



Current Connections

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Keeping the Doors Open: Understanding the True Cost of the Delaware Youth Center

When you walk through the doors of the Delaware Youth Center, it's easy to focus on what you see—kids playing, families gathering, classes in motion, and a community coming together. Often overlooked are the many behind-the-scenes expenses required to keep our building safe, functional, and welcoming year-round. Like any facility, the DYC carries high overhead costs. Utilities such as heating, electricity, and water are essential for maintaining a comfortable environment throughout the year. Routine maintenance—from plumbing and electrical work to general repairs—ensures that our space remains safe and accessible for everyone who walks through our doors. In 2025, annual operating expenses, outlined below, totaled \$217,000

Daily Operating Expenses	\$ 30,500
Liability Insurance	\$ 18,000
Flood Insurance	\$ 11,000
Umbrella Insurance	\$ 2,500
Event Expenses	\$ 29,000
Payroll Expenses	\$ 56,000
Pool Expenses	\$ 11,500
Professional Fees	\$ 8,500
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 50,000
Total Expenses	\$ 217,000

One of the most substantial and often overlooked expenses we face is insurance. To responsibly operate and host programs, we are required to carry comprehensive coverage. This includes general liability insurance to protect our participants, volunteers, and organization. In addition, because the Delaware Youth Center is located within a designated floodplain, we are also required to carry flood insurance. This specialized coverage is not optional and comes at a significant cost, but it is essential to safeguard the building and ensure we can recover quickly should flooding ever occur again. We are proud to say that in 2025, we received a generous \$100,000 grant from Sullivan 180 and a \$5,000 Legislative Grant.

We used these funds to construct new sports courts. This project totaled \$145,000. The remaining \$40,000 was covered by DYC funds. While not part of our typical yearly expenses, this upgrade represents our ongoing commitment to improving and expanding opportunities for our community.

Every membership, program registration, donation, and fundraiser directly supports these ongoing expenses. It's because of this collective support that we can keep our doors open and continue serving as a hub for connection, recreation, and community pride. We believe it's important for our community to understand not just what happens inside the DYC—but what it takes to make it all possible. Thank you for being part of that effort and for helping us sustain this special place for generations to come.



Meet the Heart of Our Community

Stephanie Carmona



Can you tell us a little about yourself and how you got involved in DYC?

My name is Stephanie Carmona, and I'm the owner of Serious Craftin' Skillz. I also work part-time as a teacher's aide at Sullivan West Central School District. I'm a mom of two beautiful girls and happily married to my husband, who is a former Air Force veteran. I love crafting, spending time with my family and friends, traveling, and trying new things. I first got involved with DYC by signing my children up for the summer program, and it quickly became something my family and I truly value being a part of. Since then, I've had the opportunity to work closely with them, contributing digital art and designs for special events, which has been incredibly rewarding. I couldn't be prouder to be involved.

What is your favorite DYC memory?

Honestly, my favorite memories with DYC are endless. From meeting people who have become lifelong friends to watching my children experience so many things for the first time through their programs—it's all been incredibly meaningful. But one of the moments that has made me the proudest is being able to contribute by designing the logo for the Tractor Parade over the past two years. It's such an honor to have my work recognized, and seeing my kids' faces light up when they see my designs means everything to me. It reminds me—and them—that anything is possible.

What is your vision for the Center?

My vision for the Center is to continue supporting the community the way it always has—by listening to what people need, whether that's through new programs or even improvements to the space itself. The Center is more than just a place for activities; it's where memories are made and where people feel supported. In a rural area where so much can feel far away, it truly serves as a lifeline for many families. It brings joy to kids, especially during the holidays, and creates a sense of connection that is so important.

Lace Up: Registration is OPEN for the 28th Annual River Race!

The wait is over—it's time to lace up your sneakers, gather your friends, and get ready to hit the course because registration for the 28th Annual River Race is officially OPEN!

One of the most anticipated events of the year, the River Race is a high-energy 5K and 10K run/walk that brings our community together for a day of fun, fitness, and friendly competition. Whether you're chasing a personal record, enjoying a scenic walk, or just looking for a great way to spend the day with friends and family, this event is for everyone.

Feel the excitement build at the starting line, the energy of the crowd pushing you forward, and the sense of accomplishment as you cross the finish. From seasoned runners to casual walkers, strollers to spirited teams—everyone has a place in this beloved tradition.

