



**YOUTH  
FOR** NORTHERN INDIANA  
**CHRIST®**



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 22-23

Dear Friends,

It's been an amazing year at Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana. Your steadfast support has driven our mission at 26 sites to invest in and inspire young people across our community. I deeply appreciate your dedication and investment.

Our team's unwavering commitment to authentic Christ-sharing relationships has ensured that we continue to make a profound impact on the youth we serve. Together, we have witnessed incredible stories of transformation as the love of Jesus captivates hearts. Looking ahead, we maintain a clear vision:

**TO SEE EVERY YOUNG PERSON HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST AND BECOME PART OF A LOCAL CHURCH.**

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana. Together, we are changing lives and building a stronger, more hopeful community for our youth.

Sincerely,

**CHRIS TODIA**  
*CEO, Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana*



Supporters & Partners,

As the Board Chair of Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana, I want to express my profound gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to our mission. Your dedication has been instrumental in empowering young lives in our community.

Over the past year, our team's dedication has led to remarkable transformations among the youth we serve. Through faith, mentorship, and community, we have witnessed incredible growth and hope in their lives.

Looking ahead, we are eager to expand our impact further with your continued partnership. Together, we can bring hope to the young people of this region so that they can experience the transformative love of Jesus.

Thank you for your invaluable support in changing lives and strengthening our community.

Sincerely,

**TIM SMITH**  
*Board Chair, Youth For Christ of Northern Indiana*



# BOARD MEMBERS



**TIM SMITH**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

Abundant Executive Living  
CEO/President



**KATHY ROGERS**  
**BOARD VICE CHAIR**

KB Search Team, LLC  
CEO & President



**CHUCK CHRISTNER**  
**TREASURER**

CPA  
Retired Partner RSM US, LLP



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Former Allen County  
Superior Court Judge/Lawyer



**AARON LANE**

Co-Founder  
Courageous Healing, Inc.



**JIM POSEY**  
**SECRETARY**

Allen County Prosecutor's Office  
Deputy Prosecutor



**KYLE SKAGGS**

Color Master, Inc.  
President



**MITZI THOMAS**

Brotherhood Mutual  
VP, Marketing



**JIM WALMSLEY**

IMPACT Institute  
Vocational & Adult Education  
Director

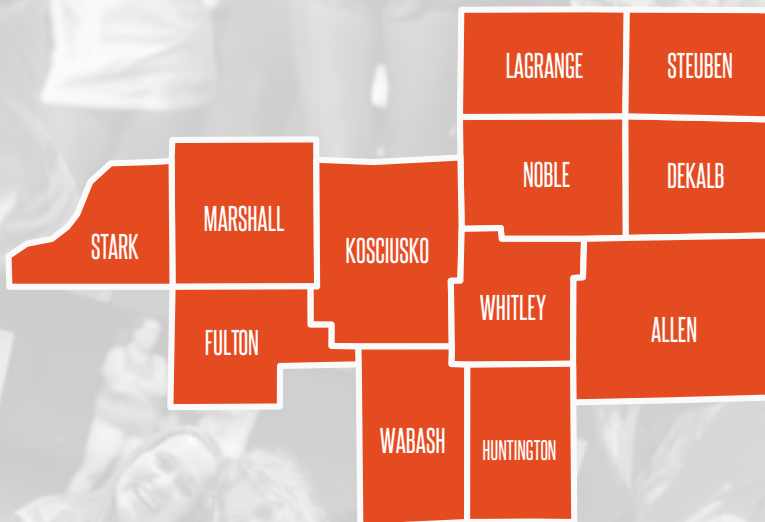
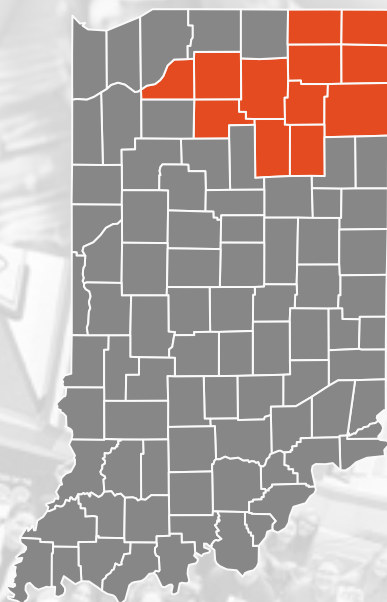


**ARTHUR WILSON**

Youth for Christ, USA  
Ministry Advancement Specialist



# IMPACT



**SERVING NORTHERN INDIANA AT**  
**15 HIGH SCHOOLS,**  
**7 MIDDLE SCHOOLS,**  
**3 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS,**  
**AND 1 DETENTION CENTER.**

