

HOPE FOR YOUTH

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Facilitating positive change in the lives of children, adolescents and families





A Message From CEO and Executive Director, Irma Edington



Dear Friends and Supporters:

As we reflect on the past year, 2024 has been one of both challenges and triumphs for Hope for Youth. The unwavering support from our community, partners, and donors has been instrumental in helping us navigate obstacles while continuing to grow and make a meaningful impact on the lives of children, youth, and families across Long Island.

In 2024, we were fortunate to be awarded several grants that allowed us to expand two of our existing programs, furthering our ability to provide essential services to those who need it most. Our commitment to fostering strong relationships has never been more evident as we established new collaborations with organizations that share our mission and values. These partnerships not only strengthen our work but also create an even broader network of support for the families we serve. We were also pleased to secure funding for our STEAM program, offering our youth the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and math in exciting new ways.

This year marked a monumental milestone for us as we celebrated our 55th Anniversary Gala. A night of honoring our foster families, community members, and industry partners. It was a chance to reflect on our rich history and honor all the incredible work we've accomplished. We also continued to engage with the community through our annual events, including the Run for Hope 5K, Youth Summerfest, and our Hope for The Holidays campaign for Youth and Families. These events were a true testament to the spirit of togetherness that defines our organization.

Our staff remains the heart of Hope for Youth. We took time to celebrate their hard work and dedication throughout the year with a Staff Appreciation Lunch, a Holiday Dinner, and multiple staff-centered activities. Their commitment is what keeps Hope for Youth strong, focused, and fully aligned with our mission. We are proud to have such a dedicated team and look forward to continuing to nurture and support them.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Board for their dedication, commitment and steadfast determination in supporting our mission. Their continued support is invaluable as we look to build upon our success and expand our reach in the coming year.

Looking ahead, we are excited to embark on a new chapter as we begin the process of strategic planning. We are committed to addressing the challenges we know lie ahead, and with the resilience and determination that has defined us for over five decades, we are confident that HFY will weather any storm.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing partnership in our mission. Together, we will continue to provide hope and opportunities for the most vulnerable youth and families of Long Island.

Sincerely

Irma Edington

CEO & Board President
Board President, Hope for Youth

Our Mission

Hope for Youth is dedicated to facilitating positive change in the lives of children, adolescents, and families.

We provide stable, nurturing, residential care, foster care, preventive and outpatient programs which educate, motivate, and empower individuals to become self-sufficient and achieve their full potential.

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A Message From Board President, Peter Breckling



Dear Friends and Supporters:

Reflecting on the achievements of 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of our staff, board members, and community that have made this year a success for Hope for Youth.

As Board President I have been able to witness the generosity, time, and support from our Long Island Community. Our donors, volunteers, and partnered organizations make all the difference in helping us fulfill our mission. It is because of you that we are able to continue offering our programs and services to children and families in need. Your belief in our work strengthens our resolve to create lasting change in the lives of those we serve.

I want to thank our incredible staff. Your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts continue to make a profound difference in the lives of the children, youth, and families we serve. Your compassion, expertise, and commitment to excellence are the heart and soul of Hope for Youth, and I am constantly inspired by the work you do each day. This organization thrives because of you, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

To my fellow board members, thank you for your continued support, strategic guidance, and commitment to our mission. Your collaborative spirit ensures that Hope for Youth remains a leader in providing vital services to the Long Island community, and I am proud to work alongside each of you.

Looking ahead, I am excited for the opportunities that 2025 holds. With your continued support and dedication, I have no doubt that we will reach even greater heights and make an even bigger impact on the lives of the children and families who rely on Hope for Youth.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our mission. Together, we can continue to build a brighter future for our community.

With deepest gratitude,

Peter Breckling

Board President, Hope for Youth



Our Programs and Services:

- Therapeutic Foster Care
- Nassau PINS Diversion
- Suffolk County Youth ACT
- HEART Program
- Health Homes
- Prevention Program
- OASIS Clinic
- Diagnostic Center
- Non-Secure Detention
- Adjustment Services Program
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Services
- Transitional Housing Program
- Boys Group Home Seaford

About Hope For Youth and Our Services

For more than 50 years, Hope For Youth has provided services for children, youth and families, spanning a continuum of care from out-patient, clinical and preventive services, to foster care, diagnostic and emergency residential services.

