

# Annual Report

20  
22





## MISSION STATEMENT

Mission West Virginia changes the lives of youth and families. We promote positive futures by recruiting foster families, providing life skills education and creating community connections.

## VISION STATEMENT

One people, one state, working together to provide every child with a loving family and the knowledge to make positive choices for a healthier future.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Right now, you have the power to say, “I will not let their story end like this.”

This quote has a prominent spot in my office and my heart. Because everything we do at Mission WV is centered on recognizing and validating children’s life stories and feelings, meeting them where they are and ultimately pointing them toward a future that includes hope for something beyond. Sometimes we are there during those pivotal moments where we can witness a life moving in a much different direction.

As an Executive Director, there are plenty of days filled with duties and responsibilities that can bog down my head and calendar. I fully appreciate how vital policy development, human relations, budgeting, and board work are to a nonprofit. Our team has been passionate about working diligently in those areas to help build a strong, sustainable, and effective organization for years. At the end of the day though, the results are usually in the form of a piece of paper.

But there are these moments in mission-driven nonprofit work where the light goes off, and we witness change firsthand. This is one of those moments shared by our staff.

*“One day during my junior year, I was called to the office, and that’s when I met this lady. Little did I know my life and my perspective on life would change thanks to her.”*

For this young person, their childhood was filled with so much loss and disruption. This young student endured more than most can imagine, from abandonment to poverty and loss of housing to the uncertainty of parental addiction, parental incarceration, and the ultimate loss of life of parents, grandparents, and extended family members from overdose and cancer. In 17 short years, this child experienced a lifetime of heartache and understandably, his schoolwork was suffering. At the end of quarantine, he returned to school with past-due assignments that appeared insurmountable, attendance issues, and grades pointing toward retention or dropping out. His story was about to change when his Mission WV Mentor joined his team.

They’ve both worked hard since that day he was called to the office and not only did his grades and attendance improve, but this student started to show hope even beyond a high school diploma. After dedication and guidance, this child now plans to attend college, acceptance letters, and a full scholarship!

This is only one example of those pivotal moments when the story changes for our kids and as always, is our driving force and a good reminder of the important work we do at Mission WV. Every task, person, idea, and level of effort combined aims us toward our vision of **One people, one state, working together to provide every child with a loving family and the knowledge to make positive choices for a healthier future.**

And thank YOU too, for being part of their story. The teamwork of our partners, donors, and board enabled us to achieve the results summarized in this annual report. With determination, optimism, courage, and creativity, we have continued to faithfully fulfill our mission for the past 25 years – to change the lives of youth and families in West Virginia.

With sincere thanks!



*Kelly Thompson, MSW/LSW*

MWV Executive Director

*Now let’s take you on a walk through our year...*

# MISSION WV: A

## JANUARY



Six new Bridge Mentors joined the Bridge team this year.

## FEBRUARY



GLAM Gala Event Raised \$28,000 to benefit youth in foster care.

## MARCH



We celebrated with 2 families as they adopted children through our Wendy's Wonderful Kids program.

## APRIL



We held a statewide meeting with foster care agencies about recruitment and supporting foster families.

## MAY



Over 300 people joined us to celebrate the 10th Walk with Me for Foster Care Month.

## JUNE



Staff-Wide Summer Training.

## JULY



OPA Conference, youth mental health panel with Assistant Secretary of Health Admiral Levine.

## AUGUST



Celebrated YAY DAY 2022 – Discovering our Roots.

## SEPTEMBER



We hosted our THINK conference (160 attendees!) and our First Annual WV Bar Hosted event which raised \$18,000!

## OCTOBER



Staff dressed up and celebrated halloween together in-office.

## NOVEMBER



We hosted a National Adoption Month Press Conference.

## DECEMBER



Mission WV hosted our annual Holiday Open House and provided Christmas gifts for 183 youth in foster/kinship care.

# YEAR AT A GLANCE

We received  
**1,174**  
**INQUIRIES**  
about foster care  
or adoption in  
2022.

**125**  
**FAMILIES**  
became certified  
as a foster or  
adoptive family

We contacted  
**99.5% OF**  
**FAMILIES**  
inquiring about  
foster care or  
adoption within  
two business days.

We served  
**724**  
**FAMILIES**  
by aiding kinship  
caregivers.

