



IMPACT REPORT 2024

**ONE
HEART** PROJECT



Table of Contents

Message from the Founder	3
Board of Directors	5
Mission, Vision, & Values	6
Statistics	7
Youth Served 2024	8
Impact Locations	9
Impact	10
Grant Support	11
Many Funders, One Heart	12
Stories	13
Testimonials	16
Endorsements	17
Donor Highlight	18
2025 Goals	20
Call to Action	21

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

In 2024, One Heart Project expanded our presence across the cities, counties and states in which we operate, and profoundly impacted the lives of justice-involved and underserved youth.

Thanks to your gracious support, **nearly 400 youth in Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska** were equipped with skills, tools, and healthy relationships needed to navigate life successfully.

Not only that, but we saw more young men and women we served in the past decade who are now parents and are raising families, holding down jobs, and breaking the cradle-to-prison pipeline for their own children.

I want to extend my deep gratitude to each of you – our partners, volunteers, and advocates – who have invested your time, resources, to make all of this happen. **You are the reason we are continuing to see lives transformed.**



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER (CONTINUED)

Together, we produced substantial change and birthed new opportunities in 2024.

Such as, the launch of a new program with justice-involved youth in Rockwall, TX, in 2024. The corrections leader there has expressed his excitement about how the youth are being impacted, and his desire to grow the program this year.

We also engaged new relationships with corporate partners and service providers. We welcomed new partners and volunteers, including a strong group of new mentors in Kansas. We were also honored to develop relationships with legislators in Kansas and Nebraska who share our passion for transforming the lives of these youth.

These partnerships have allowed us to prepare to launch new initiatives in Wichita, KS, Omaha, NE, and North Texas in 2025.

One Heart Project's work is about creating change and creating opportunity ... opportunity for youth in challenging circumstances to flourish.

Thank you for believing with us that we can make a lifelong difference in these amazing youth. Thank you for your conviction that everyone deserves the opportunity for a second chance.

I am deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to our mission, and to the youth we serve. **You have transformed lives, and there is more of that ahead in 2025.**

With One Heart,



Steve Riach
Founder & CEO

“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

Board of Directors



Steve Riach
Eterne Films
Colleyville, TX



Todd Bolt
The Jethro Group
Grapevine, TX



Heather Capps
HCK2
Addison, TX



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Crimson Energy
Fort Worth, TX

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or one of our state advisory councils, please contact us at (817) 427-4621



MISSION, VISION, & VALUES



Mission

One Heart Project equips justice-involved and at-risk youth with skills, tools, and healthy relationships they need to navigate life successfully.



Vision

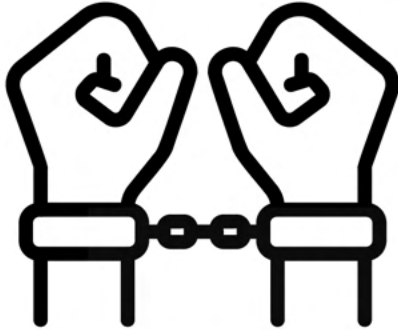
We envision a world in which justice-involved and at-risk youth are provided a pathway to flourishing that keeps them out of prison.



Values

Integrity, Commitment, Teamwork, Compassion, Respect, and Innovation

WHO WE SERVE



424,000

Youth were arrested in 2020.

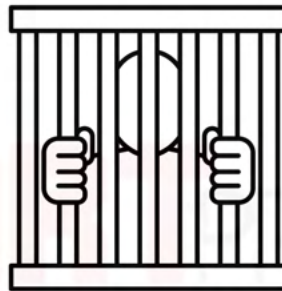
U.S. Department of Justice



85%

Of justice-involved youth have experienced two or more Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department



3 out of 4

Youth will be arrested again.

