

A NEW ERA IN YBLC'S LEGACY BEGINS

YB YOUTH **BUILD**

LAKE COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025



2025 IN REVIEW

This year, YouthBuild Lake County served **96 participants** through 3 programs and directly supported over **100+ alumni** through supportive services.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide underserved young adults with the **education, training and life skills** necessary to become gainfully employed and build a better future.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to see **self-sufficient young adults** thriving and improving their community.





LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"With a **new home, new programs, and the same unwavering mission**, YBLC is positioning ourselves to transform more futures than ever before."

Dear YBLC Community,

This year marks a truly historic chapter for YouthBuild Lake County. YBLC is officially the proud owner of a 30,000 square-foot Career Training and Workforce Hub that will serve as the new home of YBLC. This milestone serves as a permanent foundation for our mission and a testament to the vision, commitment, and generosity of our community of supporters.

The new facility will feature two year-round construction workshops, community event space, classrooms, wellness rooms, and more, ensuring that our participants can build their skills and confidence in an environment designed specifically for their success. It will also provide the flexibility to adapt as our programs continue to grow, allowing YBLC to transform more futures than ever before.

In addition to this transformational step, we proudly launched our Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program in Facility Maintenance and Repair. This program creates a direct pipeline from YBLC to lasting careers, equipping our participants with industry-recognized credentials, hands-on experience, and opportunities for upward mobility in a sector where skilled workers are in high demand.

As we celebrate these achievements, we are mindful of the world around us. Although the current climate brings uncertainty and challenges that affect our communities in countless ways, YouthBuild's mission has and will continue to speak to our shared humanity and remains centered on service to our community. We believe firmly that investing in young people and empowering them with education and skills is work that unites us all. Our commitment to Lake County, the surrounding communities, and to the young people who call it home will remain as steadfast as it has for over two decades.

The progress and milestones we celebrated this year are the direct result of the passion of our staff, our board, employer partners, volunteers, and our generous donors. Because of all of you, YouthBuild Lake County is changing more lives than ever before, and we will continue to reach new heights in this exhilarating time in our agency's history.

Thank you for your continued support,

Tameka Wilson
Executive Director

ARSHAMAR

A portrait of a young Black woman with long, dark braids, smiling and looking slightly to the side. She is wearing a white button-down shirt. The background is white.

FALL 2024 YOUTHBUILD GRADUATE

"When I saw how much YouthBuild Lake County had transformed my older sister's life, I knew I wanted that same opportunity for me and my son."

When Arshamar saw how much YouthBuild Lake County had transformed her older sister's life, she knew she wanted that same opportunity for herself and for her son.

She enrolled in the program with a clear goal: to become the best version of herself and build a future rooted in stability.

Throughout her time at YBLC, Arshamar embraced every opportunity to grow. She earned multiple industry credentials, participated in hands-on training, and took part in

healthcare-focused site tours and workshops. Her focus, work ethic, and leadership made her a standout in the 2025 cohort.

Arshamar was accepted into the Endeavor Health internship program, where she is already preparing to make the most of the experience.

Set to complete her internship by the end of 2025, Arshamar's success story is still being written - but her determination and drive have already set the stage for a powerful future in healthcare.

ZAK

FALL 2024 PRE-APPRENTICE GRADUATE

Zak joined YouthBuild Lake County's Pre-Apprenticeship Program to gain the hands-on experience and confidence needed to start a career in the trades.

During his time at YBLC, he discovered a passion for electrical work and was introduced to several trade unions through the program, but one union in particular stood out.

After graduating, Zak applied to and was sworn into the IBEW Local 150 Electricians Union as a Construction Wireman. His supervisors have praised his strong work ethic, noting how quickly he's grown on the job.

Zak is now taking the next step in his career and applying for the Local 150 Apprenticeship Program to become a Journeyman Electrician.



SEBASTIAN

SUMMER 2024 FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR APPRENTICE



Sebastian applied to the YouthBuild program in 2023 to earn his High School diploma. Through his program, he discovered a passion for construction and knew he wanted to build a life-long career.

After graduating, he enrolled in YBLC's Registered Facility Maintenance & Repair Apprenticeship to keep building on that

foundation. Since starting the program, Sebastian has grown more confident and comfortable on the job site, taking on new challenges with focus and pride.

As he prepares to complete his apprenticeship, he's excited to turn his training into a full-time career in facility maintenance.

YBLC PURCHASED A NEW HOME..

FIRST TIME HOME OWNERS

This year, YouthBuild Lake County proudly purchased a 30,000 square-foot facility. This is our first permanent home in our agency history.

This building represents **stability, growth, and the promise of a lasting foundation** for our continually growing mission.



