

Sheridan Youth Assistance Program 2023 Year Report



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2023 SYAP New Referrals

- * In 2023, 76 youth were referred for case management services by the Sheridan Community School District, Hamilton County Juvenile Prosecutor, Department of Child Services, other agencies, and in many cases were self-referred.
- * Serving 21% of current Sheridan Community Schools student enrollment.
- * During 2023, 210 youth received case management services. Of those cases 86% qualified for Free/Reduced Lunches, 52% of students live in single parent or non-biological parent homes.

Income generated by SYAP and impacting the youth and their families within the Sheridan Community: \$788,751

- In September, SYAP hosted the annual Denim and Lace Fundraiser at West Fork Whiskey in Westfield to a sold out event with 250 guests. (\$58,775)
- In June, SYAP hosted the annual SYAP Golf Fundraiser at Plum Creek Golf Course in Noblesville with 88 players participating. (\$19,269)
- Donations from corporations and individuals were received throughout the year. (\$45,712)
- With our strong support from our largest Northern Hamilton County businesses, we are able to provide childcare to 19 low income families through our school daycare and afterschool programs, support 6 students to attend local Pre-K programs, and provide mental health services for 2 students. (\$43,700)
- SYAP received a grant from Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to financially support the following: After school tutoring four days per week for 140 students along with transportation home at the end of the day; in a partnership with Sheridan Community Schools, Sheridan High School was able to hire the Sheridan High School Assistant Principal and Sheridan High School Career Coach; provided teacher trainings and professional development; hired additional instructional assistants to support student learning in classrooms; and hired a part-time tutoring coordinator. All funds were designated to support students enrolled at Sheridan Community Schools. (\$198,589)
- Coordinated the community Back to School Bash to provide back to school supplies for 198 students in grades PreK-12. Students received everything on the school supply list for their grade level. SYAP partnered with Six Points Church, MAMA's Cupboard, and Sheridan United Methodist Church. (\$4,413)

- The Hamilton County CICF Women's Fund has granted funds to create EmpowHer Hawks in 2024. This is a new program focused on empowering girls and women in the Sheridan community by providing them with resources and education through club meetings that will have different themes each session. (\$12,000)
- Proud recipients of the 2023 Lilly Endowment Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana grant. With these funds, we will be able to continue our successful tutoring program already in place and continue to grow our mentoring program through the end of 2026. (\$350,700)
- Coordinated the Sheridan Community Holiday Assistance Program to provide Thanksgiving food boxes, Christmas food only gift cards, and Christmas gifts to 358 individuals with our partners from Good Samaritan Network, MAMA's Cupboard and Sheridan United Methodist Church. (\$7,300)
- Received a grant from the Arthur Dean Foundation to transport 30 youth from Sheridan to the Noblesville Boys and Girls Club during the eight week summer break, supported our 12 high school students in the Summer Employment Program, and 43 students to participate in extracurricular activities. (\$15,000)
- With the support of Meijer's of Westfield, the 30 youth that attended Boys and Girls Club received breakfast and lunch items. (\$3,000)
- With support from community members, financial support along with case management was provided to our fire victim family to get them on their feet. (\$2,162)
- In partnership with Indiana Learns, provided tutoring for 9 elementary students to prepare for the I-Learn test in spring of 2023. (\$3,875)
- The Crosser Foundation provided a grant to support our 12 high school students and a supervisor for the three week Summer Employment Program. This program provides students opportunities to visit businesses in Hamilton county and the surrounding area and to learn more about careers within various business sectors while also providing labor and services through volunteerism to non-profit organizations. (\$4,000)
- Recipient of a grant from the Hamilton County Council to support mental health services for 18 under or uninsured youth to receive counseling with our partners at Collaborative Change and 12 students to participate in Agape Therapeutic Services. (\$15,000)
- Emergency shelter was provided to four families for several nights and received reimbursement from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (\$5,256)

