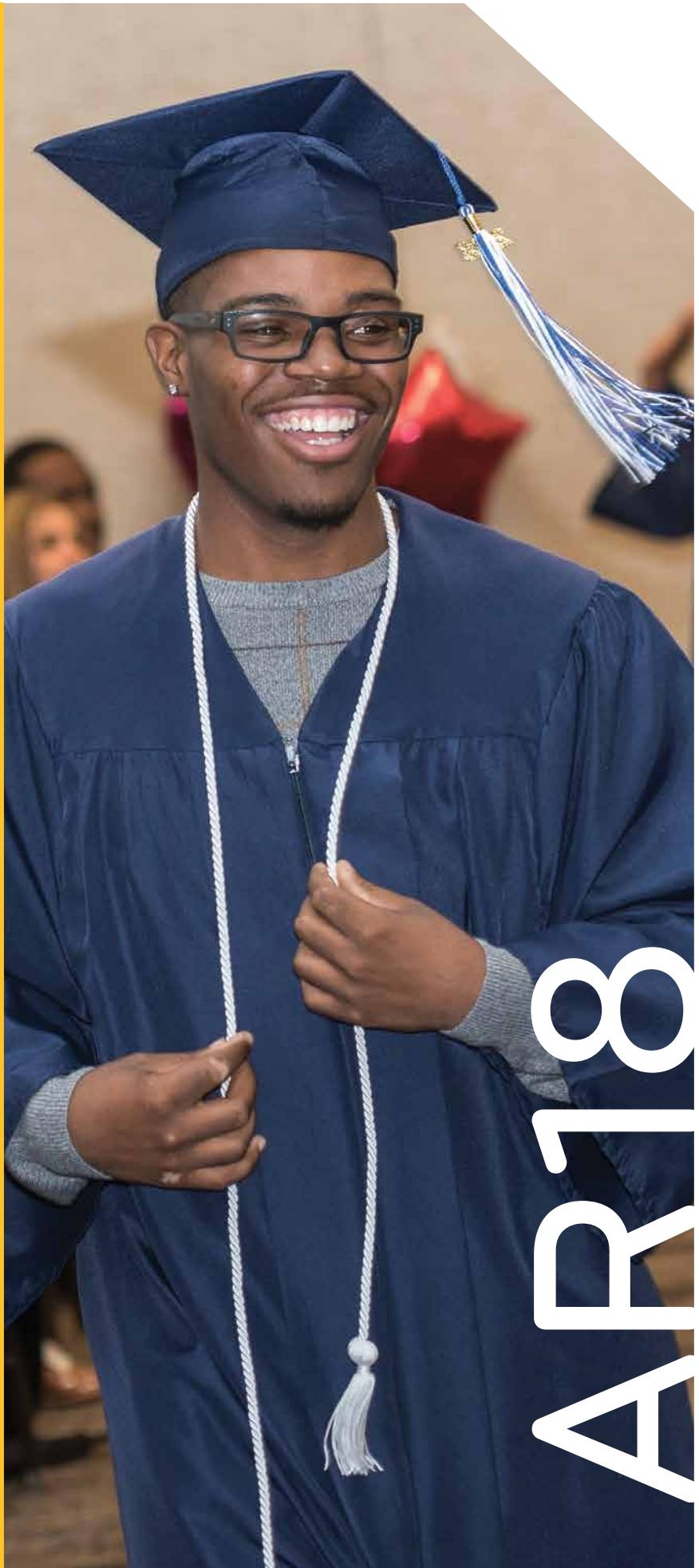


# LEADING THE WAY

SELF-SUFFICIENT  
YOUNG ADULTS  
THRIVING AND  
IMPROVING THEIR  
COMMUNITIES.





