



# CONTIGO

YOUTH CLUB



ANNUAL  
REPORT

24  
25



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“Contigo brings life, life in abundance, to our parish!”

— Fr. Matthew Zuberbueller  
Pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church



## FROM THE FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

As we wrap up our third year of Contigo, it is ever clearer that our youth are hungry for the simple truths of the Gospel. Here are a few themes that just keep popping up this year.

**God is present in this moment in this place.** Teens are discovering that modern technology distracts from noticing God and others. During a service trip in DC, a teen asked if one of our staff had TikTok. When the staff member replied in the negative, the teen exclaimed, "That must be why you're so happy!" When another teen, addicted to his technology, questioned our ban on AirPods, it opened a conversation about how God's call to love our neighbor means paying attention to those physically near us rather than dwell in the ether. Many of our members seem to be getting the message: several teens voluntarily blocked parts of their phone access as part of our Lenten challenge. Another member dedicated her English midterm project to the harms of phone over-usage, while still another who wouldn't let her phone out of her clutches last fall, now asks us to hold it so she can focus on her homework. Even more so this year than in the past, our members learned to put tech in its place and discovered that being in the real world can be fun and freeing.

**The physical is sacred.** This twin message seemed to run through all that we did this year: from Theology of the Body classes to Adoration to summer water hose parties paired with lessons on the baptismal waters. If God is present and demands our physical presence, then what a gift it is to be embodied! It's the kind of Good News that makes even playing on the playground or coloring seem like a participation in the divine life. The Incarnation makes the physical holy and makes the sacred physical. Our members seem to understand this with a childlike trust. It's why they count down the days to their first Communion and color crosses and papal flags during art.

**The Church is most alive where she is most needed.** Contigo serves a population where nearly 1 in 3 children live below the poverty line. Our neighborhood made the news last year for a human trafficking ring just blocks away from our parish. Our surrounding county averages a dozen youth overdoses each year. The schools our kids attend are often openly hostile toward the faith. But where there is deep spiritual need, the Spirit abounds. This year, we saw teens walk out of Adoration with tears in their eyes, marveling at the beauty of a choir of kids singing God's praises. We had a student ask her parents to be baptized Catholic and another ask for rides to Mass because her family doesn't go. We've had dozens of Contigo kids receive sacraments, and dozens more pledge to live in accordance with God's vision for marriage.

This year has been one of tremendous growth, both in Contigo's footprint and in our growing membership. Thank you for helping us show our kids that their faith is worth more than their life and their life is worth more than they think.

With heartfelt appreciation,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mariah Naegele".

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bulay Minano Roach".

MARIAH NAEGELE & BULAY MINANO ROACH  
Founders

## CONTIGO YOUTH CLUB **AT A GLANCE**

### CAMP CONTIGO

**78** Youth participants  
**340+** Hours of programming  
**2** Days camping & being in nature  
**2** Full-time adult staff  
**94** Weekly programs  
**1** Holy Masses offered in the wilderness  
**2** Full-time adult volunteers  
**11** Drop-in volunteers

### AFTERSCHOOL

**37** Youth participants  
**20** Weekly hours of programming  
**4** high school intern  
**91** Unique programs

### BELOVED WEDNESDAYS

**48** Youth participants  
**18+** Hours of adoration of the blessed sacrament

- Field trip to the **Diocesan Chrism Mass**
- Holy Thursday **Christian Seder Meal**
- Living **Stations of the Cross**

### TEEN CENTER

**36** high school teens participated in Teen Center  
**100+** service hours completed  
**50** high school & middle school teens participated in sessions focused the **Theology of the Body**

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**8** summer participants  
**250+** hours of summer service hours per intern  
**4** school year participants  
**43** summer programs designed and led by interns

Contigo partnered with **Alexandria City High School** to give class credit to one of our interns for participating in our internship program.

