



NEW
YORKERS
FOR
CHILDREN

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Family Away From Family

New Yorkers For Children,
You stood beside me like a lighthouse,
Steady through every storm.
You taught me that even through trauma
There is still room for love,
Still room for community,
Still room for me.

—Ana Quiñones

Youth Advisory Board President, 2024–2025

Please enjoy Ana's full poem
on the inside back cover.



Impact Snapshot

Building futures takes consistency, community, and the right support at the right time. In 2025, that support reached hundreds of young people aging out of foster care across New York City.

114 young people participated in Cohort Connection, building college-going skills, confidence, and community

\$50,200 in financial assistance distributed through Cohort Connection to help participants stay on track

93% of Cohort Connection participants reported feeling safe and heard

8 Nick's Scholars graduated from college, with many transitioning into careers and graduate study

3.2 average cumulative GPA among Nick's Scholars, reflecting strong academic persistence

100% of our fifteen Nick's Scholars reported feeling fully supported in their academic journey

347 Back-to-School packages provided, including supplies and flexible financial support

111 laptops given to youth enrolled in college or vocational programs

1652 young people and families impacted by our Community Catalyst Fund, which empowers small, community-based organizations to scale up promising child welfare initiatives.

115 families supported through the Post-Permanency Support Program, which helps preserve and stabilize child placements after an adoption.

Our Mission

New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) improves the well-being of youth and families in the child welfare system, with an emphasis on older youth aging out of foster care. NYFC provides direct educational, financial, and emotional support, developing programs that fill gaps in the system in partnership with foster care agencies, community organizations, and the NYC Administration for Children's Services.

Message from Leadership

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we celebrate New Yorkers For Children's 30th anniversary, we reflect on how far we have come and the opportunities that lie ahead.

For three decades, NYFC has stood beside young people as they navigate one of life's most challenging transitions: adulthood without the family support many of their peers can rely on. Since our founding, we have invested more than \$80 million in programs and services, expanded educational opportunities for those in and aging out of foster care, stepped in when crises threatened to derail their progress, and helped transform thousands of lives.

Thirty years ago, NYFC was founded by Nicholas Scoppetta, the first Commissioner of the New York City Administration for Children's Services, to meet needs that were falling through the cracks. That partnership has continued to deepen in the years since, with NYFC working alongside the Administration for Children's Services to identify gaps in support for young people in foster care and develop solutions that close those gaps and help them thrive. Together, we have combined public investment with innovation, helping young people stay in school, overcome setbacks, and build brighter futures.

At its core, NYFC is guided by a simple belief: that young people should not lose access to opportunity, encouragement, and community simply because they have aged out of foster care.

We are as proud of this history as we are inspired by the remarkable young people featured in this report and throughout our programs. In the pages that follow, you will meet young people pursuing college degrees, overcoming unexpected setbacks, developing leadership skills, and helping shape the future of our organization. Their stories remind us that turning 18 or 21 does not mean they suddenly stop needing support. They succeed when the right support is there at the right time. Creating that support remains at the heart of NYFC's mission.

Career Choice, our new initiative supporting vocational and trade education in partnership with the Administration for Children's Services, reflects this commitment. The program expands opportunities for young people pursuing careers outside the traditional college pathway and stands to play a transformative role in the lives of hundreds of young people throughout our city.

As we celebrate 30 years of impact, we are especially excited about what comes next. Guided by the voices of young people and strengthened by our partners, sponsors, donors, and supporters, NYFC will continue building brighter futures for decades to come.

Thank you for being part of this work.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan L. Burden".

Susan L. Burden
Co-President, NYFC Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise B. Maybank".

Denise Maybank
Co-President, NYFC Board of Directors

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As a former foster youth, a current Nick's Scholar, the President of the NYFC Youth Advisory Board, and a member of the board of New Yorkers For Children, I am living proof of what happens when New York City invests in the potential of its young people.