**VOLUNTEER  
MINISTRY  
LEADERS**

**326**

**YOUNG PEOPLE  
IMPACTED**

**4385**

**AUTHENTIC  
RELATIONSHIPS**

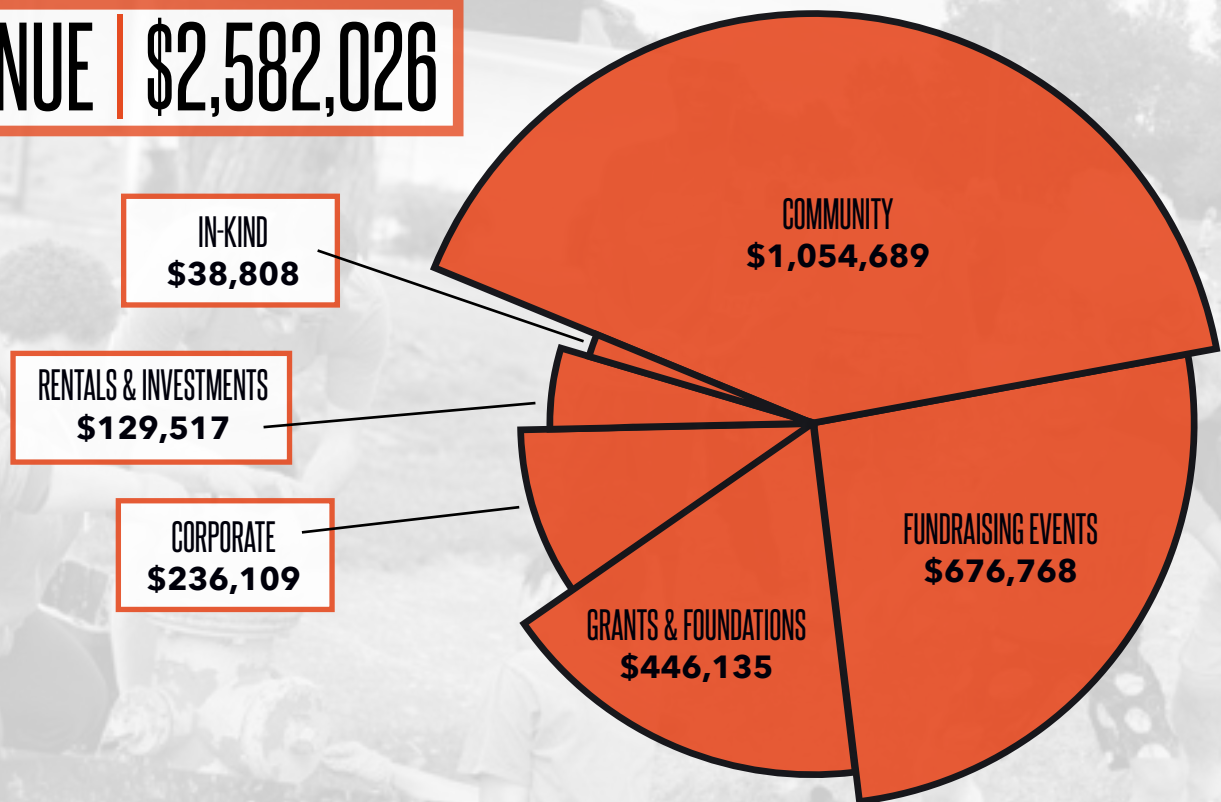
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**DECISIONS  
TO FOLLOW  
JESUS**

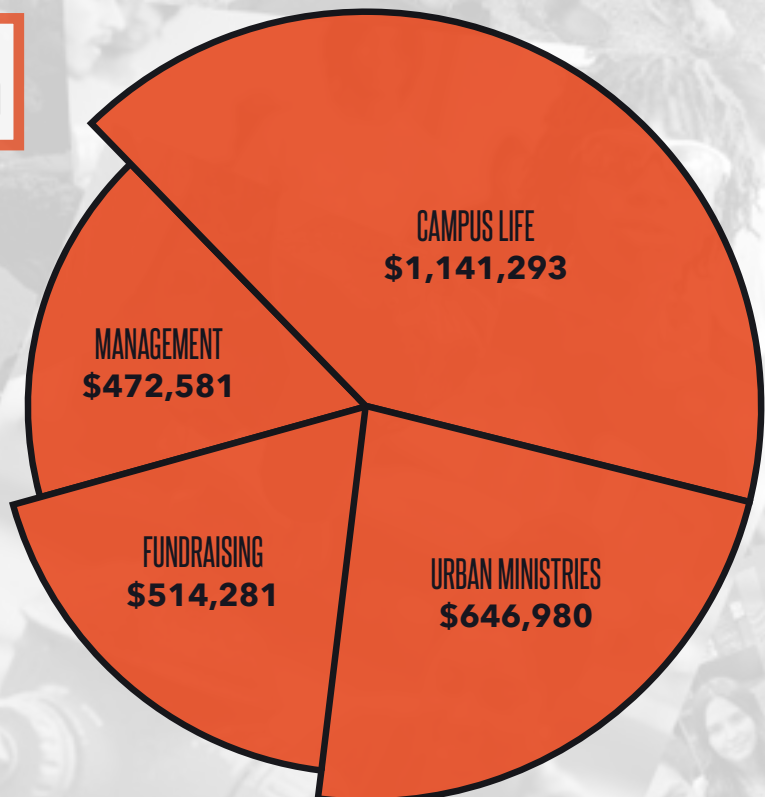
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# REVENUE & EXPENSES

