



# RAISE THE FUTURE

# 2025 *Annual Report*

CONNECTING YOUTH. SUPPORTING FAMILIES. CREATING HOPE.



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# Letter from the CEO: Ann Ayers

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## Dear Friends,

As I reflect on this past year, I'm inspired by how many kind, generous people stepped forward to ensure that every child has a caring, strong, stable adult by their side for life. Our kids and their caregivers feel your support, and it makes all the difference.

This year was filled with meaningful moments and measurable impact. We expanded our services across Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and beyond, reaching thousands of youth searching for permanency and walking alongside caregivers who are opening their hearts and homes. Our Family Support Practitioners continued their life-changing work, helping families, teachers, and even workers in the juvenile justice system navigate the complexities of trauma, trust, and healing.

Of course, the year also brought challenges. Shifts in public funding and priorities, the rising mental health needs of youth and families, and the unmet needs of so many in the foster care system required us to adapt and innovate. Yet year after year, what sets Raise the Future apart and gives us the ability to serve our families with an abundance of excellence and love is your unwavering support.

On April 16th, during A Day for Wednesday's Child, the compassion of our viewers, donors, corporate sponsors, and volunteers alongside our incredible partners at CBS Colorado and 97.3 KBCO turned a single day into something extraordinary. Together, we raised \$111,291, surpassing our \$100,000 goal and reminding us of all that's possible when a community unites around a cause.

Later in the year, we celebrated the 35th Annual Champions for Children Event. Because of your support, we raised just over \$414,385, one of our strongest fundraising years to date. A heartfelt thank-you to our sponsors, attendees, and donors who helped make these events and the impact that followed possible.

Throughout the year, we had smaller events, filling backpacks, filling holiday wish lists, and treating children to time at amusement parks, camps, and sporting events. And we had donors, who would feel the desire to change a life and reach out to Raise the Future with a gift because they trust our ability to turn dollars into positive impact.

Thanks to you, we had hundreds of children who finally found families after years of moving from foster home to foster home, and sibling groups who got to stay together. Fewer children are facing their future alone because of your generosity.

As we look ahead, the need remains great. Thousands of youth and caregivers still rely on Raise the Future's expertise and help. We are known for never giving up at Raise the Future. It's our promise to those still waiting. And it's your support that ensures we can keep that promise.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Ann Ayers  
CEO  
Raise the Future

# VISION

Every young person goes through life knowing they have a caring adult by their side.

# MISSION

To connect youth waiting in foster care with the adults who become stable forces in their lives, and to support those relationships so that they last for a lifetime.



# THE NEED

Every year, more than 300,000 youth are in foster care. Right now, over 113,000 are waiting for a permanent family, and if nothing changes, nearly 23,000 will age out of the system without the stability and love of a home or family.

*Bader, E. (2024, November 19).*

# OUR SOLUTION

Raise the Future programs work together to support youth and families at every step of their journey. From building stable connections to strengthening families impacted by trauma, we help create brighter futures that last for generations.

# Year in Review & Program Highlights



In times of uncertainty, it becomes even more crucial to step up with kindness and generosity. This year, Raise the Future moved forward with determination to provide as much as possible for the youth we serve. In total, 1,176 youth were supported through our Youth Connection Initiatives.



## Youth Connection Initiatives

Recruitment services play a crucial role in helping youth in foster care find permanent, loving homes. Raise the Future implements Intensive and Media-Based Recruitment strategies to increase the likelihood of adoption for the longest-waiting youth.

### Youth Served Through Intensive Recruitment: 620

Youth Connection Advocates (YCA) work with small caseloads of 12–15 youth, allowing them to build trust, understand each youth’s unique needs, and identify safe, familiar adult connections. Reconnecting with former caregivers, extended family, teachers, coaches, or neighbors helps reduce relational trauma, shorten time in care, and lead to lasting placements.

### Youth Featured in the Heart Gallery: 296

Media-Based Recruitment increases visibility by sharing youth stories through photos and videos. Raise the Future’s Heart Gallery, an online and traveling photographic exhibit, showcases the personalities and interests of waiting youth to potential adoptive families.

