



Briarpatch
Youth Services

STRENGTHENING THE LIVES OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I believe in open communication and, as such, I will start by saying that 2025 challenged our sector and our agency in unimaginable ways. While there is always a level of uncertainty in our work, 2025 introduced those elements in the form of funding freezes, shutdowns, and general chaos and confusion. But, like a Wisconsinite navigating a winter storm, Briarpatch stomped forward, windshield scraper in hand. We doubled down and committed to offering as much as we can, to as many young people as possible, for as long as we can.

We had challenges and bright spots. We expanded services by launching a Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program at Briarpatch. CCS provides mental health support to youth who qualify for the program.

We also celebrated a major milestone in 2025 with our Youth Shelter turning 10 years old. Many of you celebrated this milestone along with us, by donating to our shelter campaign, which is allowing us to make some improvements around our entire facility. Thank you!

As partners, funders, supporters and board members, you stood with us, as we walked into the headwinds. You asked how you could help. You sent in donations. You spread the word about our services in your community. I am so grateful that your support continued because youth kept showing up. The Helpline was busy, the shelter was needed, youth involved in our legal/justice system came on Saturdays to do the work. When youth show up, we must show up, too.

While 2025 was not “high fives” all the time, it was hugs, deep conversations, strategy sessions, and steadiness. Thank you for being a part of our community of support. Please continue to stay in touch. Keep asking us what we need. The staff at Briarpatch care deeply for young people in our community, and we need you to help us keep going as we navigate whatever lies ahead.

With gratitude,

Jill



2025 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jill Pfeiffer
Executive Director

Jay Kiefer
Program Director

Jen Ripp
Program Director

Joseph Bednarowski
Grants & IT Director

Shannon Algrem
Finance Director

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AGENCY IMPACT

Briarpatch Youth Services offers a broad array of services to youth who have runaway, are experiencing homelessness, and/or facing other challenges. Briarpatch works closely with local governments and other non-profits organizations to provide unique programs that fill services gaps in Dane County.

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED

2,305 Total youth and young adults served across all of Briarpatch's events, programs, and services

VOLUNTEER UTILIZATION

62 Agency volunteers

636 Volunteer hours

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

341 Hygiene kits distributed

828 Food/Drink items distributed

167 Clothing items distributed

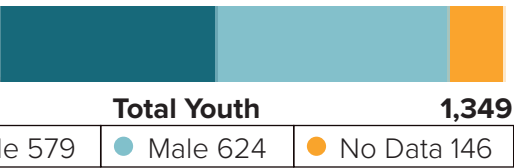
226 Health kits distributed

INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY RACE*



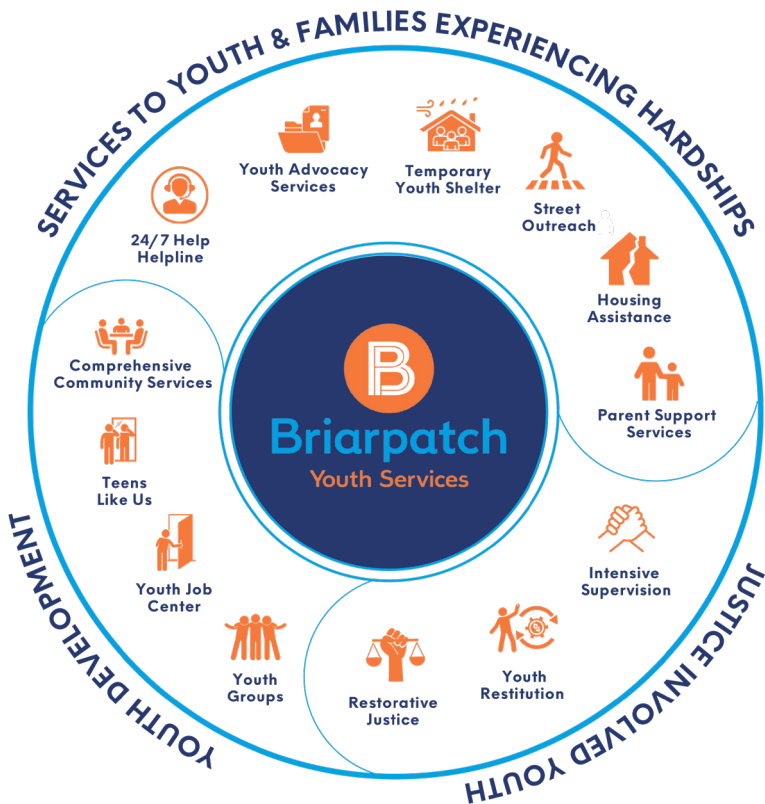
Total Youth	1,349
Asian/Pacific Islander	30
Black	568
Hispanic	107
Multiracial	109
Native American	12
White	489
Other/Unknown	34

INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY GENDER*



* 956 youth engaged Briarpatch's services or supports where this data was not required.