**REVENUE | \$2,582,026**



**EXPENSES | \$2,775,135**





**NOVEMBER 14-18**

**WE ARE BACK TO DECLARE  
WE BELIEVE IN YOU(TH)!**

**WE BELIEVE IN YOU(TH) WEEK** is a one-week, all-out campaign for the young people of this region. The campaign has turned into a movement to unite our communities around the truth that we believe in our youth.

**SEE CAMPAIGN VIDEOS & MORE AT [WBIY.ORG](http://WBIY.ORG)**

**2022'S CAMPAIGN RAISED  
\$564,210**









**CITY LIFE** is a relational, holistic, community-based ministry aimed at serving under resourced neighborhoods by developing young people from that community to emerging leaders who lead where they live.

Young people from these communities are less likely to meet Jesus through traditional outreach models. Most face significant challenges including violence, homelessness, fatherlessness, abuse, neglect, and addiction, among many others. Our aim is to be a steady voice and presence in the lives of these young people and their communities, intentionally posturing ourselves as caring and attentive mentors.

As leaders, we help young people realize their worth as we actively listen to, learn from, and walk alongside them as they uncover God's story of hope in their lives. We dream that they will know Jesus and make a positive impact in the communities they reside in.







## PARTICIPATION EQUALS VALUE

During this past summer, City Life offered a plethora of opportunities for youth to engage with us and grow as leaders. A core group of teens seized every single opportunity! They actively participated in open gym, college visits, local outings, our community service project, and most notably, our partnership with NYLI STEAM Camp!

At STEAM Camp, one particular teen, Drew, underwent a complete 180-degree turnaround in terms of maturity compared to summer 2022. He embodied the camp's motto, "No Opportunity Wasted," by locking in and remaining focused during every keynote address. He demonstrated leadership among his peers and was one of the first to respond to the gospel message. Drew re-committed his life to Christ at camp and boldly lifted his voice in group prayer during a special moment in the program.

***This year's STEAM Camp experience provided Drew with a vision for his future,*** and he initiated conversations with a Huntington University representative in hopes of attending HU after high school graduation. Although Drew has been a part of City Life since middle school, STEAM Camp strengthened his familial bond with the adults on staff. As the City Life team continues to nurture this relationship and invest in Drew's faith journey, they trust that his success will be lifelong. In the meantime, it's gratifying to witness how Drew lives and leads with his peers!

*\*Young persons' names have been changed.*





On any given year in the US, there are over 740,000 teens referred to the juvenile justice system, some of whom will be confined to a corrections facility, others who will be diverted into a community-based alternative, and many who will be court sanctioned to probation. The sad fact is that, for our young people who are actively incarcerated, a detention center may be the only place they feel safe, have reliable meals, are sober, or are not facing constant trauma. For our justice involved young people who continue to stay in their communities, many continue to face adverse experiences such as relational trauma, racial trauma, community violence, and lack of access to basic needs. It is during these moments of crisis that our justice involved young people are most open to uncovering God's story of hope in their lives.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE MINISTRY** exists to create a faith-based continuity of care model geared toward fostering holistic connection and secure relationships with young people during any point of contact with the juvenile justice system. Our strategy is to come alongside young people in what it means to journey with Jesus; balancing the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects of life. We build relationships that are sustained through ongoing involvement as young people navigate the different pillars encompassing the juvenile justice system: Community, Courts, and Corrections.



FOR CHRIST





## HOPE & TRANSFORMATION

Juvenile Justice Ministry (JJM) has a powerful partnership with the Allen County Juvenile Center (ACJC). Every week, Joe Wright and his team go into ACJC to share Jesus. Time and time again, we see God's love transform lives at ACJC. Chris and Mia are living proof of the transformation that we see through JJM.

