



Annual Impact Report 2022-2023

Making a difference in the lives of youth in La Plata County since 1994!



Our Executive Director

Greetings Valued Community Member:

In June 2022, I entered into the Executive Director role with La Plata Youth Services, excited to bring my professional experiences to the agency. The year began with many staffing and programmatic changes, and we were able to innovatively adapt to the circumstances...not all that different from our messaging to youth and families. LPYS had a tremendously successful year, in so many ways. In part, this was due to the immense community support we received from individual supporters, and we are deeply appreciative. The need continues to grow, as we witness increased rates of youth mental health struggles, housing insecurity, and community detachment. La Plata Youth Services was at the forefront of these community-wide crises, and in conjunction with our imperative partners, we were able to address these issues. We are working tirelessly to adapt programming to meet the shifting needs of the communities we serve. Many of LPYS' programs served record-high numbers of youth and families, and the need continues to outweigh the capacity. LPYS will continue to advocate for youth throughout our communities, bringing authenticity to our work, and dedicated to enhancing the lives of all throughout La Plata County. I thank you for your time, devotion, and commitment to La Plata youth.

Regards,

Jason St. Mary

Meet our Board

Chair

Vanessa Giddings

Executive Dir. of Student Support Services

Durango School District 9R

Vice Chair

Kim Osby

School Counselor

Escalante Middle School

Treasurer

Martha Johnson

Dir. of Human Services

La Plata County Dept. of Human Services

Mia Sholes

Community Board Member

Willow Schulz

Community Board Member

Deck Shaline

Durango Police-Community Programs Unit

Chris deKay

Ignacio Schools Superintendent

Ignacio School District

Erin Hyder

Managing Director, Internal & Cultural Services
City of Durango

Alison Crabtree

Youth District Attorney

Steve Brittain

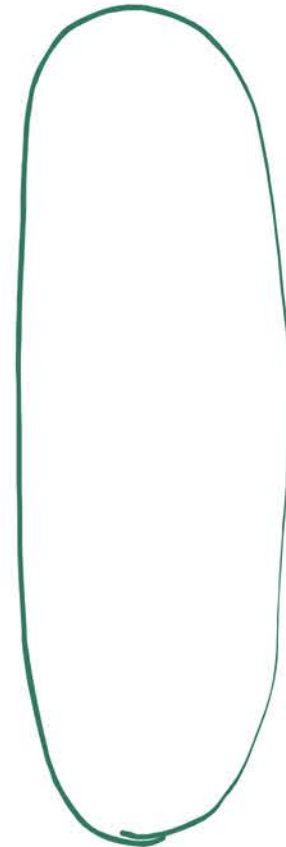
Community Board Member

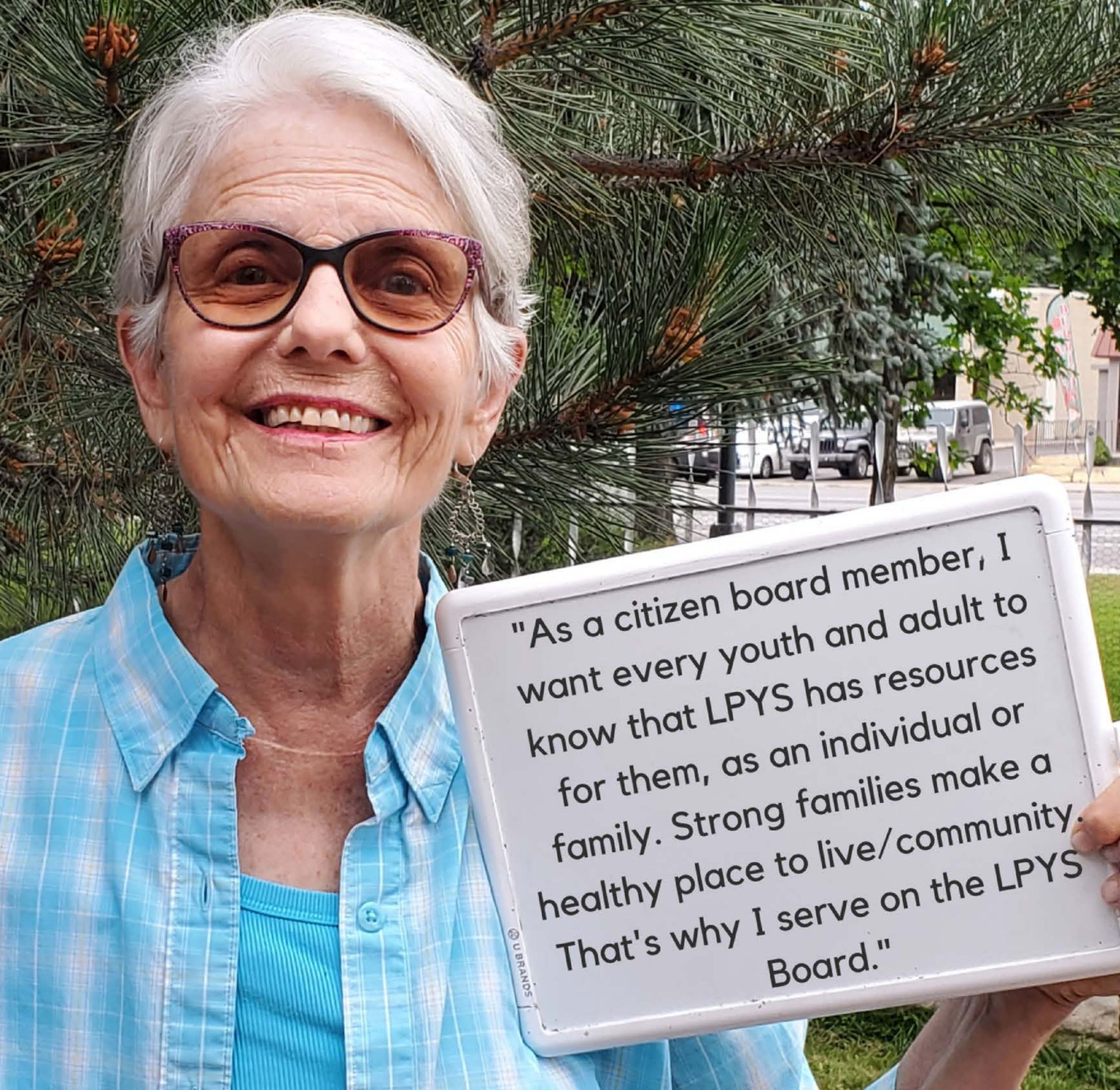
Pat Senecal

Former Community Board Member (2020-2023)

Willow Lott

Former Community Board Member (2022-2023)





"As a citizen board member, I want every youth and adult to know that LPYS has resources for them, as an individual or family. Strong families make a healthy place to live/community. That's why I serve on the LPYS Board."

