

Community: 2022
Center for Restorative Youth Justice



From the Director

Dear Community,

I am struck by the image that after a year of keeping our heads down and trying to stay safe and sane, 2022 feels like stepping outside to take in some new fresh air. Over this last year, CRYJ returned to fully in-person programming, resulting in a vibrance and energy in our office that only teens can provide. This year also saw a deepening in our School Justice Partnership relationships, an innovative community effort since 2016. The majority of CRYJ youth in 2022 were referred directly through their schools - a critical intervention that allows for accountability and harm repair without automatic justice system involvement (i.e. most kids never need to get there!)

This was a really hard year for our community as well — the immeasurable loss of Flathead Valley young people to suicide was felt deeply in our office and by the teens and families we talk with every day. In 2022, we started opening up peer workshops to frank conversations about suicide, loss and grief. Teens not only walked through that door when invited, they truly took the lead in those conversations. The quality of youth-led discussions this year further motivated us to create a new Teen in Residence Program, offering past CRYJ participants the opportunity to help staff design and facilitate workshops in a part-time paid position. This amplification of teen voice has already had such a meaningful impact on the depth, authenticity and relevance of our ongoing programming.

Finally, this was the year we truly settled into our new home on Idaho Street! An exciting part of that process was the creation of the mural on the front of our building, an artistic representation of the sound waves produced by CRYJ teens' and community members' voices. We honed in on two questions: *How do you want this community to see you?* and *What makes a community feel safe?* Their recorded answers provided the outline for the murals, and in true CRYJ fashion, we brought teens and adults into our office to help paint them. We hope they catch your eye when driving by, and maybe even prompt you to stop in and say hi!

We're grateful to be here, and we're so excited for the chance to connect with Flathead Valley teens and community in 2023.



Catherine Gunderson
Executive Director

Pictured with Board Chair Valeri McGarvey (L)

CRYJ

Staff

Catherine Gunderson
Ben Johnson
Ashley Tetu
Erin Goudreau
Claire Peterson
Mandy Gerth*



Center for Restorative Youth Justice envisions a community that values and embraces all young people by cultivating a climate of purposeful inclusion and non-judgement. Together we address the root causes and impacts of harm, deepen connections and relationships, and empower each other to move through the world with equity and integrity.

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*Outgoing

VISION | OUR FUTURE

A community that values and embraces all young people while addressing harm together

MISSION | WHAT WE DO

To create opportunities for reflection, connection, & empowerment for teens, victims, and families in the Flathead Valley

VALUES | WHAT MATTERS

Resiliency | Accountability | Integrity
Collaboration | Inclusion | Relationships

Teen Empowerment

"CRYJ was so different than what I expected, I just felt calmer after workshops. I'm feeling more motivated and focused on reaching my goals since coming." - CRYJ Teen

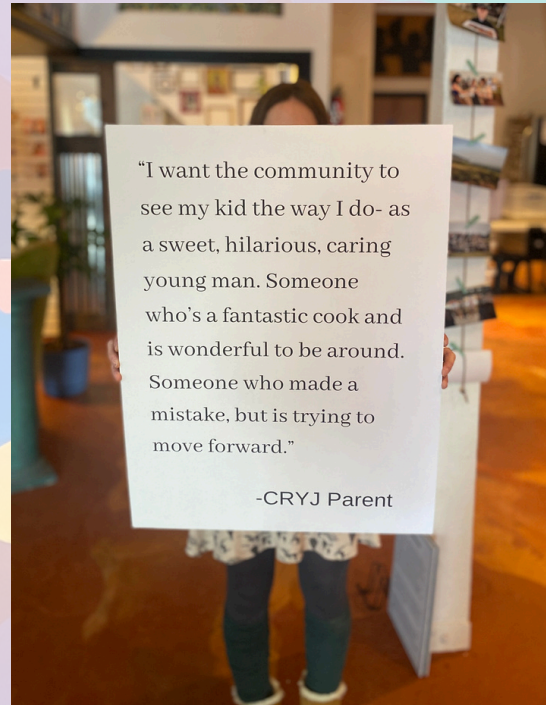
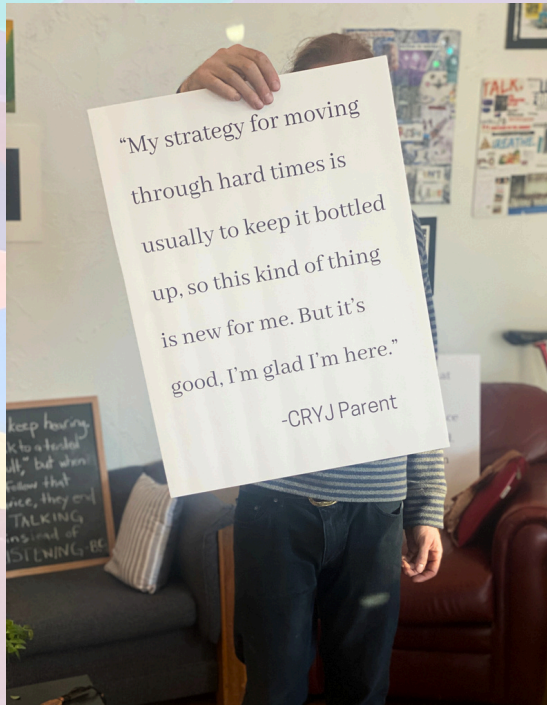
"Thank you for not assuming the worst in me. And most of all thank you for holding me accountable." - CRYJ Teen

