

**FRIENDS** of the  
**CHILDREN**

Klamath Basin

9/2022 - 8/2023

# Gratitude Report FY23



## Our Mission

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





## Our Staff

This year we welcomed Kenny Benson as Operations Manager, and we secured funds to continue caregiver support through Family & Community Engagement Specialist Jordon Falconio and expand mentoring in Chiloquin through new Friend Josie Harris.



Amanda Squibb  
Executive Director



Kenny Benson  
Operations Manager



Anne Keyser, Director of  
Development & Marketing



Jordon Falconio  
FACE Specialist



Crystal Muno  
Program Director



Josie Harris  
Chiloquin Friend



Anne Taylor  
Friend



Kayla Barros-Matheney  
Friend



José Hernandez  
Friend



Michael House  
Friend



Jeff Press  
Friend



Sarah Smart  
Friend



Naomi McCleve  
Friend



Corey Stamper  
Chiloquin Friend



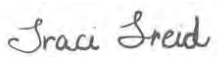
Felicia McNair  
Tribal Engagement  
Coordinator

## A Note from Our Board

As we watch the leaves fall and prepare for the transition of seasons, it is a wonderful time to stop and reflect on the changes at Friends of the Children over the last year. We have had the ability to work with more children and families than ever before, expand the services that we offer, and get established in our beautiful new “homes” in Chiloquin and Klamath Falls. These changes were possible due to the commitment of our amazing staff, the time given by our dedicated board of directors and volunteers, and the unwavering support of our donors near and far.

During this new season, I feel overwhelming gratitude for the generous and thoughtful employees, affiliates, and community members who have truly made a difference in the success of Friends - Klamath Basin and who remind me of the kindness and compassion that exists in our world, in our community, and in our everyday lives.

I thank each person who has chosen to join Friends of the Children on our journey of growth and change and has supported our mission to recognize and nurture every child’s unique potential.



### Board of Directors

Traci Freid, Co-Chair  
Tessa Koch, Co-Chair  
Debi Catron, Vice Chair  
Susan Kandra, Secretary  
Robert Mulcare, Treasurer  
Gian Christmas  
Heidi Gaither  
Dr. Tracy Graham  
Jessie Hecocta  
Alycia Edgeworth Kersey  
Cathy Mason  
Jenine Stuedli  
Janet Thede  
Heather Tyler  
Victor Vazquez  
Terry Kenfield, Emeritus  
Nancy Wendt, Emerita

To learn about Board roles,  
contact Executive Director  
Amanda Squibb at  
[asquibb@friendsklamath.org](mailto:asquibb@friendsklamath.org).

### **Ambassador Board**

Daniel Anderson

Kali Carter Hudson

Danielle Harmon

Breanna and Justin Henrick

Maggie and John Huntley

Sabree Johnson

Maryann Lundin

Dena Morosin

Kendra Santiago

Johanna Scholer

Cassi Stevens

Cynthia and LeRoy Ulrey

To join the Ambassadors,  
contact Development Director  
Anne Keyser at  
[akeyser@friendsklamath.org](mailto:akeyser@friendsklamath.org).

## **Our Ambassadors**

Ambassadors found many ways to support our chapter this year, from donating clubhouse supplies to planning fundraisers.

Ambassador Johanna Scholer organized the 9th annual Ugly Sweater Run, which was held on a bright December day. The group pictured here finished arm-in-arm and won the award for “Best-Dressed Team.”



Ambassadors Breanna and Justin Henrick and Cynthia and LeRoy Ulrey organized the Thin Blue Line Charity Run, which raised over \$10,000 in May. The runners pictured play soccer for Oregon Tech University.



# Our Model

Friends help youth build the skills and assets they need to postpone parenting, remain free from juvenile justice involvement, and complete high school with plans for the future.