The organization works with children as young as birth through 21 across the Long Island region. With locations in Amityville, Bellmore, Farmingdale, Hempstead Bay Shore and Seaford. Hope For Youth continues to grow to meet the needs of Long Island communities. With six residential facilities, 35 foster homes and 165 staff members, Hope For Youth has grown into one of Long Island's preeminent providers of services for children and families.

Our Licensing:

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- New York State Office of Mental Health
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports
- Hope for Youth Residential Services Accreditation
- Council of the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

Our Contracts:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- New York State Office of Mental Health
- New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports
- New York State Office of Court Administration
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- Nassau County Department of Social Services
- Suffolk County Department of Social Services
- Suffolk County Department of Probation
- Suffolk County Youth Bureau
- Suffolk County Department of Health, Division of Mental Hygiene
- Leading Health Insurance and Managed Care Organizations

Nassau PINS Diversion Program



What is PINS?

PINS or a person in need of supervision under the age of 18. PINS works with youth experiencing issues with:

- School truancy
- Gang involvement
- Substance abuse
- Mental health and behavioral issues

The Nassau County PINS Diversion program is designed to divert youth who are at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system.



Statistics from the PINS Program

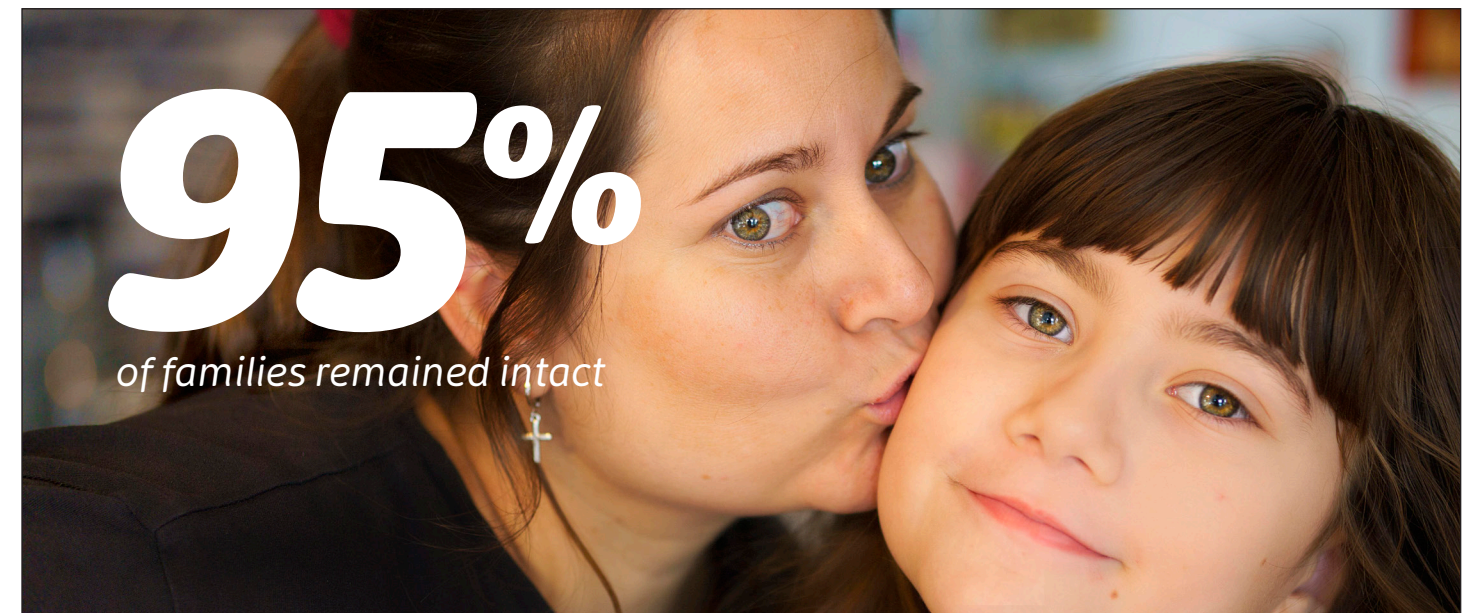
- 389 youths served in 2024
- 316 youths completed the program

99%

of participants avoided a PINS placement and improved their situation.

