



*Support
Our Work!*

Special Events

Bright Lights Big Dreams

October 10, 2024

Kettle Classic
June 15, 2024

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www.ladlake.org



Leadership

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Director of Human Resources

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Chief Implementation Officer

Jessica Waldron
Chief Program Officer

Carolyn Parkinson
Chief Administrative Officer

Donelle Hauer
President and CEO

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BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

**IMPACT
REPORT**
2023

A Promise Kept

The Lad Lake St. Rose Center accepted its first girl, Katie, in 1848. At that time, her parents' dying wish was that she be well cared for – and we're proud that, after 175 years, the nurturing, healing power of the Lad Lake St. Rose Center continues to this day, thanks to generous corporate sponsors, community support, and donors like you.

Youth in Lad Lake's residential treatment who complete our program...
...are healthier than when they arrived, both physically and emotionally
...have developed stronger family and community supports
...are ready to pursue more promising futures
(shown by educational and job readiness outcomes)

Lad Lake has helped thousands of young people move steadily toward lives of health, safety, opportunity and self-reliance, despite challenging personal histories. And we are still keeping our original promise today: building brighter futures.



Donelle Houser, M.S.W.
Lad Lake President & CEO

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Our Mission

To guide the growth of youth and families so they can reach their fullest potential

Our Vision

Lad Lake will be a preferred provider of community-based, trauma-informed, and family-focused support of Wisconsin's most challenged youth and their families

Core Values



Excellence in Service



Healthy Relationships



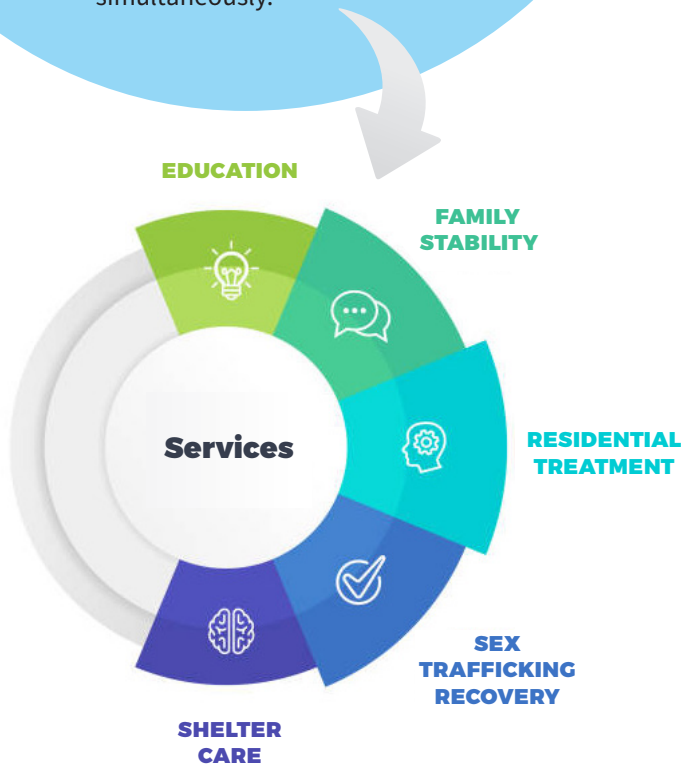
Integrity

Scan to learn more about Lad Lake



United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County is deeply rooted in collective efforts, clear goals, and shared accountability in our community. In 2023, Lad Lake was proudly named an official United Way agency program partner, a collaborative partnership that aligns with our commitment to health, education, and financial stability for the youth and families we serve. As an agency program partner, Lad Lake joins forces with United Way to amplify the organization's impact and reach!

Lad Lake provides the broadest continuum of care of any area agency – integrated, comprehensive programs that allow us to address our youths' needs seamlessly and simultaneously.

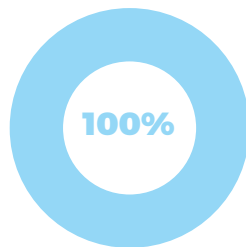


Impact

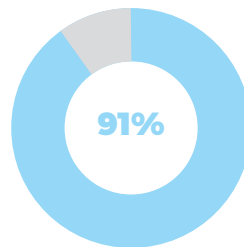
In a trauma- sensitive environment, we help strengthen resiliency and accelerate healing from past abuse, addiction, teen homelessness and mental health challenges. Lad Lake counselors cultivate well-being and hope for more than 1,200 kids and their families every year.

