Foster Families
Navigation & Resource Center

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on 2024, I am profoundly grateful for the unwavering support that has empowered the Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center to flourish. Our mission to equip and support foster families has been enriched by the dedication of our community, enabling us to provide essential resources, mentorship, and fellowship to those who open their hearts and homes to children in need.

This year has been one of incredible growth and impact. We expanded our reach to Midland, ensuring more foster families have access to the vital support they deserve. We were privileged to serve over 1,400 individuals, a testament to the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and partners. One particularly meaningful moment was our celebration of National Hospitality Week for child welfare workers, where we honored the tireless efforts of those who make a difference in children's lives every day. Seeing the gratitude and renewed spirit among these incredible professionals reminded us why this work is so vital.

Among the many lives touched this year, one story stands out—a medically fragile baby who entered care with little hope of survival. Doctors didn't expect them to live beyond a week, but thanks to a devoted foster family and the support of our community, we were able to provide the specialized items and care needed to help them thrive. This year, we had the joy of celebrating their adoption into a loving forever family—a powerful reminder of the life-changing impact we can make together.

We were also blessed to collaborate with remarkable partners through our 2024 Community Impact Partnership Program, including UA Local 85, Michigan Sugar, Summit Fire & Security, St. Jude Thaddeus Church, Back Orchard Barn, New Life Saginaw, United Healthcare, Team One Credit Union, and Huntington. Their generosity and commitment have been instrumental in expanding our reach and enhancing the support we offer to foster families.

To each volunteer, donor, and partner, your kindness has made a tangible difference in the lives of many. Together, we have cultivated a community where foster families feel supported and uplifted, ensuring that children in our care thrive. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Sarah Humerickhouse
Founder | Executive Director

Mission

At Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center, we are committed to empowering and supporting foster, adoptive, and kinship families through resources, guidance, and a strong community. By strengthening these families, we create a ripple effect—transforming lives, shifting perceptions, and building a more compassionate and sustainable community where every child can move from simply surviving to truly thriving.

Purpose

In developing the Foster Families Navigation and Resource Center's annual report, we aim to ensure transparency and accountability, showing donors and the community how resources are utilized. This report will strengthen engagement, attract new donors, support grant opportunities, and highlight successful partnerships. By showcasing volunteer contributions, we aim to retain and recruit volunteers to further our mission.

Vision

We dream of a world where every child in foster care feels safe, loved, and truly at home. When we create an environment where foster, adoptive, and kinship families are fully supported—where they are lifted up, equipped with the tools they need, and surrounded by a community that walks beside them—we change perceptions and break down barriers. This creates a positive cycle of change, inspiring others to open their hearts and homes, and building a sustainable, thriving community of foster, adoptive, and kinship families. As we strengthen families, we strengthen communities—creating a future where love, stability, and opportunity extend far beyond individual homes, shaping a society where every child and family has the support they need to flourish.

A Heartfelt Journey of Love and Support

Meet Emily, a young single foster mom whose heart has grown even bigger as she cares for her two young foster children, Maya and Jacob. Maya, a sweet baby girl, faces some special needs that require extra care and attention. As a single mom, Emily often felt overwhelmed, but everything changed when she reached out to the Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center.

Through their support, Emily received guidance, resources, and emotional encouragement that made all the difference in her ability to balance her responsibilities. From connecting her with essential services for Maya's needs to helping provide tangible resources that help managing daily life, the center has been a constant source of relief.

With this extra support, Emily now feels more confident in her role as a mother. Maya and Jacob are thriving, and Emily has found a new sense of peace, knowing she's not alone in her journey. She is deeply grateful for the center's unwavering commitment to foster families, which has lifted a significant weight off her shoulders and helped her create a stable, loving home for her two children.

This story is a reminder of the power of community, and the impact of having the right support at the right time. Through the Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center, Emily has found not only practical help but also the encouragement she needed to keep going, every single day.

A New Beginning for an Uncle and His Nieces

When Derek became the unexpected guardian of his two young nieces, Lily and Emma, his world changed overnight. Initially, the girls came to him through foster care, and though he was determined to keep them safe, Derek often felt lost, unsure, and overwhelmed by the challenges of raising them. Without a clear direction on where to turn for resources and support, the road ahead felt daunting.