## Core Assets



**PERSEVERANCE/GRIT:** I work hard through challenges and finish what I start.



**BELONGING:** I understand who I am, have a place where I feel accepted, and know that my contributions count.



**FIND YOUR SPARK:** I use creativity to explore my passions.



**GROWTH MINDSET:** I love learning and know that my abilities will improve through dedication and effort.



**HOPE:** When I have tough times, I believe it can get better.



**SELF-MANAGEMENT:** I know how to manage my feelings and take care of myself in a healthy way.



**PROBLEM-SOLVING:** I know how to weigh the pros and cons and make a decision.



**POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BUILDING:** I get along well with others and am able to find people to support me.



**SELF-DETERMINATION:** I believe in myself and am able to set goals and achieve them.

## Intermediate Goals

- School Success
- Improved Health
- Making Good Choices
- Prosocial Development
- Plans & Skills for the Future

## Long-Term Outcomes

- Postpone parenting until after the teen years
- Remain free from juvenile justice system involvement
- Earn a high school diploma or a GED

93%

96%

93%

## Evidence Based

Internal and external reviews help us continuously improve our support for youth. External evaluations include an Annie E. Casey Foundation study, which showed multiple benefits to families of having a Friend in a child’s life, an ICF study showing youth progress on key social emotional skills, and two longitudinal randomized controlled trial studies whose results are expected in 2026 and 2028.

## Our Youth

Our youth are resilient in the face of great obstacles, including poverty, foster care, and social disadvantage.



100% qualify for  
free/reduced lunch



58% live in a single-  
parent household



42% identify as African  
American, Latinx, or Native  
American



56% are impacted by  
foster care

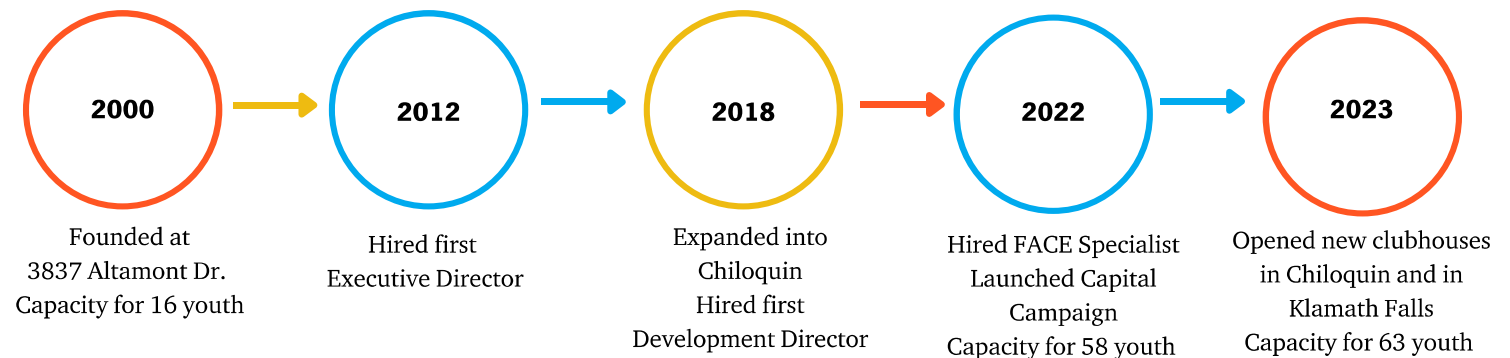


8% experience  
homelessness

## Our Enrollment Partners

We work closely with Klamath's two school districts, the Oregon Department of Human Services, the Klamath Tribes, and other community partners to identify children ages 4-6 most in need of professional mentors.

## Our Growth



## Progress on 2022-2024 Strategic Plans

### Scale to serve more people

Mentored 63 youth in 2023, exceeding our goal of 58.

Enrolled 44 program families into “2Gen” mentoring, exceeding our goal of 30. Our FACE Specialist helped their caregivers create stability, benefiting both program youth and all youth in their care. That meant improved well-being for hundreds of area children.

### Deepen our impact

Increased from 10 to 15 hours/month the support of a licensed clinical social worker for even greater impact on youth mental health.

Expanded summer programming by doubling our STEAM camp activities and adding a literacy program.

With the opening of a Chiloquin clubhouse, provided more equitable mentoring for Chiloquin-based youth.

