



Mission
WEST VIRGINIA

Annual Report

**Strengthening Families.
Empowering Youth.**

➔ **2025**

**The
power
of ONE**

Mission West Virginia

promotes positive futures by
recruiting foster families,
providing life skills
education and creating
community connections.

We believe that **One** Effort,
One Connection and **One**
Investment *can empower change
in the lives of youth and families.*



Mission West Virginia believes in the **Power of One**—one person, one choice, one connection—changing the course of a child's life and strengthening families across our state. We promote positive futures by **recruiting foster families**, providing **life-skills education**, and creating **community connections** that turn moments of care into lasting impact.

Our work comes to life through **two Impact Areas** that move together as one: one focused on strengthening **family stability, permanency, and support** within the foster and kinship system, and the other equipping **young people** with the skills, education, and encouragement they need to thrive. Together, these efforts form a **continuum of care**—supporting children and families at every stage, **one step at a time**.



Open your life.

frameworks think

- Foster Care & Adoption
- Adoption Resource Exchange
- Kinship Navigators
- The Bridge
- Adoption Recruiters
- Adolescent Health & Pregnancy Prevention
- Healthy Marriage & Relationship Education



About
MWV



Dear Supporters,

As I write this, I'm struck by the passage of time—**24 years**, to be exact. Twenty-four years ago, I walked into Mission West Virginia for my first day as one of just **six employees**. We were a brand-new nonprofit formed from leftover campaign funds, and I was given a broad directive:

Go find adoptive families... in churches... across the entire state of West Virginia.

It felt impossibly large for our small team. But behind those six staff stood **21 founding board members** with one shared belief: that even **one effort, one connection, one investment** could change a life. And here we are today.

Through every challenge and change, one thing has remained constant: **the Power of ONE.**

One community that trusts us. **One generous act** at a time. **One dedicated staff member** beside each family. **One child** whose future shifts because someone showed up.

This year brought its share of stress and uncertainty—yet progress still came **ONE step at a time:**

- Our THINK team renewed curricula, strengthening impact with **one clear focus:** prevention that works.
- We welcomed new managers, recruiters, and mentors—growing capacity **one position at a time.**
- We now have **4.5x more adoption staff** working toward **one goal:** permanency for children who have waited the longest
- Kinship families received direct Navigator assistance—**one barrier removed, one placement stabilized**
- Mentors continued supporting students long after graduation—**one trusted adult for life.**
- Our **100th child** was listed on ARE, and nearly **one-third** moved closer to permanency through **one expression of interest.**
- A Healthy Marriage grant that began as Plan B became a primary expansion path—**one opportunity opening many more.**
- **92%** of Bridge seniors graduated on time and **95%** left with a plan—**one future secured at a time.**
- Christmas support reached more youth than ever—**one personalized gift** reminding each child they matter.

A year that began with uncertainty ended with stronger finances, greater reach, and deeper impact for those we serve. After 24 years, this work has not grown old—because each year still holds the same truth:

One decision. One connection. One moment. Can change everything.

I believe our founding board would be proud. Their first investment has now allowed us to serve **hundreds of thousands** of children and families across West Virginia—proof that **one act of vision can echo for generations.**

I'm proud of what we achieved this year, and even more hopeful for what comes next.

With gratitude,

Kelly Thompson





Open your life.
frameworks

FrameWorks brings together Mission WV's recruitment, permanency, kinship support, and academic mentoring efforts—meeting children, caregivers, and youth with the right support at the right moment. From the first call to long-term stability, these programs work together to ensure no child or caregiver has to navigate complex systems alone—**one step, one relationship, one outcome at a time.**



ONE CALL STARTS A FAMILY'S JOURNEY

Recruitment Programming

Recruitment Programming is often the first “yes” in the process. When a family reaches out, Mission WV aims to be their first conversation—and their first support—helping them take the next right step toward welcoming a child.

One timely response can turn curiosity into commitment.

One conversation can become forever family.

2025 Impact

- In 2025, **over 900** people took **one first step** by contacting Mission WV
- When families reach out, **one timely response matters: 99%** received follow-up within two business days
- Our team made **6,000 - 7,000** contacts this year because decisions of this size take time, trust, and guidance

*The
First
Step*



Adoption Resource Exchange

ONE SNAPSHOT. ONE CLICK. ONE NEW POSSIBILITY.

The Adoption Resource Exchange (ARE) helps children who have waited the longest be seen by more families—expanding reach beyond traditional recruitment and helping the system move from “waiting” to “matching.”

