

Waterbury Youth Services

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Fiscal Year: July 2019-June 2020



# IMPACT

Since 1976, Waterbury Youth Services (WYS) has been at the forefront helping youth stay in school, strengthening families, and making our community safer.

Our 14,000–square foot campus in downtown Waterbury isn't just a youth service bureau. It's an afterschool learning laboratory where futures are reimagined through technology, woodworking, journalism, leadership forums, art, dance and martial arts.

To meet the vital and urgent needs of young people throughout Greater Waterbury, we also provide: runaway and homeless youth assistance, crisis counseling, LGBTQ+ support, transitional living support, short-term residential family intervention, juvenile justice/diversion programs, truancy prevention, mentoring, and youth employment programs. Waterbury Youth Services also runs one of the leading Child Advocacy Centers in Connecticut.

The result: bigger dreams and brighter futures for nearly 1000 young people in Greater Waterbury each year.





## OUR MISSION

Waterbury Youth Services is a non-profit organization  
Guiding youth to discover their unique talents and potential for success --One Life at a Time.

## 2019/20 AT A GLANCE

### Total Amount Raised

\$2,688,708

### Number of Youth Served

536

### Towns We Serve

Beacon Falls • Bethlehem • Cheshire  
Middlebury • Naugatuck • Prospect  
Southbury • Thomaston • Waterbury  
Watertown • Wolcott • Woodbury







## **PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

At Waterbury Youth Services, we've transformed how young people experience learning and relationships with adults. The architecture for all our programs is the Positive Youth Development framework. This approach emphasizes building a young person's strengths and providing support and opportunities that help them achieve goals and transition to adulthood in a productive, healthy manner.

## PROGRAMS

**Youth Employment:** Serves youth ages 14–21. Encourages the development of job skills, provides real–life work experience, and helps to build the resumes of our young people. A partnership with Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB).

**Summer Youth Camp:** Serves children ages 4–13. Provides children the chance to develop life–long skills and friendships, build character, grow more independent, gain literacy skills, discover new interests, spend the day being physically active, and reconnect with nature in the structured and fun Kiwanis Camp facility in Wolcott, CT. Activities include arts and crafts, swimming, sports, hiking, bike riding, field trips and games. A partnership with Kiwanis Club of Waterbury and Waterbury Police Activity League.

**Community Housing Assistance Program & Community Housing Employment Enrichment Program. (CHAP/CHEER):** serves youth ages 18–23 who are “aging out” of foster care. A partnership with CT Dept. of Children & Families that helps youth set goals, pursue higher education, find a career, develop life skills and establish independence.

**Linking Academics to Life (LAL):** A free college, career and life readiness after school program that helps high school students learn more about themselves, discover their potential and chart a successful life course. Four core areas: Senior Prep, Woodworking, Journalism, Entrepreneurship. Monthly stipends allow students—who may have to work otherwise—to focus 100% on academics.



## PROGRAMS

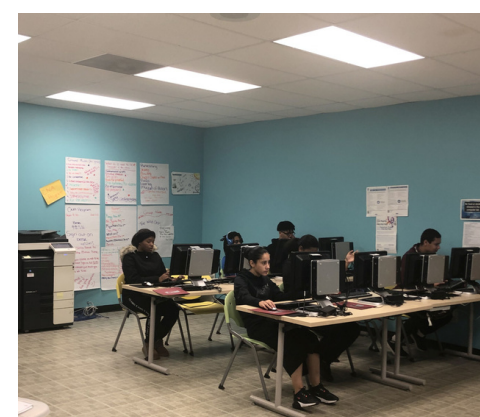
**Career Builders in Health:** Jump starts careers in health care for young people ages 18–24 by training, certifying and placing young adults into Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) jobs, followed by support that helps participants pursue a post– secondary education.

**Truancy Prevention:** Goal is to reduce absences, which will encourage completion in school and furthering education. Includes home visitation, supportive counseling, referral, advocacy, parental involvement, and case management to assist youth in reaching their full potential.

**Juvenile Justice Mentoring:** Individualized mentoring program for Juvenile Justice involved youth. Model emphasizes connecting youth with a mentor within their naturally occurring support system.

