

SunsetYouth

S E R V I C E S



Annual Report 2023

Fostering long-term stability and growth in high-risk youth, young adults, and their families through caring relationships and supportive services since 1992.





A Message from Dawn

A Year of Redemptive Empathy

As I reflect on this last year, I'm more aware than ever that our work is essential in resourcing young people who lack stable relationships and contend with harmful systems. The shadows of COVID-19 continued to linger as youth recovered from the way lockdown changed social dynamics and amplified loneliness.

One way we've been recently meeting this need is by serving big family-style dinners on the first Wednesday of the month. With staff support, youth from our Workforce Development Cooking Cohort plan the menu and prepare the food for peers. Gatherings like these offer so much to young people looking for meaningful ways to connect and serve. We've also made some exciting new hires, with youth workers who are bringing fresh energy and fitting right into our family, quickly becoming mentors to our youth—working with young artists on their creative work, offering resources and encouragement during Juvenile Hall stays, and attending milestone events like graduation.

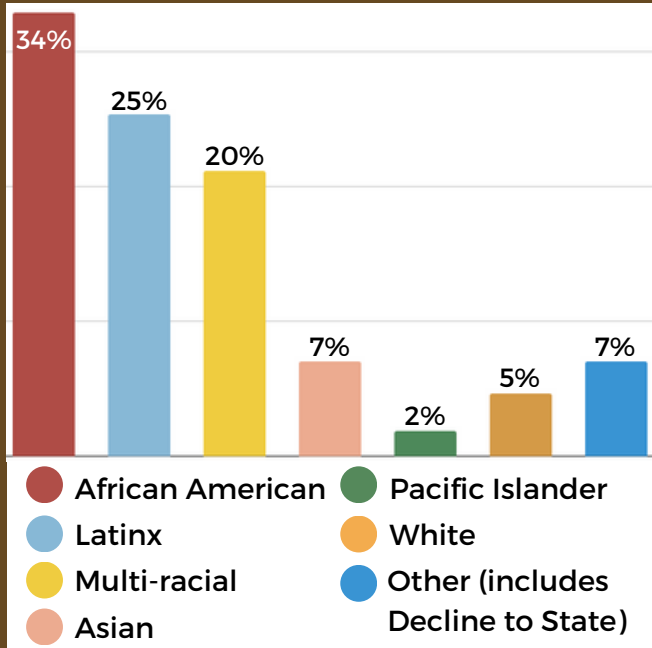
Our work with young people, however, extends beyond what we do at our center. Recently, for example, we helped secure a stable home for Genevieve, a mom who has been in close relationship with us since her teens. It was a long and frustrating search while Genevieve and her young children lived out of her car. Even with a housing voucher designed to help very low-income families afford safe and sanitary housing, she experienced numerous roadblocks. We offered a calming presence through the stress—assisting with applications, working directly with the landlord and housing authorities to overcome 11th hour problems, and finding resources for the move-in. The result is a safe affordable home for a family that has known housing instability for the past 3 years. Nothing makes us happier!

Over thirty years ago, we could never have imagined the thousands of young people who would walk through our Center doors and on to greater independence, stability and well-being. We have witnessed such extraordinary courage and resilience as youth come to embrace their own power and recognize themselves as healers, advocates, artists, and changemakers. You've joined us on this sacred journey. Thank you for putting your empathy into practice and partnering with us to make San Francisco a place where more families and youth can thrive.

Dawn

Our Young People

Ethnicity



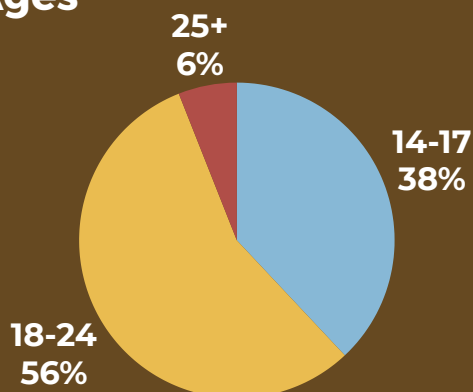
Gender

Male 67%

Female 27%



Ages



Most Experience:

poverty

childhood trauma, abuse, abandonment, or neglect

unsafe neighborhoods

school suspension or expulsion

incarceration or harmful impact from systems involvement



Our Impact

Program Pathways to Healing & Connection

Healthy attachments create safety, security, and a sense of well-being. Relationships power our programs and equip youth to thrive in school, at work, in families, and in other social systems.

