YOUTHBUILD

LAKE COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026

OUR MISSION:

PROVIDE UNDERSERVED YOUNG ADULTS WITH THE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND LIFE SKILLS NECESSARY TO BECOME GAINFULLY EMPLOYED AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
A LANDMARK YEAR AND A BRIGHT FUTURE

Dear YouthBuild Community,

This year, I found myself thinking often about what it means for an organization to truly have a home. A building can give us classrooms, offices and training space, but a home gives people a place to belong, return to, and imagine what comes next. During our first full year in the Career Training & Workforce Hub, we watched that distinction come to life.

The Hub has given YouthBuild Lake County the freedom to think bigger about how we support young adults throughout their education and careers. We welcomed alumni back for solar installer training, prepared to expand our Facility Maintenance and Repair Registered Apprenticeship, and strengthened healthcare partnerships as we developed a new pathway for the year ahead. Each step reflects our responsibility to keep evolving alongside the young people we serve and the workforce they are entering.

At the same time, the heart of our work remains unchanged. Participants from all three programs continued building the affordable home on Honore Avenue, gaining technical skills while creating something that will provide stability for another family in their own community. It is YouthBuild at its best: education and career preparation connected to service in the community.

As I look toward the future, I am energized by what lies ahead. Our goal is to continue growing into a larger organization, but beyond that, to become a more responsive one capable of meeting young people where they are. We are creating meaningful pathways toward careers that will provide the individuals we serve with lifelong success and stability.

None of this would be possible without the support of our staff, board, donors, volunteers, partners, and the young adults and alumni who continue to trust us with their goals and inspire us to grow. We are truly appreciative of everyone who contributes to changing a life through our programs.

Together, we are building a YouthBuild Lake County ready for the opportunities of today and the possibilities of tomorrow.

Yours in service,

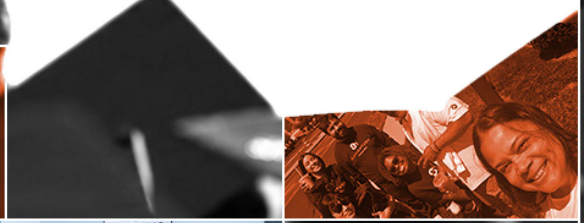


Tameka Wilson
Executive Director













E'DAYJIA

SPRING 2025 YOUTHBUILD COHORT

E'Dayjia entered YouthBuild Lake County with ambitious plans for her future, including building a career in healthcare, but she didn't know where to start.

YouthBuild helped her begin turning those ambitions into action. E'Dayjia gained experience and prepared for the workforce through her three-week Work Experience and career readiness support from YBLC's staff.

When transportation presented another challenge, YouthBuild Supportive Services connected her with a donated bicycle that she used to get to Work Experience and to support her job search.

That job search didn't take long.

After earning her high school diploma, E'Dayjia was hired as an ABA Specialist with Action Behavior Centers, where she works today. She is also actively pursuing a healthcare pathway at the College of Lake County to continue advancing her career.