We served  
**161**  
**STUDENTS**  
through our  
Bridge Program.

**356**  
**FAMILIES**  
were served  
through our  
Relatives as  
Parents Program.

**9,078**  
**SERVED**  
through body  
safety & consent,  
internet safety  
and other topics.

We taught  
**4,084**  
**CLASSES**  
each with healthy  
relationship  
education.

**10,406**  
were completed  
full healthy  
relationship  
curriculum.

We received  
**857**  
**STUDENT**  
**REFERRALS**

# FRAMEWORKS

## *Finding families for children.*

FrameWorks is a program of Mission West Virginia that finds families for children waiting in the foster care system. Our efforts include recruiting families to foster/adopt, helping families to navigate the certification process and providing support to kinship caregivers. Additionally, we organize events throughout the year to promote awareness of foster care, adoption and kinship care.

- We are empowered by the state as the response team for anyone interested in foster care and serve as a neutral navigator throughout the process.
- We maintain up to date listings for 11 foster care agencies across 55 counties providing accurate information regarding service areas and agency personnel.
- In 2022, we made 9,518 follow up contacts with families considering foster care certification, providing assistance and advocacy.



*"I am thankful for you and your vast knowledge base. I have some random questions still lingering and am confident you can answer or point me in right direction."*

*-Family in the process of certification*



- Our Kinship Navigators are the trusted points-of-contact who confidently help families gather resources and simplify the systems of the foster care process. Kinship Navigators assist families immediately after children are placed with relative families and are the support families can lean on.
  - **In 2022, our Navigators supported and assisted 724 kinship and relative families.**
- Our Adoption Recruiters match children who are legally eligible for adoption with loving families.
  - **We celebrated the adoption of 2 teens that had each been in the system for nearly 5 years!**



## **Dominic's Story**

**Dominic Snuffer, 19, was adopted at the age of 13 after many moves across the state with his four siblings.**

*"It's unbelievable to a lot of people that our sibling group was able to live together and grow up together in the same home but believe it or not there are people out there, who are willing to do whatever it takes to better the lives of kids in foster care," said Snuffer.*

**Dominic has some inspiring advice for families out there considering fostering.**

*"If you are someone that's possibly interested in doing foster care or adopting a child, go for it, it'll change that kid's life and your life as a whole. Don't let things like worrying about becoming too attached, or that they're going to be "bad" get in the way. Just be patient because that child will be scared at first. Love them unconditionally and sooner than later you will find that its way worth it, not just for the kid but for the parents as well."*



# HIGHLIGHTS

## WV BAR EVENT

After his daughter came home from school and told him about a new student in her class who was in foster care, Mr. Gerald Titus made the decision that he wanted to do more to support this student and others in similar circumstances. His search for ways to get involved brought him to Mission West Virginia.

Fast forward three months: because of his desire to do more, we were fortunate enough to partner with the WV State Bar Board of Governors and Young Lawyers Section in WV during the month of September to raise awareness and funds to help youth in foster and kinship care. Through attorney and business contributions, \$18,855 was received in donations.

It is vital to provide positive childhood experiences for kids in foster and kinship care and these funds will allow Mission WV to do just that!

## GLAM GALA

Five years ago, representatives from Mission West Virginia sat before three women at a local church to present the crucial demand for foster parents in the state of West Virginia to fulfill the varying needs of children in care. Fast forward 5 years, the MOMS on a Mission group held the 2022 gala, a sellout event with record breaking proceeds of \$28,000 and over 300 guests in attendance. The group has donated more than \$60,000 in net proceeds.

All proceeds from the event go towards empowering youth in foster and relative/kinship care by providing needs not typically covered by grant or government funding. The items we've purchased include funding emergency need items for youth who aged out of foster care, prom dresses and suits, birthday presents and special surprises, graduation and college application costs, baby furniture, comfort care items and much more.

From the bottom of our hearts, we must thank MOMS on a MISSION for serving as the ultimate example of dedication to the children in West Virginia.

## WALK WITH ME

For National Foster Care Month, the FrameWorks Program brought back Walk with Me... For Youth in Foster Care on Saturday May 21, 2022 after a 5 year hiatus. This was our 10th year hosting Walk With Me, with the goal to increase awareness about foster care in WV and a celebration of foster families and the children they care for. Three hundred amazing people showed up in celebration.