Family Support



20 parents graduated from our Positive Parenting Program

260,520 diapers were distributed

17 families joined our trip to the SF Zoo

50 households received weekly supplemental groceries

40 families received intensive support from our Family Success Coaches

Entrepreneurial Skillbuilding



15 youth designed and launched apparel brands

4 youth gained skills in running live events and stage management through our newly launched Sound Academy

19 chefs practiced culinary techniques in our cooking cohort

55 youth engaged in employment coaching and job placement



Justice Services



We have a presence in all nine Bay Area counties. We follow families and youth wherever we're needed because the totality of their lives don't stop at the San Francisco city border.

75 young people received intensive support services

3,000 hours spent helping youth navigate court, school, and other systems

Digital Arts & Technology



4,000 hours spent in recording studio sessions

204 young artists and creatives learned about music, fashion, and more

50 youth participated in our Juvenile Hall programming

500 songs and 10 albums completed

Healing Arts



4 different multi-session groups including expressive arts and cooking to promote healing





Juvenile Hall Limbo

Our Stabilizing Presence in Uncertain Times

In collaboration with community members, partners, and local officials, SYS worked to secure a 2019 vote from the Board of Supervisors to close Juvenile Hall. In its place, we advocated for home-based confinement, healing-centered rehabilitation, and wraparound services. City officials created a task force to move ahead with the closure, but between lack of consensus on how to house youth offenders and Covid-related delays, there was ultimately no concrete solution put forward. In September 2023, city officials admitted there is no ongoing effort to close Juvenile Hall—no committees, conversations, or pending steps.

Nevertheless, we remain committed to implementing reform. We work in close partnership with Juvenile Hall leadership and have pushed for better sleeping quarters and more opportunities for youth to have a choice in how they spend their time. While we grieve a system that has failed to live up to our hopes, we recognize the complexity of the problems and the level of collaboration needed to bring about real change. Our focus now is with the youth being detained in Juvenile Hall—those awaiting sentencing from a few days to a few weeks and those on “Secure Track/Commitment” who may spend multiple years there.

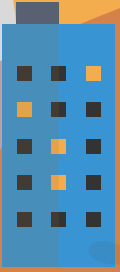
Punitive settings are not healing centered and therefore not designed to help young people heal, grow, and learn. Separated from families and kept apart from peers, these young people experience paralyzing mental health issues, including profound loneliness and depression. How do we convince these kids that they are more than the biggest mistake they’ve ever made? We treat them with respect. We center their feelings and perspectives. We give them space to process trauma when they’re ready while simultaneously offering outlets for what’s within their control: self-expression, creativity, healing. We also support families, facilitating better communication between staff and parents, and supporting young parents who are locked up by offering parenting classes and advocating for visitation opportunities with their children.

Every Wednesday, staff visit Juvenile Hall to engage in music programming while youth await sentencing. On Fridays, we offer incentivized vocational training in Cooking as well as Digital Arts & Technology. All participants set up savings accounts with a local credit union in preparation for their release.

But our primary goal is relational: we know that kids who feel seen and cared for are better able to access inner reserves that sustain them through bewildering times of anxiety and loss. “Cooking together matters,” our Director of Outreach and Employment Vicky Fashho shares, “because you can be having the worst day ever but the second you’re in community with people—breaking bread and sharing a meal—you experience safety and family.” This experience of belonging is what we’re known for and why we’re the only program in Juvenile Hall with 100% participation.

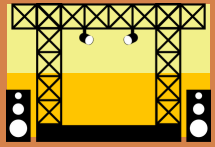
Our programs offer a pathway to healing relationships. We hope to earn the right to walk with these young people once they’ve left Juvenile Hall—offering ongoing support through our Youth Center with access to our programs, Case Management, and peers working on their own positive journeys.

It Takes a Village



We bring digital arts programs, including our mobile recording studio, to public schools as an outreach to high-risk youth.

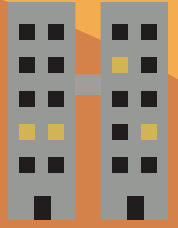
Public Schools



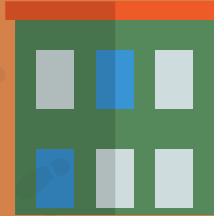
Neighborhoods

We help youth positively connect with their neighborhoods through events such as community festivals and night markets that showcase their talents.

