

CONNECTION. RESILIENCE. HOPE.

5 YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUNG
ADULTS FACING CANCER



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible young adults, families, volunteers, healthcare professionals, and donors who make the work of YASU possible.

This year, we continued our commitment to ensuring that young adult cancer survivors and caregivers never feel isolated and without their community. Through meaningful peer connections, virtual and in-person programming, and wellness initiatives, YASU provided increased support and resources to ensure their needs are met at every stage of their survivorship.

Celebrating my 20th cancer anniversary in August and 40th birthday in September, 2025 deepened my commitment to the mission that has shaped so much of my life. The experiences and resilience of the young adults we serve highlight why continued investment in age-appropriate cancer support remains essential. While significant gaps remain in access to survivorship care and resources, we are honored to help bridge those gaps and create meaningful change.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report are a direct result of your generosity and belief in our mission. Every donation, volunteer hour, partnership, and shared story has helped strengthen our community and expand our impact.

Looking ahead, YASU remains dedicated to advancing support and amplifying the voices of young adults affected by cancer. Together, we will continue building a future where every young adult facing cancer has access to the resources and community they deserve. Thank you for standing alongside us and helping to make this work possible!

With gratitude,



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Assistant Director

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**2025 Potluck
Thanksgiving Dinner at
the North Park Lodge in
Pittsburgh, PA**

FROM ONE SURVIVOR'S VISION TO A COMMUNITY OF OVER 1,300

OUR MISSION

Young Adult Survivors United (YASU) serves young adults impacted by cancer and their caregivers with a compassionate community that promotes connection, well-being, and resilience at every stage of the journey.

OUR VISION

We envision a future where every young adult diagnosed with cancer is met with a supportive, empowering community – ensuring they and their caregivers receive comprehensive care, meaningful connection, and the resources needed to live fully from diagnosis through every stage of survivorship.

2005 - After being diagnosed with leukemia at age 20, our founder, Stephanie Samolovitch, recognized a critical gap in support for young adult cancer survivors, inspiring her to create a community tailored to their unique emotional, social, and financial challenges.



2012-2020 - Stephanie began leading young adult cancer support groups in 2012, which grew to include social experiences and financial assistance, leading to YASU's nonprofit founding in 2020.

2021 - Rae of Hope was created to honor the legacy of Raelene Lauer by providing free respite getaways for young adults facing cancer.

First annual WIG OUT in partnership with Audacy. YASU's signature event!

2022 - Launched Young Adult Cancer Camp in partnership with Elephants & Tea.

The YASU Research registry was developed to connect young adult survivors with researchers and improve data-driven insights that improve survivorship.



2023 - YASU HQ opens in Wexford, PA, enabling new programs such as the first blood drive in partnership with Vitalant.

Rebranding initiative to better reflect YASU's mission.

2024 - Distribution Days is launched in partnership with the Christian Cochran Legacy Fund, providing free monthly household items and toiletries to young adult cancer survivors and their families.

The Adams Mark Fund Is established to provide financial assistance to those in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Celebrating 5-years!

2025 - Expansion of integrative and cosmetic oncology services, educational seminars.

First formal strategic planning process, building a stronger foundation for long-term growth and impact.





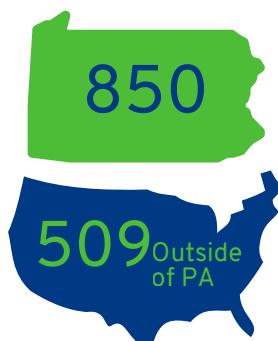
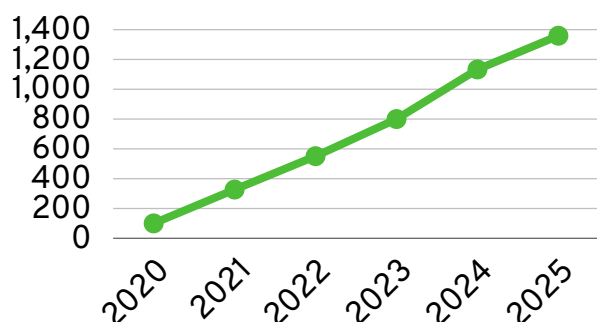
MEMBERSHIP & PROGRAM GROWTH OVER 5 YEARS

GROWING TOGETHER, STRONGER EVERY YEAR

Since 2020, YASU has grown from 100 members to more than 1,300 survivors, caregivers, and co-survivors, an expansion that reflects both rising need and deepening trust in our community.

This growth is mirrored in YASU's evolving programs. Today, 13 monthly support groups - including those for LGBTQIA+ survivors, caregivers, and grieving parents - alongside social programming create consistent opportunities for connection, engaging more than 500 individuals each year. Wellness initiatives have expanded to meet the complex realities of young adult survivorship, offering a mix of virtual programs, in-person social outings, integrative and cosmetic oncology services, educational seminars (including financial literacy, sleep and insomnia, and horticulture therapy), and meaningful respite experiences. Together, these programs continue to provide critical moments of relief and renewal.