Growing up in the foster care system, I didn't get the sense that I would ever be certain about what lay ahead in the future. Navigating early adulthood and planning for a career to find my purpose in life was overwhelming to think about alone. The feelings of being lost and confused intensified when I became a parent. There were plenty of times when the hardships I faced felt like they were going to overpower me. But New Yorkers For Children halted my fears and guided me out of isolation.

Through the Nick's Scholars Program, I didn't just receive financial support to attend college but gained the foundation to achieve true stability in my community. When life got more complicated, the dedicated staff provided the guidance and mentorship I needed to navigate through my hardships and plan effectively for the future of both myself and my child.

NYFC has introduced me to people who have permanently and positively influenced my life. The opportunities I have been given here are a true blessing.

Today, I no longer look at my future with fear; I look at it with vision. As President of the Youth Advisory Board, I am proud to lead a team of resilient young advocates who are using our lived experiences to shape the future of this organization. And as a member of the full board, I am ensuring that the voices of those who have been in foster care are in the room when key decisions are being made. I am proud in these roles to be ensuring that the youth who come after us have the same safety nets, community, and open doors that saved my life.

To our incredible donors, partners, and the inspiring staff at NYFC: thank you. Your commitment doesn't just fund programs; it builds families, creates leaders, and changes generations.

With heartfelt appreciation and determination,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mikaela M. Benz".

Mikaela M. Benz
President, NYFC Youth Advisory Board

Latricia's Story

Last spring, Latricia faced a setback that almost forced her to drop out of college. A series of personal challenges forced her to withdraw from her classes, leaving her with an unpaid tuition bill. Without parents or extended family to reach out to for help, she faced a very difficult choice.

For young people aging out of foster care, moments like these can be especially difficult. Without the family safety nets most young adults rely on, an unexpected financial shock can quickly end their college dream.

But with support from NYFC's Emergency Grants Program, Latricia was able to resolve her tuition balance and return to school.

Today, she is back in the classroom, pursuing her goal of becoming a nurse while balancing work and continuing to build the future she envisions for herself.

At NYFC, we know that resilience matters—but so does support. Latricia's story reflects what becomes possible when young people have both.



“I’m excited
for what’s
next.” —Latricia

What It Takes to Build a Future

Staying in college isn't just about getting in. It's about having the support to keep going, through financial pressure, academic challenges, and moments of uncertainty that are common at this age. But for youth in foster care or who have just separated from care, those challenges can feel overwhelming without someone in their corner, and can turn temporary setbacks into lasting barriers.

New Yorkers For Children's

Nick's Scholars Program

provides that support, helping young people from foster care persist and graduate with the tools they need to succeed. Scholars receive ongoing mentorship, financial support, and one-to-one guidance throughout their college journey. For many scholars, the program offers more than financial assistance, it creates a sense of stability, accountability, and belonging.

In 2025:

15 scholars were enrolled

8 scholars graduated

3.2 average cumulative GPA

100% reported feeling fully supported

"At the beginning of the semester, I felt uneasy and alone, especially as a first-generation student without much support. Finding the **Nicks Scholar Program** changed that for me. The monthly meetings, financial support, and even having my birthday celebrated made me feel seen and supported."

—Natasia S.

No one gets through college alone. **Cohort Connection** creates a space where young people can share challenges, build skills, and stay grounded in their goals together. The program brings together groups of students for virtual monthly meetings, guided by a licensed mental health counselor, where they discuss successes and challenges in their educational path. Each cohort helps shape its own conversations and priorities, including a mixture of tutoring, academic advisement, financial literacy, goal setting, and workforce development, with the specific mix determined by each group.

In 2025:

114 participants across sixteen cohorts

79% average attendance at cohort meetings

93% reported feeling safe and heard

\$50,200 distributed in financial assistance

Participants reported meaningful growth in:

- Leadership skills
- Job preparation
- Financial literacy
- Communication

“My overall experience in this program has been incredible. I got to meet new people and be more motivated in continuing school with other students especially since life can be so hard at times and with this program it has helped me stay grounded and focused on my goals.”

