



THE
MASK
YOU WEAR

*What we carry,
What we overcome.
What we become.*



2025
ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission expresses what we do every day

The Fountain of Youth Program meets participants where they are, revitalizing their mindsets, empowering and motivating them to reach their highest potential, and restoring opportunities that transform their futures, while addressing and confronting the barriers that contribute to systemic poverty.

MEET FOY AND FAITH

They represent the belief, hope, and accountability that walk alongside every participant—guiding them through the journey of reclaiming their true selves.



Knowledge of Self and Others

Financial Literacy

Education

Health & Wellness

Citizenship

Life Skills

Career
Development

Faith walks alongside participants as they pursue their highest potential.

“I’M LEARNING TO
TAKE OFF
THE MASK,
AND LEAD FROM
THE HEART.”

Partners In Change Success. Guidance. Mentorship. Love.



Nicholas
Page 5



Jason
Page 6



Tyteanna
Page 8



Korey
Page 10

IT AIN'T OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER



DEAR FRIENDS, PARTNERS, AND COMMUNITY,

Ten years ago, we began a journey rooted in truth and driven by hope. We knew that the masks we wear—those of survival, stigma, and silence—often hide the pain and resilience beneath. Yet we also knew that when those masks are removed, what emerges is strength, leadership, and the power to transform lives.

The Fountain of Youth Program was born from that belief. Over the past decade, we have walked alongside young people, families, and community members who dared to unmask themselves,

confront life's traps, and embrace new paths. Together, we have built a movement that is not only about second chances, but about rewriting the narrative of what is possible.

This report, *The Masks We Wear*, is more than a reflection of numbers and milestones. It is a testament to resilience, to the lessons carried from wounds, and to the collective courage of a community that refuses to give up. It honors the alumni who continue to lead, the staff who nurture growth, the donors who invest in possibility, and the partners who stand with us in solidarity.

As we look ahead to the next decade, our vision is clear: to deepen our impact, strengthen our leadership systems, and expand opportunities for renewal across Dubuque and beyond. We invite you to join us in planting the seeds of tomorrow—because the harvest we seek is not just growth, but transformation.

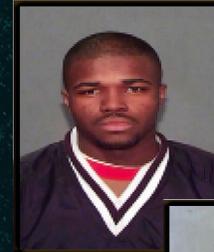
**“We wore masks to survive.
We remove them to lead.”**

With gratitude and determination,

CAPRICE JONES
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

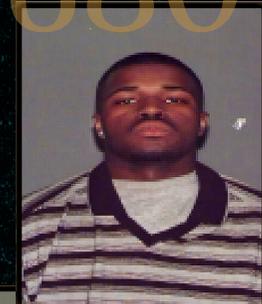
1039680

ID: 1039680



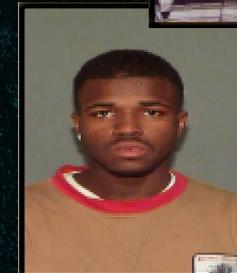
ID:

1039680



ID:

1390



ID: 1039680

CORE PROGRAM

First 6 Months

Partners In Change

Second 6 Months

Post Partners In Change

- 12 MONTH LONG PROGRAM
- SIX-PHASE PROGRAM
- WEEKLY 1-ON-1 MEETINGS



Partners in Change and Post Partners in Change form the heart of the Fountain of Youth's work. Together, they guide participants through six progressive phases, each spanning approximately 60 days, and grounded in consistent weekly one-on-one support. The journey is demanding and requires commitment, but the structure and pacing are purposefully designed to support meaningful, lasting shifts in mindset and stability.

Because no two experiences are the same, the program remains flexible and responsive throughout all six phases. Participants work alongside staff to identify personal challenges and set SMART goals that reflect their individual needs, strengths, and aspirations. In a year marked by widespread uncertainty, individuals and families experiencing poverty continued to face disproportionate challenges, making this personalized, relationship-based approach more critical than ever.

As we look ahead, we remain deeply committed to our mission, values, and the people we serve. Guided by collaboration, innovation, and compassion, we continue to move forward with purpose. Together with our community partners and participants, we are building pathways toward greater stability, opportunity, and hope—one step at a time.



RealTalk Common Thread

RealTalk Common Thread, a weekly support group, offers participants the tools and resources they need to find restoration, healing, and prosperity through self-discovery. During the sessions, a new topic is introduced, and the group engages in an open discussion to encourage participants to express their thoughts and learn from each other's insights.

