



**YOUTH
FOR DENVER AREA
CHRIST®**



FY2023-24

Annual Report



July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

70 Years of Transforming Lives...ONE Story at a Time



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Throughout this past year, we saw God work in so many ways. We began July 2023 with an ambitious goal: to connect with 1,200 young people in the Denver area over the coming year and create safe spaces for conversations centered around faith. We are thrilled to announce that as of July 2024, our team and ministry leaders have built meaningful relationships with 1,218 young people. We have worked with our community partners to provide opportunities for these young individuals to explore their faith, share their experiences, and grow together in a supportive environment.

Our journey over the past year has been filled with enriching experiences and significant milestones. After some construction delays, we are excited to announce the grand opening of our new youth center, the ACO House, in August 2024! The Youth Center is purposely located in North Aurora, utilizing the relationship with New Legacy, coming alongside youth attending that school and the surrounding area between Dayton and Peoria, along with 26th Avenue and Colfax. Addressing the needs expressed by the youth in this area, the center allows for a safe place to meet away from their school where they can experience community, receive holistic support and resources, and engage in other pro-social activities.

2024 signifies 70 years of dedicated ministry by Denver Area Youth For Christ. In commemorating this milestone, we are celebrating the transformative stories that have emerged over the past seven decades. These narratives extend beyond the lives of just young individuals; they encompass the experiences of our staff and volunteers who have had the privilege of fostering relationships and learning alongside these teens.

Looking ahead, we are eager to continue expanding our outreach and deepening our relationships. We aim to support even more young people on their faith journeys, ensuring that they always have a safe space to turn to for guidance, support, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this mission to come alongside young people.

Serving Him Together,

Ken Allen





MISSION

To reach young people everywhere, working with the local church and other likeminded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the word of God and prayer, passion for sharing their love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

VISION

To see that every young person in every people group in every nation has the opportunity to make an informed decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ and become part of a local church.

MINISTRIES



Campus Life works with students on middle school and high school campuses at **nine schools in the Denver Area.**

Through clubs, 1:1 appointments, and before- and after-school activities, staff come alongside teens during pivotal moments of their young lives. **More than 1054 students are engaged on a yearly basis.**



MINISTRIES



Parent Life supports pregnant or parenting teens in three areas of Denver, with **84 young people regularly engaged** and their families every year. DAYFC staff facilitate life-giving mentoring, working with young parents as they strive to stay in school and raise their young ones. DAYFC also works with community organizations to help provide teenage parents with daily essentials such as diapers, formula, baby clothing, etc.