Focus Areas

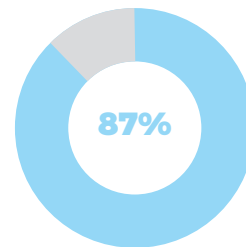
- Healing from Abuse and Neglect
- Recovery from Substance Abuse
- Supporting Sustainable Futures for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
- Building Skills to Manage Mental Health Challenges
- Helping Students Graduate who are at Risk of Dropping Out
- Creating Pathways out of Sexual Exploitation
- Overcoming Past Trauma



100% of at-risk students at Lad Lake's alternative school graduated last year



91% of the youth in our care report they feel more hopeful about the future



87% of youth at Lad Lake have improved in managing their mental health condition

Strength in Partnership

We partnered with the Milwaukee Succeeds initiative in 2023. This groundbreaking effort brings together more than 300 organizations in a united quest to revolutionize Milwaukee's educational landscape. Originally launched by Greater Milwaukee Foundation in 2011, Milwaukee Succeeds is a celebration of unity and diversity, focused on providing every child with the resources for success, underpinned by a steadfast commitment to racial justice and shared decision-making.

Strength in Alumni

This year we welcomed Arianna – a former Lad Lake youth – to serve as a youth advocate.

She champions youth perspectives and fosters their growth with invaluable insight, while also pioneering art

therapy groups, where young people navigate their emotional landscapes in a nurturing, supportive and creative sanctuary.

pictured: XXXXXX Hit et erum que sunt ommodis ut alibus animus aut parum qui te di derae delectat Deliberro

Strength in Youth

With the experiences and insights of young people at the forefront of everything we do, Lad Lake stands as a beacon of hope, resilience, and success, nurturing the futures, dreams, and aspirations of the youth we serve.



SUCCESS by Israel Freeman

Age 15 - Lad Lake Youth

I DARE TO DREAM;
I PLAN FOR SUCCESS,

MY DREAMS ARE MY
FUTURE REALITY,

BECAUSE I HAVE THE
MENTALITY TO SEE MYSELF
BEYOND MY CURRENT
SITUATIONS,

AND REALIZE MY PIT FALLS
ARE REALLY STEPPING
STONES TO MY ULTIMATE
ELEVATION,

SO, SUCCESS IS INEVITABLE
BECAUSE I CHOSE TO BE

WHAT IS SUCCESS, SUCCESS
IS THE FUTURE ME.



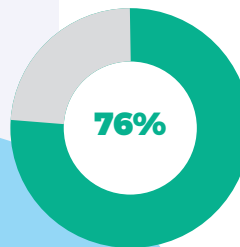
“I was a junior in high school and was hanging out with the wrong crowd until I got expelled. I was unsure of my future, but I knew I still wanted to go to college. Lad Lake set me up with everything I needed to succeed.”

- Jaivieon, Lad Lake Alumni

currently enrolled in
Milwaukee School of Engineering
with a full scholarship



*Scan here for stories from
Jaivieon, Arianna and other
Lad Lake youth and alumni.*



76% of youth increased their reading and math scores by **two grade levels** in one semester - through multiple traumatic events

Synergy School

More than an educational institution, Lad Lake's Synergy School is a haven where students develop essential life and decision-making skills alongside academic achievements, ensuring their holistic growth. Jaivieon's story is a powerful illustration of what youth can achieve when educational environments cater to the unique needs of each student, including their mental health.

At The Synergy School commencement, Judge Everette Mitchell of Dane County highlighted the crucial role of mental health in success, urging graduates to prioritize self-care as they face future challenges.



Building Brighter Futures

To extend our outreach and impact, Lad Lake proudly welcomed the team from Milwaukee Academy to join us, effectively integrating it into our St. Rose campus. This strategic expansion, completed on May 30th, marked a significant step in our commitment to serving girls across Wisconsin who have experienced profound adversities including sexual exploitation.

Now, we at Lad Lake are the largest provider in the state for this vulnerable demographic, reflecting our unwavering dedication to supporting and empowering young girls in need.



“This partnership is a powerful step forward. It brings together shared knowledge, expertise, and committed individuals in a meaningful way. Through this collaboration, we aim to develop innovative, evidence-based programs that genuinely enhance our ability to provide effective care and heartfelt support. This is more than a merger; it’s a commitment to creating a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment for young women.”