Membership Growth



In 2025...



69

In-Person & Virtual Support Groups



30

Rae of Hope Respite Trips



39

Social Programs



257

Bags of Household Essentials

"Thanks for always having great socials and events to attend! They give me something to look forward to when I look at my calendar, which is full of appointments, scans, and labs."

- Teresa, Sarcoma survivor

FIVE YEARS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

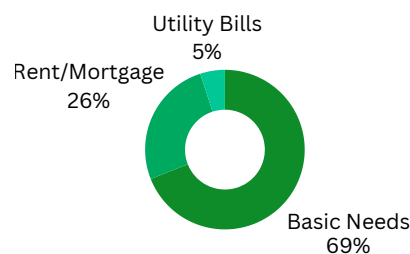
ALLEVIATING FINANCIAL STRESS, ONE GRANT AT A TIME

Over five years, YASU's financial assistance program expanded significantly in both reach and responsiveness. Approved applications increased more than fourfold, reinforcing YASU's role as a critical lifeline that reduces financial stress and promotes stability.

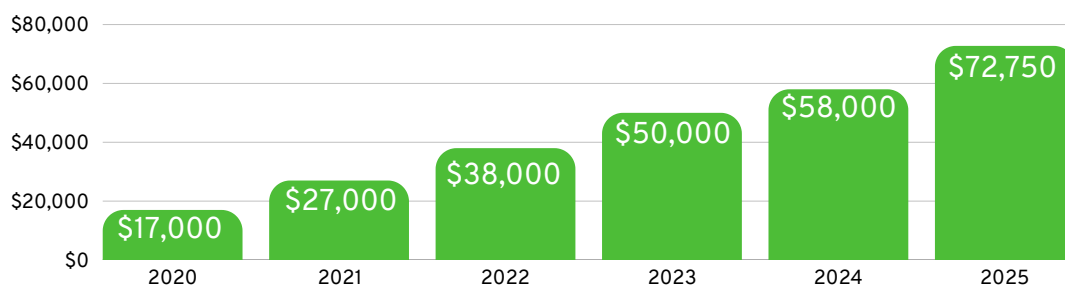
Funding trends show a clear shift toward essential living expenses, which now account for the majority of support. Housing assistance—including rent and mortgage payments—remains a consistent priority at roughly one-quarter of funding, highlighting growing reliance on the program to manage everyday cost-of-living pressures.

Targeted support through the Adam Marks Memorial Fund provides supplemental assistance to LGBTQIA+ members, strengthening the program's commitment to equity and extending support to those with heightened financial vulnerability.

2025 Financial Assistance



Total Grant Awards Over Five Years



"I used to be the donor. Now, at 43 and a one-year cancer survivor with a plethora of health issues, I went through my savings and bills are still adding up. I've watched my successful career and an emergency fund quickly disappear. I am so grateful for any help I can get through YASU and thoughtful donors."
-Kate, Acute Myeloid Leukemia survivor



2025 Recipient Demographics

Active treatment: 94

Ages

19-29: 18
30-35: 39
36-40: 42
41-45: 37
46-50: 11

LGBTQIA+ Recipients: 32

Relief From Financial Assistance

70%

Felt less stressed after receiving a grant

OVER \$250K
Granted in 5 years



VOICES FROM THE YASU COMMUNITY



RAE OF HOPE

“This was the perfect way for my family to come together and forget about my diagnosis for a little bit. Navigating a terminal diagnosis is stressful for everyone involved, so being able to truly relax and not worry about anything was amazing. We would not have been able to do this trip without this help and are so very grateful.”

-Natalie and family on a Disney Cruise

1 Trip (2021) → 30 Trips (2025)



DISTRIBUTION DAYS

“Having access to clean, organic products is so helpful after surviving cancer; yet costs more. I can’t thank YASU enough for providing these items, and giving my daughter such joy when seeing the dog treats too! We’ve saved so much money thanks to this program. Money that I can then put towards medical bills.”

-Chris, Breast Cancer Survivor



4TH ANNUAL YA CANCER CAMP

In 2025, 100 participants from 23 different states gathered at YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee Spencer. 100% would recommend camp to a friend and 94% of campers either agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more connected to others in the young adult cancer community after attending YACC.





RESEARCH & EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

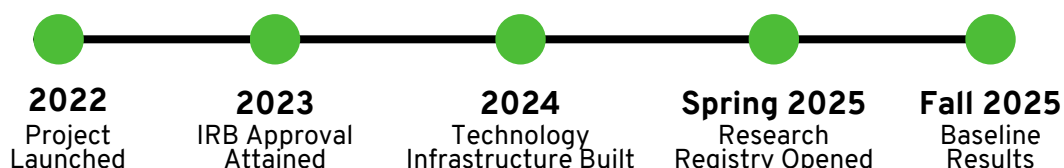
5 YEARS OF LEARNING & IMPROVING CARE

The YASU Research Registry transformed how young adult cancer survivorship is understood and how support is best delivered. Developed between 2022–2025 under the leadership of Dr. Bethany Nugent, this initiative enrolled 192 participants, creating one of the few longitudinal datasets capturing emotional, social, and financial experiences of young adults with cancer. Early insights are clear and urgent: even with strong social support, many survivors face ongoing anxiety, depression, and significant financial distress. These findings are already shaping how YASU designs programs—ensuring support is not just available, but responsive to the full reality of survivorship. In the fall of 2025, a decision was made to close the registry because of personnel changes, challenges with sustainable funding, and technology infrastructure.