210<sup>1</sup>

Youth Matched with Families

147

Youth Achieved Permanency

6,871

Child-Specific Inquiries Received

1,309

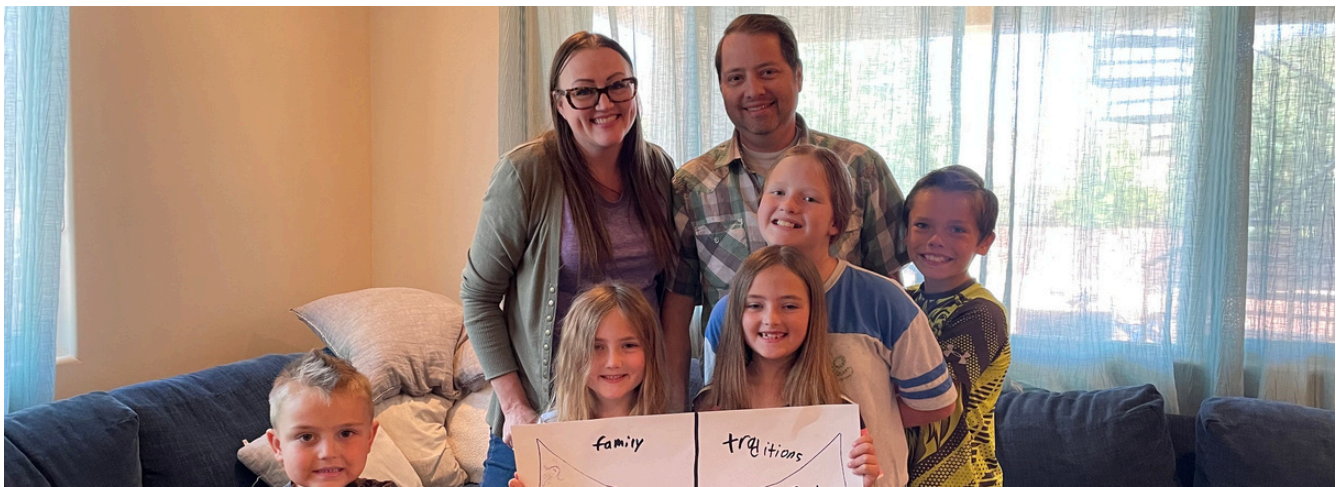
Individuals Inquiring About a Youth

# Family Support Services



In addition to helping youth find families, Raise the Future provides long-term support to ensure families have what they need to thrive together. A connection to a safe, loving family is the first step toward lifelong permanency, but ongoing, trauma-informed support is essential for successful transitions.

Raise the Future provides this support through trauma-informed, evidence-based Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®), developed by the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development. Families receive training and hands-on coaching designed to help them navigate trauma, rebuild relationships, and equip children with tools to heal and thrive.



## Services include:

- TBRI® Caregiver Training
- In-Home Coaching
- Connection Events
- Professional Consultation

These services are available to adoptive, foster, and kinship families, families at risk of child welfare engagement, and child welfare professionals.

**1,843<sup>2</sup>**

Individuals Served Through Family Support

**1,400**

Individuals Received Training

**29**

Estimated Complete TBRI® Training Series

**312**

(4,529 hours)

Individuals received in-home coaching and family support

Together, Raise the Future's programs increase adoption prospects for long-waiting youth, strengthen connections between adults and children in foster care, reduce the number of youth awaiting placement, and provide comprehensive support to families and professionals. These efforts help break cycles of abuse and neglect creating a future where every youth has the opportunity to thrive.

# Government Relations

Our Government Relations team worked tirelessly during the 2025 Colorado legislative session to advocate for youth in foster care. Their efforts helped pass HB25-1271, a bill that creates new provisions for the management and use of federal benefits for children and youth in foster care. With increased state budget, improved access to federal benefits, and more efficient screening of foster care payees, Colorado is taking important steps to help youth find hope for their futures.

(Source: [Colorado General Assembly, HB25-1271](#))

## Community Partnerships:

This summer, Raise the Future partnered with the RennerVation Foundation, founded by actor and philanthropist Jeremy Renner, to support two trauma-informed summer camps for youth in foster care. Each camp welcomed more than 100 youth.

Raise the Future staff provided camp counselors with real-time coaching and relational support grounded in TBRI®. Together, we created rhythms of safety, reinforced predictability, and encouraged joyful interactions that reminded both youth and adults that healing can feel good.

<sup>1</sup> Includes 41 youth with matches that disrupted who remained unmatched during the reporting period. Does not include youth rematched in the same period. *See reference on page 3.*

<sup>2</sup> Includes individuals served through training (Connection Groups, Family Navigator Support Group, Specialized Training, and TBRI®) and/or in-home coaching. *See reference on page 4.*





## Story of hope: Eric's Journey to a Family

*(Names have been changed to protect privacy.)*

Eric and his brother entered foster care when they were just five and six years old. Although both boys were adopted out of care, Eric re-entered the foster care system at age eleven while his brother remained with the adoptive family.