SERVICE AREAS



The **Youth & Families Experiencing Hardships** service area provides voluntary, trauma-informed support to young people and families navigating housing instability, crisis, and other significant life challenges. Services are accessible to the public and designed to stabilize immediate needs while strengthening long-term resilience and well-being.

The **Youth Development** service area provides voluntary, community-based programming designed to help young people build skills, confidence, and meaningful connections. These programs are accessible to the public and focus on prevention, leadership development, and creating safe spaces where youth can explore identity, employment readiness, and peer relationships.

The **Justice Involved Youth** service area supports young people who are court-ordered to participate in services as part of their involvement in the legal system. The court system is the primary referral source into these programs, and participation is mandated for most participants. Through accountability, structure, and restorative practices, Briarpatch works to reduce recidivism, strengthen decision-making skills, and support long-term positive outcomes.

Youth Advocacy Services and Youth Shelter Program

Youth & Families Experiencing Hardship

Youth Advocacy Services and the Temporary Youth Shelter provide comprehensive support for youth ages 12–17 who are experiencing challenges or family conflict. Services include individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, short-term shelter, case management, and a 24-hour helpline.



Our primary goal is to **strengthen family relationships and support safe reunification whenever possible**. Through personalized, one-on-one support, youth build healthy coping strategies, improve decision-making skills, and are guided toward stability, safety, and long-term well-being.

99 Referrals made to community resources

96% Youth who returned home or to a safe alternative

917 Help-line calls

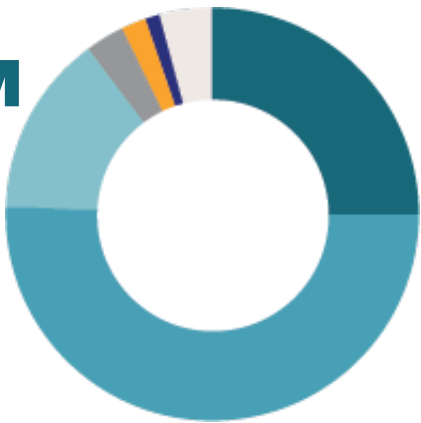
47 Shelter intakes

37 Families utilized family counseling

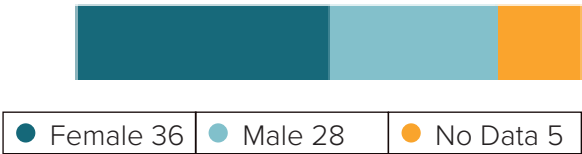
40 Youth accessed shelter

7 Youth had multiple stays in shelter

722 Nights of shelter provided



Total Youth	69
Asian/Pacific Islander	2
Black	33
Hispanic	11
Multiracial	3
Native American	2
White	18
Other/Unknown	0



Celebrating 10 Years of Youth Shelter

This year, we proudly celebrate 10 years of providing safe shelter, compassionate care, and a path forward for youth ages 12–17.

What began as a small but critical resource has grown into an essential part of our community’s safety net. In our first year, the shelter provided 84 nights of care to 41 youth. Just two years later, that number increased to 542 nights, serving 102 young people. In 2024, shelter use had reached an all-time high.

While these numbers reflect growth, they also tell a deeper story of trust, resilience, and the increasing need for safe, supportive spaces for young people. Each night of shelter represents a young person who had somewhere to turn, someone to listen, and a moment to reset.

Over the past decade, the shelter has been a space of transformation for youth navigating conflict at home, experiencing instability, or facing other challenging moments. It has also been a place of consistency, where caring adults show up every day to offer guidance, stability, and hope.

As we mark this 10-year milestone, we reflect not only on how far we’ve come, but on the continued importance of this work. The need for youth-centered, supportive and responsive care remains strong. With each young person who walks through our doors, the goal remains: to provide safety in moments of uncertainty and to help build brighter, more stable futures.

