2026
IMPACT REPORT



CHRIST IN YOUTH

FAITHFUL GROWTH



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR FRIENDS,

I've had the privilege of a front-row seat for over two decades, seeing what happens when a kid opens his or her heart to the gospel for the first time. I see kids like Isaiah, who gave his life to Christ for the first time at MOVE this summer and immediately felt a calling to share his faith. (You can read the amazing story of what happened next on page 12).

This past year, across over 100 events, 89,511 students sat in the tension between who they are and who God is calling them to be. I never get tired of it. And I never take for granted what it costs to make it happen.

You helped make it happen.

Everything we do at CIY happens because people like you believe students are worth the investment. Every student who walks in the room is different than when they walk out — your partnership makes that possible. Our team shows up every single day because they love Jesus and they love students. Through you, God empowers and sustains this mission. We are the extension of your heart and your desire. And we won't waste it.

Here's what's ahead and why it matters right now.

The data on this generation tells a complicated story. Only 18% of today's teenagers qualify as spiritually activated. But here's what's also true: this generation is walking into churches at higher rates than we've seen in years.

They're searching. The question is whether the Church is ready to meet them.

That's the question CIY is committed to answering. Beginning this year, we are training 300,000 students to share their faith in the schools, teams, homes, and neighborhoods where they already live. Not someday. Now.

Because Barna research tells us 1 in 4 pastors will retire before 2030, we're also pursuing the calling of 6,729 of those students into vocational ministry. The movement needs fuel. The churches need pastors.

To do this well, CIY is partnering with Barna Research to launch one of the most comprehensive studies on faith and Generation Alpha ever conducted — practical, actionable research built for the churches and parents on the front lines.

Your investment isn't just funding events. It's funding what the Church needs next.

I've never been more sure of where God is leading CIY. Thank you for going there with us.

Jayson French

JAYSON FRENCH
President

WHO IS CIY?

OUR HISTORY

Christ In Youth (CIY) was founded in 1968 to create a place where the Gospel message could be presented to young people in an engaging and relevant way. The first conference was held during the summer of 1969, and since then, CIY has grown to serve thousands of youth each year through age-intentional events, global mission trips, digital resources, film and media, youth leader retreats, and more. CIY is headquartered in Joplin, Missouri, with a European team in Ireland. CIY creates "moments" for students to experience and interact with the Gospel, then comes alongside the local church to equip their leaders as they raise up the next generation of Kingdom Workers.

OUR MISSION

We call youth to Christ and into a life of Kingdom Work through His Church.

OUR BELIEFS

Rooted in the Gospel. Made for Kingdom Work. Connected to the Church.

HOW WE DO IT

We run events. We tell compelling stories. We create inspiring experiences. We pay attention to details. We steward what God gives. We take care of our people.



CLICK HERE TO VISIT

ciy.com/programs

SuperStart!

A high-energy, intentionally crafted weekend event for preteens to hear the Gospel, learn Biblical truths, and be called to a life of Kingdom Work.

MIX

A four-day summer event for sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students. Each week is designed to address the unique spiritual, cognitive, and developmental needs of middle schoolers in a summer conference setting.

MOVE

A five-day event for high school students that helps them know Jesus better, deepens their relationships, and sends them home ready to do Kingdom Work.

engage

Provides mission trips that train groups and individuals for a life of Kingdom Work by experiencing what God is doing in cultures different than their own.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Produces resources that help churches go beyond the event. Our *Follow Through* app, Convos, teaching series, films, digital events, and other service elements are all curated to help young people continue the conversation of what it means to be a Kingdom Worker.

YMS

A three-day retreat held in Southern California designed to feed the minds of youth pastors and help them rediscover why they do what they do and practical tools for how to do it.

WILDERNESS

A five-day retreat for youth pastors held in the mountains of Colorado, designed to provide rest for the soul and rejuvenation for the spirit.

CONNECTED
Ceangailte

Three-day retreats for Irish and Scottish youth leaders designed to equip the mind, reinvigorate the heart, and replenish the soul.



NUMBERS

We're changing the way we count numbers this year.

In youth ministry, numbers often get celebrated. Numbers like how many students attended an event. Or how many churches were represented.

