



**TheraYouth
Foundation**

2025

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 President's Message
- 2 About TheraYouth
- 3 2025 Impact
- 4 Programs: Speech-Language Therapy
- 5 Programs: Occupational & Physical Therapy
- 6 Empowering Communication
- 7 Building Independence
- 8 Movement that Matters
- 9 Impact Expansion
- 10 Clinic Staff
- 11 Community Engagement
- 12 Financial Highlights
- 13 Our Supporters



Board President's Message

Building Momentum

by Korie Caruso, Board President

Dear friends and supporters,

Two years ago, TheraYouth opened its clinic doors with a simple belief: that every child deserves access to therapy, regardless of what their family can afford. This annual report is a measure of how far that belief has taken us.

When I reflect on what this organization has accomplished, one word keeps coming to mind: *momentum*. TheraYouth has grown from a bold idea into a trusted community resource, one that 124 children and their families counted on in 2025.

We delivered steady, meaningful impact to families. Our therapists provided 1,500 sessions across speech, occupational, and physical therapy. Forty-eight children graduated from treatment, reaching milestones their families once feared were out of reach. For some, that meant saying their first word. For others, tying their shoes or taking their first step. We provided more than just therapy; we gave families hope when they had nearly given up.

The numbers reflected the momentum. Total revenue grew 31% over the prior year, reaching \$344,705. Grant funding nearly doubled. And in a single evening, our Halloween fundraising party raised \$80,000, demonstrating the depth of support TheraYouth has earned. More than 76 cents of every dollar goes directly to program services. We are proud stewards of the generosity entrusted to us.

We invested in the future. This year, TheraYouth established formal academic partnerships with West Chester University, Kean University, and Saint Elizabeth University, hosting therapy students and building a workforce development pipeline. We welcomed new clinicians to our team, expanding our capacity to serve more children. These are the kinds of investments that ensure TheraYouth's impact continues to grow.

Behind every milestone is the dedication of an extraordinary team that made it possible. Thank you to our therapists, clinic staff, board members, volunteers, donors, community partners and especially our founder and Executive Director, Irina Marcoff, whose vision continues to guide everything we do. TheraYouth's strength is not one person or one gift. It is the collective commitment of everyone who believes that every child deserves a chance to thrive.

Hundreds of children are still waiting. As the need for pediatric therapy services in our community continues to grow, our resolve is clear and our commitment is unwavering. We will continue to expand our capacity and fight for the children whose families have nowhere else to turn.

For families who need treatment, TheraYouth is often their last hope. Together, we turn that hope into reality.

With gratitude,
Korie Caruso, Board President

About TheraYouth

TheraYouth Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that operates a pediatric outpatient therapy clinic in Union County, New Jersey. Our licensed therapists provide one-on-one speech, occupational, and physical therapy to children from infancy through age 18. We ensure that children from low-income families have access to quality care, regardless of insurance status, cost, or gaps in government programs.

Our mission is to improve the lives of disadvantaged children by helping them overcome developmental and physical barriers to unlock healthier futures.

Each year, we put more than 100 children on a path to better health – whether that's speaking, writing, or walking. We serve a community where 59% of children live in households that fall below the ALICE Threshold and 25% live below the poverty line. For families who need treatment, TheraYouth is often their last hope.

"Racial and ethnic disparities exist in the health and healthcare of children."

Flores G; Committee On Pediatric Research. Technical report – racial and ethnic disparities in the health and health care of children. *Pediatrics*. 2010 Apr;125(4):e979-e1020. doi: 10.1542/peds.2010-0188.

Why We Exist

Few providers treat young children. Of the 40 outpatient clinics in Union County, only nine treat children. Just one other accepts Medicaid.

Low-income families face steep barriers. High costs and limited insurance coverage put needed therapies out of reach. Medicaid typically caps coverage at 12 sessions – far fewer than most children need.

Gaps in support leave children behind. Early intervention programs stop at age three. Children are excluded from school-based therapies if a condition does not affect academics. Without timely treatment, delays in walking, speaking, or injury recovery can drastically alter a child's trajectory.

Therapy is transformational. We help children improve mobility, communication, and social-emotional functioning. This builds the skills they need for daily life and increases their independence and happiness.