**YOUTHBUILD  
LAKE COUNTY WAS  
FOUNDED IN 2004 TO  
HELP YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN LAKE COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS BUILD NEW  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
THEMSELVES AND  
THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

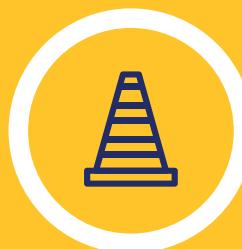
MUCH MORE THAN AN ALTERNATIVE PATH TO A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, YOUTHBUILD OFFERS STUDENTS A VITAL SECOND CHANCE TO DEVELOP STRONG FOUNDATIONAL CAREER AND LIFE SKILLS IN COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP, WELLNESS, AND TEAMWORK.

These skills help prepare our students for sustainable futures in a wide range of skilled trades, military service, or continued education. YouthBuild staff work diligently to tailor the program experience to the interests and needs of each individual student.

YouthBuild programming is a truly transformational process. Students who are accepted work with our dedicated team of mentors, educators, counselors, and advisors to create a personalized path to success. Emphasis is placed on the students' personal responsibility and accountability to themselves and others as they learn what success in life can look like.

And because we are an AmeriCorps site, our students are also AmeriCorps Services Members and participate in many service projects in partnership with other local organizations to support and improve our community.

Through our partnerships with local businesses, students are exposed to employment opportunities where they can gain critical real-world experience in fields such as:



Construction  
and trades



HVAC



Transportation,  
distribution, and logistics



Healthcare



Information  
technology



Automotive

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**"AS WE CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD, YOUTHBUILD IS DEDICATED TO CREATING MORE MEANINGFUL WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS AND CORPORATE PARTNERS."**

Another year has flown by for all of us at YouthBuild Lake County. Over the past year, our students really took initiative and made the program their own. It was inspiring to watch them go above and beyond the requirements of YouthBuild programming to create a rich, meaningful experience for themselves and their peers.

Thanks to the students' ingenuity and leadership, YouthBuild staff and students faced off in a fun and highly competitive basketball game, celebrated our first spring formal, and had more students enter colleges than in any previous year. Public Utilities and HVAC career pathway students visited the Evanston water treatment facility and toured the inner workings of Chicago's CBS studios. Our partners at PGIM helped us upgrade our technology lab, which was a great hands-on experience for our Information Technology career pathway students. We continued our work of revitalizing low-income housing in our community and completed nine service projects. Students also participated in mock interviews and other professional development activities, and nearly 80% completed their high school diplomas.

We are excited to see that 86% of the class of 2018 successfully placed in a job or in college. As we continue moving forward, YouthBuild is dedicated to creating more meaningful work placement opportunities for our students and corporate partners. We look forward to helping an even greater number of students transition into post-secondary education and skilled trade careers.

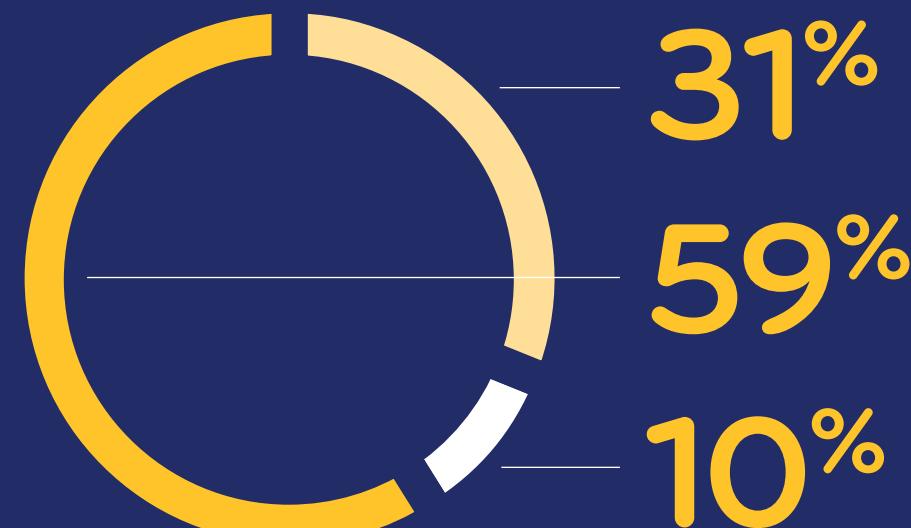
I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to all the donors, volunteers, elected officials, community members, and corporate partners who made last year's successes possible and who enable us to continue striving toward our goals for continued success. You make all we do possible, and it is truly thanks to you that we are able to impact the lives of young adults in this community. Thank you for supporting us through 2018. We can't wait to see what 2019 brings!

