

Program

What is the model? Friends mentor **8** children, each **4** hours weekly, for **12+** years. Friends are paid staff, not volunteers. The average tenure for a Friend is 5 years. (Jose has served 19!)

How many Friends? 10 Friends: Jose Hernandez, Naomi McCleve, Sarah Smart, Michael House, Corey Stamper, Cortney Tucker, Talea Kellar, Dan Brinton, Hannah Burgoyne, Josh Paulson

How many children? 87 youth: 10 Friends x 8 youth = **80**, **+7** youth mentored by 4 other Program Staff

How many people are impacted? 391 (87 youth x 4.5 family members)

How are children enrolled? We hold MOUs with 13+ community partners, including the Dept of Human Services & Klamath's 2 School Districts. These partners refer children age 4-6 with many risk factors, multiple “adverse childhood experiences” (ACEs), such as poverty, exposure to violence, and neglect. Staff then observe youth to assess need and program suitability.

Why children age 4-6? Research shows that the best trauma intervention starts early.

Where is the work? K-5 classrooms, 2 clubhouses, community spaces, and field-trip sites

Who are the Program Staff? Crystal Muno (Program Director), Jordon Falconio (2Gen Program Manager), Jen Nelson (Education Coordinator), Anne Taylor (2Gen Program Manager), Felicia McNair (Tribal Engagement Coordinator). **All program staff except Felicia mentor youth.**

What is “2Gen”? Two-generational mentoring means supporting caregivers by making resource referrals, helping with system navigation, providing emergency supplies, and facilitating social connections and skill-building. Stable households benefit program youth *and* all children in their homes.

What does the Ed Coordinator do? Jen Nelson augments academic support with reading programs, curriculum resources, biannual literacy assessments, and IEP/504 plan navigation.

What does the Tribal Engagement Coordinator do? 30%+ of program youth are Indigenous. Klamath tribal elder “Grandma Felicia” McNair builds cultural understanding, respect, and pride by teaching indigenous skills and knowledge and making connections to tribal events and resources. **Note: Grandma works with Native and non-Native youth.**

What is our mental health support? Friends build self-esteem, teach self-regulation skills, create connection and belonging, and suggest therapeutic resources in the community. Credentialed as Qualified Mental Health Associates & Peer Support Specialists and supervised by Director of Mental Health Devon Priem, LCSW, Friends can provide more targeted mental health support, including making warm hand-offs to community therapists and reinforcing the skill-building activities prescribed in youth treatment plans created by Devon or other providers. Friends of the Children can bill Medicaid for those skill-building activities.

What is the program impact? Of program graduates, **94%** avoid teen parenting and justice involvement, **97%** complete high school, **93%** pursue employment, enlistment, or further education. Graduates are empowered to break cycles of generational poverty.

Can volunteers get involved? Working with program youth is rare due to child privacy and safety. Volunteers are needed and welcomed in other ways, including at fundraising events.

Finances

What is the annual cost of the program? The operating budget is **\$1.7M in FY27**. The greatest expense is salaries/benefits. Other primary expenses include insurance, maintenance and fuel for 8 program vehicles, upkeep of 2 clubhouses, and youth outings/activities.

Where does funding come from? (as planned for FY27 budget)

Private foundation grants, 53%	Board Designated Investment Transfer 1%
Public funds (includes Medicaid), 27%	Corporate giving, negligible
Annual fundraising events 13%	Friends-National funds negligible
Individual giving, 5%	Investment and OCF dividends, negligible

Who Supports Fundraising? Executive Director Amanda Squibb, Director of Philanthropy Anne Keyser, and Operations Director Kenny Benson, with support from 2 part-time contractors: Grant Writer Satya Som and Event Coordinator Dani Harmon. Many volunteers, including Board members and Ambassadors.

What are the major fundraisers? (1) November: **Cal-Ore Produce Potato Sale**, (2) December: **Ugly Sweater Run**, (3) May/June: **Friend Raiser**

What are fundraising challenges?

- Rural location: No big businesses, few foundations, farm/ranch wealth tied in land/equipment
- Multiple local non-profits including OIT and Sky Lakes Medical: Many requests for donations
- Five Friends chapters in Oregon: Multiple requests to the same regional foundations
- Shifting federal priorities: Policies that don't favor education and social services

What are some ways to give?

- Fred Meyer/Kroger: link Community Rewards card to Friends of the Children – Klamath Basin
- Credit card online: friendsklamath.org (“Donate”)
- Venmo: @FOTCKlamathBasin
- Check: Friends of the Children – Klamath Basin to P.O. Box 5235, Klamath Falls, OR 97601
- Charles Schwab transfer: Friends of the Children – Klamath Basin
Account #7741-1580 | DTC #0164 | Transfer Code 40
- Other: Director of Philanthropy Anne Keyser, 413-847-0291

What's the ROI? The Harvard Business School Association of Oregon estimated **\$900K per program graduate** in saved social costs . Every \$1 invested returns \$7 to the community.