



ANNUAL REPORT

**2024-2025**



## LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Shaker Heights Youth Center,

As another successful year has concluded for the Shaker Heights Youth Center, we reflect on the many accomplishments we have achieved and most importantly, the youth we serve. The youth in our community have faced unprecedented challenges, ongoing violence in our communities and worldwide, and increasing mental health challenges. While much uncertainty can be felt, one thing that is guaranteed, The Shaker Heights Youth Center is positioned to continue to be an incredible asset to supporting youth in our community.

Childhood can be a time of joy and delight. It also comes with its challenges. Social media, peer pressure, and rising rates of anxiety are just a few of the challenges youth are facing. The loss of young people in our community this past year was felt by all. Some youth face greater struggles than others. This is where the Shaker Heights Youth Center programs are vital to help youth successfully navigate the challenges and reach their goals.

We could not do this important work without the incredible support and funding from our partners listed in this report. Thank you for allowing us to continue our award-winning work for the youth of Shaker Heights. We have been helping for 55 years and still find great fulfillment in being a resource for the youth, their families, and the community.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Nichols, Board President

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THE SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER'S MISSION  
IS TO FOSTER THE EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL WELL-BEING OF A DIVERSE YOUTH  
COMMUNITY IN SHAKER.

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Letter from Executive Director

As I conclude my first year of being Executive Director of this remarkable organization, I am grateful for the strong foundation of community support for the work that we do to improve the social-emotional, behavioral and overall well-being of our youth.

The Youth Center continues its profoundly important work in ensuring that all children in our community have the support they need and opportunities to succeed. The Youth Center is blessed to have a highly qualified team of direct service staff who currently serve in 7 schools. In addition, our staff leads after school and summer leadership programming that is helping our youth have positive outlets and opportunities to share their voice.

Our staff meet young people where they are, at times facing incredible loss and difficulty. In those moments, they provide compassionate, professional support to help young people build resiliency and navigate life's challenges. This compassionate, professional support is needed for our young people now more than ever.

I am grateful to our partners that make our programs possible. Thank you to the Shaker Heights City Schools, The City of Shaker Heights, The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, The Cleveland Foundation, our many Shaker resident donors, and many other significant groups too numerous to list. Your commitment to bettering the lives of young people in Shaker is what makes our work possible.

Sincerely,

Karen Carter, LISW-S





*"I enjoyed our trip to the [FoodStrong] garden. The bonding, and learning experience was really fun and enlightening."*

- P.E.E.R.S Participant, Age 14

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*"This program makes me feel proud of myself, like I'm building skills that will stick with me forever."*

- M.O.O.S. Participant, Age 17



*"I enjoyed my time in youth council and will cherish it for the rest of my life!"*

- Shaker Youth Leadership Council Participant, Age 18

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*"I am so thankful I was able to be a part of such a great group of teens."*

- Shaker Youth Leadership Council Participant, Age 16

## 78% OF YOUTH

in the Student Assistance Program who responded to our surveys agree or strongly agree that "(They) deal more effectively with daily problems."

## 100% OF YOUTH

in our afterschool prevention programs report that "(they) are better able to handle things when they go wrong."

## 320 YOUTH

received vital support, life skills, and coping strategies through our Student Assistance Program.

## 35 YOUTH AGES 14+

participated in our summer jobs program at 14 businesses and organizations in the Shaker community.



# MAJOR PROGRAMS

## THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Youth Center staff are located in Shaker Heights High School, the Innovative Learning Center, Middle School and three elementary school. Students are referred for a variety of barriers related to their academic and social performance in the school, or within their family and the community. The program builds resiliency in youth using asset building, social-emotional learning and life skills development while engaging and guide the student toward emotional and educational growth. The goal is to build individual and environmental assets in the youths' lives. A variety of supports may be used to connect with students including individual engagement, small group discussions, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and connecting families to community resources.

## THE IMPACT PROGRAM

The Shaker Heights Youth Center in collaboration with the Unitarian Church provides the IMPACT Youth Enrichment Program which provides after-school programming for Shaker Heights Middle School students in need of a positive after-school experience. The program focuses on increasing social skills, life skills, and academic competence which are significant protective factors that increase resiliency in youth.

## THE SUMMER IMPACT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

This program is an extension of the IMPACT Program for Middle School students that runs during the academic year. The program focuses on building self-esteem, resilience, personal leadership qualities, and the principles needed to reach one's full potential. This is done through creative expression, journaling, physical activity, education, and service-learning projects in the Moreland neighborhood, the Van Aken District, the Dealership, and the Nature Center of Shaker Lakes.

## THE SUMMER STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Youth Center staff are located in Shaker Heights High School and Fernway Elementary School. The staff support students who are experiencing challenges in their lives. The students are referred for a variety of issues related to their academic and social performance in the school community.



## **SHAKER MYCOM [NOW KNOWN AS SHAKER YOUTH COLLABORATIVE]**

The MyCom Coordinator for Shaker is located at the Youth Center. MyCom works to assess youth needs and build capacity and collaboration among youth service programming in the community to meet those needs. Shaker MyCom programs include:

- **YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

The program consists of nine to fifteen High School students who meet monthly to participate in an array of leadership-building activities that include: planning and organizational development, community service projects, and county-wide MyCom leadership programs.