2025 Impact

1,500
Total Treatment Sessions
Provided to Children

648
Occupational
Therapy
Sessions

490
Speech
Therapy
Sessions

362
Physical
Therapy
Sessions



124
Children in
Treatment

48
Graduates

"Untreated health disparities risk escalating into chronic ailments."

Global report on children with developmental disabilities: from the margins to the mainstream. Geneva: World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2023. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Our Programs

At our clinic in Elizabeth, New Jersey, licensed therapists provide services across three disciplines: speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Our evidence-based treatments harness the science of neuroplasticity – the brain's remarkable ability to rewire and strengthen through targeted practice – making early, consistent therapy one of the most powerful investments in a child's future.

Every therapy plan is built around the individual child. Our therapists use play-based strategies that keep children engaged while building the skills they need. We partner closely with families so that progress doesn't stop at our doors.

Neuroplasticity is the brain's lifelong ability to reorganize its structure, functions, and connections in response to learning, experience, or injury.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY

Speech therapy helps children communicate. That may mean saying their first words, being understood by others, or learning to express what they want and need. Our therapists work on articulation, language comprehension, fluency, and social interaction. For younger children, we build the foundational skills that come before words, like eye contact, turn-taking, and responding to sounds.



For school-aged children, we support cognitive skills like attention and memory that help them in the classroom.

Speech therapy helps children with:

- Speech delays and articulation challenges
- Childhood apraxia of speech
- Expressive and receptive language delays
- Social communication difficulties
- Fluency and speech intelligibility
- Sensory-related communication issues

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational therapy helps children gain independence and build the skills they need for everyday life. Our therapists use play-based, sensory-informed activities tailored



to each child. Treatment helps improve fine motor skills, emotional regulation, and daily functioning. We help children develop self-care abilities, school-readiness skills, and the social-emotional confidence to participate more fully at home, in school, and in their communities.

Occupational therapy helps children with:

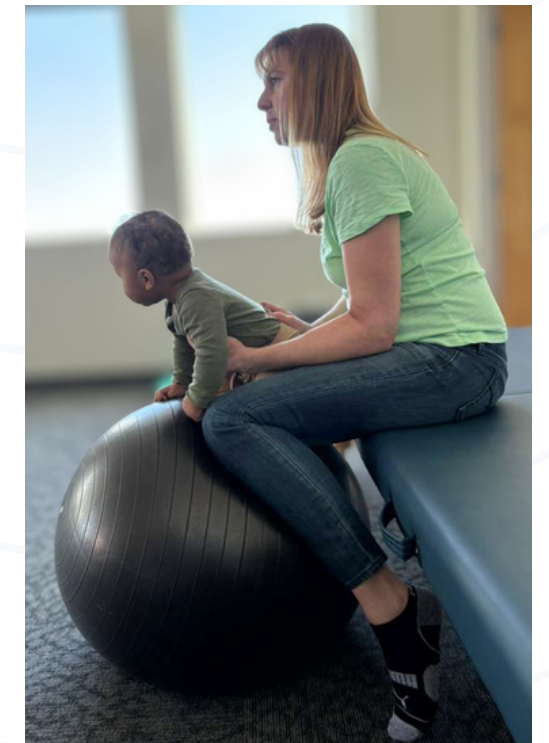
- Fine motor coordination and handwriting
- Sensory processing difficulties
- Emotional regulation and self-regulation
- Low muscle tone and postural control
- Visual-motor skills
- Self-care and daily living skills
- School readiness

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Physical therapy supports children by strengthening movement, balance, and coordination so they can engage fully in daily activities. Our therapists work to build motor skills, address delays or impairments, and restore healthy movement patterns. All treatment is individualized to each child's abilities. We guide children through critical milestones: from rolling and crawling to standing and walking – and partner with families to reinforce progress at home.

Physical therapy helps children with:

- Gross motor skill delays
- Gait and movement pattern challenges
- Balance, strength, and coordination
- Orthopedic and sports injuries
- Neurological and genetic conditions
- Developmental delays and mobility challenges



Empowering Communication

Jonathan's Story

When Jonathan started speech therapy at 4, he wasn't using words yet. Diagnosed with apraxia of speech – a condition where the brain struggles to coordinate the mouth movements needed to form words – and also on the autism spectrum, Jonathan relied on gestures, pointing, and facial expressions to communicate. He clearly understood the world around him. Getting the words out was the hard part.