With gratitude,

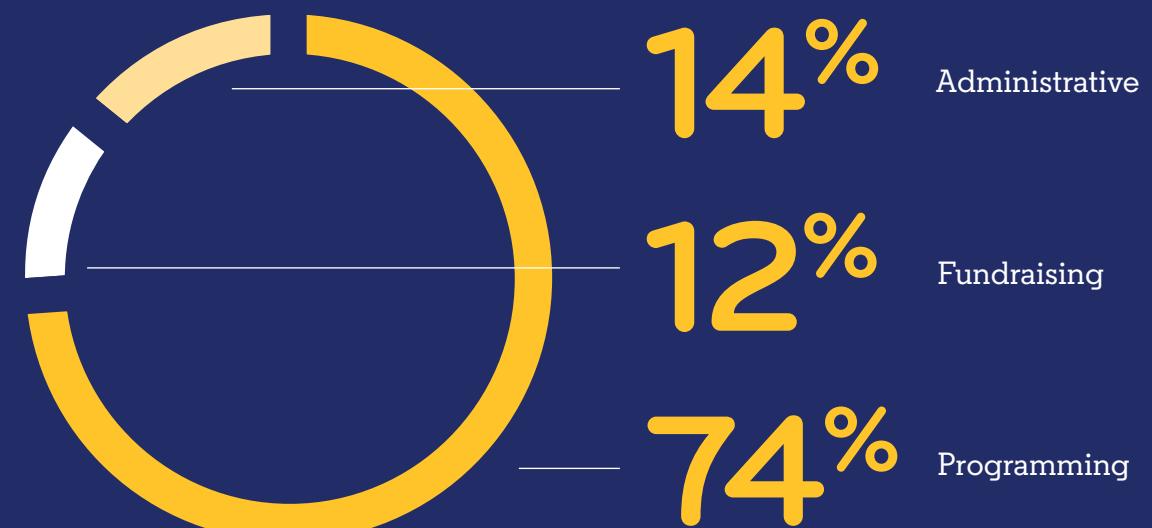
  
Tameka Wilson

Executive Director

## FY18 REVENUE



## FY18 OPERATING EXPENDITURES





**"YOUTHBUILD LAKE COUNTY'S PROCESS WORKS. I'VE SEEN THE IMPROVEMENTS STUDENTS MAKE WITH THE FEEDBACK AND COACHING THEY GET, AND IT'S IMPRESSIVE."**

- DONOR

## BRIANNA

After moving to Illinois, Brianna was searching for a way to finish her high school studies. She initially planned to attend a GED program at a local community college, but a family friend recommended YouthBuild Lake County. From the very beginning, Brianna was impressed with the level of involvement and care from the staff, and she felt strong support to succeed. Brianna served on YBLC's Youth Policy Council, participated in YouthBuild USA's Conference of Young Leaders in Washington, D.C., attended college trips, and took part in many service events. Brianna has since completed the program and is working as a supervisor at Great Wolf Lodge, and plans to continue her education in nursing. Brianna currently represents her community as Miss North Chicago.



## CODY

During his first year at YBLC, Cody successfully earned every career certification offered through YouthBuild programming. In addition to earning his high school diploma, Cody's exceptional drive earned him a full AmeriCorps scholarship (recognizing 450 hours of community service), a Zoro Achievement Award, and the 2018 Delgado Construction Excellence Award. In the fall of 2018, Cody earned his HVAC certification through YouthBuild's Career Access program at the College of Lake County. Cody continues to give of his time and talents throughout our community as YouthBuild's new construction intern. He looks forward to new job opportunities once his internship with YBLC is complete.



