



2023
**Impact
Report**

Foster Village Peoria

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from the Executive Director

Hey everyone!

I'm so thankful for everything 2023 brought Foster Village Peoria and our community. When we launched our affiliate chapter in June 2022, we knew the need was great. Foster Village Peoria was an idea, a dream, a passion to support and provide resources for youth and caregivers affected by foster care and the child welfare system. To approach the brokenness of the system with a holistic approach, building programs to fit the biggest gaps of need.



our Founders

Since Danielle Carr, Emily Doubet, and I launched Foster Village Peoria, we continue to be **blessed by the community's support** and see how much this nonprofit can provide the foster care community. Our nonprofit continues to hear the "thank yous" and praise from foster parents, kinship parents, and biological families who are supported through our programs. Thank you to our 2023 Board of Directors, our leadership volunteers, our volunteer teams and committees, our donation drive partners, sponsors, and community partners--- **we could not do it without you!**

Thank you!

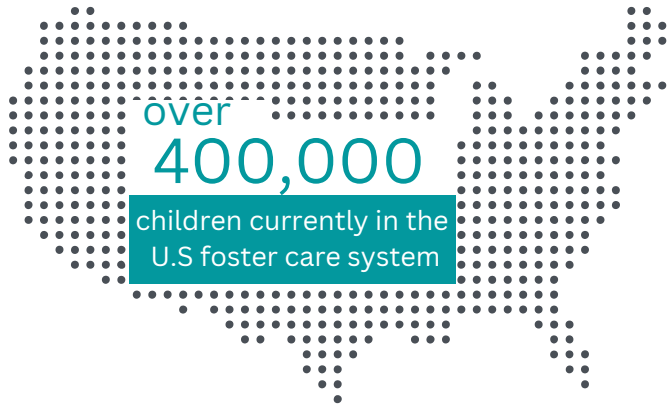
Cheriz Kunkel

Co-Founder & Executive Director



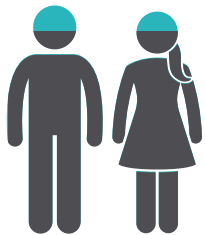
WHY WE CARE

Changing the statistics one child at a time



50%

of licensed foster homes stop fostering after their first placement



98%

of children who are identified as survivors of sex trafficking had previous involvement with child welfare services.



40%

of our homeless population are former or current foster youth.



90%

of youth with 5 or more foster placements enter the criminal justice system



at least **80%**

of foster youth suffer from mental health issues, such as PTSD and depression

Our Local Need

22,000

youth in the foster care system in Illinois.

1,500

youth in the foster care system in the Tri-County Area (Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell Counties).

at least **56**

foster youth in our Tri-County region currently don't have a foster home. They live in group homes, homeless shelters, and other locations.



The Solution

The need is great... but we can work together to be part of the solution..

