

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



FISHERS
youth
Assistance
PROGRAM



Our operational highlights



Our Mission

FYAP advocates for youth ages 3-17 who are facing difficult life circumstances. We collaborate with our community's vast array of talents, services, and resources to help empower our youth, parents, and caregivers.



Our Values

Advocacy is at the heart of everything we do. Our professional staff and dedicated board members work tirelessly to represent the interests of youth and families in our communities, ensuring they have the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive.



Our Vision

Proactively strengthening our community by empowering our youth to achieve their greatest potential.

Operational Goals

- To continuously increase the positive impact we are having on our youth. We seek to empower parents and caregivers and advocate for our youth to connect them to the services they need most.
- To have a positive impact on many of the conditions which lead to a culture committed to building social emotional health in all of our youth
- To enrich and expand our cooperative relationship with all the schools that serve the youth that live in the Hamilton Southeastern School district
- To build a sustainable organization

Employee Spotlight



Dee Chandler

Early Intervention Advocate



Gretchen Stullken

Early Intervention Advocate - Tutoring Coordinator



Trisha Straus

Early Intervention Advocate

Our framework for 2025

2025 was entered into with purpose and intentionality to provide quality programming to the youth and families being served. Below outlines the scope of efforts in 2025:



1

Enhance partnerships

By working closely with community leaders and partners, we help ensure that youth living within the HSE School District boundaries have access to critical resources that support their development and well-being.

2

Provide caregivers with tools for success

Collaborate with educators, legal professionals, law enforcement, and social service providers to create a safe, nurturing environment for every child in our county and empower parents with education and skills.

3

Secure funding for sustainment and growth

Advocate for public and private funding to sustain our wide range of services, from career development and tutoring to mental health support and family assistance.

4

Ensure collaboration across all systems of care

Actively collaborate with the Hamilton County Court system, law enforcement, HSE Schools, and elected leaders to strengthen the network of support for young people facing challenging life circumstances, empowering them to build successful futures.



Our Impact

Fishers Youth Assistance Program (FYAP) provides professional, family-centered coordination of services to youth and families residing in the Hamilton Southeastern School District. In 2025, we saw record numbers of youth who were referred to and served by FYAP.



425
youth served
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025

2169
total referrals
since February 2014

288
new referrals
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025

78%
referrals qualify
Free/Reduced Meals

20%
referrals requested
tutoring supports

16%
referrals requested
mental health supports

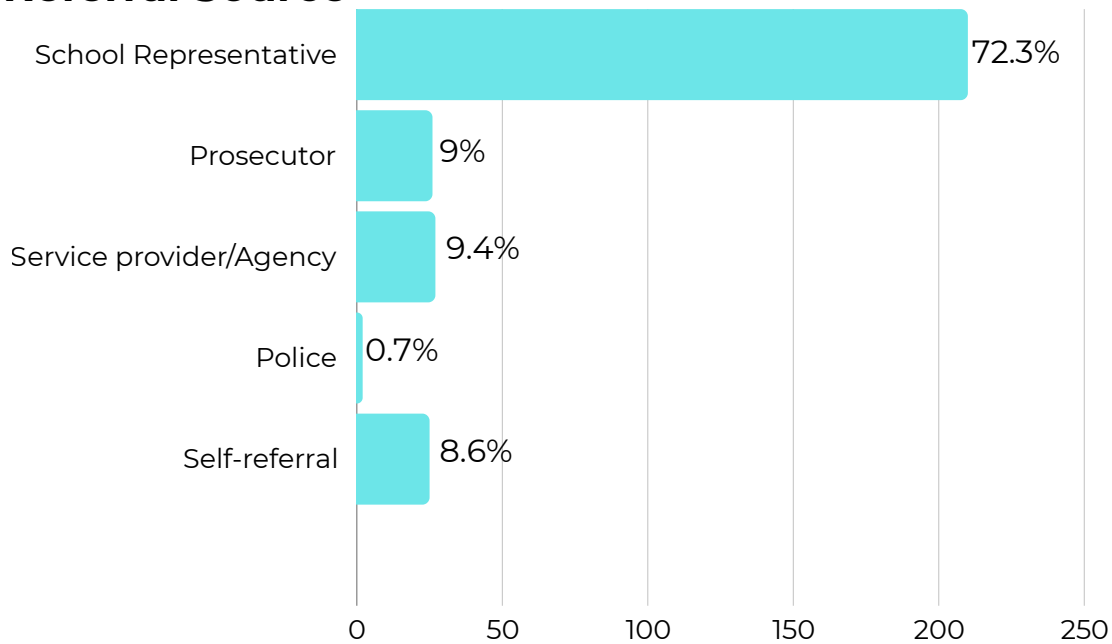


Our clients served

Of the youth served in 2025 below offers insight on how they were connected to FYAP services, the youth's grade in school and demographic information about the student..