CONNECTIONS ADVOCATE

YOUTH & FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

The **Connections Advocate Program** operates in partnership with the Madison Metropolitan School District to support students experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Through school-based counseling and case management, the program provides consistent, compassionate support that strengthens emotional well-being, academic engagement, and long-term stability. Youth receive individualized

and group services focused on building coping skills, resilience, safety planning, and positive relationships. Families are also supported through personalized planning and targeted resources that strengthen coping strategies and foster positive growth at home and in school. Additionally, other students are served throughout Dane County.



40 Additional MMSD students (at risk of homelessness/unhoused) were supported by other Briarpatch Advocacy Services

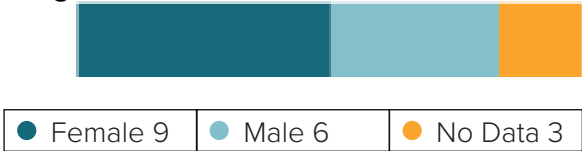
50 Supportive service hours in community setting

18 Youth participated in Connections Advocate

43 Supportive service hours in school setting



Total Youth	18
Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Black	10
Hispanic	1
Multiracial	0
Native American	0
White	1
Other/Unknown	6



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AND STREET OUTREACH

YOUTH & FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

Through Rapid Rehousing services, **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program** works to reduce youth homelessness and dismantle systemic barriers to stability.

Young adults are assisted with securing safe housing, accessing education and job training, gaining sustainable employment, and connecting to public benefits such as FoodShare and health insurance.

The **Street Outreach Program** offers direct, community-based support to unsheltered and at-risk youth and young adults ages 12–24 throughout Dane County. Our Outreach Specialists provide client-driven, holistic case management focused on meeting immediate needs while supporting long-term stability.

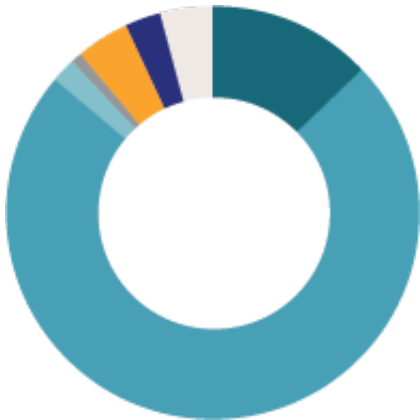
In 2025, Street Outreach lost significant federal funding.

7 Households received quick move-in funds and/or short-term rental assistance

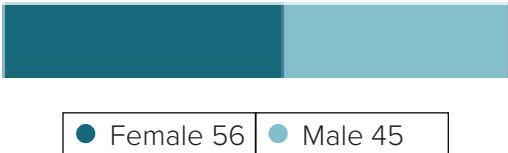
38 Individuals Housed (Including children)

15 Households continued to receive rental assistance and intensive case management services past 2025.

54 Street Outreach client contacts



Total Youth	101
Asian/Pacific Islander	4
Black	74
Hispanic	2
Multiracial	4
Native American	1
White	13
Other/Unknown	3



YOUTH H.O.P.E. MONTH

HOMELESSNESS, OUTREACH, PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION

Youth H.O.P.E. Month is a national awareness campaign held each year during the month of November. Briarpatch's staff participates locally, by placing over 300 Green and Purple flags along Rimrock Road to represent the homeless youth in Dane County each night and by wearing green and/or purple throughout the month while sharing resources online.



Each year, an estimated 4.2 million young people between the ages of 13 and 25 experience homelessness in the United States.

- 1800runaway.org

PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

YOUTH & FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

The Parent Support Program empowers parents and caregivers navigating challenges with their children or teens, including concerns related to mental health, substance use, school engagement, family conflict, identity development, and behavior struggles.

Families receive individualized case management and brief counseling services designed

to strengthen communication, build problem-solving skills, and promote healthier relationships. Bi-monthly, staff-facilitated Parent Support Groups also provide a welcoming space for caregivers to connect, share experiences, and learn from one another.

24 Parent groups offered

35 Number of clients

28 School meetings

29 Individual sessions held

19 Family sessions held

57 Combined Individual/School Meeting Sessions Held

1,436 Supportive services hours

Total Parent/Caregivers	35
Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Black	13
Hispanic	4
Multiracial	2
Native American	0
White	16
Other/Unknown	0



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH

The **Restorative Justice Program** offers eligible **youth ages 12-17** an alternative to traditional court processing by focusing on accountability, healing, and community connection. Instead of fines or formal legal involvement, youth complete personalized restorative agreements that address the harm caused by their actions.

