



IMPACT REPORT

2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, I'm filled with gratitude for your support of our mission. Together, we have made significant strides in empowering young adults who are preparing to exit the foster care system, providing them with the tools and resources necessary to build independent and fulfilling lives.

Our ultimate goal is to significantly reduce the foster care to homeless pipeline in South Central Texas. You'll see that our housing programs have grown by 40% in the last year, showcasing the overwhelming need for this service. THRU Project is unique in that it offers college and vocational housing to young adults who have exited foster care, equipping them with skills that increase the likelihood of earning a livable wage after leaving our program.

In Texas, approximately 1,000 youth exit foster care each year, many without permanent family connections, leading to increased risks of homelessness and instability. In response, we are committed to:

- Expanding our mentorship programs to reach more young adults in need of guidance and support.
- Establishing additional housing partnerships to meet the increasing demand for this program.
- Implementing workforce development programs to help young adults achieve their career goals and maintain employment.
- Strengthening partnerships with local organizations and businesses to create a more comprehensive support network.

None of this would be possible without your generosity and belief in our mission. Your contributions have directly impacted the lives of the young adults we serve, offering them hope and a pathway to a brighter future. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to walk alongside and empower these remarkable young individuals.

With Gratitude,



Courtney Laverty, Chief Executive Officer

MISSION

To empower youth with a history of foster care to build independent, successful futures.

VISION

THRU Project envisions a world where everyone with lived experience in foster care can achieve their fullest potential.

FAIR VALUES



We encounter adversity with courage, strength, and perseverance.



We are "all-in" for the mission and give our best effort to ensure the success of our clients, our programs, and the organization.



We provide equal access to services and opportunities for our clients and do not permit discrimination or intolerance.



We engage in strategic and creative thinking to ensure we are developing programs that will serve our clients well today and in the future.



We demonstrate professional courtesy, respect personal boundaries, and treat each other and our program participants with dignity.

OUR IMPACT

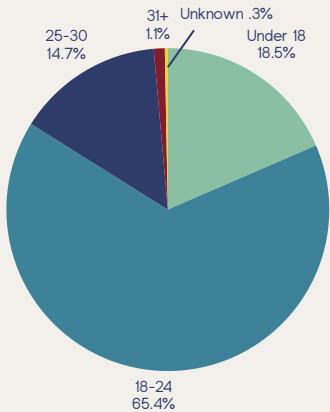
In 2024, we provided support to 380 youth throughout the year. Approximately 80% of our participants are over the age of 18, while most of those under 18 are connected to our Heart Gallery. This year, we expanded our reach through our housing programs, increasing the number of college students we serve. As in 2023, 3% of our youth successfully graduated from college. Among our participants—excluding those in the Heart Gallery—78% are either on track to graduate high school or have already earned their diploma.



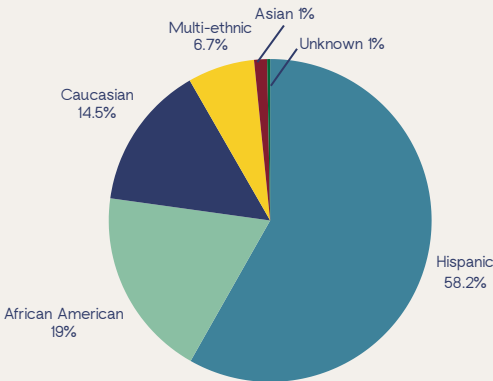
Similarly to 2023, only 9% of our clients are not in permanent housing. The other 91% of participants are in foster care, permanent housing solutions, or in our housing programs.

The employment rate among our young adults saw a slight decrease in 2024 compared to 2023. Recognizing this trend, THRU Project is launching a workforce development program to support young adults in securing meaningful employment. This initiative will provide job preparation, job-seeking assistance, and resources for maintaining employment. While 35% of our youth were unemployed, slightly more than half of them were enrolled in school, highlighting the challenges some face in balancing academics and work.