Pat Senecal

Recent Citizen Board Member
La Plata Youth Services Board of Directors

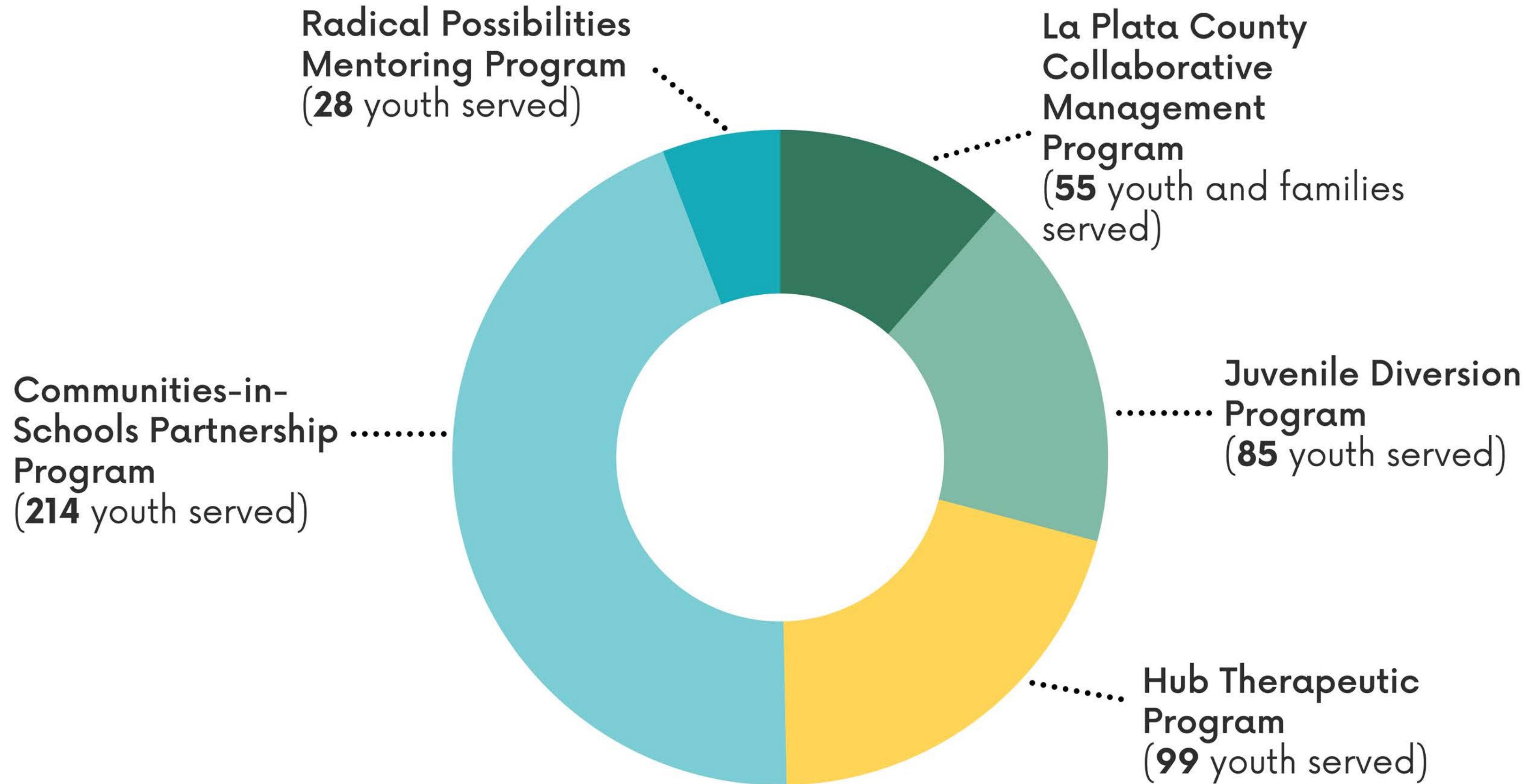
Our Programs & Services

La Plata Youth Services...

- Meets youth who are facing challenges in school, at home, or in the court system and provides support for them through **innovative programming** and **models** recognized statewide.
- Works with school-aged youth by strengthening **school-based** and **community support** through mentoring, mental health wellness, restorative practices, and supporting the entire family.
- Has a high success rate in **building resilience** in youth and **empowering** them to connect with their community.
- **Strengthens** partnerships across courts, schools, and the community to support youth.