2025 Impact:

WV Adoption Resource Exchange

- 105 youth referred and posted
- 35% deactivated due to potential matches/trial adoptions
- 715 families registered on the website
- 322 certified families inquired about youth

Kinship Navigators

ONE LESS DAY WAITING. ONE STRONGER START.

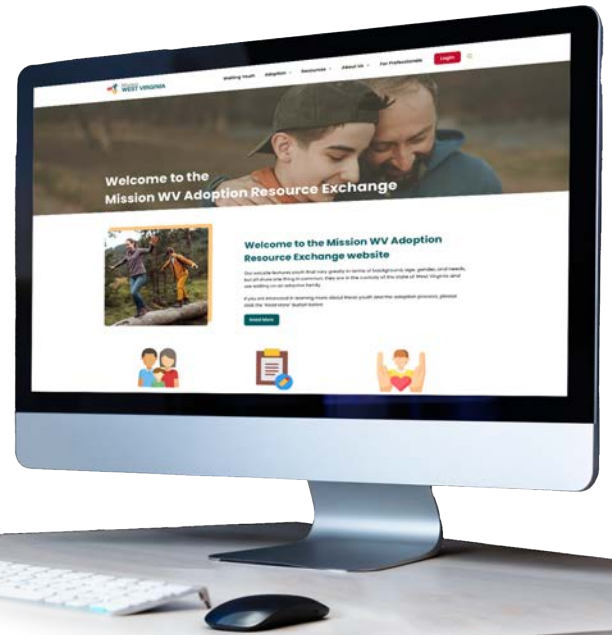
When kin step in, they often do so with little notice and limited resources. Kinship Navigators shorten waits, remove barriers, and stabilize placements—because timely support can change everything.

Mission WV’s Kinship Navigator Program supports relative and kin caregivers caring for children in WV DoHS in the period after placement.

Referrals are received through Homefinding and CPS staff and assigned to a Navigator within two business days. The program serves the entire state of West Virginia.

2025 Impact:

- 1,351 families supported
- 1,315 families received help navigating financial strains
- 1,297 families linked to resources
- 406 items purchased



*Every inquiry
is one more chance
for a child to be seen*

One barrier removed can stabilize a placement. One quick connection can prevent months of strain.

Adoption Recruiters

**ONE RECRUITER. ONE CHILD.
ONE FOREVER FAMILY.**

Adoption Recruiters ensure children who have waited the longest have a dedicated recruiter focused solely on permanency. Recruiters work alongside a child's existing team and concentrate on one goal: **finding the right permanent family.**

2025 Impact

- **84** children received intensive one-on-one recruitment
- **16** family matches made—one connection toward permanency
- **3** children finalized with families



**Recruitment services provided
for 283 children since inception!**

**104 children achieved
permanency. One forever
family, 104 times!**

***More recruiters = more children with
"one person" fully focused on them***

Expansion: More Children Matched with One Dedicated Recruiter

In 2025, with additional foundation and WV DoHS support, West Virginia is scaling from **2 recruiters to 10 recruiters plus a manager**—meaning more children will have a full-time recruiter assigned to directly assist in finding permanent families.

The Bridge

Across seven counties, Bridge mentors walk alongside students in foster and kinship care through the moments that matter most—proving that one consistent relationship can change a young person’s trajectory. Using an evidence-based dropout prevention model, mentors meet regularly to improve grades, reduce absenteeism, strengthen behavior, and build a postsecondary plan. They also engage families, coordinate with schools, and fill everyday gaps that can stand between a student and success.

Service Areas: *Clay, Boone, Lincoln, Kanawha, Cabell, Putnam, Wood*

Student snapshot

- 494 students served
- 49.2% foster/formal kinship | 50.8% informal kinship

What we did

- 12,738 mentor meetings
- 2,342 family engagements

How they did

- 57% decrease in absences
- 83% decrease in suspensions
- 99.5% advanced grade level
- 70.4% maintained/increased GPA

Graduation & post-secondary

This year, **118 seniors crossed the stage**—many with mentors who had walked beside them since freshman year. Each diploma represents years of planning, hundreds of meetings, advocacy, and belief. It’s proof that when students rise to the moment, **one future opens wide**.

Our goal is that every student graduates with a solid plan. That takes hours of coordination, customized opportunities, and consistent encouragement—one decision at a time.