Referral Source



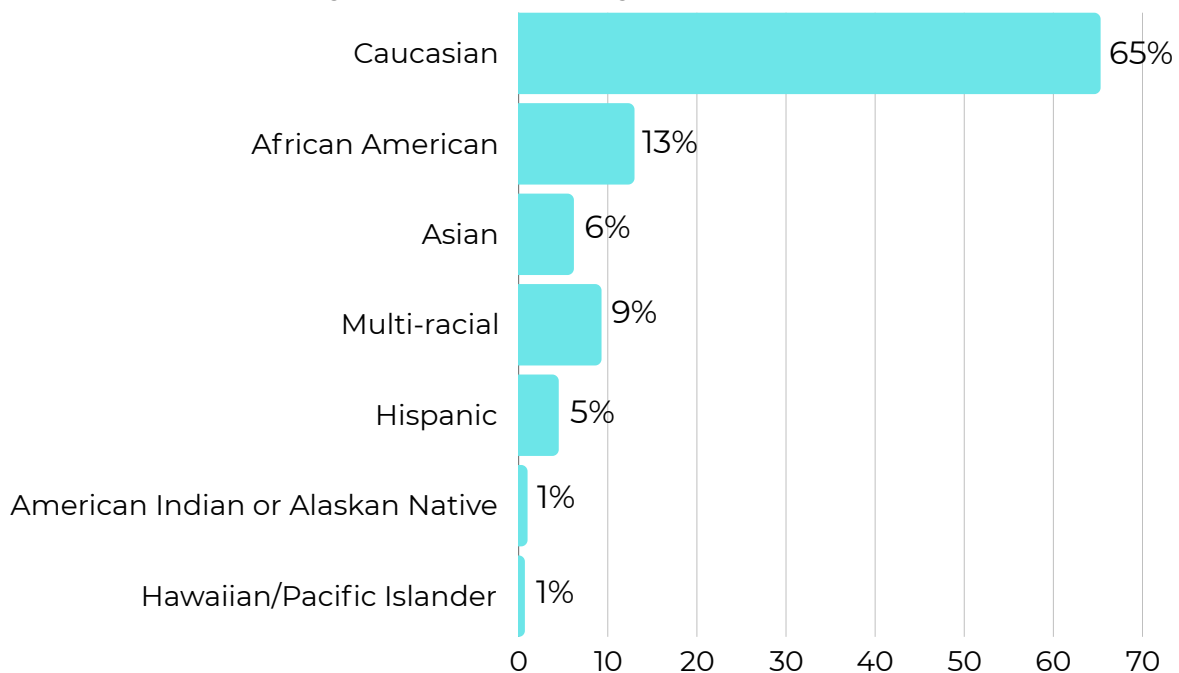
Grade of referred youth

35.5%
PreK-4

30.4%
5th-8th

34.1%
9th-12th

Race/ethnicity of referred youth



Our programs: Tutoring

Continued under the leadership of Early Intervention Advocate Gretchen Stullken, the remediation programs offered by FYAP during 2025 served as a lifeline for youth and families facing academic challenges.



Paws to Read

In our third year of partnership with Paws & Think, FYAP continues to support the reading program, Paws to Read. Weekly throughout the school year, dog teams meeting with elementary students to build literacy skills and self-confidence.

25

students
participated

2098

hours of reading time!

40

reading sessions
provided

STAR Program

STAR, Student Teacher Academic Review, is a growing program offered by FYAP. Operating as a high-fidelity tutoring model, students meet for one hour, twice a week to work in groups of 4 with 1 teacher building math and literacy skills. Started as a pilot, the program has now grown to serve students across three elementary schools. Plans are underway to continue growth in this program throughout the 2025-26 school year!



1:1 individual tutoring

Continuing to remain the foundation of academic remediation, youth actively served directly by FYAP are offered the opportunity to work 1:1 with either a paid or volunteer tutor to build missing academic skills. Individual tutoring sessions occur weekly for a minimum of an hour. Progress monitoring is a collaborative effort between the tutor, classroom teacher, parent and student!

