



NEW CHAPTERS LEAD TO NEW BEGINNINGS

Our stories make us who we are



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prologue

Stories Worth Telling	1
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Body, *A Collection of New Beginnings*

Jason's Story	2
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Brianna's Story	4
---------------------------	---

Claudia & Renee's Story	5
-----------------------------------	---

Angela's Story	6
--------------------------	---

Jordan's Story	7
--------------------------	---

Epilogue, *Impact to be Continued*

Introduction	8
------------------------	---

Setting & Conflict	9
------------------------------	---

Resolution	10
----------------------	----

Acknowledgments

YSB Center for Youth Success.	12
---------------------------------------	----

A New Chapter for Our Community	13
---	----

Appendix

The Numbers Behind the Stories	14
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STORIES WORTH TELLING

Judge a book by its cover and you might miss out on a story that's desperate to be told. Hundreds if not thousands of books are left unread each year because their covers don't immediately stand out. But when given a chance and read page by page, their words end up written on the hearts of readers forever.

Stories of at-risk youth are often the ones left untold in our community, yet when these stories are told they're hard to forget.

These young men and women are easy to overlook because they've learned, at such a tender age, to be resourceful in order to survive and blend in.

They sleep in cars, on couches in homes of friends and may even seek shelter in abandoned buildings, all while continuing to attend school and participate in daily life.

It's hard to imagine, but each year more than 1,000 young people in St. Joseph County find themselves struggling with homelessness, poverty, abuse, neglect or other crises.

In response, YSB is working to create a new space, The Center for Youth Success where despite their hardships, these resilient young men and women will begin to write brave new chapters in their lives because friends like you who support Youth Service Bureau.

Here are some of their untold stories and how your generosity provides them the resources they need to be the heroes and heroines of their own stories now and for chapters to come.



JASON'S STORY

"My clothes were stuffed inside a couple of trash bags waiting for me on the front porch.

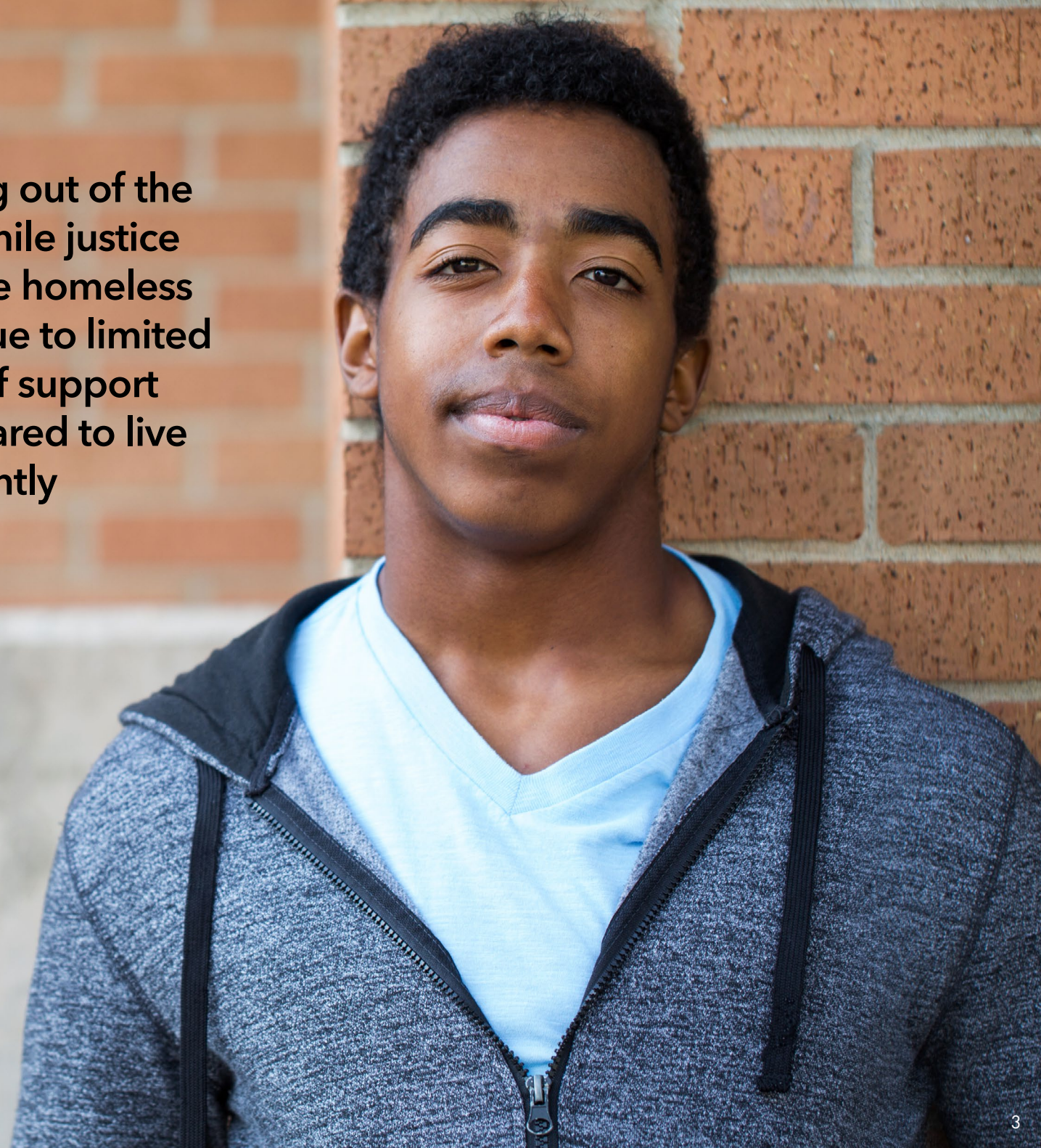
I went to school that day knowing all along I had no home to return to."

