



# THE LAUREL FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE YOUTH





# 33 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA



[LAUREL-FOUNDATION.ORG](https://www.laurel-foundation.org)



The Laurel Foundation's educational, mental health, and social support programs impact over 600 youth, and families each year, including young key populations at risk of HIV and transgender/gender-diverse youth.

Our programs provide a lifeline of healing, hope, and connection, helping youth overcome challenges related to illness and social isolation. Through HIV prevention education, mental health support, and leadership development, we empower youth with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions about their health and future. By fostering an inclusive and empowering environment, we ensure every child and family we serve can thrive, live authentically, and build a brighter future.





The Laurel Foundation provides free, year-round mental health and social support programs for children, youth, and families nationwide, with a focus on transgender/gender-diverse youth and youth at risk of HIV. Founded to serve those who face discrimination and lack access to critical resources, The Laurel Foundation empowers marginalized youth by offering educational, mental health, and social support programs that help them navigate life's challenges. Through bold, dynamic, and transformative programs, we create lasting impact, fostering resilience, self-acceptance, and brighter futures for thousands of vulnerable youth.





# OUR STORY



Founded in 1992, The Laurel Foundation is a registered nonprofit dedicated to empowering transgender/gender-diverse youth and young key populations at risk of HIV. We believe every child deserves to live authentically and experience the joys of childhood in a safe, supportive environment.

Through free, year-round mental health, social support, and residential camp programs, we help youth develop self-esteem, confidence, and resilience. Our American Camp Association (ACA)-accredited programs use trained leadership and outdoor experiences to promote mental, social, and physical well-being.

More than 20,000 young people in the U.S. are at risk of contracting HIV each year, with LGBTQ+ youth and youth of color disproportionately impacted. The Laurel Foundation provides comprehensive HIV prevention education, equipping youth with the tools to make informed decisions about their health.

Additionally, transgender and gender-diverse youth face high rates of discrimination, mental health challenges, and social isolation. Our programs offer a safe, affirming space where youth can build confidence, connect with peers, and access critical resources.







## ALL PROGRAMS ARE 100% FREE

Our nationally recognized programs are 100% FREE for all youth, families, and communities we serve. The Laurel Foundation provides year-round programming for over 600 youth impacted by HIV/AIDS, including LGBTQ+, transgender, and gender-diverse youth.

We are the only youth organization in the U.S. offering completely free youth services, camp programs, mental health support, academic assistance, family resources, and specialized community programs. Unlike for-profit programs, we never charge youth or families—ensuring access for those who need it most.

As pioneers in inclusive programming, we were the first to create camps for children impacted by HIV/AIDS and the first to develop specialized programs for LGBTQ+ youth. Our mission remains unwavering—providing safe, affirming spaces where youth can thrive, connect, and build a brighter future.



**Your support will have a tremendous impact on our youth and volunteers at The Laurel Foundation.**

**THANK YOU.**



With your support, The Laurel Foundation will continue to prevent the spread of HIV by educating vulnerable youth on HIV prevention while empowering LGBTQ+ youth to live authentically through educational, social support, and community programs.

Our programs help youth build resilience in the face of overwhelming challenges. Among transgender youth, 41% engage in self-harm, a number that rises to 57% when they lack parental support. Additionally, increasing social unrest and discrimination have left many of our youth struggling with mental health trauma, feeling hopeless and unsafe in their own communities.

The Laurel Foundation is a lifeline for these young people.

We invite you to collaborate with us to expand our impact and support even more youth across the United States. Together, we can create lasting change.