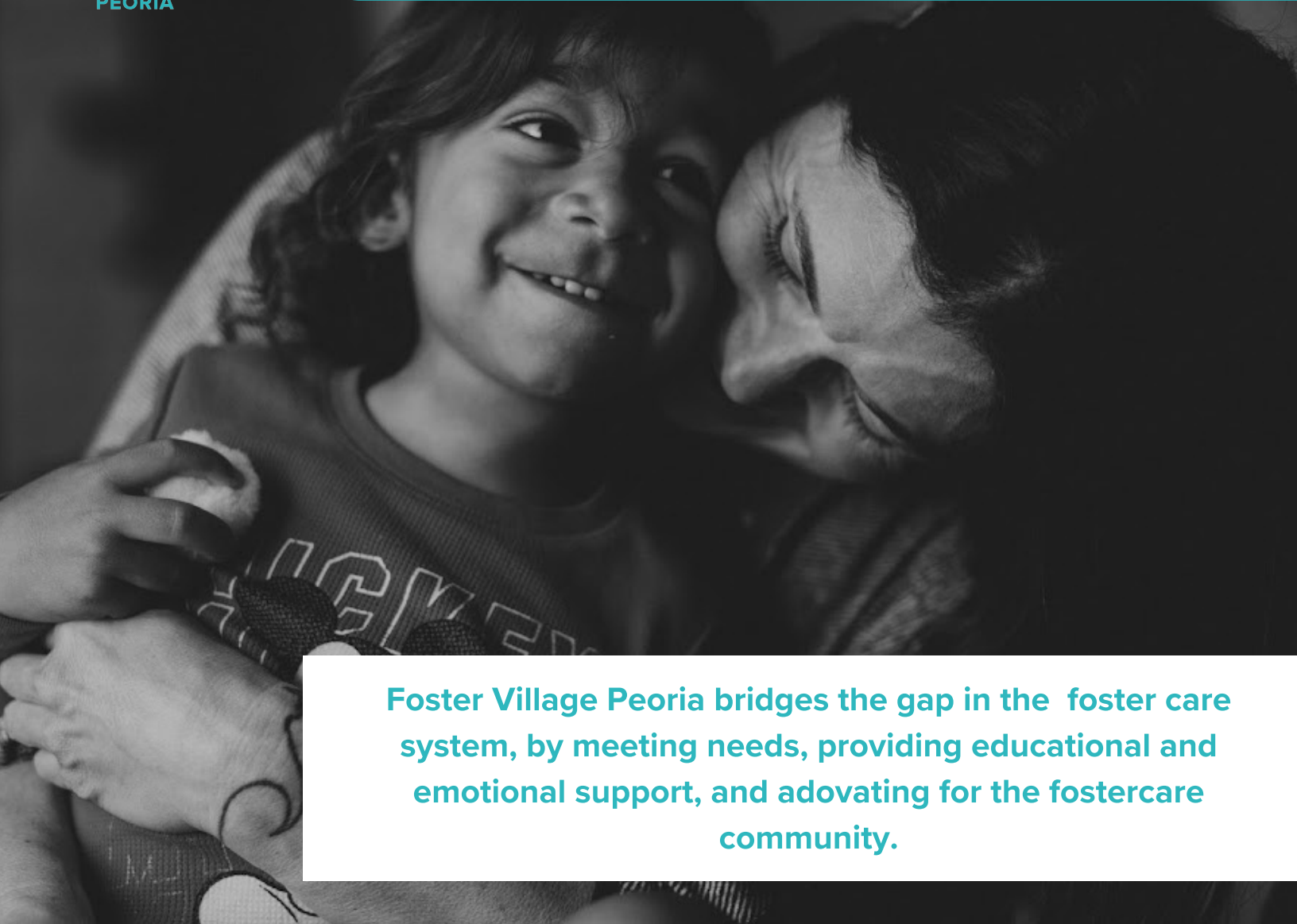
Foster Village Peoria is a 501c3 non-profit started by three local foster mamas (Cheriz Kunkel, Danielle Carr, and Emily Doubet) on June 28, 2022. They saw a huge gap in **support and resources for the foster community** and decided to fill that need and tackle the brokenness of the foster system. Foster Village Peoria is an affiliate chapter of Foster Village Inc. and since it's launched has built five programs providing support and resources to create a **community beyond the system**.

It Takes a Village...