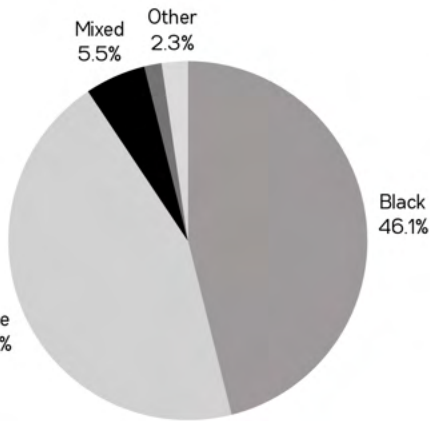
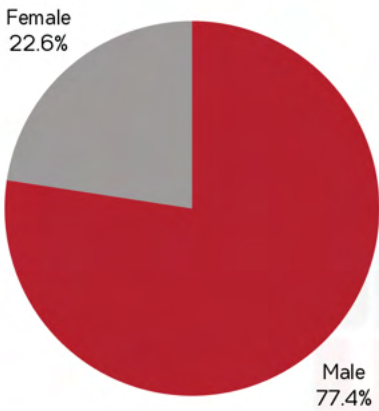
Council of State Governments Justice Center, 2014.

Because too many youth contact the juvenile justice system, too many times, and too often because they need care, especially as they grow, we're there for them.

One Heart Project focuses on intervention and prevention with justice-involved and at-risk youth. Depending on jurisdiction, we work with youth ages 10-18 (up to 25 in some jurisdictions) referred by probation departments and court services, in correctional settings, and in schools.

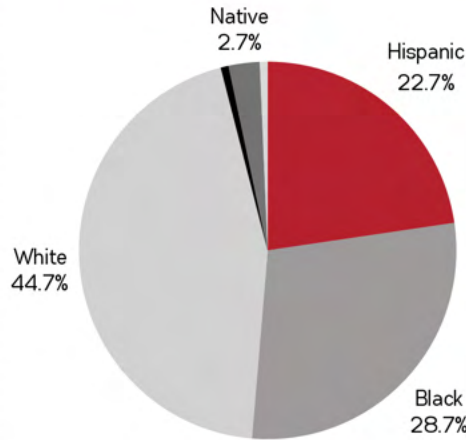
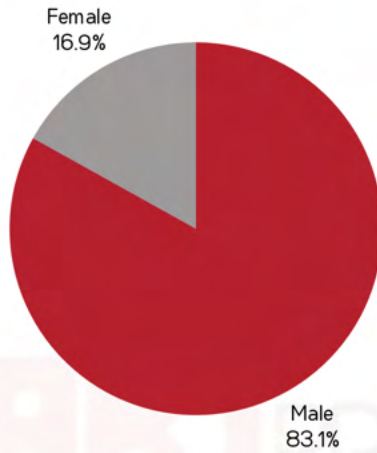
YOUTH SERVED IN 2024

Kansas



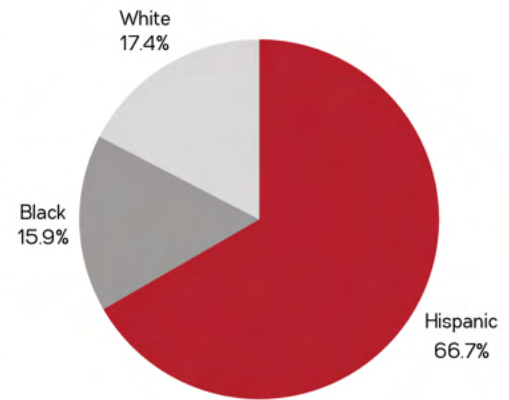
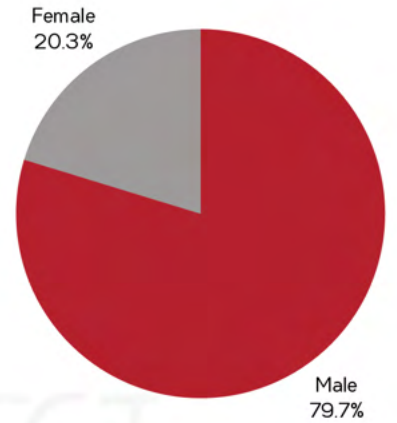
Male: 96 youth
Female: 28 youth
Total: 124 Youth Served

Nebraska



Male: 162 youth
Female: 33 youth
Total: 195 Youth Served

Texas



Male: 59 youth
Female: 15 youth
Total: 74 Youth Served

IMPACT LOCATIONS

Kansas

- ◆ Shawnee County Court Services
- ◆ Shawnee Juvenile Detention Center
- ◆ Crossroads Restoration
- ◆ Cap City High School
- ◆ Robinson Middle School