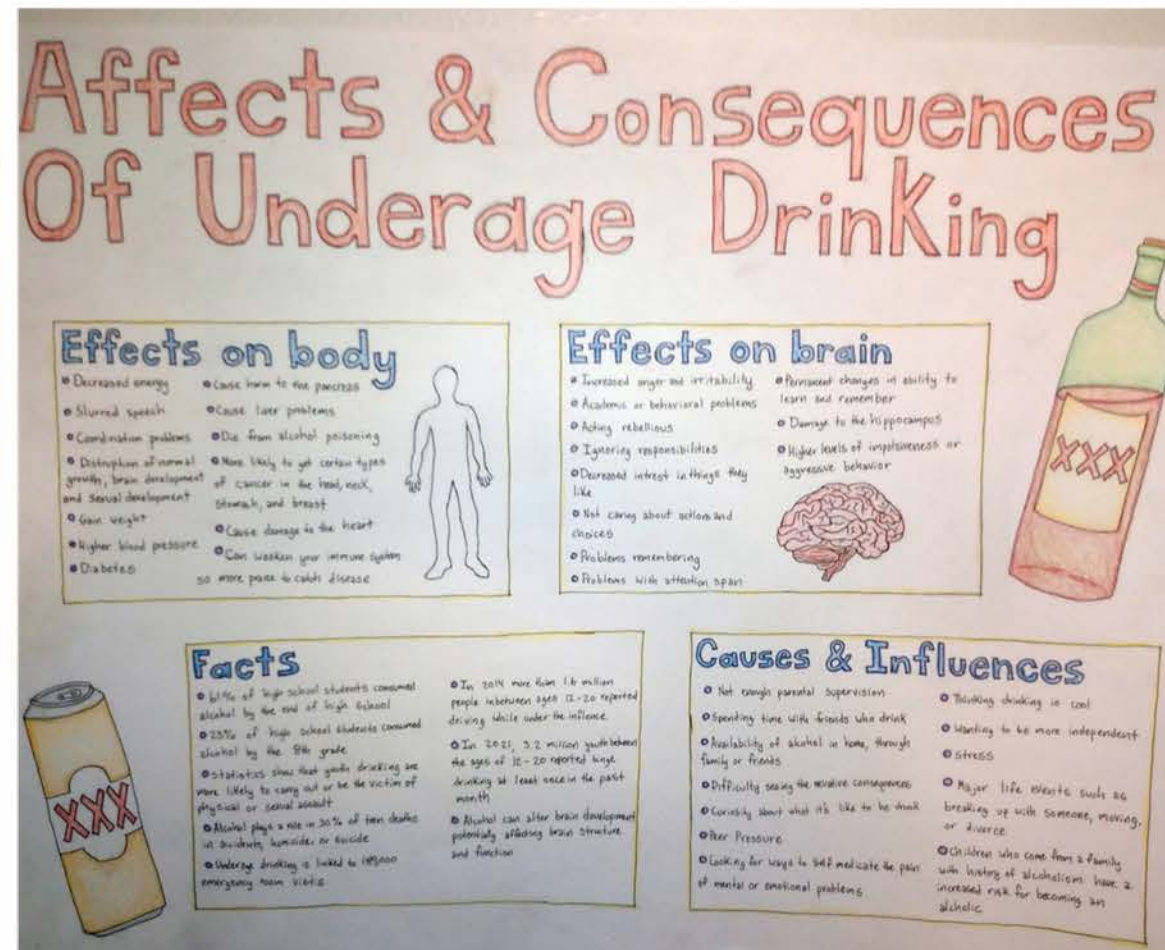


Total Youth Served in FY23 = 481



Our Programs in Action

Youth Diversion Program



What we do...

We provide an alternative, voluntary option for youth at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Our process is youth-centered and restorative in nature by providing youth opportunities to repair harm and build connections. We also give youth the tools to remain resilient during life's challenges which increases their overall health and wellbeing.

Our impact...

- **85** youth served
- **94%** completed successfully
- **93%** did not reoffend while enrolled

“The most valuable thing about being in diversion is getting to talk without feeling judgement.”

- Diversion Client, age 16



Our Programs in Action

Radical Possibilities Mentoring Program

What we do...

We serve youth in grades 6-12 who are facing adverse life conditions that affect their well-being and ability to engage positively in their lives. Through the support of skilled mentors, Radical Possibilities helps youth become more empowered and resilient in the face of life's challenges. Youth have the opportunity to engage one-on-one with their mentors as well as participate in group activities. Participants often develop increased self-confidence and a new sense of belonging in their community.



Our impact...

- 28 youth served
- Over 2300 hours of mentorship
- 96% increase in community connectedness
- 89% increase in factors that contribute to resilience

