

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



Our Mission

To find and strengthen Minnesota adoptive, foster and kinship families.

Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to a culture of inclusivity and do not condone or tolerate discrimination in any form. We welcome all families and individuals without regard to age, gender identity or gender expression, marital status, military status, physical or mental disability or functional limitation, racial, ethnic or national origin, religious affiliations or beliefs, sex or gender, sexual orientation, skin color, or socioeconomic status.

This nondiscrimination practice applies to all our services and activities, including but not limited to, hiring, firing, and promotion of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all clients, members of our staff, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors.



Evolving to better connect with the communities we support. MN ADOPT has become Foster Adopt Minnesota.

The past year has been one of embracing change and moving forward in a way to best connect with and support the communities at the heart of our services.

Since 1980, we have been focused on the mission of ensuring every Minnesota child has a safe and nurturing family. While this work began with an emphasis on finding homes for children in foster care, our services and priorities have evolved over the years to include supports for relatives caring for children, and to foster homes, often temporary, who need resources and tools to support children in their care, with the primary goal of reunification.

With the evolution of our services, we knew that the name MN ADOPT was no longer inclusive of all the individuals we support. Through a thoughtful process that included professional consultation, community feedback and much internal discussion, we came to the decision to change our name to Foster Adopt Minnesota (FAM), which was announced in January of this past year. While a rebranding can create opportunities for creativity and going in a new direction, we quickly realized that our primary goal was to remain recognizable, while having a name that is more inclusive of the communities we support.

We appreciate the simplicity of our name and embrace the acronym FAM, which speaks to all the families, individuals and professionals we support, while also highlighting our continued goal of Zero Kids Waiting for a permanent, loving family.

In addition to our name change, this past year has brought many opportunities to support Minnesota's adoption, foster and kinship communities in impactful and unique ways, as evident through the features and statistics shared throughout this report. None of this would be possible without you.

We are deeply thankful for the volunteers, donors, funders, and supporters who have partnered with us over the past year and know that our work would not be possible without you. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of so many!



RWalstad

Rachel Walstad
Executive Director

FOSTER ADOPT MN STAFF

Amy Turgeon

HELP Program Specialist

Andrea Brubaker

HELP Program Manager

Brittani Lamb

HELP Program Specialist

Cathy Stang

Zero Kids Waiting Program Director

Christina Romo

Post Permanency Services Manager

Christine Heimann

Post Adoption Search Specialist

Danielle Lewis

HELP Program Specialist

Gail Swenson

HELP Program Specialist

Hayley Wiesman

Information & Referral Specialist

Heather Van Brunt

Permanency Services Director

Jackie Brovold

Marketing & Communications Manager

Jessica Miller

SAE Narrative Specialist

Jolie Ritchie

IT Manager

JT Pinther

Permanency Services Coordinator

Julie Hart

SAE Coordinator Metro Area

Kayla Olson

Education Outreach Coordinator

Kim Sacay

Outreach & Recruitment Manager

Kim Young

Information & Referral Manager

Kris Horman

Education Program Coordinator

Margo Kurth

SAE Coordinator Metro Area

Mary Bruce

Accountant

Rachel Walstad

Executive Director

Sarah Clarke

SAE Coordinator Southern MN

Stephanie Regnier

Education Program Director

Suni Zmich

Education Program Coordinator

Together, Foster Adopt MN Staff shared organizational highlights from the year. Below are just a few highlights of what the team is proud of. We share a collective dedication and commitment to supporting the adoption, foster care, and kinship communities.

“FAM's new therapist search tool launched in FY2023, which made it easier for the public and staff to find adoption-competent therapists!”

“FAM staff continued with community circles to build relationships, increase support, and lean into our goal of being an anti-racist, equitable, and inclusive organization.”

“The Pride Parade was my favorite event of 2023. I felt proud on that particular day to be part of an organization that would actively and publicly show up for the queer community.”


A SHOPPING TRIP TO REMEMBER

Thanks to the incredibly generous contributions from our donors, we had the privilege of providing **200 children and youth with a shopping experience for their back-to-school clothing, shoes, and tech gear.** Words simply cannot express our gratitude for the continued unwavering support, which has meant the world to so many kids, and has been a continuous source of inspiration.

This marks the third consecutive year that over 200 children have had this much needed opportunity. The sheer joy and heartfelt feedback from the children, youth, foster parents, and social workers have been nothing short of exhilarating. It's a testament to the collective impact we're making in the lives of children in foster care.



FOSTER ADOPT MINNESOTA
BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING EVENT



“As a parent of a child who struggles with mental health issues, I often feel alone and find it difficult to navigate with all the pieces involved in helping her to manage as well as running a household. The extra support I received from [the HELP Program] is so much more than financial support. It is knowing that somebody out there is helping us along.”

