

empower youth™



2025 Annual Report

*Transforming the Future Possibilities of
Under-Served Youth with the Science of Learning*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that we present the **2025 Annual Report** for Empower Youth. This past year has been one of remarkable growth, meaningful partnerships, and most importantly, transformative impact on the young learners we serve throughout Northern Nevada.

In 2025, we expanded our reach to serve **91** students across multiple programs, delivering **6,771** individualized academic intervention sessions in our school and lab-based services. These numbers represent more than statistics; they represent children gaining confidence, discovering their potential, and developing the foundational skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

Our partnership with Mater Academy has been particularly impactful, enabling us to bring our evidence-based Fit Lite literacy intervention directly into Title 1 schools where students need it most. The results speak for themselves: students are making measurable gains in reading fluency, letter recognition, and phonemic awareness, often exceeding multiple grade levels of growth in just 10 hours of intervention.

For students who need more intensive academic intervention, Empower Youth continues to offer science-driven interventions in reading, math, handwriting, and reading comprehension through our lab-based services. These students often advance a full academic year or more in just 40 hours of tailored intervention.

This work is made possible by the generosity of donors, grant makers, and community partners who believe in our mission. Your support has enabled us to secure funding through December 2026, providing the stability we need to continue serving vulnerable youth, including children from military families, those in foster care, and students referred through partnerships like **Big Brothers Big Sisters**.

We know that when you give, you want your dollars to make a real difference in students' lives. That's why we're proud to maintain a **95% direct service ratio**: meaning 95 cents of every dollar you donate goes straight to academic interventions for vulnerable youth. Your gift funds sessions, intervention materials, student progress assessments, and expert instruction, not administrative overhead.

With gratitude,
The Board of Directors
Empower Youth

Empower Youth Origin Story

Our Background and Mission

Empower Youth was founded by the co-founders of Fit Learning, Drs. Kendra and Donny Newsome, who saw an urgent need in Northern Nevada: too many vulnerable children were falling behind academically, lacking access to the high-quality, individualized support that could change their trajectories.

With initial financial backing from the Brett and Kelly Coleman Foundation, Empower Youth was born, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering at-risk youth with the academic skills and confidence they need to succeed.

We started with lab-based services, providing intensive, evidence-based interventions in a dedicated learning environment where students could receive individualized attention away from classroom distractions. This model allowed us to deliver the kind of focused, one-on-one instruction that struggling learners desperately needed, whether in literacy, math, or other foundational academic areas.

But we quickly recognized a challenge: not every family could bring their child to our lab. Transportation barriers, work schedules, and other obstacles meant that some of the students who needed us most couldn't access our services. So we evolved. We began bringing our programs directly into schools, partnering with educators to reach vulnerable children where they already are. Our Fit Lite literacy intervention at Mater Academy exemplifies this expansion. We now serve students in Title 1 schools, delivering the same evidence-based, individualized support within their school day.

Today, we serve children from military families navigating frequent relocations, youth in foster care, students referred through community partnerships like Big Brothers Big Sisters, and learners in under-resourced schools who are falling behind.

Our approach is rooted in learning science. We don't believe in one-size-fits-all solutions. Instead, we assess each student's unique needs, design targeted intervention plans, and deliver intensive instruction using evidence-based practices. Every session is individualized to help that specific child build fluency in the foundational skills they need to succeed academically and beyond.

What drives us is simple: we believe every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances. When a struggling reader doubles their fluency in just weeks, when a student who once shut down in class starts raising their hand to read aloud, when a child's confidence transforms alongside their skills, these are the moments that remind us why this work matters.

At its core, Empower Youth exists to close opportunity gaps. Through consistent academic support, individualized attention, and unwavering belief in every child's potential, we're building a community where vulnerable youth have the skills and confidence they need to succeed in school and step into a future full of possibility.

Our Mission & Vision

Mission

Our mission is to transform the future possibilities of underserved youth through the science of learning.

By providing access to science-driven, personalized instruction that produces 1-2 years of academic growth, we remove barriers to success and unlock the full potential of every student we serve.

Vision

At Empower Youth, we believe educational opportunity is a human right. We envision a world where every student everywhere has access to an effective and efficient education.