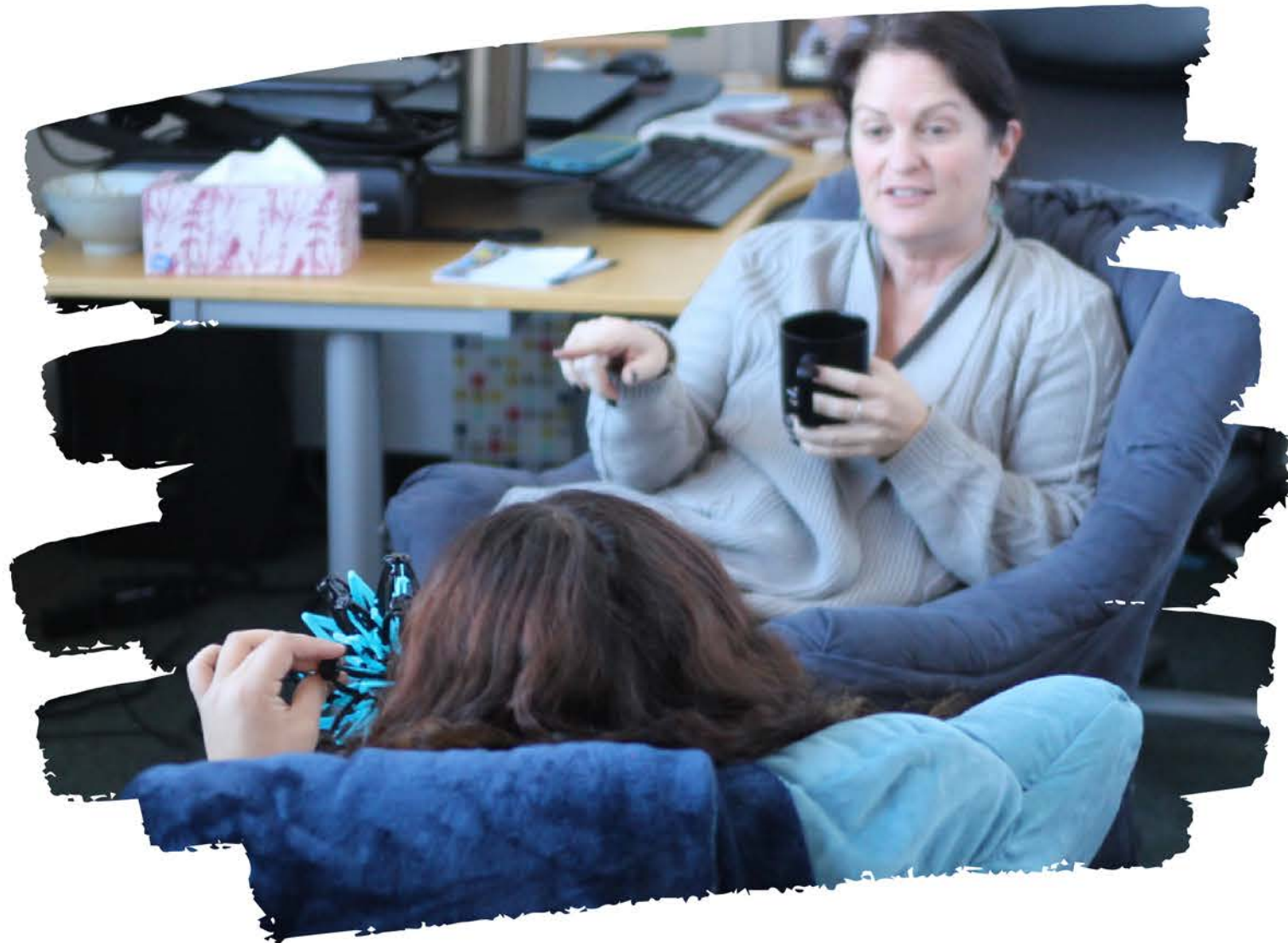


“ I had so much fun with my mentor this year! She taught me how helpful yoga is and that the little things matter. ”

- Radical Possibilities youth mentee (3rd Grade)

Our Programs in Action

Communities-In-Schools Partnership Program



What we do...

We provide school-based mental health and socio-emotional support services to students who face barriers to accessing care through individual and group sessions. Our goal is to improve overall youth wellbeing and resilience. This is done through a collaboration with local agencies and community partners who provide therapeutic services to young people in a school setting.

Our impact...

- **214** youth served
- **802** total sessions provided
- **15** schools participating

Working as a counselor in the Community in Schools Partnership program has been a rewarding experience. The schools are welcoming and accommodating built on the rapport with LPYS staff who all work together to create a caring environment for children in challenging circumstances. As a former schoolteacher, I embrace what LPYS has created as a specialized, personalized service in schools providing critical support for children and their families.

- Christine Trout, LPCC - CISP
Contracted Therapist



Our Programs in Action

La Plata Collaborative Management Program

What we do...

The La Plata County Collaborative Management Program connects students, families, schools and other stakeholders through an Integrated Services and Support Team (ISST). The ISST functions as an integrated service planning model to bring resources and youth agencies together to better serve youth and their families.

The Radical Possibilities Mentoring Program and Communities-in-Schools Partnership Program are prevention programs of the Collaborative Management Program.