**4–H Mentoring.** The CT 4–H Mentoring Project is a year long prevention program for youth ages 9–13 designed to assist them in acquiring knowledge, building character, and developing life skills in a fun learning environment. Program activities: dance, creative arts, and karate.

**Juvenile Review Board (JRB):** A community–based diversion process offered to youth who have committed misdemeanor crimes or youth who are displaying at–risk behaviors at home or school that could result in an arrest or a referral to the juvenile court.



## PROGRAMS

**Short Term Family Integrated Treatment (S-FIT):** A short-term (15 day) intensive family therapy treatment option providing crisis stabilization and assessment, with rapid reintegration and transition back home for youth ages 12–17. A partnership with the Connecticut Dept. of Children & Families.

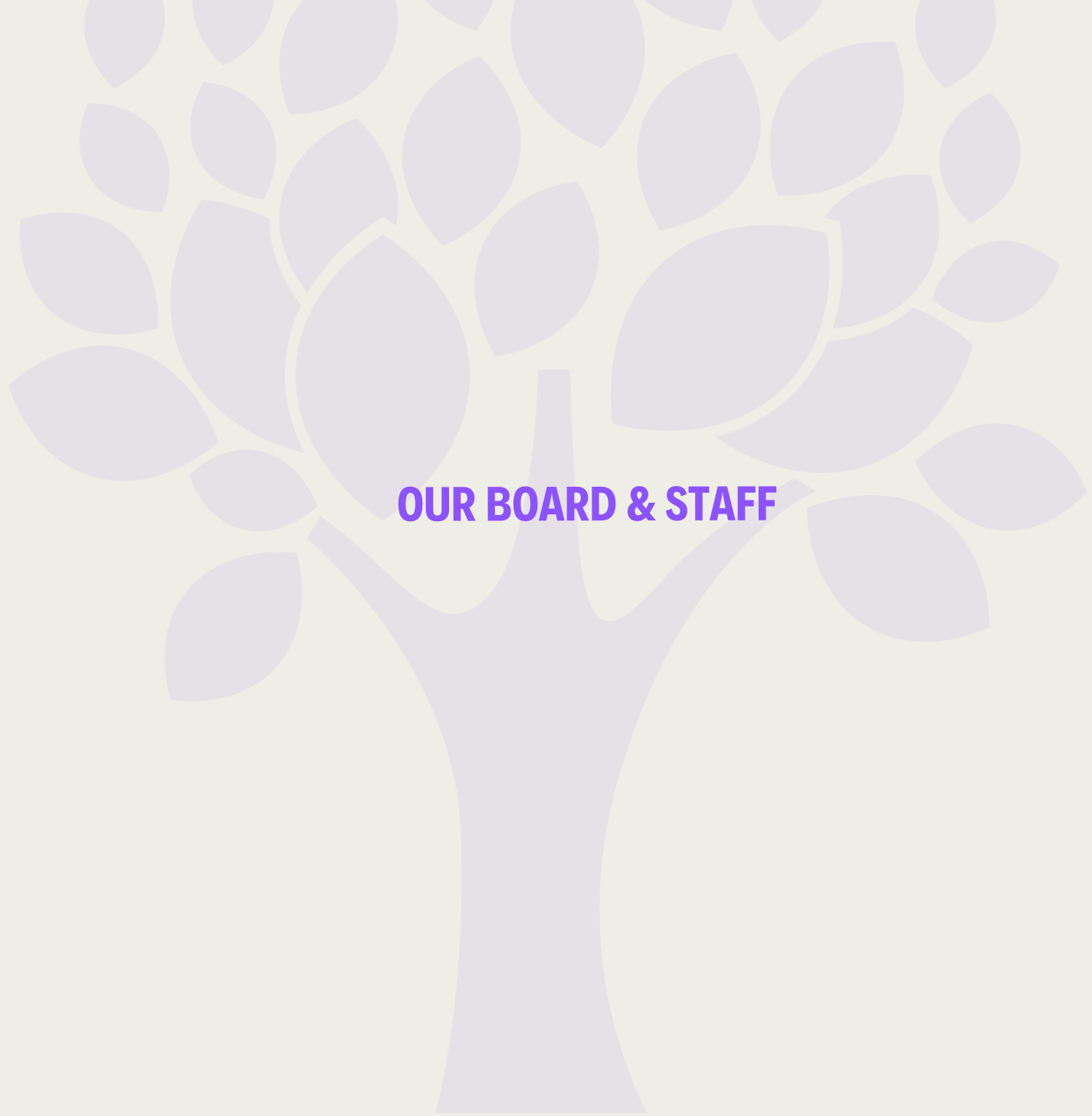
**Youth & Family Emergency Services (YFES):** Provides crisis intervention for youth ages 6–24 and their families experiencing severe conflict or crisis warranting immediate intervention through: Homeless Youth Resource Center; Project Safe Place; Supervised Visitations; Crisis Counseling.