THANK YOU to our two top sponsors, Bob Noone and Biddle Law Office AND all those who made this free event for foster, adoptive and kinship families possible.



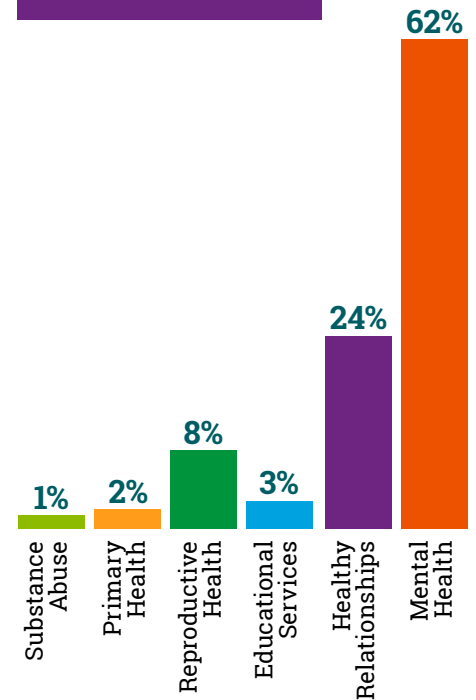
# THINK

## Teaching Health Instead of Nagging Kids

THINK empowers teens to make positive life choices through education, life skills and coaching. Our program is evidence-based and helps the students we work with navigate the social-emotional pressures all teens face as they develop. This includes building healthy relationships and making healthy choices around drugs and alcohol, and pregnancy prevention.

- We deliver our program in partnership with schools in 20 counties.
- We are vetted by district leaders, teachers and other school leaders who are trained to work with kids.
- The program's evidence-based curriculum has been shown to have a positive effect on preventing teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual risk behaviors.
- Our educators are continually trained on the most up-to-date information on trauma, sexual health, and high-risk behaviors.
- Our management team does on-site observations of our educators regularly to ensure fidelity is being followed. We also administer pre and post surveys, receive teacher feedback, hold teen focus groups, and site satisfaction surveys.
- We know our program works because WV has seen a continuous decline in the teen birth rates. There has been a 50.1% decline in West Virginia's teen birth rate since the beginning of our program in 2007.
- According to the CDC's annual report on Youth Risk Behavior, sexual behavior and high-risk substance use are improving and moving in the right direction and show that our youth can and are making better choices for their lives.
- We know it takes a whole community to help teens envision and create positive futures. This is why we also provide resources and training to equip parents, families, and the individuals who support kids as they navigate their teen years.

### STUDENT REFERRALS



*Student Referrals are requests for topics, or services available to them. Percentages reflect the percentage of students who asked for a referral on a specific topic. Students may request referrals for multiple topics.*



**West Virginia's teen birthrate showed an 11% decrease in the last year, a steady decline over the past 12 years.**







# HIGHLIGHTS

## THINK CONFERENCE

The 2022 THINK Conference was held at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center on September 15th and 16th. This year marked the 15th anniversary of our THINK program. The conference provided space for youth-serving professionals to learn from one another and grow their capacity to serve the young people in their community. Here are some key highlights:

- 160 participants attended.
- 20 vendor organizations were represented.
- This year, we had more school personnel attend than ever before.
- Participants gave our conference an overall ranking of 9.48 out of 10.
- 95% of participants reported being either satisfied or very satisfied with the sessions they attended.
- 98% of participants felt that THINK Conference is a valuable resource for their professional work.



## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Our THINK program receives feedback from students and teachers regularly. Its one way we can spot-check the impact of our program. Below are just a few samples of some of the feedback we received from students this year.

- "Love Notes has helped me understand what is and isn't a healthy relationship, as well as how to keep a healthy relationship. The educator has been a positive and understanding guest. I felt overly comfortable in the classroom. Love Notes has also educated me about STDs and many other real-life situations that I should know and plan for."
- "I learned why it's important to communicate with my parents."
- "The educator is patient, kind, respectful and made me feel safe."



# BRIDGE PROGRAM

*Helping foster/kinship students meet education goals.*

The Bridge program guides students in foster/kinship care towards their education goals. When students stay in school, they can envision a positive future. The Bridge supports students each year on their respective journey with educational advocacy, mentoring, student enrichment, college funding support, and post-secondary education planning. This mentoring relationship has resulted in continuous improvements in student's attendance, behavior, and grades.

