FRIENDS of the CHILDREN

Eastern Idaho







Gratitude Report 2026



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

When I think about 2026, I think about promises kept.

Because of your support, more children and families across Eastern Idaho had access to the long-term relationships that define Friends of the Children. Together, we expanded into Fort Hall, formalized partnerships with two additional school districts, and hired two new Friends to walk alongside 16 more children.

In just one year, the number of children and families we serve doubled.

Those milestones matter because of what they mean for the children and families behind them. More children have someone they can count on. More families have a trusted partner during difficult seasons. More young people have opportunities to discover their strengths, build confidence, and imagine new possibilities for their future.

I've learned that meaningful change rarely happens all at once. More often, it grows through years of trust, encouragement, accountability, and consistency. It grows when someone keeps showing up.

That is the promise at the heart of Friends of the Children, and it is the promise your support helps us keep.

In the pages that follow, you'll learn about the growth and triumphs of youth, including Taylor*, Miguel*, and Allen*. You'll also see what caregivers told us in this year's survey about the impact of having a trusted, long-term partner alongside their family. Some spoke about the growth they've seen in their children. Others shared stories of support that helped their family through challenging times.

Together, these experiences offer a glimpse into what becomes possible when children and families know they are not facing life's challenges alone.

Every milestone in this report reflects a community that believes a child's circumstances should not determine their future. Families, Friends, staff, volunteers, school partners, community partners, and supporters all have a role in creating the opportunities highlighted in these pages.

As we look ahead, our focus remains simple: honoring the promises we've already made. Thank you for helping ensure that every child and family in our program continues to receive the long-term support they deserve.

Thank you for believing in the children and families we serve, and in the power of relationships. Most of all, thank you for helping make 12+ years, no matter what, more than a promise.

With gratitude,

Gina Judd

Gina Judd
Executive Director, Friends of the Children-Eastern Idaho





YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Taylor's Story

Because of you, Taylor is finding her voice.

When Taylor* met someone new, she would hide behind her Friend. Asking a question felt impossible, and simple conversations were a struggle. She had so much to share with others, but her confidence needed a boost.

Thankfullly, Taylor has her Friend, Chelsae, who spends four hours with her every week, and they made the whole community their classroom through fun and growth-oriented outings. At the library, the park, the gas station, the grocery store, the vet clinic, the coffee shop, school, and the Clubhouse, Chelsae challenged Taylor to practice, and she did--saying hello, asking a question, or engaging in a little small talk. Week after week, she showed up with perseverance and grit, building the muscle that is self-confidence, with her Friend there to support her.

Within a year, Taylor is flourishing. She now stands next to Chelsae, not behind her. She asks questions in a strong, confident voice and has built positive relationships with people all around town. For the first time, she has a real sense of belonging in her community.

This is what your investment makes possible. Growth like Taylor's happens through consistent, patient practice with someone who keeps showing up. Taylor is still practicing every week, and Chelsae will be right there beside her.

*Youth name changed to protect privacy



OUR MISSION & VALUES

Impacting generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors—12+ years, no matter what.

Put Children First

Build Relationships on Love

Commit to Empowerment

Pursue Goals Relentlessly

Unlock All Potential

Our values guide us to achieve our mission. Each value applies not only to our youth, Friends, and program teams, but also to all Friends of the Children employees, volunteers, and partners. We use our values to make informed decisions; to hire, coach, and manage; and most importantly, we use our values to change the way the world treats and views the youth and families we serve.



2026 BY THE NUMBERS

2,597 miles driven by Friends

89 individuals served through 2Gen Program Approach

100% reported no self-harm in the past year

93% have a friend their age who cares about them and spends time with them

100% report feeling hopeful for the future

100% of youth are meeting core assets development

Youth Demographics

- 44% Latinx in American Falls cohort
- 100% Native American in Fort Hall cohort

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Miguel's Story

"I want to be a better reader."

This summer, Miguel* joined our literacy camp. Reading has been challenging for him, and his teachers have been working hard to help him catch up. By the end of the first day of camp, he was frustrated. On the drive home, he told his Friend, Eduardo, that he didn't like to read and that he would never learn how.

Eduardo was there to answer that moment with patience. They talked about learning to drive a car. Nobody perfects a difficult skill on day one. You gradually learn how to operate a car and the rules of the road, and the only way to get better is to practice.

The next day, on that same drive home, Miguel said something new. Even though reading still frustrated him, he told Eduardo, "I want to be a better reader."