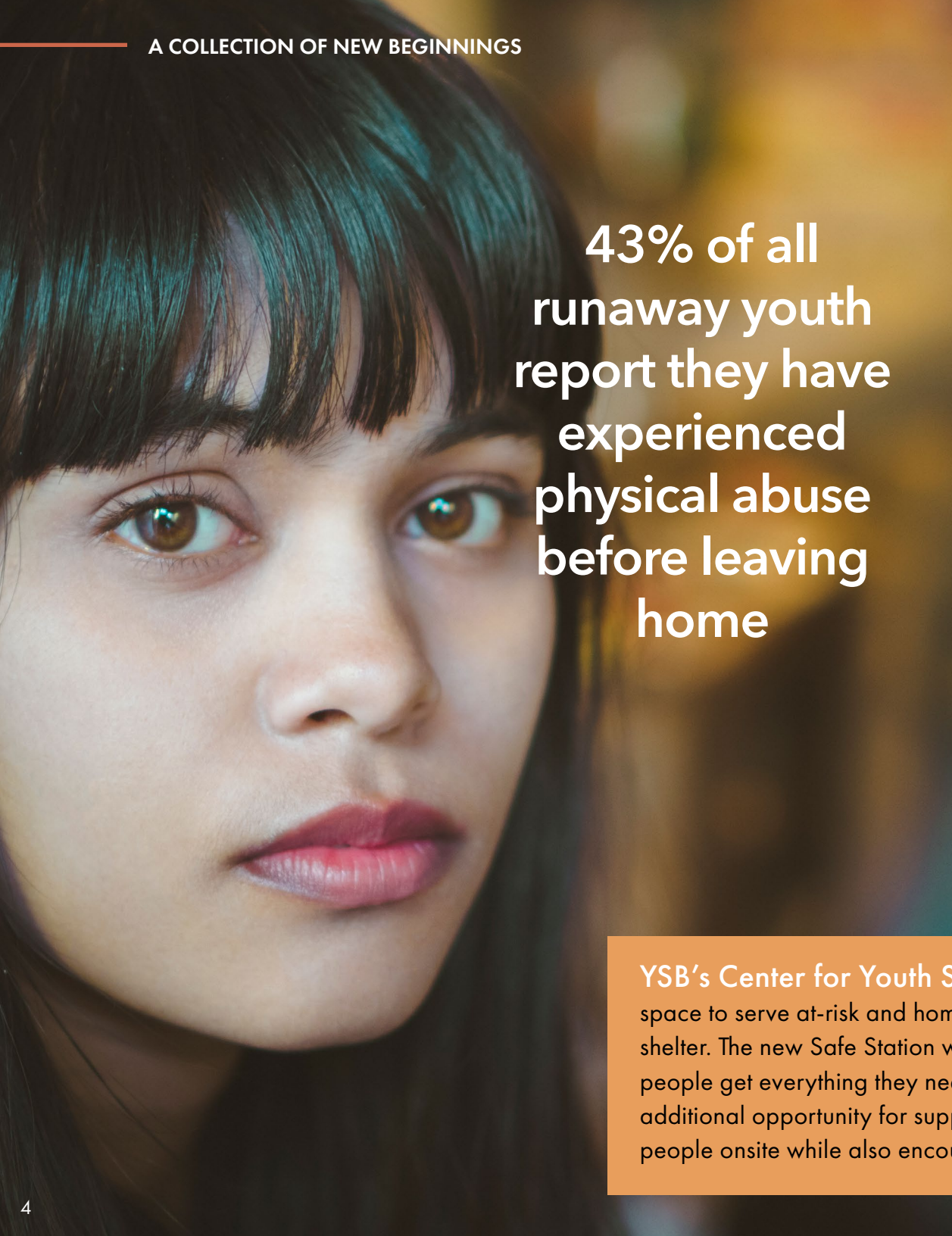
Life isn't always a fairy tale for young people in our community, and sadly Jason's story is all too common. After turning 18, many young people are deemed an adult by their parents and/or guardians, so they're kicked out of their current living situation even though they have no means of supporting themselves. There is no fairy godmother or superhero to swoop in and save the day for these at-risk youth, but there is YSB and donors like you to support them.