Children receiving treatment at TheraYouth. Images do not correspond to the patient stories in this report.



His therapist designed a play-based approach tailored specifically to Jonathan's needs. It focuses on teaching his mouth how to move through the "steps" of speaking. Because Jonathan learns best through play, his breakthroughs have come while doing the things he loves most.

Today, Jonathan uses more than 25 meaningful words. More importantly, he is trying to talk throughout his day. He says "muh" for more and "timuh" for timer. During play, he labels things in his own way, like "beh" for bread. They aren't perfect yet, but they are clear, intentional attempts to communicate. And the pride on his face when he is understood says everything.

One of the most powerful moments in Jonathan's journey has been learning to say "no." Before, he had no clear way to express when he didn't want something, and frustration often followed. Now, that one small word allows him to set boundaries, make choices, and show his preferences in a way others understand. It has given him a sense of control and confidence that continues to grow.

Jonathan has also started trying to say his own name and the names of the people he loves – reaching for each new sound with determination and pride.

What began as gestures has become real speech, real connection, and real self-expression. Jonathan is finding his voice, and with every new word, his world gets a little bigger.

Building Independence

Layla's Story

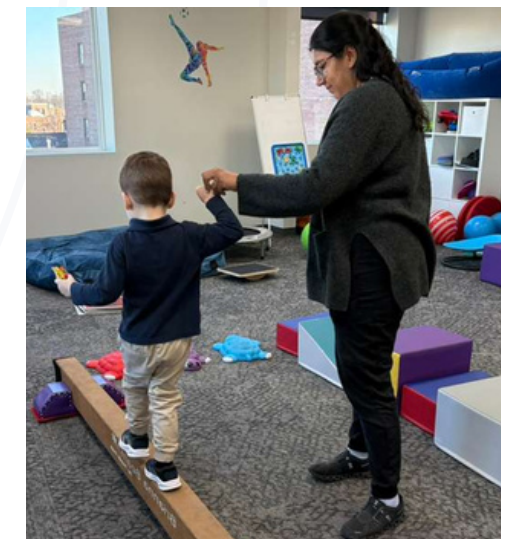
When Layla started occupational therapy, staying focused was a struggle and everyday tasks felt out of reach. Putting on her socks and shoes required help every time. Structured activities at school often led to frustration, and her handwriting was difficult to read. For seven-year-old Layla, the gap between what she wanted to do and what she could do on her own was growing.

Layla is a child with autism spectrum disorder. Autism affects every child differently, with challenges that vary widely in type and intensity. Layla struggled with attention, emotional regulation, and other developmental delays. TheraYouth developed a customized treatment plan for Layla to improve in her weakest areas.

With consistent therapy and strong partnership with her family, Layla began making steady, meaningful progress. Her attention during classroom activities improved. Her handwriting became clearer, with stronger letter formation and growing legibility. Her teachers noticed the change and shared positive feedback about how well she was doing.

At home, the progress was just as visible. Layla now puts on her socks and shoes by herself. This is a small victory that represents something much bigger: motor planning, coordination, and the confidence that comes from doing it on her own. Her family embraced the strategies her therapist recommended, carrying them over into daily routines and reinforcing every gain.

Today, Layla participates more fully at school and at home. She needs less help with everyday tasks, her fine motor skills continue to strengthen, and she is building independence and pride in what she can accomplish.



Children receiving treatment at TheraYouth. Images do not correspond to the patient stories in this report.