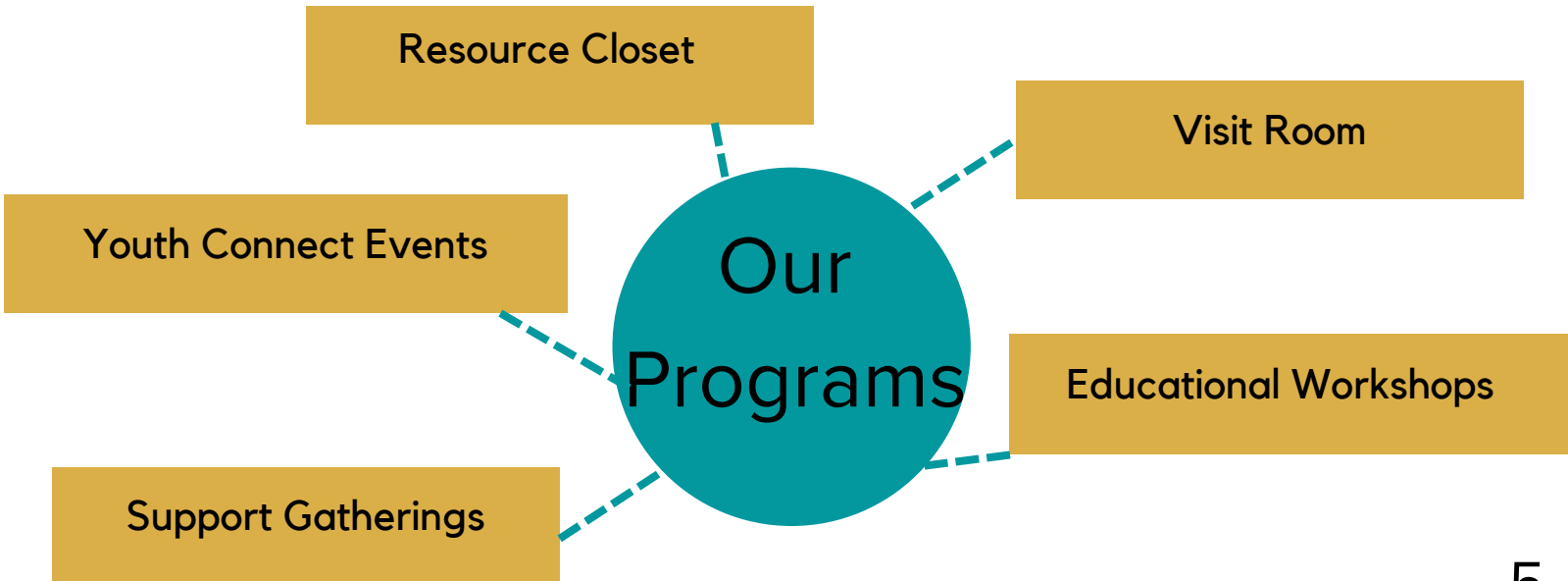
**Since our launch June 28, 2022
we have launched five programs
and directly served 800+ families**



Our Mission

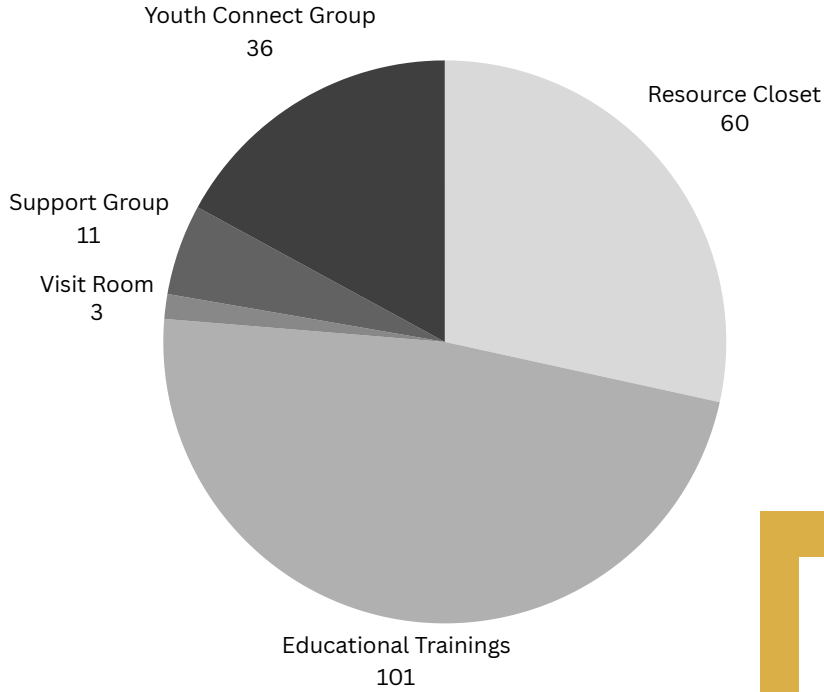


Foster Village Peoria bridges the gap in the foster care system, by meeting needs, providing educational and emotional support, and advocating for the foster care community.