Through guided conversations and meaningful restitution, youth gain insight into the impact of their behavior, strengthen problem-solving skills, and work toward repairing relationships while building a positive path forward.

39 Youth participated in life skill training

12 Youth trained to be circle keepers

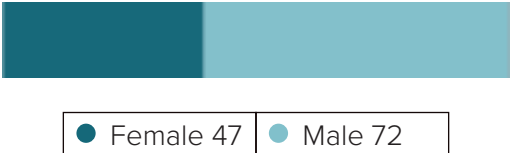
260 Service hours completed for the community

119 Youth participated





Total Youth		119
Asian/Pacific Islander		2
Black		59
Hispanic		12
Multiracial		9
Native American		0
White		33
Other/Unknown		4



YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING YOUTH CREATIVITY THROUGH ART

In 2025, the 8th annual Briarpatch Youth Arts Festival took place. The Youth Arts Festival is a celebration of creativity, self-expression, and youth voice. What began as a small showcase for youth in Briarpatch’s shelter community has grown into a vibrant community event featuring young fine artists, performers, makers, and crafters from across Dane County.

The festival is both a pop-up art market and talent showcase, where youth artists keep 100% of the proceeds from the sale of their work. Throughout the event, performers including dancers, musicians, rappers, singers, and spoken word artists take center stage to share their talents with the community.

In 2025, the festival welcomed 150+ community members and highlighted the work of more than 50 young artists & performers. The goal was to celebrate the creativity and resilience of young people in our community.

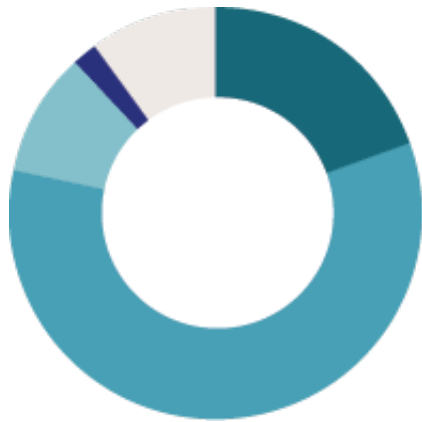
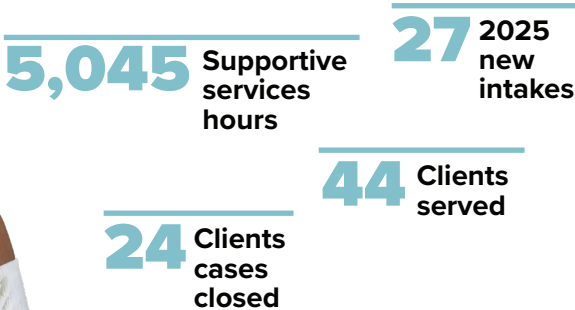


INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH

The **Intensive Supervision Program** allows youth to remain safely in their homes while receiving structured support to meet court-ordered expectations. Services include one-on-one mentoring, group programming, family engagement,

curfew monitoring, and school attendance support. Intensive Supervision Program focuses on accountability while helping youth develop healthy routines, stronger relationships, and the skills needed to succeed in their daily lives.



Total Youth		51
Asian/Pacific Islander		0
Black		30
Hispanic		5
Multiracial		5
Native American		0
White		10
Other/Unknown		1



BRIARPATCH YOUTH GROUPS

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Briarpatch offers a variety of group programs throughout the year that promote healing, accountability, life skills development, and positive peer connection. While most groups are referral-based, some are open to youth outside of Briarpatch services.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP GROUP

Focused on building healthy relationship habits and deepening positive peer relationships.

JUNIOR COMMUNITY BUILDERS

A community service opportunity group with developmental enrichment components geared towards our youngest clients ages 10-14.

F.L.E.E.K. (Financial Literacy & Employment Etiquette Knowledge)

Builds skills in money management, workplace expectations, and economic independence.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CIRCLES

Facilitated conversations between youth, impacted individuals, and support persons to promote accountability and healing.

TEENS LIKE US

A supportive, inclusive group for queer youth and allies to connect, build community, and engage in activities and discussions.