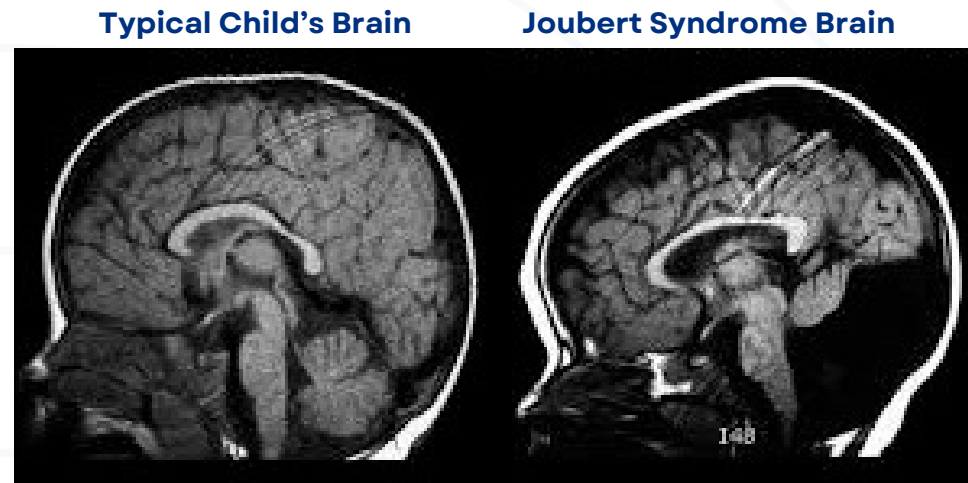
Movement That Matters

Noah's Story

Noah is a bright, happy 2 ½-year-old boy who is always smiling and rarely cries. He loves playing with his mom and dad, and he's a great eater. But his journey has been far from easy.

As a newborn, Noah was diagnosed with Joubert Syndrome. This is a rare genetic condition where the cerebellar vermis and brainstem – regions of the brain that control balance and coordination – are underdeveloped or malformed. For Noah, movements most children develop naturally require intensive support and practice.

Although he qualified for New Jersey's early intervention program, Noah's family was unable to access services. Like other families navigating a heavily used state system, they found themselves without support before he aged out of the program at three years old.



Noah's mom was not willing to wait. She found TheraYouth and brought Noah in when he was 2 years old. Noah was unable to sit up, stand, crawl, or scoot. His left eye drifted outward – a condition called exotropia strabismus – making it difficult for him to track movement or focus on the world around him.

Our team needed to help Noah's brain build new pathways. Since starting therapy, Noah's progress has been remarkable. By week 15 of treatment, with dedicated TheraYouth support, Noah learned to sit up. By week 23, he could stand with assistance, something his doctors never thought possible.

We continue to work on exercises that strengthen the connection between Noah's movement and his vision. Therapy has helped him tremendously. He has made significant advancements in feeding and dressing himself.

He has also made strides with cognitive development. Noah can now identify vocabulary words, blow kisses, and connect with the people around him. This provides a window into the intelligence and personality that have always been there.

Noah's parents are incredibly thankful to TheraYouth's team. They say the support, care, and progress Noah has made at the clinic have given them renewed hope.

Impact Expansion

TheraYouth has gone beyond direct care of our community's children and established a workforce development pipeline. Through academic partnerships, TheraYouth has incorporated observation and training for future therapists.

In 2025, we hosted a speech-language pathology practicum student from West Chester University and a Level I occupational therapy fieldwork student from Kean University. Under the supervision of our licensed clinicians, these students observed and supported therapy sessions, gaining hands-on experience in a community-based pediatric setting.

In November, we furthered this initiative through clinical affiliation with Saint Elizabeth University in Florham Park, NJ, welcoming additional speech-language pathology interns. This milestone reflects our commitment to mentorship and professional development. It builds capacity today while investing in the pediatric therapy workforce of tomorrow.

"Our affiliation with TheraYouth reflects a shared commitment to training the next generation of speech-language pathologists where they can provide person- and family-centered care where it is needed most. Community-based clinics serving underserved populations provide the kind of meaningful, hands-on experience that prepares our students to make a difference from day one."

Dr. Kim Sabourin, SLPD, CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF
Assistant Professor and MS-SLP Program Director, Board Certified Specialist - Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders

Clinic Staff

Irina Marcoff, DPT, Founder & Executive Director Irina is a NJ-licensed doctor of physical therapy with 20+ years of experience treating children in private practice and public school settings. She founded TheraYouth after witnessing families in high-need communities struggle to access affordable care for their children. Under her leadership, TheraYouth has grown into one of Union County's most cost-efficient pediatric outpatient therapy clinics.

Elisa Martinez, Clinic Administrator Elisa manages family-facing interactions and daily clinic operations with native fluency in English and Spanish. She creates and publishes TheraYouth's quarterly newsletter and manages our social media presence. Her compassionate, supportive demeanor sets a warm tone for every family who walks through our doors.

