

FOSTER + HEART

2023 Annual Report

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude at the incredible journey we've embarked on together at Foster + Heart. It's with great humility and joy that I share with you the highlights of our collective efforts in this year's Annual Report.

At the heart of our organization is a simple yet profound belief: every child deserves to feel loved, safe, and cherished. This conviction has been the guiding force behind our mission.

My own journey into foster care began in 2018, with a desire to make a difference in the life of just one child. Little did I know that within a matter of months, my home would be filled with the laughter, love, and boundless energy of five incredible children. This desire to help turned into forever as I adopted all five of my kids in 2020.

Throughout this journey, I witnessed firsthand the gaps and challenges within the foster care system, particularly the need for a warm, nurturing environment for children awaiting placement. It was this realization that inspired the creation of Mimi's House, a safe haven for children in transition to foster care. Named in honor of my first foster child, Mimi's House stands as a testament to the power of community, compassion, and collective action.

As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of foster care, I am continually humbled by the unwavering support and dedication of our team, volunteers, and supporters. Together, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless children and families, offering hope, healing, and a sense of belonging to those who need it most.

As we look to the future, I am filled with excitement for what lies ahead. With your continued support, I am confident that we will continue to expand our impact, reaching even more children in need and transforming their lives for the better.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Kate Wilson
Founder & Executive Director
Foster + Heart

Who We Are

Foster + Heart is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization located in Idaho's Treasure Valley. We operate two loving homes, Mimi's House and Bubba's House, specially designed to provide nurturing environments for children during their transition into foster care.

Foster + Heart's mission is rooted in the growing need for support in Idaho's foster care system. In 2022 alone, 2,756 children were served through the state's foster care program. While 1,293 children found their way out of foster care, it's crucial to understand the challenges children in foster care face. Of those who exited, 62% were successfully reunified with their parents or caregivers. Additionally, 309 children were adopted from foster care, emphasizing the significance of stable, loving homes.

Yet, the demand persists. As of June 2022, there were only 1,209 licensed resource families in Idaho. A particularly pressing concern is that right now, across the state, there are 40 teenagers in need of loving homes. These numbers underscore the urgent need for organizations like Foster + Heart. We focus on three main initiatives: Residential Care Facilities, Local Events for the Foster Care Community, and The Essentials Project.



Residential Care Facilities

We operate two loving homes in the Treasure Valley offering vital care and stability while children await placement with the right foster family, often ensuring that sibling sets can stay together to maintain essential family bonds.



The Essentials Project

This initiative is dedicated to providing care packages to local foster children. These care packages include crucial items like clothing, toiletries, pajamas, and more, ensuring that children have access to the essentials when they first enter care.



Local Foster Care Events

Through hosting local events like Interest Nights, Foster Family Fun Days, and more, we provide support for everyone involved in the foster care system. These events create opportunities for foster families to connect, share experiences, and build lasting bonds.



A photograph of a baby sitting in a field of orange flowers. The baby is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The baby is looking to the left. The background shows a vast field of orange flowers under a clear blue sky. A person is visible in the distance. The text "We're in this together." is overlaid on the image in white, outlined font.

We're in this together.

Leadership

Executive Leadership

Kate Wilson	Founder & Executive Director
Melissa Barkell	Director of Development & Finance
Vierra Danielson	Director of Operations & Marketing
Valerye Langan	Director of Programs & Relations

Foster Leadership

Jessi Dissinger	Chief Administrator
Madison Conrad	Case Manager
Tessa Johnson	Case Manager
Shannon Foust	Mimi's House Staff Supervisor
Mikey Dissinger	Bubba's House Staff Supervisor

Reach Leadership

Taylor Roehr	Outreach Coordinator
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Board of Directors

Julie Wilhelm, Chairperson	Kirsten Grove, Vice-Chairperson
Susan Thornton, Treasurer	Steve Rooks
Mark Thornton	Jennifer Chow
Kelly Wilde	

Our Impact



Transforming Lives at Mimi's House

In December of 2022, Foster + Heart proudly opened the doors to Mimi's House, our first residential care facility dedicated to providing sanctuary and support for children in foster care. Throughout 2023, Mimi's House not only provided a safe place for children, but a vitally needed resource to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. By being available for sibling sets and emergency placements, Mimi's House offers Social Workers and other Department staff the time needed to find the most suitable placement for every child, ensuring their individual needs are carefully considered.

Mimi's House is staffed with highly trained 24/7 Direct Care Staff ready to support and meet every need, as well as a dedicated Case Manager who develops individualized plans for each child's success and growth. With the help of our incredible staff, Mimi's House became a place of comfort and security for many.