### Complete our capital project

Completed a \$1.5M capital campaign to purchase and renovate property at 1515 Old Fort Road.

Completed nearly all renovations by the close of fiscal 2023 and moved to the new site October 30th.

Sold our property at 3837 Altamont Drive and dedicated its proceeds to an operating fund for the new clubhouse on Old Fort Road.

### Engage in systems change work

Continued the work of educating community leaders about cracks and inequities in public systems.

With funds from community partners such as the District 11 office of ODHS, supported prevention work that reduces the need for costly intervention work.



“Friends is the most beneficial program to come to my classroom in my 30+ years of teaching.”

– Former Teacher Marla Riecke

“You have shown communities in every corner of the country the extraordinary power of putting children first, building relationships based in genuine love, and aiming for equitable empowerment.”

– U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy

“My son was experiencing some feelings of depression and confusion. His friend was able to bring it to my attention in a way that was compassionate and caring. He was able to give me information and lots of resources. I don't know what I would have done if it wasn't for Friends of the Children.”

– Program Parent



## Our Work in Chiloquin

**2018**

Hired a Chiloquin mentor and enrolled a cohort of boys from Chiloquin Elementary School.

**2021**

Collaborated on a photography program with the Klamath Tribal Youth Council exploring culturally significant sites in Chiloquin and surrounding areas.

**2022**

Received funding from Fran and John VonSchlegel to renovate space for a Friends clubhouse in Chiloquin (see photos on next page).

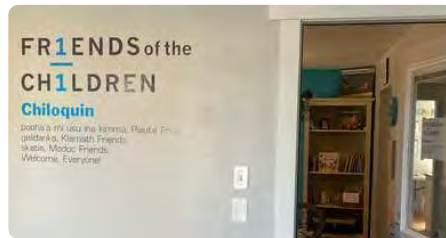
**2023**

Opened a Chiloquin clubhouse and received grant funding for a 2nd Chiloquin mentor and 2nd cohort of Chiloquin-based youth.





Volunteers, including these from Rogue Credit Union, helped turn a Mexican restaurant into a homey clubhouse.



A welcome sign features the Klamath, Modoc, and Paiute languages thanks to language expert GeorGene Nelson.



Tribal elder Felicia McNair (center) and her daughter Kimmie (left) offered drumming and prayers at our opening.



This donated portrait was drawn by the late community leader Marc McNair.



This art wall by program youth highlights one of 9 Core Assets: "Find Your Spark."



The clubhouse kitchen allows Friends and youth to prepare healthy food.



This mural is from a photo taken by a youth at ni'Laks ("Late Sunrise Place").



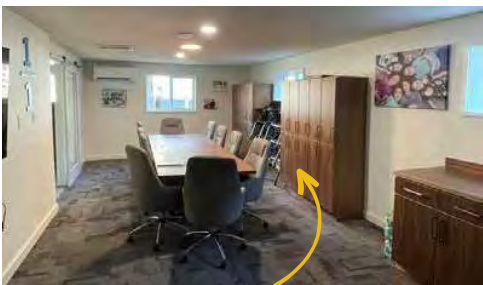
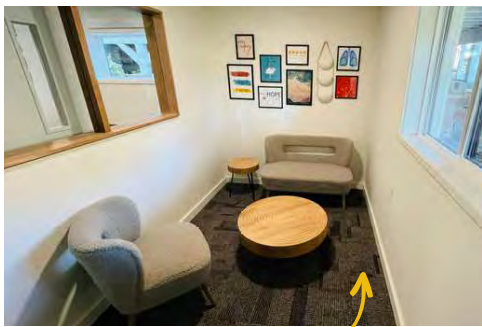
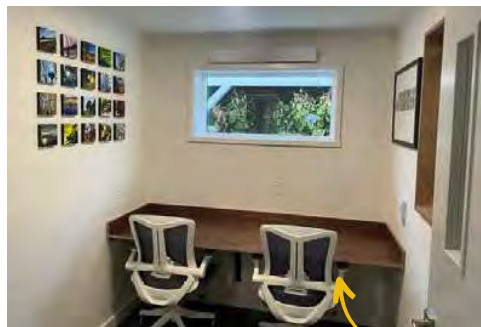
This cozy living room is just right for reading, talking, and unwinding.



