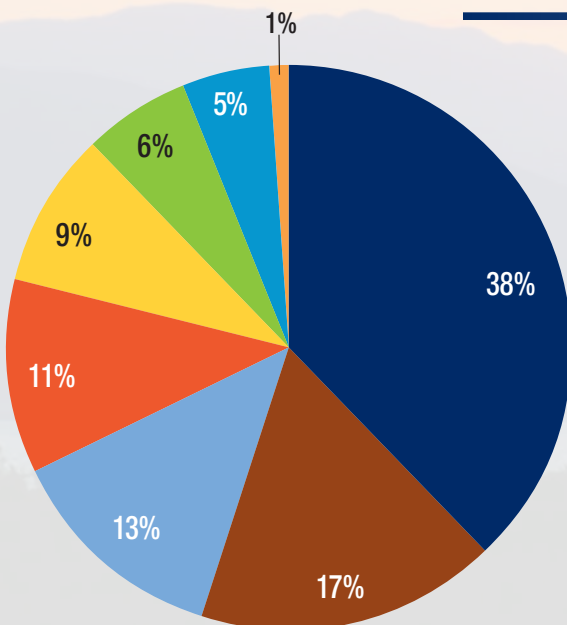
“Youth Dynamics provides a safe haven for me and my adopted children. They always provide a solution or pathway to help me guide my kids in the right direction to emotionally healthy behavior.”

— Caregiver of Children in Our Community Services

“I would not be a live right now if I wasn't here.”

— Child in Our Therapeutic Youth Home Care

OVER 90% of the kids and families we serve say their life has improved with the support of our behavioral health services.





OUR SERVICES

THERAPEUTIC YOUTH HOMES
YOUTH CASE MANAGEMENT
PARENTING EDUCATION & SUPPORT
INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY THERAPY
THERAPEUTIC YOUTH MENTORING
SUBSTANCE USE EDUCATION & TREATMENT
THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE
RESPIRE CARE
TRANSITIONAL LIVING SKILLS
SUPERVISED VISITS
MEDICATION MANAGEMENT
SPECIALIZED YOUTH HOME TREATMENT FOR KIDS
IMPACTED BY SEXUAL TRAUMA



OUR LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS



Youth Dynamics is fully licensed by the State of Montana as a Behavioral Health Center, Child Placing Agency, and Therapeutic Youth Group Home & Youth Shelter Care Provider. We're proud to hold the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) seal of recognition for our quality business, personnel, governance, and clinical practices.

Many of the children and families we serve have experienced trauma. We embrace the ARC framework (Attachment, Regulation, Competency) as our official trauma-informed care model to promote healing and guide our trauma-informed work.

We offer a continuum of mental and behavioral health care, with community service locations providing everything from mentoring to therapy, youth case management, in-home support, therapeutic foster care services, and more. For youth needing a higher level of care, we offer therapeutic group home support via our locations in Billings, Boulder, Helena, and Great Falls.



“My dad was killed in 1984 in a trucking accident. I was six. My little sister was five. After he passed away, my mom just kind of went rogue. Just really couldn't handle that situation. We were taking care of ourselves every single day. Making sure my sister had food. To making sure we got to school on time. We were left alone. We didn't really have anybody. You make that your normal. And now we know that's not normal at all. I saw my mom get hauled off. She was put on a stretcher in a straight jacket. I was angry. Like very angry. If it wasn't for Youth Dynamics, I would have been a statistic. That's what I would have been. I would have been another drug addict. I would have been another runaway. From the bottom of my heart, if I wouldn't have had them or even some moments with them it would have been a very different outcome. They're the best thing that ever happened to me.”



— Alexis Julian,
Former YDI Client

Our Footprint



OUR REACH

Our reach continues to expand, fueled by community partnerships and a robust network of digital channels. Over the last year, we touched over 11 million people who viewed our online content over 15 million times.

