

Journey with us into the future



Annual Report 2023



WELCOME



The Coalition for Children, Youth & Families story started in the early 1980s and has brought us to where we are today: **celebrating 40 years of service.**

What started as the result of a **passionate group of parents** has purposefully evolved, and we have persevered to become **a leading Wisconsin organization** dedicated to supporting every child, every family, every step of the way.

Those words—passion, purpose, and perseverance—have been a North Star for the Coalition. Our 40th anniversary in 2023 provided us with an opportunity to remember, recognize, and honor the dedication and commitment of those who have worked alongside us and who have supported our work with time, talent, and treasure.

From that group of parents who started it all so many years ago to the staff and Board members serving today, we are all together because **we share a passion for the well-being of children, youth, and families.** We are guided by the purpose of ensuring that every child grows up in a strong and resilient family with access to support. And we persevere, knowing that we can't give up until our vision becomes a reality and our mission is no longer needed.

We thank you for being a part of our past and for supporting our present work, and we invite you to continue the journey with us into the future.



Oriana Carey
Chief Executive Officer



Blake Derr
Board President



2023 IN REVIEW



PROVIDING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Sarah gripped the phone, frustration simmering and eyes welling. Once again, she was finding more questions than answers, and she couldn't seem to get what she needed: support for her family. Just then, a familiar voice from the Coalition cut through the tension. It was a Resource Specialist, someone she had spoken to before, offering not just solutions but genuine empathy and understanding. Sarah poured out her feelings, concerns, and questions; the Resource Specialist responded with patience and calm understanding. The conversation ended with a renewed sense of hope, and Sarah realized that even when the system felt impersonal, she wasn't alone. The support and kindness from the Coalition team would stay with Sarah for a long time to come.

♥ Over 3,000 people receive our weekly email newsletter, the Coalition Connection. It includes tips, links, resources, training opportunities, and more for parents and caregivers looking to be their best.

♥ Three unique, resource-rich email series give recipients a wealth of information on specific topics, including self-care, healing, and relative caregiving. Over 1,000 people have signed up for these series, with zero unsubscribes and an average click rate of 7%, three times higher than the nonprofit industry average click rate.

♥ 102,290 website visitors downloaded 5,319 informational articles, resources, and materials.

♥ 748 individuals requested more information about becoming a foster or adoptive family.

♥ Our Resource Team connected with 482 parents and caregivers to provide support, encouragement, or individualized resources.

TRAINING AND CONNECTION

One client perfectly captured our training program's essence: "Just my sincere gratitude for the excellent and, as one of the presenters in the webinar put it so well, sacred work being done at the Coalition." This simple phrase resonated deeply, reminding us of the significant impact we strive for. It's not just about providing resources but about creating a safe space, fostering understanding, and empowering individuals and communities to reach their full potential. This "sacred work," as it was so eloquently phrased, motivates us to continue our mission with unwavering dedication.

♥ 2,226 learners participated in a live or recorded webinar or other training opportunity.

Out of 200 learners who responded to our survey after taking training from the Champion Classrooms:

♥ 97% indicated they were satisfied with the training, rating it as Good or Very Good.

♥ 99% agreed that the training increased their knowledge of the topic

♥ 65% indicated they would highly recommend Champion Classrooms to other caregiving families

FROM FCARC TO WiFCC



With longevity comes growth and change. As we celebrated 40 years of service in 2023, one of the most significant changes came in the form of a big switch regarding our work with the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families.

Since 2005, the Coalition operated the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center (FCARC) on behalf of the Department. In June 2023, the FCARC ceased operations, paving the way for a new entity: the Wisconsin Family Connections Center (WiFCC).

Much of the services, support materials, and offerings in the new Wisconsin Family Connections Center are the same as what was available in the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center. What is different is a modified lens: a more holistic view of family that asks us to prioritize maintaining familial connections to alleviate or minimize the trauma and grief children, youth, and adults involved with our systems can experience.

As our team wrapped up the FCARC and prepared to open the WiFCC, we reviewed what we achieved in the 18 years since the Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center opened.