Other Supports to the Youth

- SYAP has a clothing and furniture pantry for the community. We accept donations at our storage facility throughout the year and volunteers keep the pantry organized. When a family is in need of clothing, furniture, mattresses, baby items we have quick access. We also host a giveaway a few times a year when everything is taken to the elementary cafeteria, set up and families can come shop. Everything is free.
- Purchased 5 mattresses for children without a bed.
- Over 40 mental health referrals to our partners that come into the school to provide services.
- Partnered with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation to provide day camp opportunities for 12 elementary students.
- Partnered with Camp Tecumseh to attend a week long overnight camp for 8 students for an away from home camp experience.
- Our partners at Camptown hosted three camping activities for our youth to include: 8 high school students camped and hiked for a week in the Big South Fork Mountains in Tennessee; 10 middle school students participated in a weekly after school Wilderness Club event and included weekend hiking trips; 8 middle school special education students camped overnight and hiked at Shades State Park.
- Forty one middle and high school students were provided assistance to participate in choir, band, FFA, and every athletic program offered at SCS.
- SYAP provided assistance to ensure 68 of our elementary students were able to participate in sports programs and activities sponsored by Sheridan Community Recreation.
- Partnered with a local mechanic shop for car repairs to be completed for two homeless families to have reliable transportation to continue to work.
- Coordinated with SCS to host four career fairs for the 23-24 school year for the Sheridan Middle and High School students showcasing career and training opportunities in construction, manufacturing, healthcare, and public services.

Mentoring Connections

Community Mentoring Program:

- 16 volunteer community mentors met with their Sheridan student mentees in grades 5-12. Six of our mentor pairs have been meeting continuously since we launched the program in spring 2021! We matched three new students to a mentor during 2023.
- Monthly community mentoring events featured activities with local organizations, people and business partners. There were also opportunities for fun new experiences in the central Indiana area. We had a county wide mentoring game night with Northview Church, baked chocolate treats with Chef Karyn, had a movie night, created paintings with Kim Hogge, attended an Indy Eleven soccer game, had a summer fun day at Malibu Jack's and the Columbian Zoo in Lafayette, had a family picnic, went on a canoe trip with Camptown, had an alpaca encounter with the Chris Center, had fall fun at Dull's Tree Farm, and enjoyed a dinner and family game night at the high school.

Highlights of the Revolution of Hope Peer Mentoring Program:

- 41 high school students volunteered as a Big Buddy to elementary and 6th grade students in the Spring 2023 semester. 45 high school students volunteered as a Big Buddy to elementary and 6th grade students in the Fall 2023 semester.
- Students met weekly with their Little Buddy during their study hall, student resource time or after school.
- Our 6th grade Buddy pairs finished a character/leadership monthly lesson series in the spring of 2023 and have had monthly guests in fall 2023 to introduce them to resources in the school and in their community.
- 5 of our community mentoring students volunteered as a Big Buddy. This supports research that tells us students who are mentored are more likely to be a mentor themselves.
- Our peer mentoring pairs have really enjoyed special projects and celebrations together such as holiday crafts, making tie-dye t-shirts and an end of the year trip to Adrenaline family fun park.

Highlights of the Lunch PALS program:

- The mentor coordinator has been working with elementary school administration to re-launch and slowly grow the Lunch PALS mentoring program. 5 volunteers met with children regularly at lunch

What does SYAP mean to you?

- *Let me tell you a little bit about my summer work program and Tennessee hiking trip! A group of students of different ages and grades came together and worked in multiple locations, such as a sheep farm, which I believe was all of ours favorite. We also toured many businesses and factories learning about them in case we are interested in that career field. It was an interesting process and I believe it's good for anyone looking to get paid. Now onto the hiking/camping trip, my personal favorite! First you are appointed a pretty cool camp leader named Trey and he is one of the funniest, most supportive and absolutely sarcastic people you will ever meet. I love being outdoors and enjoying the weather. Now don't get me wrong it wasn't the easiest trip. You have to carry a 40 lb backpack with all your gear in it and if some of your mates end up getting sick or hurt you have to split the weight of their pack amongst your group members. Another thing is that you are in the forest, it's not the boy scouts! You are in actual forests and nature and things can hurt you even if they don't intend to. There are things like snakes, black bears, brown bears, poisonous spiders, slippery slopes and high inclines that make your legs feel like death. Don't let any of those things deter you, it was a very fun trip. We also went white water rafting which was my first time ever going and it was super fun, you can also jump off a very tall rock which some call a cliff. The top three best experiences from this trip are the river boat ride where you get to eat BOMB sandwiches (try the river sauce), the first shower after five days, and bonding with some really awesome people. I highly recommend it! -Makayla (SHS student)*
- *SYAP is such a great benefit for our community. SYAP comes alongside families to help grow and strengthen children's childhoods. They help out in so many ways! Our family has been touched by the resources provided. My kids are sponsored for camps in the summer, they are part of the mentoring program, and they are benefited by being able to participate in extracurricular activities. So many blessings financially that we could not do throughout the year. I am only one family of MANY that SYAP helps. My children are gaining lots of life experiences that I would not be able to do without their help. -Kristina (parent)*

Visit <http://youthassistance.org/sheridan-news> to see how Sheridan Youth Assistance continues to impact the students and families in our community.

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YOU!**

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