—Tiffany W.

Sometimes, staying in school comes down to having the right tools. New Yorkers For Children's

Back-to-School

program ensures that students begin the academic year prepared with the technology and resources they need to succeed.

For many students, access to a reliable laptop determines whether they can attend classes, complete assignments, and stay on track. By removing these practical barriers, and investing more than \$70,000 in laptops, supplies, and flexible support, the program helps ensure that youth in and aging out of foster care can focus on their education, not what they're missing.

In 2025:

347 youth in or aged out of foster care received Back-to-School packages

111 received a laptop

236 received continued financial support



Providing an Extra Safety Net

A missed paycheck. A medical bill. A tuition balance. A rent payment that suddenly becomes impossible to cover. Even the most determined students can be thrown off course by an unexpected expense.

For young people without family financial support, moments like these can quickly grow into crises that threaten housing, education, employment, and emotional well-being all at once.

NYFC's Emergency Grants Program

provides financial assistance to help young people stay stable during these moments of uncertainty. In 2025, NYFC distributed \$22,887 in Emergency Grants to help 26 young people cover urgent needs. Most grants were distributed within days of approval, helping participants address urgent situations before they escalated further.

These grants provide more than short-term relief. They help young people remain in school, maintain housing, keep jobs, and keep moving forward.

At critical moments, these timely supports can change a young person's future.



Building Careers

Career Choice

was shaped in part by focus group conversations with young people about their goals, barriers, and experiences navigating career pathways. Critically, these focus groups were led by a professional with lived experience in foster care. This research led to a comprehensive Career Choice Guide offering practical information on vocational and trade pathways across New York City. The guide is designed to help young people explore options, understand training requirements, and take the next step toward a stable and fulfilling career.

In fall 2026, building on the successful Nick's Scholars model, NYFC will begin providing select Career Choice students with deep wraparound support to help ACS evolve and refine the model for success. While ACS will provide tuition and daily stipends, NYFC will help ensure participants have what they need to persist through program selection, application support, career navigation, financial stabilization, mental health resources, and connections to employer partners.

NYFC and ACS are partnering to ensure youth in foster care have access to a range of educational and vocational opportunities as they determine their path to a successful future.

In 2025, NYFC partnered with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to launch **Career Choice**, a new program supporting young people in foster care as they pursue vocational training and enter careers with living wages.



Youth Voice

Underpinning all our work are the young people who help shape our programs.

The Youth Advisory Board continues to grow as a leadership platform for young people with foster care experience, creating space for connection, reflection, and leadership development.

In 2025:

- 8 general body meetings held
- 3 networking events hosted in partnership with NYFC
- 9 youth ran for executive leadership roles

Through these spaces, members build leadership skills, strengthen professional networks, and contribute directly to the shaping of NYFC's work.

Moments of connection, whether through cultural outings, community gatherings, or peer-led discussions, help foster a stronger sense of belonging and shared purpose.

In 2025, NYFC took a significant step in embedding youth voice at every level of the organization. The President of the Youth Advisory Board now serves as an ex-officio voting member of the Board of Directors, and an additional Youth Advisory Board member was elected to the full board.

These changes ensure that young people with lived experience are actively shaping decisions that impact their lives and the broader child welfare system.



Expanding What's Possible

Some challenges can't be solved one young person at a time. They require new ideas, new partnerships, and new ways of working. That's where NYFC goes further.

In partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, New Yorkers For Children's

Community Catalyst Fund

provides technical support and grant funding to community-based organizations, many led by individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system, to innovate and strengthen support for young people and families across New York City. In 2025, NYFC welcomed a new cohort of eight organizations to the program. These organizations are expanding access to critical services, strengthening leadership, and building networks of support within their communities. Together, they represent a growing ecosystem of care for New York's young people.