Jason began a new chapter in his life after enrolling in YSB's Transitional Living Program. A program that fills the role of a nurturing caregiver to provide a safe place to stay and teach young people how to become self-sufficient and prepare them to make it on their own.

YSB's Center for Youth Success will offer a youth-focused space to better provide housing, education, and employment training for youth ages 16-22 who are homeless or exiting the foster care system. Those participating in Transitional Living will have safe housing and support while learning how to manage their finances, connecting to resources that nurture their physical and mental health, and developing skills that build the confidence and self-sufficiency needed to exit homelessness and become contributing adult members of our community.

50% of teens aging out of the foster care or juvenile justice system will become homeless within six months due to limited education, lack of support and being unprepared to live independently





43% of all
runaway youth
report they have
experienced
physical abuse
before leaving
home

BRIANNA'S STORY

"The abuse was constant, and the anger I was feeling took control of my life.

The therapist and staff at YSB would not give up on me."

Some stories you read are so unimaginable they're hard to believe. Brianna's is one of those. The physical, emotional and sexual abuse she experienced for most of her young life put her on a path of destruction. Her developing mind's way of coping with the cruelty was to lash out and self-harm. Her behavior made it difficult to thrive in foster care and as a result she was a risk of being placed in a long-term mental health facility.

Brianna turned a new page after seeking protection and shelter at YSB's Safe Station. The determination, kindness, and patience of YSB's therapist, encouraged Brianna to learn skills to address her trauma and begin her healing process. Brianna was finally able to thrive with a safe and loving foster family.

Because of donors like you who support YSB's life-changing interventions and programming, Brianna found the tools to write her new and hopeful story.

YSB's Center for Youth Success will provide a much improved and efficient space to serve at-risk and homeless youth ages 12-18 with immediate safety and shelter. The new Safe Station will enhance service coordination ensuring that young people get everything they need right away. Youth-centered spaces will provide additional opportunity for supportive professionals to work directly with young people onsite while also encouraging them to connect with vital community resources.



1 in 10 young adults
age 18-25, and 1 in
30 adolescents age
13-17 experience
unaccompanied
homelessness in the
course of one year

CLAUDIA & RENEE'S STORY

**“We were scared, stressed, sleeping on friends
couches and changing clothes in a parking lot,
until this nice person from YSB found us.”**

Much like a skilled reader skims the pages of a book and picks out the most important details of a story, YSB's Street Outreach team scans our community for at-risk youth in need of immediate assistance.