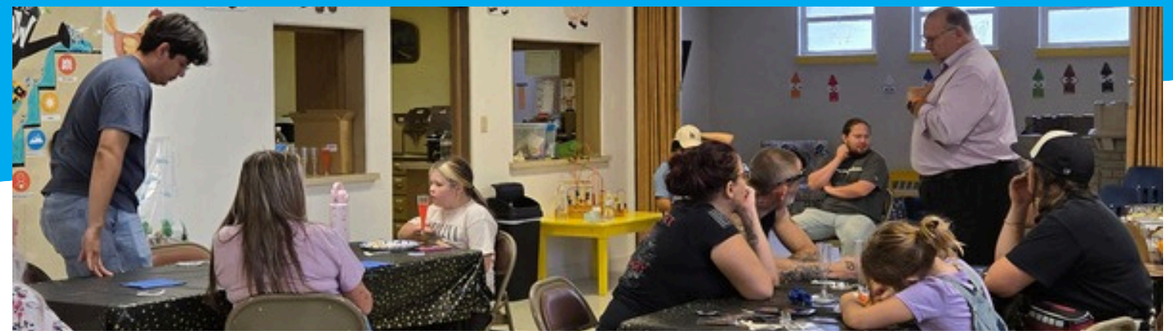
Over the rest of the summer, Miguel and Eduardo worked on his literacy goals together. With affirming words and rewards for every book read and sight word recognized, Miguel's confidence and motivation have grown.

This is the power of your investment. A Friend helps a child believe they can learn. Miguel has more work ahead, and he won't face it alone. He will have a Friend by his side every step of the way, for 12+ years, no matter what.

*Youth name changed to protect privacy



KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES



This year, our Friends continued to show up for youth—and the caregivers in their lives. Our two-generation (2Gen) approach builds family well-being by working with children and the adults in their lives together, helping families pursue their goals and thrive. The most powerful indication of the impact of our 2Gen approach comes from what we hear directly from our families themselves.

We survey caregivers to get their perspectives on the ways in which Friends and our program are impacting their family's life. This year's survey showed:

- Caregivers are reporting that the relationship with their Friend is changing how they understand, support, and advocate for their children.
- Caregivers indicate greater confidence, stronger advocacy skills, and more stability at home.
- The survey indicated a 67% increase in caregivers who feel that Friends help to strengthen family relationships; and an 18% increase in those who reported stronger community connection, thanks to Friends.
- The largest gains appear in relational protective factors that build family resilience over time.

WHAT FAMILES ARE SAYING

"Friends of the Children is full of caring people and we love them!"

"They just try make the kids' lives brighter, I'm so truly blessed"

"There are not enough words that I can say about how grateful I am for Friends of the Children and the people that help others in need."

MEET OUR FRIENDS

Our Friends are at the heart of our program, spending at least four hours a week with each child, ensuring they feel seen and supported as they navigate challenges and make progress towards their goals.



"Whatever challenges arise for youth, their Friend will be there. Not just this year, but for 12+ years, no matter what." - **Eduardo, Friend, American Falls**



"Friends provide strength just by being there, day in and day out, offering patience, understanding, and acceptance" - **Chelsae, Friend, American Falls**



"I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from each youth and family in Fort Hall, especially in the community where I grew up." - **Micah, Friend, Fort Hall**

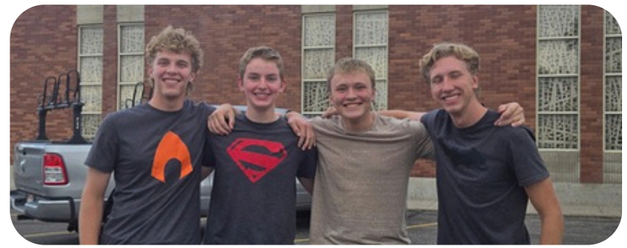


"I enjoy seeing the youth that I serve bettering themselves in and outside of school. Becoming the best they can be." **- Ramon, Friend, Fort Hall**

CONNECTING FAMILIES TO SUPPORT

Friends also helped caregivers access critical resources, including:

- Educational assistance
- Parenting support
- Food assistance
- Employment and income resources
- Mental health services
- Cultural and enrichment activities



Throughout the year, families participated in community events, including the largest family support event we have ever coordinated! Thanks to a massive effort by donors, volunteers, and staff, we were able to provide king-size beds, bedding, dressers, tables, hide-a-bed couches, chairs, lamps, end tables, mini fridges, microwaves, irons, ironing boards, coffee makers, stemware, and hairdryers to 16 of the families we serve.