We Continue to Educate, Raise Awareness, and Forge Relationships Through:

Our Social Media Channels	52,000+ Followers
Our Website & Blog	425,000+ Visitors
Our Newsletter	6,000+ Subscribers

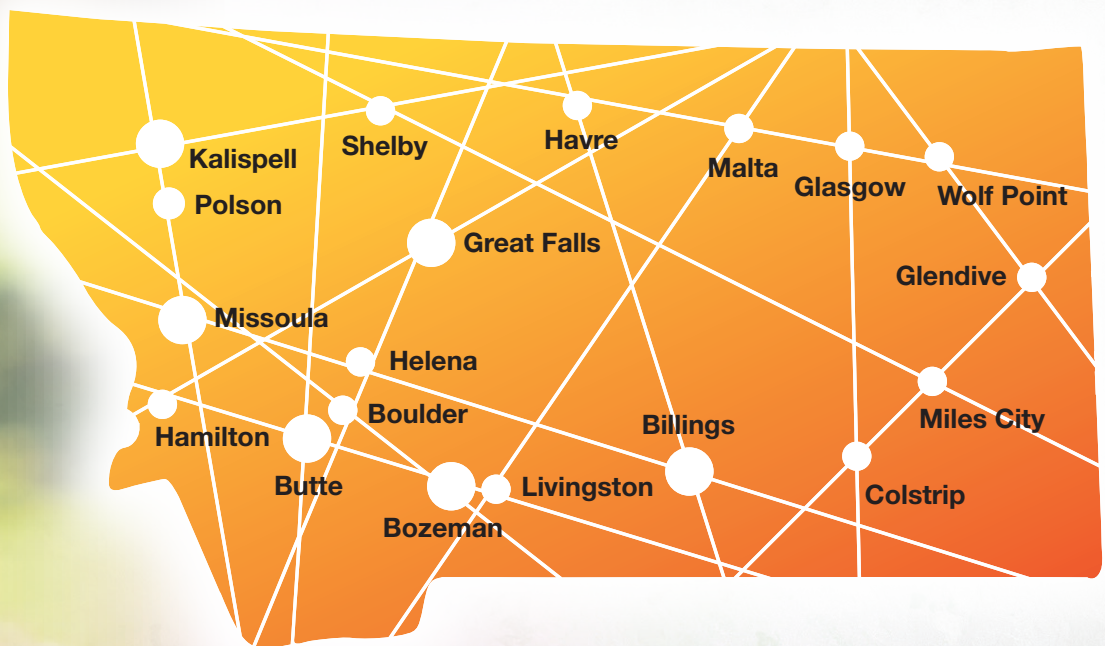
Many kids we serve come from lower-income households, with behavioral health treatment funded through Medicaid. Key community partnerships include but are not limited to Child & Family Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Shodair Children's Hospital, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, and AWARE.

We value our established collaborations and take our responsibility to provide excellent service and outcomes to our families seriously.



OUR LOCATIONS

We proudly serve kids and families in nearly every county across Montana through our thirty-one locations—celebrating the opening of our new Polson Community Office in February 2022.



Our Community Service Locations

Billings	Glasgow	Havre	Malta	Shelby
Bozeman	Glendive	Helena	Miles City	Wolf Point
Butte	Great Falls	Kalispell	Missoula	
Colstrip	Hamilton	Livingston	Polson	

Our Residential Locations

BILLINGS Lakeview Youth Home Rimview Youth Home River's Edge Youth Home STAR Youth Home	BOULDER Choices Youth Home New Beginnings Youth Home New Journey Youth Home Opportunity Youth Home	GREAT FALLS North Skyline Youth Home HELENA Lewis & Clark Youth Home
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Our Therapeutic Educational Support Locations