The Street Outreach team connects with young people right where they're at in the moment — on the playground, at school, or in Claudia and Renee's case, in a parking lot. These two teenage friends bonded over their similar stories having both been kicked out of their homes by their fathers. They'd been living on the streets for quite some time until a YSB Street Outreach team member led them to immediate safety and stable housing.

**62% of LGBTQ
youth and 47%
of non-LGBTQ
youth report being
physically harmed
while experiencing
homelessness**

YSB's Center for Youth Success will significantly strengthen the critical Street Outreach Program that has for 15 years been vital to at-risk youth in our community. The Street Outreach team members are empathy experts, developing trusting relationships with youth and offering resources that address immediate needs such as food, clothing, medical attention and shelter. The new space will greatly advance the drop-in center where meals will be provided, hygiene and laundry services will be available and group activities, counseling and referrals will be encouraged.

ANGELA'S STORY

"I had no home and no way to take care of my kids.

I needed help."

Single mother of three, Angela, has struggled with mental illness most of her life. She does her best to provide for her babies, but her battle with anxiety and depression has made it difficult to keep a steady job.

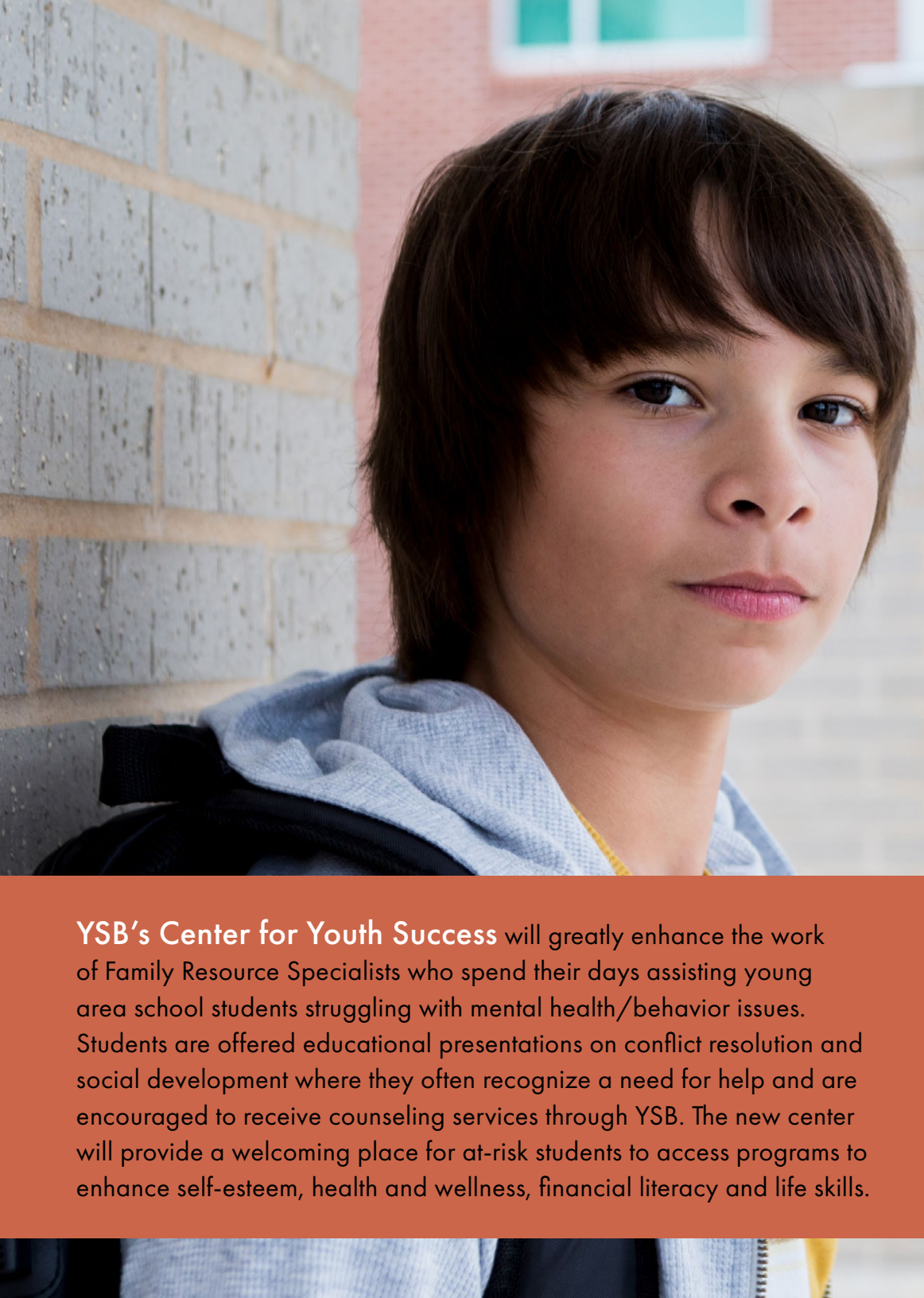
One of the darkest chapters of her life was the day she received an eviction notice from her landlord. With nowhere to go and three young children to care for, Angela turned to YSB in desperate need of help.