WHAT WE'RE BUILDING NOW:



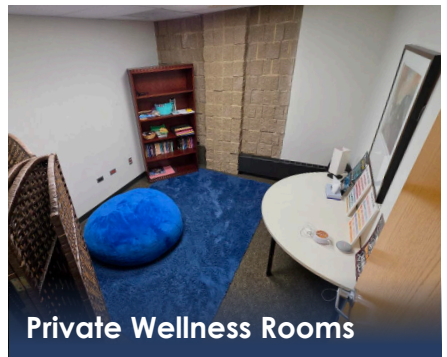
Participant Lounge



Lobby & Reception



State-of-the-art Classrooms



Private Wellness Rooms



"This new building is so much nicer than where we were before. All of us already feel much more comfortable learning and growing here!"

-Edayja, Class of 2025

AND WE HAVE BIG PLANS FOR IT!

CREATING A WORKFORCE HUB

We will transform this space with classrooms, event space, and year-round training workshops.

This facility will evolve with our programs and **become a place where young people gain the skills, confidence, and support to shape their futures.**



20,000 Sq. ft. Addition



Construction Workshop



Multi-purpose Event Space



Open Air Classroom

WHAT WE'RE PLANNING NOW:

TRANSFORMING FUTURES

Interested in learning more about our new facility? Contact our development team at

TRANSFORMINGFUTURES@YBLC.ORG

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

This year, YouthBuild Lake County served **96 participants** through 3 programs and directly supported **over 100+ alumni** through supportive services.

YOUTHBUILD	9 months	43	88%*	98%
	Ages 16–24	PARTICIPANTS SERVED	EARNED THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	EARNED A CREDENTIAL
	Lake County resident	87%*	110+	89%*
	Earn high school diploma	SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WORK EXPERIENCE	TOTAL MOCK INTERVIEW SESSIONS	POST-PROGRAM PLACEMENT RATE
	Prepare for careers and college			

PRE-APPRENTICE	12 weeks	51	35+	92%
	Ages 18+ with diploma	PARTICIPANTS SERVED	TOTAL UNION TOURS	EARNED A CREDENTIAL
	Construction site experience	87%*	35+	70%*
	Three certifications	SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WORK EXPERIENCE	TOTAL UNION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED	POST-PROGRAM PLACEMENT RATE
	Tutoring for union entrance exams			

APPRENTICE	18 months	2	2	14/18
	Ages 18+ with diploma	PARTICIPANTS SERVED	EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS DEVELOPED	MONTHS COMPLETED
	Facility Maintenance & Repair focus	4,480+		
	Earn a living wage while training	HOURS OF PAID ON-SITE WORK EXPERIENCE WITH LOCAL EMPLOYER PARTNERS		
	Classroom instruction + on-the-job training			

* - Statistic does not include participants still in active programming

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

This year, YouthBuild Lake County deepened our impact by strengthening the quality of support offered to both our participants and the broader community.



NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION

Last summer, YBLC broke ground on an affordable single family home construction project in North Chicago.

Today, it's serving as the training site for both YouthBuild and Pre-Apprentice participants to learn skills hands on.



PLAYGROUND BUILD

YBLC partnered with Discoverand KaBoom! to build a playground in North Chicago.

10K+

TOTAL SERVICE HOURS



SOLAR INSTALLATION TRAINING

For the second year in a row, participants will earn a credential in this high demand industry.

HEALTHCARE CAREER TRACK

YBLC developed partnerships with 3 local hospitals for post program employment.



25+

TOTAL SERVICE PROJECTS

FY25 REVENUE

PUBLIC & PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

12%

PRIVATE

16%

GOVERNMENT

72%

**CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN
REVENUE:**

\$2,507,475.89

**CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN
EXPENSES:**

\$2,047,022.06

FY25 OPERATING EXPENSES

FUNDRAISING

7%

ADMINISTRATIVE

7%

PROGRAMMING

86%

2025 TOP EMPLOYER PARTNERS

Abbott
AbbVie
American Place Casino
Blinderman Construction Company
Chalet Landscaping, Nursery & Garden Center
City of Hope
City of North Chicago
EMCO Chemical Distributors, Inc.
EQ Office
Goodwill-Great Lakes
Grainger
Greystar

Kirkpatrick Management Company
Lake County Housing Authority
Larsen Marine
Manchester Knolls Cooperative
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Richard Wolfe
Santana Equipment Trading Co
TU Roofing and Construction
Zoro

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The US Department of Labor funds YBLC's YouthBuild program through a YouthBuild Grant. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the US Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The generosity of our donors powers every success story at YouthBuild Lake County. Below is a list of our cornerstone donors who contributed \$10,000 or more to help drive lasting impact in our community.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We want to spotlight the visionary donors who have stepped forward with extraordinary generosity and given or pledged over \$10,000 toward our Capital Campaign and the creation of the new Career Training & Workforce Hub, helping us build a space where young people can transform their futures.

Anonymous
Jim Biel & Lesly Marban
Steve Blinderman
Regis & Leigh Ann Charlott

Department Commerce &
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QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.YBLC.ORG/DONORS



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Together we can change lives, one young person at a time. | [Learn more at www.ybhc.org](http://www.ybhc.org)

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