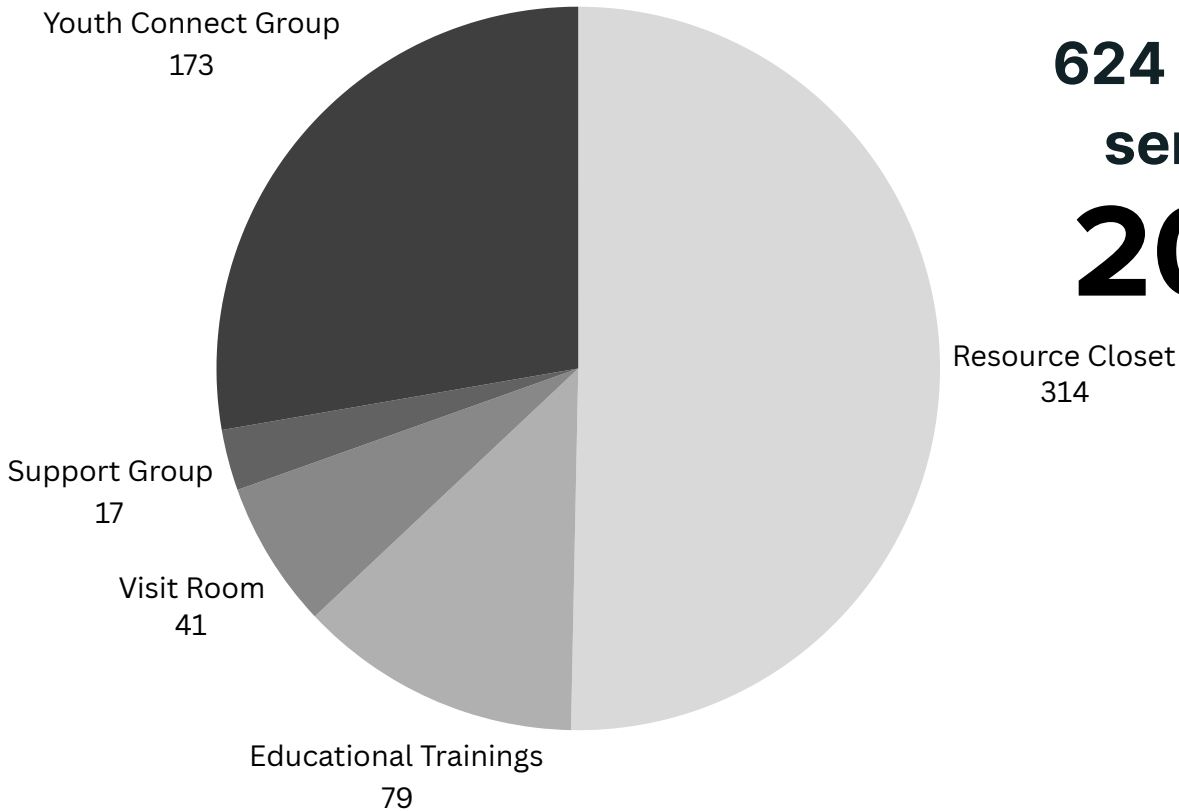


Growth & Families Served



211 families served from July - December 2022.

that's 67% growth overall in 2023



624 families served in 2023



Resource Closet

The Resource Closet program provides needed basic items to youth & caregivers impacted by foster care and/or the child welfare system. This includes youth experiencing foster care, youth that recently reunified with their family, and youth navigating adulthood on their own after transitioning out of foster care, and youth whose families are currently working intact case plan and need support.

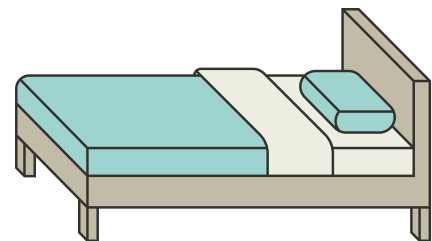
We provide two types of requests:

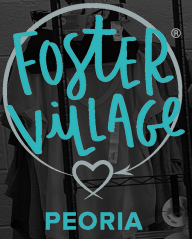
- 1.) **Welcome Bags** packed with clothing, toiletries, a blanket, water bottles, shoes, coat, comfort items and extra supplies needed.
2. **Special Requests** are larger one time needs. Most of the items requested were car seats or beds, along with mattresses and bedding.

200
Welcome
Bags
delivered
in 2023



125
Special
Requests
delivered
in 2023





Resource Closet

what caregivers say...

“ I’m thankful for Foster Village Peoria for helping my family start our foster care journey. We took a sibling group of three and didn’t have enough mattresses, but lo and behold Foster Village to the rescue. Not only did the provide mattresses, sheets, comforters. and pillows All within 24 hours. Not to mention we received welcome bags for all three kids as well! “

- anonymous *foster parent*

“ Foster Village Peoria has helped us on multiple accounts. We are new to this journey and the things that are “hard” as a new foster parent, have been made so much easier with Foster Village Peoria’s help.”