Boulder Day Treatment	Bozeman Transitional School
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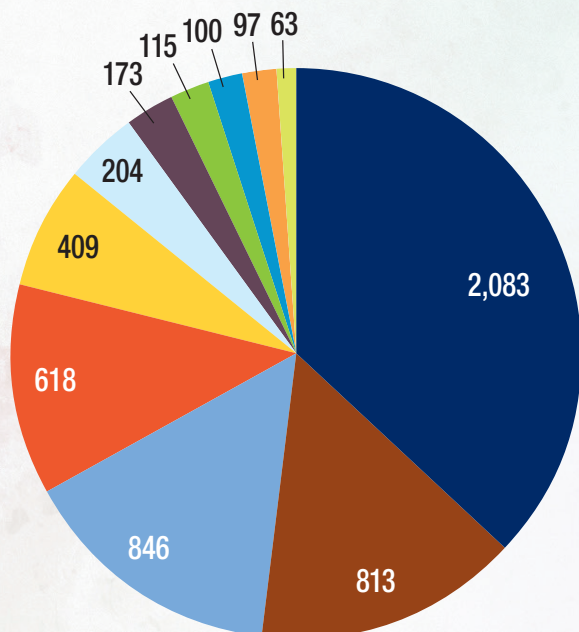
Our Administrative Location

Billings Central Office

Our Work With Kids & Families

**CHILDREN
SERVED**
FROM JULY 2021
THROUGH
JUNE 2022:
2,260

We delivered critical behavioral health care to 2,260 kids across 46 of the 56 counties in Montana, providing an average of 2.4 services within our continuum of care to each child.



Kids Served by Service:

- ▶ Youth Case Management
- ▶ Outpatient Therapy
- ▶ Parenting Education & Support
- ▶ Family Support Assistant Mentor
- ▶ Medication Management
- ▶ Therapeutic Group Home
- ▶ Respite
- ▶ Day Treatment
- ▶ Supervised Visitation
- ▶ Substance Use
- ▶ Therapeutic Foster Care

Note: Service labels are also fine-tuned for consistency throughout the report.

“They helped with counseling therapy and some community resources that really helped our family become better and have more togetherness. And be able to relate to each other without having angry outbursts and fighting and having qualms.”

— Cynthia Lund,
Caregiver of Children in
Our Community Services

**WE SERVED
2,083 KIDS
THROUGH OUR
COMMUNITY
SERVICES,
MOST BETWEEN
10 AND 11
YEARS OLD.**

Youth Case Management continues to be our most highly utilized program, followed by outpatient therapy and therapeutic mentoring.

OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Our goal is to build strong families—keeping kids at home in the lowest levels of care. To do this, we provide a wide range of community-based behavioral health support through eighteen locations, each serving a sixty-mile radius.

Our Community-Based Services

- PARENTING EDUCATION & SUPPORT**
- YOUTH CASE MANAGEMENT**
- THERAPEUTIC YOUTH MENTORING**
- INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY THERAPY**
- SUBSTANCE USE EDUCATION & TREATMENT**
- MEDICATION MANAGEMENT**
- THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE**
- RESPITE CARE**
- TRANSITIONAL LIVING SKILLS**



BOZEMAN TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL

In partnership with the Bozeman School District, we're proud to support kids through an alternative, therapeutic, educational setting through our Bozeman Transitional School.

With a team that includes a school district teacher and paraprofessional, and a YDI youth case manager, care manager, therapist, and family support assistant, our Bozeman Transitional School serves up to nine kids at any given time—many of which would not graduate high school or complete the HiSet without the program.





THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

Our therapeutic foster care services wrap children up in care, helping them heal and find resilience in the community. The goal of foster care is to support kids in finding permanency—whatever that may look like.

Specialized training for foster parents empowers them to meet kids' unique needs. We deliver support through a team approach, with therapists offering counseling to help heal trauma, care managers providing education and support, youth case managers advocating and coordinating treatment, mentors assisting kids in building valuable skills, and respite providers supporting families to prevent burnout.

We continue to focus on increasing our foster homes to meet the ever-growing needs of kids in care.