We partner with the Young Adult Court and other justice stakeholders to help systems-impacted youth re-enter society.



Justice System



Youth Center & Wellness Hub



Kids develop life skills through project-based learning and healing arts activities at our Center and Wellness Hub.



Families

We support teen parents and high-risk families with parenting classes and offer weekly groceries for families in need.



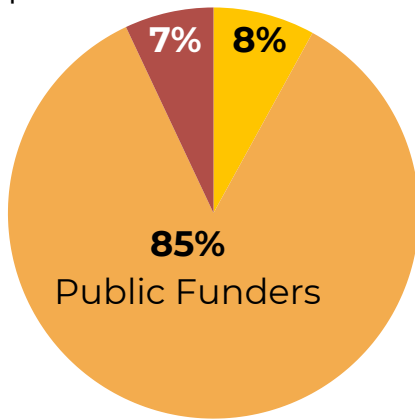
Financials

Private Foundations
and Corporations

Individuals

Administration

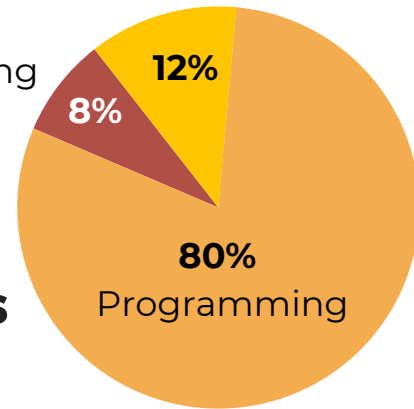
Income



Total: \$2,244,850.08

Fundraising

Expenses



Total: \$2,088,166.74



Our Giving Community

Thank you for making our work possible!

Our Faithful Individual Donors

We're humbled by your generosity and sacrificial giving. Thank you!

Public Funders

- The State of California
- Dept. of Children, Youth & Their Families
- Dept. of Early Childhood
- SF Public Utilities Commission
- People of Parkside Sunset
- Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

Faith Communities

- 19th Ave. Baptist Church
- Bothell United Methodist Church
- Common Table SF
- Norcal Dist. Church of the Nazarene
- Reality San Francisco
- SF New Life Church of the Nazarene
- Santa Clara Church of the Nazarene
- Sunset Church
- Sunset Ministry

Private Foundations and Corporations

- Adobe
- BLK & Bold
- Felton Family Service Agency
- FRC Alliance/Crankstart
- George H. Sandy Foundation
- Golden Grants
- Henry Mayo Newhall Fndn.
- Kaiser
- Lyft
- McNabb Foundation
- Miranda Lux Foundation
- Red String Foundation
- Remick Family Foundation
- Target Circle
- Trader Joe's
- Youth Funding Youth Ideas

Staff

Executive Team

Dawn Stueckle, Co-Founder, Executive Director
Delvin Mack, Co-Founder, Director of Operations
Ron Stueckle, Co-Founder, Director of Justice Services

Justice Services

Natalie Rodriguez, Senior Case Manager
Reggie Smith, Case Manager
Naomi Rivas, Case Manager

Digital Arts & Technology Program

Joel Tarman, Director
Rymo Cortado, Creative Lead
Jason Wu, Creative Lead
Anthony Flores, Creative Specialist

Workforce Development Program

Vicky Fashho, Director of Outreach and Employment

Family Support Services

Maria Dajani, Family Success Coach
Carrie Peng, Family Success Coach

Healing Arts

Ron Carranza, Program Manager

Operations

Leonora Oliver-Williams, Executive Assistant
Angelica Cabral, Development & Communications
Manager
Lora Cavalli, Finance Manager
Mutasem Dajani, Facilities Coordinator
Marissa Majid, Bookkeeper



We are a 501(c)(3) organization.
Federal Tax ID: 93-1004117

Board

Liz Zarr, 2003, Chair
Keith Hitchcock, 2002, Treasurer
Alex Costanzo, 2013, Secretary
Don Williams, 2003
Richard Jacobs, 2016
Jeff Purganan, 2016
Jenny Yung, 2009
Michael Costanzo, 2013
Marlena Cannon, 2021
Domenique Charles, 2021
Marquis Smith, 2022



www.sunsetyouthservices.org