At first, Eric was placed with a foster family who cared for him but were not ready to adopt. Recognizing that permanency might not come through this placement, Eric's Youth Connections Advocate (YCA) began searching for other ways to build lasting connections.

The YCA first reached out to Eric's previous adoptive family, but they declined contact and did not support rebuilding his relationship with his brother. Determined to help Eric find belonging, the YCA then turned to his biological relatives, an avenue that had never been deeply explored. After months of research, multiple cold calls, and tracking down outdated contact information, the YCA finally reached Eric's great aunt, Lucia.

Lucia was overjoyed to hear about Eric. She explained that while the family had known he was removed from his mother's care years before, his mother had prevented other relatives from stepping in. When Eric learned about his grandmother and extended family, he was thrilled. Soon after, he met Lucia and several family members for dinner, saw baby pictures for the first time, and felt the love he had longed for.

Within just two months, Eric went from not knowing anything about his family to meeting more than fifty relatives. He was introduced to his godparents, felt an immediate connection with them, and began to learn more about his father's story. With support from Raise the Future's YCA program, Eric even moved into his godmother's home and started exploring the idea of adoption.

### **Update to Eric's Story**

Although Eric's placement with his godparents did not last, they remained a source of support for him. In the summer of 2024, Eric was adopted by a foster parent, finally achieving the permanency he had been hoping for.

Today, Eric's journey reflects the persistence and dedication behind Raise the Future's work. From reconnecting with family members he had never met, to building lasting connections, to finally being adopted, Eric's story shows the power of relationships and the possibility of healing for youth in foster care.

# A Story of Resilience: A Kinder Student Learns to Belong



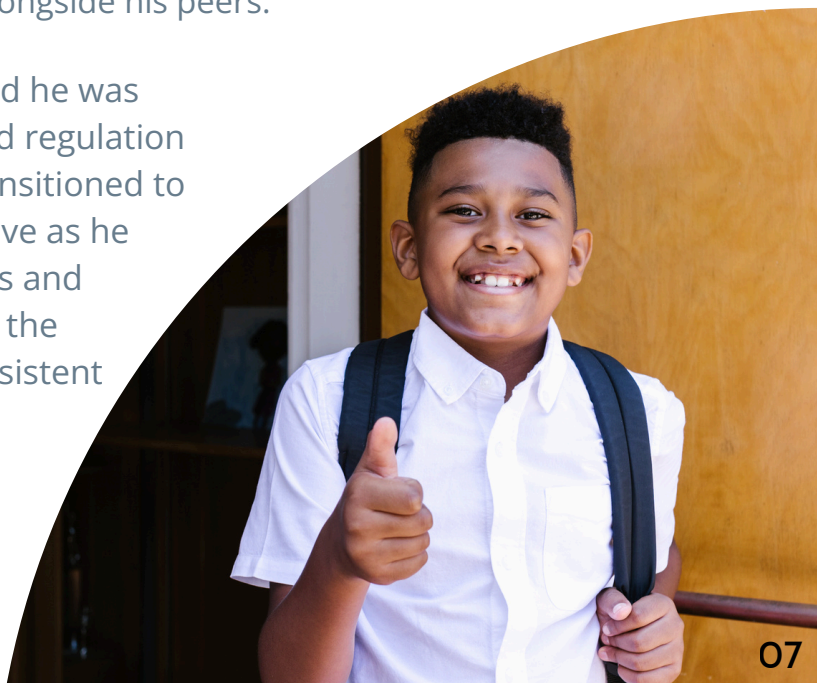
In Las Vegas, Raise the Future partnered with a new charter school to introduce Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) into the classroom. Early on, one Kindergarten student stood out; he often struggled with emotional regulation and processing his feelings. Nearly every day, his dysregulation escalated into verbal and physical aggression, leading to his caregiver picking him up from school by 11 a.m.

This daily pattern created deep ruptures: between the student and his teacher, and between the student and his peers. Even when he was present in class, he struggled to connect with other children and expressed sadness about not belonging.

Raise the Future staff worked closely with the classroom teacher, administrators, and the student to introduce the hand model of the brain, a practical tool that helps adults and children understand what happens in the body and brain during moments of stress or dysregulation. By learning how fight, flight, and freeze responses work, the student was able to take shame and blame out of his behaviors and gain language for what he was experiencing.