- Hannah R. *foster parent*

“I can’t say enough how amazing you guys are and what you do!”

- Heather C. *foster parent*

“My family was unbelievably grateful for the support. Out of no where I took in 2 children in an emergency placement. My mind was swirling after accepting because I had nothing for a baby or a young boy. Foster Village arrived within an hour of the children’s arrival. Im already thinking of ways that I can pay it forward. God bless the volunteers and your mission.!”

- Hedy E. *foster parent*





Youth Connect Events



Our youth connect events program offer youth who are impacted by the foster care system a chance to bond and play with children with similar life stores.

We host our youth connect events around the community, often renting out fun facilities (ex: Peoria Playhouse) to offer the children a safe, private, and environment with reduced stimuli. We also provide

light refreshments and an opportunity for caregivers a chance to connect.

Over **173** youth and their caregivers enjoyed our youth connect events in 2023!



Support Gatherings

The Support Gatherings program provides a night of connection and relaxation for caregivers impacted by foster care and/or the child welfare system. Our Support Gatherings offer dinner and free on-site childcare provided for all families that attend.

In 2023 we had two monthly support gatherings:

- 1.) **Foster Parent Support Gathering:** this group met the fourth Thursday of the month at Foster Village Peoria, in order to learn, share, and navigate their fostering journeys together.
2. **Adoptive Foster Parents:** this group met the second Tuesday of the month at Foster Village Peoria, in order to support each other post-adoption. Once a family goes through adoption, there is no more ongoing support from their foster agencies.



17
families attend
these gatherings
in 2023



5
professional
childcare workers
provide on-site
childcare

Exciting News!

In 2023 we received a \$15,000 grant to double the number of support gatherings in 2024

thank you
Community Foundation of
Central Illinois



Visit Room

the problem

Often families need to visit in the evenings to avoid interrupting work and school. Agencies often close at 4pm. Finding a safe place to host visits for multiple siblings and their parents can be difficult.



our solution

Our visit room is available for parents to visit their children by appointment. Our space is a neutral, safe, flexible space that is available even when agencies are closed. This allows families to visit during evenings, weekends, and on holidays. Our visit room is our newest program, and continues to grow in number of families using the space. In 2023 we hosted **32** visits for families.



Thanks to J.E.M project for sponsoring our library of books, that allow children to take home a book after their visit!





Educational Workshops

Our Educational Workshops offer knowledge and resourceful tools to help caregivers, while they navigate taking care of children from hard places. We choose topics with greatest need and impact, often suggested by caregivers in the community. Our workshops are done online via zoom, and led by a community professional in the topic.

In fact, our local foster agencies give foster parents continuing education hours to caregivers who attend our workshops.

Topics we covered in 2023:

- Record Keeping: Navigating Foster Care Paperwork.
- IEP & School Supports
- CPR Certification for Foster Parents
- Parental Regulation
- The Role of Sensory Intergration in Co-Regulation & Healing from Trauma
- Understanding Court for Foster Parents

Did you know over 50% of foster parents quit after 1 year or after their first placement, citing lack of support & resources as the reason?

79
families learned valuable information & skills in our workshops in 2023.

Thank you!

to all our workshop leaders in 2023!