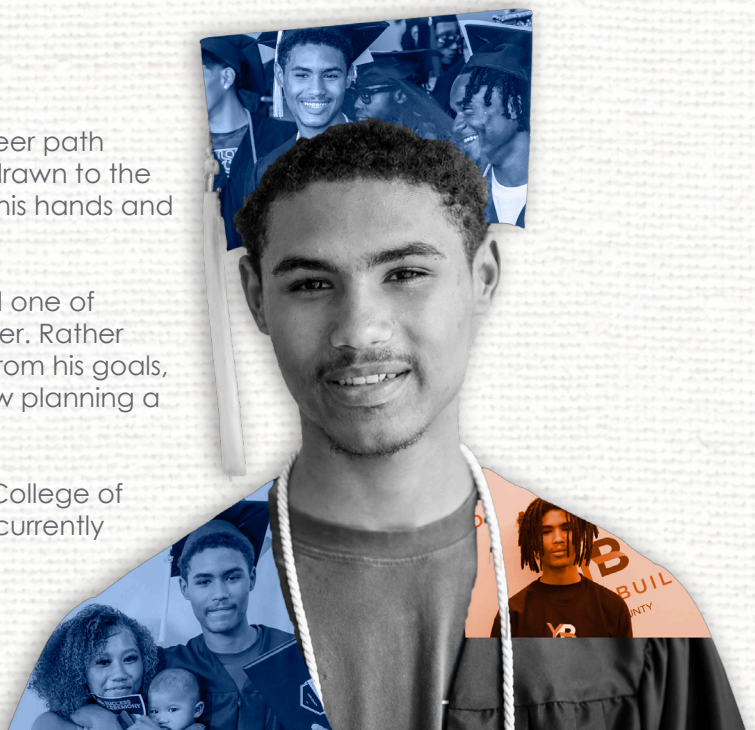
ISAIAH

FALL 2025 YOUTHBUILD COHORT

Isaiah came to YouthBuild Lake County looking for a career path and a way to build a stronger future for himself. He was drawn to the skilled trades, where he saw an opportunity to work with his hands and enter the workforce with practical, in-demand skills.

While participating in YouthBuild, Isaiah also experienced one of the biggest changes of his life: becoming a first-time father. Rather than allowing the added responsibility to pull him away from his goals, Isaiah remained committed to his education. He was now planning a future for more than just himself, and he stepped up.

After earning his high school diploma, Isaiah began the College of Lake County's Welding Certificate Program, where he is currently advancing the skills he learned during his program. He is working toward a stable career and lifelong success in the skilled trades for himself and his new family.



ERICK

JULY 2025 PRE-APPRENTICE COHORT

Erick entered YouthBuild Lake County's Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program with a clear interest in construction and a goal of turning that interest into a long-term career.

Throughout the program, Erick gained hands-on experience while learning more about the opportunities available within the trades. Just as importantly, he began building the connections that could help him take the next step toward the stable construction career he envisioned for himself.

That next step came quickly. After completing the July 2025 Illinois Works cohort, Erick was sponsored by YouthBuild employer partner Manusos General Contracting, giving him a direct path into the trades.

In October 2025, he became an Apprentice Carpenter with Mid-America Carpenters Local 250. In less than a year, Erick turned his interest in the trades into a union apprenticeship and a strong foundation for his future.



TOBIAS

2025 FACILITY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR APPRENTICE

Tobias came to YouthBuild Lake County without a plan. Fresh out of high school, he wasn't sure what direction to take or what his future could look like.

Through YouthBuild's pre-apprenticeship program, that began to change. With hands-on training and support from staff, Tobias built skills, confidence, and a new sense of purpose.

That growth opened the door to his next step: YBLC's Registered Apprenticeship.

After 18 months, Tobias has earned his Certified Apartment Maintenance Technician (CAMT) credential and successfully completed his Registered Apprenticeship. He is now a full-time Maintenance Technician with the Lake County Housing Authority.



THE CAREER TRAINING & WORKFORCE HUB IN ACTION

During its first full year as YouthBuild Lake County's home, the Career Training & Workforce Hub moved from a long-held vision to an active center for education, workforce development and community partnership.

From cohort inductions and success ceremonies to community career expos, volunteer projects and statewide gatherings, the Hub is providing room to create new opportunities and change more lives.

INITIAL PROGRAM RENOVATIONS
JUNE - OCT 2025



Completed renovations on key areas, including new **classrooms, lobby, wellness rooms, and participant lounge.**

MORE EVENTS HELD

30+

Events hosted, including Fall Fest, multi-chamber events, nonprofit nights, mock interviews, inductions, partner receptions, and success ceremonies.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
NOVEMBER 21, 2025



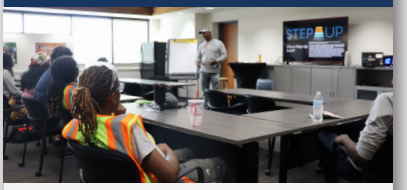
Officially opened the Workforce Hub to our workforce partners, community members, donors, policymakers and more.

ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE
JULY 21, 2025



Hosted a YouthBuild Illinois Leadership Roundtable, with special guest **YouthBuild Global CEO John Valverde.**

SOLAR INSTALLER INITIATIVE
OCTOBER 2025



Hosted our second Solar initiative, which gives YBLC alumni the chance to earn a credential in one of Illinois' fastest-growing industries.

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST
DECEMBER 19, 2025



YBLC staff hosted **participants, alumni, and their children** for a group holiday breakfast.