In September, these volunteers from First Interstate Bank helped with landscaping.



# A New Clubhouse for Klamath Falls



A meeting room with lockers for Friends' belongings

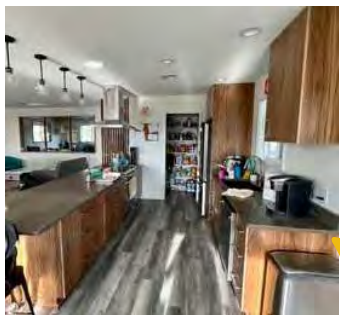


An art room and a library



## 1515 Old Fort Road

This year's renovations turned a once-dilapidated property into a community gem. Here, youth are finding the peace, belonging and support they need to build relationships, skills and hope.



A well-equipped kitchen and large eating nook





# Thank You to Our Clubhouse Campaign Donors:

## **Gifts of Realization: \$100,000+**

The Ford Family Foundation  
The Goodwin Family - Greg & Michele, Mark & Heidi  
Chris & Susan Kandra  
The City of Klamath Falls  
The KMSB Foundation  
The Mike & Bessie Short Trust  
The Wendt Family Foundation  
The Wendt Family and JELD-WEN Foundation

## **Gifts of Vision: \$50,000 - \$100,000**

The County of Klamath Falls  
Fred W. Fields Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation  
The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation

## **Gifts of Hope: \$20,000 - \$50,000**

The Campbell Foundation      Doug & Shelly Kintzinger  
J & K Deese Excavation      The Silver Family Foundation

## **Gifts of Empowerment: \$5,000 - \$20,000**

Anonymous	Cardinal Flooring	Gerald & Susan Freschi	LeRoy & Cynthia Ulrey
AT&T	Keith & Linda Colahan	Great American Contracting	The Washington Federal Foundation
Borror Millwork	Columbia Forest Products	Klamath County Rotary	
Yabori Calvo	Ed-Pat Electric		

## **Gifts of Love: \$1,000 - \$5,000**

Absolute Tree Care	Bob & Linda Kingzett	Justin Rodriguez
Debi Catron & Anthony Igou	Christopher & Linda Moudry	Scott & Johanna Scholer
Henris Roofing	Josh Nelson	Valley Garage Door
Thomas & Anne Keyser	Nick Alexander Films	ZCS Architecture & Engineering



**94% of youth worked on their School Success goal at least 2x monthly**

## School Success

As a 5th grader during the 2022-2023 school year, Remy\* was reading at a 2nd grade level. Naturally he was struggling in all subject areas as a result. Planning annual Road Map goals with Friend Michael, Remy set the goal of improving his reading. Throughout the year, Michael supported Remy with encouragement and rewards as he made his way through his school's Accelerated Reader curriculum. Remy made steady progress in the classroom and after school at the Friends clubhouse, ultimately reaching a high 5th grade reading level. We can't wait to see where he goes this year!

\*name changed for privacy



**96% of youth worked on their Improved Health goal at least 2x monthly**

## Improved Health

Chips, fruit snacks, sodium-heavy ramen . . . Program youth always request the same few foods when they visit the Friends clubhouse. Friend Michael, who has a culinary background, delights in expanding their likes and requests. For youth in our Dungeons and Dragons gaming group this year he prepared delicious dinners, from teriyaki chicken and pineapple sliders in celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, to tikka masala with roasted sweet potatoes and garlic rice for the Hindu festival of Holi. This summer, he found recipes incorporating the huckleberries that youth had picked with their Friends. He even made a homemade, healthy version of ramen, then taught all Friends how to prep it quickly with their youth!