After just a few weeks of practicing with the hand model, the student began to identify his emotions before reaching dysregulation and learned how to seek help from trusted adults to co-regulate. Slowly, he started repairing relationships with his classmates by expressing his feelings and supporting them in expressing theirs. Most importantly, he was able to remain in class and learn alongside his peers.

Later that year, his teachers discovered he was advanced academically. With improved regulation and stronger peer connections, he transitioned to first grade, where he continued to thrive as he was challenged academically. Teachers and administrators credited his success to the implementation of TBRI® and the consistent support provided in the classroom.



# Donor Spotlight

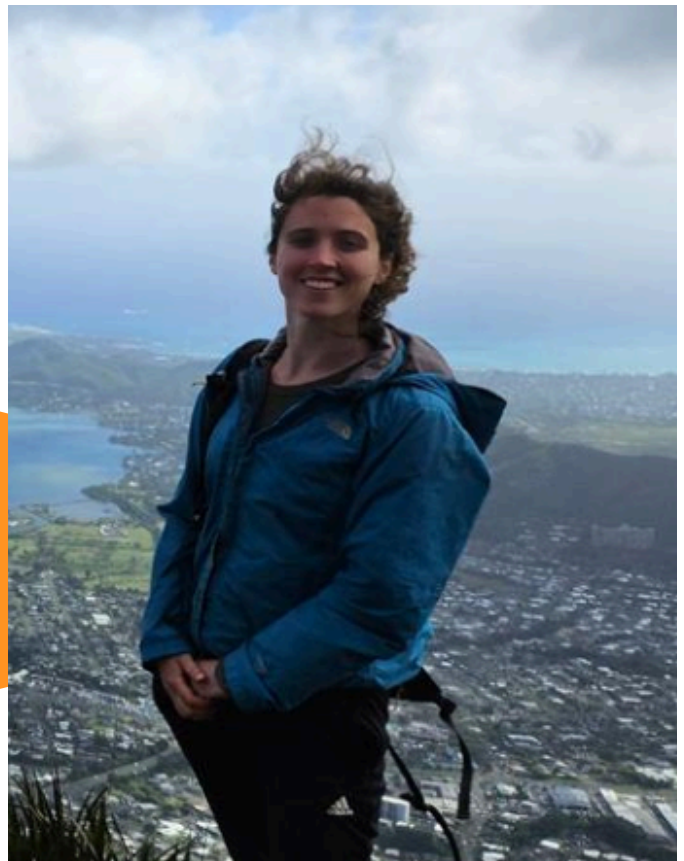
## Donor & Partner Recognition

### Hear from Julia – Supporting Raise the Future

My desire to help Raise the Future in a bigger way comes from many places: serving as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) alongside my mom, growing up in a family that showed me how to give back, and my own life experiences. I'm excited to support Raise the Future with a yearly gift that enables them to meet the unique needs of youth in foster care and their caregivers. This year, I also volunteered with Family Support and as a Camp Buddy at Colorado's Family Connection Camp. I know from my Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) training and time spent with youth in foster care that this work raises the bar for our society overall. I look forward to what's to come as Raise reaches even more youth and families!

Visit [RaiseTheFuture.org](https://RaiseTheFuture.org) to learn how you can give, volunteer, or get involved.

**"Children are counting on us as adult advocates to create hope and connection, whether we volunteer, advocate, or donate."  
– Julia, Raise the Future Supporter**



# Donor Spotlight

Celebrating the generosity and impact of our supporters.

## Dr. Steve & Britta Mobley and BeautyNow Med Spa

For more than a decade, Dr. Steve Mobley, his wife Britta, and the team at BeautyNow Med Spa have stood alongside Utah's youth in foster care through their generous year-end giving. Their consistent support has made a lasting impact, helping to create brighter futures for children and teens who need it most.

As the Medical Director of BeautyNow, Steven Mobley, M.D., brings unmatched expertise and passion to his work. A board-certified facial plastic surgeon, Dr. Mobley has been featured nationally in People and Cosmopolitan magazines, Inside Edition, and Good Morning America. His extensive training and experience in facial plastic surgery provide the foundation for the artistry and advanced techniques that guide the BeautyNow team in delivering exceptional cosmetic treatments.