Nebraska

- ◆ Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility
- ◆ Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center

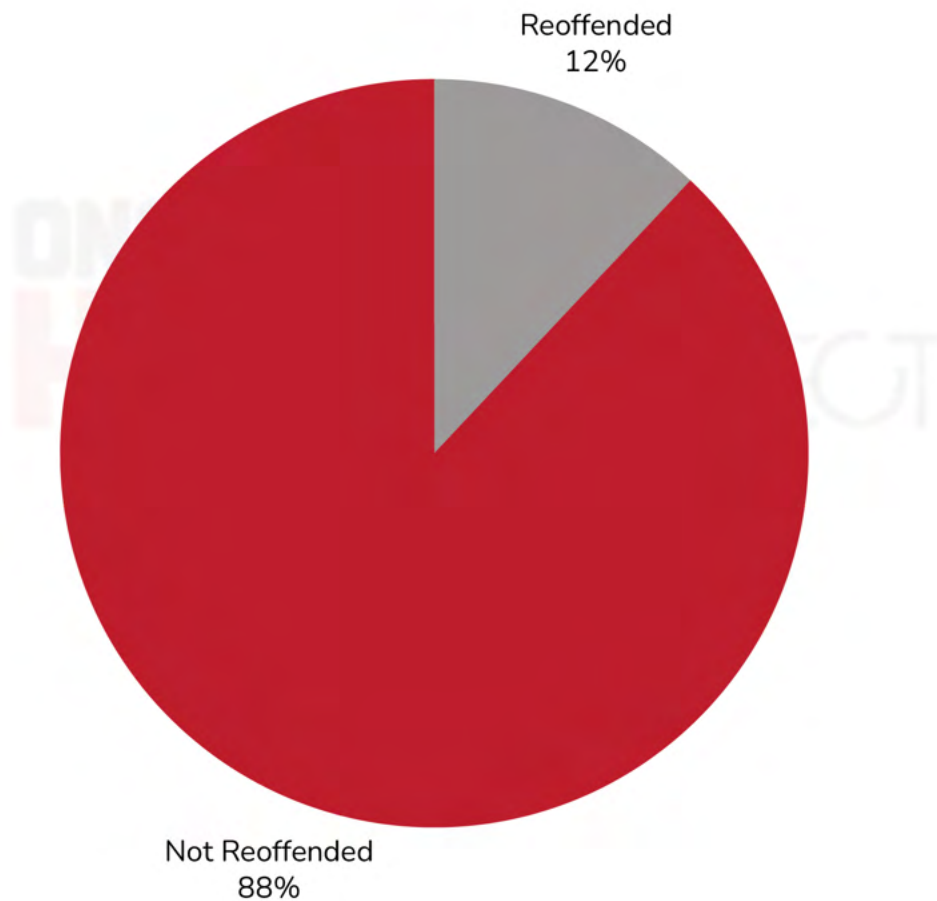
Texas

- ◆ Nueces County Juvenile Probation Department
- ◆ Nueces County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program
- ◆ Rockwall County Juvenile Services
- ◆ McLennan County Juvenile Probation Department

IMPACT

Nationally, 3 out of 4 youth in the justice system reoffend. Data shows that through One Heart Project, you are changing this outcome and are breaking the cycle of failure for these youth.

One Heart Project Participants



Source: Juvenile Case Management System, Statewide database for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department

GRANT SUPPORT



MANY GIVERS, ONE HEART

*One Heart Project gratefully recognizes the following supporters
who have given \$500 or more to the mission in the past year.*

Companies/Organizations

ADAMS Management Services
 Adolfson & Peterson Construction
 BFA Solutions
 Black Mountain Energy Storage
 Boyd, Shackelford, Barnett, & Dixon LLC
 Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC
 Computacenter
 Dell Technologies
 DFW Door
 DD Fluids
 DPR Construction
 Exposed LLC
 Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company
 GMI Texas
 HDR Inc
 Health Peak
 HFS Wealth Management
 Hubbard Family Foundation, Inc.
 JE Dunn Construction
 JPI
 Layton Construction
 Linbeck Group, LLC
 MAPP, LLC
 Marek Shared Services, LLC
 McCarthy Holdings, Inc
 Mercury One Inc.
 Page Southerland Page, Inc.
 Perkins & Will
 Plains Capital Bank
 Polk Mechanical
 Prism Electric
 Rogers O'Brien Construction