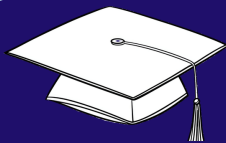
Who We Serve

Empower Youth serves children and youth who face barriers to academic success, including:

- Economically disadvantaged students
- Children in foster care
- Students from military families
- Students in Title 1 schools who are reading below grade level
- Learners who need intensive, individualized reading intervention



Service Impact Report



91

Student Lives
Changed



6,771

Hours of 1:1 Support



54

Served in Schools



67

Lab-Based
Enrollments Delivered



3

Foster Youth
Supported



17

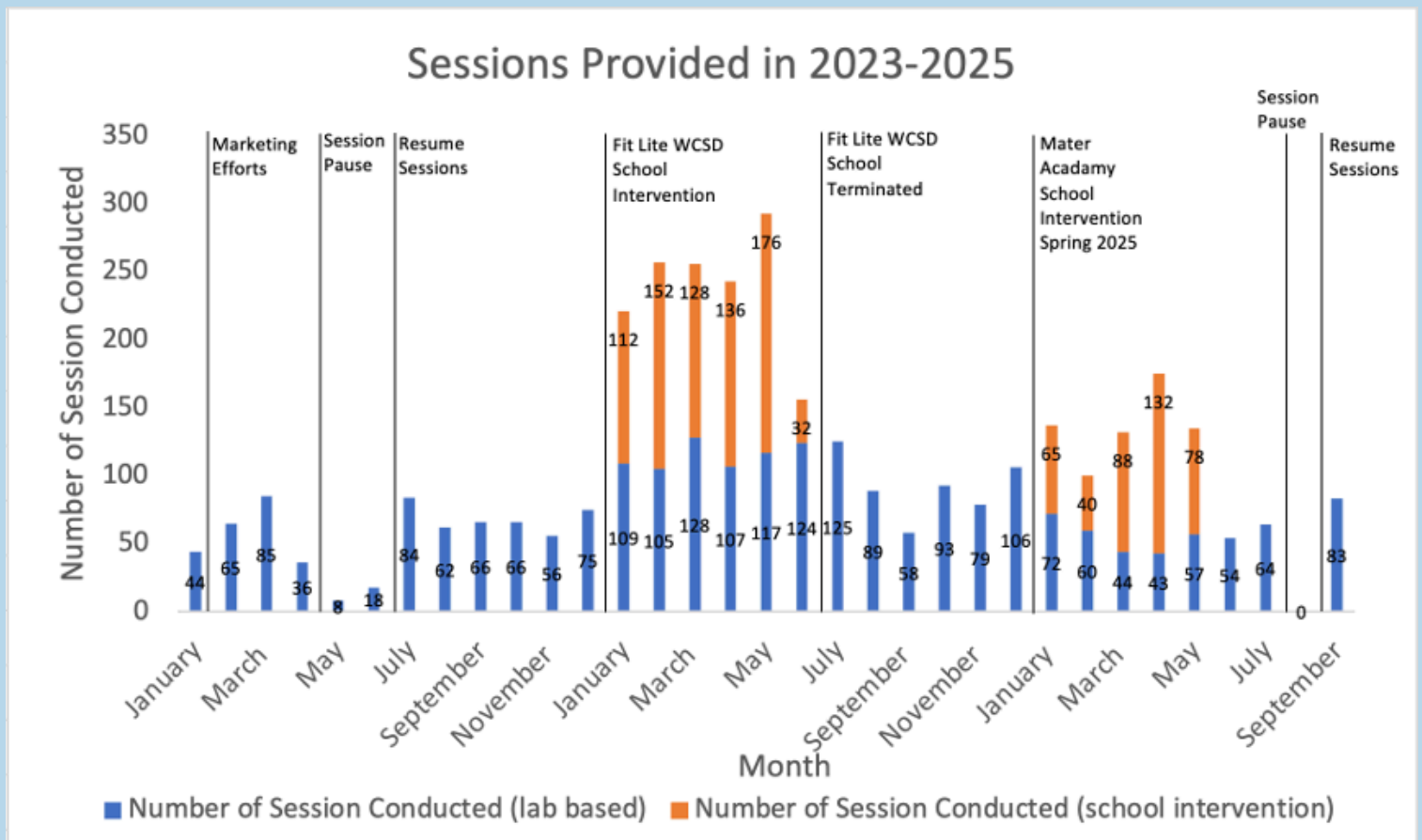
From Big Brothers
Big Sisters



8

from Military
Families

Breakdown of sessions provided:



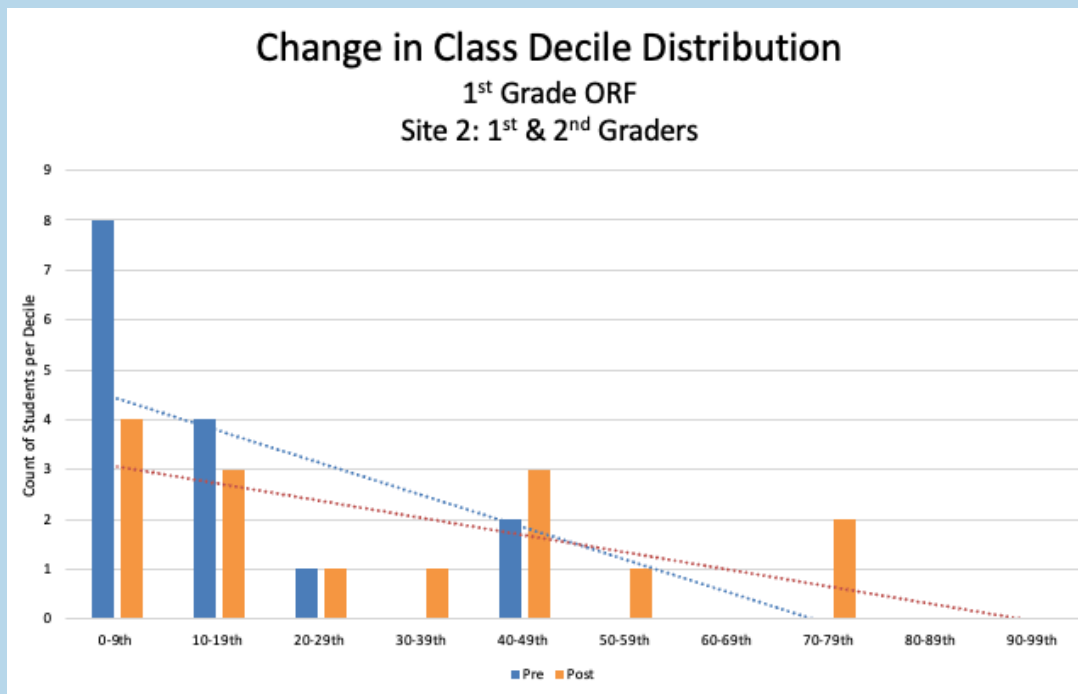
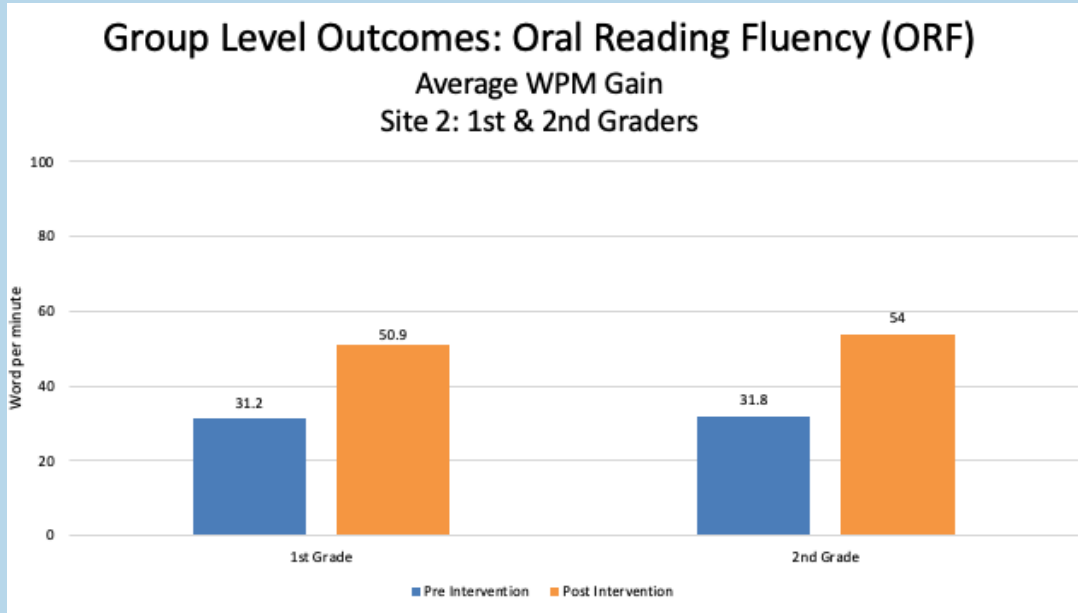
2025 Program Highlights