YSB's Maternity Group Home (Porch Light) and Young Mom's Self-Sufficiency Program helped her recognize her own strength and realize that hardships don't determine how her story ends.

YSB's Center for Youth Success will greatly help young mothers participating in the Porch Light and Self Sufficiency Programs encouraging them to create positive new lives for themselves and their children. The center will provide the space and support to ensure moms can learn basic life skills and financial literacy that prepare them for future success. Safe and convenient transitional living apartments, parenting classes, and ongoing therapy all in one location will foster opportunities for moms to overcome complex challenges that come with parenting young families.



Nearly 44% of
young women age
18-25 who face
homelessness report
being a parent or
pregnant



69% of homeless youth report living with mental health issues

JORDAN'S STORY

“Instead of calling me a troublemaker they got me help.”

Jordan was known for being disruptive and defiant at school. Jordan was a bright student, but was failing almost every class. Teachers could sense there was a story behind the misbehavior and knew Jordan needed help.

Once introduced to YSB's Family Resource Specialist, Jordan was taught to address the chaotic home life and learned healthier ways to channel big emotions.

YSB's Center for Youth Success will greatly enhance the work of Family Resource Specialists who spend their days assisting young area school students struggling with mental health/behavior issues. Students are offered educational presentations on conflict resolution and social development where they often recognize a need for help and are encouraged to receive counseling services through YSB. The new center will provide a welcoming place for at-risk students to access programs to enhance self-esteem, health and wellness, financial literacy and life skills.

IMPACT TO BE CONTINUED...

Introduction

For nearly 50 years YSB's services and programs have helped our community's at-risk youth transform their struggles into triumphant new beginnings helping them become heroes and heroines of their own stories.

Because of compassionate and generous donors like you, YSB has the resources to reach more than 10,000 at-risk youth each year. Your support continues to help young people connect to important resources at a critical time in their development, and provides them with necessary resources to rewrite their stories so they can make permanent changes that set them up for a successful adulthood.

As these young people continue to write new chapters in their lives, our organization is preparing to write new chapters of our own and asking for your support.

Setting

While Youth Service Bureau has done an exceptional job of maximizing resources over the past 5 decades, the actual physical facilities have been stretched beyond capacity.

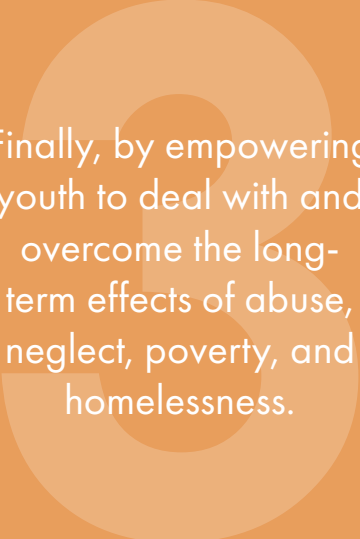
YSB programs focus on meeting the unique developmental needs of young people:



First, by addressing emergent issues.



Second, by moving them out of crisis mode.



Finally, by empowering youth to deal with and overcome the long-term effects of abuse, neglect, poverty, and homelessness.