## EXPANSION OF THE BRIDGE

The 2021-2022 school year was big for the Bridge program. With funds from the Department of Diversion and Transition, Milan Puskar Foundation, and Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, 6 new staff members were hired to join the Bridge team which allowed us to go from serving 33 students to a total of 161 students during 2022 with an increased capacity to serve more in following years.

Here is how well our students did this school year:

- 93% decrease in absences!
- 81% of students in the Bridge had an increase in their overall GPA!
- 60% decrease in suspensions!

*Side Note: (We served a total of 161 students by the end of 2022 but the above percentages only account for 95 students at the close of the 2021-2022 school year)*

***"I wish there was a program like this for the masses for other students. As a young adult sometimes, you get lost in all your classes and you feel like there's no hope. When you have someone to encourage you and help you to complete things one at a time, you get further. I don't think I would graduate this year if it wasn't for the program because life gets so stressful sometimes."***

-Senior Student in The Bridge Program, Class of 2022



# HIGHLIGHTS

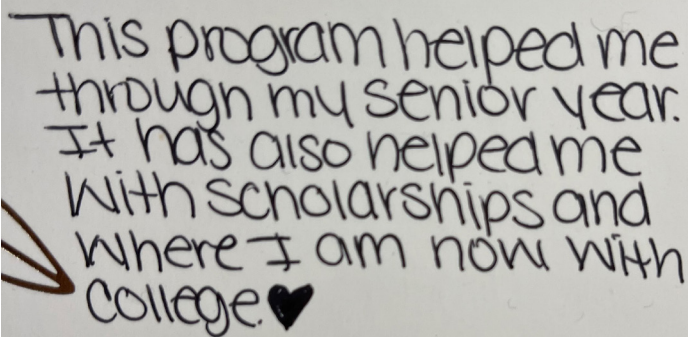
The Bridge team holds the belief that even one student dropping out of school is one too many, which is why we are proud to report that 100% of Seniors in the program graduated high school for the 7th consecutive year in a row.

This spring, the Bridge had the privilege of seeing 25 high school seniors walk across the stage at graduation to receive their diplomas. Here is where they are going after high school...

- 6 students are entering the work force.
- 3 students are attending Job Corps.
- 1 student has committed to becoming a United States Marine.
- 15 of the 25 graduating Seniors are attending college.

## GRADUATION PARTIES

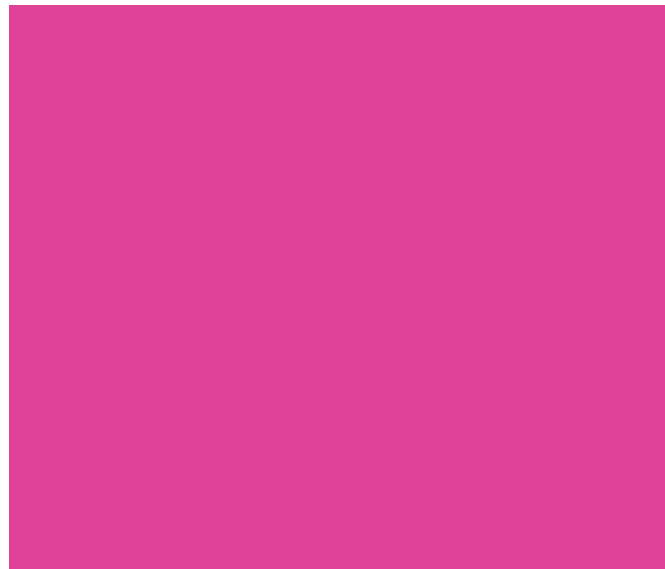
Although the road to graduation for students in foster/kinship care is never easy, it is always possible and when the time comes we make sure to celebrate such a huge milestone! The class of 2022 enjoyed graduation parties at each of their schools put on by their Bridge Mentors. Parties were complete with decorations, goodie bags, pizza, cake, and more.



This program helped me through my senior year. It has also helped me with scholarships and where I am now with college. ♥

## HOLIDAY GIFTS

In years prior we have arranged Christmas gifts for approximately 50 children. With program expansion this number quickly climbed to over 180 – quadrupling our typical list. There is absolutely no way we could have taken on the extra work of providing Christmas gifts this year if it wasn't for our donors and individual sponsors. You all showed up big! We have 180+ stories of giving this year. To our donors, we cannot fully relay to you those moments we encounter when your generosity comes to life. Take it from us when we say that your generosity extends past the holiday season and makes a lasting impact on the youth who receive exactly what they asked for.