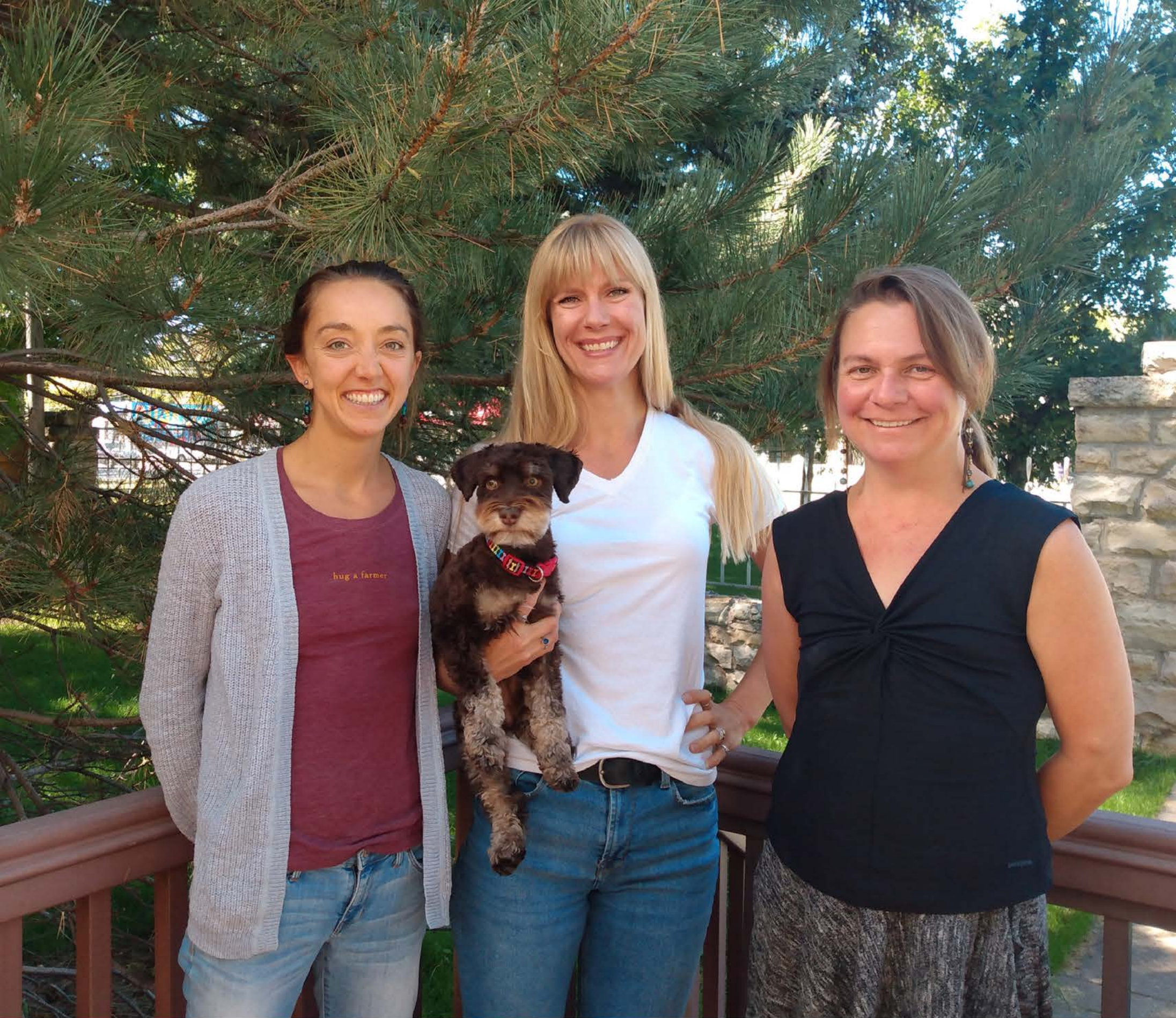
Our impact...

- **55 individuals served through a total of 63 ISST Meetings**
- **100% remained in their homes**
- **100% did not enter diversion, probation, or parole**
- **40% improved their academic performance**



Because the only housing Rebekah Braudrick's family could find was in Bayfield, La Plata County Collaborative Management Program purchased a used vehicle from Manna and donated it to her so that she and her husband could get to work in Durango and their kids could continue to attend school in the city. (Jerry McBride/Durango Herald)





“The Collaborative Management Program came into my life when I was ready to give up, so depressed, alone, and lost. They have become a part of my success, giving me resources, tools, and most of all confidence in myself.”