Conflict

Operating out of three scattered, aging and ill-equipped residential buildings, some nearly 100 years old, has created great hurdles to providing the level of service teens and young adults need and our community deserves.



Resolution

Plans for a new 20,000 square foot facility to house all programming in one efficient space is currently in the works.

This new chapter in YSB's book will allow for significant improvements in service delivery and create a welcoming space where young people can find immediate safety and shelter, and gain access to the resources and support they need to exit homelessness permanently.

The new YSB Center for Youth Success will be built on 15 acres of generously donated land near the corner of Hickory Road and McKinley Avenue in South Bend and will be the first of its kind in St. Joseph County.

The Center for Youth Success will not only improve YSB programs, but will create a youth-centered space designed to empower young people to take control of their own story and further engage the community in the following ways:

Safe Station

Increase the capacity from 8 to 16 emergency shelter beds, enhancing safety for clients and staff, provide direct connection to the rest of the agency.

Street Outreach/Drop-In Center

For the first time, there will be much needed showers, adequate laundry facilities, and appropriate space for client education and community partner engagement. Expand the footprint and effectiveness of the Drop-in Center that will offer food, clothing, hygiene supplies, laundry facilities, counseling, case management and gender-separate showers.

Young Moms Self-Sufficiency Program

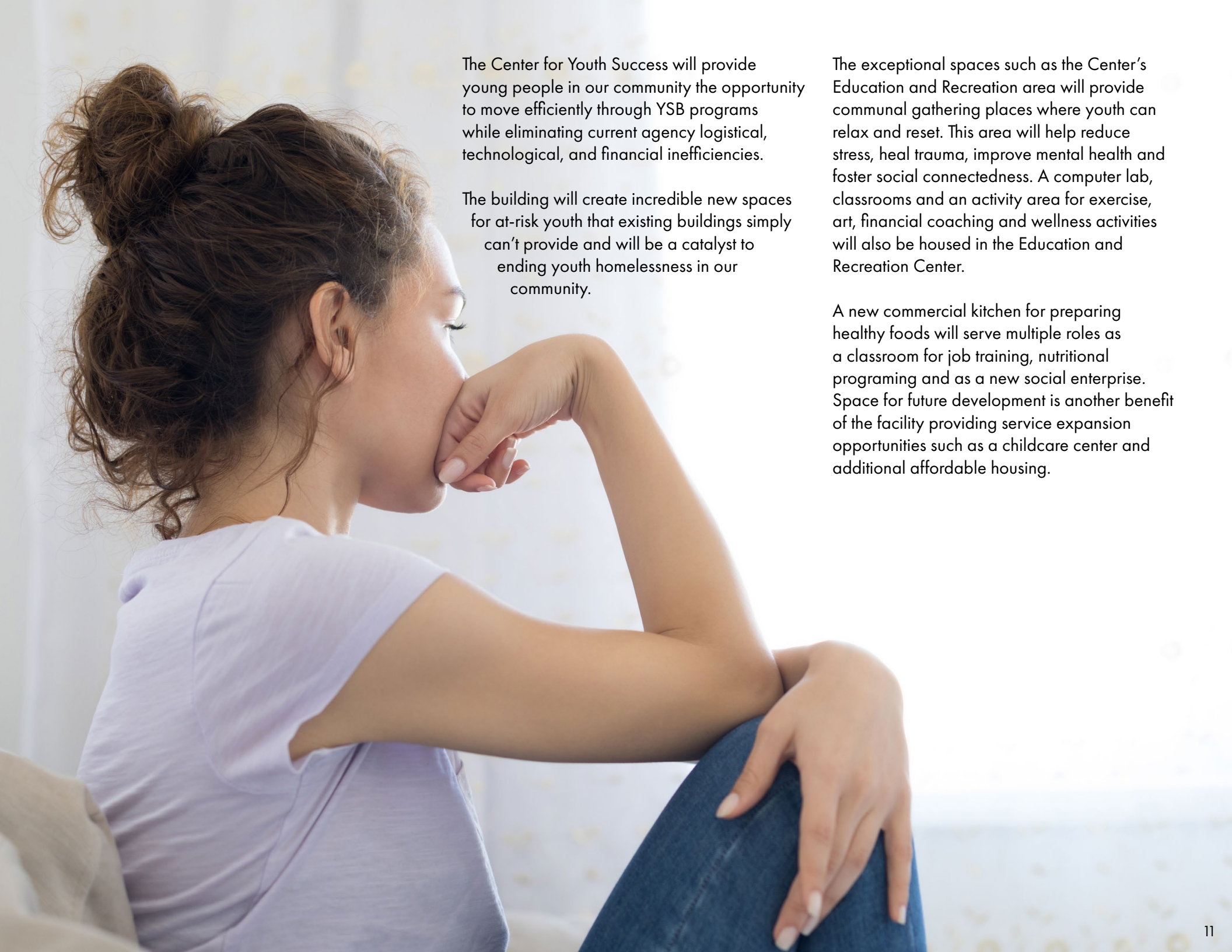
Increase capacity for young families and increase their access to other YSB programs, education, parenting and life-skills classes that can all take place on site.