The support group takes place every Tuesday evening from 5-6:30 pm at the Fountain of Youth's office.



SUCCESS STORY

Nicholas

Nicholas is living proof that change is possible.

Nicholas continues to make steady and inspiring progress in the Partners in Change program. He remains committed to his sobriety, consistently completes his phase work, and shows responsibility by actively paying down his fines.

Alongside maintaining full-time employment, Nicholas continues to show up at the Fountain of Youth with determination and a willingness to grow. His dedication reflects the true impact of PIC—empowering participants to build stability, accountability, and a healthier future.

We are proud of his continued momentum and look forward to the milestones ahead.



SUCCESS STORY

Jason

Jason stands as evidence that change is possible. Throughout his time in the Partners in Change program, Jason demonstrated commitment, resilience, and a genuine desire to grow. He successfully completed all three phases of the program — Phase 1: Knowledge of Self and Others, Phase 2: Financial Literacy, and Phase 3: Career and Professional Development — each step helping him build a stronger foundation for long-term success.

During Phase 1, Jason focused on self-awareness, accountability, and strengthening his relationships, gaining insight into how his choices impact both himself and those around him. As he progressed into Phase 2, he developed practical financial skills, including budgeting, goal-setting, and understanding the importance of financial stability. In Phase 3, Jason worked intentionally on career readiness, strengthening his professionalism, work ethic, and long-term employment goals.

Since completing the program, Jason has taken meaningful steps forward. He has secured stable employment and successfully moved into his own apartment — milestones that reflect not only progress, but persistence and determination.

Jason continues to work toward his personal and professional goals, remaining focused on growth, stability, and building a future rooted in responsibility and self-confidence. His journey serves as a powerful reminder that with support, commitment, and belief in oneself, lasting change is truly possible.

Community In Change

Community in Change is a humane education initiative led by trusted local facilitators with lived and professional experience. The program invites participants to explore the realities of generational poverty and the often-unseen barriers that make lasting change difficult.

Through shared learning alongside Partners in Change participants, Community in Change creates space for deeper understanding of self and others, civic responsibility, and education. This work helps build awareness, empathy, and a stronger understanding of the societal and generational challenges impacting our community.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Participant Graduations

Twice each year, we celebrate participant milestones through graduation ceremonies that honor their commitment, growth, and accomplishments. These moments recognize the hard work behind each journey and the progress participants have made toward lasting change.

Great Give Day

May

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is excited to present Great Give Day, our annual online giving event, to connect non-profits and donors across our seven-county region. Great Give Day inspires community members to come together for 24 hours to celebrate and support local non-profits. Make a lasting impact in one day!

Giving Tuesday

December

This year, Giving Tuesday falls on December 1st, 2026. It generally kicks off the charitable season and year-end giving. Giving Tuesday harnesses the power of social media and encourages people to donate their time, talents, and resources to pressing local and global challenges.

Transforming the Future

September

Transforming the Future is our largest fundraiser of the year. It features a live and silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and drinks! Enjoy a night of amazing speakers.

Generational Poverty Month

December

This month, our staff and board of directors recognize the urgent need to eliminate generational poverty locally. We invite our community members to join us in addressing this issue collaboratively in our own community.



SUCCESS STORY

Tyteanna

Tyteanna has successfully completed Phase 1 of the Partners in Change program, where she focused on the Knowledge of Self and Others pillar. Throughout this phase, she demonstrated strong commitment to personal growth by actively working on setting healthy boundaries and strengthening her self-regulation skills.

Alongside her curriculum progress, Tyteanna secured stable housing through our ICARE program and became the first female participant to move into the ICARE Transitional House.

She also set and achieved a SMART goal of obtaining improved employment during Phase 1, marking a significant milestone in her journey toward stability.

Tyteanna has since advanced to Phase 2 of the Partners in Change program, which focuses on Financial Literacy. She shared that she greatly enjoyed this phase, gaining practical skills such

as creating a budget, understanding the purpose of an emergency fund, and learning the importance of building and maintaining good credit.

In addition to working closely with her program coordinator, Tyteanna has partnered with Pete at Dupaco to open checking and savings accounts, begin building an emergency fund, and take intentional steps toward rebuilding her credit.

She continues to work toward her long-term goals and is currently studying for her Commercial Learner's Permit, with the intention of earning her CDL license.