**96% of youth worked on their Making Good Choices goal at least 2x monthly**

## Making Good Choices

It seems a lifetime ago that Josh\* frequently faced suspensions from middle school and regularly threatened to drop out to start a family with his girlfriend. This summer, he opted to take two extra classes, worked to buy car insurance, and cared for the raised-bed garden he built at his mom's house. As a high school junior this year, he is ahead in graduation requirements and is researching post-secondary options, from entering college to joining a welding program. Josh tells Friend Jeff, "I couldn't have done this without you," but Jeff says, "He is so smart, he could do anything he wants. I've just kept focusing on his passions and helping him imagine what those look like for his future."

\*Name changed for privacy





**96% of youth worked on their Prosocial Development goal at least 2x monthly**

## Prosocial Development

Seven-year-old Paige\* sometimes mentions the death of her father, who died of a drug overdose this year, but she shuts down if asked to share feelings about it. “Headspace” gatherings with licensed clinical social worker Emily Vazquez give Paige a safe space to learn to name and express emotions. Not ready to speak at her first meeting with Emily, she made use of a feelings flipbook to share with Friend Sarah that she felt “Sad” and also “Loved.” Sarah is helping mom arrange independent therapy for her family and continuing to create opportunities for Paige to build positive relationships and a sense of belonging within the Friends program.

\*Name changed for privacy

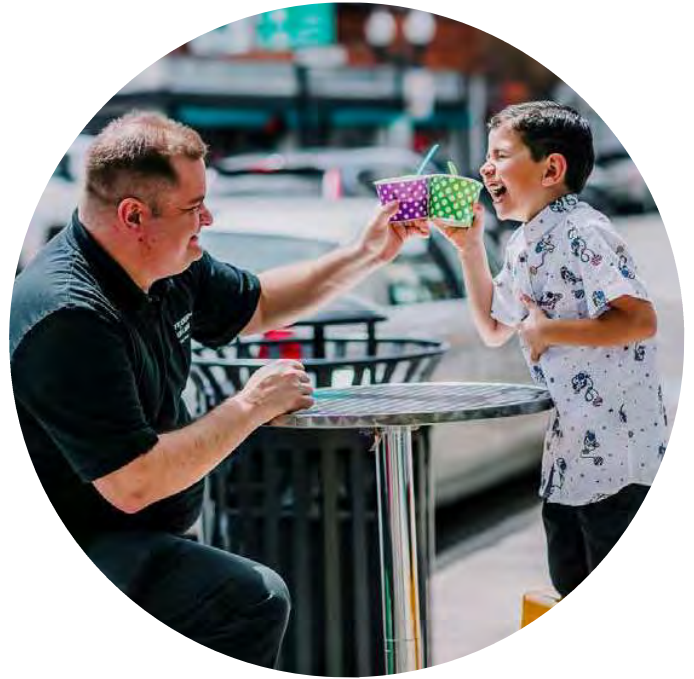


**94% of youth worked on their Plans & Skills for the Future goal at least 2x monthly**

## Plans & Skills for the Future

Friend José met six-year-old Tom\* as a kindergartner, when he attended school sporadically and spent much class time hiding under desks, fearful and unengaged. Over the next 12+ years, Tom faced many serious life challenges, including homelessness and his parents' and brother's incarcerations. But during those years he also had consistent mentoring support that empowered him to build self-confidence and hope. He persisted, ultimately pursuing required graduation credits alongside trade skills in a local work-study program. In June 2023 Tom earned his diploma. He was hired by a local nonprofit shortly after!

\*Name changed for privacy



## Summer Support



Summer programming included “World of Reading” literacy challenges and a STEAM Camp that paired clubhouse activities with fieldtrips across the state. Eight adolescent youth also gained leadership experience by assisting as Junior Mentors!