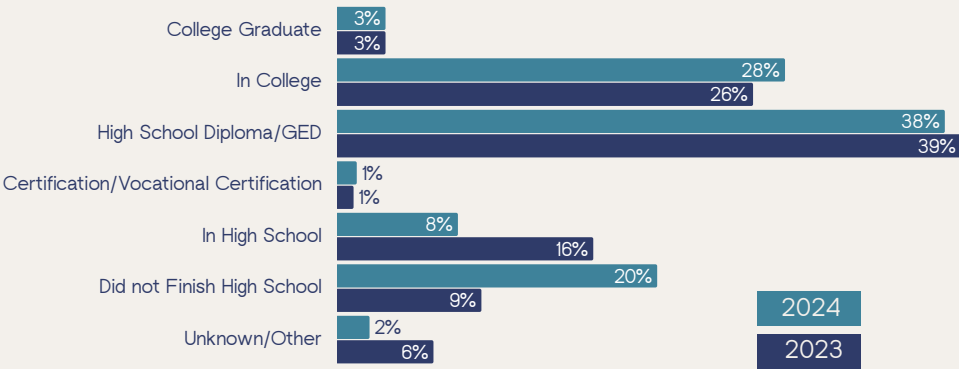
Ages of all clients served in 2024.



Ethnicities of all clients served in 2024.

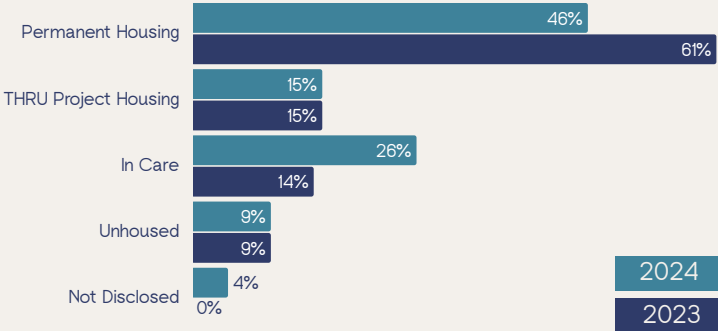


Highest Level of Education

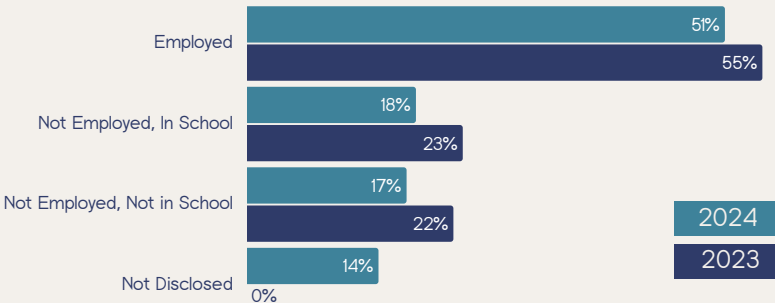


Note: Heart Gallery youth (41 youth) are not included in this data.

Housing Status



Employment Status (18+)



HEART GALLERY *of South Central Texas*



**Heart Gallery of South Central Texas
Grand Opening with the First Lady of
Texas.**

As a funded partner of the Heart Galleries of Texas network, the Heart Gallery of South Central Texas coordinates efforts across Region 8 with a total of 28 counties in our service area. We leverage impactful partnerships and coordinate across the child welfare system to serve as a gateway to permanency for children in the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE), to provide community education about foster care and adoption, to support partners with resources, and to increase our reach and sustainability to ensure the success of this initiative.

41

youth featured in
our Heart Gallery

35%

of youth featured exited
to permanency

49

galleries featured
across Region 8

\$275K

of passthrough funds were awarded to partner
agencies to launch post-permanency support programs.

Post-Permanency Support Program Agencies:

- Artvango Therapy Center
- BreakTHRU
- Helping Hand Home
- Respite Care of San Antonio
- SJRC | Belong



**Permanent Heart Gallery
installation at North Star Mall.**

MENTORSHIP

Our mentorship program is the heart of THRU Project. When we began as a grassroots organization in 2011, our sole program offered mentoring to young adults exiting the foster care system.

