



Insights

Quarterly Newsletter | Winter 2025-26



A Message FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ilene Harper, PhD, Executive Director, Family Life and Community Resource Center

FLCRC had another EPIC year! Throughout 2025, we stayed committed to our mission by supporting **328 families**, assisting **134 crime victims**, and reaching **more than 900 individuals**. Our Youth Ambassador Leadership Education (Y.A.L.E.) students furthered this mission by completing 11 service projects and totaling 285 service-learning volunteer hours!

Events in the last quarter included the inaugural Dakota Merriweather 5K Walk/Run supporting the Dakota Merriweather Scholarship, the Y.A.L.E. students' visit to Bisong Gallery in Houston

during Arts Week, and the annual Bullying Awareness Conference featuring student voices.

Our sold-out Ninth Annual Banquet in December was one of the biggest highlights this year. Actor Lodric D. Collins was a true inspiration as our celebrity keynote speaker. We presented nine scholarship awards totaling \$5,550, recognized crime survivors and our Volunteer of the Year, and highlighted exciting new plans in the works.

Looking ahead, we continue to raise support for our Capital Campaign, *FLCRC's Future: Building*

a New Generation of Leaders. This initiative will expand our summer enrichment camp into a comprehensive summer enrichment experience. Y.A.L.E. leaders are also preparing for an educational trip to Toronto, Canada and Niagara Falls this July.

We invite your support as we continue to have a positive impact in Fort Bend County. To learn more about our programs or to donate, visit FamilyLifeCRC.org.

Top: Actor Lodric D. Collins gives a moving keynote speech at our Ninth Annual Banquet. Bottom, left to right: Y.A.L.E. leaders pose during a visit to Bisong Art Gallery in Houston; Dr. Harper and Dr. Delesbore with Bullying Awareness Conference keynote speaker Dr. Melissa Earls (center); participants kick-off the first annual Dakota Merriweather 5K Walk/Run in November.

SUPPORT OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!

You can support our exciting plans for a six-week summer enrichment experience for our youth! Scan the QR code or visit FamilyLifeCRC.org/campaign to donate.





Y.A.L.E. Leaders Visit Houston Art Gallery

On October 11th, our Y.A.L.E. students visited Bisong Gallery in Houston and had the pleasure of meeting its founder, Carla Bisong. Ms. Bisong gave an inspiring tour and shared about the role of art in supporting mental health. Bisong Gallery features both emerging and internationally recognized artists, with a mission to “amplify underrepresented voices, foster cultural dialogue, and empower communities through the transformative power of art.” Learn more at bisonggallery.com.



Standing Against Bullying Together

Our annual Bullying Awareness Conference took place on October 25th and featured a range of activities equipping students and parents to fight bullying. Licensed professional counselor Dr. Melissa Earls shared a captivating keynote message, and our Y.A.L.E. leaders demonstrated remarkable bravery in discussing the challenges of bullying from their perspective. This engaging event informed and empowered everyone who attended to “GO ORANGE” and stand against bullying together!

FLCRC Invites Community Partners to Support Our Capital Campaign

On October 9th and November 13th, we hosted two events to unveil exciting plans for our youth and invite feedback and support from community partners. Our FY25-26 Capital Campaign, *FLCRC’s Future: Building a New Generation of Leaders*, will support the expansion of our summer enrichment camp to a six-week summer enrichment *experience!* Donate at FamilyLifeCRC.org/campaign.



First Dakota Merriweather 5K Walk/Run is a Success!

On November 15th, FLCRC proudly hosted the **First Annual Dakota Merriweather 5K Walk/Run**, a heartfelt tribute to our former Y.A.L.E. leader whose life reflected the kindness, servant leadership, and college readiness we instill in every Youth Ambassador. This meaningful community event brought together supporters, families, and leaders to honor Dakota’s legacy while advancing our mission. The walk/run raised **\$1,300** in support of the *Dakota Merriweather Scholarship*, which recognizes high school students who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership, and service to the community.





An Evening of *Celebration and Gratitude*

On December 6th, **130 staff, volunteers, supporters, and friends of FLCRC** gathered to celebrate another remarkable year of growth and community impact. The sold-out celebration was a beautiful reflection of the lives touched and the mission advanced throughout the year. Our celebrity guest, Lodric D. Collins, delivered a truly inspiring keynote message that encouraged resilience, leadership, and purpose. We also honored our **nine Scholarship and Award recipients**, our **Volunteer of the Year**, courageous crime survivors, and our generous donors who make our work possible. Dr. Cleo Wadley, FLCRC Board Vice President, brought energy and excitement to the program as Master of Ceremonies. Our Y.A.L.E. leaders proudly showcased their leadership portfolios, engaged with attendees, and demonstrated the confidence and growth that define the program. Guests also enjoyed a lively silent auction that added to the evening's success. In total, the event raised **\$16,300 in proceeds**. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this an incredible occasion.