Katy Endress Cheriz Kunkel Rin Dillow

Jennifer Freeman Kristine Smith Ethan Carnes Samantha Lee

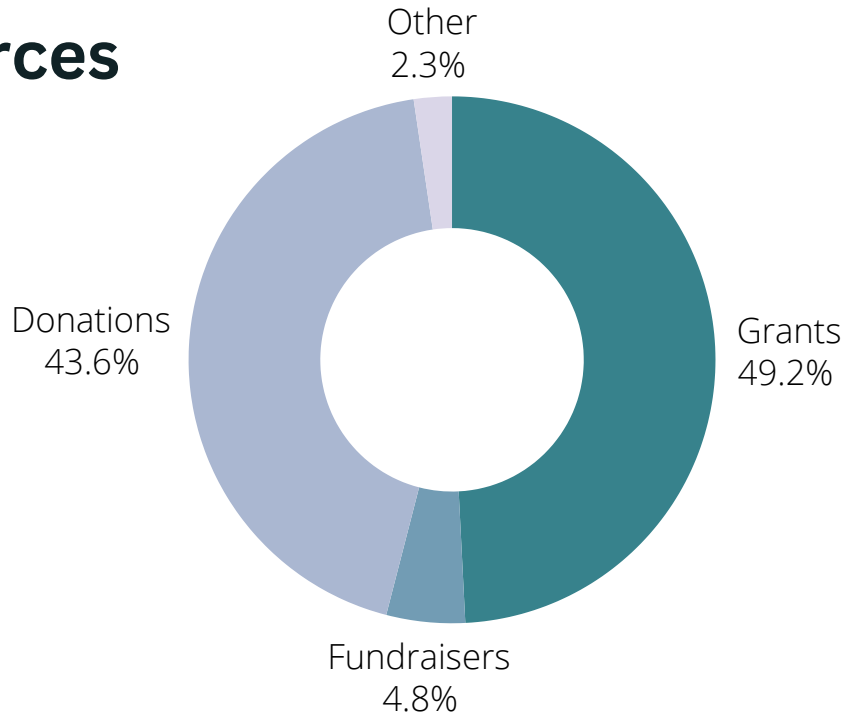


Income & Expenses

2023 Income Sources

Total: \$63,531.48

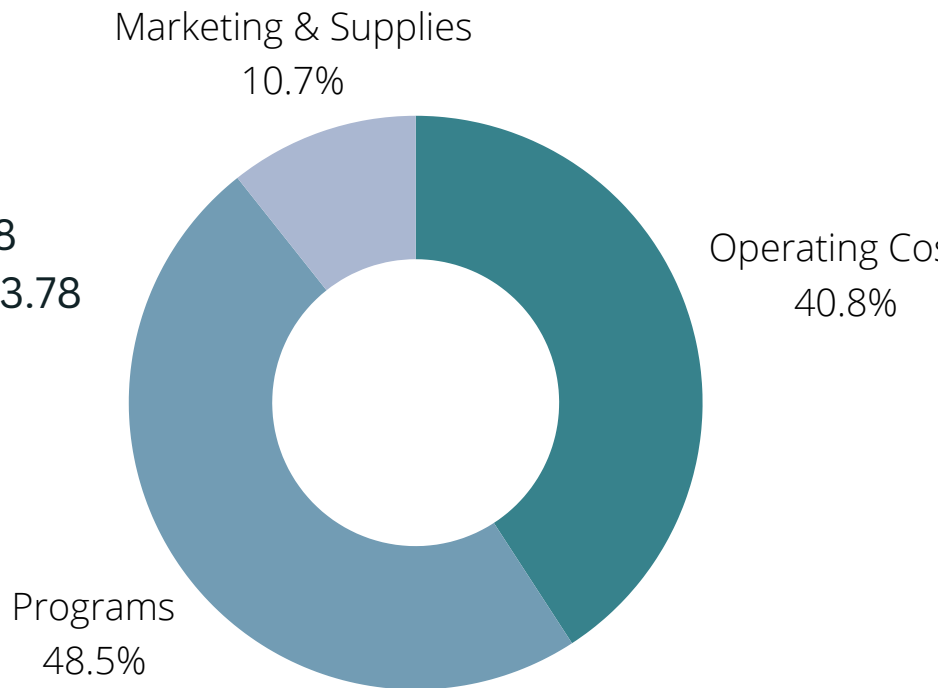
Grants: \$31,254.00
Donations: 27,731.45
Fundraisers: \$3,064.82
Other: \$1,481.21



2023 Expenses

Total: \$61,133.88

Programs: \$29,650.62
Operating Costs: \$24,959.48
Marketing & Supplies: \$6,523.78