**10**Post-secondary  
education  
placements**78%**Diploma  
attainment**82**

Credentials



## LEADING THE WAY WITH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The 28 students in the Class of 2018 showed remarkable determination in pursuit of academic achievement, and we're extremely proud of the results. 18 of the 23 students who came to YouthBuild to earn their high school diplomas accomplished that feat, and the class earned a total of 82 career certifications in a variety of disciplines including CPR, forklift operation, occupational health and safety (OSHA), and the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER). In addition, we had 10 post-secondary education placements in 2018. All in all, it was an extremely successful and rewarding year for the Class of 2018 as they prepare for a successful, sustainable future.

## LEADING THE WAY WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS

Giving back to the community is a cornerstone of the YouthBuild Lake County experience, and the Class of 2018 proudly carried on that tradition. Together, the class put in more than 6,800 hours of community service, averaging 245 hours per student. These activities included sorting books at Bernie's Book Bank, community gardening with Roberti House, distributing diapers and other necessities with Catholic Charities, preparing meals at Feed My Starving Children with our friends from Zoro, building bunk beds for Love INC of Lake County, and home restorations in cooperation with PGIM Real Estate.

These volunteer hours resulted in 18 AmeriCorps scholarships for the class of 2018!

**6,871**Community  
service hours**18**AmeriCorps  
scholarships

**"YOUTHBUILD LAKE  
COUNTY TAKES A VERY  
PERSONAL APPROACH  
TO HELPING KIDS.  
THEY DO A GREAT JOB  
OF EMBRACING THE  
WHOLE PERSON."**

- DONOR

**“THE TWO CARPENTER’S APPRENTICES WE HIRED THIS SUMMER HAVE BEEN REALLY GOOD EMPLOYEES. I’M GETTING GREAT FEEDBACK ON HOW WELL THEY’RE LIKED AND ACCEPTED ON THE CREW.”**

- BLINDERMAN CONSTRUCTION,  
YOUTHBUILD EMPLOYER PARTNER



**105**

Mock interviews completed

## LEADING THE WAY WITH CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Getting ready to enter the job market and start a career path requires honing many skills. To help students refine those skills, we conduct a series of mock interviews throughout the year with the help of volunteers from local businesses. The Class of 2018 participated in 105 of these sessions, giving YouthBuild students the chance to experience what it’s like to sit across the table from a potential employer and present their resumes.

In addition to mock interviews, the Class of 2018 put in 289 professional development hours, which contributed to the class earning 12 internships and 24 job placements with local businesses.

## BUILDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER

As we look back on the achievements of the Class of 2018 — and look ahead to the success of our 2019 class — we are so grateful for the support of the community, our local business partners, our volunteers, and our donors. While the communities we serve continue to struggle to meet the needs of our young adults, we continue to strive to help fill that gap.

Yet there is so much more we can and want to do. Our goal is to expand our capacity and serve more young adults who are in need of their second chance to build lives for themselves and their families. With the uncertainty of today’s political climate and the limited availability of federal resources, we rely on the generosity of our donors more than ever.

Your donation to YouthBuild Lake County — whether through a financial donation, volunteering your time, or an in-kind donations of supplies or resources — makes it all possible. Your contributions help these young adults thrive with the skills, confidence, and leadership capabilities to make their dreams a reality.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [YOUTHBUILDLAKECOUNTY.ORG](http://YOUTHBUILDLAKECOUNTY.ORG) TO MAKE A DONATION OR SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME, AND HELP US BUILD NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE YOUNG ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES!