Chris, a young man who had experienced the revolving door of incarceration many times, reached a turning point. His Probation Officer recognized the need for a mentor in Chris's life and contacted JJM. A volunteer mentor provided consistent support that became the guiding light Chris needed. Gradually, he started taking positive steps towards a brighter future, discovering hope and direction where there had once been despair.

Mia's story is marked by repeated encounters with the criminal justice system, culminating in a six-month sentence. However, this sentence allowed JJM to intervene and make a meaningful impact. Mia developed a deep and meaningful connection with Joe, one of our mentors. Their bond did not break with her release; instead, it continued to flourish through weekly meetings. Mia found stability through employment, rediscovered her faith, and began engaging with the community in positive ways. Despite encountering setbacks along the way, Mia pressed on, drawing strength from the supportive community she had found within JJM.

***Transformation is happening through the gospel.*** Chris and Mia are just one of hundreds of stories our JJM team has witnessed. Our team continues to faithfully go to young people in ACJC to love and tell them about Jesus.

*\*Young persons' names have been changed.*

JOE WRIGHT  
JJM LEAD







We totally get it. Middle and high school is a roller coaster. It is the best of times and the worst of times filled with pivotal moments. We know how a pivotal moment can shape a story, because we've been through them ourselves. We also know that young people experiencing pivotal moments often feel over-looked and under-served, walking through their story without someone in their corner.

**CAMPUS LIFE** leaders build relationships with young people to introduce them to Christ. We seek to cultivate great moments of connection and community for young people. Through a holistic approach Campus Life helps students as they wrestle with critical issues. Leaders help young people realize a Christ-centered life that provides balance mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially.

We are committed to coming alongside young people and meeting them where they are. We seek to help young people navigate the pivotal years of middle and high school, uncovering God's story of hope in their lives.





## TRANSFORMATIVE FAITH

Samantha's story, which had its roots at MS YFC Camp in the summer of 2019, began when her older cousin, Lily, attended the camp. Lily's parents had recently split, leaving her with a lot of pent-up mess and no thought of how God fit into her life. However, that week, she learned about a God who is Abba, Father, and always present, and she said YES to Jesus for the first time. Over the next few years, Lily drifted in and out of closeness with Jesus, all the while bringing her family closer to Him. In the last year, she started working at a church coffee shop, brought her family to church for the first time, got baptized, and became a Jr. Leader for MS Campus Life.

As a leader, Lily ensured that her younger cousin, Samantha, attended Campus Life each week, hoping for the same transformation. With encouragement from Lily, Samantha signed up for YFC Camp.

Fast forward to Wednesday night of YFC Camp, Samantha also said YES to Jesus for the first time. ***Filled with tears of joy, Lily bought Samantha her first journal so she could spend the summer teaching Samantha more about Jesus and the Bible.***

During the final meal of camp, Samantha's cabin leader asked the table what they were most looking forward to as they headed home. With a radiant smile in her eyes, Samantha simply exclaimed, "I can't wait to get home and tell my mom everything about this week because I want her to know Jesus too... I want to tell all of my friends about this belonging and joy I have now."

*\*Young persons' names have been changed.*

DANNI BLACKBURN

CRESTVIEW & RIVERVIEW MS  
CAMPUS LIFE DIRECTOR







**CAMPUS  
LIFE®**  
HIGH SCHOOL



FOR CHRIST • YOUTH





## EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Every Monday night, Bailee and her dedicated team gather local students for their Club meetings. During these meetings, they provide a welcoming space where young people can freely be themselves, engage in real-life conversations, connect those experiences with God's teachings, and enjoy dinner and some fun.



One memorable Monday night in September, a brave student stepped up to share her own journey. Sharing deep struggles with friends can be quite daunting, but this young woman had talked to Bailee a few weeks earlier about her desire to share how God helped her heal and grow stronger.

As the courageous student spoke, she shared her own tough experiences—moments of pain, confusion, and feeling lost in her own identity, which are common for many young people. However, she also told the story of how Jesus made a significant impact in her life. He knew her by name and helped her become a better person.

The student's words had a profound impact, sparking deep thoughts and emotions in everyone. After she finished, students gathered in smaller groups to discuss what they heard and how it made them feel. They were moved by her bravery, inspired by her honesty, and motivated to share their own stories with each other and their leaders.

This supportive environment made it easy for students to be themselves and know that God was right there with them every time they showed up. ***This is where the healing process took place, thanks to the genuine connections students made with each other and with God.***

Bailee hopes that this powerful moment serves as a reminder of God's love and how it's always available, especially for young people. It's a testament to the impact of faith and being part of a supportive community in our lives. Bailee feels truly blessed to be part of this incredible journey with young people.

\*Young persons' names have been changed.

**BAILEE GLASS**  
**WHITLEY COUNTY LEAD**



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