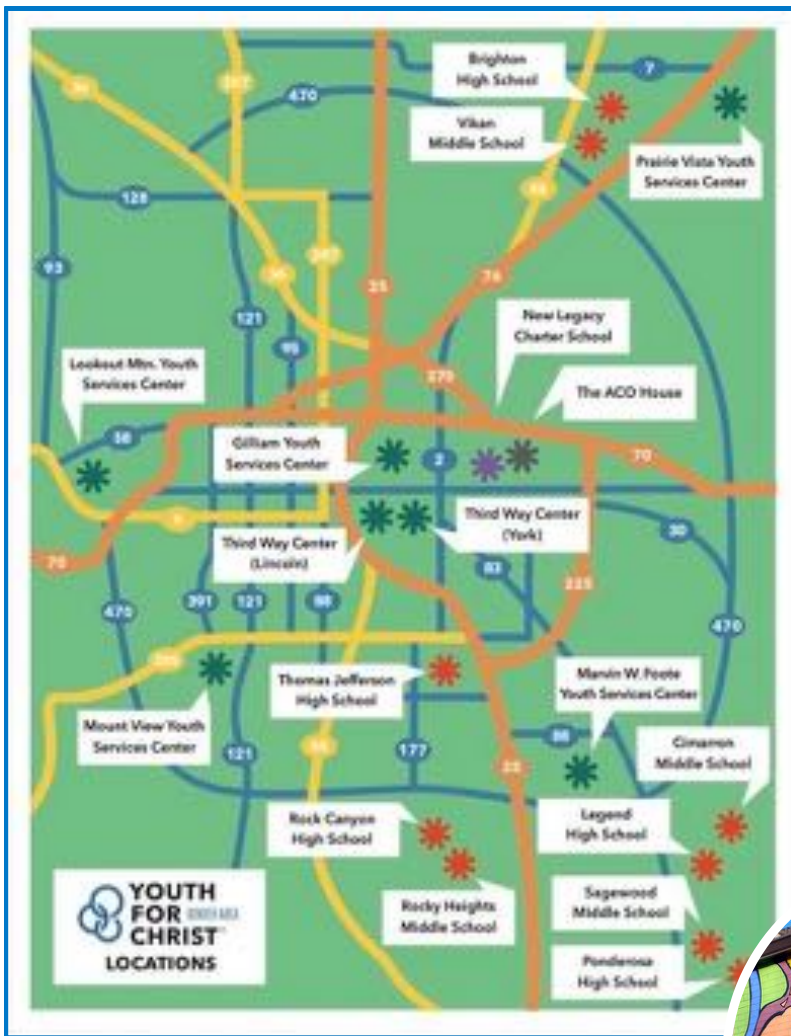


City Life engages young people in urban communities. Our teams aspire to see deep change in urban neighborhoods by raising emerging leaders from the young people in those communities in those communities with **247 students engaged** in youth leadership development during the 2023-24 fiscal year.



The **Juvenile Justice Ministry** provides incarcerated youth from diverse backgrounds with Chaplaincy, mentorship, and small groups to improve their life skills and mitigate recidivism. DAYFC is one of few organizations that connects with incarcerated youth and offers them support and friendship in an otherwise hostile environment. DAYFC has been **embedded in eight (8) detention facilities** and **works with 462 adjudicated youth**. DAYFC embraces a continuum of care culture for these youth and observes the most transformation when provided with trusted adult mentors that come alongside system-involved young people.





DAYFC offers youth mentoring and discipleship programs that aim to build strong relationships with young people, guiding them toward positive life choices, faith, and leadership development.



ACO House | ACO stands for **A Christ Operation** as well as an abbreviation for Aurora, Colorado. This center for urban youth is a longtime answer to prayer for our ministry and offers a safe, comfortable, and exciting space for youth.

DAYFC MINISTRY LOCATIONS

Denver Area Youth for Christ serves all over the metro area sharing the life changing message of Jesus. We focus on building relationships with young people through various programs and initiatives, providing them with **mentorship, support, and opportunities for personal development.**

YFC offers youth mentoring and discipleship programs that aim to build strong relationships with young people, guiding them toward positive life choices, faith, and leadership development.

Schools and Community Outreach: YFC works with local schools, providing access to students through **lunchtime clubs, after-school programs, and events.** YFC has specialized programs targeting specific groups of youth, such as those involved in juvenile justice, teen moms, and youth in difficult circumstances, providing them with support and guidance in their lives. **YFC collaborates with local churches, businesses, and volunteers to create a larger network of support for young people in the metro area.**

VOLUNTEER MOMENTS



SHEREE FRAIZER

Board member and Volunteer, Sheree Fraizer, shares about her interactions with youth while hosting church services in detention facilities:

*"The young lady who impacted me most during my time as a volunteer was when I was doing a Bible study with the young girls at Marvin Foote. One of the young ladies didn't want to be part of the Bible study, but she was already sitting in the area and didn't move when we came together to study. She kind of turned her back on us. She was very disinterested, and when the study was over, I walked over to her and asked her if I could pray for her. **To my surprise, she allowed me to pray, and she began to weep as I prayed.** She was starting to release, and that was very touching and moving. I can't forget it because*

it showed me that even though some young people appear to be tough on the outside, they are truly hurting on the inside, so that moment has impacted me, and is one I will always remember. Jesus can touch any and everyone."



MIKE BLUNN

*"Mentoring is my opportunity to take from the many gifts that God has blessed me with and share some of that abundance with someone who needs it. It is my chance to walk alongside someone who is not so different from me, who, in fact, may be just a younger version of me and to share in their burdens and advise when appropriate and applicable. This is optimum when **the Lord takes control of the situation and I simply become His instrument** in speaking into the life of my younger friend."*



