

Sheridan Youth Assistance Program 2024 Year Report



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2024 SYAP New Referrals

- * In 2024, 75 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 22% of current Sheridan Community Schools student enrollment.
- * During 2024, 218 youth received case management services. Of those cases 88% qualified for Free/Reduced Lunches, 60% of students live in single parent or non-biological parent homes.

How SYAP impacted the youth and their families within the Sheridan Community (\$211,654)

- In September, SYAP hosted the annual Denim and Lace Fundraiser at West Fork Whiskey in Westfield to a sold out event with 260 guests. (\$45,673)
- In June, SYAP hosted the annual SYAP Golf Fundraiser at Plum Creek Golf Course in Noblesville with 82 players participating. (\$14,596)
- Sold “Small Town Sheridan” T-shirts. (\$1,375)
- Donations from corporations and individuals were received throughout the year. (\$34,272)
- A grant from Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to financially support the after school tutoring program four days per week for 63 students along with transportation home at the end of the day. (\$39,350)
- Coordinated the community Back to School Bash to provide back to school supplies for 204 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. (\$1,500)
- Special funds donated for a graduating senior with a challenging past to begin her college career and path to independence. (\$5,436)
- Coordinated the Sheridan Community Holiday Assistance Program to provide Thanksgiving food boxes, Christmas food only gift cards, and Christmas gifts to 362 individuals with our partners from MAMA’s Cupboard, Sheridan United Methodist Church and Duke Energy Foundation. (\$8,258)

- Arthur Dean Family Foundation provided funding to transport 30 youth from Sheridan to the Noblesville Boys and Girls Club during the eight week summer break, supported 12 high school students in the Summer Employment Program, and to prepare for succession change in 2025. (\$40,000)
- Recipient of a grant from The Braveheart Foundation to support mental health services for 12 under or uninsured youth to receive counseling with our partners at Collaborative Change. (\$5,000)
- Investment interest through checking account and Certificate of Deposits. (\$14,870)
- Emergency shelter was provided to three families for several nights. (\$1,080)

Other Supports to the Youth

- SYAP has a furniture pantry for the community. When a family is in need we have quick access.
- Purchased three mattresses for children without a bed. Looking forward to our new partnership with Hands of Hope to help with future needs.
- Hosted EmpowHer Hawks in the spring of 2024. This program focused on empowering girls and women in the Sheridan community by providing them with resources, guest speakers and education through club meetings during the day and after school for six weeks.
- Provided scholarships to five preschoolers to attend the Small Blessings Pre-K program.
- Fifth grade camp is always a memorable experience and we were thrilled to sponsor five students to have an opportunity for a lifetime memory.
- With grants from the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners we were able to provide 19 students mental health services that are uninsured or underinsured.
- Partnered with Hamilton County Parks and Recreation to provide day camp opportunities for 7 elementary or middle school students.
- Partnered with Camp Tecumseh to attend a week long overnight camp for 8 students for an away from home camp experience.
- Twenty-six elementary youth were provided scholarships for Blackhawk Care for a safe place to go after school.
- Three middle school students attended Indiana State Police Career or Junior Camp.

- Our partners at Ben's Ranch hosted 11 students over two days during Fall Break.
- Car repair expenses can be a challenge for our families, but it's important to keep them in reliable transportation to get to school and work. We were able to help nine clients this past year.
- Our partners at Camptown hosted three camping activities for our youth to include: seven high school students camped and hiked for a week in the Big South Fork Mountains in Tennessee; 15 middle school students participated in a weekly after school Wilderness Club event and included weekend hiking trips; 12 middle school special education students camped overnight and hiked at Shades State Park.
- Forty eight middle and high school students were provided assistance to participate in choir, band, FFA, and every athletic program offered at Sheridan Community Schools.
- SYAP provided assistance to ensure 76 of our elementary and middle school students were able to participate in sports programs and activities sponsored by Sheridan Community Recreation.
- Coordinated with SCS to host four career fairs for the Sheridan Middle and High School students showcasing career and training opportunities in Agriculture, Animals and Environment, Student Hiring Fair, Healthcare, Business, Marketing, and Finance.
- Supported four graduating seniors with their college applications or AP exam fees.
- With our grant from the Lilly Endowment in 2023 we have supported 64 elementary, middle and high school students with tutoring services during the school day and after school, including transportation home if needed.