95%

of families remained intact



Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing



Quick Facts

- Maximum length of stay and program support is 24 months
- Age range is 18 to 24 years as head of household
- Referral Source is the CoC Coordinated Entry List

Working alongside the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, Hope For Youth is dedicated to providing youth, and their dependents, with low-barrier, self-determined housing options that meet their needs and support housing permanency.

Hope For Youth's Transitional Housing—Rapid Re-housing Program is a state-licensed, federal, Suffolk County, and Mother Cabrini Health Foundation funded program available to homeless youth in Nassau and Suffolk County between the ages of 18–24.

All youth will be offered individualized case management services, counseling, independent living skill groups, and care coordination to support their successful move to permanent

housing. Youth residing in our Transitional Housing program will be supported by trauma-informed therapeutically trained staff 24/7 and youth residing in Rapid Re-Housing sites will have the support of our case manager.

Each youth accessing services will be supported for up to 90 days after discharge from the program to assist them in navigating housing obstacles and overall well-being.



Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic

Hope For Youth's Outpatient Substance Use Clinic is licensed by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports. We specialize in treating children and adolescents with primary substance use disorders, as well as those significantly impacted by a family member's substance use.

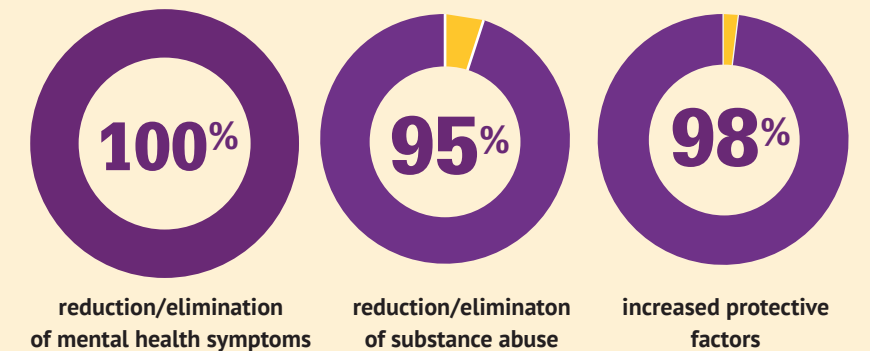
Our expert team includes child and adolescent psychiatrists, licensed social workers, licensed mental health counselors, certified alcohol and substance use counselors, and certified recovery peer advocates.

The clinic offers the following services:

- Individual, Family, and Group Therapy
- Evidence Based Models Including:
 - MDFT
 - Seven challenges
 - CPP
 - TF-CBT
 - Psychiatric Evaluations
 - Medication Management



In 2024, HFY's Outpatient Substance Use Clinic served over 111 unique clients, and discharging 55 from their treatment by the end of the year. Below is an overview of the success of the services provided:



FOCUS Program

Hope for Youth's FOCUS program offers Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) to parents and their children, from birth through age five. These parent-child dyads are referred for CPP through the parent's involvement in Suffolk County Family Treatment Court's FOCUS program, typically after a temporary loss of child custody due to substance use.

CPP is a trauma-informed, relationship-based intervention that aims to strengthen the parent-child bond, support emotional regulation, provide psychoeducation, and help families process trauma together. Families participate in weekly joint therapy sessions, with additional individual support available to parents as needed.

To ensure comprehensive, coordinated care, the program maintains regular communication with court personnel and treatment providers, promoting a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to family healing and reunification.