School-Based Literacy Services

Our collaboration with Mater Academy, a Title 1 charter school in Reno, represents one of our most successful school-based interventions to date. Throughout 2025, we provided intensive Fit Lite literacy intervention to 12 students, delivering targeted instruction directly within the school setting.

This partnership demonstrates our commitment to meeting students where they are and working collaboratively with educators to provide seamless, integrated support. The program continued through the spring semester and laid the groundwork for potential expansion in future school years.

Mater Academy Data:



Social Validity Testimonials

“It makes me happy to learn more!” – 2nd grade student

“They are great teachers!” – 1st grade student

“I wish my friends could go too and learn more things!” – 1st grade student

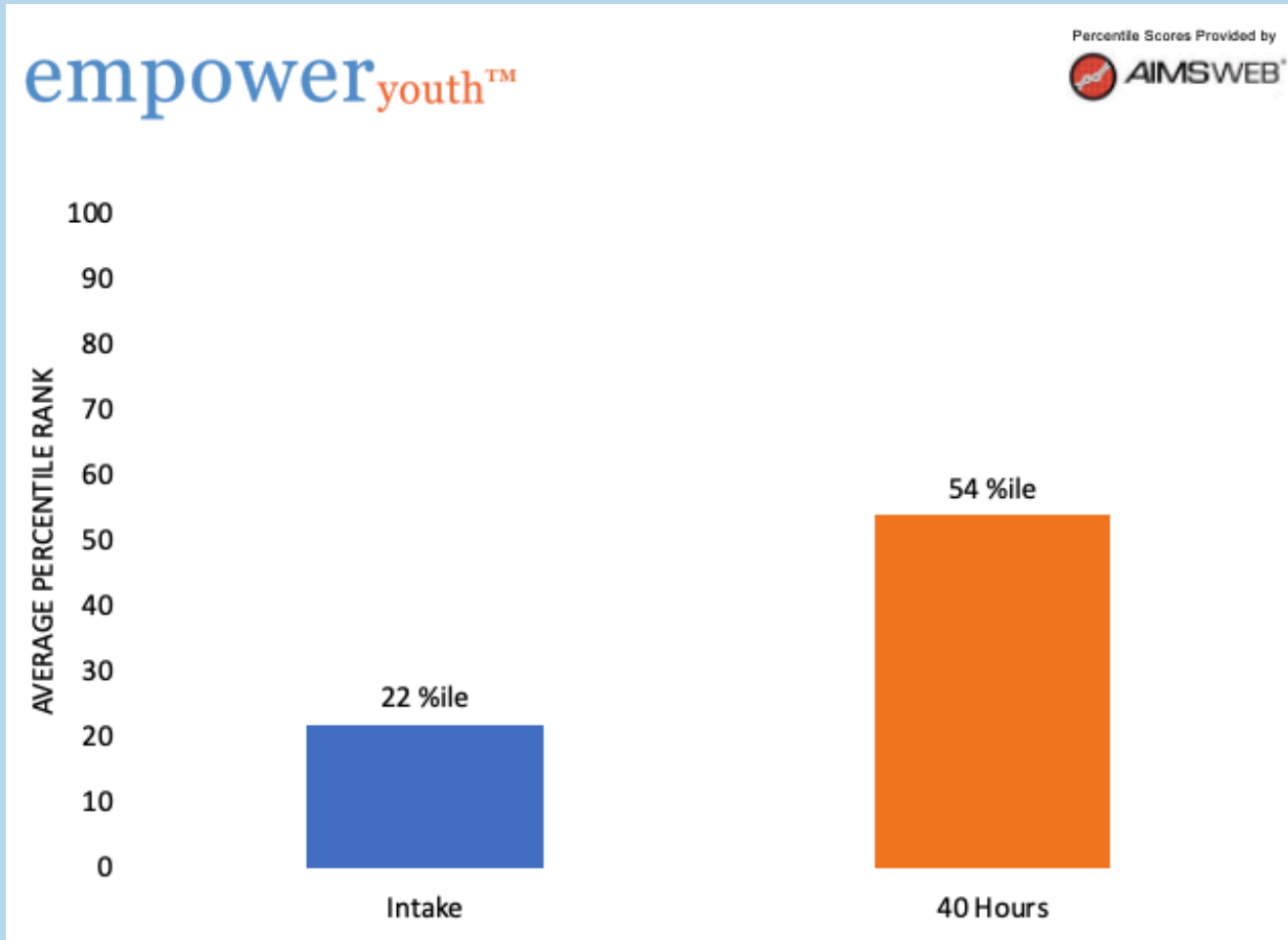
2025 Program Highlights (cont).