- ♥ Accepted and responded to 32,210 inquiries for information, support, and resources
- ♥ Fulfilled 3,264 requests to borrow materials from our Resource Library
- ♥ Provided 14,551 informational packets about becoming a foster parent and 7,733 informational packets about adoption
- ♥ Created and published 47 newsletters and 130 informational tip sheets
- ♥ Developed and facilitated 108 webinars
- ♥ Welcomed 755,729 website visitors

What isn't as easily counted are the numbers of parents and caregivers who received encouragement, empathy, and understanding, or the Foster Care Coordinators and other child welfare professionals who found an ally and advocate for their daily on-the-ground work with kids and families.



CONNECTED LEARNING



In 2022, the Coalition piloted a groundbreaking program, “Co-parenting Through Connection.” This innovative program combined online learning modules with weekly virtual support groups, fostering collaboration between birth and foster parents. Recognizing the importance of positive co-parenting relationships for children in care, the Coalition aimed to equip both parties with the tools and understanding to navigate their unique roles.

The program’s success speaks for itself. By the end of 2023, six cohorts had completed the course, each participant demonstrating a renewed commitment to compassionate co-parenting. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly

positive. All surveyed foster parents appreciated the opportunity to connect with peers and gain valuable insights into the experiences of birth families. A foster father eloquently captured the program’s impact: “Through this course, I realized the power of empathy and encouragement. My support can genuinely influence reunification efforts and positively impact the lives of both children and parents.”

This transformative program would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our generous donors. Your contributions directly translate to stronger co-parenting relationships, improved outcomes for children in care, and, ultimately, the potential for reunification.



GOLF & GALA HIGHLIGHTS



Our 40th year gave us plenty to celebrate at our two annual fundraising events.

We hosted our 15th annual golf outing at The Legend at Merrill Hills in Waukesha on Monday, June 12. Sixty golfers joined us for a day filled with fun, friendly competition, and opportunities to support the Coalition's work, mission, and vision. Thanks to our sponsors, supporters, and participants, we grossed over \$35,000.

Our annual gala was full of looking back and preparing for the future. About 200 guests attended our Ruby Jubilee on Thursday, October 26, at St. Kate—The Arts Hotel in

downtown Milwaukee. Our guests had a host of games and raffles to enjoy, as well as our annual silent auction. We honored a Family of the Year—Jennifer and Kevin Lieske—and took time to remember the families who received that honor in the preceding years. All told, our Ruby Jubilee grossed over \$160,000.

The funds raised at these annual events are critical to meeting the current and emerging needs of those we serve. Support from our donors allows us to continue to connect families to what they need when they need it, ultimately ensuring that every child grows up in a strong and resilient family.

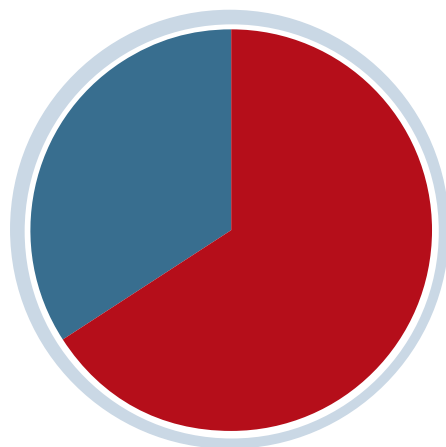
15TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING



RUBY JUBILEE 2023



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



34%
66%

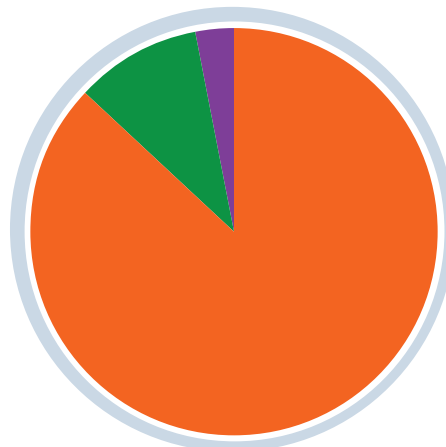
REVENUE: \$1,534,139



% GOVERNMENT FUNDING



% PRIVATE DONATIONS &
RETURN ON INVESTMENTS



87%
10%
3%

EXPENSES: \$1,429,342



% PROGRAM



% ADMINISTRATIVE



% DEVELOPMENT

NET ENDING ASSETS: \$955,510



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