Skiles Group
 Surfaces One Eighty
 US Lumber
 White Cap
 Whiting-Turner

Individuals

Tate & Kristy Anderson
 William Ashley
 Shelia Elijah-Barnwell
 Todd Bolt
 Heather Capps
 Cole Caruthers
 Jeff Christmann
 Patrick Feeney
 Howard Fleischer
 Kelly Hartz
 Brent & Dana Jones
 Bryce Jones
 Cathy Kusch
 Payton Mayes
 Kirk & Cheryl Motsenbocker
 Chuck & Kristen Paschke
 Peter Salas
 Ronnie & Tracy Stroud
 Randy Turner
 Chris Wall

In-Kind Gifts

Blaise Hadley
 Mike Barrett
 Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

STORIES



*Nueces County Youth Development Specialist
Geno Vargas*

Showing Up in Texas

“Nobody comes to watch me play football.”

“Watch me” are two words many children say to their parents. They announce that they learned something new. Even done well, with no one to see, it’s just not the same.

Youth Development Specialist Geno Vargas heard the same call from one of our youth: week after week, the young man played football, but no one who mattered came to watch.

One Wednesday, Geno bought a ticket to the game. He watched from the stands. And cheered.

The young man noticed.

After the game, Geno met the young man to say how proud he was of the teamwork shown on the field.

The young man waved goodbye with, “See you in class.”

“My son is determined to find a job. He is more focused on graduating and seems more concerned about his future.”

—Parent of youth

STORIES



Nebraska Program Director Kelly Hartz, pictured with Governor Pillen, NCYF staff and Program Manager Randy Turner

Showing Up in Nebraska

Nine months had gone by. Five middle-aged men and ten young men met together to learn about bringing core values into their lives.

All this happened within the walls of the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility in Omaha. Young men learned from Intentional Peer Supports, members of a recognized program who acted as mentors to the young men we served. We experienced great progress.

In April 2024, we celebrated the completion of their nine-month commitment of focus on these concepts toward self-betterment.

When we gathered for the celebration, in the audience was Governor Jim Pillen. He had received a letter from one of our Intentional Peer Supports, who wrote to him to praise the program and the young men who participated. The letter moved the governor.

Over one hour away from his office, Governor Pillen came to see what the letter told him and to celebrate this good work in person. Before returning to Lincoln, he encouraged the young men to continue along the path they had begun walking—leading right toward their best selves.

We are thrilled that people like Governor Pillen are taking notice of this work and what it means for these changed lives.

STORIES



Showing Up in Kansas

In Topeka, the Volunteer Generation Fund awarded a grant for One Heart Project to install a Volunteer Coordinator. We were so pleased to find Tiffany Kempf, who seized this role.

When Tiffany was hired in March, she lost no time learning the organization and the landscape of Topeka. Within a few weeks, she had been all over the community, looking for people who resonated with the mission.

One place she found was Washburn University, where students were eager to respond to the call to mentor the youth we serve in local middle schools. Mentoring began in September, and, by December, nearly 30 mentors had logged more than 200 hours of mentoring with our youth.

We heard from the middle school counselor: kids who had been coming to her with problems weren't coming anymore—they were so encouraged by the presence of their mentor.

We are so grateful to the kind young men and women who showed up for our youth in 2024. And it's just the beginning.

"This class has been very helpful. The discussions we've had have allowed me to view things from different perspectives and think more deeply about my life."

—Youth

Click below to see the news coverage!

[One Heart Project Helps Topeka Teens Thrive.](#)



Tiffany, pictured with a student interviewing for a news segment

TESTIMONIALS



Rockwall County (TX) Youth
Development Specialist Taylor Kusch

“I feel [my son] finally learning what it means to stop and think about his actions rather than just reacting on pure emotion. Also, social skills seem to be improving little by little.”

—Parent of youth

“It’s hard to find people who help you succeed, but through [this class] I was able to.”