**Greater Waterbury Child Advocacy Center (CAC):** Works to investigate and prosecute cases where child sexual abuse or serious physical abuse is alleged or suspected. Coordinates efforts of all professionals involved in the investigation and prosecution process of child abuse. Services include forensic evaluations, medical examinations, counseling and supportive services.

**Local Interagency Service Team Meeting (LIST):** A quarterly, community-wide meeting facilitated monthly by WYS that provides information and training about juvenile justice issues in the Greater Waterbury area.

**Racial & Ethnic Disparities/Disproportionate Minority Contact (RED).** A community-wide meeting hosted by WYS that analyzes data on the demographics of youth involved with the juvenile justice system and with school disciplinary practices. The team monitors the disproportionate effects of local systemic practices on youth of color and looks for ways to decrease the effects on youth in our community.





## **OUR BOARD & STAFF**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Executive Board:

Diane Haggis, VP  
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Mark Lancor, President  
Janice Paul, Secretary

### Executive Director:

Kathi M. Crowe

## OUR STAFF

Our team is comprised of 25 full time and 30 part time amazing, generous, hard-working staff members who are passionate about helping young people in Greater Waterbury succeed.

This diverse group of professionals draws upon expertise from a variety of backgrounds to support and create opportunities for our youth, including Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Bachelors and Masters Level Social Workers, Business & Finance, and degrees in Criminal Justice and Licensed Marriage & Family therapists.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Mentoring found creative ways to continue meeting, including video chats, virtual museum tours, sending letters, watching movies, playing video games, and safe outdoor activities to maintain the mentor/mentee relationship during the pandemic. We also adapted our mentor training to be conducted virtually.

Our Youth Empowerment Team collaborated with Let Youth Lead, a program of Bridge to Success, to participate in "Youth Talk Back", a training series focused on critical leaning about race, racism, oppression, equity, and liberation.

4-H adapted by sending home weekly letters while in-person meeting wasn't possible, with activities and challenges for youth and families to work on together.

We started a new JRB panel that serves youth ages 7–12. We trained our volunteers on the specific developmental needs of this younger age group and are ready and able to take referrals.

We have 22 youth in our CHAP program and provided a lot of support throughout the pandemic. Many of our CHAP youth had difficulties meeting basic needs during the pandemic. We helped provide them with groceries and other basic needs items.

The Truancy program helped families connect with schools during the pandemic. Initially, there were may technological barriers to students participating in online classes. We helped families connect with schools and solve these problems so they could return to online school.

S-FIT continued to serve youth and families despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Most youth served participated in virtual learning and all came into the program with their school issued devices. Comfortable and quiet settings were made available to each youth in order to participate in their classes productively. Each youth, upon admission, were and continue to be provided with a set of personal earbuds to minimize background noise and promote individual learning. Family therapy has and continues to be done virtually. Individual therapy has been completed both in person and virtually. Each youth continued to receive a nursing assessment and psychiatric evaluation. The youth engaged in a variety of activities, such as board games, cards, painting, reading, outdoor activities (basketball, parks, soccer, volleyball), and arts and crafts. Through these experiences, many youth were able to show off, and be recognized for, their artistic abilities which were not only beautiful pieces but a way to release stress, anxiety and negative and/or hurtful feelings.