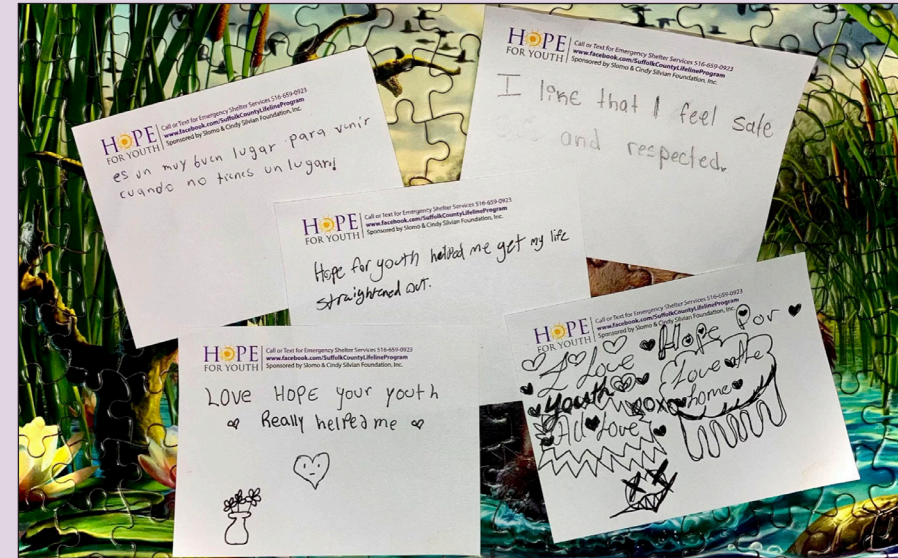
A FOCUS Success Story

A client recently graduated from the program after meeting with therapist for close to two years. When she first began treatment, her infant daughter was residing in foster care since her birth and the Mom struggled to attend treatment and engage in sessions—often turning to face away from therapist while providing mumbled one word answers. During sessions she was able to open up during treatment and the parent gained more and more supervised visitation time. The client has now gained full custody of her child and is expecting another soon.



- 140 individuals have participated in the FOCUS Program.
- 51 of those have successfully graduated and 6 more will graduate in May.
- 25 of the 140 total are currently actively participating .

HEART Program



In 2024, the HEART program served 75 families, and over 120 children across Nassau County for intensive preventive services.

There were 20 families in particular who showed significant improvement in their parenting skills, which reduced the risk of foster care and improved family dynamics.

30 families remained together and were successful at meeting their goals and closing preventive services

Residential Services Success Stories

Joseph W:

Joseph W. was referred to the HFY Adolescent Diagnostic and Respite Services Program by Suffolk County DSS for a 30-day diagnostic evaluation. He was referred due to school truancy and negative behaviors, including fighting, disrespect, and not following directions or school rules. Prior to this, Joseph had no history of interventions or services.

During his time at HFY, Joseph expressed that being placed in the program was an eye-opener for him, allowing him to gain insight into his behaviors. He learned and applied healthy coping skills to manage his anxiety and anger.

Joseph also made significant progress in therapy and agreed to continue with therapeutic services after his discharge.

While at HFY, Joseph achieved the Honor Roll level, which awarded him the most privileges. He became a role model resident with no incidents during his stay. He effectively managed his anxiety and anger, finding alternative ways to cope without resorting to fighting.

A few weeks after his discharge, Joseph returned to the unit before a clinical appointment to thank the staff for their support and guidance. Both Joseph and his father reported that he was doing much better—attending school daily and eliminating negative behaviors.

Seaford Resident:

In early January, another youth was successfully discharged from HFY's Seaford residence. This individual had a history of substance use that severely impacted his behavior and community involvement, even leading him to drive under the influence.

During his stay, the youth demonstrated strong motivation to change, learning coping skills and gaining awareness of the consequences of substance use. He expressed a desire to avoid alcohol, recognizing how it had affected both his life and his family. His commitment to recovery led to a successful discharge back home in early January.

OASAS Primary Prevention Program



In 2023, the Hope For Youth OASAS Primary Prevention Program successfully rebranded and expanded its reach. Historically, prevention efforts primarily focused on elementary schools, delivering the evidence-based Too Good for Drugs model and supporting local coalitions. However, in 2023, we broadened our evidence-based practices to include Pre-K and Kindergarteners through the Incredible Years program. This puppet-based initiative promotes social-emotional skills and effective classroom management.

Additionally, the Prevention team introduced two new programs this year: Boys Council and Girls Circle—group-based curricula focused on socialization and respect. These programs were extended to our residential settings, including the RHYS and Seaford Group Home.

We also continued delivering the evidence-based Triple P (Positive

Parenting Program) to parents in the community, local libraries, and foster parents at Hope For Youth. This program emphasizes building communication skills, establishing emotional regulation, and boosting self-esteem in children. It serves parents of children ages 0–12 and teens.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our new WISE Program, which will focus on educating older adults on substance use, communicating with doctors about medications, and fostering community connections.

This year, we collaborated with the Copiague, Amityville, Deer Park, Lindenhurst, Wyandanch, West Babylon, and North Babylon communities, providing resources and prevention education to 9,454 community members. The team participated in community drug take-back events, mental wellness fairs, color runs, World Refugee Day, and various other community events.