**- Donelle Hauser
President & CEO, Lad Lake**



4x

The merger will allow us to quadruple the number of young girls we serve

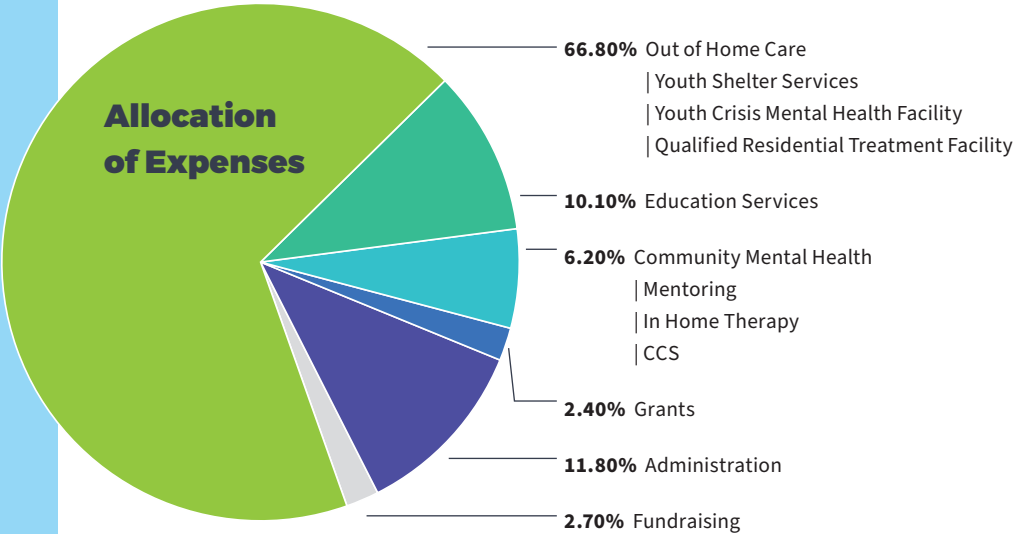
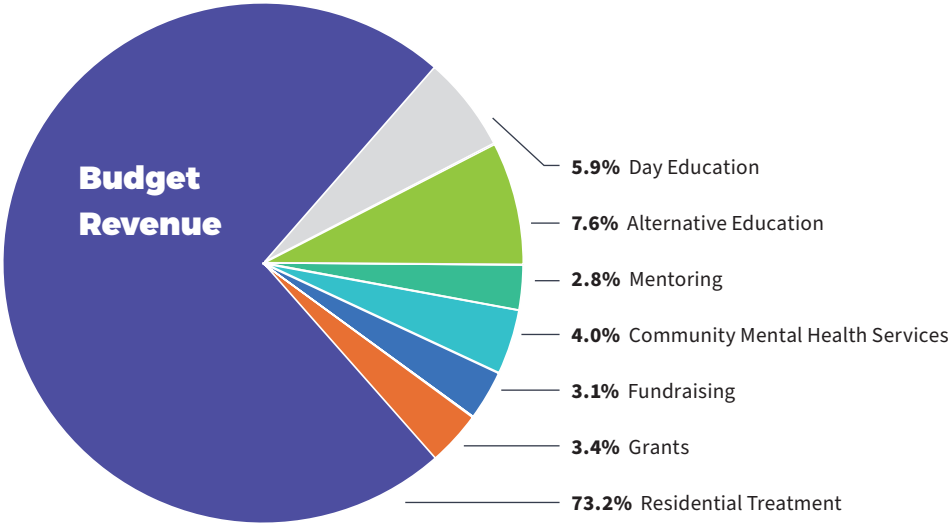


Financials

Lad Lake’s grants and innovative programs are dedicated to meeting community needs and fostering the development of future healthcare providers.

Grants & Funds

- ➔ **Wisconsin Department of Health Services Funds**
- ➔ **Coordinated Specialty Care** grant to support individuals at risk of or currently experiencing their first episode of psychosis in Waukesha County
- ➔ **United Way funding of Healthy Youth Initiatives** providing education for healthy relationships and safe practices
- ➔ **Department of Children and Family Services** funds the grant to support survivors of sex trafficking
- ➔ **Department of Health Services (DHS) Funds**
- ➔ **The Qualified Treatment Trainee (QTT)** grants program to increase the number of qualified professional providers of mental health services



"I arrived at Marshall's house at 5:00 p.m. for some last-minute interview rehearsal before his 5:30 p.m. interview. However, Marshall wasn't dressed and was doubting himself. I quickly boosted his self-confidence and helped him get ready.

We got to the interview location just in time. After a 35-minute interview with the chef, Marshall returned beaming with pride. He gave me a big hug and announced that he nailed the interview and was offered a kitchen job for food preparation and stocking.

This moment was unforgettable! Seeing Marshall achieve this milestone made me incredibly proud. As a mentor, building a positive relationship is key, and I support my mentees as a coach, advocate, friend, and advisor. Marshall has done a great job listening and learning from my experiences."

- Marshall's Mentor



Helping Youth Prepare for the Future

Studies have shown that quality mentoring relationships can connect a young person to personal growth, academic development, and social and economic opportunities. These relationships have an immense impact on our youth, yet one in three young people will grow up without this critical asset in their lives.