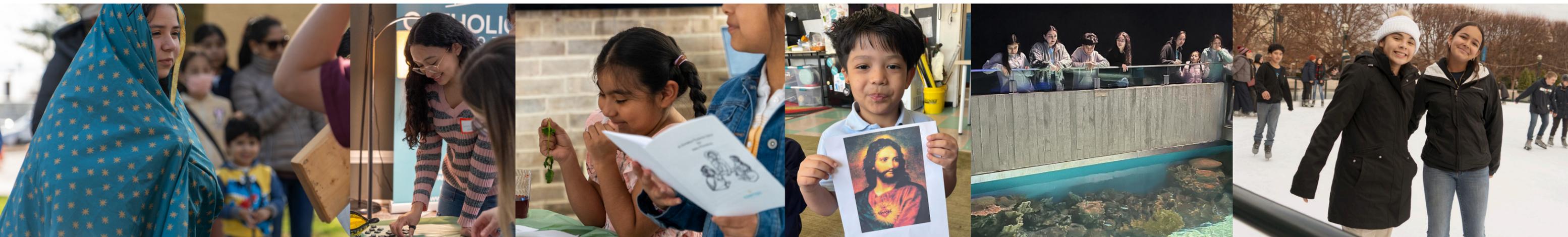
### PARISH CONNECTION

**49** youth received Baptism, First Communion, and/or Confirmation and were prepared by Contigo staff

- Contigo members led other recent Confirmandi in St. Anthony's annual **Corpus Christi Procession**, creating and carrying banners.

### OTHER PROJECTS

- 6** Contigo families benefited from monthly grocery distributions
- Contigo led St. Anthony School students in all grade levels in preparing art for the school **assemblies and to participate in the theme.**
  - Contigo staff participated in the St. Anthony's Spiritual Response Team Meetings meant to pray for and to address the most urgent needs of the parish.





## MISISON & VISION

### MISSION

Our mission is to empower youth to thrive by providing consistent nurturing programs that develop virtue, community, and a relationship with Jesus Christ.

### VISION

A community of supported families and youth living to their full potential.

### CORE VALUES

#### QUALITY ENGAGING PROGRAMMING

Youth grow together through living the Faith, experimenting with STEM, playing sports, exploring the arts, and receiving academic support.

#### SERVING FAMILIES

Our staff acknowledges the difficulties in navigating the various federal, state, local, and private programs and support systems available to families in need. We help connect our families to the resources they need.

#### SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Caring and trained adult staff members are positive role models and supportive religious adults in the lives of members.

#### RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

Leading youth to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and respond to the universal call to holiness.



I started to read to some of the youngest campers during dismissal time and enjoyed watching them engage with the stories and the one-on-one time.

— Natalie M., Adult Volunteer



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MARIAH NAEGELE**  
*President*

**MATILDA DONOVAN**  
*Director*

**BULAY ROACH**  
*Secretary & Treasurer*

**STEPHEN GABRIEL**  
*Director*

**NICK COURTNEY**  
*Director*

**TOBIAS NAEGELE**  
*Director*



“

My favorite memory at Contigo was being able to start new friendships and socialize with my peers and staff members.

— Alex S., 6th Grader

## CAMP CONTIGO

The summer is when Contigo shines. Summer 2024 saw 78 (up from 66) students enjoy seven weeks of all-day activity, each packed with new things to do. Open from 7:30am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday, Contigo offers more flexibility for parents' work schedules than other summer camps. We also offer far more programming: Each Contigo camper participates in 20 different programs a week, aligned to their age and gender. We do this to foster something desperately missing from youth culture today: a genuine excitement to create, work, and play—to explore the world with curiosity rather than cynicism. Without camp, most of our campers would otherwise spend their summer unsupervised, locked in their apartments, glued to their phones, watching TV, with little else to do. Instead, they practice martial arts, learn how to dance, contemplate chess strategies, and come to believe that, as St. Irenaeus taught, the glory of God is man fully alive. We focus on five content areas: **faith, art, sports, academics, and life skills**. All our programming is constructed to encourage campers to become more capable contributors to their community.

Jesus and faith is at the center of everything we do, from daily Mass to “saint bingo” to Adoration. Yet we also expose our campers to opportunities and experiences that for many would otherwise be unaffordable: rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, and more. Our outdoors education program took rising 5th and 6th graders to Shenandoah National Park where we experienced firsthand the gift of God’s creation.



## CAMP STATS

- 78 Youth Participants
- 8 High School Interns
- 2 Full-time Employees
- 1 Part-time Employee
- 2 Full-time Volunteers (50 hours/week)
- 1 Half-time Volunteer (25+ hours/week)
- 11 Drop-in Volunteers
- 74 Weekly Programs
- 340 Hours of programming



“

This summer I learned many things. I learned how to live without my phone, I got closer to my faith.