**WE SERVED
63 CHILDREN
THROUGH OUR
THERAPEUTIC
FOSTER CARE
SERVICES**

BETWEEN JULY 2021
& JUNE 2022

Trauma significantly impacts many kids in foster care — with statistics showing **UP TO 80%** EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

“*It's hard but it's very, very worth it. It's a whole lot more worth it than it is hard. There will be plenty of difficult times and difficult spells but it's worth pushing through. And kids are worth pushing through for.*”

— Nate Treu,
Youth Dynamics
Foster Parent





OUR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

When kids have behaviors that affect their ability to safely carry out basic activities at home or in their community, we provide higher levels of support through our ten therapeutic youth homes in Boulder, Billings, Helena, and Great Falls. And for kids staying at our Boulder campus, we also provide specialized day treatment services.

Due to staffing constraints during the pandemic, we temporarily closed our Choices Youth Home in Boulder and Lakeview Youth Home in Billings. In May 2023, we celebrated the reopening of Lakeview with plans to reopen Choices in the near future.

WE SERVED 204 KIDS
THROUGH OUR
THERAPEUTIC YOUTH HOMES
WITH AN AVERAGE STAY OF 5.8 MONTHS.
The vast majority were between 11 and 15 years old.

“

The staff and treatment team helped me realize that I was worth something more than I thought I was. I've learned that if I make a mistake, I can fix it and keep going. I thought it was all over for me, but it wasn't.

”

— Child in Our
Therapeutic
Youth Home Care

“

It's just the best feeling to feel you're actually making a difference and helping in people's lives.

”

— Mariah Lefebre,
North Skyline Lead
Counselor



SPECIALIZED TREATMENT FOR KIDS IMPACTED BY SEXUAL TRAUMA

Our Boulder campus serves children with diverse needs, including those stemming from sexual trauma. For these youth, we provide the only in-state residential care with MSOTA support & supervision provided by Jake Leeper, LCSW.

A Better Boulder Campus

In 2022, we completed phase one of Reigniting Hope: The Campaign for Youth Dynamics—the most significant fundraising initiative in YDI history. With the support of our donors, we surpassed our \$3 million goal to expand and strengthen behavioral health care for kids in Montana.

Funds raised will go toward expanding youth case management services and updating our Boulder campus—including the construction of a new therapeutic youth home.



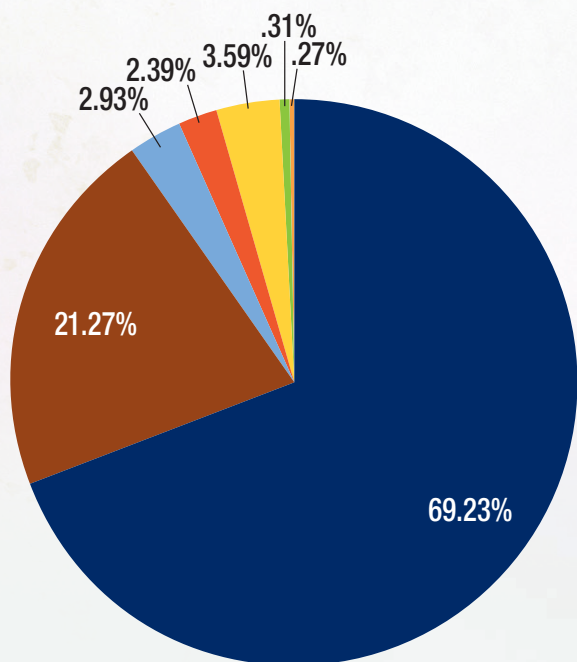
Diversity of Kids Served

Most children who turned to us for support are Caucasian at 69.23%, followed by Native American at 21.27%. We continue leveraging cultural competency training to strengthen care and promote positive outcomes for kids.