Statistics

3,502

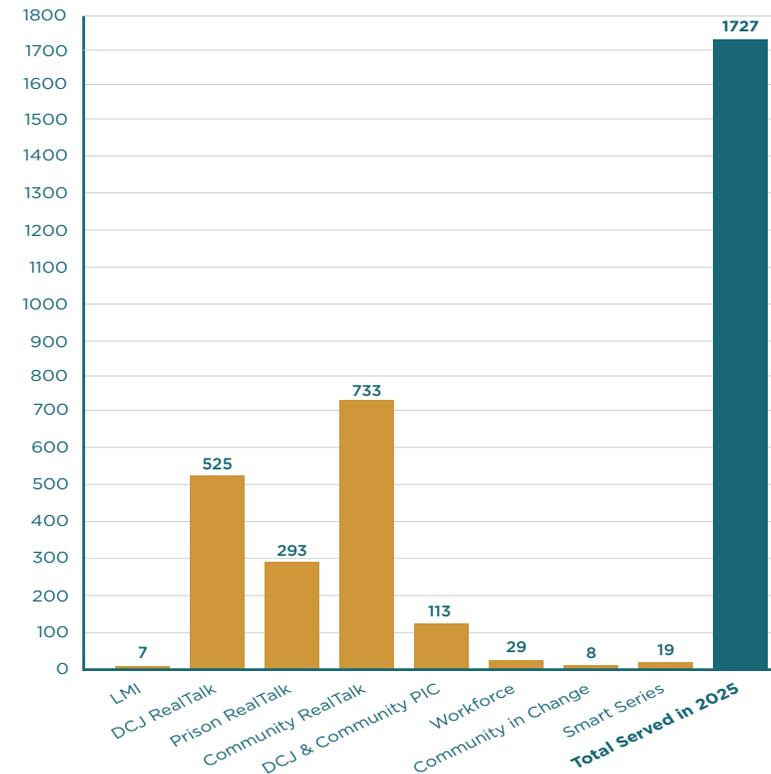
People Served Since We Opened

\$280,000

Administration Costs

\$3,900

Total Cost for Someone to Go Through 6 Months of Our Program



Giving

- Through our membership drive for monthly giving and our sustainability campaign, we raised \$105,730.56
- We successfully raised \$115,000 in 2025 from our Transforming The Future fundraiser.
- We partner with CSEI for our ICARE Transitional Housing Program



- We've partnered with Greater Dubuque Development and NICC to transport students to and from school to remove the transportation barrier for the Peosta-only programs.

GENERATIONAL POVERTY

Generational poverty often requires people to wear masks—concealing hardship, resilience, and unmet needs simply to navigate daily life. While these masks may offer protection in the short term, they can also prevent individuals from accessing the support necessary for lasting growth and stability.

At the Fountain of Youth, we work to create environments where masks can be safely set aside. Through education, life skills development, mentorship, and holistic, non-clinical supports, we help individuals strengthen their foundation and reconnect with their potential. Our approach centers dignity, empowerment, and belonging, recognizing that meaningful change begins when people are seen, supported, and valued.

The transformation we witness is both personal and communal. Individuals move beyond survival toward stability and self-confidence, contributing to healthier families and stronger communities. This annual plan serves as our roadmap for that work—guiding our efforts to break cycles of generational poverty and expand opportunity, one life at a time. Together, we can help ensure that every person has the support they need to move forward authentically and thrive.

Future Plans

With the continued support of our donors, community partners, and dedicated staff, the Fountain of Youth Program has achieved significant growth over the past eight years. We are deeply grateful for this progress and for the trust placed in us by those who believe in our mission. We know this trust comes with responsibility, and our future planning is guided by a commitment to sustainability, accountability, and thoughtful stewardship—so the impact we create today lasts for generations.

Steps Included:

- Continued enhancements of our program offerings.
- Additional Staff to support our growth.
- Common Thread Care Bags for participants.
- Establish new collaborative partners to support continued growth.
- Continue to raise awareness of poverty with the help of our Superheroes FOY & Faith.
- Enhancing relationships with supporters and partners.
- Continued integration of our CRM and communication platforms.
- Commitment to consistent and open communication with supporters and the community.
- Seek State and Federal Funding to enhance our organization's development.



SUCCESS STORY

Korey

Korey has successfully completed one year in our Partners in Change program and has entered Alumni status in our program.

Over the past year, she has learned valuable skills in credit, budgeting, and overall financial management, and she reports feeling more confident in her ability to handle money.