— Angie A., 10th Grader





# SUMMER PROGRAMS

## GRADES K-2

### SPORTS

Little Leagues  
Wild Mercy Waves  
Super Hero Training

### FAITH/ACADEMIC

Eucharistic Adoration  
Mondays with Mary  
Little Pilgrims  
Living Water  
Summer Vocation  
Holy Friends  
Little Disciples  
Story Time!

### ART

Artistic Adventures  
Jr. Puppeteers  
Expressive Exploration  
Slip & Score

### SOCIAL/LIFE SKILLS

Daily Bread  
Farm to Fork  
Build Up!

## GRADES 3-4

### SPORTS

Run On!  
Wild Mercy Waves  
Crusaders FC  
Street Hockey  
PE Games

### FAITH

Eucharistic Adoration  
Holy Friends  
Living Water  
Misioneros  
Scripture on Stage

### ACADEMIC

Chess  
The Summer Ascent  
Authors' Workshop  
Trivia Winners  
Task Masters

### ART

Art Apprentices  
Clay Time  
Imagination Station

### SOCIAL/LIFE SKILLS

Daily Bread

## GRADES 5-6

### SPORTS

PE Games  
Crusaders FC  
Street Hockey  
Hiking

### FAITH

Eucharistic Adoration  
Holy Friends  
Sacred Stagecraft  
Misioneros

### ACADEMIC

Trivia Winners  
Adopt-a-Country  
Task Masters

### ART

Master Artists  
Art Studio

### SOCIAL/LIFE SKILLS

Gardening  
Mirrors of Justice  
Game Time  
Festive Arrangements  
Mini Merchants

## GRADES 7-10 BOYS

### SPORTS

Crusaders FC  
Hiking  
Spike & Dunk  
Football  
Street Hockey  
Martial Arts

### FAITH

Eucharistic Adoration  
Lectio Divina  
Scripture on Stage

### ACADEMIC

Chess  
Form & Function  
STEM  
Coop Crew!

### ART

Folk Art

### SOCIAL/LIFE SKILLS

Daily Bread  
Café Contigo

## GRADES 7-10 GIRLS

### SPORTS

Crusaders FC  
Hiking  
Spike & Dunk  
Dance Choreography  
Street Hockey  
Martial Arts

### FAITH

Eucharistic Adoration  
Lectio Divina  
Scripture on Stage

### ACADEMIC

Chess  
Tasting the World

### ART

Textiles  
Les Filles D'Or  
Nature's Beauty

### SOCIAL/LIFE SKILLS

Daily Bread  
Café Contigo  
Clean Conmigo  
Mic Drop  
Alliance





## CONTIGO YOUTH CLUB AFTERSCHOOL

While most youth programs at parishes meet once or twice per week, Contigo Youth Club's afterschool program welcomes our kids each weekday, providing a safe place for indoor and outdoor free play, enriching programming, faith-filled activities, help with homework, and positive relationships with dedicated adults. Engaging our youth frequently and consistently allows us to build strong, trust-filled developmental relationships with our members, encouraging growth as well-rounded individuals.

Here is where Contigo is truly different. **A week at Contigo Youth Club provides more hours with trusted adults and like-minded peers than an entire calendar year of conventional parish youth programs.** Perhaps that's why the *Arlington Catholic Herald* wrote that Contigo "has a new approach to youth ministry entirely."

As in the summer, club members cycle through multiple programs divided by age and gender, experiencing a different series of programs each afternoon. Every eight weeks a new set of programs are introduced, ensuring a variety of activities and opportunities, while also setting aside time for homework, tutoring, and academic and spiritual enrichment. Holy days are celebrated, and the children are exposed to the rich cultural traditions of the Catholic Faith. In the fall, we celebrate All Saints Day, make an Advent wreath, and celebrate St. Nicholas; in the spring, we have a Living Way of the Cross, a Holy Thursday Meal, attend the diocesan Chrism Mass, and celebrate Our Lady's Birthday. And all year long we celebrate saints' Feast Days.