Transitional Living Program

Will have 4 new on-site, dorm-style rooms. Improving success rates of clients when they exit to individual housing.

Porch Light Transitional Living Program

Will have 4 new on-site, dorm style rooms for mothers and children. Common kitchen facilities, outdoor recreation space and immediate access.



The Center for Youth Success will provide young people in our community the opportunity to move efficiently through YSB programs while eliminating current agency logistical, technological, and financial inefficiencies.

The building will create incredible new spaces for at-risk youth that existing buildings simply can't provide and will be a catalyst to ending youth homelessness in our community.

The exceptional spaces such as the Center's Education and Recreation area will provide communal gathering places where youth can relax and reset. This area will help reduce stress, heal trauma, improve mental health and foster social connectedness. A computer lab, classrooms and an activity area for exercise, art, financial coaching and wellness activities will also be housed in the Education and Recreation Center.

A new commercial kitchen for preparing healthy foods will serve multiple roles as a classroom for job training, nutritional programing and as a new social enterprise. Space for future development is another benefit of the facility providing service expansion opportunities such as a childcare center and additional affordable housing.

YSB Center for Youth Success





A NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The creation of YSB's Center for Youth Success is a bold, new chapter for St. Joseph County.

Encouraging homeless youth to reach success is complicated and each young person's story requires special care. Without intervention before the age of 25, many of today's homeless youth are almost certain to be tomorrow's homeless adults.

Youth Service Bureau's nearly 50 years of experience in positively changing young lives makes them well positioned to turn the page of this

exciting, new chapter. The *Center for Youth Success* will house the critical broad range of programs needed to provide the continuum of care that supports youth and young families in crisis.

Most importantly, YSB is grateful for the dedicated and generous community visionaries who have already laid the foundation for this exciting project by gifting a million dollars in property and 1.5 million in matching dollars to ensure that this center will become a reality.

This dedication to youth in our community means that every gift you make will be doubled by the generosity of those who refuse to let young people fail.

By joining this effort you will ensure that each young person who makes their way to this new center will find a welcoming place where they can be safe and stable while learning the many important skills needed to create happy endings.

THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE STORIES

Safe Station Emergency Youth Shelter

Annually provides safe shelter for 200 homeless youth ages 12 to 18 and responds to over 400 crisis calls.

Street Outreach Program and Drop-In Center

Annually connects to 10,000 youth in the streets of our community with 500 of them visiting the Drop-In Center.

Young Moms' Self-Sufficiency Program

Annually serves 300 mothers ages 16-24 at risk of homelessness and 600 children.

99% go on to have no substantiated case of child abuse or neglect for at least two years.

Transitional Living Program

Annually serves 8 youth ages 18-24 exiting foster care or homeless. 95% transition to safe, stable housing.

Porch Light Transitional Living Program

Serving pregnant or parenting young mothers ages 16-22 and their children. 90% exit to safe and stable housing.

Youth Development Services

Established in PHM schools, 5,000 students annually participate in social/emotional wellness programs while 1,500 students received direct in school mental health assistance.

Safe Place Program

Coordinates 160 Safe Place Sites in St. Joseph County.

Annually 10,000 middle and high school students are educated on where and how to find help and safety.



Please join YSB in creating new stories

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