That was until Derek found the Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center. The center became a lifeline, offering him not only crucial resources but also the emotional support he needed to navigate this new chapter. With guidance on everything from tangible resources to securing services for the girls, Derek began to feel empowered. He gained confidence in his role, and more importantly, he could see the positive changes in Lily and Emma as they flourished.

Eventually, Derek was able to adopt his nieces, officially making them a permanent part of his family. Today, they are thriving—Lily and Emma are happy, healthy, and excelling in school, while Derek has embraced his new role as their father. The bond they share is stronger than ever, and he credits much of their success to the support of the Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center, which helped him find his footing.

Derek's journey is a powerful reminder that with the right support, families can overcome the toughest of circumstances and build a future full of love and promise.

Our Services

Resource Boutique - The Foster Families Resource Boutique is a welcoming, no-cost space supporting foster, kinship, and adoptive families, as well as child welfare workers. We provide new and gently used essentials—clothing, shoes, school supplies, hygiene items, baby gear, bedding, and more—to help families meet everyday needs with dignity and ease. Our goal is to offer stability, comfort, and care to those navigating the foster care system. In addition to our main location in Bay City, we operate three satellite outposts in surrounding counties to broaden our reach and impact. In 2024, we have filled 600 resource requests, serving 1,400 individuals.

Trainings- Our Training Program equips foster, kinship, and adoptive families with the tools and knowledge to face challenges with confidence. Led by experienced professionals, our free sessions cover topics like trauma-informed care, healthy attachment, behavior management, adoption, and community resources. Hosted in person at our facility or online, we offer a wide range of practical, accessible trainings to empower every step of your caregiving journey. We have hosted 90 hours of training, serving 58 family members.

Foster Family Fellowships are free, uplifting events held throughout the year to bring foster, adoptive, and kinship families together for connection, fun, and support. These gatherings offer food, activities, and a chance to build meaningful bonds with others who share similar caregiving journeys—all in a relaxed, welcoming space. These events averaged a total of 12 people per event.

PALS- is our card-writing program that brings encouragement and hope to children and teens in residential care. Volunteers send handwritten cards with kind words and reminders that they are seen, valued, and not forgotten. It's a simple yet powerful way to spread love, connection, and kindness during tough times. Cards are currently going out to 17 foster youth each month!

In addition to the above programs hosted through FFNRC we provide the following to the local Child Welfare offices use.

Haven 127 - Haven 127 is a trauma-informed space that offers a calm, secure environment for children during emergency removals. Designed for foster care workers and the kids they serve, it features comforting furnishings and sensory tools to ease stress and support emotional safety while a permanent placement is arranged. Haven 127 provided a place of comfort 3+ times, while youth waited for their new homes..

Parenting Time Space is a warm, home-like setting for supervised visits between parents and children. With cozy seating, soft lighting, and a relaxed atmosphere, it fosters meaningful connection. A fridge and microwave add convenience, while the space ensures safety, comfort, and support for family bonding. The Parenting Time space was used for a total of 36 hours, allowing families to spend time together in our safe and welcoming environment.

Families Supported

$126,520 in Resources Provided to Families in 2024

$126,520 In Total Support

Requests Received: 667	Parenting Time: 36 hours
Training Hours provided: 158	Haven 127 Uses 4
Fellowships Hosted: 7	Counties Served: 9