Lab-Based Academic Intervention

Our dedicated learning lab remains the heart of Empower Youth, providing an environment where students receive the intensive, one-on-one academic support they need to make accelerated gains. In 2025, we reached 37 students served in our lab-based services, bringing our total impact to 67 fifty-hour enrollments and 10 Fit Lite interventions tailored to their individual learning needs.

The lab-based model allows us to serve students who benefit from instruction outside the traditional classroom setting, including youth referred through our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters (17 students), children from military families navigating frequent relocations (8 students), foster youth seeking educational stability (3 students), and learners referred through community connections. This personalized, intensive approach creates the conditions for breakthrough academic progress, one student, one session at a time.

Lab Services Data:



On average, students enter our program at the 22nd percentile. After just 40 hours of intervention, they reach the 54th percentile, crossing into grade-level proficiency.

Student Impact Stories

While our statistics tell an important story, the true measure of our impact lies in the individual success stories of the students we serve. Here is one example of the transformative power of targeted, evidence-based literacy intervention.

Angelica's Journey: From Struggle to Success

Student Profile: Angelica is a 2nd-grade student at Mater Academy

Challenge: When Angelica began working with Empower Youth, she was reading at a 1st grade level despite being in 2nd grade. She struggled with letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and reading fluency.

Intervention: Angelica received 10 hours of intensive Fit Lite instruction, focusing on foundational literacy skills including letter names, letter sounds, nonsense words, and words in isolation.

Results: The impact was remarkable:

Measure	Before	After 10 Hours
Letter Name Fluency	49th percentile	76th percentile
Letter Sound Fluency	40th percentile	90th percentile
Nonsense Word Fluency	43rd percentile	58th percentile
Words in Isolation Fluency	8th percentile	18th percentile
Oral Reading Fluency	23 words/min	49 words/min

Angelica more than doubled her reading fluency and made dramatic gains across all literacy measures. She progressed from the 6th percentile to the 24th percentile in overall reading ability, a transformation that will have lasting effects on her academic trajectory and self-confidence.

Stories like Angelica's remind us why this work matters. Every child deserves the chance to become a confident reader, and with the right support, remarkable growth is possible.

2025 Fundraising Updates

Financial Stability & Growth

Empower Youth is committed to financial transparency and responsible stewardship of donor resources. In 2025, we strengthened our financial position through diversified funding sources and careful resource management.

Through a combination of individual donations, grant funding, and fundraising events, we secured resources to sustain operations through December 2026. Fourth quarter donations totaled \$51,244.54, bringing our year-end bank balance to \$49,020.79. This financial foundation provides the stability we need to plan strategically, expand programs thoughtfully, and maintain consistent service to the students who depend on us.

95 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to students. When you invest in Empower Youth, you can be confident that your contribution funds academic interventions, not overhead.