### AFTERSCHOOL STATS

- 38 Youth Participants
- 3 Full-time Employees
- 1 Part-time Employees
- 1 High School Intern
- 2 Regular Drop-in Volunteers
- 15 Quarterly Programs
- 20 Hours of weekly programming



The *Arlington Catholic Herald* EN ESPAÑOL PHOTOS/VIDEOS  
 LOCAL NATIONAL GLOBAL BISHOP BURBIDGE

### What makes a great youth ministry?

ANNA HARVEY | CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF WRITER  
 9/19/24 4 MIN READ

A teen opens the new Teen Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Falls Church Sept. 9. COURTESY

Teens today need youth ministry more than ever.



# AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

	GRADES K-2	GRADES 3-5	GRADES 6-8
<b>CYCLE 1</b>	Outside Fun Totus Tuusdays BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Melody LEGOs	Enhanced What Is? BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Street Hockey Scribbles	Tasting Tours Coop Crew! Lectio Divina & Eucharistic Street Hockey Hockey Finer Things Club
<b>CYCLE 2</b>	Christmas Saints Multimedia BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Surveys LEGOs	Painting Exhibits Church History BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Ultimate Frisbee Holy Friends	Christmas Cookies Holy Friends BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Ultimate Frisbee Party Planners
<b>CYCLE 3</b>	Math Bible Stories BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Creation Games	Soccer Natural History BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Build & Burn Kindness	Soccer Chips & Dip BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) STEM Finer Things Club
<b>CYCLE 4</b>	Imagine! LEGOs BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Buddies Run to Read	Claymation Street Hockey BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Team Building Drinks	Internation Cooking Street Hockey BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration) Buddies Games
<b>FIELD TRIPS</b>	Friends of the National Arboretum 5k Race Ice Skating at the National Gallery of Art Trip to watch A Man for All Season at Bishop Ireton High School Trip to the Baltimore Aquarium Trip to watch Guys and Dolls at Bishop Ireton High School		





## BELOVED WEDNESDAYS

Contigo's "BeLoved Wednesday" program opens the Club to visitors, especially those unable to commit to the attendance requirement our full program. Each Wednesday, our regular afterschool members welcome friends and classmates to our various activities and spiritual nourishment, including prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Some have joined the program full-time after just a single visit!

Each Wednesday, BeLoved participants take part in Lectio Divina, a meditative and prayerful reading of Scripture, deepening their understanding of God's Word and increasing familiarity with the Bible through a new way of prayer. They then attend Adoration before taking a break for hot chocolate and, afterward, homework help.

During Holy Week, BeLoved Wednesday participants are invited to immerse themselves more deeply in the life of the Church. We took a field trip to the Diocesan Chrism Mass to witness the consecration of the holy oils, the presbyterate's renewal of priestly promises, and to see first hand the unity of our diocese. We hosted our own traditional Seder Meal to better share the roots of our faith and understand the significance of the Last Supper. Then we re-enact the Via Crucis, a following of the Way of the Cross, and experiencing in a visceral way the final steps of Christ before the Crucifixion.





## ST. ANTHONY TEEN CENTER

This year, we expanded our programming to high school students, who face a triple threat in our community: endemic drug use, gang violence, and chronic truancy. The St. Anthony Teen Center has become a place of refuge and formation, offering teens not only academic help but a whole life of faith, community, and joy.

Our programs expose students to life skills. Cooking, crafting, and candle-making bring them together in creative ways. Monthly outings like ice skating, 5k races, and movie nights give them safe, healthy opportunities for fun. Retreats during Advent and Lent welcomed more than 40 teens to encounter the mysteries of the Incarnation and Resurrection more deeply. And every Wednesday, dozens of teens fill the gym for the Juan Diego Futbol Club—our most popular program and a consistent draw for new students.

One of the year's most important achievements was the expansion of our Theology of the Body program. Nearly 50 boys and girls participated in a ten-week series on living with sexual integrity. With an abortion clinic just blocks away and many families impacted by out-of-wedlock pregnancy, we believe this is one of the most critical ministries we offer. One student captured the urgency when she confided: "All the members of my family, including my parents, have had kids out of wedlock. My parents are really afraid I'll be next. How can I be different?"

Faith is at the heart of all we do. Teens arrive for many reasons—sometimes for tutoring, sometimes for soccer, sometimes just for a safe place to belong—but they stay because their questions run deeper. Conversations about morality, sin, and what the Church teaches are near-daily occurrences. What begins with a game or a craft often ends in an encounter with Christ.