SATURDAY GROUP

Supervised community service opportunities that support restitution requirements while building accountability, life-skills and direct service to the community.

GIRL F.L.Y.

An eight-week empowerment group providing guidance, life skills, and emotional support for teen girls navigating personal challenges.

WORK TEAMS

Supervised community service opportunities that support restitution requirements while building teamwork and responsibility.

I AM A MAN GROUP

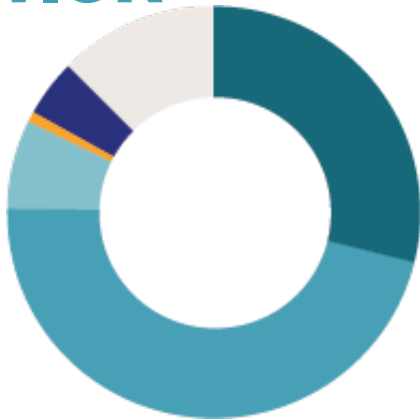
Supports young men in developing life skills, addressing challenges, and strengthening family connections through weekly engagement.

YOUTH RESTITUTION PROGRAM

JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH

The **Youth Restitution Program** supports young people as they complete court-ordered restitution or community service requirements. Through mentorship and individualized guidance, youth develop responsibility, strengthen life skills, and build confidence in their ability to make positive choices.

Staff work closely with each participant to recognize strengths, set goals, and foster growth beyond their involvement in the justice system.



Total Youth	276
Asian/Pacific Islander	3
Black	128
Hispanic	19
Multiracial	34
Native American	0
White	80
Other/Unknown	12



Female 83	Male 193
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31 Deferred prosecution agreements (of new referrals)

158 Clients successfully completed obligations

1,784 Community service hours completed

96% Success rate

198 2025 new referrals

149 First time clients



LONGSTANDING SUCCESS FOR YOUTH, VICTIMS, AND COMMUNITY

The Briarpatch Youth Services Youth Restitution Program (YRP) provides court-involved youth with structured opportunities to earn money and pay restitution to victims. A team of thoughtful, caring, and dedicated staff members provide employment support, skill-building, and consistent mentorship. As a result, youth learn responsibility, not as punishment, but as a pathway forward. Since its inception, YRP has seen a consistent successful completion rate of over 90%. With a growing **96% program completion rate in 2025** (representing participation by 310 youth, including youth with community service obligations), YRP demonstrates that when young people are given clear expectations, consistent mentorship, real support, and a chance for self-reflection, they show up. They commit. They follow through. That completion rate reflects youth who are choosing to put in the work to better their own lives while reflecting on choices and making amends.

For the young people involved, paying restitution represents more than fulfilling a court order. It restores a sense of dignity. It allows them to move forward without unresolved debt hanging over their future. It reinforces the message that their positive actions matter and that they have the power to make things right. For the youth themselves, the experience is often transformative, and the victim is also factored into the equation.

Dean Bossenbroek, Briarpatch Youth Restitution Program Manager, says, “In the Youth Justice System, victims are often out of sight. They did not choose to be involved with Youth Justice programming. A major part of what we do in the Youth Restitution Program is to make every effort to ensure victims receive all their restitution ordered by the court.”

One longtime YRP Participant said, **“Thank you both for giving me another chance to change my ways. I am definitely a different and better person than I was when I was 18. I will be graduating Nursing School this May and I am so grateful to have been given this chance.”**

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES

LAUNCHED IN 2025!

Comprehensive Community Services is a voluntary, wraparound program operated in partnership with the Dane County Department of Human Services to support individuals working toward mental health and substance use recovery.



Through personalized case management, skill-building, and counseling, participants receive holistic support designed around their unique goals and strengths. Services are provided in the office, at home, or throughout the community—wherever participants feel most comfortable and supported. CCS focuses on increasing independence, promoting long-term recovery, and empowering individuals to build stable, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

17 Active Participants Enrolled in 2025

13 Case Management Clients

320 Hours of direct service with participants

4 Individual Skill Development Clients



Total Youth 12

Asian/Pacific Islander	0
Black	3
Hispanic	3
Multiracial	0
Native American	1
White	5
Other/Unknown	0



Female 8 Male 4

YOUTH JOB CENTER

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The **Youth Job Center** serves youth ages 14–18 who face barriers to employment by preparing them for workplace success. Participants learn essential pre-employment skills including resume writing, interviewing, financial literacy, communication, and job search strategies.

