



LAKE COUNTY

20

A large white number '20' is positioned in the center of the page. A circular cutout in the middle of the '0' shows a young woman with glasses smiling. The background of the '20' is a collage of various photographs, including a graduation ceremony, a classroom, and a young man in a hard hat.

YEARS OF TRANSFORMING FUTURES

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

MISSION:

Our mission is to provide underserved young adults with the education, training, and life skills necessary to become gainfully employed and build a better future.

VISION:

Self-sufficient young adults thriving and improving their community.

2024 PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

120 **84%**

Total Participants Served

Job Placement Rate

10,000+

Total Service Hours

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

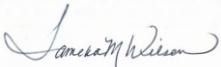
YouthBuild Lake County proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary this past year. Reflecting on two decades of transformative impact, we were inspired by the countless lives we've touched and the remarkable achievements made possible through the unwavering support of our donors and advocates.

This past year in particular has been an exhilarating year at YouthBuild Lake County, marked by significant impact, innovation, and growth. The 120 participants we served in the past year completed over 10,000 service hours on projects such as renovating houses, building a playground, a beach cleanup, and various building projects throughout the community. These experiences have instilled a strong sense of purpose and self-belief in themselves. Coupled with high school diplomas and industry-recognized credentials, these participants are now well-equipped to become knowledgeable and skilled contributors to both their community and the economy.

As the lives of individuals going through the YBLC program go through a transformation, so is the organization itself. We are excited by the launch of the Registered Apprenticeship Program in Building Maintenance and Repair and the opportunities this will create for those YBLC participants that want to continue down the apprenticeship path. With the expansion of our programs, the services we provide and the number of participants we serve, comes the need to expand our facility. In June 2025, YBLC will move into a building of our very own. While this move marks an exciting milestone, it's just the beginning. Over the next three years, we have a plan to renovate and add an addition to the facility, transforming it into a space that will support our mission well into the future. Once complete, the new facility will provide us with well-equipped classrooms, year-round indoor construction training space, mental health safe spaces, a collaborative environment for staff, and the flexibility to grow, expand, and adapt our programs for years to come.

While we celebrate these accomplishments, we recognize that our work is ongoing. We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, board participants, volunteers, employer partners, and generous donors. Your ongoing support and commitment have made a profound difference for those we serve and have enriched a community truly deserving of your generosity.

Thank you for your continued support,



Tameka Wilson





ASHLEY

**YouthBuild Program Graduate
Class of 2024**

"My life before YouthBuild was very difficult and overall not well. I was a completely different person before I attended YouthBuild. I hit rock bottom and felt like I was stuck there," Ashley reflects on her life before joining YouthBuild Lake County. Coming from a challenging environment, Ashley found herself in a position where she had to mature quickly.

Upon hearing about YBLC from her friend and program alum, Ashley saw a glimmer of hope. Throughout her nine months at YBLC, Ashley's journey was nothing short of remarkable. She showed interest in a diverse range of fields including construction, cosmetology, and the military. Ashley was open to where her journey at YouthBuild might lead.

Ashley gained practical skills and a sense of accomplishment through YBLC's construction projects, but it was a National Guard recruiter's visit that opened a new pathway. After excelling on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), she realized her true potential.

Ashley's journey has taken her to the Army National Guard, where she is training to become a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist defending the country against the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

Additionally, last month Ashley was the recipient of YouthBuild Global's Spirit of Service Award in honor of Ashely's continued commitment to serving her community and her nation! **"I was always the quiet girl, but the YouthBuild program helped me crack out of my shell and become a leader,"** she reflected.





JOSH

Pre-Apprenticeship Program Graduate Class of 2023

Josh had ambitions of entering the trades but was uncertain of how to begin before a Google search led him to YouthBuild's Pre-apprenticeship program, marking the start of a transformative chapter in his life.

Despite facing logistical challenges, including a daily commute of 40-45 minutes to attend the program, Josh's commitment never wavered. His dedication was tested further by personal tragedy that nearly derailed his journey. Yet, through the unwavering support of both his family and the YouthBuild staff, Josh found the strength to persist, embodying the resilience that YouthBuild aims to instill.

Josh's aspiration to provide a better life for his family initially led him to explore opportunities with Greystar in Illinois. However, his plans to relocate to Arizona presented a dilemma about starting in an unfamiliar landscape. Kashmir Crump, Director of Apprenticeship and Placement, helped Josh navigate this transition seamlessly, securing multiple interviews with Greystar's Arizona location.

Josh's hard work and dedication culminated in his completion of the IL Works Pre-apprenticeship Program. He earned valuable credentials that paved the way for his success as a Service Technician with Greystar in Phoenix, Arizona, where he officially started in late 2023.

