



YouthZone

Connect and Grow

Glenwood Springs
413 9th Street
GWS, CO 81601
970-945-9300

Rifle
136 E. 12th Street
Rifle, CO 81650

Dave Reynolds
Town Administrator
450 W. Main Street
New Castle, CO 81647

April 2026

Dear Dave and New Castle Board of Trustees,

Thank you for your continued support of YouthZone. We provide court, prevention, and intervention services to youth across the 9th Judicial District — from Aspen to Rangely — and are funded annually by 11 municipalities, 4 counties, and partners including the 9th Judicial District Attorney, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, school districts, and departments of human services.

This fiscal year, we have served 48 New Castle youth, referred primarily for possession of alcohol and marijuana. Of these clients, **87% did not reoffend** while working with YouthZone, and **83% completed their court contracts successfully**. Without diversion support, the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice estimates a recidivism rate of 49% for youth remaining in the standard court and probation system.

Beyond court services and case management, YouthZone provides individualized screening and assessment, substance use education and counseling, mental health services, parent education, life skills, restorative justice, and community service — at no cost to youth and families. We provided more than **500 of these services** in your community this year. At exit, **35% of clients reported measurable improvement** in at least one area, including drug and alcohol use, school engagement, problem-solving, and trauma response.

These outcomes are made possible thanks to our highly trained and certified staff. The cost of providing our services ranges from \$2,000 to \$8,000 per client, with an annual program cost of approximately \$1.5 million. Our team dedicates about 10% of their time to New Castle clients—equivalent to **\$143,000 in services**. For comparison, detaining a single youth in Colorado costs approximately \$132,000 per year. These services are made possible through partnerships with municipalities like yours, as well as support from county funding, state grants, and individual and corporate contributions.

In 2026, we received \$4,000 from the Town of New Castle. As such, we respectfully request that the Town of New Castle include \$6,000 in its 2027 budget to support YouthZone's court diversion services.

While this represents an increase, it remains significantly below the actual cost of services provided to your community. Your partnership makes this work possible, and we are committed to continuing to work alongside you.

Thank you & warm regards,

Jami Hayes

Executive Director

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970-945-9300

"YouthZone helped me respect myself and understand that all my choices affect people."