Individuals Served

1400

Families identified in FFNRC Database

167

Volunteer Hours

540

Community Impact Partners

13

Everyday Impact Circle

7

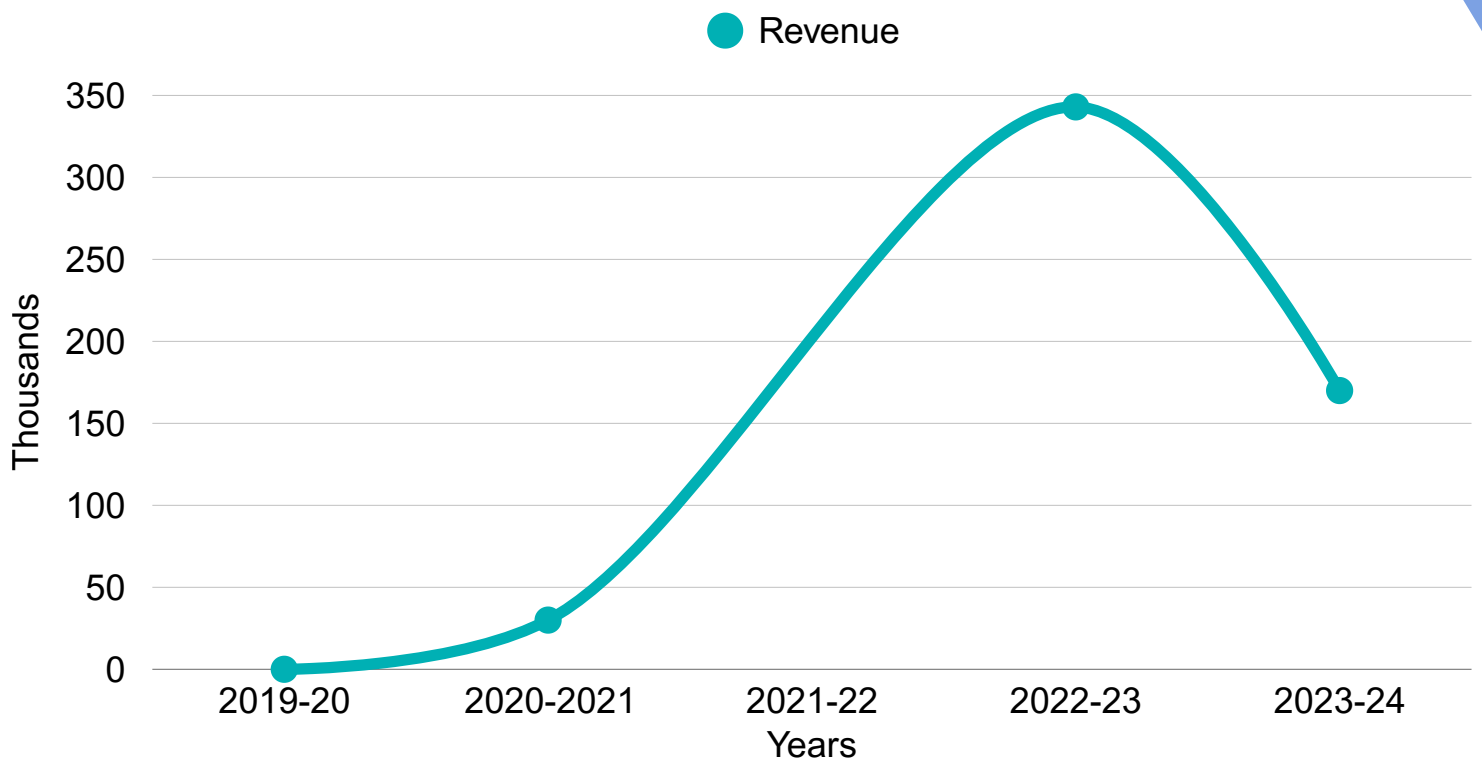
In-Kind Donations

$102,209 Worth of Essential Items

Revenue (In Thousands)

We experienced significant growth this year with the our in-kind donations for the FFNRC Resource Boutique remaining our largest operation.

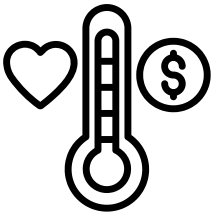
The FFNRC's total revenue and the revenue of each line of business are represented below.