In addition, NYFC continued its groundbreaking work through the

Post-Permanency Support Program

to help children make stronger and more stable transitions from foster care to permanent homes by preventing failed adoptions. During 2025, the program served 115 families, with 99% of families maintaining stable adoptions in their homes.

Because building futures doesn't happen alone. It takes systems that work.



Financials

	2025	2024	2023
Revenue			
Individual	54,594	53,227	54,398
Foundation and Corporate	7,027,433	1,567,427	6,351,765
Government Grant	70,000	50,000	50,000
Contributed non-financial assets	430,155	270,761	1,325,889
Special Events (net)	769,112	739,277	951,661
Investment Income	582,186	466,731	659,723
Total Revenue	8,933,480	3,147,423	9,393,436
Expenses			
Program Services	3,829,283	4,317,625	4,564,377
Management	825,808	863,998	789,187
Fundraising	671,318	280,732	328,627
Total Expenses	5,326,409	5,462,355	5,682,191

Higher revenue in 2023 and 2025 indicates multiyear awards.

Fundraising expense figure for 2025 includes a pro-bono communications project delivered by Deloitte.

Supporters

Institutions

\$1 million +

Anonymous
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation*
Doris Duke Charitable
Foundation*
Robin Hood Foundation *
Spence Chapin Services to
Families and Children*
W.K. Kellogg Foundation*

\$100,000–\$999,999

Deloitte Consulting LLP**
The Ichigo Charitable Fund *
New York Community Trust
Youth Villages *

\$50,000–\$99,999

Macy's & Bloomingdale's* & **
NYC Department of Youth and
Community Development
New York City Council Speaker's
Initiative
The Pinkerton Foundation

\$20,000–\$49,999

The Allen Foundation
Anonymous
The Brightwater Fund
Conscious Kids Inc
Jovani Gowns & Dresses**
Laptops For Kids**
Northwell Health
New York City Administration
for Children's Services
Proskauer Rose LLP**
Ruth Nelson Family Foundation

\$10,000–\$19,999

BlackRock
Florence V. Burden Foundation
Goldman Sachs Gives
Katie McGrath & JJ Abrams
Family Foundation
The Edlow Family Fund
The Lipton Foundation

\$5,000–\$9,999

The Bergen Foundation
City University of New York
The Elizabeth & Daniel Oneglia
Family Foundation
Frank Family Fund
Insperity
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
The Meoh Foundation
The Prus/Myers Foundation
The Marc Haas Foundation
The Otis Booth Foundation
Trinity Church

\$1,000–\$4,999

The Harmon & Eugene Leiman
Foundation
Isidore Grossman Fund
The Joy Luck Club
Kirrin Finch**
Nancie Dixon**
Rosy Memorial Fund
Taproot Foundation**

Individuals

\$75,000 +

Rona & Randolph Nelson

\$50,000–\$74,999

Nancy & John Alderman
Susan L. Burden
Gloria & Roland Estevez
Susan & Anthony Gilroy
Liz & Greg Myers

\$20,000–\$49,999

Amy Larocca & Will Frears
Abigail & Michael James
Robert Macdonald
Meghan Mackay & Allen Thorpe
Laura & Henry McVey

\$10,000–\$19,999

Donya & Scott Bommer
Mary & Kenneth Edlow
Salvatore Gogliormella &
Derek Dorn
Kathleen Kennedy &
Frank Marshall
Gwen Libstag
Robin D. Lipsky
Stefani & Leonard Shavel
Carla Solomon
David Ulevitch

\$5,000–\$9,999

Charmaine & Carter Burden III
Liz Cohen and James Hausman
Kathryn Conroy & Ellen Lippman
Helen & Anthony Dais
Emily Glasser & William Susman
Katherine Nelson & Blake Garcia
James Newton Howard
Allison & A. David Niles
Richard Plepler
James Swanson
Strauss Zelnick