2025 Scholarship & Award Recipients and FLCRC Volunteer of the Year



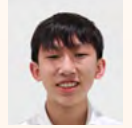
Glamour Barber
Pre-Y.A.L.E. Leader of the Year Award



Kendon Thibodeaux
Y.A.L.E. Emerging Leader Scholarship



Neel Reddy
FLCRC Outstanding Student Scholarship



Evan Ung
Y.A.L.E. Service-Learning Scholarship



Jordan Thomas
Y.A.L.E. Leader of Year Scholarship



Jovann Bledsoe
FLCRC Service-Learning Scholarship



Bryan Ung
FLCRC Outstanding Senior Scholarship



Terri Brown
Dakota Merriweather Scholarship



Trinidy Brown
FLCRC Outstanding College Student Scholarship



Loretta Butler
FLCRC Volunteer of the Year

Numbers *in* 2025

We are pleased to share these numbers highlighting the reach and impact of our various programs in 2025. Special thanks to all who have made this important work possible!



9
scholarships and awards presented



11
service projects completed by Y.A.L.E. leaders



285
service learning hours earned by Y.A.L.E. leaders



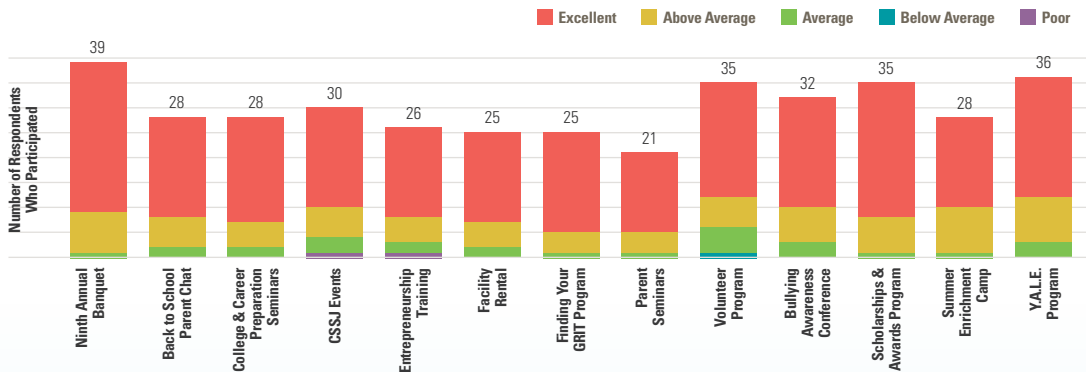
3
Y.A.L.E. leaders graduated from high school



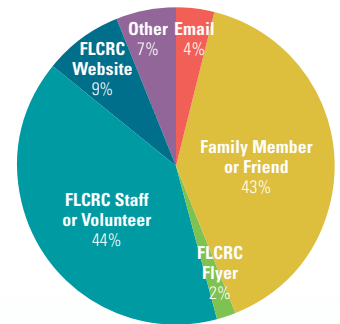
10
Y.A.L.E. leaders enrolled in college

2025 Community Survey Results

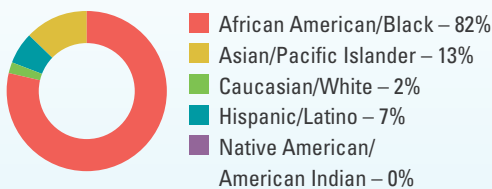
Which programs or services did you participate in? Please rate each based on your overall experience.



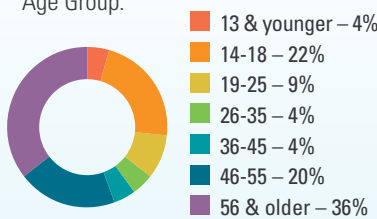
How did you hear about us?



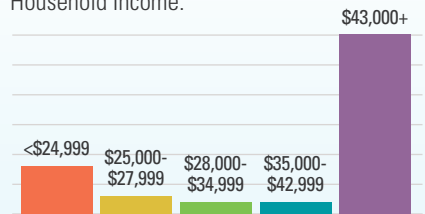
Ethnicity, Origin or Race:



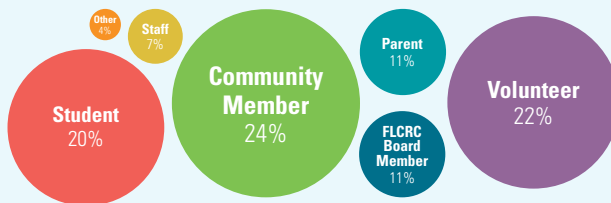
Age Group:



Household Income:



Which best describes your role?



View the full survey results at FamilyLifeCRC.org/2025survey



FLCRC BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Cleo Wadley, President
Millie Chatham, Vice-President
LaCarria Green, Treasurer

Sharon Tanner, Secretary
Mary Sias, Parliamentarian
Kendon Thibodeaux, Youth Advisor

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