We are grateful to all of the individuals and organizations that made this event possible: the Brad Hall Group and the Hall Foundation, Brian Cooper and Elite Services, Roger and Wendy Anderson, Pam Pascali, Baden Judd, Laura Mckenzie, Jenny Hugues, and the Poky Justice League, featuring Shaefer Call, Mason Anderson, Carsten Horrocks, and Hugh Andrews.

REACHING MORE YOUTH IN FORT HALL

This year, we celebrated an important milestone in our efforts to reach more children in Eastern Idaho who need a Friend. We expanded our program into the Fort Hall Reservation, representing a deepening of our impact in the community.

This fall, we held a ribbon-cutting celebration at Fort Hall Elementary School to commemorate the opening of our new Clubhouse. At the event, Fort Hall Community Tribal Elder Leon Anthony offered a prayer of gratitude, asked for divine support and guidance, and blessed the Clubhouse, the youth and families we serve, our Friends, and everyone in attendance. It was very moving.

We were delighted to welcome special guests, including Fort Hall Elementary Principal Debbie Steele; Eneesa Teton, Fort Hall Law Enforcement Community Relations; Officer Rivas of the DARE Program; Leela Abrahamson of Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Planning; Roselynn Yazzie, Public Affairs Manager for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and CASA Executive Director Leslie Schei. We were also joined by so many friends from the Pocatello Chamber of Commerce, community members, and program youth and families.

Fort Hall is our first expansion beyond American Falls, and the new Clubhouse, located inside Fort Hall Elementary, gives our Friends a dedicated place to meet with youth, build trust, and offer unconditional support year after year. We have two new Friends based in Fort Hall, with five children enrolled. In the coming year, we will enroll the remaining 11 youth to fill bring the total served in the Fort Hall cohort to 16.

Thank you to the Fort Hall communities and families who have trusted us to support them and their children. We are honored to be here.



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Allen's Story

Because of you, Allen started third grade with confidence.

In second grade, Allen* often hid under his desk, overwhelmed by his assignments. He told his Friend he hated school and wasn't smart enough for it, even though he was performing at an exceptional level. As summer approached, the thought of third grade filled him with anxiety.

Over the summer, Allen and his Friend, Eduardo, worked on communication, especially how to name big feelings before they take over. That's when Allen shared what was really worrying him: he didn't know how to multiply.

Eduardo picked up the army men Allen had brought from home. Three army men, given three times: that's 3 × 3. Multiplication was just repeated addition. With real-world examples like this, the concept started to click.

A few weeks into third grade, Eduardo visited Allen's classroom. He proudly showed off his assignment and how simple it was. Today, Allen uses relaxation techniques in class, and he completes his work with calm, steady energy.

Allen is learning that he is smart enough, and that he has the tools to handle hard moments. Whatever comes in fourth grade and beyond, his Friend will be there, thanks to support from donors like you.

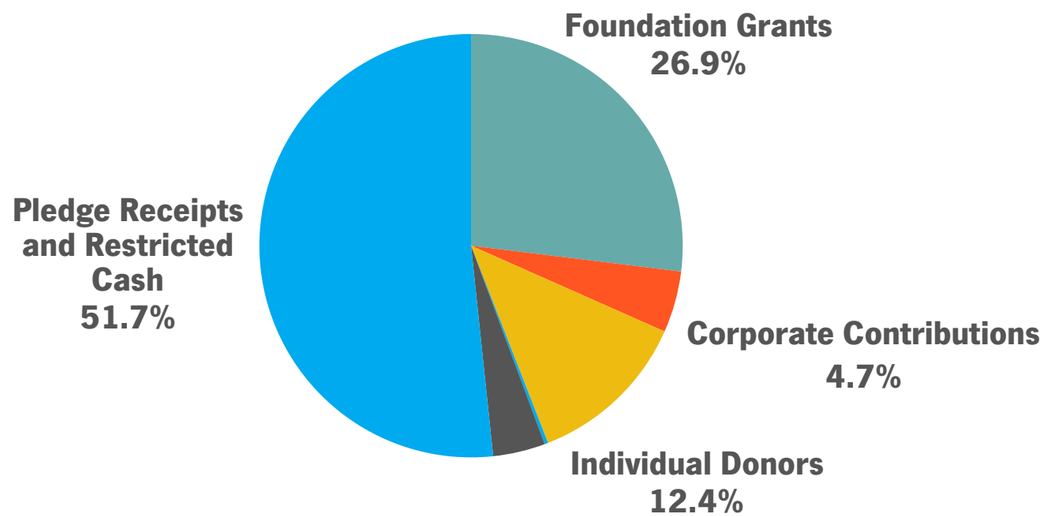
*Youth names changed to protect privacy.