In our first full year of operation, Mimi's House welcomed 68 children through its doors. From brief stays to extended placements lasting up to 5 months, children were welcomed into a secure, loving, and therapeutic home environment.

One of the most significant goals of Mimi's House was the preservation of sibling bonds. In 2023, 20 sibling sets were able to remain together upon entering foster care because Mimi's House was available, recognizing the vital importance of family connections during a child's time in foster care.

As children settled into this nurturing environment, we witnessed numerous stories of breakthrough, with many overcoming past traumas and embracing the hope of brighter futures. At Mimi's House, every child is valued, cherished, and empowered to thrive. As we reflect on the impact of our first year, we are reminded of the profound difference that love, compassion, and unwavering support can make in the lives of vulnerable children. With gratitude for the community that made it all possible, we look forward to continuing our mission of igniting hearts to care for children for years to come.

Empowering Our Community Through The Essentials Project

In August of 2023, Foster + Heart launched The Essentials Project—an initiative aimed at providing essential items to children in foster care when they need it the most. With a mission to create a sense of comfort and security, The Essentials Project seeks to provide every child who enters foster care with a bag of essential items filled with clothes, pajamas, toiletries, undergarments, comfort items, and more.

Through this initiative, foster parents can simply text us upon receiving a placement, and within 24 hours, we ensure that the child is delivered a bag thoughtfully curated to meet their immediate needs. Our goal is that this would offer children and foster families a sense of stability during a time of transition.

In the final months of 2023, The Essentials Project made a profound impact, providing over 60 bags to children in foster care. These bags, filled with items generously donated by our community, offered children a tangible reminder that they are valued and cared for.

One of the highlights of our year was the Essentials Drive hosted by KTSY and CBS Channel 2 in April, where community members rallied together to donate items to fill these bags

at their local Walmart locations. The outpouring of support and generosity underscored the power of collaboration in making a meaningful difference.

As we look towards the future, we are excited about the impact and resources The Essentials Project will continue to provide. With the unwavering support of our community, we are committed to expanding our reach and ensuring that every child entering foster care receives the support they deserve. Together, we are creating brighter, more supportive futures for all those involved in the foster care system.



Local Events for the Foster Care Community

In 2023, Foster + Heart hosted a series of engaging events aimed at strengthening and supporting the foster care community in the Treasure Valley. These events served as invaluable opportunities for foster parents, children in foster care, and prospective foster families to come together, connect, and find solidarity in their shared journey.

Throughout the year, Foster + Heart organized nine events, including:

- **Foster Parents' Day Out:** Five events provided foster parents with much-needed respite and relaxation, offering them the chance to recharge while their children enjoyed supervised activities like arts & crafts, bounce houses, yard games, and more.
- **Foster Family Events:** Two gatherings brought foster families together for fun-filled outings and bonding experiences.
- **Interest Night:** One informational session provided prospective foster families with valuable insights into the foster care process, answering questions and guiding them on their journey to becoming foster parents.
- **Foster Mom's Night Out:** A special evening dedicated to foster moms offered them a chance to unwind, connect, and support one another.

In hosting these local events, Foster + Heart reaffirmed its commitment to providing holistic support to foster families and children in foster care. By creating spaces for shared experiences and mutual support, Foster + Heart contributed to the development of a supportive network that extends beyond individual households and strengthens the entire foster care community.



A blurred background image showing a group of children sitting around a table in a classroom or meeting room. The children are of various ethnicities and are engaged in a discussion or activity. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Together, we
difference in
children in

A blurred background image of a classroom. In the foreground, a child with light hair is seen from the back, sitting at a yellow table. To the left, another child with brown hair is partially visible, also at a table. In the background, a child is standing and holding a white object, possibly a piece of paper or a small toy. The room has colorful walls in shades of pink, blue, and orange.

can make a
the lives of
foster care.

2023 By The Numbers

68 children walked through the doors of Mimi's House.

20 sibling sets stayed together because of our home.

9 events were hosted benefitting our foster care community.

460 estimated children were impacted through these events.

60 bags were delivered through The Essentials Project.