Results:

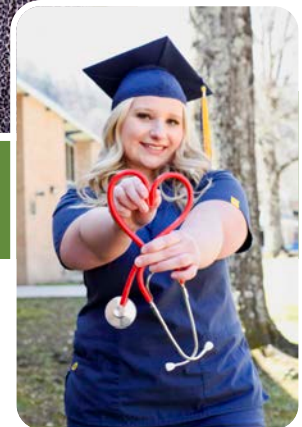
- Graduation Rate: **97%** (118 of 123 students)*
- **92%** of graduates with established post-secondary plans

Plan breakdown

- 37% College
- 26% Technical School
- 31% Workforce
- 6% Military

Scholarships & grants earned: \$1,770,202

***One Mentor
One Student
One Future***





ONE LESSON. ONE CONVERSATION. ONE FUTURE.

Equipping teens to engage in healthy decision-making for successful futures — one choice at a time.

THINK empowers teenagers to make positive life choices that set them up for success in adulthood. Rooted in evidence-based practices, we equip students with essential life skills, education, and personalized coaching to navigate the complex social and emotional pressures of adolescence—one lesson, one decision, one different outcome.

THINK includes:

- Adolescent Health & Pregnancy Prevention
- Ready4Life/Relationship Education

Service Areas: Boone, Cabell, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Putnam, Roane, Summers, Webster

Pregnancy Prevention

Through two federal grants and one state grant, Mission WV provides trained Educators who deliver evidence-based curricula in middle school, high schools, and high-risk community settings. Students gain knowledge and skills to make informed decisions, reduce risk, and build healthy futures.

- One informed decision can change a trajectory
- One trusted educator can open a healthier path

Beyond the classroom: one community conversation at a time

THINK expands impact through year-round outreach. In 2025, our Educational Outreach monthly webinar series brought national experts to communities across West Virginia—supporting professionals who work with youth and providing practical, relatable guidance for caregivers too.

2025 Impact (What We Did)

- 10,698 youth served
- 525 cohorts taught
- 75 schools/sites reached
- 2,869 attendees at community events
- 2,404 attendees at parent events
- 820 youth at special events

After participating, 98.1% of youth rated THINK fair, good, or excellent.

*One Lesson
One Decision
One Different
Outcome*



LIFETIME REACH

168,000 students reached to date — one generation strengthened.

Progress takes consistency. When students receive accurate information, build skills, and have space to practice decision-making, they carry those choices into relationships, education, and future goals—creating ripple effects for families and communities.



*Sustained impact happens
one year at a time*

NEW! Healthy Marriage Program

ONE SKILL. ONE RELATIONSHIP. ONE STRONGER FUTURE.

Mission West Virginia was awarded a competitive five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families to launch READY4Life in Kanawha County. This evidence-based program equips high school youth with skills in healthy relationships, communication, financial literacy, and future planning.

Program Details

- **READY4Life** is an evidence-based education program that supports high school students in building healthy relationships, strong communication skills, financial literacy, and future planning skills. The program helps students think intentionally about their education, careers, and relationships as they prepare for adulthood
- Award level at **\$700,000 per year**
- With the project, we will be able to serve an additional **1,580 students** with important life skills they need to make healthy decisions



The THINK Program stands out for its evidence-based approach, ensuring that the curricula are rooted in proven methods and effective strategies.

2025 Highlights



Walk With Me

ONE DAY. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE REMINDER: YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

In May, more than **450** foster, adoptive, and kinship families gathered with volunteers, service providers, and community partners for our 13th annual Walk With Me celebration. With support from **19** sponsoring organizations and businesses, we removed financial barriers so families could simply show up, connect, and be celebrated.

Each year, Walk With Me proves the Power of One: one community showing up can become a lasting support system—friendships formed across counties, traditions built year after year, and even Bridge graduates returning to give back.

Affirmation Boxes

ONE BOX. ONE MESSAGE. ONE YOUTH SEEN.

Through a grant from **DOW Chemical**, Mission WV created and distributed **100** Affirmation Boxes for Black and biracial youth in foster care. Each box included hair and skincare items, culturally affirming dolls, and skin-tone crayons—small details that communicate something bigger: *you belong, exactly as you are.*

Assembled during a Mission WV volunteer day, the boxes engaged the community and raised awareness about foster care—and all 100 were quickly delivered to foster, adoptive, and kinship families across West Virginia.



Pre-Prom Celebration

ONE MILESTONE. ONE SAFE SPACE. ONE RIPPLE OF BELONGING.

Two Riverside High School mentors launched a new tradition: a free pre-prom experience where students could get ready in a welcoming space surrounded by encouragement. With volunteer hairstylists, makeup artists, clothing support, snacks, and giveaways, youth walked into prom feeling confident, seen, and fully included in a moment many take for granted.