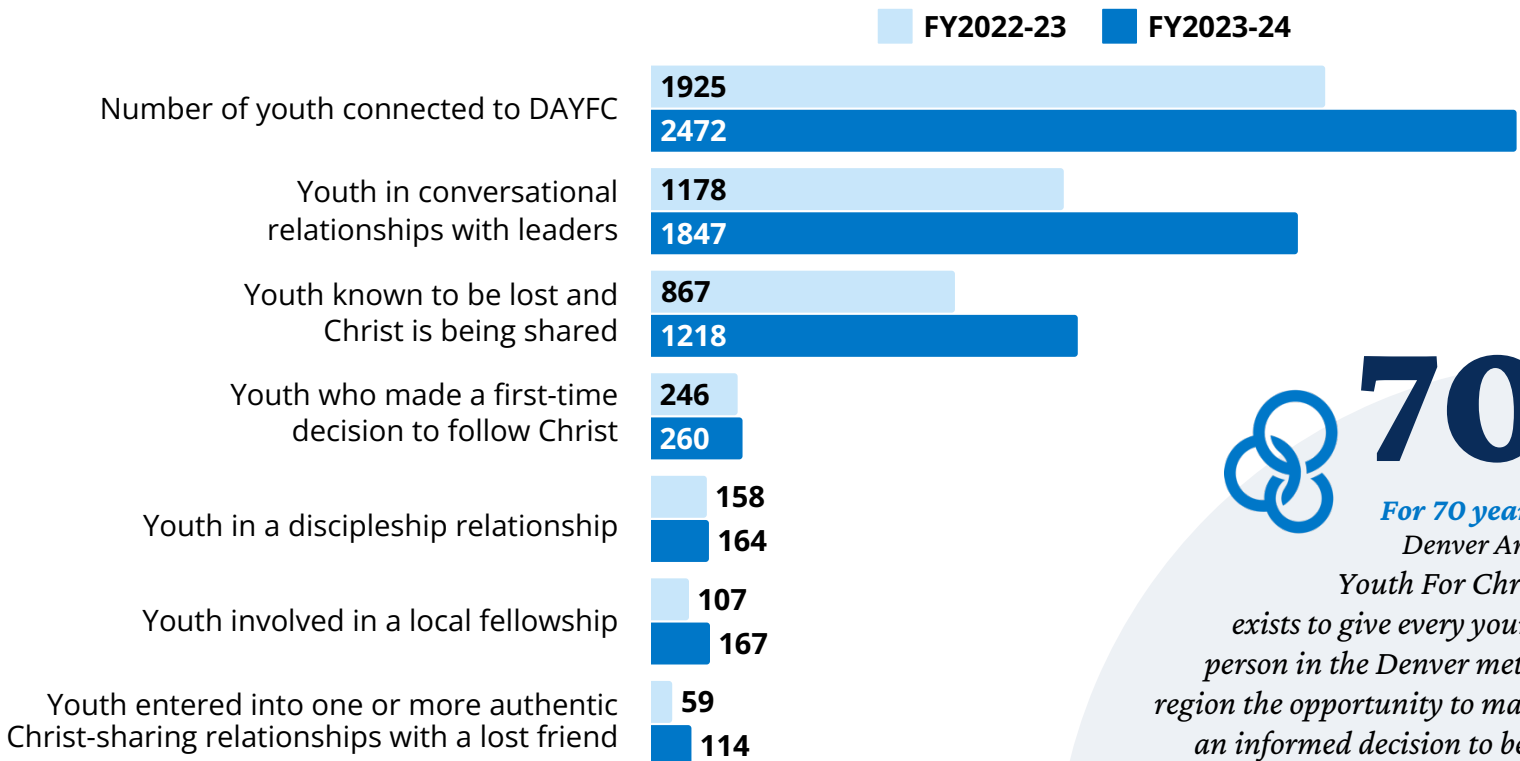
CLAIRE FROEHLICH

Claire Froehlich has served on our Juvenile Justice Team for 14 years. Here is a quote from Claire where you can hear her heart about the population she gets to work with; *"These are not necessarily bad kids but hurting kids. They come from family situations you can hardly fathom. **They need to know there is hope for them,** and that they are loved and can be part of the family of Christ."*



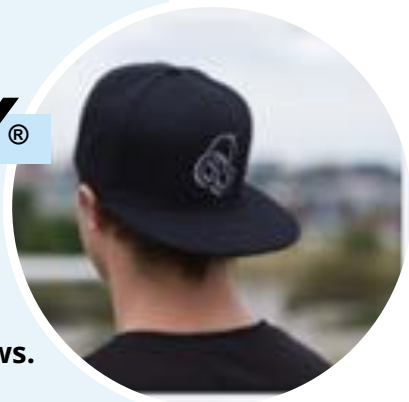


MINISTRY IMPACT



70
 For 70 years,
 Denver Area
 Youth For Christ
 exists to give every young
 person in the Denver metro
 region the opportunity to make
 an informed decision to be a
 follower of Jesus Christ and
 become part of a local church.

3STORY®



A way of life that guides followers of Jesus to be good news as they share The Good News.

3Story® is the phrase we use to describe how we live in relationship with God and others. We use three circles to represent these stories—**God’s Story, my own story and the stories of young people.** When the circles overlap, it means friendship is growing, trust is building, transformation is happening.

3Story® helps people who love Jesus stay tightly connected to Him so they might become good news as they talk about the Good News of God’s love. It’s a lifestyle we pursue. We want to be people who love like Jesus loves us, who serve as Jesus serves and who are consistently drawing near to God for the sake of young people.