After participating in our citizenship modules, Korey took initiative in her community by becoming a Parent Partner with HHS and serving as a mentor for moms through Mom's Connect. She also shared that the program has helped her understand and practice

healthy boundaries. Through this growth, she has gained confidence and now believes she can achieve anything she truly puts her mind to.

While engaged in the program, Korey has maintained an impressive 3.5 GPA in her college courses. She has been intentional about building healthier relationships with

friends and family, and she is looking forward to celebrating two years of sobriety in January 2026.

Korey's dedication, resilience, and personal growth over the last year are truly inspiring, and we are proud to celebrate her accomplishments.

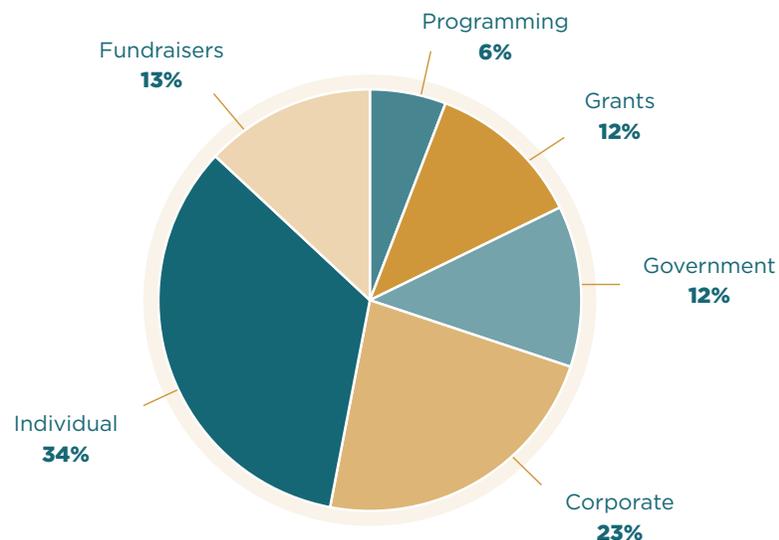
Support

We extend our sincere thanks for the meaningful support you've shown throughout the year. Your generosity and commitment have played a vital role in advancing our mission, and we are deeply appreciative.

Because of your continued partnership, we've been able to reach important milestones and foster real, positive change within our community. Supporters like you make it possible for us to meet people where they are and walk alongside them toward brighter futures.

We are truly grateful for your trust in our work and your shared belief in building a stronger, more compassionate community.

Your support has been essential to our progress, and we could not do this work without you. As we reflect on the year behind us and look ahead, please know how impactful your involvement remains. Together, we can continue creating lasting change and expanding hope throughout our community.



Sharon
KRESS

Peter
MC NAMARA

Andy & Debi
BUTLER

Tony & Lyndsey
PFOHL

Once again, **thank you** from the bottom of our hearts for being such incredible supporters. We are so grateful to have you on this journey with us.

Board of Directors



Nick Anderson
President
State Farm Agent



Alejandro Fernandez
Vice President
John Deere
Dubuque Works



Madeline Marty
Treasurer
Mercy Hospital



Andrew Sherman
Secretary
Kyndryl



Michelle Arensdorf
Mercy Hospital



Janna Lukens Beau
City of Dubuque



Shamika Carmen
Families First
Counseling



Michelle Delaney
John Deere
Dubuque Works



Angie Herting
Southwest Wisconsin
Technical Foundation



Alex Hofer
O'Connor & Thomas



Mikeleen Means
UMB



Pete Spinoso
Dupaco Community
Credit Union



Allinson Tringale
AY McDonald

BEHIND EVERY MASK IS A FACE.

A STORY. A LIFE LONGING TO BE SEEN.

Each mask is worn for a reason — to survive pain, to hide trauma, to protect wounds that feel too heavy to face alone. And when help doesn't come, more masks are added, layering over the hurt until the person beneath feels lost.

We see what lies underneath. We see the pain, the trauma, the hard choices, and the lived experiences that shaped them. **We see their worth.**

Through our programs, those masks begin to fall away. **Light returns. Hope is restored.** And individuals discover they are more than their past—they are here for a purpose greater than they ever imagined. Your support makes this possible. With your help, lives are not just changed—they are reclaimed.





www.thefountainofyouthprogram.org

220 West 7th Street Suite 101
Dubuque, Iowa 52001