Want to make it even more fun? Coordinate outfits, create a team, or just come ready to cheer each other on. It's not just about the race—it's about the experience, the smiles, and the memories made along the way.

Spots fill quickly every year, so don't wait to sign up! Be part of a community favorite that keeps people coming back year after year. Register today and get ready to run, walk, and celebrate at the 28th Annual River Race. Let's make this year the biggest and best yet!



Egg-citing Fun at the DYC Easter Egg Hunt!

This year's Easter Egg Hunt was full of smiles, laughter, and lots of excitement! Kids had a blast racing around to collect eggs, filling their baskets in no time. There was plenty of fun to go around, from playground fun to hanging out with the Easter Bunny who joined in for photos and high-fives. It was a great day for families to come together and enjoy some simple, happy moments.



Summer is knocking... and we're answering loud and clear!

First up—**Summer Program Sign-Up is here!** That's right, it's time to start planning for sunshine, laughter, and keeping the kids happily busy (you're welcome). Whether it's games, outdoor fun, or just burning off that endless kid energy, our summer program is the place to be. Spots fill fast, so don't wait too long or you might hear, "But all my friends are going!" on repeat.

In June, things really start to heat up with the **Zerbini Family Circus** rolling into town. Two shows, plenty of "oohs" and "ahhs," and maybe a few "how did they do that?!" moments. It's classic family fun you won't want to miss.

Right on its heels is one of our biggest traditions—the **30th Annual Tractor Parade**. Three decades of hometown pride, horsepower, and a whole lot of community spirit. Stick around after for a BBQ and soak in the celebration.

Then lace up those sneakers for the **River Race** in July! Whether you're running, walking, or just there for the cheers and good vibes, it's always a great day to get moving and be part of something fun.

As the year rolls on, we keep the good times going with our **Fall Dance (adults only—yes, your turn to have fun!)**, an exciting night of **East Coast Pro Wrestling**, the always festive **Halloween Parade**, and our cozy, can't-miss **Holiday Craft Fair**. We'll wrap things up with the **Kids Holiday Make-&Take**, where creativity (and probably a little glitter) takes center stage.

Oh—and don't forget, there's pickleball happening year-round and event space rentals available if you've got something to celebrate!

From start to finish, it's shaping up to be another amazing year at the DYC. Mark your calendars, grab your friends, and come be part of the fun—we've got something for everyone!

Renew Early & Save: Membership Rates Increasing May 1

Beginning May 1, membership rates at the Delaware Youth Center will be increasing. The new annual rate for an individual membership will be \$120, and a family membership will be \$175. We encourage current members to renew early—anyone who renews prior to May 1 can still take advantage of the current pricing. Your membership directly supports the programs, events, and upkeep of the DYC, and we're grateful for your continued support!

Many Hands Make Light Work: Join Our Spring Clean-Up!

It's time for our annual Spring Clean-Up, and we need your help! Join us on Saturday, April 25 from 11am to 2pm as we freshen up the DYC inside and out. There's something for everyone—grounds work, indoor cleaning, organizing, and more—so bring your energy (and maybe a pair of gloves!). Whether you can stay for an hour or the whole time, every helping hand makes a difference. Interested in pitching in? Reach out to Info@delawareyouthcenter.org for more information or to sign up!

DYC UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 21	WINTER BLUES BASH <small>Times: 12 - 2pm, Pre-K to 2nd Grade and 2 - 4pm, 3rd to 6th Grade</small>
MAR 28	EASTER EGG HUNT <small>Starts Promptly at Noon</small>
MAY 30	SUMMER PROGRAM SIGN-UP
JUNE 13	ZERBINI FAMILY CIRCUS <small>Two Shows at 4 and 6pm</small>
JUNE 14	TRACTOR PARADE <small>30th Anniversary - BBQ For Purchase Following Parade</small>
JULY 19	RIVER RACE <small>Don't Forget Your Raffle Tickets to the River Race</small>
OCT 3	FALL DANCE - ADULTS ONLY
OCT 17	EAST COAST PRO WRESTLING <small>featuring Sullivan County native JD Ink "The Illustrated Man"</small>
OCT 24	HALLOWEEN PARADE <small>Line up at Callicoon Caffe @ 11:45am</small>
NOV 27	HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR <small>Featuring Our Evergreen Wreath Fundraiser</small>
DEC 5	KIDS HOLIDAY MAKE-&TAKE
YEAR ROUND PICKLE BALL	
EVENT SPACE RENTAL	

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