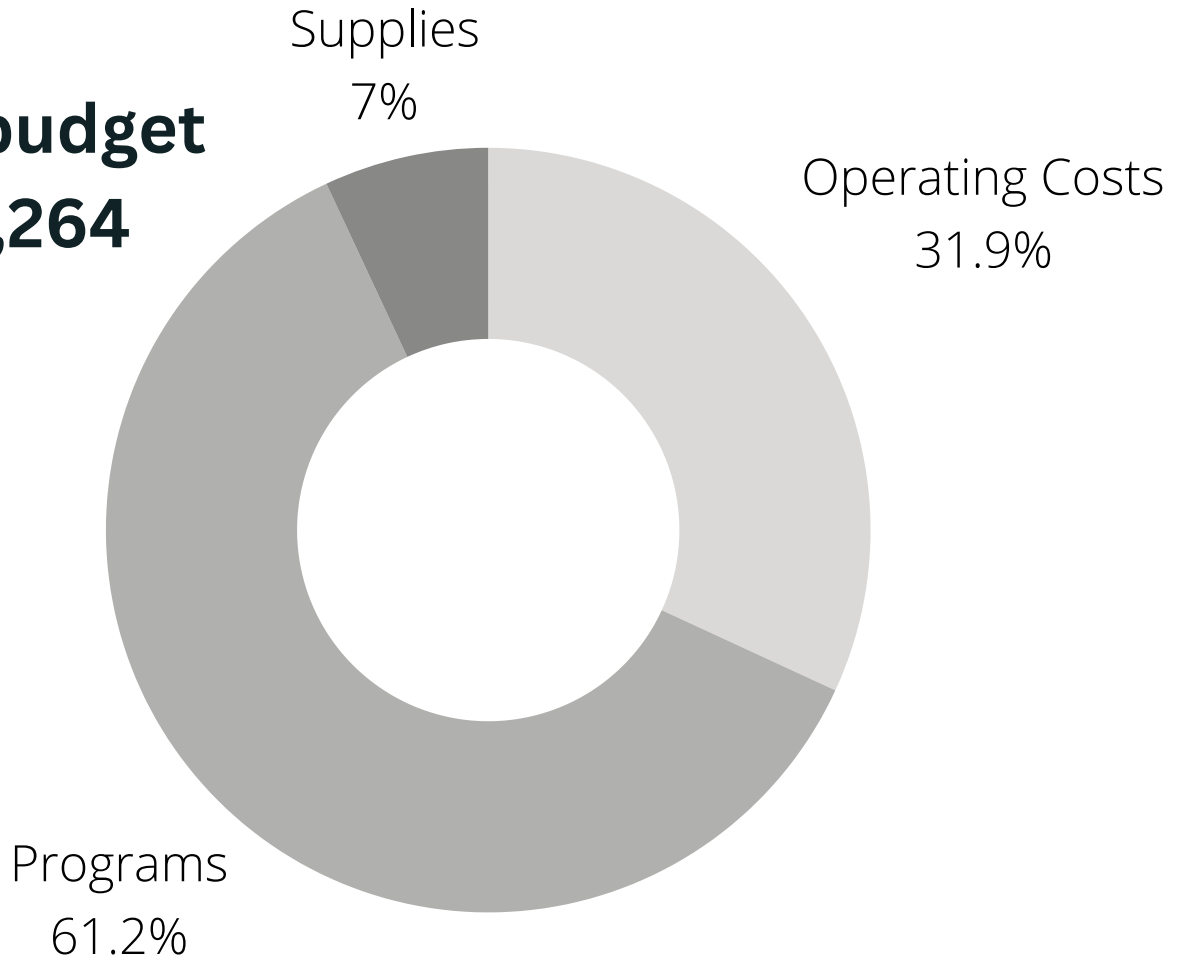


Note: this is just costs, not budget. Many items & costs for programs were donated in 2023.



2024 Projected Costs

2024 budget
\$83,264



Thank you! **for your support as we grow!**

Our 2024 budget is set based on rapid growth seen in 2023. We are so thankful for all the grant funding, monetary donations, gift card donations, and in-kind donations for the Resource Closet. These donations helped keep our programs running with very little cost! Thank you for your generosity.



Leadership Team

Our Leadership Team are the volunteers that oversee all the programming and events at Foster Village Peoria. They are responsible for our daily operations, making sure everything is running smoothly--- so youth and caregivers in our community can receive what they need and be supported.



Cheriz Kunkel
Executive Director



Kim Brug
Finance Manager



Katie Olinger
**Resource Closet
Coordinator**



Emily Britton-Arnold
**Support Gathering
Coordinator**



Emily Kunzeman
**Visit Room
Coordinator**



Danielle Carr
**Educational Workshop
Coordinator**



Megan Howard
**Youth Connect Events
Coordinator**



Katy Endress
Fundraising Chair



Christine Johnson
Administrator



Andrew Loebach
Support Group Leader



Emily Doubet
Support Group Leader



Beck Bottino
Grant Consultant



Board of Directors 2023

Our Board of Directors meets every month to oversee the operations of our nonprofit. They invest in and support our mission and programs. Thank you for serving and advocating for our community and it's needs.