Ongoing mentoring following job placement ensures youth continue building confidence, stability, and long-term career readiness.

73% Youth placed in jobs successfully completed at least 8 weeks

220 Youth engaged through job fair activities

11 Youth earned school credit

160 Unduplicated youth served



Total Youth 380

Asian/Pacific Islander	19
Black	175
Hispanic	47
Multiracial	45
Native American	4
White	90
Other/Unknown	0



Female 207 Male 166

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

We are deeply grateful to our individual donors. To respect their privacy, they are not listed in this report. The funders and partners recognized here include those who contributed \$500 or more in 2025, as of December 31, 2025.

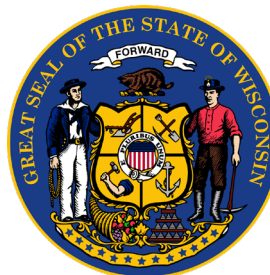
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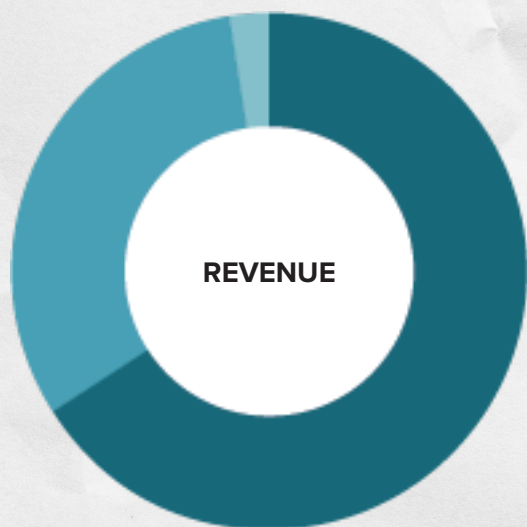
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KEY PARTNERS

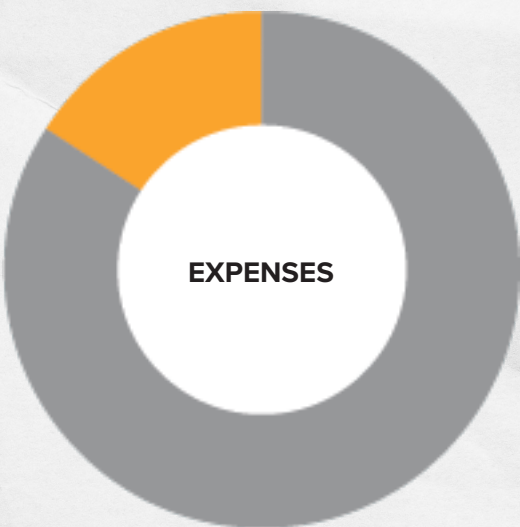


2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



2025 Revenue **\$4,360,408***

● Contracts Grants	77.2%	\$3,365,115
● Gifts & Foundation Grants	20.9%	\$913,010
● Misc.	1.9%	\$82,283
Restricted for Future Years		\$662,717



2025 Expenses **\$4,205,494***

● Program Expenses	84.2%	\$3,541,479
● Admin. & Fundraising Expenses	15.8%	\$664,015

** These numbers are unaudited until completion of the 2025 audit.*

CONTRIBUTION SOURCES

Briarpatch Youth Services’ funding comes from both public and private sources. All gifts received, monetary, in-kind, and volunteer hours, are allocated in a manner that is intentional, efficient, impactful and in direct alignment with the mission of, *“Strengthening the Lives of Youth and families.”*

TYPES OF SOLICITATIONS

- Direct Mail Appeals
- Grant Proposals
- Verbal Requests for Support
- Special Events

USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions are used to support the agency’s work with youth and families.

Donors may designate their contribution(s) for a specific use. These donations are classified as restricted until expended consistent with donor’s wishes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT!

Briarpatch Youth Services is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Corporation.

We are deeply grateful for the generous donors who support our mission of *Strengthening the Lives of Youth and Families.*

NEED US?
Call our 24/7 help-line:
(608) 251-1126 | (800) 798-1126
Text: (608) 285-2776

www.briarpatch.org

Like and follow our social media at: [@briarpatchyouthservices](https://www.instagram.com/briarpatchyouthservices).