Jennifer Allen, Speech Therapist, M.A., CCC-SLP Jen is a NJ-certified speech-language pathologist with 10+ years' experience treating diverse communication disorders. She specializes in language-literacy and is an adjunct professor in speech-language pathology teaching students at Kean University's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She also sits on the Literacy Committee of The New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Stephanie Caputo, Speech Therapist, M.A., CCC-SLP Stephanie is a NJ-licensed speech-language pathologist with a master's degree from West Chester University. She has worked across hospital, acute care, and rehabilitation settings, treating a wide range of communication and swallowing disorders. She specializes in dysphagia, cognitive-communication challenges, and impairments related to developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder.

Erin Skotarczak, Occupational Therapist, OTR/L Erin is a NJ-licensed occupational therapist and Magna Cum Laude graduate of Temple University with 15+ years of experience. She has worked at leading institutions including Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Center. Her specialties span traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, hand therapy, stroke recovery, and neurologic rehabilitation.



TheraYouth Clinic Team

Manshi Patel, Occupational Therapist, M.S., OTR/L Manshi is a NJ-licensed occupational therapist with a Master of Science from Seton Hall University. She works with toddlers through elementary-aged children with us and in Union County public schools. She has bilingual proficiency in English and Gujarati and specializes in learning disabilities, sensory processing disorders, developmental delays, and autism spectrum disorder.

Ashley Dugas, Occupational Therapist, M.S., OTR/L Ashley is a NJ-licensed occupational therapist who earned her B.S. in Health Sciences and M.S. in Occupational Therapy from The University of Scranton. She also works with youth at RWJ Barnabas Health's inpatient pediatric psychiatric unit, facilitating group therapy focused on coping strategies and social skills. Ashley specializes in self-regulation, social participation, and functional daily living skills.

Dhul-FiQaar Wadley, Physical Therapy Assistant, CMT FiQaar is a certified physical therapy assistant and licensed massage therapist with 15+ years of experience treating patients of all ages. He draws on evidence-based manual techniques, corrective exercise, and therapeutic modalities to deliver measurable results. His calm, compassionate approach makes children and families feel comfortable and at ease.

Jacob Stasil, Physical Therapy Aide Jacob brings nearly a decade of experience working with youth, including as a wrestling instructor at the YMCA. At TheraYouth, he assists our physical therapy team with toddlers through teenagers. His background in youth athletics and movement gives him a natural connection with the children in our care.

Community Engagement



**February 1, 2025
Concert with
Pegasus: The Orchestra
A Night of Musical
Impact**

TheraYouth's second annual concert with Pegasus: The Orchestra welcomed 200 guests and raised over \$19,000 to support TheraYouth's mission. The evening also honored Arlene Shatsky Chasek, whose dedication to community continues to inspire our work.



**July 24, 2025
Annual General
Meeting
Celebrating Two Years
of TheraYouth**

Community supporters, board members, and clinic staff gathered to celebrate two years of clinical operations. The event included highlights from the year, updates on the organization's growth, and gratitude for the collective effort that continues to expand access to therapy for children in our community.

**December 2025
Sensory Friendly
Movie Night
for
Elizabeth Children**

Clinic staff held a Sensory-Friendly Movie Night welcoming children and families from Elizabeth for an inclusive, comfortable evening at the movies. With adjusted sound, lighting, and a supportive environment, children were able to enjoy the night in a way that met their unique needs. The event created a joyful space for connection, relaxation, and fun.

In partnership with MassMutual NJ-NYC, supporters, staff, and the board engaged our local community and raised funds through a team yard sale. Our volunteers collected, sorted, and tagged items in need of new homes. For two days, these items were offered for sale to the public. The event spread awareness of TheraYouth's mission and impact, and raised \$6,000.