The Child Advocacy Center of Greater Waterbury has maintained continuity of care throughout the pandemic. We continue to provide on-site forensic interviews and on-site specialized forensic medical exams. In addition, we have enhanced our mental health services by expanding our evidence-based treatment models as part of our Bridging Program. We have trained two new clinicians to increase our Trauma Team to include a total of five mental health professionals. We continue to work collaboratively with our community partners to work in the best interest of the children and families of Greater Waterbury.



## FINANCIALS

Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, we served over 500 young people in Greater Waterbury thanks to your support.

## FINANCIALS

### Breakdown of Funds by Program Teams

\$621,026 Positive Youth Development Team

\$1,441,278: Clinical Team

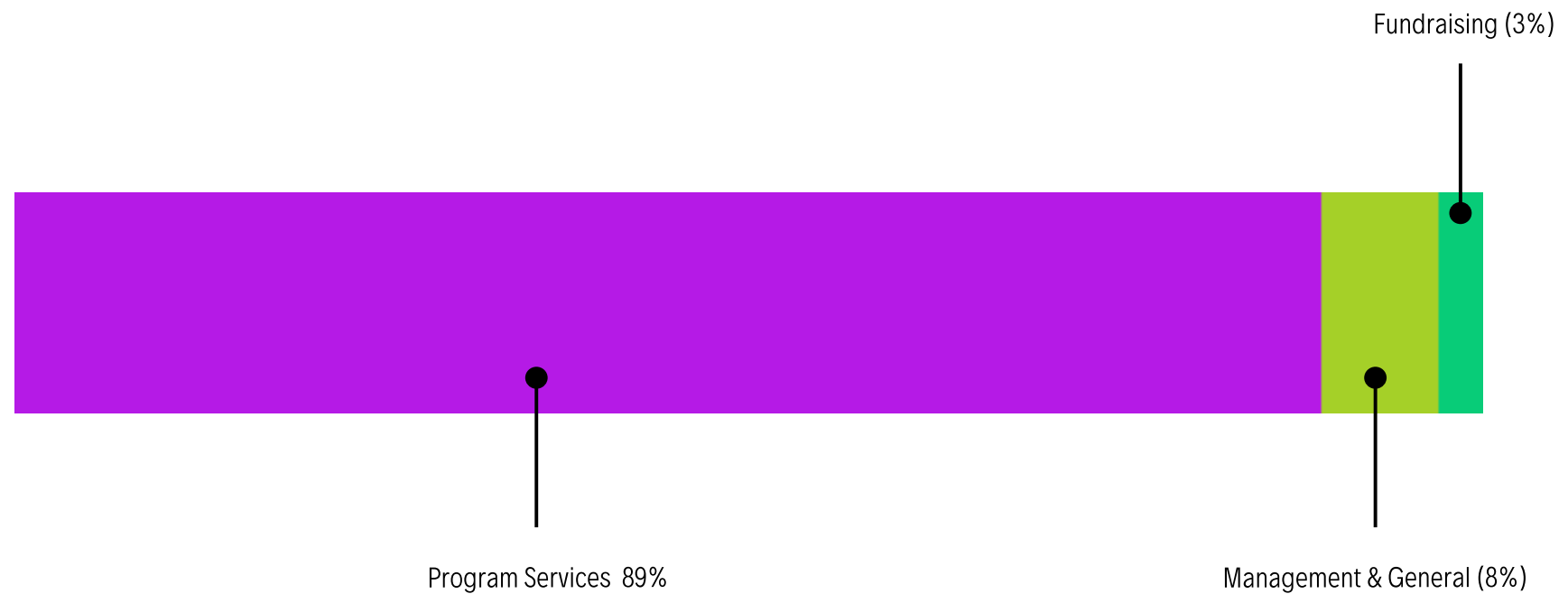
\$341,804: Juvenile Justice Team

\$2,688,708: Total



## FINANCIALS

### Allocation of Expenses



[Link to 990](#)

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We are deeply grateful to the following donors who entrusted us with their gifts in FY 2019/20 to help build a stronger Greater Waterbury community.

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CONNECTICUT YOUTH SERVICE ASSOCIATION  
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