We pursue 11-19 year olds who are walking through pivotal, story shaping moments; like navigating a new school, becoming a teen parent, spending time in a juvenile institution or simply enduring the culture of social media. Young people often feel marginalized. **As we live 3Story® lives, we represent Jesus who is steady and trustworthy so that young people feel seen, heard and valued. Scan the code or click button to learn more!**



WATCH VIDEO



*On Sunday, July 23rd, 2023, a huge portable baptismal was rolled onto the facility to **baptize twenty-two young women and men** who had given their lives to the Lord. To God be the glory for such a beautiful victory! Friends, the angels in heaven rejoice, and so are we as this is indeed good news to celebrate.*

Ean Cowan
Director of Juvenile Justice Ministry



*On the outside, it looks like a lot of just fun and games, but on the inside, there are **so many stories**—stories for each one of our students.*

Donny McCleery
Director of Campus Life Ministries



*I am seeing **youth hungrier for God than ever before**; voicing questions that we all have and seeking the truth for themselves. I know that the placement and timing of our safe space for the community is exactly what God wants, and I am starting to see how we have been placed to be a healing balm for the area we will be in.*

Alex Straughter
Parent Life Director



OUTNUMBER THE GRAINS OF SAND...

Campus Life Trip to Disney | August 2023

The 42 kids on that trip came from various backgrounds—economically, demographically, and culturally. Also significantly, this was a new step for quite a few of them—either it was their first time going on a trip without their parents, to the ocean, or even out of Colorado! Two kids went with a full memory of how their dad always told them he would take them to Disney, but he couldn't because he passed away. So, **for many of the students, just leaving the parking lot was a meaningful endeavor.**



Besides Monday night, every morning one of the **leaders would share about their own walk with God**, and what it would look like for God to be in each of the kids' lives as well. Each time the talk would be next to a pool to symbolize that each person's proximity to the pool represented where they were in their walk with God—whether that meant diving in, swimming laps, or simply sitting on the edge.

On one meeting, one of the leaders, Dorie Summers, felt led by God to share Psalm 139:17-18, which states that **if we were to count God's thoughts, they would "outnumber the grains of sand."** She then gave all the kids little bottles to fill with sand from the beach to symbolize how much God knew of each of them—of all types of color, shape, and size.

This blew the mind of the kids there—that God would love and know them so significantly.

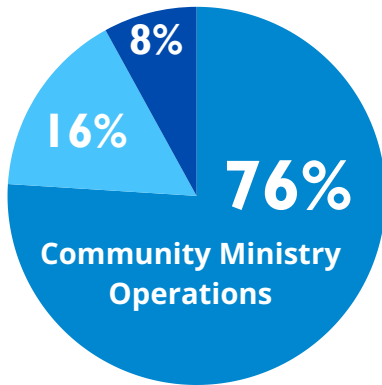
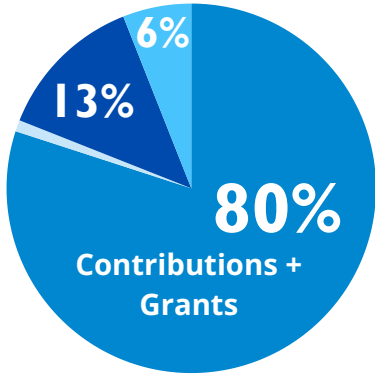
That, with the other talks, prompted **11 students to start a relationship and three to renew their walk with Christ. Entirely, 34 said they were going to deepen their relationship with God**, and every single student said they were willing to "take a step forward in their faith."



...every single student said they were willing to "take a step forward in their faith."



FINANCIAL REPORT



INCOME

- Contributions + Grants: **80%**
- Special Events & Fundraising: **13%**
- Other income: **6%**
- Community Service Revenue: **1%**

EXPENSES

- Community Ministry Operations: **76%**
- Administrative: **16%**
- Fundraising: **8%**



Seek the Lord your God, and you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29

“JUST KEEP SHOWING UP

...and I Will Show a Way”

By: Justin Conant | DAYFC Campus Life Ministry Director

Hey Justin, can we get together soon?

Absolutely! How about breakfast Saturday?

I would love that. I have been feeling off. I know my relationship with Christ hasn't been great lately. I want to start reading the Bible and making God a priority again. I don't even own a Bible, and if I did, I wouldn't even know where to start reading. Maybe we can begin to meet a couple of times a month to review and apply the things we've been reading?

Pursuing students is what we do every day. Authentic Christ-sharing relationships often take years to develop. Years of showing up, being present and sometimes just simply listening. There have been so many obstacles to ministry over the several past years with the pandemic and school restrictions impacting so many of the youth's holistic health. But God continues to tell me to “just keep showing up and I will show a way.” He has definitely been doing that in every way. Please keep praying for me and all the students and faculty in our community!

Thank you for being a part of the ongoing conversation with youth in our city and helping us share God's story. It's our honor to be the storytellers on your behalf who meet kids right where they are and give life to their story.