Our programs: Summer Bridge

Started in 2020 as an intervention during the Covid pandemic, the Summer Bridge program has grown and changed each year to meet the evolving needs of youth and families. In 2025, Summer Bridge continued to operate as a five-day, camp-style program and was offered free of cost to emerging 2nd and 3rd grade students across all HSE Schools as well as to FYAP clients. Each week of camp offered a different focus to choose from. Week 1 curriculum surveyed farm animals while Week 2 studied insects. Each week focused on and accomplished ensuring that 100% of participants engaged in small group thematic literacy experiences that promoted literacy enjoyment and skills. Specifically, youth were able to work on the following areas of focus both individually and in large group settings: sequence of events in reading materials, retelling of a story aloud, recounting elements of a story, and writing about real life connections to particular books. Additionally, for both weeks of the program 100% of participants were exposed to enrichment activities including but not limited to: sewing, building/painting wooden birdhouses & insect structures, and various STEM activities. Each week was planned to culminate in a field trip to offer a full immersive learning experience. While weather prevented a visit to Hoosier Heritage Farm to conclude the farm animal study, participants who registered for the week of insects enjoyed a field trip to Conner Prairie to get truly immersed in nature!

The success of the program would not have been possible without the infusion of youth counselors that participated in Summer Bridge 2025. Eleven paid and volunteer teens served as counselors for the program. Whether leading reading passages, painting birdhouses or serving as mentors to the campers. Their invaluable role-modeling inspired a learning environment even in summer months!

FYAP also used the summer months to build on the STAR program. Focusing on the 5th-8th grade student population, a summer version of small group academic remediation was developed and carried out through select emerging 5th and 6th graders. This program served (8) youth who met twice weekly for (4) weeks focusing on reading and math skills. We learned invaluable outcomes from operating this at a new age group and were able to provide those youth with a jump start on the upcoming school year!



Our programs: Career Development

Continuing to grow in numbers as well as overall effectiveness, the FYAP Career Development program served (26) youth in a week-long program. Focusing on 9th –12th grade students, 100% of participants were exposed to at least 5 career fields that do not require a 4-year college degree. The 2025 career fields highlighted included:

- Government service
- Basic office work
- Non-profit work in the areas of food insecurity, financial insecurity and basic needs
- Electrician and various careers in the electrical industry
- Basic medical careers across several different paths

Participants left the program with a completed career interest survey as well as career education in resume building and interviewing skills.

Through generous funding from the Arthur Dean Family Foundation, we were able to hire three young adults who served as supervisors for the program. Going beyond providing logistical help to ensure smooth transitions between the various employers, the supervisors offered mentoring to the youth they worked with. Additionally, three Teen Leaders were chosen from previous programs. These Teen Leaders were asked to serve as leaders to their peers in both behavior and engagement in the programs offered daily. The Teen Leaders assisted both the supervisors and FYAP staff in all ways requested and exceeded expectations!

A special thanks to our partners who opened their doors to our students!



Our programs: Mental Wellness

Throughout 2025, FYAP was able to provide unique opportunities to explore and enrich youth overall mental wellness.

In total, **fifty-four youth** were provided with mental health programming, therapy services, or hands-on wellness tools to use when facing challenging life circumstances. All participants received **no-cost** mental health programming that exposed them to unique forms of therapy including but not limited to:

- Art therapy
- Nature therapy
- Animal therapy programming

Additionally, 100% of participants enjoyed increased access to traditional mental health counseling programs throughout 2025.

One of the most positive experiences for participants came through a four-day camp setting called **Camp Wellness** where youth received anxiety-reducing tools, were exposed to alpaca therapy, conducted an art therapy session, and spent a day in nature therapy. The art therapy was such a success that led to three additional specialized sessions where individually and as a group, participants work through the medium of art to discuss mental wellness.

Overall, all participants learned that wellness can be achieved easily and uniquely within their everyday lives!



Our programs: Holiday Helpers



For many families served by FYAP, the holidays bring about much stress and concern when caregivers are balancing already stressed finances with trying to ensure a wonderful celebration for their children. Through the generous giving of time, talent and treasures from the greater community, FYAP supports active families to be matched with a community sponsor to receive meals and gifts for the holidays.



200 individuals served

Through in-kind and financial donations, FYAP provided gifts to over 150 children. Additionally, many sponsors also included family gifts or gifts for adult children increasing our total reach to more than 200 individuals! Many of the families served faced displacement, job loss, and family struggles throughout the year leading up to the holidays. The love, kindness and joy provided was immeasurable!



Holiday meals served to over 30 families

In continued partnership and collaboration, FYAP worked with the local community to ensure both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals were accessible for families. Of highlight, St. George Greek Orthodox Church provided the groceries needed to enjoy a full Thanksgiving meal to include the turkey, several side dishes and a dessert to 30 families. Families connected to the Good Samaritan Network also received meals for Thanksgiving as well as Christmas.