**MOBLEYMD**



Dr. Mobley shares, "Our Facial Plastic Surgery practice has a long history of philanthropic giving; particularly to Utah-based charities. We try to donate to organizations that we have vetted well and believe are making a substantial impact in our local community and the state.

Raise the Future is an exemplary organization that stands out as one of Utah's top charity organizations, improving the lives of younger Utah children and young adults. Mobley MD and Beauty Now Med Spa are proud to help these deserving people have enhanced life experiences through our annual donation."

More than a leader in his field, Dr. Mobley's vision and commitment to excellence inspire his team daily. Together with Britta, his partner in both life and philanthropy, they embody the spirit of generosity, sharing their success to ensure youth in foster care know they are seen, valued, and supported.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. Steve and Britta Mobley and BeautyNow Med Spa for over 10 years of unwavering generosity. Their dedication helps transform lives, and their example inspires others to give with purpose and heart.

# Partner Recognition

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers. Your support allows Raise the Future to connect youth with families, provide trusted support, and create lasting change. Every contribution strengthens our mission and helps ensure that children and families have the opportunities they deserve.

## Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (DTFA)



Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
*for Adoption*®

Since 2005, Raise the Future has partnered with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to find permanent homes for youth lingering in foster care. Through implementing the Foundation's evidence-based and child-focused model, Raise the Future has ensured that more children and teenagers have lifelong connections. Together, this collaboration has helped 872 youth in Colorado, Utah, and Nevada achieve permanency.



# LOOKING AHEAD

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“In 50 years of working with children and families, I am seeing more trauma behaviors today than at any other time in my career. Kids need more help than ever.”

— Cathy Howe, Lifetime Social Worker

## Here's how Raise the Future is stepping up:

### DO MORE OF WHAT WE DO BEST—AND DO IT BETTER

- Build on 40% growth over the past three years by expanding family-finding and caregiver support programs so more children find permanent connections faster and keep them for life.
- Strengthen data collection and analysis to refine programs and deepen impact.
- Invest in our workforce, streamline processes, and modernize infrastructure to sustain long-term growth.

### CREATE TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

- Select, pilot, and launch two new evidence-based programs aligned with our mission.
- Use technology to bring child welfare forward: app-based support, online learning, real-time coaching, and stronger data integration.
- Share the stories of youth and families bringing visibility, breaking down myths, and inspiring greater support.

### PAVE NEW POLICY PATHWAYS

- Establish Raise the Future's first government relations team and policy platform.
- Shape policies at local, state, and federal levels to better serve children and families.
- Advocate for:
  - Sustainable child welfare funding
  - Workforce development that attracts and retains talent
  - Supports tailored to youth and caregiver needs
  - Equitable access to quality services

Together, we are building a future where every child has a permanent, supportive family and every family has the tools to thrive. Join us in creating lasting change for youth and families by making a gift today at <https://www.raisethefuture.org/donate>.

# Appendix



**Jay Sudowski**  
CHAIR 6/2024- 6/2026  
Beachside HHI

**Marc Hendrikson**  
VICE CHAIR  
Sunflower Bank

**Arcelia Barajas**  
Neighborhood Services Director  
at City of Las Vegas

**Ellen Boade**  
Korn Ferry Consulting

**Joseph Bochenek**  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
Fox Rothschild LLP.

**Niceta Bradburn**  
Brian Comerford  
Vertafore

**Rebecca Slattery**  
TREASURER  
Pursuit Collection

**André Wade**  
Silver State Equality

**Dave Zinger**  
Masque Publishing, Inc.

**John McPhie**  
Community Leader

**Jamie Moyer**  
SECRETARY  
Community Leader

**Dr. Tara Raines**  
Deputy Director, Children's  
Advocacy Alliance

**Taunia Hottman**  
Clermont Eliot

**Tiana Kennedy**  
Colorado State University

**Brian Knudsen**  
City of Las Vegas, Nevada

**Brad McNealy**  
Community Leader

**David See**  
Wendy's / Aksan United Fortune  
Enterprises

## Stay Connected with Raise the Future

Reach us at our offices or connect online. Follow our website and social channels for updates, stories, and ways to support youth in foster care.