**September 2025
Team Yard Sale
Community in Action**

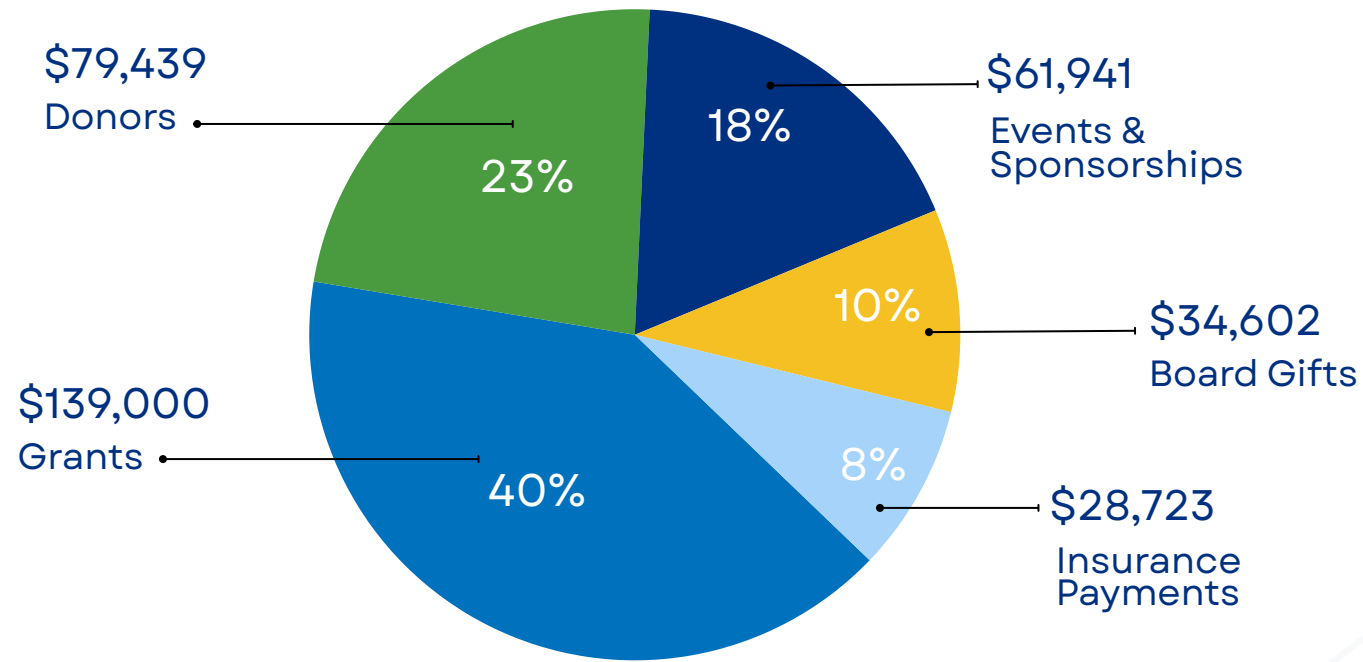


**October 2025
Halloween Fundraiser
Costumes, Community
and a Cause**

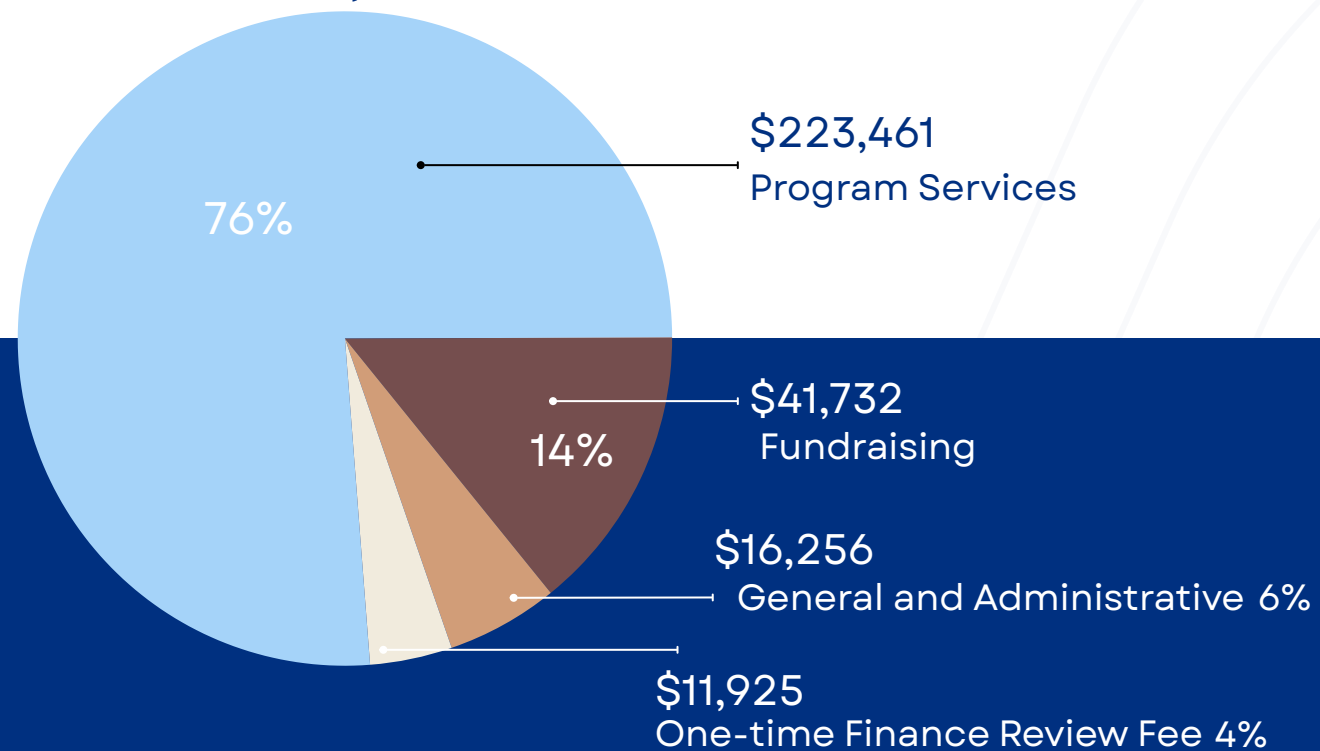
TheraYouth's second annual Halloween fundraiser found its perfect haunt thanks to board member Jaslynn Vesuvio and her husband Michael, who generously donated their home as the venue. Jaslynn's creative vision brought the evening to life. From theme and décor to cuisine and music, she created an immersive experience for more than 225 guests. Together, attendees, volunteers, and hosts helped raise \$80,000 to expand access to pediatric therapy. No tricks, all treat.

Financial Highlights

2025 Revenue \$344,705



2025 Expenses \$293,375



Support Team

To every individual who gave to TheraYouth this year, thank you. Your generosity, whether a first-time gift or continued support, directly funds the therapy sessions that help children speak, move, and grow. Behind every milestone in this report is a donor who believed a child deserved the chance to reach it.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Korie Caruso - President
 Igor Berin - Vice President
 Svetlana Kozlova - Treasurer
 Nipu Patel - Secretary
 Jennifer Allen
 Andrea Aprahamian
 Matt Burton
 Dr. Rekha Mandel
 Jennifer Richter
 Sue Seto
 Sharon Schetelick
 Lucy Schwartzman
 Jaslynn Vesuvio

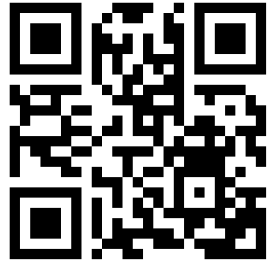