The Prevention staff also partnered with Diagnostic and Non-Secure Detention to provide STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) services over the summer. They further contributed to the Summer Youth Employment Program, teaching work readiness skills to boys at the Seaford Group Home.

In addition, Prevention began working with OASAS on the Complete Youth Prevention Education Program (CYPEP) at Wyandanch Union Free School District. This initiative is the first of its kind on Long Island to deliver comprehensive, evidence-based prevention education and support to parents and youth from Pre-K through high school. Programs under CYPEP include Incredible Years, Second Step, Positive Action, Teen Intervene, Safety First, and Triple P. Implementation began in the fall of 2023.



An OASAS Success Story

Theo was referred to Hope For Youth's Outpatient Clinic by his mother after his previous provider could no longer offer services due to disruptive behaviors and difficulty following instructions. At Hope For Youth, Theo was enrolled in the 7 Challenges Program, where he began attending weekly individual sessions and receiving monthly psychiatric services.

Initially, Theo struggled to engage in therapy. He often displayed signs of frustration, expressed a desire to leave sessions early, and resisted participating in activities. However, as time progressed, Theo identified meaningful goals: he wanted to graduate high school, gain employment, and better understand his diagnosis. This marked the beginning of a strong therapeutic alliance with his therapist.

As Theo grew more comfortable, he became open and honest about his

history with psychiatric and inpatient treatment. He also began receiving psychiatric services, which included adjustments to his medications to help stabilize his mood. Early in his treatment, Theo faced obstacles, including difficulties managing his diagnosis, active marijuana use, and frequent irritability. He also shared that he experienced auditory hallucinations, which significantly impacted his home and school life.

Through therapy, Theo actively engaged in understanding his symptoms and the negative effects of marijuana on his body and mind. He recognized its impact on his lungs and mental health, noting that it often worsened his auditory and visual hallucinations—experiences he once described as a nightmare. His growing awareness led him to set a personal goal to eliminate marijuana use.

Although he faced occasional relapses, Theo has now been two months sober. His auditory hallucinations have

dramatically subsided, and he has developed effective coping strategies to manage symptoms when they do emerge.

In addition to his therapeutic progress, Theo began attending the local library regularly to help fill his time productively. He found this routine enjoyable and a positive outlet for his energy.

In the fall, Theo made the decision to leave BOCES in hopes of returning to a regular public school. By mid-January 2025, he had resumed attending classes, determined to demonstrate to school personnel that he could attend regularly and behave appropriately. His goal is to prove his commitment and transition back to public school full-time.

Although Theo still experiences occasional low moods, his growth since the start of treatment has been remarkable. He continues to work toward his goals with newfound resilience and optimism.

What is a children's Health Home?

A Health Home is not a place—it's a team! It's a group of dedicated service providers who work closely with a young person and their family to ensure they receive the care and support they need—and want—to stay healthy.

When a youth joins a Health Home, they are matched with their own Care Manager. This Care Manager partners with them to create a personalized Plan of Care that supports their social, emotional, mental, and physical well-being—now and into the future.

A Health Home Story

Youth served by the Health Homes team often face unimaginable circumstances. Our dedicated Health Homes staff collaborate closely with other agency programs to ensure each young person receives the comprehensive support they need.

One such youth, who has endured severe abuse, will soon be entering kinship care. A relative has stepped forward to provide a safe and loving home, and with the support of our Foster Care, Intensive Case Management, and Health Homes teams, this transition is becoming a reality.

Together, these departments have worked to gather essential items to help the family prepare for the youth's arrival. Our Health Homes worker has gone above and beyond—coordinating and rescheduling medical appointments required for the kinship caregiver's licensing process, often adjusting to accommodate the caregiver's work schedule. They have even committed to personally transporting the caregiver to ensure the appointment is kept.

The Health Homes team often works behind the scenes, but their impact is profound. In this case, they are helping transform a young person's dream of living safely with family into a tangible and hopeful future.

Youth ACT

Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is a program licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health. It is designed to meet the complex needs of children and youth ages 10 to 21 who are either at risk of entering — or transitioning back from — high-intensity services such as inpatient hospitalization or residential care.

Using a multidisciplinary team approach, Youth ACT provides intensive, community-based support to children with significant psychiatric needs. The goal is to help these young people and their families navigate challenges, avoid institutional-level care when possible, and ensure a successful transition back into the community when returning from more intensive settings.