What began with two mentors became something more—Mission WV rallied support to provide dresses, suits, accessories, and prom tickets, helping more students experience a milestone that says, *you're part of this too.*

College Field Trip

ONE CAMPUS VISIT. ONE NEW VISION. ONE FUTURE IN REACH.

Thirty Bridge students participated in a college campus experience designed for youth navigating foster care and first-generation pathways. Students toured campus, connected with first-generation advisors, and joined a simulated class—turning college from an abstract idea into something tangible and reachable.

For many, it was the first time higher education felt personally accessible. Throughout the year, mentors also arranged individual campus visits for students who otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity—one step at a time toward what's next.





THINK Community Day

ONE ROOM. ONE VOICE. ONE STRONGER NETWORK FOR YOUTH.

In November, we hosted the 2nd THINK Community Day, bringing together **30** youth-serving organizations and a powerful youth panel. The goal was simple: strengthen partnerships, share what's working, and identify opportunities to better support young people across West Virginia.

With lightning presentations, youth perspectives on what they want from community programs, and roundtable discussions on mental health, prevention, life skills, service gaps, and collaboration, the day reinforced a core truth: when we align around youth needs, one partnership can multiply impact.



Holiday Open House

ONE DOOR. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE INVITATION TO BELONG.

Our annual Holiday Open House and Door Decorating Contest has become a beloved community tradition. This year, nearly **200** community members joined us to learn more about Mission WV programs—and to take part in a fierce (and festive) door decorating competition.

The event created more than holiday cheer; it created connection—inviting neighbors, partners, and supporters into our work and reminding us that community engagement starts with one open door.



Christmas Drive

ONE PERSONALIZED GIFT. ONE CLEAR MESSAGE: YOU MATTER.

The holidays can be especially hard for youth in foster and kinship care—when financial strain, instability, or new placements can make celebration feel out of reach. That reality fuels Mission WV's year-round commitment to support children and families with necessities, referrals, educational advocacy, family finding, and more. And during the holidays, we add something extra: personalized gifts that help youth feel seen and remembered.

Thanks to generous donors, this year we shopped for **550 teens**—more than **200** more than last year. It's an immense undertaking, but the impact is simple and powerful: what may look like “just a gift” is often something much bigger—proof to a young person that they are worthy of care.



Above & Beyond Impact

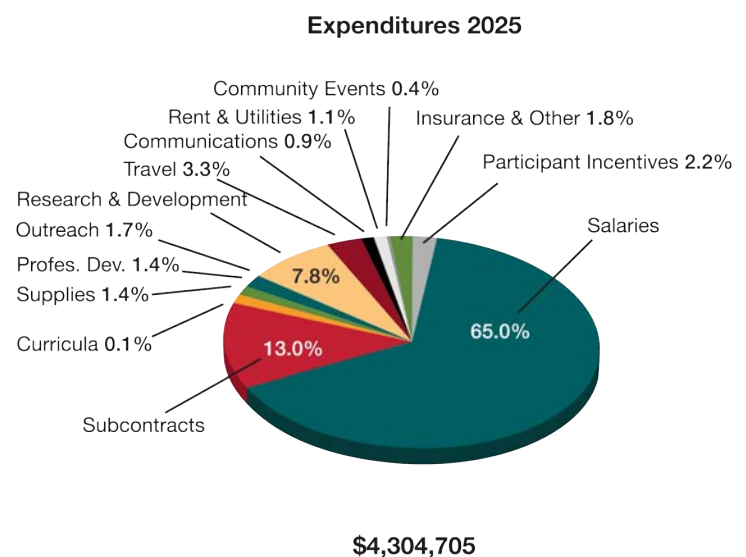
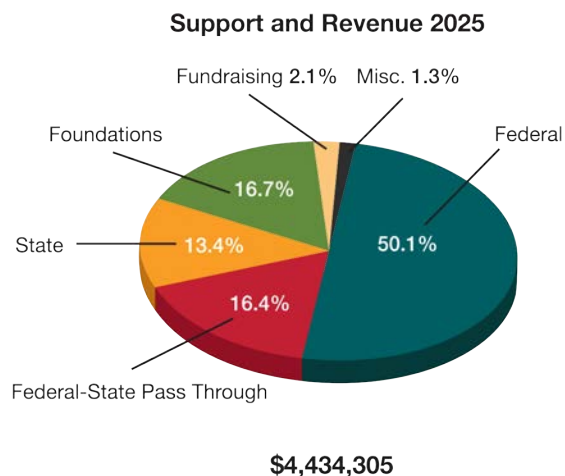
Because flexible giving fills the gaps that grants can't, Mission WV was able to say **"yes"** to urgent, everyday needs that protect stability, dignity, and opportunity for youth and kinship/foster families. Year-round donations helped provide **550+ sponsored holiday gifts, beds and bedding, and emergency clothing and hygiene supplies**—including luggage so children aren't moving with trash bags.