—Youth



Sarpy County (NE) Youth Development
Specialist Taylor Graham



Nueces County (TX) Youth Development
Specialists Geno Vargas and Ryan Basaldu

“I noticed a maturity & respect for his family.”

—Grandparent of youth

ENDORSEMENTS

NEBRASKA CORRECTIONAL YOUTH FACILITY



Nebraska Program Director Kelly Hartz holds a copy of a University of Nebraska study of our work

"Everyone talks about prevention. One Heart is [...] doing it. Everyone in Topeka knows One Heart."

Darian Dernovish
District Judge
Third Judicial District
State of Kansas

"In my experience with the One Heart Project, the staff provide a return on investment to the community that is hard to measure."

Timothy P. Leffert
Principal
Piper Middle School
Kansas City, KS

"When crucial life skills are missing in a young person's life, negative behavior fills that void [One Heart Project] helps stop this path and has proven success [...] in my facility."

Tami Steensma
Facility Director
Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center
La Vista, NE

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

Mentor in Motion

Because he wishes to remain anonymous, we'll just call him John.

"I've been pulled out of trouble. I like to help keep others out of trouble." Though he says this with a laugh, John means it.

Now in his nineties, John keeps an active schedule. Among other things—including a vigorous daily exercise routine—he takes a deep interest in helping men younger than he to make the most of "good habits and a good work ethic."

One of those men is One Heart Project staff member Geno Vargas.

After witnessing how Geno, who then worked for another organization as a career coach, helped a mutual connection, John expressed his gratitude. John and Geno became friends.

They now meet once, sometimes twice, every week.

An eager mentor, John has guided Geno in a lot of ways. Their talks over breakfast might include marriage, the future, sound financial management and making other wise decisions.

"He does this for a lot of men. Sometimes he'll leave after time with me to go meet someone else he's helping," Geno says, admiration in his voice.

"I've been pulled out of trouble. I like to help keep others out of trouble."

DONOR HIGHLIGHT (CONTINUED)

“He can’t stop working,” Geno laughs.

A successful businessman, John began life on the farm. For all he has accomplished since then, he cherishes his memories of the sight and sound of wind blowing through the wheat field and the smell before the rain. He recalls the wonder he felt when he pulled calves to life.

When Geno explained One Heart Project to him, John said, “What do I need to do?”

Because he wants other men to experience the fulfillment he knows, he now works to pull potential out of those who came after him.

Moved by life experience and his faith, which is “very personal” to him, John believes that equipping others is “why I’m here.”

When Geno explained One Heart Project to him, John asked, “What do I need to do?” John stepped up as a major donor and is now a big reason why One Heart Project’s work is so strong in Nueces County.

Besides that, John is an excellent reminder why One Heart Project aims to build its mentor program—people of all ages can be enriched by such a connection.

We are grateful to John for the gift of his time to Geno, and the gift of his resources to the work of One Heart Project.

2025 GOALS



01 — Program Expansion

- Launch new program in Wichita, Kansas
- Launch new programs in Douglas and Lancaster counties, Nebraska
- Launch new program in North Texas
- Expand to additional schools in all 3 states
- Build toward launch of new programs in the Kansas City, KS, and Kansas City, MO, area



02 — Increased Engagement

- Recruit and onboard new volunteers and mentors in all 3 states
- Develop new nonprofit/community partnerships in all 3 states
- Engage new corporate partners in all 3 states



03 — Enhanced Communication

- Consistent messaging to partners through newsletters
 - Launch robust social media information campaigns
 - Host engagement events in all 3 states
-

THESE YOUTH NEED YOU.

Your partnership is crucial to these young people's futures. Because of you, they can have purposeful lives, healthy families, and strong communities. Please join us in continuing to transform the lives of these most vulnerable youth.

Major Gifts

Monthly Giving

Bequests

Position One Heart Project for a long future.

Give as little as **\$15** a month.

Leave a legacy of hope and transformation.

Volunteer

Become a mentor or provide care packages with your business or organization.

Advocate

Get others excited about the mission.

Let us Know You Have a Heart for These Youth

[Click here to contact us](#)
or call (817) 427-4621



THANK YOU