- CMP Client

Collaborative Management Program Staff

Our Programs in Action

The Hub Therapeutic Program



What we do...

The Hub Therapeutic Program is an innovative educational model founded on a therapeutic approach to learning and development for students in grades 6-12 who have significant emotional, behavioral, or psychological challenges.

This strategic partnership between Durango School District 9-R, LPYS, and the Child Wellness Center, among other community-based agencies, brings together specialized expertise in a central location.

Our impact...

Ninety-nine youth served...through student enrollment, academic, wrap-around, prosocial community-based activities, mentoring, therapeutic support, medical evaluation, and psychiatric evaluation and consultation.



“
The Hub is the kind of school
that you always wanted.”

- Hub High School student (17)

Annual Fundraising Events

9th Annual Unchain My Heart

About Unchain My Heart.....

Our annual **Unchain My Heart** event is a celebration of youth and their creative talents! In anticipation of this event we hold several **FREE art workshops** for youth in collaboration with local artists. Youth are then invited to submit their artwork for a one-day event where they can professionally display and sell their art! Youth receive **100% of the proceeds** from the sale of their artwork. La Plata Youth Services raises funds to offset the costs of the event and to directly fund youth programs.



In the Media

Durango Herald

[From Hillside to Homes, A 'Comforting' Shift from Homelessness to Housing](#) - June 12, 2023

[Colorado Attorney General Praises The Hub in Durango as a Model for Therapeutic Education](#) - May 17, 2023

[The Hub, an alternative school, looks to recenter at new location in Durango](#) - April 5, 2023

[For Durango's Divergent Youths, The Hub Provides A Haven](#) - Jan. 4, 2023

[Durango Homelessness Council to Pursue Housing Model Used Countrywide](#) - Nov. 19, 2022

[La Plata County Commissioners Approve ARPA Funding for Social Impact Projects](#) - Nov. 2, 2022

Durango Local News

[Serving Youth Where They Are](#) - March 22, 2023

Conferences

[Colorado Youth Mental Health Panel](#) (Colorado Springs, El Pomar Foundation) - Oct. 2022



Otis Eckardt, 18, laughs as he talks about being a student at The Hub versus being a student at Durango High School. The relationships between students and staff, such as Hub high school teacher Steve Yeaton, left, and Executive Director of La Plata Youth Services Jason St. Mary, right, lie at the core of the program's success. (Jerry McBride/Durango Herald)