**The Laurel Foundation's 2024  
Youth Empowerment Award Honoree  
Sheryl Lee Ralph**





**The Laurel Foundation's 2022  
Youth Empowerment Award Honoree  
Cher**





**The Laurel Foundation's 2021  
Youth Empowerment Award Honoree  
Jamie Lee Curtis**



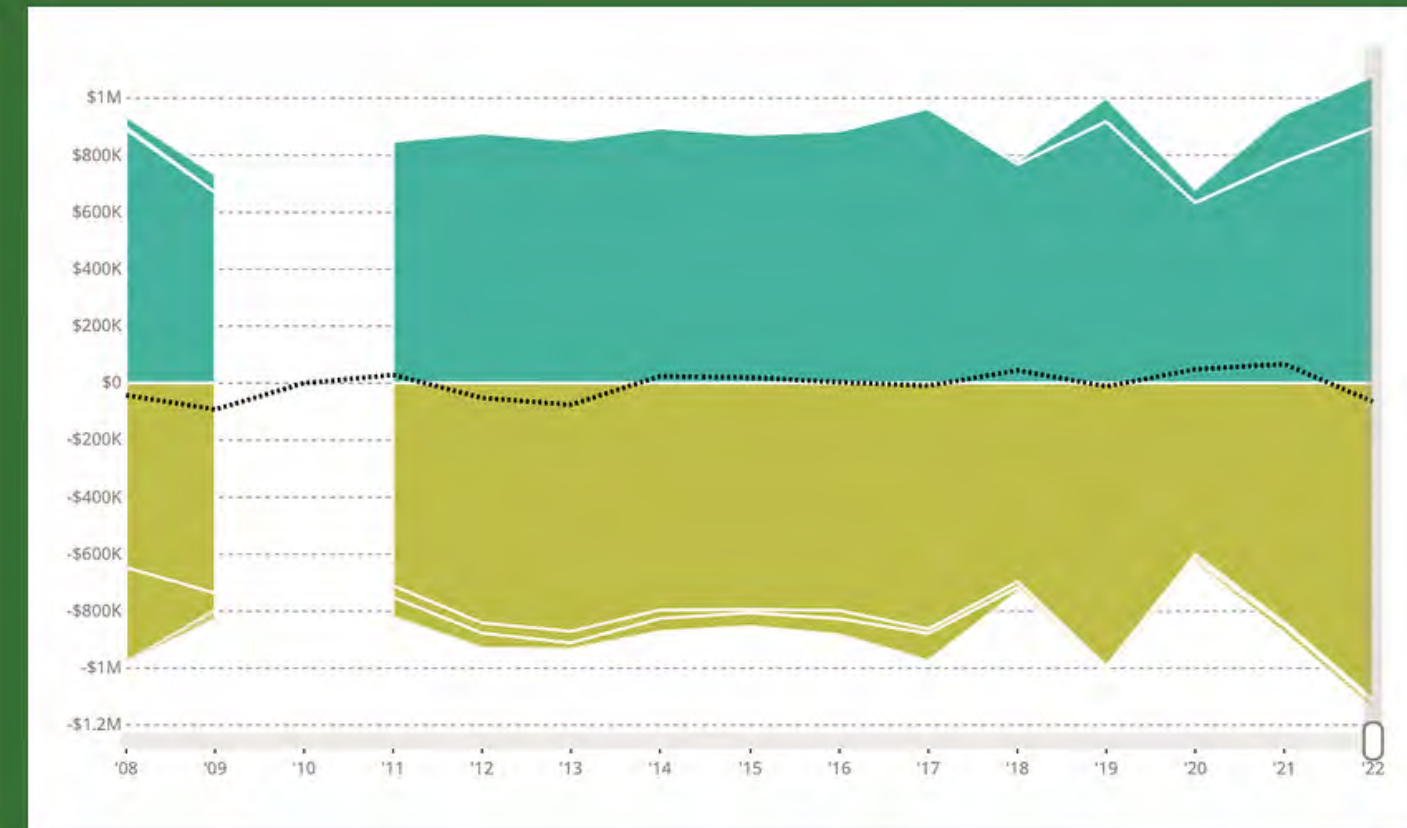
# We are a true service organization

## 97% of our funds go to programming



### Revenue vs. expenses: Fiscal Year 2023 breakdown

<b>Total Revenue.</b>	<b>\$1,078,571</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$898,892</b>
<b>Special Events:</b>	<b>\$209,301</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$1,100,361</b>
<b>Program Services:</b>	<b>\$1,066,316</b>
<b>Administration:</b>	<b>\$14,885</b>
<b>Fundraising:</b>	<b>\$19,160</b>



We are a self-funded organization and receive no money from government agencies. The work we do is pure love. Our programs help the youth become stronger and contribute back to their community. All of this is possible thanks to the support of our donors and over 250 volunteers.