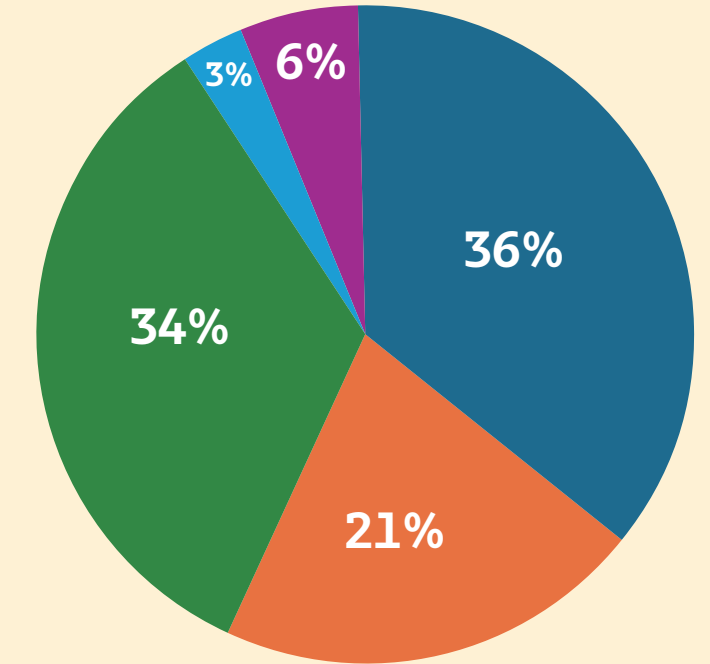
A Youth ACT Success Story

One inspiring success story involves a young girl referred to our program following an extended hospital stay due to significant disorganized thinking. Since joining the program, she has made remarkable progress — becoming consistent with her medication, successfully transitioning from a specialized setting back to her

district school, and remaining hospital-free throughout her time in our care. Her growth extends beyond academics; she continues to thrive in extracurricular activities like dance and cheerleading, a true reflection of her resilience, stability, and ongoing success.

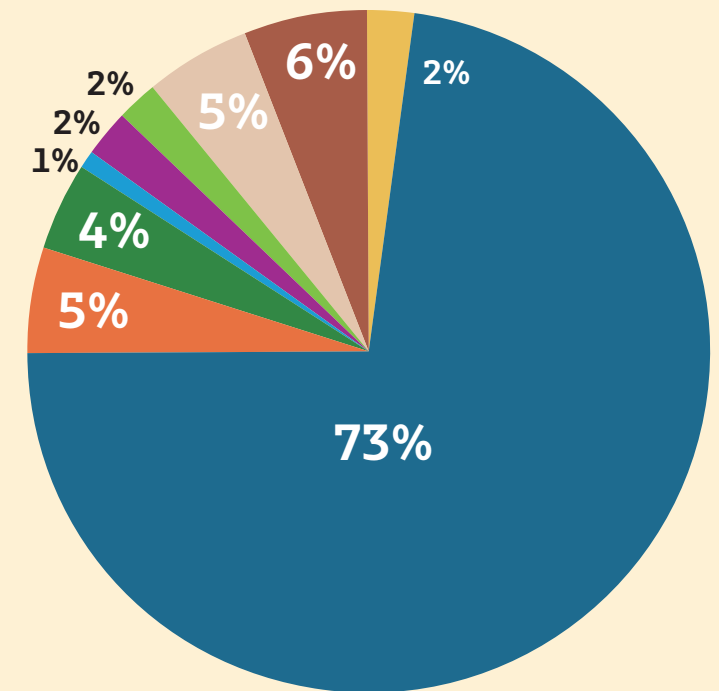
Revenue

- Boarding Care – 36%
- Education Services – 3%
- Special Events & Contributions – 34%
- Medicaid Support – 21%
- Outpatient Fees – 6%
- Government Contracts & Grants – 0%
- Other Income – 0%



Expenses

- Salaries, Taxes & Benefits – 73%
- Utilities – 1%
- Program Supplies & Fees – 6%
- Professional Fees – 5%
- Transportation – 2%
- Foster Care Stipends – 2%
- Occupancy Costs – 2%
- Insurance – 2%
- Interest – 2%



2024 Special Events

Summerfest

A special day of respite for youth and families, was celebrated with a picnic-style event featuring tie-dye activities and face painting. It was a day filled with joy, connection, and community spirit.