Average Age of Children Served

Community Services	Between 10 and 11 Years Old
Therapeutic Foster Care	Between 9 and 10 Years Old
Residential Services	14 Years Old





Total By Youth Served

- ▶ Caucasian
- ▶ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ▶ Multi-Racial
- ▶ African American
- ▶ Unknown
- ▶ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ▶ Asian



Our Impact



TREATMENT OUTCOMES

Examined by service, approximately 89% of kids were either maintained or moved to lower levels of care.



FEEDBACK FROM OUR FAMILIES

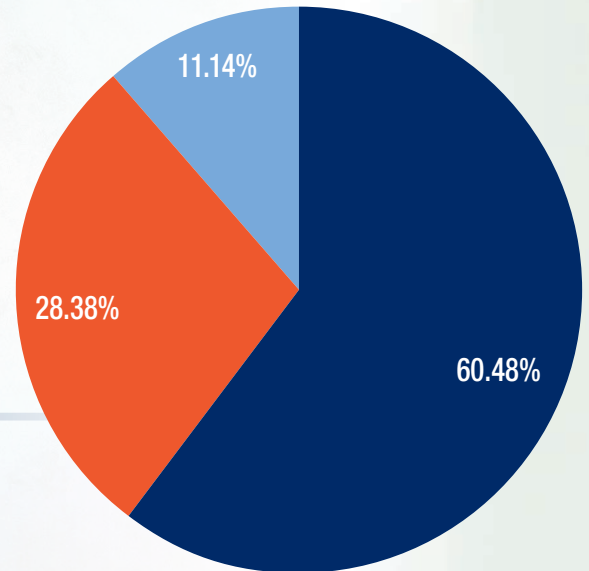
Survey information collected from our kids and families annually illustrates our impact, with over 90% of those sampled reporting their life has improved due to our services and would recommend us to a family or friend.

Shining a Light on Youth Case Management

Youth Case Management is the conductor of care—orchestrating everything from wrap-around behavioral health services to outside community support, including physical health care such as vision, hearing, and wellness screenings. And outcome data collected shows our case management works!

Youth Case Management Works!

90% of Kids Stayed at Home in Their Community
94% Attended School
98% of Kids Enrolled in School Advanced a Grade Level
Less Than 1% Received PRTF Treatment or Hospitalization.
Less Than 1% Received Out-of-State Treatment.



Treatment Outcomes:

- ▶ Maintained Current Level of Care
- ▶ Moved to Lower Levels of Care
- ▶ Moved to Higher Levels of Care

“They take the time to not only listen but hear what we are saying. The staff has open communication and truly cares about their clients.”

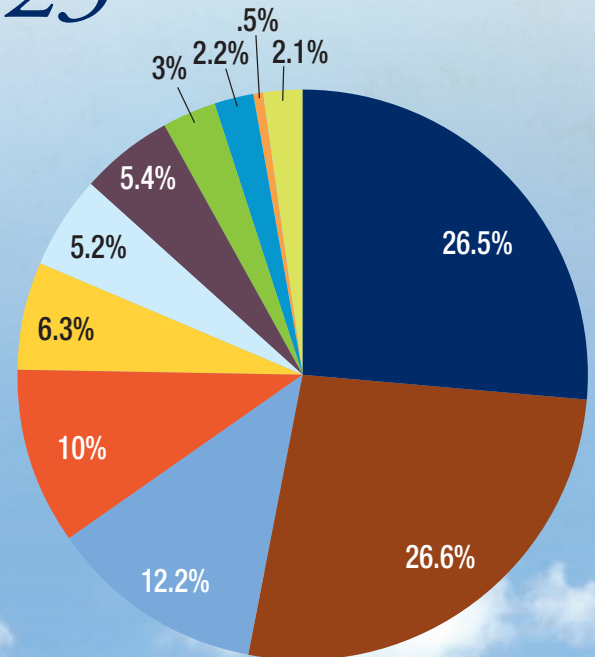
“Youth Dynamics took the time to listen to what my son needed and helped him to excel and succeed.”