"My hard work is still paying off and I can't thank YouthBuild enough," Josh shared.
"Before YouthBuild, I was in some of my darkest times. Now I'm in the richest zip code in Arizona living in paradise."





Q&A WITH KAY KNEELAND

Board of Directors Vice Chairperson, Retired Abbott Laboratories

Q: WHY DID YOU JOIN YBLC'S BOARD?

A: I chose to join the YBLC board for several reasons. I wanted to give back to my community and to fulfill my personal desire to serve others. I also strongly believe in YBLC's mission to help underserved young people advance their education, learn new skills (both personal and in the trades) and build the confidence needed to support themselves and ultimately give back to their community.

Q: WHICH PARTS OF YBLC DO YOU ALIGN WITH MOST?

The parts of YBLC I align with most is education, life skills, career readiness, and financial literacy. Education opens doors for our members, while life skills teach them to navigate challenges. Career readiness helps them present themselves confidently to employers, and financial literacy equips them with essential budgeting and banking skills for a stable future.

Q: IS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR BACKGROUND THAT CONNECTS YOU TO THE LIVES AND BACKGROUNDS OF THE PARTICIPANTS?

A: I was born and raised in the Waukegan and North Chicago area. While I was fortunate in my upbringing, education and professional life, I realize that not everyone is as fortunate. But everyone does have dreams to be successful in life and that's where YBLC comes in.

Q: EXPLAIN ABOUT A TIME WHERE YOU SAW HOW MUCH THERE IS A NEED FOR YBLC?

A: Young people in the community are looking for an organization, such as YBLC, that will not judge their past but will help them to look forward and build a better future for themselves and their families. A future that they can be proud of. YBLC fulfills the needs of many of our community youth by opening its doors when other doors may be closed. YBLC can and does help in changing lives by providing the necessary support and services to those who may need it most.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF YBLC?

A: My hope for the future of YBLC is to have continued growth and to serve even more young people from the community to help them reach their full potential.

YBLC'S CORE VALUES

Our core values guide every aspect of how we support and empower our participants, ensuring our mission is a part of all that we do.



INTEGRITY

Uncompromising adherence to moral and ethical principles



RESPECT

Respect others to earn their respect



RESPONSIBILITY

Take the consequences and rewards for your actions



TEAMWORK

Together, we can do it

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our guiding principles shape the foundation of the program, fostering an environment that help students thrive and succeed.

DIVERSITY

We serve a diverse student population and we value and respect diversity of background.

SUSTAINABILITY

We will create sustainable programs and work to sustain our agency for future students.

MENTORING & COACHING

Our role is to coach and mentor students and each other.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

We will support each other's decisions and efforts.

GRATITUDE

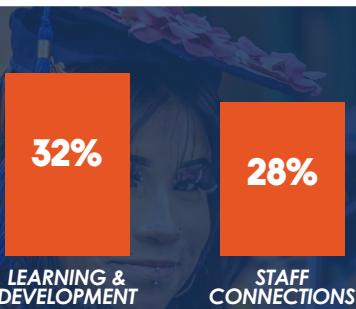
We are grateful for the hard work and support of our community, our students, our volunteers, our funders, and each other.

OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone deserves opportunities to grow and succeed.

IN THEIR WORDS

When our participants complete their program, they take a survey that captures the impactful experiences and insights from their time at YBLC. These are answers from the 2024 cohorts:



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR PROGRAM?



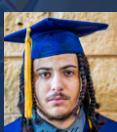
"I had a few. **Working on construction** projects, the **self paced** high school **program**, and meeting some **amazing people** through the program."

-CASSANDRA



"I enjoyed working with people who actually cared about me."

-WILSON



"My favorite part about the program was making friends."

-LATRELL



WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU GAINED AT YBLC?



"I gained leadership experience on-site with my other participants."

-GABE



"The most important things were better communication skills and more confidence."

-ADZIRI



"YBLC helped me **overcome my shyness and my social anxiety.**

I've been trying to improve my social skills my whole life and I'm **grateful for all the support** I received from staff."

-GLORIA

2024 GRADUATE SURVEYS

39%

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

27%

SKILLS & WORK ETHIC

19%

MINDSET SHIFT

15%

OVERCOMING BARRIERS



"I'm proud of everything I've accomplished and everything I learned about myself."

-JACKIE



"I'm most proud of finally earning my high school diploma."

-QUIN



"I'm most proud of how I've changed the way I think, the things I do. I even want to further my education - before I joined and earned my diploma, I never wanted to!"

-BRIANNA

DO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH YBLC?

98% SAID YES!



"Yes I do. YBLC has done so much for me and I want to return if someday, I never wanna lose my bond with this godsend of a program."