The Teen Center's first year with high schoolers has shown us one thing clearly: This generation is not indifferent to the faith. They are searching, and they are ready to be formed. Through recreation, community, retreats, and catechesis, we are helping them discover that life with Christ is the path to hope and freedom.



I came to the Teen Center because I needed help with my homework, and it has also taught me to pray better.

— Maite Z., 10th Grader



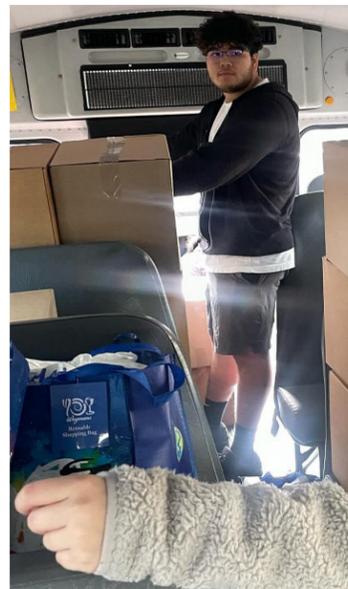
I come to the Teen Center because it's fun. I like the activities like cooking and I also like the retreats.

— Kathy J., 9th Grader



I won't ever be able to express how life changing it is to work with people who love God more than anything.

— Itzel S., High School Intern



# TEEN CENTER PROGRAMS

## CYCLE 1

- Running Club
- Cooking
- BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration)
- Bible Study
- Mosaics
- Fireside Philosophy
- Service Hours

## CYCLE 3

- Cooking
- 3D Modeling & Printing
- BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration)
- Book Club
- Bible Study
- HIIT Workouts
- Film Critics

## CYCLE 2

- Cooking
- Street Hockey
- Podcasting
- BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration)
- HIIT Workouts
- Café con Consagrados
- Wood Burning
- Bible Study

## CYCLE 4

- International Cooking
- Visiting the Elderly
- BeLoved (Eucharistic Adoration)
- Service Hours
- Rosary Making
- Service Hours

## FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

- Trip to Wayside Farms
- Comunidad 5k Race
- Mount 2000 Retreat
- Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk
- Soccer Tournaments
- GMU Soccer Game
- The Source: Night of Eucharistic Adoration RALLY
- Teensgiving Service Project

- Christmas Caroling at Carlin Springs Health Rehabilitation
- Teen "Hope Is Born" Advent Retreat
- Trip to the Movies
- Ice Skating at that National Gallery Art
- LifeFest
- March for Life
- 33-day Marian Consecration
- Teen "By His Wounds" Lenten Retreat





## INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Contigo Youth Club's internship program offers high school students the opportunity to develop professional skills, grow in their faith, and contribute meaningfully to the community. It's been a joy to witness many of our former Afterschool and Camp Contigo participants, eager to give back as interns, still growing, but now in a volunteer helper capacity. Interested teens must submit an application, prepare for an interview, and offer references. This year, we expanded the internship program beyond Camp Contigo so that students can help all year long.

Our interns must brainstorm, plan, execute, and evaluate programs. This requires attention to detail to ensure the logistics run smoothly, the resources are available and the younger members of our club are engaged in an enriching activity.

During training, we remind our high school interns that they aren't hired help, they are role models who set an example to the younger children. Nothing helps a teen understand the importance of following directions, making eye contact, and demonstrating respect than a role reversal in which they are asking those things from others.

They seem to get it. Many times this year, we've had a teen come to the Teen Center asking for advice on how to offer positive reinforcement to children, how to plan an engaging program, and how to focus on the details to ensure things run smoothly. This is the dedication, meticulousness, and creativity we know our interns will take into their future jobs.



During my time at Contigo, I was definitely inspired by many of the interns because of their great qualities ... It was truly a blessing to be able to work with other teens and it has helped me strengthen my relationship with God and rekindle the love I have of just giving back to my community.

— Brenda C., High School Intern



Having worked with kids on a professional level reassured me that pursuing elementary education is my calling and I am ever so grateful.

— Joanna G., High School Intern



Since the internship it has helped me become able to manage fast paced environments and help me become a better worker during high stress situations and work related situations.