But what if there are better metrics? Better numbers? Like how many students are actively sharing their faith with family and friends. Or how many kids are being discipled by a mentor. Because what we count gets celebrated. And what we celebrate gets repeated.

Attendance matters but *activation* produces disciples.

Let's count those numbers, because that's worth celebrating.

2026

IMPACT REPORT

SuperStart!

Total Attendees	**15,091**
Total Churches	**619**
Total Events	**18**

MIX

Total Attendees	**24,079**
Total Churches	**399**
Total Events	**30**
Decisions	**14,723**
• First Time Decisions • Recommitment • Kingdom Worker Challenge	**1,629** **6,311** **6,783**

MOVE

Total Attendees	**49,986**
Total Churches	**874**
Total Events	**43**
Decisions	**34,694**
• First Time Decisions • Recommitment • Vocational Ministry • Kingdom Worker Challenge	**2,532** **12,516** **1,688** **17,958**

engage

Participants	**355**
Church Participants	**20**
Trips	**21**
Countries	**9**

KINGDOM WORKER DECISIONS

24,741 students took the Kingdom Worker Challenge to share the gospel with someone within 45 days	**3,906 students** took a next step to follow through	**1,197 mentors** walking alongside these students



FAITHFUL GROWTH

Youth today are struggling more than ever with identity and purpose. We know you have seen and sensed their anxiety and insecurity, their conflicted relationship with technology, and their social isolation. Yet they are also more open to Jesus than ever before and are flocking to MOVE and MIX events. In fact, their response has been so overwhelming that our events were filling up faster than we could make space for them.

But this year, your generosity made it possible for 3,500 more students to hear the call of Christ and step into a life of Kingdom Work. And because of your support, the Follow Through app launched a massive update with three new tracks that help students move from a moment of decision to a lifetime of growth.

Students are responding to Christ's call and engaging in Kingdom Work in unprecedented numbers. The more seats you provide, the more seats are filled. A filled seat is a changed story representing unlimited Kingdom potential. Your support makes the moment possible for students to surrender their confusion, pain, and hopelessness and step into a life of purpose and calling in Jesus.



Payton Hofer was event staff with CIY for 4 years (he set the record!) and now serves as a youth pastor at Crossings Community Church in the Oklahoma City area. He continues to champion and support CIY, both by directing at MOVE and by giving $1/day. He says, "I chose to support CIY because I believe in their mission. I say this confidently because I'm a direct product of their mission. It was at a CIY conference in Durango, Colorado, that I accepted the call to vocational ministry. That call has been realized today. Because of CIY, I get to shepherd and pastor a church that loved me and cared for me."

GEN ALPHA

This year, CIY and Barna began a multi-year collaboration developed to combine Barna's trusted research with CIY's relational reach among pastors, churches, parents, and teens. The aim is to help inspire 300,000 teens and young adults to engage their faith more deeply, while equipping the adults who guide them with research-based resources that truly work in today's cultural context.

Thanks to supporters like you, the first step was completed—a trailblazing new study intended to help youth leaders understand the unique characteristics of Gen Alpha—the youngest generation of teens—and what it looks like for them to move beyond church attendance and into a holistic, active faith. Read on to see how your generosity is empowering the Church to envision creative discipleship solutions to problems even before these young people will face them.

FAITH-ACTIVATED TEENS

ARE VERY DIGITALLY ENGAGED

Three-fifths (61%) regularly use AI tools, nearly double the rate of all teens (35%) — but more than half wish they were less connected.

ARE FUTURE-MINDED

Two-thirds already know what they want to do or be when they grow up and have a strong sense of what matters to them.

ARE SORTING OUT PUBLIC FAITH

Most want to live their faith openly but half (51%) still feel their faith is more private than it is visible.

HAVE DEEP AND WIDE EMOTIONS

They are more likely than the average teen to feel both proud and doubtful, both emotionally grounded and emotionally exhausted.

PRIORITIZE THEIR FAITH

Nearly 7 in 10 (69%) say their religious faith is central to who they are.

LISTEN TO MANY VOICES

They draw guidance from a wide range of sources — from pastors to podcasters — and name more influencers than the average teen.