MORE COHORTS HOSTED

10+

Total cohorts hosted throughout the year across **three programs and two initiatives.**

BUSINESS PARTNER RECEPTION

MARCH 19, 2026



Hosted a reception for our business partners and acknowledged key supporters with our **first annual Workforce Partner Awards.**

COMMUNITY EVENT SPACE

YEAR ROUND



Opened the Workforce Hub as a community event space for other local nonprofits to host events, conferences, and speaker series.

ALUMNI NETWORK GATHERING

JANUARY 8, 2026



Hosted our Alumni Network at the Workforce Hub for dinner, tours, networking, and program updates.

COMMUNITY CAREER EXPO

JUNE 2, 2026



YBLC's Annual Career Expo connected participants, alumni, and community job seekers with local employers.

MORE LIVES CHANGED

120+

Individuals served through programming offered in the Career Training & Workforce Hub during its first year in operation.





PROGRAM IMPACTS

Across YBLC's three programs, participants reached educational milestones, earned credentials and advanced into employment, demonstrating measurable progress toward long-term self-sufficiency.

YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

A nine-month program empowering underserved Lake County young adults ages 16–24 to earn their high school diploma, gain industry-recognized credentials and launch a meaningful career in construction, healthcare, solar, or other unique fields.

69	88%	100%	82%
PARTICIPANTS SERVED	EARNED THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	EARNED AN INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL	PROJECTED POST-PROGRAM PLACEMENT RATE

PRE-APPRENTICE PROGRAM

CREATING PATHWAYS TO THE TRADES

A 10-week program equipping adults with hands-on construction experience, industry-recognized credentials and the connections needed to enter a registered apprenticeship and launch a skilled-trades career.

52	100%	20+	85%
PARTICIPANTS SERVED	EARNED AN INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL	UNION OR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TOURS	PROJECTED POST-PROGRAM PLACEMENT RATE

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

REGISTERED, EMPLOYED AND ADVANCING

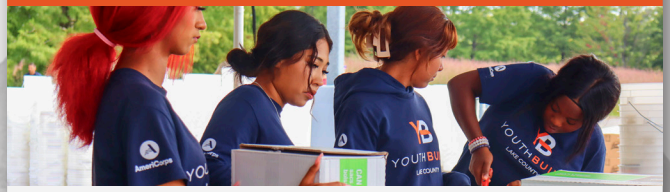
An 18-month paid facility maintenance and repair apprenticeship combining classroom instruction and on-the-job experience with partner sites to prepare Illinois adults for long-term careers in facility maintenance.

2	5,200+	100%	
PARTICIPANTS SERVED	ON-THE-JOB HOURS AT PARTNER WORK SITES	POST-PROGRAM PLACEMENT RATE	As YBLC's first full apprenticeship program, this cohort had strict enrollment limits that have been lifted for 2027+

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Service projects, career exposure trips and signature events brought participants, alumni, partners and supporters together, strengthening YBLC's connections throughout Lake County.

SERVICE PROJECTS ACROSS LAKE COUNTY
YEAR ROUND



YBLC participants contributed **over 10,000 service hours** through hands-on projects strengthening communities across Lake County.

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION
YEAR ROUND



YBLC participants continued construction on the first of three new affordable homes to be built on Honore Avenue in North Chicago.

CAREER EXPOSURE TRIPS ACROSS ILLINOIS
YEAR ROUND



Participants explored career possibilities through **more than 30 tours** with unions, employer partners, colleges, and training centers across Illinois.

FALL FEST WITH GREAT LAKES CREDIT UNION
OCTOBER 30, 2025



YBLC and GLCU welcomed North Chicago families for free trunk-or-treating and community fun at the Workforce Hub.

IMPACT IN EVERY STEP SNEAKERBALL
APRIL 18, 2026



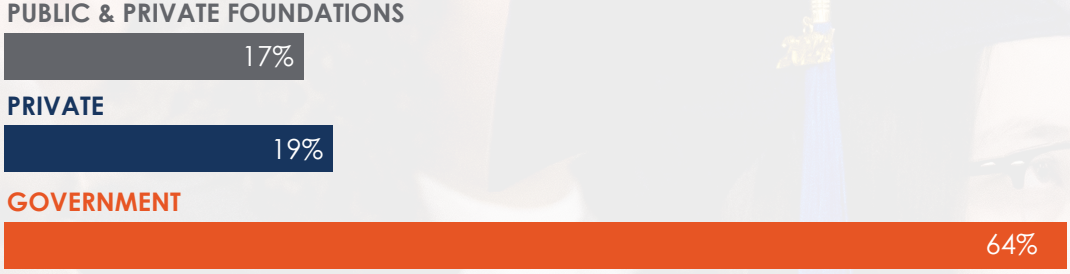
YBLC's 2026 Spring Benefit united supporters in style and **raised over $360,000** to expand opportunities for our participants.