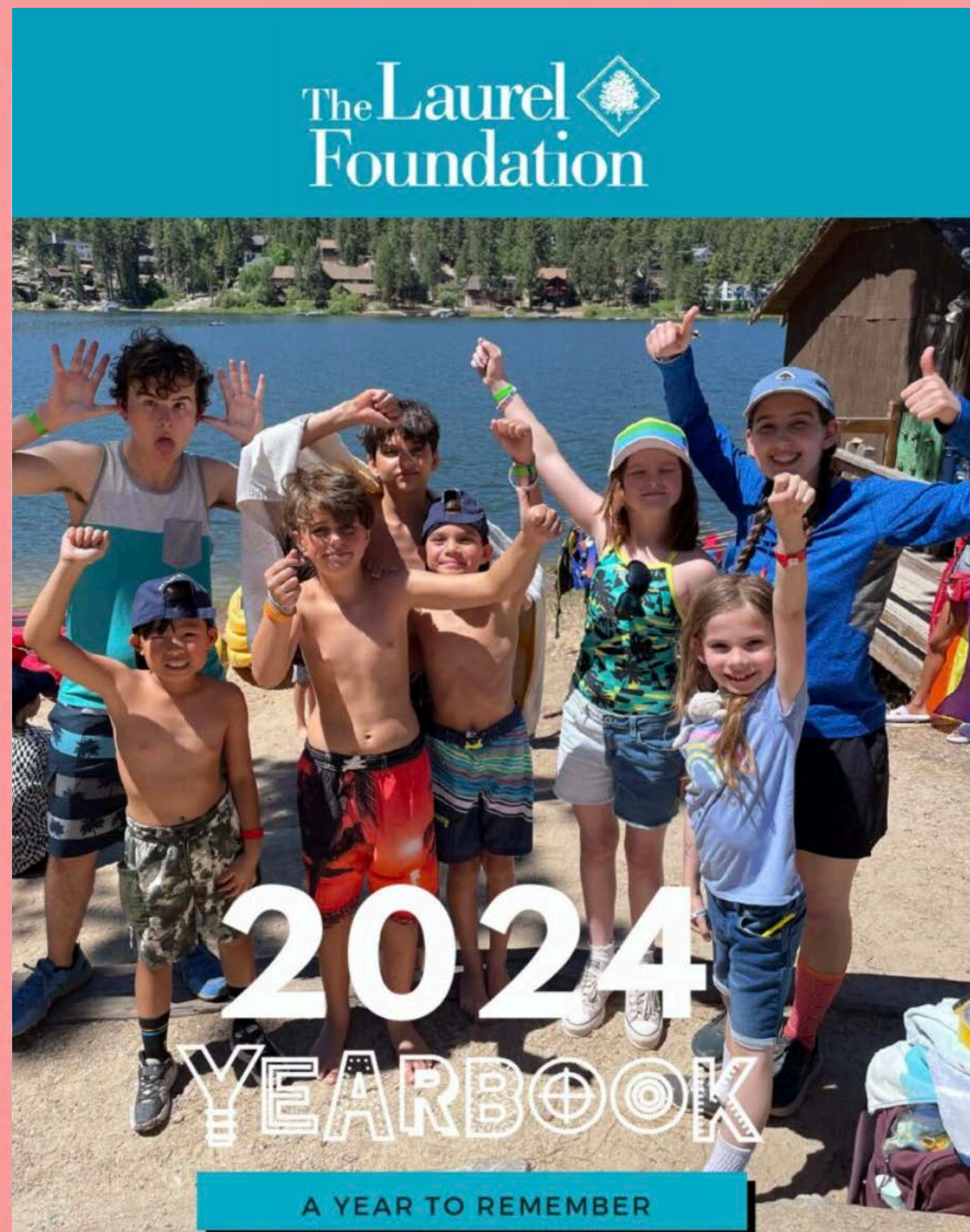
The Laurel Foundation provides year-long programming to over 700 youth impacted by HIV/AIDS, including LGBTQ+, transgender, and gender-diverse youth. We are the only youth organization in the United States with 100% FREE youth services, camp programs, mental health programs, academic support, family support, and specialized community programs. Unlike other for-profit programs, The Laurel Foundation will never charge any youth or family for any programs or services.

We build a lifetime  
of community  
for our youth.





Click to  
view our  
2024  
Yearbook







IMPACT REPORT

The Laurel Foundation

The Laurel   
Foundation

September Impact Report

Click to  
view our  
**Impact  
Report**



**Armado Bolanos, RN**  
"Jango" (he/him/his)  
*Counselor & Former Camper*