FY26 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue Total: $698,423

Foundation Grants	$188,221
Corporate Contributions	$32,754
Individual Donors	$86,854
Pledge Receipts and Restricted Cash	$360,863
Other	$27,866
Public Funding	$1,865



Expenses Total: $639,930



YEAR IN REVIEW



Health Fair

We hosted a community Health Fair focused on the wellbeing of the whole child and family. We were joined by incredible partners and families connected with local resources, learned about healthy habits, and accessed services that support both immediate and long-term health.



Family Essentials and Children's Wellness Kits

Because of your generosity, and inspired by the priorities caregivers themselves shared with us, each family received a Family Essentials Kit filled with household necessities such as laundry supplies, disinfectant, and general cleaners, and Children's Wellness Kits, stocked with first aid and over-the-counter supplies.



Family Holiday Party

Nearly 100% of families gathered to celebrate the season and enjoy a festive meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans and pie. Youth left with new winter clothes, books, family games, and more.



STEAM & Literacy Camps

Youth stayed engaged this summer with STEAM and Literacy Camps, ensuring they continued learning and were ready to take on a new school year.



Dino Night

Youth and families enjoyed a dino-themed evening at the American Falls Library, and the Idaho Museum of Natural History brought their mobile museum.



Mission Possible

At our Mission Possible family event, caregivers had the chance to dream big, for themselves and their kids by creating vision boards.

OUR PARTNERS & DONORS

It is only possible to make – and keep – our 12+ year promise to youth and families because of the incredible generosity of donors and partners like you. We are so grateful for your support!

- American Falls School District #381
- Pocatello School District #25
- Blackfoot School District #55
- Chief Tahgee Academy Charter School
- Fort Hall Elementary
- Tyhee Elementary
- St. John's Lutheran Church
- Fort Hall Business Council
- Shoshone Bannock Tribal Courts
- Shoshone Bannock Tribal Health and Human Services
- District 6 Youth Safety and Permanency
- Region 6 CASA
- Fort Hall Housing Authority
- Fort Hall Tribal Planning and Housing Opportunity

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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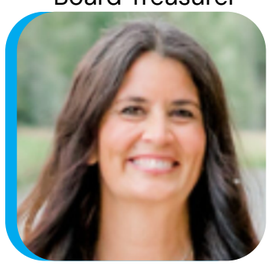
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$75,000-100,000

Silver Family Foundation
Friends of the Children National
Idaho Children's Trust Fund

$50,000-$74,999

Craig & Mariya Yadon at
the Purpose Center

$25,000-$49,999

Idaho Community Foundation
Steele-Reese Foundation

$10,000-$29,999

Portneuf Health Trust

$5,000 -$9,999

Battelle Energy Alliance (INL)
Select Health
Gloria J Howell
James & Pamela Reynolds
Potandon Produce, LLC
United Way Southeast Idaho
Jack Hedrick Foundation
Anonymous
Donna Frederick
Simplot Company Foundation

$1,000-$4,999

Idaho Power
University Financial Group/Million Dollar Roundtable Foundation
American Academy of Pediatrics, Idaho Chapter
Kathy Downes
Annonymous
Kristi Timmons
Idaho Environmental Coalition
AgWest Farm Credit
E & R Transportation L.L.C.
Ruchti & Beck Law Offices
Medical Imaging Associates of Idaho Falls
Adam & Jenna Raff
Pleasant Valley Irrigation of Idaho
Thunderbird Manufacturing
American Academy of Pediatrics, Idaho Chapter
Citizens Community Bank
Advanced Home Health
Gateway Capital Advisory Group
Anonymous
D6 Juvenile Justice Council
Gateway Capital Advisory Group
Idaho Association for Educating Young Children
Hall Foundation via Heidi Colson
Pat Tiede
Tate Transportation





Learn more and support our work!





FRIENDS of the CHILDREN

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