CHICAGO DAY WITH PGIM
MAY 8, 2026



YBLC participants spent the day in Chicago, which included a tour of PGIM's offices, rooftop gardens, and the CBS News Chicago studio.

FY26 REVENUE



FY26 OPERATING EXPENSES



2026 WORKFORCE PARTNER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Endeavor Health
Employer Partner of the Year - *For their commitment to creating lasting career pathways for YBLC participants.*

Family First Center of Lake County
Opportunity Builder Award - *For hosting YBLC participants for hands-on work experiences that build skills and direction.*

Arch Electric
Workforce Innovator Award - *For creating new pathways for YBLC participants to access emerging industries.*

Old National Bank
Volunteer Champion Award - *For investing time and expertise through volunteering to shape participant growth.*

Grainger, Inc.
Hands-On Impact Award - *For working alongside YBLC participants through service projects.*

American Place Casino
Rising Partner Award - *For quickly making a meaningful impact through active engagement.*

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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 THE YBLC COMMUNITY

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.

Scan the QR Code to see the full list of supporters.

DIAMOND DONORS

Those who donated **$25,000+** this year

- Regis and Leigh Ann Charlot
- Circle of Service Foundation
- Mike and Melissa Filipatos
- Grainger
- Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County
- Hunter Family Foundation
- Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital
- Old National Bank
- Steans Family Foundation
- Warner Charitable Trust
- YouthBuild Global

PLATINUM DONORS

Those who donated **$10,000 - $24,999** this year

- Allen and Leslie Berger
- Jim Biel and Lesly Marban
- Burlington
- Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation
- Michael Coglianese and Jamie Denz
- Consumers Credit Union
- Discover
- Bob and Kristina Foltz
- Ron and Joanne Gerlach
- Dan and Sharon Kane
- Kevin and Kay Kneeland
- Lake County Board
- Lake County Community Foundation
- PGIM
- Redwood Logistics
- Nicholas and Lissette Trotter
- Gwen Tustison
- City of Waukegan

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Those who donated **$10,000+** to Transforming Futures

- Anonymous
- Jim Biel and Lesly Marban
- Steve Blinderman
- Regis and Leigh Ann Charlot
- Bob and Kristina Foltz
- John Friedman
- Ron and Joanne Gerlach
- Hunter Family Foundation
- Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
- Dan and Sharon Kane
- Bill and Joanie Kelley
- Kay Kneeland
- David and Mimi Liebman
- Marc and Clare Michelotti
- The Mulch Center
- Robert and Debbie Render
- Schreiber Philanthropy
- Warner Charitable Trust

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

JOIN THE CHANGE.

YOUR TIME CAN HELP TRANSFORM LIVES.

- Join one of our **mock interviews**
- Support a local **service project**
- Help lead on the **Board of Directors**
- Join one of our **committees**

SHARE YOUR SKILLS

PUT YOUR EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR GOOD.

- Speak about **your career path**
- Host an on-site **workplace tour**
- Become a **work experience site**
- Hire a YBLC **alumnus**

INVEST IN FUTURES

TURN YOUR GENEROSITY INTO OPPORTUNITY.

- Make a **one-time gift**
- Become a **monthly donor**
- Sponsor the **2027 Spring Benefit**
- Ask about an **employer match**

YOUTHBUILD
LAKE COUNTY

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North Chicago, IL 60064

Phone: 847.473.3483
Web: www.yblc.org

STAY CONNECTED

Together we can change lives, one young person at a time. | *Learn more at www.yblc.org*

YBLC LEADERSHIP

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Chairperson
US Tool Group

Nick Trotter
Vice Chairperson
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Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting and IUOE Local 150

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Community Partner

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Regis Charlot
Campaign Co-Chair
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Jim Biel
US Tool Group

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