Over 30 community & individual donors

Advertised only through social media and word of mouth, the community once again came out in force to provide holiday support to families in need. More than 40 community organizations, agencies and individual donors supported the need, providing over \$20,000 in generous donations. Special thanks to the following community partners:

- Hamilton County Sherriff Office
- Kiwanis Club of Fishers
- St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- Good Samaritan Network
- HSE Food Service Department
- Southeastern Swim Club
- Tri Kappa of Fishers
- The Bristol's neighborhood
- Christ Community Church
- Mudsock Youth Athletics Football
- Kids Spreading Joy

Our programs: Youth Canine

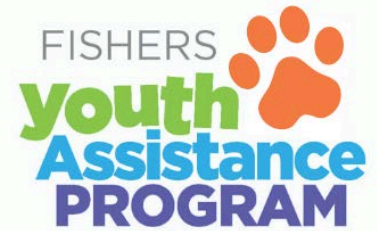
Operating in collaboration since 2016, FYAP is proud to continue to bring the Youth Canine program to the communities across Hamilton County. The collaboration is a three-way partnership that works in unison together.

Building off the successful program that has operated in Marion County, "Pawsitive Corrections", Paws & Think provides the curriculum, trainers and volunteers to run the Hamilton County Youth Canine Program. Since 2013, Paws & Think has recognized that both youth and animals need positive experiences to recover and rehabilitate.



The Hamilton County Humane Society (HCHS) has hosted the Youth Canine Program since inception. Began in Noblesville and moved to Fishers with the new building in 2021, the staff of the HCHS provide support and assistance in every program. From temperament testing and supplies to use of the facility, the program could not run without the support and collaboration of the HCHS.

Youth are nominated by Early Intervention Advocates from any of the Hamilton County Youth Assistance offices. Participants work in pairs with a volunteer from Paws & Think and a dog teaching basic obedience skills. The youth involved see increases in engagement and achievement in school, self-confidence, self-control and anger management, and life skills such as leadership and job readiness. In 2025, due to space limitations and staffing changes, unfortunately, only one program occurred serving the following:



youth participated



dogs trained



volunteer hours given



Our partners

We truly thank you for your support given through time, talent, treasures and collaboration! We could not serve our community without you!



Aspire Indiana, Inc.

Bethel Lutheran Church Food & Baby Pantry
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana
Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre
Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville
Brooke's Place
Camp Tecumseh
Camptown
Center for Hope
Cherish Center
City of Fishers
Collaborative Change
Community Behavioral Health
Conner Prairie
Delaware Township Trustee
Early Childhood Alliance Network
Englishton Park Camp
Fall Creek Township Trustee
Family Promise of Hamilton County
Firefly
Fishers Eye Care
Fishers Fire Department
Fishers Optimist Club
Fishers Parks & Recreation
Fishers Police Department
Fishers UMC and Food Pantry
Good Samaritan Network
Grace Care Center
Grace Community Church
Hamilton County Community Foundation
Hamilton Co Harvest Food Bank
Hamilton County 4H County Fairgrounds
Hamilton County Health Department
Hamilton County Humane Society
Hamilton County Juvenile Probation
Hamilton County Sheriff Department
Hamilton County Systems of Care
Hamilton Southeastern Schools
Heart and Soul Clinic
Holy of Spirit of Geist Catholic Church
HSE Schools Foundation

IN SOURCE

Indiana Troopers Youth Services
Indy Eleven Soccer Academy
Indy Premier Soccer Club
IPMG
Ivy Tech
Janus Developmental Services
Kids Psych, Inc.
Kiwanis Club of Fishers
Life Solutions Counseling Associates
Mathias Counseling & Consulting
Medical Mutts
Meijer - 96th Street
Merciful Help Center
Mudsock Youth Athletics
Mustard Seed
Newcomers of Fishers
Nickle Plate Arts
Options School
Paws & Think
Prevail Inc.
Rural Urban Access to Health
Safe Families for Children
Salvation Army of Central Indiana
St. George Orthodox Church
St. Louis de Montfort
St. Vincent de Paul Noblesville
St. Vincent Stress Center
Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County
Strada Education Network
Trinity Free Clinic
United Way of Central Indiana
Walker Dixon Orthodontics
Walmart Neighborhood Market
Wayne Township Trustee
White River Church and Food Pantry
Work One
YMCA

Thank you!



FISHERS **youth** **Assistance** **PROGRAM**



Building a healthy community for tomorrow
by investing in the youth of today.

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