CARE ABOUT THE WORLD

More than half express serious concern about issues like the cost of living, violence, the environment, and political extremism.

I've had other Lead Pastors/Senior Ministers ask me, "Why do you waste a week going to CIY? Don't you have a youth guy and youth leaders for that?"

Here's why I "waste" a couple of weeks each summer at CIY: because I'm encouraged by the next generation and reminded that God is still in control and His Church will never fail. It helps me understand what is happening, the challenges they're facing, and how we can pour into these students. It reminds me of why we do what we do and the importance of passing the baton well to the next generation. It's also an encouragement knowing that the Church is in good hands.

Christ In Youth never fails to bring it and connect with students in such a powerful way. Thank you CIY for what you do and for making this possible!

JASON KEMERLY,
Senior Pastor,
Christ's Church,
Ft. Wayne





WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Thanks to your generosity, we created the Follow Through app, a powerful new discipleship tool designed to equip students with resources, relationships, and real opportunities to step into their calling. Last year, the app launched with a track for anyone who felt God's call into vocational ministry. Here are some of the stories of how your support helped students follow through on their faith decisions:

Eli Mathers, Central Student Pastor at Compassion Christian Church in Savannah, GA, has been actively using the Follow Through app in their student ministries for the past year. In just one example of how it's being utilized, Mathers mentioned three students with a similar story—they came to Christ in high school out of an unchurched background and, as they grew deeper in their faith, began to serve at church. Soon, they sensed a calling. "They wanted more," said Mathers. Their student ministers suggested the Follow Through app and connected them with a mentor. Through these resources and relationships, they actively began pursuing ministry and are now in college, serving in ministry internships.

And it's not only students who have been called into action. Stefanie Burns, a youth minister at CrossPoint Community Church in Maysville, KY, shared, "During the call for vocational ministry last summer, one of our adult leaders approached me and said, 'I know those batons aren't for me, but I'm sensing a call to do more for the Lord. I want more.' The youth group encouraged her and then church leadership mentored her, helping her to follow through on the call she had sensed at MOVE. Long story short, she now oversees the young adult ministry at our church and is thriving under God's blessing!"

The Follow Through app is mobilizing the students and adults being called into vocational ministry, leading them to take real steps to follow through on their faith decisions. Dr. Bob Witte, Vice President of

Enrollment Management at Ozark Christian College, says that, “Last fall, OCC had the highest enrollment rate in 20 years. This year, our projections indicate a significant increase in new students...Students keep mentioning CIY as a primary influencer in their decision to pursue ministry.”

God is using your faith in action to move students from a moment of decision into a lifetime of lasting growth.

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

—Matthew 9:37-38 NIV



Eric and Julie Schroeder are a Kingdom-minded family from Kansas City. Eric, the president of CDF Capital, says, “We saw our daughter’s faith grow exponentially through CIY so that when she went off to college, she took her faith with her. As parents, that’s the most important thing.” Julie, a realtor, adds that, “A few years ago, we decided we needed to pour into this. This is where we need to be generous and give whatever we can to change lives for the Kingdom.”

This summer they had the chance to attend an evening session in Lawrence, KS, where they stood on an upper level and watched students in worship. Julie texted her children, “I see my grandkids going to CIY in the future.” Their desire is to support CIY now so that this type of environment can continue to thrive and be there for their grandchildren and grandchildren’s friends in the future. Eric says, “That’s what we’re interested in.”

A MOVEMENT OF EVANGELISM



Jesus went to great lengths to seek and to save the lost, and students are reflecting Christ's heart for the lost in unexpected and astonishing ways. In Luke 8, Jesus crossed a lake to heal and save just one demon-possessed man from the Gerasenes. And at a MOVE event this summer, one student swam across a lake during extended rec time to share the gospel with a man sitting on a dock.

Isaiah is a high school sophomore who gave his life to the Lord this summer at MOVE. The very next day, he attended an evangelism workshop and learned how to share the gospel — and that afternoon, he put it into practice. While his youth group spent the day at a lake, swimming and relaxing, Isaiah noticed an older man sitting alone on a dock. Feeling led, he swam across the lake to talk with him, and simply asked if he knew Jesus. It turned out to be a God-ordained encounter, as the man became emotional telling his story of being hurt by the church. Isaiah listened, and then offered to pray for him before swimming back to rejoin his friends.