- **POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT ENCOURAGING RESILIENCY IN SHAKER STUDENTS (P.E.E.R.S.)**

A six-week summer program helps students use Youth Participatory Action Research to engage in policies and programs that impact youths' lives. Youth engage in systemic research, develop solutions based on their findings and learn leadership skills utilizing a social justice framework.

- **MAKING OUR OWN SPACE (M.O.O.S.)**

A summer urban design program for youth ages 14-18 in partnership with Kent State University's College of Architecture & Environmental Design.

- **MYCOM NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNER MINI-GRANT**

Is for organizations, businesses, faith-based, and residents, that provide programming for youth in Shaker.

# thank you

## **\$25,000 & ABOVE**

ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County  
City of Shaker Heights  
MyCom  
Shaker Heights City Schools

## **\$2,000 - \$10,000**

Cleveland Foundation  
Donald & Lynn-Ann Gries  
Prevention First  
John & Candace (Barbara) Sheffler  
Starting Point

## **\$1,000 - \$1,999**

Michael Borden & Miranda Hunt Borden  
David & Inez Myers Foundation  
Chris Williams & Ken Frisof  
Doug & Holly Wang

## **\$500-\$999**

Michael & Jan Devereaux  
Alexandria Nichols  
Thomas & Stacey O'Neill  
Doug & Lisa Schattinger  
Donald & Toni Scherzer

## **\$100 - \$499**

John & Pamela Addison  
David Bell  
Leon & Marguerite Bibb  
Jeremy & Jennifer Bordeaux  
Maureen Brodar  
Roneisha Campbell  
Michael & Susan Cristal  
Charlie & Mary Crowley  
James & Karen Dakin  
Charles & Nancy Davis  
R. Jeffrey & Tina Fast  
Mark & Kathleen Fisher  
Norm & Toni Graham  
Brian & Pamela Gleisser  
Richard & Wendy Halle  
David & Loraine Hammack  
Andrew Hertz & Linda Rae  
Brett & Annette Himes

## **\$100 - \$499**

Bruce Jackson  
Howard & Marilyn Karfeld  
Stuart & Terri Kline  
John Lemay  
John Lisy  
Gilbert Lowenthal  
Joseph & Eleni Matts  
Kurt Miller & Leslie Greenhaigh  
John & Nancy Moore  
Tim & Leslie Moore  
Marc & Amy Morgenstern  
Arthur & Madeleine Obrock  
Geoffrey & Molly Ritts  
Laura Rocker  
Edward and Teresa Ruch  
Mark Schweitzer &  
Marlies Schweitzer-Schutte  
Bart & Sheryl Simon  
Jessica Smith  
Ian & Catherine Stuart  
Mark & Annette Sutherland  
Mikki Wolfberg & Howard Weisbrot

## **\$50 - \$99**

Tom Abelson & Abby Goulder  
Gail Arnoff  
Elaine Bolasny  
Gilda Cohen  
Christal Crosby  
George Gelehrter  
Carol Gobel  
Lawrence Hatch  
Paula Klausner  
Ed & Tanisha Long  
Gail Long & Zachary Schiller  
Harry & Helen Mercer  
Peter & Kelly Nagusky  
Bill & Shirley Nook  
Richard Rakos  
Kittie Warshawsky & Tim Tibbitts  
Robert & Brenda Weltman  
Daniel & Nancy Zavelson

## 2024-2025

### INCOME

#### Board of Trustees

Contributions/Gifts/Special Events.....	\$ 17,529
Grants .....	\$ 13,720
City of Shaker Heights Grant.....	\$ 55,600
Prevention and Education Grant.....	\$ 13,900
Shaker Heights City Schools .....	\$100,000
Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health .....	\$352,906
Services Board of Cuyahoga County	
MyCom .....	\$ 54,000
Starting Point.....	\$ 10,000
Released from Restriction.....	\$ 33,735
Interest/ Miscellaneous.....	\$ 17,656
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$669,046</b>

### EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits.....	\$ 611,454
Program Cost.....	\$ 24,075
Professional and Contract Services .....	\$ 14,413
Insurance .....	\$ 10,019
Occupancy .....	\$ 5,680
Office Expenses .....	\$ 5,777
Staff Development .....	\$ 1,522
Fundraising & Marketing.....	\$ 2,653
Advocacy .....	\$ 100
Other.....	\$ 4,725
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$680,418</b>



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## STAFF

### Executive Director

Karen Carter, LISW-S

Sharon Bell (Retired), LSW

Kimberly Brothers, LSW

Laura Chapman, LSW, OCPSA

Amber Cooke, LSW

Danielle Frizzell, LSW

Emily Geier, LISW-S

Amy Jones

John Lisy (Retired),  
OCPG, LICDC-LS, LISW-S, LPCC-S

Lydia Ward, LSW

Alia Worthy, LSW

Briana Young, LSW

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[shakerheightsyouthcenter.org](http://shakerheightsyouthcenter.org)

An Equal Opportunity Employer and  
Equal Provider of Services

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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David Bell

Roneisha Campbell

Christal Crosby

Alexandria Nichols

Laura Rocker

Shenita Siggers

Jessica Smith

Christine Williams

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## ADVISORY BOARD

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Nancy Moore

Robert O'Neal

Candace Sheffler

Bart Simon