In early 2026, YASU’s work was recognized at the APOS (American Psychosocial Oncology Society) Conference, where it earned “Best Poster,” elevating the organization as a leader in psychosocial oncology. More than a research initiative, the registry has been a catalyst for impact—driving data-informed care, strengthening partnerships, and building a more sustainable, equitable future for young adults facing cancer.



Learn more about the results here.



POWERED BY COMMUNITY

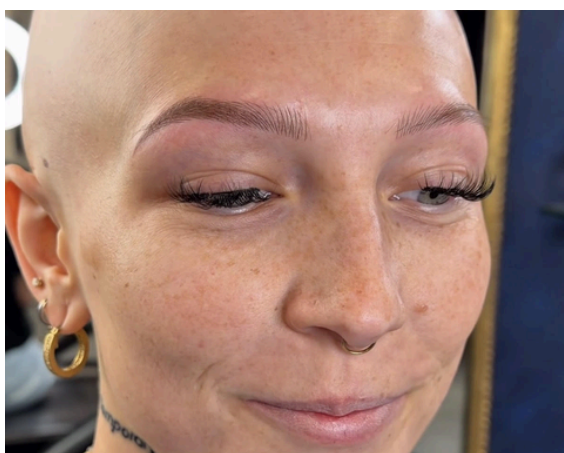
BUILT TOGETHER: 5 YEARS OF COLLABORATION

Over the past five years, YASU has expanded our network of more than 25 local community partners supporting programs and referrals. Key partners have helped expand access to care. In 2025, YASU built on this momentum with new initiatives, including virtual financial literacy workshops in collaboration with Brentwood Bank and a virtual caregiver support group in partnership with F* Cancer.



RESTORATIVE WELLNESS

Since 2022, iZORA Ink & Academy has provided 72 YASU members with free microblading for their eyebrows or semi-permanent eyeliner (\$50,400 in services!), which helps them reclaim their self-image, increase confidence, and provide a service that is otherwise usually unaffordable and inaccessible.

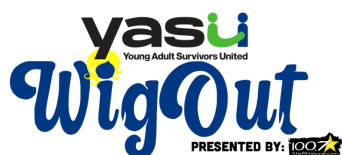


Madeline, a YASU member who had her eyebrows microbladed (stunning!)



2025 WOMEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT

Thanks to the Passavant Hospital Foundation & Women of SWPA, YASU hosted its 2nd annual Women's Wellness Retreat. 50 women gathered for a day of connection and learning. The retreat featured workshops on horticulture therapy, a painting workshop, power of movement and breathwork, and other topics unique to women navigating cancer.



2025 WIG OUT

Pittsburgh's largest Halloween celebration, in partnership with 100.7 Star Pittsburgh, returned to the Rivers Casino Event Center, hosted over 600 guests for an evening of energy, connection, and recognition of cancer survivors on stage.



INVESTING IN IMPACT

Every YASU program is built to support and empower young adult cancer survivors and their caregivers. In 2025, funding was thoughtfully invested in high-impact program areas—providing the critical resources, connections, and experiences needed to navigate life during and beyond cancer.

At A Glance

Financial Assistance
46%



Rae of Hope
Respite Trips
21%

Social and
Wellness Programs
33%

YASU is possible because of your *support!*

We are forever grateful for all of our donors, partners, and volunteers!



A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE



YASU's growth over the past several years reflects a deliberate effort to expand capacity, strengthen infrastructure, and increase access to high-quality support for young adult cancer survivors and caregivers. Since our inception, operating revenue has increased by 50% through a strategic focus on diversifying funding sources. This growth has directly translated into impact—more than doubling programming and significantly expanding equitable access to services. As a result, more participants are engaging, more needs are being met, and more opportunities for connection, support, and healing are being created. In 2023, YASU secured a five-year lease for a 2,150-square-foot office in Wexford, PA. Designed as a welcoming, nonclinical space, it serves as a hub for community, connection, and care.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building on a year of extraordinary growth and impact, YASU embarked on its first formal strategic planning process in 2025 in partnership with Curio412. This milestone reflects YASU's commitment to ensuring that every young adult facing cancer can continue accessing the support, connection, and resources they need—not just today, but for years to come.

Looking ahead, YASU is investing in a more diverse and sustainable funding model, enhancing how it measures and demonstrates impact, and cultivating strategic partnerships that extend its reach and influence. These efforts will help ensure that more young adults affected by cancer can access age-appropriate support, meaningful connections, and critical resources at every stage of their journey. **Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, YASU is meeting today's needs while building a stronger, more resilient future for the thousands of young adults who will need us tomorrow.**



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