-JALEN



"Yes, because I feel like Youthbuild is apart of me and my success and I owe it all to the staff."

-VALEA



"I do plan to stay in contact because YBLC has helped me with a lot already and probably can help me with much more."

-STEPHEN



1



2



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5



3



6

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

18

Service Projects In 2024

YBL's involvement in community events is crucial because it allows us to connect with our community and build strong, supportive relationships. This year, participants engaged in a number of projects, including:

1. Honoring soldiers who have served our country for Memorial Day
2. Conducted health screenings at Roberti House's Kidney Event
3. Organized over 4,000 books for distribution to local children and schools
4. Multiple garages built throughout North Chicago
5. Assembled over 4,000 Disaster Relief Buckets at Grainger's Bucket Build
6. Built a playground alongside KABOOM and Discover

Through these efforts, we aim to build a legacy of compassion and civic duty that will inspire our participants to keep giving back long after YBL.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

In addition to the community events, YouthBuild participants worked on two major projects to bring affordable housing to our community.



COMPLETED RENOVATION

In partnership with ReNew, YBLC completed an affordable housing renovation that transformed a home for a family.

STARTED NEW BUILD

YBLC also broke ground on a new construction project that will provide another affordable home to a family in need.



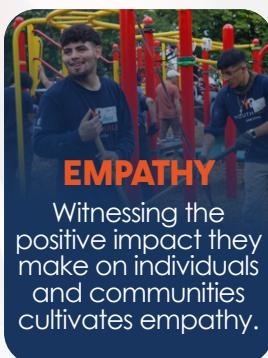
IMPACT OF SERVICE

Giving back through service projects is a vital part of our participants' personal and professional development. By engaging with their communities, participants not only build valuable skills but also foster a deep sense of responsibility and connection.



LEADERSHIP

Strengthen their leadership abilities by managing teams and organizing community efforts.



EMPATHY

Witnessing the positive impact they make on individuals and communities cultivates empathy.



OWNERSHIP

Develop a strong sense of ownership in their community through the work they do.

YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM OUTCOMES

**Eligibility: 16-24 Years Old | Lake County Resident
Low-income | 6 To 9 Months**

Our YouthBuild Program offers the highest level of support and includes high school diploma attainment, wellness services including counseling and nutrition, career coaching and placement including mock interviews, resume building, career assessments, and career training in construction and healthcare.

Members earn their high school diploma and industry and employer recognized credentials, including:

- o Construction
- o Forklift operator
- o CNA
- o Solar Installer (New for 2024)



**74
SERVED**



**83%
EARNED DIPLOMAS**



**91%
EARNED
CREDENTIALS**



**25%
EARNED
AMERICORPS
SCHOLARSHIPS**



**200+
MOCK
INTERVIEWS**



**88%
PLACED IN JOBS**



**220
WELLNESS
HOURS**

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM OUTCOMES

**Eligibility: 18+ | High School Diploma
Illinois Resident | 10 weeks**

Our Pre-apprenticeship Program prepares participants to enter registered apprenticeship programs in construction and trades.

The program provides ongoing case management services to give additional resources to participants. These resources come in the form of bus passes, bikes, technology, referrals, counseling, and mentoring.

Upon completion, the goal is to place participants into a DOL registered apprenticeship program through one of our partners.

Participants earn their OSHA 10, NCCER Core, and CPR/First Aid certifications and undergo 270 hours of hands-on training.



FY24 REVENUE

PUBLIC & PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

14%

PRIVATE

19%

GOVERNMENT

67%

FY24 OPERATING EXPENSES

FUNDRAISING

15%

ADMINISTRATIVE

18%

PROGRAMMING

67%

2024 Top Employer Partners

Blinderman Construction Company
Chalet Landscaping, Nursery & Garden Center
City of North Chicago
EMCO Chemical Distributors, Inc.
Endeavor Health
EQ Office
Goodwill-Great Lakes
Greystar
Lake County Housing Authority

Larsen Marine
The Mulch Center
Manchester Knolls
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Northshore Stairs & Rails
P&G
Ravinia Plumbing
ReNew Construction

About the Department of Labor

The US Department of Labor funds YBLC's YouthBuild program through a YouthBuild Grant. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the US Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We couldn't do what we do without our incredible donors, and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our donors who make our mission possible. Below is a list of our cornerstone donors, who contributed \$10,000 or more to drive our mission forward.

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YouthBuild USA

PLATINUM \$10,000 - \$24,999

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2303 Kemble Avenue
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Web: www.yblc.org

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Together we can change lives, one young person at a time. | Learn more at www.yblc.org



YBLC LEADERSHIP

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