

Carolina Youth Development Center

Web address: <http://www.cydc.org>

Street Address: 5055 Lackawanna Blvd, North Charleston, SC 29405

Contact information: Phone: (843) 266-5200

Mission: To empower and equip our community's most vulnerable children by providing a safe environment, educational support, and career readiness, in collaboration with families and community partners.

Geographic area covered: Charleston County

Services Provided:

Bakker Career Center

- The Linda and Tony Bakker Career Center offers job readiness and life skills training including the ACT WorkKeys workplace skills assessment test, as well as academic support, to K-12 children housed in CYDC's residential shelter and group home. The Career Center features a computer lab, a presentation room and library, and the Cummins Automotive Lab.
- Programs include:
 - Job Readiness Training (JRT), designed for underserved high school students ages 14-18. The program features a classroom training component and a partner work site piece where participants complete a paid internship.
 - Independent Living Youth Association (ILYA), a program of the Department of Social Services which convenes one Saturday a month and provides youth in foster care ages 13-20 in the tri-county area the opportunity to develop independent living skills through various fun, hands-on learning activities.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Carolina Youth Development Center is the Charleston-area affiliate of the nationally acclaimed Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program. We match hundreds of children facing adversity with caring adult role models every year. Volunteers spend an average of nine hours each month with their Little Brother or Little Sister. The program also welcomes couples wishing to volunteer. Together, these matches share quality recreational time, and many form life-long friendships.

Freedom Schools

- Carolina Youth Development Center is proud to be a Freedom Schools® sponsor partner. The Freedom Schools program provides summer enrichment that helps children fall in love with reading, increases their self-esteem, and generates more positive attitudes toward learning. Children are taught using a model curriculum that supports children and families around five essential components:
 - high quality academic enrichment;
 - parent and family involvement;
 - civic engagement and social action;
 - intergenerational leadership development; and

- o nutrition, health and mental health.

Callen-Lacey Center for Children

- A secure, protective, and nurturing environment for abused, abandoned and neglected children. Since opening in 1998, Callen-Lacey Center for Children of Carolina Youth Development Center has been home to more than one thousand children ranging in ages from newborn to 17 years of age and is open 24 hours each day throughout the year.

Charleston Emergency Shelter

- The Charleston Emergency Shelter provides an immediate safe haven and treatment for children suffering from the impact of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, until they are placed with a responsible foster care family, go to live with a stable relative, or move to a more permanent group setting.

Ledford House

- The Ed and Ava Ledford House is a low-management group home for DSS-referred children in foster care ages 10-20 who have experienced abuse, neglect or abandonment, and have not been placed with a foster family or who are in transition from a more structured program.

Empowering Families Network

- Empowering Families Network is our partnership program with Charleston and Berkeley County Departments of Social Services to provide timely, integrated, culturally competent family strengthening and voluntary case management services to families who have been assessed as having sufficient risk factors that could potentially result in harm to children if left unaddressed. We assist families by linking them to community resources, performing ongoing risk assessments, and creating family plans to address needs and goals. CYDC staff provide most services in-home with the families.