This is a beautiful picture of how young people are responding to the call to evangelism: sensitive to God's leading, eager to be equipped, and watching for opportunities to share the gospel.

You are a part of a movement witnessing remarkable momentum in student evangelism. Research continues to show that Gen Z and Gen Alpha are spiritually curious and open to conversations about faith, creating a unique opportunity for the gospel. This year at MOVE and MIX, 74,065 students were invited and inspired to share the gospel.

Thanks to supporters like you, these students were given innovative tools in the Follow Through app to craft their own 15 Second Testimony and to articulate and share the 3 Circle Gospel. In response, 24,741 students took the Kingdom Worker Challenge to share their faith with someone in the next 45 days.

Because of you, a generation of Christ-followers are being prepared and empowered to reach their friends, classmates, teammates, and communities with the good news of God's love.

Isaiah at the evangelism workshop



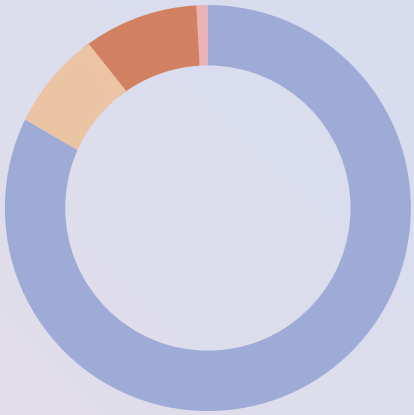
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

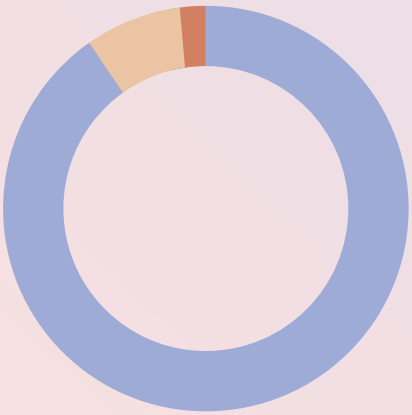
90

90 cents of every dollar CIY spends goes directly to support CIY programs.

Total Revenue
$37,176,893

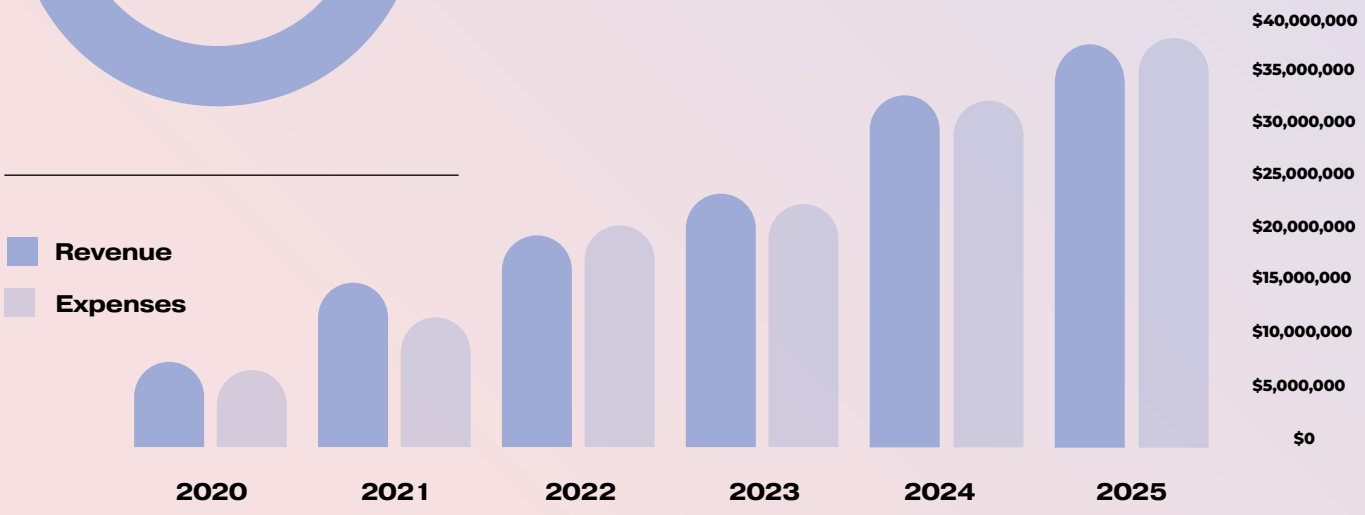
- Program Revenue 88%
- Public Support 6%
- Sale of Resources 6%
- Other <1%