— Luis C., High School Intern





## PARISH CONNECTION

Contigo Youth Club is generously hosted by St. Anthony of Padua parish, where we are an independent provider of youth activities. One of our great pleasures has been to help families enroll in religious education and receive the Sacraments. This year, Contigo prepared 49 youth for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and/or Confirmation! As a thank you for allowing us free access to St. Anthony spaces, Contigo works to contribute to the youth needs of the parish. This year, we participated in the following parish activities.

**Student Conclave:** In preparation for the election of Pope Leo this spring, Contigo helped St. Anthony School prepare a conclave of its own to teach how the process works.

**Student Adoration program:** This year, our staff visited classes to teach the beauty of the Eucharist as the school began its new student Adoration program, in which teachers lead their class to Adoration biweekly.

**Catechism:** Our staff are volunteer catechists to some 60 kids at St. Anthony on Monday nights. This year, we led the newly confirmed through workshops on Faith and Reason and Sacred Art.

**Diocesan events:** Our staff chaperones parish participation in diocesan youth events like BASH and Rally, at which St. Anthony often has the largest presence in the diocese.

**Corpus Christi procession:** We encourage Contigo members to participate in parish events like the Corpus Christi procession, which brings Christ to the streets of Culmore.

**Spiritual Response Team:** Contigo staff participates in St. Anthony's Spiritual Response Team, which prayerfully and actively responds to issues of violence, gang presence, human trafficking, and drug abuse within the parish boundaries.



## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

\$4000+

Carole & Larry Morris  
Charles Via  
Lacey Woolf

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\$2000-3999

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Fr. Matthew Zuberbueler

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Mary Tanzer  
Chris & Katrina Terebecki  
Mary van Wijngaarden

## SPONSORS & PARTNERS



## FINANCIAL REPORT BREAKDOWN

At Contigo Youth Club, we ensure that every dollar is responsibly allocated to maximize our impact. This year, we transitioned to a new donation management platform, which eliminated donor transaction fees and subscription expenses. Our Board of Directors has played an important role in strengthening our financial foundation.

This year, at the Board's prompting, we hosted our first annual benefit concert, thanks to the local Catholic musician Ben David Warner donating his time and talent. Our Board's network and expertise, along with an untold number of our family and friends, is the reason Contigo can open its doors every day. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and corporate sponsors, and we work hard to maintain the highest standard of financial integrity in order to best steward the gifts we've been given.

### Revenue

	JUNE 2022 MAY 2023	JUNE 2023 MAY 2024	JUNE 2024 MAY 2025
Individual Contributions	\$65,883	\$72,040	\$78,696
Camp Contigo Registration Fees	\$21,670	\$33,502	\$30,525
Contigo Youth Club Registration Fees	\$13,319	\$13,322	\$13,730
Contigo Study Center Registration Fees	\$4,179	-	\$660
Teen Center Registration Fees	-	-	\$1,395
Spirit Wear Sales	\$576	\$507	\$1,142
Fundraising Sales	\$1,884	\$2,666	\$2,554
Foundation Grants	-	-	\$30,000
Church Grants	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$74,647
Board Membership Dues	\$450	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$112,963</b>	<b>\$129,539</b>	<b>\$233,349</b>

### Expenses

	JUNE 2022 MAY 2023	JUNE 2023 MAY 2024	JUNE 2024 MAY 2025
<i>Personnel</i>			
Salaries & Payroll	\$74,328	\$65,832	\$164,826
Health Insurance	\$8,661	\$10,019	\$13,700
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$82,990</b>	<b>\$84,181</b>	<b>\$178,526</b>
<i>Program Expenses</i>			
Contigo Youth Club	\$9,056	\$6,030	\$7,793
Camp Contigo	\$14,499	\$9,312	\$13,872
Contigo Study Center	\$950	-	\$660
Teen Center	-	-	\$5,836
<b>Program Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$23,554</b>	<b>\$15,342</b>	<b>\$28,161</b>
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>			
Donor Management Software & Fees	\$2,465	\$2,427	\$1,664
Spirit Wear	\$572	\$803	\$2,482
General Insurance & Workers' Comp	\$6,121	\$3,710	\$3,889
Miscellaneous	\$3,129	\$2,404	\$2,878
<b>Administrative Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$12,287</b>	<b>\$9,004</b>	<b>\$10,913</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$118,830</b>	<b>\$108,527</b>	<b>\$217,600</b>



23  
24

**Phone**  
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[www.contigoyouth.org](http://www.contigoyouth.org)