Kristen Leman
President



Stella Owen
Vice President



Katy Endress
Secretary



Cameron Jackson
Board Member



Jonna Randleman
Board Member



Barb Curtler
Board Member

*Thank
you!*



Steve Roach
Board UUMC Liasion



Our Volunteers

Thank you to **EVERY volunteer** that packed or delivered a resource closet request, that volunteered during a visit, volunteered at a youth event, joined a committee, cleaned our space, painted or assembled furniture, or donated their time or talent in any way!





Our Sponsors & Donors

Thank you to **EVERY 2023 SPONSOR!**

Gold Sponsor (\$5,000+)

- Jill Geist
- University United Methodist Church

Silver Sponsor (\$2,500)

- Barb Gurtler
- Valeria Fitzgerald

Bronze Sponsor (\$1,000+)

- Kyle & Katy Endress
- Stella Owen
- Adam & Kristin Leman
- HyVee (Peoria Stores)

Friends of Foster Village (\$500)

- Gary Milliman
- Judy Huff
- Angie Powers
- Bradley Johnson

Birthday Brunch & Holiday Open House Sponsors

- CEFCU & HyVee Stores (Food Sponsors)
- Angie Powers Realtor & Young Dance Inc (Drink Sponsors)
- J.E.M Project, Handmade by Peggy K (Gift Sponsors)
- Kazia Gray Photography (Photos with Santa)

Thank you!

Thank you to all our donors who made a one-time donation, donated monthly, and donated through Facebook fundraisers!! Those donations add up & make a huge impact!

2023 Grants & Foundations

- Community Foundation of Central Illinois (\$15,000)
- Illinois Great Rivers Conference UMC (\$5,000)
- Giving Branch & Flat Branch Home Loans (\$4,680)
- Grace and Peace Lutheran Endowment (\$2,380)
- South-West Kiwanis of Peoria (\$1,000)
- Vanek Foundation
- Morton Community Foundation (\$1,004)
- St. Marks Church in Washington (\$500)





Donation Drive Partners

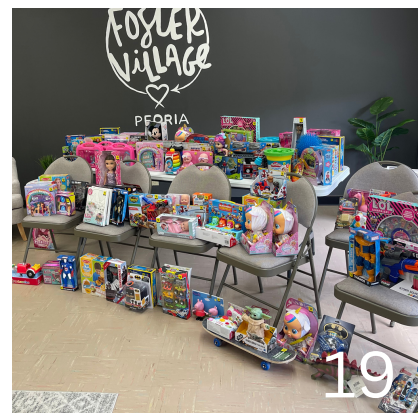
Thank you to **EVERY** donation drive partner in 2023

- Flat Branch Home Loans
- University United Methodist
- Steadfast Counseling
- Summit Point Church Small Group
- First Christian Church in Peoria
- Samaritan Ministries Mail Center
- Women of Grace Presbyterian Church
- Calvary Bible Church in Lacon
- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Morton
- Villas of HollyBrook in Washington
- Second Baptist Church of Peoria
- The Mom Collective
- Homeschool Co-op in Lacon
- Children's Home Association
- Women in Leadership of Central Illinois

Thank you to **EVERY** Shopper in 2023

Thank you!

OVER \$28,101 worth of new items were donated to our Resource Closet, helping us keep program costs much lower, allowing us to serve more!





Will you be part of our village?

Donate or Sponsor

1

Check with your employer to see if they match donations

IRS Tax ID #88-1903054

2

Donate online or by mail



www.FosterVillagePeoria.org/give

Foster Village Peoria
2818 N. University st.
Peoria, IL 61604



3

Purchase items off our wishlist & it ships to us



Host a Donation Drive!

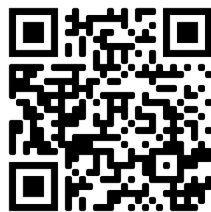
OR



4

Volunteer with us!

www.FosterVillagePeoria.org/volunteer





PEORIA



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