\$1,000–\$4,999

James W. Abrams
Andrew Amine
Lisa Benavides–Nelson &
Timothy Nelson
Kandance Black
Rachel Black
David Blum
David Booth
Eric Brettschneider
Belle Burden

Liz Cohen & Zoey Corte
The Honorable Susan Danoff
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Claude & Yves Duroseau
Susan L. & Arthur Fleischer
Jennifer & Scott Frank
Peter Gethers
Flori Gilroy
Gianna & Willie Gioia
Ed Grossman
Jennifer Grubman
David Hansell & Rob Cimino
Wendy & David Hashmall
Wendy Holmes
Charissa Huan
Anne & Ben Huneke
John Jacobs
Meredith Kane
Elana & Louis Klein
Anna Kornilakis
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Josie Linell
Katherine Locker & Nick Scharlatt
Rachna Malik
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Timothy Ross
Amanda Ross Bacon
Jeannette Rossoff
Marcy & Tom Russo
Sanjeev Sanampudi
Andrea Scoppetta
Eric Scoppetta
Mina & Derek Sells
Jerome Silbert
Peter Som
Sascha Springer
Kathryn Steinberg
Cynthia Swartz & Alan Abramson
Kara Unterberg
Jean Vendice
Melissa Vlak
Leslie & Greg Warner
Carol Warshawsky
Emanuel Weintraub
Beau Willimon
Christine Yun
Susan & John Zuccotti

*signifies multi-year gift

** signifies in-kind gift

Staff & Board

Staff List

Nicole Carta

Interim Executive Director

Ellen Ampofo

Senior Director of Programs

Yeymi Hoffmans

Senior Director of Finance and Administration

David Mutton

Senior Director of Communications and Development

Andrea Gordon

Manager of Finance and Administration

Cecile Johnson

Manager of Youth Programs

Natille Nicholls

Manager of Finance and Administration

Isabel Traore

Senior Program Associate

Alison Yee

Manager of Youth Programs

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Denise Maybank

Co-President

Laura McVey

Vice-President

Louis Klein

Treasurer

Susan Gilroy

Secretary

McKenzie Bennett

Mikaela Miranda Benz (*ex-officio*)

Eric Brettschneider

Cindy Cohen

Yves Duroseau

Roland Estevez

Jessica Flayser

Rebecca Jones Gaston (*ex-officio*)

Sal Gogliormella

David Hansell

Abigail James

Nancy Jarecki

Amy Larocca

Josie Linell

Elizabeth Myers

Rona Nelson

Eyhdi Osorio

Leila Pree

Seetha Ramachandran

Andrea Scoppetta



Family Away From Family

by Ana Quiñones

New Yorkers For Children
You were there when the academics felt too heavy
When the noise drowned out my voice,
When the weight of my foster care story
Pressed heavier than the subway tracks at rush hour.
You showed up
Not with judgment,
Not with pity,
But with open hands
And open hearts.

Through my good days
When I felt like the skyline itself,
Rising, unstoppable,
Reaching higher than anyone thought I could.
And through my bad days
When I felt invisible,
Lost in the crowd,
Like one more soul slipping through the cracks
No one else cared to fill.

But you cared.
You reminded me:
I am not just surviving
I am becoming.
You gave me more than programs.
More than scholarships.
More than support.
You gave me belonging.

You gave me family
A family away from family.
Because Family is not just who shares your name.
It's who shows up.
Who sees you.
Who reminds you that your story is not over,
That your dreams are not too heavy
That your scars are not your definition,

New Yorkers For children,
You stood beside me like a lighthouse,
Steady through every storm.
You taught me that even through trauma
There is still room for love,
Still room for community,
Still room for me.

So when I rise,
I rise with your hands lifting me.
When I dream,
I dream with your voices cheering me on.
And when I say "Family"
I don't just mean blood
I mean you.
Because you've been my home
When Home was hard to find.

New Yorkers For Children

improves the well-being of youth and families
in the child welfare system, with an emphasis
on older youth aging out of foster care.



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