"This process has encouraged me to take things slower, sit down and think. Not rush into things" - CRYJ Teen

"There are a few people here who I sort of knew already, from school or snapchat, but I had no idea how difficult their lives were. I'm just never going to look at people the same now in terms of assuming things about them. You really never know what people have going on under the surface." - CRYJ Teen



Family Resiliency



"For us it was like the universe placed us with you guys during the hardest time for my family. While I know our situation is unique I also have faith that every youth placed in the program is treated with kindness and respect." - CRYJ Parent

"Things are getting better with my parents, slowly, but they're getting better. It takes time to rebuild that trust." - CRYJ Teen

"I loved Circle. It was honestly so eye opening to hear other parents talk about their struggles, how they feel like people look at their kids differently, that kind of thing. Understanding that families have so much more going on under the surface than we can see, it was really cool to realize that." - CRYJ Teen

Programs (FY 2022)

115 Restorative Conferences

1037 teen workshop hours

23 Community Impact Circles



Financials

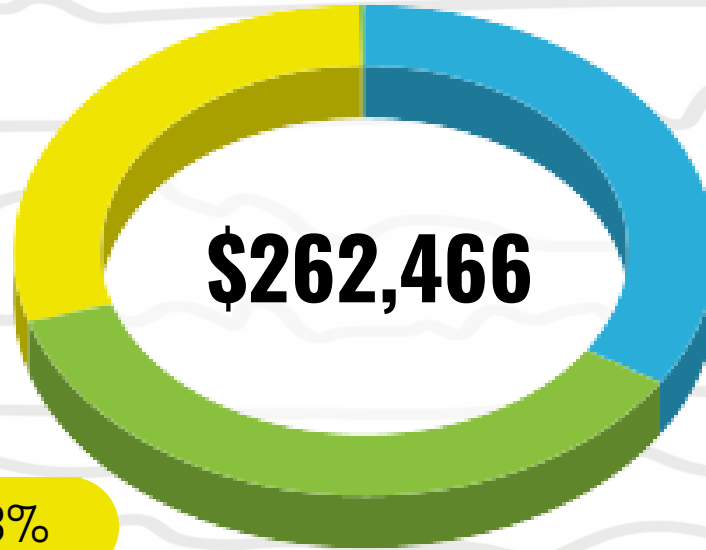
Income

Foundation Grants: 36.2%

Events and Donations: 36.0%

Investment Income: 0.2%

Government Grants & Contracts: 29.8%

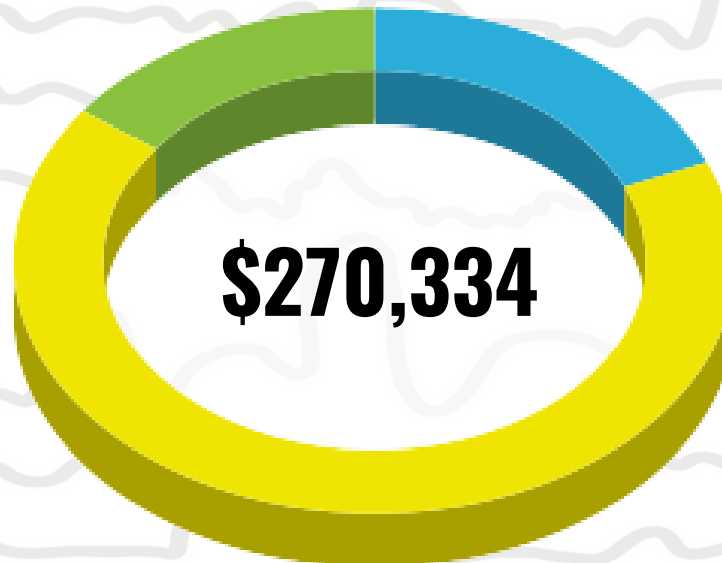


Expenses

Administrative: 18%

Programs: 67%

Fundraising 15%



Community Partners

Abbie Shelter
Flathead Family Planning
Kalispell Heart Program
Kalispell School District
Montana Academy (Milestones)
Nate Chute Foundation
Sweetgrass Psychological
Well Montana
Youth Court Services

These are the organizations that partner with us to work with teens, share resources, or provide training and professional development for our team.

Community Support

Foundational Support

Cross Foundation
Enterprise Foundation
First Interstate Foundation
Headwaters Foundation
Logan Health Foundation
Oro y Plata Foundation
PD Jackson Foundation
Whitefish Community Foundation
Whitefish Mountain Resort

It is the generous financial support of these foundations that make so much of the CRYJ magic possible!

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Thanks so much to all of you!



Center for Restorative Youth Justice
110 E. Idaho | Kalispell, MT
www.restorativyouthjustice.org