

ROGERS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES

BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF YOUTH

Community Impact in 2022



WE GROW WITH YOU

WARMEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON

Let's be honest, most who read this are unclear on what RCYS actually does for the community. Am I right? As you read through the stories and outcomes, I hope you will learn more about what we do for the people of Rogers County and also see how much we care. The need for our services has tripled over the past two years, causing us to expand our team. Even with this growth, we still have a waiting list. So we will continue to look at how we can best serve Rogers County.

THE KEY IS TO BE BIG ENOUGH TO MEET THE NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY, BUT STILL SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE ABOUT EACH PERSON WE SERVE.

The old adage still holds true: people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. RCYS will continue to grow in 2023, in how many we serve, how many we employ, and most importantly, how much we care for our community. Through these stories and outcomes, I hope you will learn more about what we do and be inspired by the stories you hear.

HERB MCSPADDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELCOME NOAH WICKHAM

We are excited to share that Noah Wickham is joining the RCYS team, after working with Christian Family Institute for the past eighteen months. Though he loved his experiences and the growth with CFI, Noah reports that he knew God was calling him back to work at RCYS and to be more present for his family.

Noah says of his work, "My personal heart calling is to equip and encourage kids and families through extending the love that first found me in the love Jesus has extended to me. By being attuned, present, and kind to my own family and the families that I have the privilege to work with, I am confident that it will produce a positive impact in Rogers County, Oklahoma, the US, and ultimately the world."

Noah is excited about his new role of Clinical Director. He shared, "This opportunity allows me to create an environment of care, collaboration, support, and encouragement for other therapists and education specialists at RCYS. This in turn, creates an environment where youth and families can come to get healthy."



WHAT IF...

Over sixty percent of adults today have experienced childhood trauma. This trauma often haunts individuals for a lifetime; impacting relationships, decision making, health, and overall wellness. **What if** these kids were helped before the impacts of traumatic experiences changed the trajectory of their lives?

Here at RCYS we are doing just that. **We meet the needs of children, teens, and their families** in areas such as counseling, Rapid Resolution Therapy, Leader in Me education, Drug prevention education, Parent Academy, mentor pairing, and more.

Some of the people, programs and stories that impacted our community this year...



RAPID RESOLUTION THERAPY

RCYS has seen the number of young people needing care for traumatic events triple since 2020. RCYS Therapist, Raylene Stebbins offers Rapid Resolution Therapy, RRT. Raylene is one of only a few therapists trained in RRT in Oklahoma.

Here are some actual results of RRT treatment through the work Raylene is doing:

- A teenage boy who **suffers with pain due to an abusive mother** is no longer having suicidal thoughts. He is interacting more with his family and friends, and is spending less time isolating in his room. **Triggers and flashbacks to mom's abuse have ceased.**
- A high school basketball player who **suffered from anxiety** that caused him to be physically ill and consistently second guess himself, is now **able to put his anxiety to rest, both on the court and in school.**
- A young teenage girl who suffered mightily from **past sexual abuse and the accompanying anger** made tremendous progress. **She finally experiences relief and no longer needs treatment.**

COUNSELING SUCCESS STORY

Can teen rebellion be a good thing? RCYS therapist Kerri Shaw counseled a young lady who had been placed in foster care, due to a family pattern of addiction. Through counseling received, this young woman found health and freedom from this lifestyle, and began seeking a new way of life. She described this new way of life as a rebellion, stating:

"Many teens do rebel, but there are different types of rebellion. Those who run away from home and do bad things and those who run away from home and rebel for a good life."

Due to services provided by RCYS, this young lady, is changing the script for her future. She is leaving the family pattern of addiction, the need for foster care behind her, and has a bright, hopeful future.

WHEN
ONE
PERSON
HEALS,
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WHOLE
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FOR IT.

PREVENTION



UTURN

RCYS provides a positive alternative for students with long-term suspensions. Students stay on track with their graduating class and will receive counseling, life skills groups, a mentor, and tutoring.

MEET UTURN'S NEW DIRECTOR AMY WALKER

Amy brings a vast array of experiences that benefit our students. After working indirectly with RCYS's UTurn program, Amy was excited for the opportunity to take this position. She shared..."Their passion in working with students and families within the community to overcome adversity resonates so closely with my own passion that I knew this was where I needed to be and the UTurn program follows closely with my ideals for educating those that need something different to become successful. My hope is to further develop and expand the program to be able to offer services that not only support academics but provide skills necessary to become a successful, contributing part of their community."

Our prevention team delivers education programs to individuals, groups, and families on **risk reduction strategies**. The goal is to inspire children to grow in their personal development through intentional behaviors that prevent negative consequences.

LEADER IN ME One very successful program we have implemented is the Leader In Me program, where we train and educate students on Sean Covey's book, **7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens**. These lessons help students learn how they can become more effective in their relationships at school, at home and in life.

POSITIVE IMPACT

Verdigris Upper Elementary has embraced the Leader in Me curriculum. One example, is by implementing a **100% Homework Accountability program**. Through this, students encourage and support one another to turn in all their homework; thus practicing personal responsibility. The school ensures that participating classes are celebrated with monthly success rewards.



**I AM NOT A
PRODUCT OF MY
CIRCUMSTANCES. I
AM A PRODUCT OF
MY DECISIONS.**

STEPHEN COVEY

DRUG EDUCATION

RCYS offers a drug education program for students that have been suspended for a failed drug test. Our drug education program consists of two sessions where students will learn about the dangers of substance use. Students will also learn about the long-term negative effects of different substances and the possible consequences for their future if they continue to use drugs.

After the completion of one session, a teen client identified that his drug use was not a healthy way to cope with stress, and the family requested counseling. **Through RCYS services, this client was able to receive drug education, have his suspension time shortened, and received counseling to begin working on new, positive ways to manage his emotions and stress.**

WHY GIVE TO RCYS?



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS

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NEED

Our community is in the middle of a mental health crisis, and the need for quality services is overwhelming. We have the largest waitlist we have ever had for counseling services.

EFFECTIVE

Our services work. How do we know? We track the outcomes of everything we do. People receiving services at RCYS get better. Period. That makes our community better.

EFFICIENT

We operate all of our services – a team of 13 therapists, 8 prevention specialists, and two educators on a budget of around \$700,000. Every dollar you provide goes directly to services at RCYS.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Your support will allow us to move kids and families off our waitlist and into services quicker, getting them the help they need.

LOCAL

We are Rogers County. 100% of our services are to our community. What you give here goes directly to help the people that live in your neighborhood, shop in our stores, and attend Rogers County churches and schools.

WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

**In Person/
By Mail**

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Online
www.rcys.org

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RCYS is a private, not-for-profit 501c3. Our FEIN is 73-1024338. If you are interested in making a legacy gift, we have an endowment fund through the Tulsa Community Foundation. Thank you for considering RCYS for your support.

Contact Us