Step Up Step Out 5K

Held at Belmont Lake State Park, this annual event raised funds for Hope For Youth's Step Up Step Out Program, empowering us to support youth and families with urgent needs that fall outside the scope of traditional grant-funded programs.



Fundraising Gala

We came together with supporters, staff, and former program participants to celebrate 55 years of impact on Long Island. The evening was filled with heartfelt stories, shared memories, and a renewed commitment to building brighter futures.



Thanksgiving

Through strong partnerships with the local community, we distributed food to families in need, ensuring they could enjoy a warm and nourishing holiday meal.



Staff and Social Workers Appreciation

Hope For Youth proudly celebrated its dedicated staff with a luncheon at Captain Bill's, alongside special events throughout the year, including Spirit Week, to recognize their hard work and commitment



2024 Special Events



Hope for the Holidays Drive



Our annual Toy and Gift Card Drive brought holiday cheer to over 200 youth. This year, we introduced a shopping room staffed by volunteers, allowing families and workers to personally select gifts—making the season brighter and more personalized for everyone involved.

Thanks to Our Event Supporters

An Adoption Success Story



June 2019, two siblings were referred to the Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) Program, which serves youth in foster care who are available for adoption but lack an identified adoptive family. Both children had experienced a traumatic childhood marked by abuse, homelessness, and multiple foster placements. After being placed in a foster home that could not meet their needs, they were referred to WWK for support.

The WWK recruiter applied the Child-Focused Recruitment Model to search for a permanent adoptive home for the siblings. This case was particularly challenging due to the children's unique needs, which had made it difficult for previous foster families to provide lasting care. To build trust and understanding, the recruiter established strong relationships with both children—getting to know them individually and as a sibling set. In alignment with the Child-Focused

Recruitment Model, the recruiter reached out to past foster families for insights into the children's history.

One former foster mother shared that she had loved the children deeply but did not have the resources to care for both at the time. Despite this, she maintained hope that her circumstances might change in the future. The recruiter stayed in touch, offering updates and keeping the connection alive.

About two years later, that same foster mother unexpectedly reached out to the recruiter. She had been contacted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during a contact-tracing effort, informing her that one of the siblings had tested positive for COVID-19. During that call, she inquired about the child's well-being and was heartbroken to learn that she was still in foster care. The recruiter explained that although she had been close to finding a permanent home several times, she was still waiting for adoption. Meanwhile, her brother had developed a strong bond with his current foster family and was

adopted by them in the spring of 2022. However, his sister expressed a desire to be moved and re-placed into another home.

In a stroke of good timing, the former foster mother shared that her situation had changed—she now had the means and support to pursue adoption. The young girl was overjoyed, remembering her time in that home fondly. The WWK recruiter worked diligently to rebuild the relationship between the youth, the foster mother, and the other children living in the home.

The youth officially moved back into the home in 2022, and just a few months later, the entire family relocated down south, fulfilling their dream of living a simpler life with land and space to roam. Their bond grew stronger, and in the spring of 2024, the adoption was finalized. Today, the family is thriving, embracing their new life together.

Two separate families found room in their hearts and homes, providing stability, love, and a sense of belonging for two children who had once faced incredible challenges.



- The Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program is a signature program through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.
- Hope For Youth's Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program serves both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
- Recruiters are trained in the evidence-based Child Focused Recruitment Model which is up to 3x more effective at serving children who have been in foster care the longest, including older youth, sibling groups and children with special needs.
- Recruiter will connect youth who wait for permanent homes with families who wish to adopt by implementing and coordinating effective recruitment, matching and support services for a caseload of 12–15 youth in active recruitment status.



Support Us

You can make a difference in our community and in the lives of children, youth and families on Long Island. With your generous donation, Hope For Youth will continue to deliver the Hope For Youth mission in the communities where we live.



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FOR YOUTH

Address: 201 Dixon Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701

Telephone: 631-691-5100

Fax: 631-691-5104

Website: www.HFYNY.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HFYNY

Instagram: [hopeforyouthlongisland](https://www.instagram.com/hopeforyouthlongisland)

Hope For Youth is a 501 (c) (3) organization