$204,740
Donations

$25,500
Grants

$955
Interest & Investments



$12,199
Fundraisers

Cost of Operations

38%	18%	17%	10%
WAGES	OPERATIONS	PROGRAMS	FUNDRAISING

Volunteer Impact

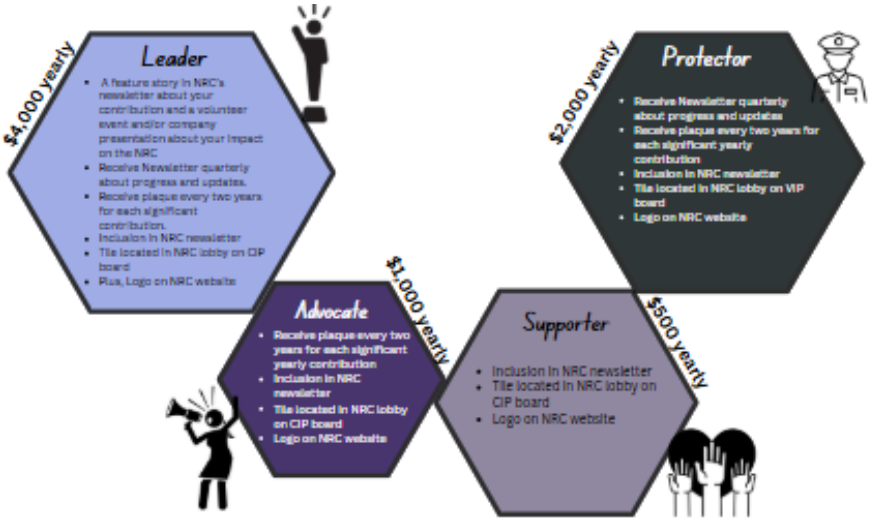
Volunteers are the heart of the Foster Families Navigation and Resource Center. Their generosity, compassion, and time make our mission possible. Whether distributing essentials, offering mentorship, or bringing joy to community events, our volunteers create nurturing spaces where foster children and families feel seen, supported, and safe. They are often found raising awareness, rallying resources, and standing up for the needs of our foster care community. From administrative work to sharing professional expertise, their impact is immeasurable. Most importantly, their unwavering dedication brings consistency, care, and hope to the lives we touch. We are profoundly grateful for every volunteer! Their presence fuels our purpose and sustains our vision for a stronger, more compassionate future.

Volunteer Recognition

All of our volunteers help make our mission possible. This past year we had some significant support from our friends at Dow. Josh Higgins coordinated volunteer teams once a month to assist with various tasks, including switching seasons, sorting items in the outbuilding, and helping with PALS and cleaning. They also created community drives for much needed items and their marketing team selflessly volunteered to help us create some much needed videos for our community awareness campaigns. We were so thankful and blessed by these efforts. We know our families will feel the impact for years to come!

Community Impact Sponsors for 2024

- Leader
  - Saginaw UA Local 85
  - New Life Church Saginaw
- Protector
  - United Healthcare
  - Dean Family
  - Back Orchard Barn
- Advocate
  - Summit Fire & Security
  - Huntington Bank
  - Moxie Assist
- Supporter
  - Ramseyer Family
  - Michigan Sugar
  - Team One CU
  - MI building and Construction Trades



Looking Ahead:

Looking ahead to the future, we are filled with hope and determination as we continue our mission to support and empower foster families. With each passing year, our reach grows, our resources expand, and our impact deepens in the lives of children and caregivers. In the coming year, we will strengthen our support networks, provide even more essential resources, and advocate for the well-being of every child in foster care. Together, with our dedicated families, partners, and supporters, we will build a future where every child experiences stability, love, and the opportunity to thrive.

Closing:

As we close this year's annual report, our hearts are full of gratitude for each and every one of you—our incredible supporters, selfless volunteers, and courageous foster families. You are the foundation of this mission, the reason children find hope, stability, and love in the arms of those who care for them. Your generosity, compassion, and unwavering dedication have changed lives in ways words cannot fully express.

But our work is far from over. There are still children in need of safe, loving homes, and families who need our support. If you feel moved to help, we invite you to donate now and help us start the year strong. Together, we can continue to provide hope, healing, and brighter futures.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for believing in this mission and for standing with us every step of the way. For any questions or to learn more about how you can get involved, please reach out to Sarah at 989-266-7020 or sarah.h@fosterfamiliesnrc.org.