# DONATIONS PROVIDED

These are all the ways we can help where our grant funds don't always permit.



## 180+ Kids Sponsored.

Christmas gifts were provided to all our kids we serve, and we are especially proud that the kids received items they had asked for.



## 40+ Beds/Beddings.

A necessity that is sometimes taken for granted. We have been able to provide children with a comfortable place to sleep with bedding of their choice.



## Groceries.

We meet needs as we see them, including for a very ambitious young man who at 18 and still in high school is responsible for all aspects of his life, including food. As he aspires to attend college this fall, he has to work long hours to provide for himself and sometimes struggles with groceries. We were able to step in and help as he meal prepped for the week.



## 19 Care Packages.

Some of the kids we work with age out of foster care and no longer have any formal family support. For those we served in the Bridge who are in college or trade school, we showed them we are still rooting for them by sending care packages assembled by the Moms On A Mission group.



## 4 Emergency Wardrobes.

Children may be moved from their biological family in emergency situations and only have the clothes they are wearing. When two of our teens experienced this, we were able to step in immediately and provide them with clothing to take to their new home.



## Countless Hygiene Products.

We stocked up school clothing closets with hygiene products and clothing.



## 1 College Scholarship.

To a former foster care student to be able to stay in school.



## 2 Hearing Aid Batteries.

We provided hearing aid batteries for two children living with their grandparent on a fixed income. Extra expenses like these may be difficult to manage.



## 2 Little Cheerleaders.

Two young girls in kinship wanted to be part of cheerleading but there were no funds to cover those expenses.



## 5 Summer Camp Experiences.

We were able to send kids to camp this summer who otherwise would not have that experience due to their grandmother's limited financial resources. For these kids, this was a moment to go away to heal from some of the traumas they recently experienced.



## 2 Adoption Gifts.

We were happy to be part of and celebrate our new families.



## 15 Thanksgiving Dinners.

The students were so happy to be taking the dinners home for their families, almost all of whom are living with grandparents.



## Graduation Parties and Announcements.

25 seniors were honored with graduation parties at their school. 25 seniors had senior portraits, announcements, graduation parties, and yearbooks.



## Prom Attire.

We provided prom attire for students who would not have been able to attend without.



## College Housing.

We were honored to provide college housing deposits for those moving on campus in the fall.



## 8 Field Trips.

Four kids got to go with their classmates to an amusement park school trip – the first trip outside of WV for some.



## Holiday Baskets.

50 Valentine Baskets were donated by a Mission WV Board Member to give to students in February. 92 Easter baskets for kids who are in residential/kinship care and don't get anything "extra" or items some take for granted, like their favorite snacks.



## Lots of Luggage.

Moves in foster care are not without loss, heartache, and uncertainty for children in care. That is why we believe that no child should have their belongings moved in a trash bag. Our donors showed up with hundreds of pieces of luggage and hygiene products to combat this reality.



## Clothing.

We provided clothes for a teen girl who had been kicked out of three homes and lost some of her belongings. She said it felt like Christmas to have new, clean clothes that were just her style.



## Club Involvement.

When a student was wearing a borrowed jacket for her club with another student's name, we were able to purchase one just for her with her own name. She wears the jacket with pride to club meetings and presentations.