FUNDERS

The Alexis Foundation
 Community Foundation of New Jersey
 E.J. Grassmann Trust
 Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation
 Financial Resources Federal Credit Union
 The Hyde and Watson Foundation
 The Northfield Bank Foundation
 Overlook Foundation
 Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery
 The Provident Bank Foundation
 The Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation
 The Summit Foundation

SPONSORS

Allianz
 APPS New Jersey
 Blue Bear Pool Solutions
 Butler Private Wealth Group
 of Janney Montgomery Scott
 Cardiology Associates of Morristown
 Caruso Legal Group
 CoreBridge Financial
 Crump Life Insurance Services
 Direct Designs Business Solutions
 Dorfman Abrams Music
 Evolutionary Data Progressive Sys.
 Fertility Institute of NJ & NY

Gerald A York Optician
 HarbourView Equity Partners
 Henry's Fine Jewelry
 MassMutual New Jersey-NYC
 McManus & Associates
 Mint Orthodontics
 Paddle Tennis Sports
 Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery
 Prince Marketing Group
 Sean Callagy Christian Foundation
 Scarinci & Hollenbeck
 Total Wine & More
 Wizards of the Mind



TheraYouth Foundation

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 78

Bernardsville, NJ 07924



(908) 662-1000



www.therayouth.org



info@therayouth.org

Clinic address:

65 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 404

Elizabeth, NJ 07201