Our Financials

Revenue

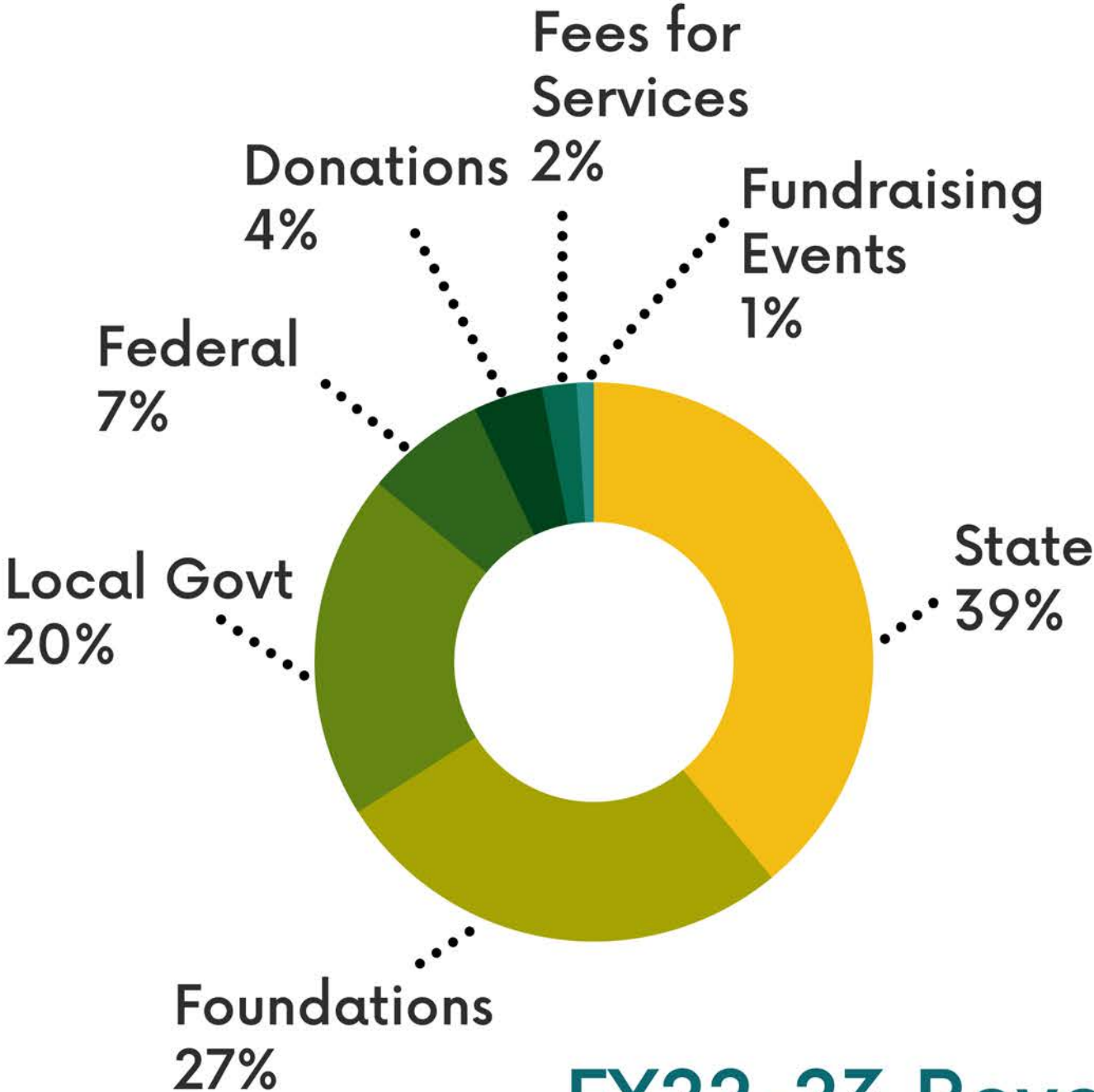
State funding.....	\$435,709
Foundations.....	\$305,369
Local Government.....	\$218,216
Donations.....	\$44,596
Fees for Services.....	\$21,110
Fundraising Events.....	\$8,708

Total Revenue.....\$1,111,852

Expenses

Personnel.....	\$769,750
Professional Services.....	\$116,757
Supplies.....	\$86,427
General Operations.....	\$53,697
Facilities.....	\$18,470
Training.....	\$5,367
Travel.....	\$3,466

Total Expenses.....\$1,053,933



FY22-23 Revenue

Our Grants & Major Donors

Government

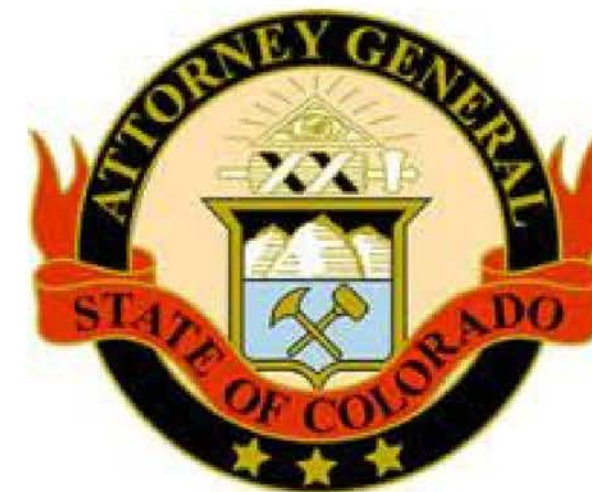
Division of Criminal Justice
The Colorado Attorney General's Office
Restorative Justice Colorado Council
Rural Collaborative
American Recovery Plan Act

Local

The City of Durango
The Town of Ignacio
The Town of Bayfield
La Plata County
Durango School District 9-R
Ignacio School District

Foundation

Colorado Health Foundation
Caring for Colorado
El Pomar
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
A.V. Hunter Trust
United Way
Westmeath



We Can't Do It Without You!

Donate

Volunteer

Mentor

**Be an
Intern**

**Attend a
Fundraising
Event**

**Join Our
Board**

**Sponsor
an Event**

**Participate
on a
Committee**

If you are ready to have a positive impact on youth in La Plata County then contact us now!

Contact: info@lpys.org / 970-385-4440