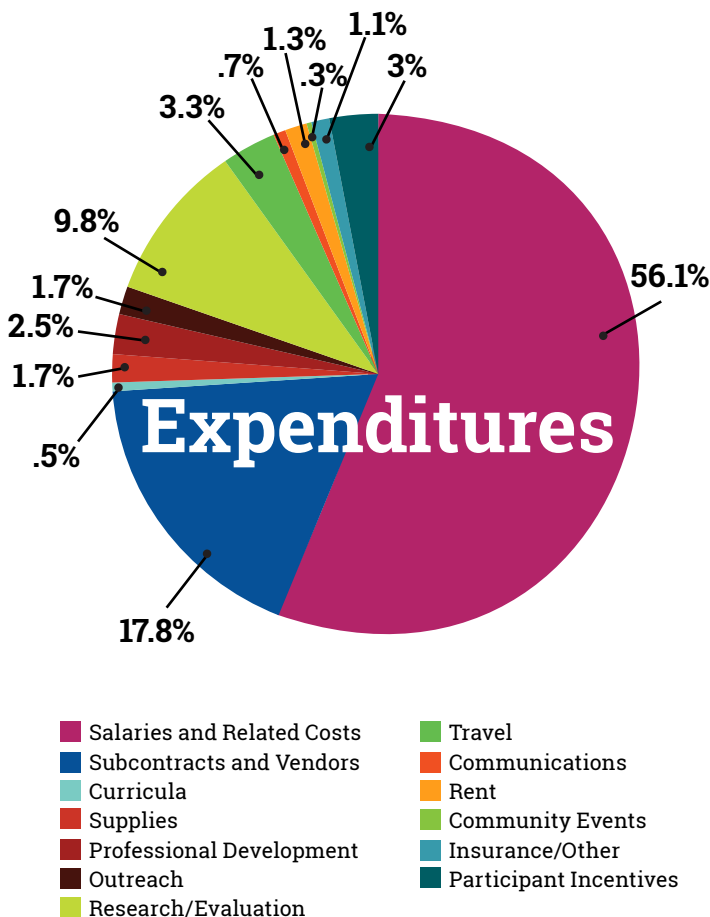
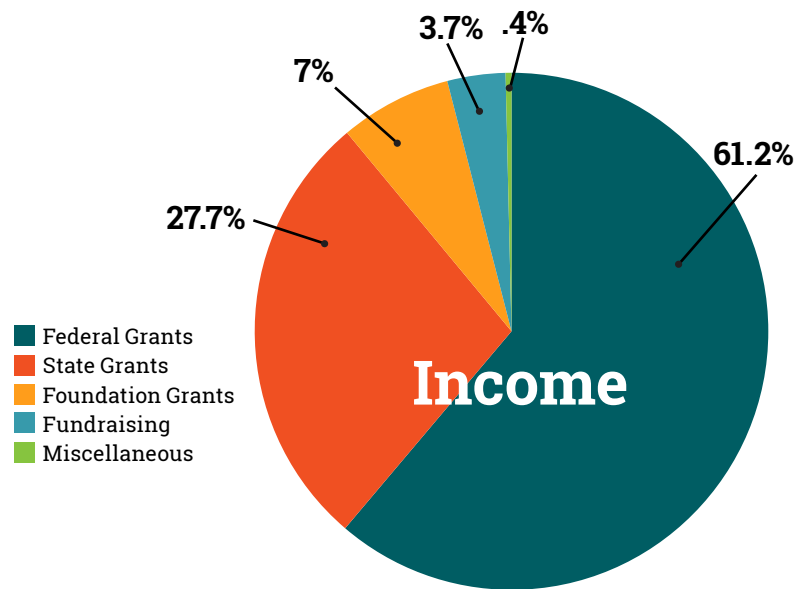


# FINANCES

The following figures reflect Mission WV's expenses, inclusive of program implementation and administrative support costs. We keep our administrative costs low so funds can be directed to programming and those who need it most.

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Federal Grants	\$ 1,927,719
State Grants	\$ 872,996
Foundation Grants	\$221,673
Fundraising	\$115,144
Miscellaneous	\$11,650
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,149,182</b>



## EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Wages	\$1,755,658
Subcontracts and Vendors	\$557,850
Curricula	\$16,907
Supplies	\$54,570
Professional Development	\$77,768
Outreach	\$54,491
Research and Evaluation	\$306,835
Travel	\$103,887
Communications	\$23,395
Rent and Utilities	\$41,918
Community Events	\$9,109
Insurance and Other	\$34,305
Participant Incentives	\$92,426
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,129,119</b>

Mission West Virginia has an administrative/indirect cost rate of 5.6%. We value effective program while ensuring the majority of our funds directly support our mission.