Adoptive parent



help
program

A PRESENTER'S PERSPECTIVE



Isaac Etter, Education Program Presenter

I have had the privilege of working with Foster Adopt Minnesota multiple times. Each time I've gotten the chance to lead a training for FAM their team has been extremely helpful and attentive through the planning process and on standby to help during the presentation just in case.

You can see the attention to detail and continual improvement their team takes seriously as they ask for feedback after every presentation on how they can improve in supporting their trainers.

Working with adoptive and foster parents is a passion of mine. Being able to use my adoption story and journey to help other parents is the most meaningful work for me and working with Foster Adopt Minnesota makes doing that work even more enjoyable.



education

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT AREAS

20,349

Number of people who utilized our trainings and podcast through the Education Program



\$92,527

Funding assistance through the HELP Program to support families in need of services

660

Number of specific child newspaper features done through our relationships with various print media outlets



“My gratitude for the work you do!”
- Adoptive Parent

FINANCIALS

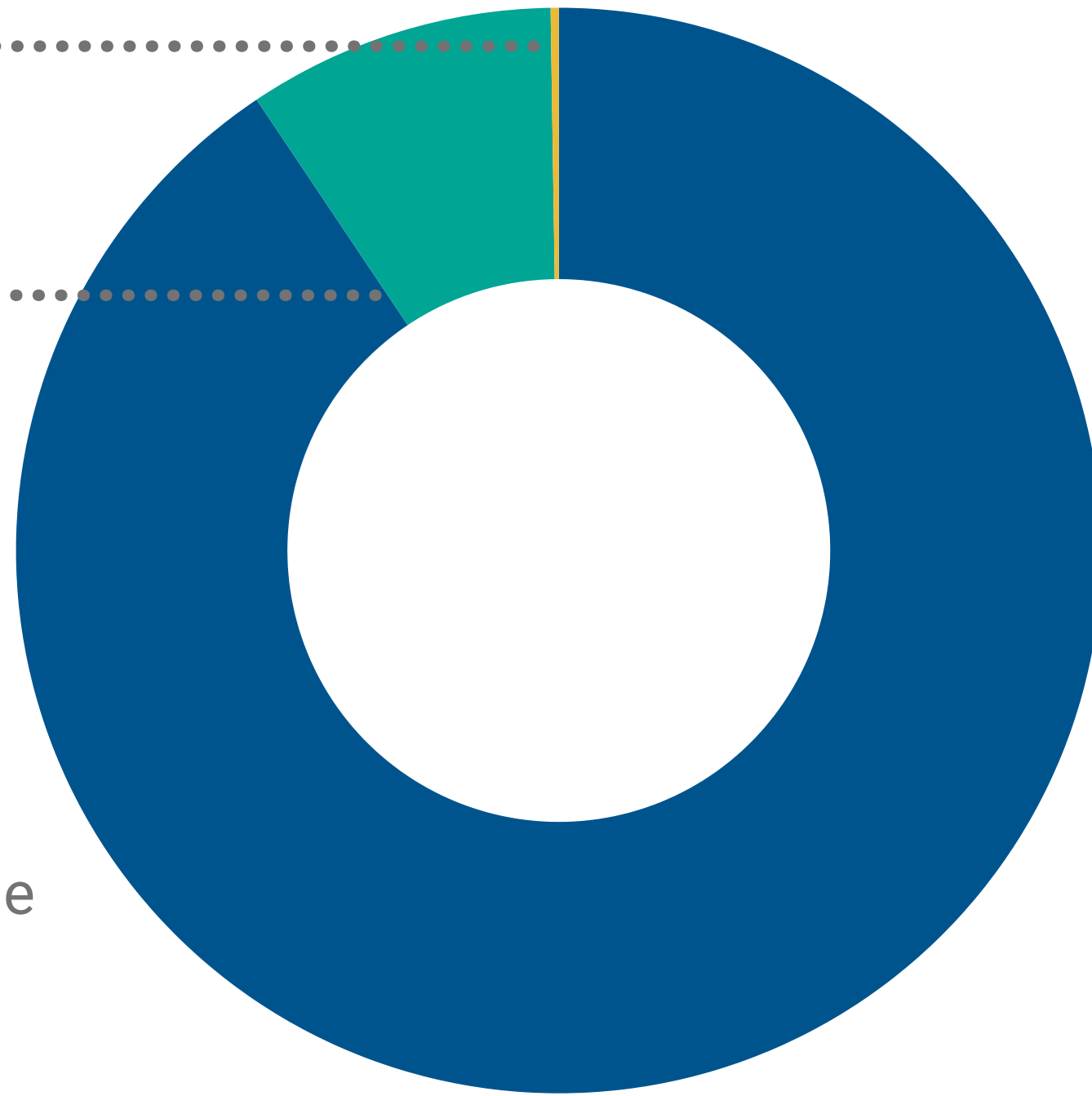
REVENUE

\$8,224.....
Program Service Fees

\$311,830.....
Contributions of Cash and
Other Financial Assets

\$3,085,149.....
Government Grants

\$121
Investment and Other Income



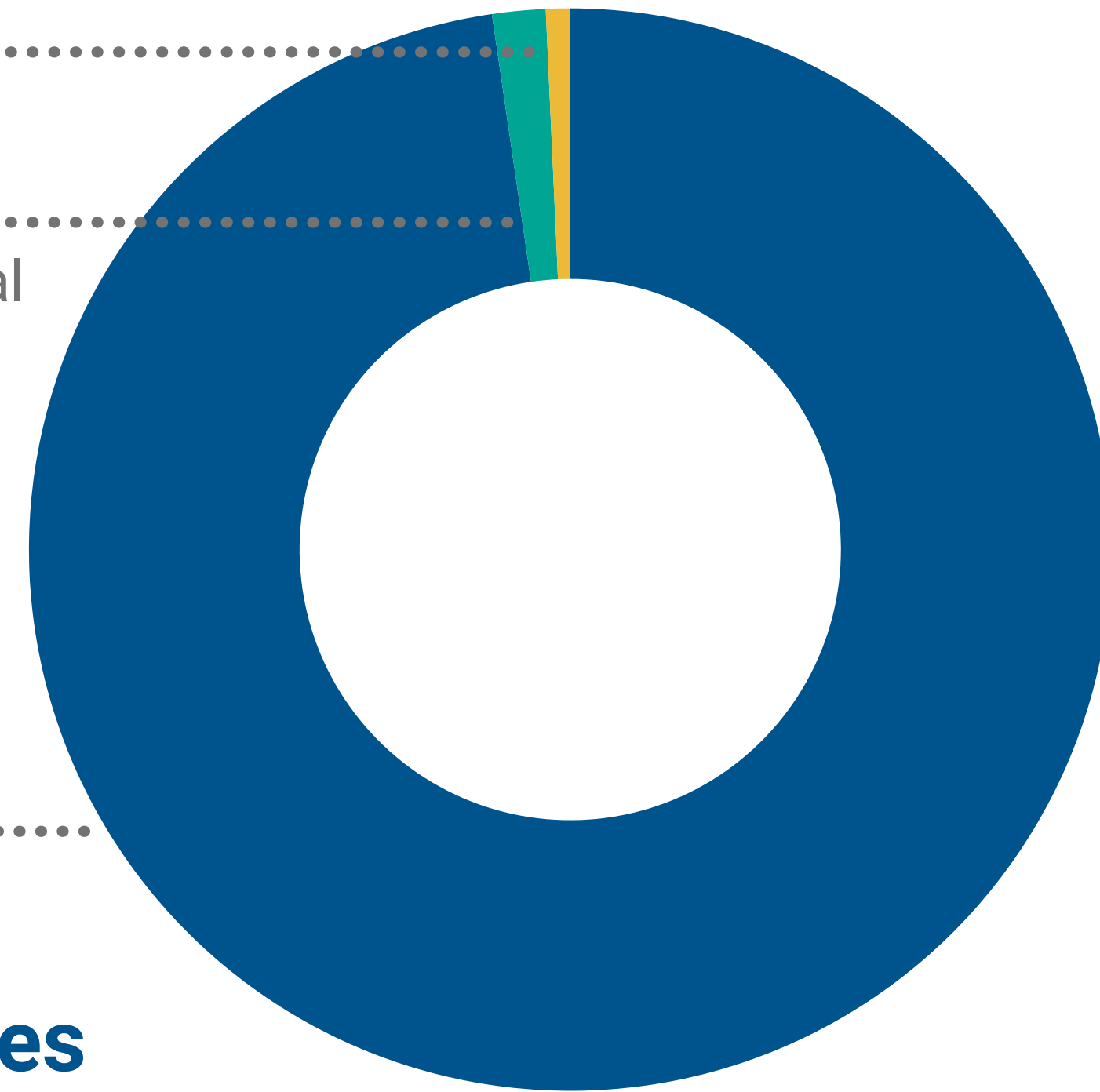
Total Revenue
\$3,405,324

EXPENSES

\$24,565.....
Fundraising

\$54,135.....
Management & General

\$3,324,996.....
Program Services



Total Expenses
\$3,403,696



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following individuals graciously volunteer their time and energy to sit on Foster Adopt Minnesota's Board and are collectively responsible for overseeing our organization's activities while remaining focused on Foster Adopt Minnesota's mission, supportive programs and overall goals.



Sharon Markowitz
Board Director
Chair

Eric Becker
Board Director
Treasurer

Dr. Bradley Wolfe
Board Director
Secretary

**Cathy Bruer-
Thompson**
Board Director

Danielle Theirl
Board Director

Katie Walt
Board Director

Laura Carroll
Board Director

Kara Eastlund
Board Director

Tamara Kyhos
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