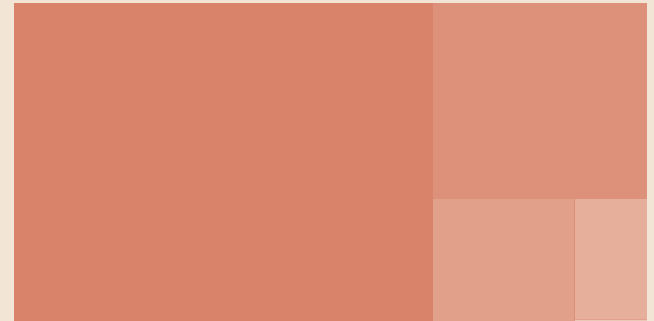
168 estimated foster families were impacted by our services.

Financials

Annual Revenue:

- Government Contracts: \$607,162
- Individual Contributions: \$191,381
- Foundation & Corporate Contributions/Grants: \$79,737
- In-Kind Donations: \$39,400
- Other: \$890

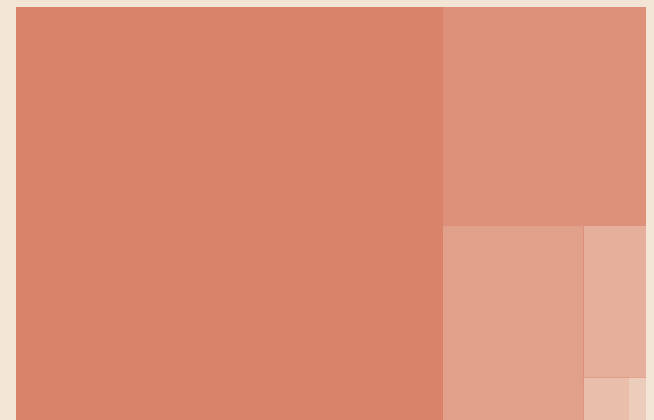
TOTAL: \$918,570



Expenses by Category:

- Residential Care Facilities: \$569,989
- General Program Costs: \$143,121
- Administration: \$89,673
- Fundraising: \$30,251
- The Essentials Project: \$6,729
- Events: \$2,465

TOTAL: \$842,228



Our Supporters

\$20,000+

Cody Hunter
John & De Turnage
Harry W Morrison Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

Enpro Foundation
Jennifer & Anthony Chow
IPA Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Jacob & Brittany Bottles

\$1,000-\$4,999

Benjamin White
Brandon Becker
Capital Christian Church
DAS-CO
Dillabaugh's Flooring America
Henry Vander Pol
ICF Forever Idaho
Inspire Excellence Inc
Anonymous
Joshua Monteith
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

Meridian Friends Church
Oasis City Church
Pioneer Federal Credit Union
Steve Whitecar
Anonymous
Tattooed & Successful

\$500-\$999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Jenna Strain
Anonymous
Anonymous
Keith & Holly Duvall
Kendra Tasker
Anonymous
Madison Miller
Michelle Woodward
Mike Courtney
Rachel Slough
Ron & Laurie Logan

\$100-\$499

A-PRO Heating & Cooling LLC
Alice Heida
Amy Packer
Anacker Clinic of Chiropractic
Arlyn Toberer

Anonymous
Billy Wingfield
Brenda Martin
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Charlotte Sanderson
Chip & Pichaya Denton
Claire Edwards
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Deana Hoffman
Douglas Brackett
Elizabeth Perry
Eric Schwartzbaum
Anonymous
Hannah Donnelly
Heather & Michael Warmuth
Anonymous
Janette Hertz
Anonymous
Jolynne Cavener
Anonymous
Anonymous
Kathy Milliron
Anonymous

Anonymous
Kim Wegener
Anonymous
Makenna Silbernagel
Marissa Holm
Mark and Buffy Drewett
Mary Jane Almeda
Anonymous
Michael Boerner
Michael Howard
Michael Whitaker
Anonymous
Michelle Woodward
Nicole Nicoloff
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Steven Klouzal
Stonehill
Summer Avalos
Anonymous
Anonymous
Woman's Century Club

\$1-\$99

Ava Redman
Beth Miller
Betty and Debbie Miranda
Brooke Cassinelli
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Corinne Davies
Debbie Hewko
Deborah J Mahler
Deneil Bower
Anonymous
Elizabeth Friend
Anonymous
Holly Howard
Joann Ostrander
Josh Best
Kathy Coops
Kelly Wilde
Kenneth and Bonnie Hill
Anonymous
Larkspur Lane

Laura Dillon
Leila Wiley
Anonymous
Maddi Stephan
Makayla Davis
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Misti Williams
Monique Jacqueline Design
Anonymous
Peter Snider
RaeAnn Ellis
Scott Bruyere
Steve Blackhurst
Stevie Benion
Teresa Thonney
Anonymous
Wendy Ramirez





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