**12**

Internships completed



**289**

Professional development hours completed



**24**

Job placements

THE ACHIEVEMENTS ATTAINED BY OUR STUDENTS ARE POSSIBLE  
BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT. ON BEHALF OF THE  
STUDENTS, STAFF, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

# THANK YOU.

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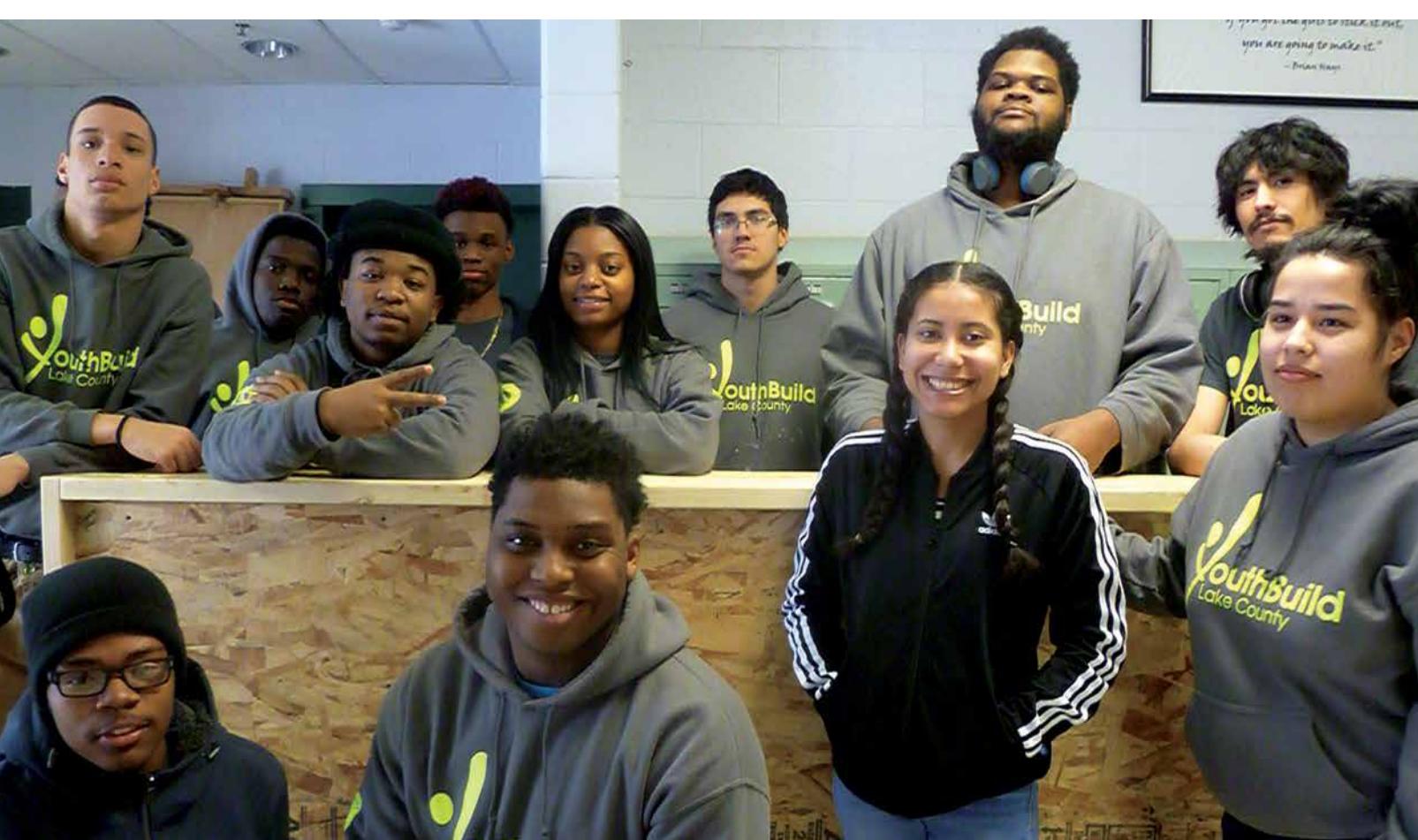
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**"ONE OF THE GREATEST  
TAKEAWAYS I'VE  
SEEN FOR YOUTHBUILD  
LAKE COUNTY STUDENTS  
IS CONFIDENCE —  
THE ABILITY TO BE  
THEIR OWN ADVOCATE  
AND REPRESENT  
THEMSELVES WELL."**

- DONOR

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