Year-End Financial Position

Bank Balance as of December 31, 2025: **\$49,020.79**

Operational Funding Secured Through: **December 2026**

Grant Applications & Partnerships

Throughout 2025, we actively pursued grant opportunities from organizations including:

- Walmart (**\$1,000 received**)
- Sam's Club
- Costco Wholesale Charitable Contributions
- Whole Food Community Giving
- Dermody Properties Foundation
- NY Life Foundation (**\$500 received**)

Looking Ahead to 2026

Major Matching Gift Opportunity

We are thrilled to announce that the **Brett and Kelly Coleman Foundation** has committed to matching new donations to Empower Youth in 2026 up to \$100,000, doubling the impact of every gift.

This extraordinary commitment from our founding supporters reflects their confidence in our mission and positions us to significantly expand our reach in the coming year.

We invite all members of our community to join in this matching opportunity and help us serve more vulnerable youth across Northern Nevada.



Strategic Priorities

Expand School-Based Services

Building on our success at Mater Academy, we will explore partnerships with additional schools in the Carson City School District and other Title 1 schools throughout Northern Nevada. Our goal is to bring evidence-based literacy intervention directly to students who need it most.

Strengthen Fundraising & Community Engagement

We are planning a major fundraising event for 2026 that will increase community awareness, engage new donors, and generate sustainable revenue to support program expansion. Additionally, we will enhance our social media presence and community outreach efforts.

Enhance Organizational Capacity

To support our growth, we will continue engaging professional grant writing services, social media management, and additional board development. These investments in organizational infrastructure will enable us to operate more efficiently and pursue larger funding opportunities.

Deepen Partnership Collaboration

We will continue to strengthen our relationships with Big Brothers Big Sisters, military family support organizations, foster care agencies, and other community partners to ensure we reach the most vulnerable youth in our community.

Program Development Goals

- Continue and expand Fit Lite services at Mater Academy through May 2026 and explore expansion for the 2026-2027 school year
- Increase lab-based enrollment capacity to serve more students in our lab setting
- Explore summer literacy programming to prevent summer reading loss among vulnerable students

Thank You to Our Community

The work of Empower Youth is made possible by the generosity, dedication, and belief of our supporters. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to our success in 2025.

Our Donors

Thank you to the individuals, families, and businesses who invested in our mission through financial contributions. Your support directly translates into sessions, materials, assessments, and the expertise needed to help children succeed. A special thank you to the **Brett and Kelly Coleman Foundation, and Deana Webb** for their advisement, and continued financial support.

Our Partners

Mater Academy: For welcoming us into your school community and trusting us to serve your students.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: For connecting us with youth who can benefit from literacy support and for your ongoing collaboration.

Nevada Nonprofit Network: For providing resources, training, and networking opportunities that strengthen our organization.

Community Organizations: Thank you to the military family support organizations, foster care agencies, and community groups that refer students to our programs.

Thank You to Our Community

Our Board of Directors

Thank you to our dedicated board members who provide governance, strategic direction, and countless volunteer hours to advance our mission. Your commitment to literacy and youth empowerment drives everything we do.

Our Families

To the parents, guardians, and caregivers who entrust us with your children: thank you. Your partnership, encouragement, and belief in your child's potential make all the difference.

Together, we are building a community where every child has the opportunity to become a confident, capable student. Thank you for being part of this important work.

[Support Empower Youth with a Donation Today](#)

Ways To Get Involved

There are many ways to support Empower Youth and help us expand our impact in the community:

Make a Donation

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a direct impact on the students we serve. Your contribution supports literacy assessments, intervention materials, instructional sessions, and program development.

Partner with Us

If you represent a school, community organization, or business interested in partnering to expand academic services for vulnerable youth, we would love to connect. We are particularly interested in school partnerships and corporate sponsorship opportunities.

Spread the Word

Share our mission with others who care about youth empowerment. Follow us on social media, attend our events, and help us reach families who could benefit from our services.

Refer Students

If you know a child who is struggling in school and could benefit from intensive, evidence-based intervention, please contact us. We serve students from diverse backgrounds and work with families to remove barriers to access.

Connect With Us

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www.empoweryouthfoundation.org

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