Support also strengthened school success through **\$30,000 in school-based funds across 26 schools in 5 counties**, transportation and basic-needs assistance, and help securing essential documents like **birth certificates and IDs**.

Donations made milestones and belonging possible too—formalwear, prom/homecoming support, senior pictures, graduation expenses for **118 students**, extracurricular participation, and college exposure trips. And for the next step into adulthood, donors helped students pursue education through scholarship and cost supports—contributing to **\$1.7 million** in scholarships and grants earned, plus help with fees, supplies, and housing deposits.

Financial Statement

The following figures reflect Mission WV's income and expense, including program implementation and administrative support costs for 2025.



Mission WV operates with a significantly lower administrative rate at 6.94%. We value keeping administrative costs low so more goes directly to support kids and families who need it most.

Funder Acknowledgements

GOVERNMENTAL GRANTS

U.S. Department of Education
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
 Administration for Children and Families
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family
 and Youth Services Bureau
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of
 Population Affairs
 WV Bureau of Public Health: Office of Maternal, Child &
 Family Health
 WV Bureau of Senior Services
 WV Department of Education
 WV Department of Human Services, Bureau of Social
 Services
 WV Public Defenders Services

FOUNDATIONAL DONORS

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 Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
 Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation
 Henry Logan County Foundation
 McDonough Foundation
 Milan Puskar Foundation
 Parkersburg Area Community Foundation
 WV First Foundation

CORPORATE/COMMUNITY DONORS

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 Central Catholic High School
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 Crane Charitable Funds
 ChemPharma and Energy
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 DOW Chemical - Affirmation Boxes
 Elevance Health
 First Baptist Church, Hurricane
 Gabriel Brothers, Morgantown

Greater Federal of Women's Clubs - WV
 GKVF - Donor Advised Funds
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 P.E.O. Chapter E
 PayPal Giving Fund
 River Ridge Church - Stocking Drive
 River Ridge Church - Gift Cards
 TC Energy - J Jarret Match
 Tristate Roofing
 Toyota Manufacturing
 Witcher Baptist Church
 WV Northern Correctional Facility

INDIVIDUALS

\$5,000+	\$250 - \$999
The Pack Family	Hager-Robinson Family
Katherine Lester	Lisa Statler
	Carrie Baisden
\$1000 - \$4,999	Erik & Kelley McGregor Goes
George Barrett	Margarita Pauley
Joseph Dipiero	Sean Craig Eddy
Michael Haid	James Cook
Tina Gillenwater	Jackie Jarret
	Megan Tarpy
	Jennifer Dennison
	Rhonda Knight

To the donors of 2025

Thank you.

Your generosity is truly amazing.

Thank you to all those who sponsored kids individually with gifts or individual donations, or stockings. We could not have done it without you! Also, to all those who organized drives for luggage, hygiene products and school supplies, you kept our closets stocked year-round!

EVENT SPONSORS

Biddle Law
Goddard Law
Moses Auto Group
Mountain Care Network
Putnam County Bank
Robert Noone – Top Sponsor
United Bank



Table Sponsors:

Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council
Blueprints
Children's Home Society
Genesis
KVC
River Ridge Church
Pressley Ridge
NYAP
WV Fostering Together



SPECIAL THANKS

3PS & Vandalia Digital for In-Kind contributions

Media Outlets sharing our stories

Thank you to all the private donors of luggage, bags, hygiene products, school supplies, etc.

In-Kind Donors

Christmas Gift Sponsors

Program Partners: Rainelle Medical Center, Case of Southern WV, AMTC and Associates



Board of Directors

The MWV Board consistently shows up. Through challenges and change, they stayed steady, asked the right questions, helped us identify Plan B's and kept focus on our mission. They showed up to events, found corporate sponsors for projects, and showed up with checks in hand when kids' needs were expressed. They are active and engaged and have both our employees' best interests at heart and that of those we serve. **We are beyond thankful for their leadership!**

Michael Addair

Board President - Attorney
Addair Entsminger PLLC

Ian Gillmeister

Board Treasurer - Controller
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WV Geographic Communications Manager
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Monica Robinson

Attorney
Foster WV Director, River Ridge Church

Tara Chapman

Regional Retail Sales Manager
United Bank

Terming off in 2025 after serving two full terms:

Alison Jones, Exec. VP/Putnam County Bank

David Dean, Real Estate Broker/Investor & HS Coach





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