In the spring of 2024, SYAP was approached by Ball State University with an opportunity to host a final-semester social work student for an internship. The intern was full-time from May through June, assisting SYAP with summer activities and providing direct services to clients.

During this period, the value of the intern's contributions became increasingly evident, both to the organization and to the clients served. Recognizing the potential impact of this role, SYAP leadership met with the Sheridan Community School superintendent in July to discuss the benefits a social worker could bring to the school district.

With funding secured from multiple sources, this former Sheridan High School alumna and Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker was hired to provide dedicated services to both SYAP and the Sheridan Community School District.

Mentoring Connections

Community Mentoring Highlights:

- 14 volunteer community mentors met with students in 2024, and 3 new mentors are approved to begin in 2025
- 3 of our original pairs who began in 2021 will reach 4 years of meeting together this spring!
- In a survey of our community mentoring students in Spring 2024, 85% responded that having a mentor has helped them have a better attitude about themselves. 70% said their mentor has helped them to be able to better solve problems they have. More than half said that their mentor helps them have a better attitude at home and a better attitude at school. 100% of students surveyed responded that they enjoy time spent with their mentors. 100% of students surveyed felt like their mentor understands and supports them.

Revolution of Hope Peer Mentoring Highlights:

- 66 Big Buddies (high school peer mentors) volunteered for the spring 2024 semester, fall 2024 semester or during both semesters
- Buddy pairs enjoyed group activities throughout 2024 included planting flowers, an obstacle course, sticker crafts, painting pumpkins, locker organization with our 6th grade buddies, making personalized mugs, decorating snowman cupcakes, and our end of the year celebration trip to Malibu Jack's in Lafayette

Lunch PALS Highlights:

- 6 total lunch pals met with students in 2024- 3 pairs met during the spring 2024 semester, and 4 have met in the fall 2024 semester

What does SYAP mean to you?

Sheridan Youth Assistance has been a valuable part of the life of Sheridan residents and for our family in particular. There are so many reasons I am extremely grateful for the pivotal part it has played in helping our family succeed.

Raising three adopted girls as a single parent on a lower income has been made much easier due to the resources this program provides. Years ago I was unexpectedly disabled. Where do I turn for help as a frightened mother for help in parenting, clothing and food. Fortunately, I found out about SYAP. They had connections to community resources of which I was unaware. What do I do for Christmas presents with no extra money? SYAP offered connections for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas presents. What a relief to know there was a resource but also a kind and considerate person who valued me and my children. Then there were the pantries at school offering food and personal items. How grateful we were for friendly faces and food. The greatest gift was being treated with respect. Another resource was the clothing giveaways. We were able to work at them and also obtain clothing, shoes and see others' smiling faces as they were blessed with clothing and shoes.

Then there was the camping trip offered to my daughter, an opportunity to give her a fun trip and break for mom. The mentoring program offered another adult to have a positive influence in my child's life. The Back to School Bash provided school supplies which greatly helped provide for a positive school experience. Offering an opportunity for summer help by providing transportation to the Noblesville Boys and Girls Club in a high gift to many weary moms. Mothering seems much harder with the competition of technology and this offers a much better alternative.

Especially meaningful to me was the help received when I had to offer temporary housing to a daughter with two autistic children. Again SYAP came to the rescue. Not only did Lisa Samuels come to the house but then she spoke of all the resources available to the children. She continued to follow up and check into the well being of the children. When a grandson moved into the community who needed counseling she opened the door to obtain it.

My life and the life of my children would have been very different without the resources SYAP has offered.

-J.S. Sheridan parent and grandparent

*Arthur Dean Family Foundat ion
Drayer Family Charitable Foundat ion
Godby Home Furnishings
Timothy C ornell*

THANK YOU!
2024

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Charitable Organization
Beck's Hybrids
Collaborative Change
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Dustin Dixon
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First Farmers Bank and
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