### Contact Information

#### Vice President of Development

**Lindsay Kaeding**  
lindsay.kaeding@raisethefuture.org

#### Director of Communications

**Brittany Moore**  
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#### Directors of Major Gifts

**Krissy Fasy**  
kristin.fasy@raisethefuture.org

**Hannah Ronan-Daniell**  
hannah.ronan-daniell@raisethefuture.org

#### Senior Grants Manager

**Lauren Kaperanis**  
lauren.kaperanis@raisethefuture.org

### Social Media/Website

**Official website:** [raisethefuture.org](https://raisethefuture.org)

**Facebook:** [@Raise the Future](https://www.facebook.com/RaiseTheFuture)

**X:** [@RaiseFuture](https://twitter.com/RaiseFuture)

**Instagram:** [@raise.the.future](https://www.instagram.com/raise.the.future)

**LinkedIn:** [@Raisethefuture](https://www.linkedin.com/company/raisethefuture)

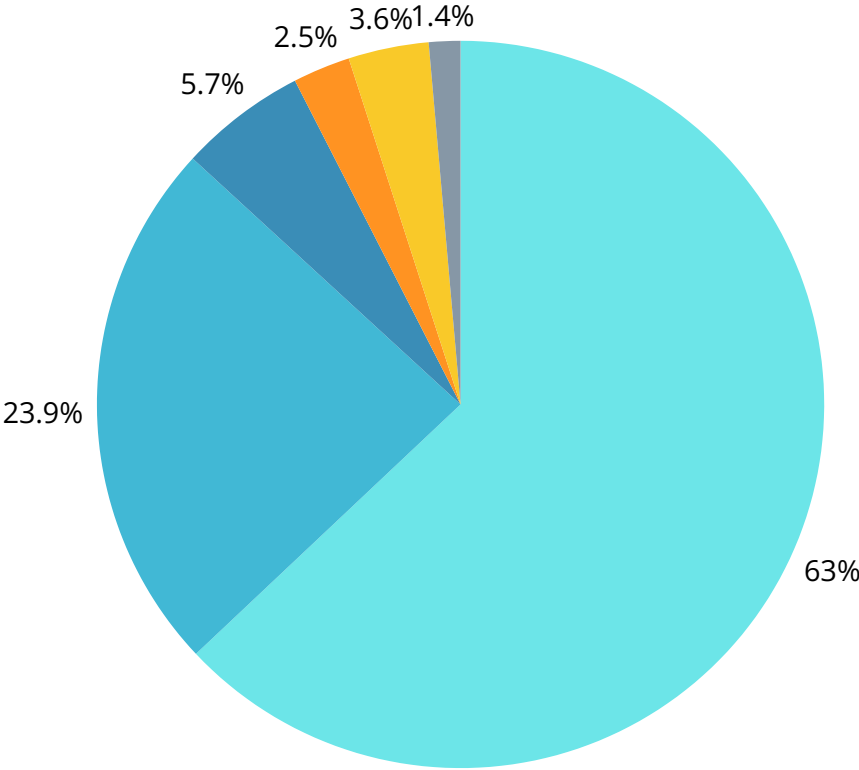
**YouTube:** [@RaisetheFuture](https://www.youtube.com/RaisetheFuture)

# Financials



## Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Revenue Structure

(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)



- Government Support - 63%**  
\$7,456,208
- Foundations - 23.9%**  
\$2,824,179
- Corporations & Individuals - 5.7%**  
\$669,440
- In-Kind Contributions - 2.5%**  
\$301,902
- Fundraising Events - 3.6%**  
\$423,543
- Other Income - 1.4%**  
\$165,709

**Total - \$11,840,981**

### Why does financial support matter?

Donations from all areas, whether government, foundations, individuals, or others, allow us to focus on finding lasting adult connections for children who have been in foster care the longest.

We accomplish this goal through a multi-pronged approach, including media-based and evidence-based intensive recruitment services. Our work doesn't end there, we also provide wraparound services like family support, where families receive information, support, and guidance in creating healthy and stable adoptive relationships.

Each program provides a crucial touchpoint for kids in foster care and post-adoption, enabling them to reach their potential and accomplish their dreams. Without funding, we can't provide these services. That's why we rely on donors like you to keep them running.

#### You can make a difference today.

Set up a monthly donation using the QR code on the following page.  
Thank you for helping create brighter futures for youth in foster care.

# WILL YOU JOIN US?

For 42 years, our progress has been made possible by the generosity of donors, the dedication of volunteers, and the commitment of our staff. Yet until every child and teen has the security of a family and a place to call home, our work is not finished.

**Donate Now**



**Volunteer Today**



**Fundraise with  
your Friends**



Together we can **CONNECT YOUTH. SUPPORT FAMILIES. CREATE HOPE.**



**RAISE *the*  
FUTURE**