# Thank You to Our Funding Partners

Abby's Pizza  
Active Network, LLC  
All Seasons Property Management  
Almond Aesthetic Medicine  
Alvis Trucking  
AmazonSmile  
American Sanitation  
Amerititle  
ATRIO  
Avista Utilities  
Bogatay Contruction, Inc.  
Borror Millwork, LLC  
BS Coffee  
CAL-ORE Produce  
Citizens for Safe Schools  
City of Klamath Falls  
Coast Truck Centers  
Coldwell Banker  
The Collins Foundation  
Columbia Forest Products  
Crossfit A.P.E., LLC  
Dan Nielsen Transportation  
Daydreamer  
Diamond Home Improvement Center  
Double C  
Dutch Bros Coffee  
Ed-Pat Electric, Inc.  
Ed Staub & Sons Petroleum, Inc.  
Ed-Pat Electric, Inc.  
Edward Jones - Jessie Hecocta  
Epic Glass

Ezell Suty Fuel, Inc.  
Face to Toes - Wholesome Family Medicine  
Ferguson Wellman Capital Management  
First Community Credit Union  
First Interstate Bank  
Gathering Grounds Roastery  
Graham Pediatrics Clinic  
Henris Roofing  
Holliday Jewelry  
James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation  
KLAD / Basin Mediactive LLC  
Klamath Basin Behavioral Health  
Klamath City Building Department  
Klamath County  
Klamath County Developmental Disability  
Klamath County Police Officers Association  
Klamath County School District  
Klamath Falls City Schools  
Klamath Falls Subaru/Honda  
The Klamath Falls Taphouse  
Klamath Insurance Center  
Klamath Snowflake Festival  
Klamath Spine, Rehab & Sports Centre  
Klamath Surgery Center  
KMSB Foundation  
Kroger  
Lassen Canyon Nursery, Inc.  
The Ledge  
Lincoln Homes  
Lithia Ford of Klamath Falls  
The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation

Nana's LLC  
OIT Small Team and Group Communications  
Orleys of Klamath Falls  
Pacific Crest Federal Credit Union  
Pacific Power  
Packer Plant Co  
Party Time  
People's Bank  
Pourhorse, LLC  
Rhine-Cross Group, LLC  
Rodeos  
Rogue Credit Union  
Ronald W. Naito Foundation  
Ross Ragland Theater  
Rotary Club of Klamath County  
Seasons Change, LLC  
Shasta Family Dental PC  
SAMHSA  
Silver Family Foundation  
Sky Lakes Medical Center Foundation  
Smith Brothers Dental  
Spectrum Reach - Charter Communications  
State of Oregon  
Terry's Donuts  
TMK Creamery  
United Way of the Klamath Basin  
Washington Federal Foundation  
Windermere Real Estate  
Winema Electric

If we have omitted your name in error,  
please contact [akeyser@friendsklamath.org](mailto:akeyser@friendsklamath.org)



## Our GEM Club

These donors **Gave Every Month** to support our year-round, long-term commitment to youth:

Sharene Craft	Valerie Smith
Traci and Jake Freid	Amanda and Phillip Squibb
Sue and Phil Harbin	Mitch and Tammy Stokes
Jim and Becky Hoppe	Polly Strahan
Sheril and David Karstens	Heather Tyler
Anne and Tom Keyser	Cynthia and Leroy Ulrey
Johanna and Scott Scholer	Sarah Wonn