Lad Lake's mentorship program provides crucial support to youth through one-on-one mentorship, helping them develop life skills, build self-confidence, and achieve their goals. Together, we make a lasting impact on our community's youth.



**Interested in becoming
a Lad Lake mentor?**

**Scan to
apply today!**

A Focus on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Diversity	US
Equity	2
Inclusion	0
Workplace™	2
	4

Diversity for Social Impact

Lad Lake works diligently to create a supportive and inclusive culture to best support the youth and families we serve, improve our community engagement, and support the well-being of our team. In that effort, we continue to advance our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as championed by the Diversity for Social Impact™, an organization dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion to drive social impact worldwide.

In 2023, Lad Lake received our Diversity Equity Inclusion Workplace™ Certification from Diversity for Social Impact, reflecting our commitment to these crucial principles. This is a milestone that not only celebrates our current achievements but also propels us forward in our DEI journey.



“Lad Lake’s unwavering commitment to empowering youths and families is truly commendable. By investing in staff well-being and inclusive programs like mentorship, day school, and educational partnerships, you’re creating a nurturing environment for all.

Your dedication to hearing staff’s voices, alongside implementing equitable policies, truly demonstrates an organization that values its people and the community it serves. Keep up the extraordinary work!”

-Diversity Social



Supporting Girls Struggling with Mental Health

Addressing Critical Mental Health Needs

At Lad Lake, we are committed to guiding youth and families to reach their fullest potential. Our Masana Youth Crisis Stabilization Facility (YCSF) plays a crucial role in this mission by providing short-term, solution-focused care for girls aged 13 to 17 experiencing mental health crises. Certified by the State of Wisconsin, Masana YCSF offers a safe alternative to hospitalizations or detention centers, with individualized plans that include therapy sessions, educational support, and innovative interventions like Virtual Reality therapy. This approach not only stabilizes immediate crises but also equips girls with long-term skills for managing their mental health.



Impact and Community Engagement

Over the past year, Masana YCSF has significantly impacted the lives of numerous young girls, helping them return to their communities with enhanced well-being and resilience. By preventing more restrictive placements and fostering academic continuity, we ensure these girls continue their education uninterrupted. Additionally, our community outreach and awareness campaigns highlight the growing mental health challenges faced by our youth and connect more families to our services. Lad Lake remains dedicated to expanding and improving our programs, ensuring we provide the highest quality care and support for every girl in our community.

24/7/365

We provide support in a mental health crisis for admitted youth 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.



Event Recap

10th Annual Kettle Classic

On June 17, 2023 Lad Lake's 10th anniversary Kettle Classic was a record-breaking success! More than 230 Lad Lake supporters took advantage of the beautiful day to walk and bike to fundraise for our mission.

In addition to the usual walking and biking, attendees enjoyed pontoon rides, lunch, and witnessed the powerful testimonies of two Lad Lake young people. These courageous youth shared their inspiring stories, providing a heartfelt insight into how Lad Lake has been instrumental in their healing and personal growth.

This event would not have been possible without our supporters and donors, especially our presenting sponsors: Hunzinger Construction, AMCS Inc, and US Foods. Through their generosity and commitment, we not only celebrated community spirit, but also significantly bolstered our mission to assist the youth at Lad Lake.

This remarkable event not only fostered community engagement but also significantly contributed to our ongoing efforts to provide support and healing to the youth in our care. The success of the Kettle Classic is a testament to the power of collective effort and the profound impact it can have on the lives we strive to uplift.



A Night to Remember

With the theme of "A Promise Kept," the 2023 Bright Lights/Big Dreams - 175th anniversary of Lad Lake event was a remarkable evening." This historic occasion not only celebrated a significant milestone but also highlighted the organization's dedication to empowering future generations.

The inspiring stories of youth who have overcome adversity with the help of Lad Lake were central to the celebration. Arianna and Jaiveion, among others, shared their journeys of transformation, symbolizing the 'Rising Stars' recognized for their resilience and achievements.

This night of celebration was not just a commemoration of Lad Lake's historic past but a reaffirmation of its ongoing promise to the youth. The record attendance, generous sponsorships, and the highlighted stories of rising stars and successful alumni collectively underscored the significant role Lad Lake plays in fostering hope, resilience, and success in the lives of young people. This milestone event sets the stage for continuing the legacy of "A Promise Kept" for future generations.

Watch our
recap video!



Mark your calendars for the 2024 annual celebration!

Bright Lights
BIG DREAMS

October 10th
at the St. Kate's Hotel!