Total Expenses
$36,314,168

- Programs 90%
- Administration 8%
- Fundraising 2%



FISCAL YEAR 2025 STATEMENTS OF

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES & POSITION

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	$2,674,215
Accounts Receivable	$333,785
Other Current Assets	$823,511
Total Current Assets	$3,831,511
Fixed Assets	$6,643,074
Other Assets	$33,757
Total Assets	$10,508,342

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	$594,401
Other Current Liabilities	$3,358,295
Total Current Liabilities	$3,952,696
Long-Term Liabilities	$554,613
Total Liabilities	$4,507,309
Net Assets	$6,001,033
Total Liabillities and Net Assets	$10,508,342

Statement of Financial Activities

Revenue

Program	$32,674,460
Public Support	$2,122,210
Sale of Resources	$2,151,589
Other	$101,432
Total Revenue	$37,176,893

Expenses

Program	$32,575,603
Administration	$2,891,243
Fundraising	$847,322
Total Expenses	$36,314,168

We have earned the 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar with Candid and are proud to be accredited with Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Platinum Transparency 2026

Candid.

ECFA ACCREDITED

Enhancing Trust

CHRIST IN YOUTH'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chase Allcott
Owner/Operator
Chick-fil-A Franchise | Bartlesville, OK

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Chairman of the Board
Lead Pastor
Christ's Church of Oronogo | Oronogo, MO

Michael DeFazio
Dean of Lincoln Seminary/Professor of New Testament and Hermeneutics
Ozark Christian College | Joplin, MO

Tim Doty
VP of Corporate Development & Growth Initiatives
Love's Travel Stops | Edmond, OK

Todd Hutchison
Executive Pastor of Ministry
Riverlawn Christian Church | Wichita, KS

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Traders Point Christian Church | Indianapolis, IN



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



As Chairman of the Board for Christ In Youth, I continue to be deeply encouraged by what God is doing through this ministry. If the future of CIY can be measured by the stories we are hearing, the lives being changed, and the growing engagement of students across the United States, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland, then we have every reason to be hopeful about what lies ahead.

Our Board regularly thanks God for the vision, leadership, and faithful work of the CIY team. Living in the Joplin area has given me the privilege of seeing many of these leaders and staff members up close. I have great confidence in their character, their commitment, and their passion to call students into a life of Kingdom purpose and service.

On a personal level, my wife and I remain fully committed to this ministry and its leadership. It is a joy to encourage and invest in a mission that continues to help students trust Christ, engage deeply with His Church, and discover their place in the work of His Kingdom.

As this report demonstrates, the opportunities ahead of CIY continue to grow. The vision is strong, the mission remains urgent, and God continues to open doors for greater impact in the lives of the next generation.

Thank you for your partnership, prayers, and generosity. Your investment is helping proclaim the glory of God to every generation.



MARK CHRISTIAN
Chairman of the Board of Directors

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GET INVOLVED

Every seat has unlimited Kingdom potential. Your support ensures that every young person has a seat and that they are empowered to follow through on their faith decision.

CLICK HERE TO VISIT

ciy.com/get-involved

STAY CONNECTED

The Parent Newsletter
Year-round tips and tools delivered straight to your inbox—perfect for everyday conversations and car rides—so you can be the parent God created you to be.

The CIY Update
Hear amazing stories, stay connected, and support CIY in the most impactful way you can—through prayer.

WRKR Network
Join a national community of Kingdom Workers who are passionate about living out their faith in their churches, communities, and workplaces.