“ Youth Dynamics helped me open up more about my trauma and have a better relationship with my family. ”

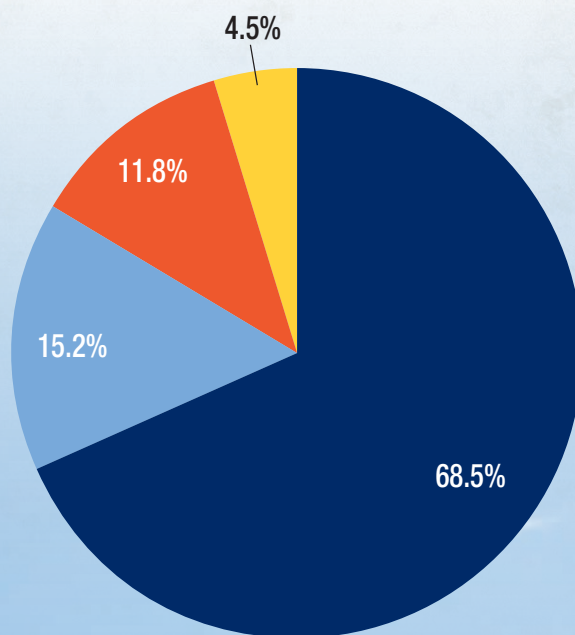
Budget 2022-2023

Budgeted Revenue



Budgeted Expenses

- Employee Wages, Taxes, and Benefits
- Administrative Expenses
- Other Operating Expenses
- Client Expenses





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Sulser, Ed. D.
Chief Executive Director
Youth Dynamics
Billings

Danny Zimmerman
Chair
Clinic Administrator
The Children's Clinic
Billings

Bob Connors
Vice Chair
Retired
Bozeman

Tara Roberts
Billings

Alice Hinshaw
Attorney
Hinshaw & Vanisko, PLLC
Helena

Heather Heggem, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C
Founding Program Director,
Doctor of Medical Sciences Program
Assistant Professor of
Physician Assistant Studies
Rocky Mountain College
Billings

Kassie Runsabove
Executive Director
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Bryant Johnson, P.E.
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Tyler Elkin
Financial Planner
Allied Financial
Billings



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



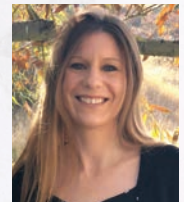
**Dennis Sulser,
Ed. D.**
Chief Executive Officer



**Moyra Anthony,
MSW, MBA, LCSW**
Clinical Director of Community Services



Jordan Evertz, MSW, LCSW
Clinical Director of
Residential Services



Katie Gerten, MBA
Marketing & Communications
Director



Kristin Thompson
Human Resources Director



Kyle Lantz
Development Director



Leslie Falcon
Finance Director

Thank You

We are grateful to our donors who offer additional yearly support to provide the best service possible to children and families.



VISIONARIES



Terry & Pat Payne



Marilyn Brocopp

DENNIS & PHYLLIS
WASHINGTON
FOUNDATION



Power Townsend
Foundation





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Schlauch-Bottcher
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Donald & Carol
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Power Townsend
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The Wall Family



FRESH LIFE CHURCH



Tana Gordon



HEROES



John & Tara
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Curt & Dani
Wheeler



Glenn &
Michelle Foy





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Fidelity Charitable Foundation
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Monte & Ranette Fulton
John & Alice Hinshaw
James & Monica Kordonowy

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Joseph Reger
Valley Christian Church
Yellowstone Bar Association
Danny Zimmerman



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The Children's Clinic of Billings
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Mattress King
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Heidi Putnam
Rotary Club of Kalispell
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Dennis & Val Sulser

Target
Valley County Community
Foundation
Walmart
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Hillary Tryan
Valley Baptist Church
Westmoreland



To learn more, visit us at www.youthdynamics.org and follow us on social media.



Youth Dynamics of Montana
People of Youth Dynamics



@youthdynamicsmt



Youth Dynamics of Montana

Empowering **Youth & Families**
for a **Brighter Tomorrow**

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