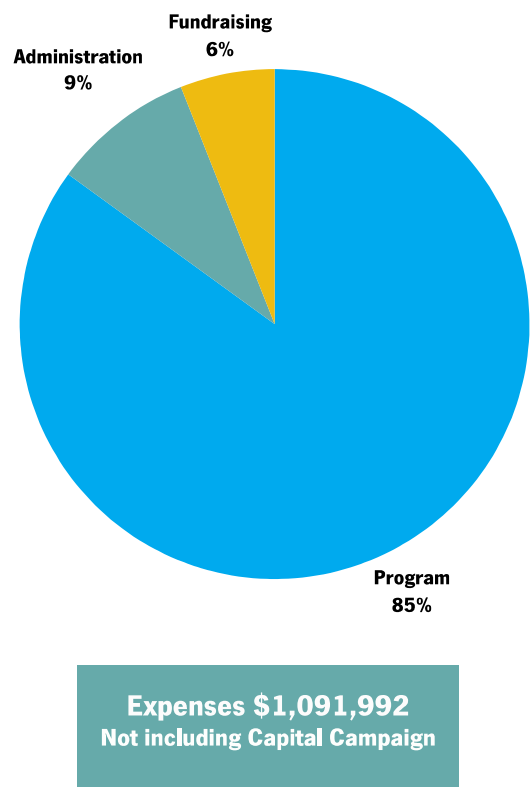
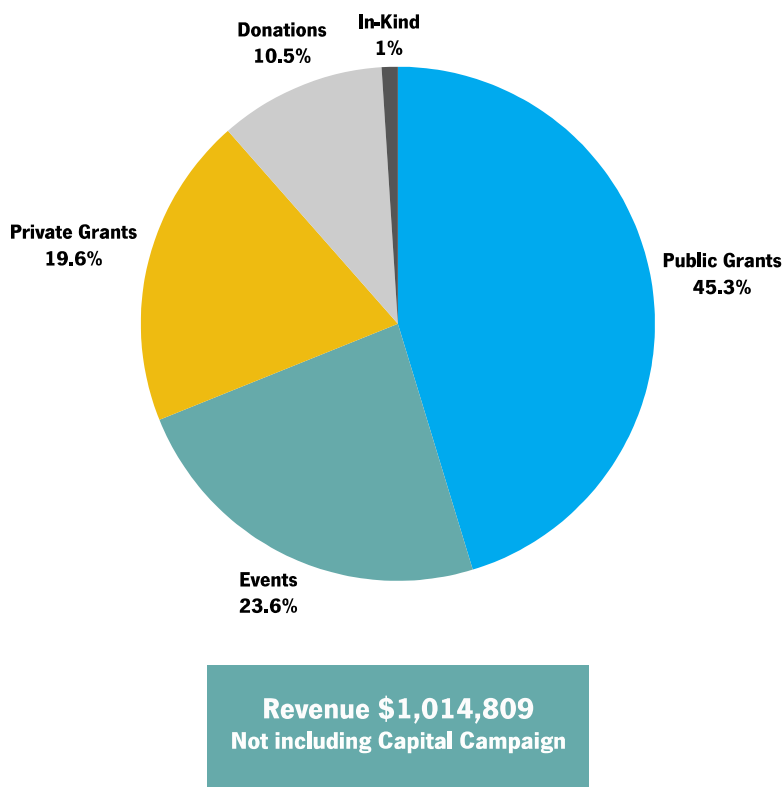


The “Celebrate!” Friend Raiser raised more than \$200,000 for our chapter’s operations. We are so thankful to presenter Lithia Ford of Klamath Falls and hundreds of sponsors and donors!



Program alumnus Chase Walters, right, attended Friend Raiser 2023 with his wife and children. Of former Friend José (left) he said, “He got me where I needed to be to be successful.”

# Our Finances



**The Harvard Business School Association of Oregon estimated:**

**\$1 invested = \$7 returned to the community**  
(\$26 factoring generational impact )

**1 graduate = \$900,000 in saved social costs**

# A Message from Our Executive Director

Dear friends,

When I reflect on the time and energy dedicated this year to establishing a program space in downtown Chiloquin and creating a new home base in Klamath Falls, I think about our program’s Core Asset of “Belonging,” which we know to be crucial to good mental health. With both projects, we created environments where our youth feel safe, accepted, valuable. Thoughtful design and appointments allow Friends to meet our 70+ youth just where they are - on any given day and at every stage of development - in dedicated areas that accommodate individual activities, whether that be meeting with a tutor or licensed clinical social worker in a private study room, beading or coloring in the art room, or just taking some time to unwind in the game room. Our new spaces likewise accommodate and welcome our families, staff team, and you, our funders, community partners, and supporters. Please reach out to schedule tours and experience for yourself the true Belonging these spaces represent.



**FR1ENDS** of the  
**CH1LDREN**

**Klamath Basin**



**[friendsklamath.org](http://friendsklamath.org) | 541-273-2022**

**Mailing address: P.O. Box 5235, Klamath Falls OR 97601**

**Locations: 1515 Old Fort Road, Klamath Falls | 123 S. 1st Avenue, Chiloquin**