What started with just a few participants has grown over the years, highlighting the profound impact a trusted adult's support and guidance can have on a young person's life.



"Patrick is really good at encouraging me to break barriers."

-Anyaondi, Cecilia Ormond Fostering Hope Awardee



272

youth were matched with caring mentors in 2024

10 years is the longest match to date.

2 years is the average match length



Our mentors are the cornerstone of this program, offering continuous support to the youth with whom they're matched. In 2024, we had 228 dedicated volunteer mentors participate in the program. This year's volunteers contributed more than 1,880 hours mentoring youth with backgrounds in foster care. The success of this program is possible through their dedication to our mission.



THRU Project hosts life skills workshops all year round. These sessions provide essential skills for successfully navigating adulthood. Community partners, who are specialists in the relevant topics, share their knowledge with young participants.



10

THRUtalks in 2024

"We are particularly passionate about expanding financial education, empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools to make sound financial decisions. Broadway Bank is proud to support community partners, like the THRU Project, whose commitment to providing comprehensive educational programming makes a meaningful impact on the lives they touch."

-Broadway Bank

FEATURED PARTNERS:

The Ecumenical Center

Marisa L Castro, MT-BC, NMT

House of Rhythom

Broadway Bank

TDJ Consulting

San Antonio Apartment Association

Pearson

Healthy Futures of Texas

Doin Well

Elite Crossfit

CentroMed



PASS TO SUCCESS

We offer youth six-month VIA bus passes to assist with transportation needs. Additionally, we provide Uber rides for youth to reach any events related to the THRU Project.



41

youth received bus passes.



461

Ubers rideshares provided to youth.



FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

Through a partnership with T-Mobile, we provide youth with cell phones at no cost to them. For many, this device is their sole means of accessing the internet and maintaining connections with friends, family, and community resources.



45

youth received cell phones

90%

of users say having a cell phone helps maintain relationships



Four out of every five youth with a history of foster care are diagnosed with serious mental health concerns. Youth have access to occupational therapy, individual counseling, and support groups at no cost through BreakTHRU. As a result, youth who participate will experience improved mental wellbeing.



56

unique individuals were served by BreakTHRU.

"I always feel like no one understands me and the things I've been through, but that's not the case here."

- Support Group Participant

159

TALK THERAPY SESSIONS

172

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SESSIONS

13

SUPPORT GROUPS

For a more in-depth BreakTHRU impact report, scan here:



HOUSING

THRU Project offers 3 different housing programs: Supervised Independent Living (SIL), College Housing, and Vocational Housing. THRU Project covers rent and provides furnishings while young adults focus on their education and employment. Housing participants receive ongoing support from their Housing Resource Coordinators.



Young adults were housed
in our housing programs

2.5

Average GPA among
college students housed



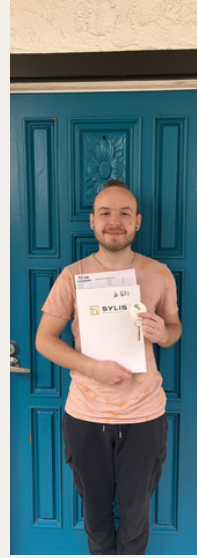
COLLEGE GRADUATES



"THRU Project has become my newfound family. They helped me move into my apartment. All in all, they make me feel at home and cared for."

-Charlie, College Housing Participant

In 2024, we provided housing for 84 young adults, with 15 in SIL, 13 in Vocational Housing, and 56 in College Housing. This year, we celebrated the graduation of two students from San Antonio College, one from UTSA, and one from TAMU-SA. We take pride in being part of their educational achievements!



We are grateful for our incredible team—our dedicated staff, board of directors, community partners, volunteers, and the inspiring young people we serve—who make our mission possible.