\*Financials provided for the annual report are unaudited for the 2022 Fiscal Year, 1/1/22 - 12/31/22

# FUNDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## GRANTS

WV Department of Health and Human Resources  
WV Bureau of Senior Services  
US Dept. of Human Services  
Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation  
Bernard McDonough Foundation  
Dave Thompson Foundation for Adoption  
Milan Puskar Foundation

## CORPORATE/CIVIC PARTNERS

Amazon Smile  
Am Baptist Women's Assoc/First Baptist, Hurricane  
American Baptist Women's Ministries of Baptist Temple  
American Water - Affirm  
Alpha Xi Delta Fraternity (Weslyan)  
Baltimore Life, Hurricane  
Charleston Visitors Bureau  
Chestnut Ridge Church  
City National Bank, Teays  
Cold Spot Angel Wings Committee, Cold Spot  
Dingess-Rum Properties, Inc.  
Elevance Health  
Good Samaritan  
Huntington Bank Foundation  
Kroger  
LaMaster Travel Agency  
Martha Gaines and Russell Wehrle Memorial Foundation  
Pack Family Charitable Fund  
River Ridge Community Church  
Stone Tower Buckhannon  
Target  
Tristate Roofing  
WV American Water

## INDIVIDUALS

Danyell Allen  
M. Bosak  
Grace Brumfield  
Renne Carte  
G. & S. Christy  
Hager Family  
L. Feinberg  
W. Herlihy  
J. Jarret - TC Energy  
Jones Family

C. Kincaid  
R. Lewis  
A. & L. Marcia  
D. Moulder  
M. Norman  
CC Procurement  
LeeAnne Rheinlander  
T. & D. Smith  
S. Smoot  
Lisa Statler  
Tad Tomblin  
J. Tinney  
H. Turley  
P. Visnic  
A. Wellman  
R. Wheeler  
WVBOG/Emer Fund

**And all individual holiday and Carry-On Campaign donors!**

## WV BAR EVENT

Gerald Titus for his passion and dedication to starting this project and fundraiser

TOPDOG Legal Marketing

Event Sponsors - Moses Auto Group, Capitol Market, Ellen's Ice Cream, The Wine Shop and 1010 Bridge

WV State Bar Board of Governors and Young Lawyers Section in WV

All to the over 75 individual firms and lawyers who donated!

## WALK WITH ME EVENT

Robert Noone  
Jackie Biddle  
River Park  
NECCO  
Pies and Pints  
4imprint  
Blue Prints  
Children's Home Society  
NYAP  
Kroger  
KVC

**And thank you to all volunteers & participants!**

## GLAM GALA

A special thanks to volunteers with Moms on a Mission, Hurricane

**Diamond Plus Sponsor**  
Spriggs Distributing

**Diamond Sponsor**  
Audi of Charleston  
Spa Grace

**Platinum Sponsor**  
The Grant Advantage  
United Bank  
WV Lottery

**Gold Sponsor**  
H&R Block, M Carpenter  
Kroger  
Putnam County Bank  
Premier Women's Health Specialists PLLC  
WV Paving

**Silver Sponsor**  
Dancing Unlimited  
Mi Cocina De Amor  
South Charleston Pediatrics  
Yeager Design

**Bronze Sponsor**  
Bolt's Lawncare  
Capital Beverage Company  
Creative Kitchens  
Deals in Heals Glam  
Express Employment Professionals  
Huntington WV  
Harold and Phyllis Payne  
Hair by Rachel Wheeler  
Hill Family Dentistry  
O'Dell Orthodontics  
Professional Floor & Wall Coverings  
Pioneer Federal Credit Union  
Putnam Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Putnam Chiropractic Center  
Revolution Gymnastics  
Sans Ego Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

**Glam Gala Attendees, Committee, Vendors and Donors!**



**Mission  
WEST VIRGINIA**

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Hurricane, WV, 25526  
304-562-0723 | [www.missionwv.org](http://www.missionwv.org)



## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Executive Vice President

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Director of Adult Services

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Lendmark Financial Services  
Assistant Branch Manager

**David Dean, Secretary**  
Real Estate Broker/Investor & HS Coach

**Michael Addair**  
Attorney  
Addair Entsminger PLLC

**Megan Diehl**  
Goodwill Industries of Kanawha Valley  
Director of Marketing

**Kathi Huffman**  
State Farm/Owner

**Bethany Kinder**  
WV Geographic  
Communications Mgr.  
DOW

**Michelle La Master**  
Baltimore Life Insurance Company  
Agent/Customer Relations Specialist

**Margarita L. Pauley**  
PSIMED Corrections LLC  
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Director of Operations & Clinical Services  
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**Praveen Srinivasan**  
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