2025 IMPACT REPORT

12+ YEARS.
MANY COMMUNITIES.
ONE PROMISE.

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN
Los Angeles

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Three years ago, we made a bold commitment.

We committed to expanding Friends LA beyond our original communities — not quickly, not reactively, but thoughtfully and with care. We knew expansion would only matter if it preserved what makes our model work: trust, consistency, and deep relationships.

This year marks a milestone. We are now in year two of a deliberate, three-year expansion strategy — moving from planning into sustained implementation across communities throughout Los Angeles County. To our public funders, private donors, and local partners: *thank you for trusting us to grow with care and intention.*

With strong teams rooted in the communities they serve, our regional network of Friends LA sites allows us to respond to acute neighborhood-level needs. When we open our final site in 2026, we will complete this phase of our expansion across Los Angeles County. We'll celebrate together!

Expansion isn't just about reaching more children. It's about honoring the promise we make to every child and caregiver who enters our program:

We are here, and we are not leaving.

This report tells the story of that promise — kept.

With gratitude,

Jorie Das
Executive Director

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, Friends LA expanded services beyond our sites in Antelope Valley, South Metro/ Downtown LA, and the South Bay/greater Long Beach area.

This phase of our expansion took us into the San Gabriel Valley and East LA — enrolling youth, hiring professional mentors, and building partnerships rooted in trust and consistency.

With the opening of our San Fernando Valley/West LA site in 2026, Friends LA will serve children and families across the vast 4,300 square miles of Los Angeles County!

884,736
Mentoring hours delivered across Los Angeles County

290
Children supported through intensive 1:1 mentorship

16+
Hours of monthly 1-on-1 mentorship per youth

45
Full-time, salaried professional mentors (Friends)

2
New program sites, five sites total

THE WHY

For years, families across Los Angeles County were asking the same question:

Why isn't Friends LA here yet?

We heard from caregivers navigating school systems alone.

From social workers looking for consistent support for children in crisis.

From community partners watching families fall through gaps — not because help didn't exist, but because it didn't last long enough. We knew the need wasn't isolated. **And we knew our model worked.**

SO WE MADE A CHOICE : TO GROW - NOT FAST, BUT WITH PURPOSE.

THE CHALLENGE

Children don't experience challenges one system at a time.

Education, mental health, housing instability, child welfare, and family stress are deeply connected. Yet support systems are often fragmented, short-term, and hard to navigate — especially for caregivers already carrying heavy loads.

Expansion meant facing real questions:

- How do we grow without losing quality?
- How do we enter new communities with humility and trust?
- How do we support caregivers when entire families are under pressure?

OUR SOLUTION:

GROW WITH RELATIONSHIPS AT THE CENTER

Friends LA expanded by doing what we do best - building relationships first.

- We hired locally.
- We partnered intentionally.
- We listened before launching programming.

Each new site was built with:

- Dedicated leadership and staff
- Strong partnerships with schools, DCFS, and community organizations
- Time and space to build trust with caregivers

Expansion wasn't about replication alone. It was about belonging.

Expansion is not a single moment for Friends LA, but a phased, multi-year commitment designed to ensure quality, stability, and long-term presence in every community we enter.

Now in year two of expansion, Friends LA serves families across many regions of Los Angeles County — each with unique needs, strengths, and community context.

What remains consistent:

- Weekly, one-on-one time between each child and their Friend
- Ongoing caregiver partnership and support
- Long-term commitment, regardless of life changes

What adapts:

- Programming shaped by local culture and needs
- Community-specific partnerships
- Site-based approaches to engagement and belonging

2GEN IN ACTION

Friends LA's expansion is powered by a simple truth: *children thrive when adults in their lives are supported, connected, and believed in.*

Our Two-Generation (2Gen) approach recognizes caregivers as our partners in a child's success.

BECAUSE OF THIS PHILOSOPHY, CAREGIVERS RECEIVE:

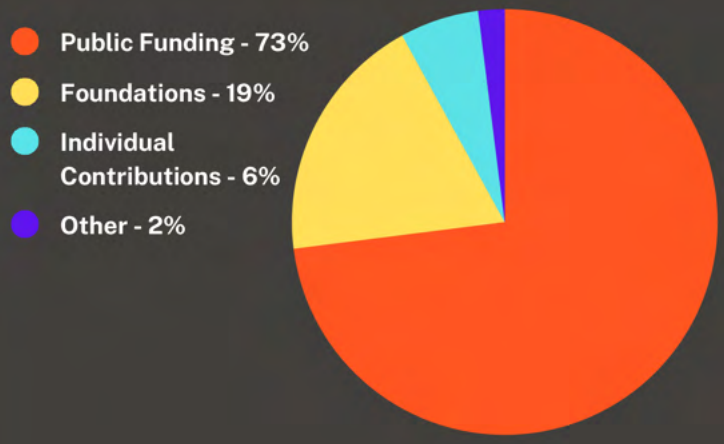
- 1:1 check-ins that reduce isolation and build trust
- Advocacy support, including attending school meetings and navigating systems
- Parent cafés and family councils that rebuild community and confidence
- Employment and education assistance, from GED programs to certifications
- Mental health access, with stigma-reducing, culturally responsive support

Through targeted caregiver support initiatives, Friends LA focuses on prevention, stability, and long-term family resilience.

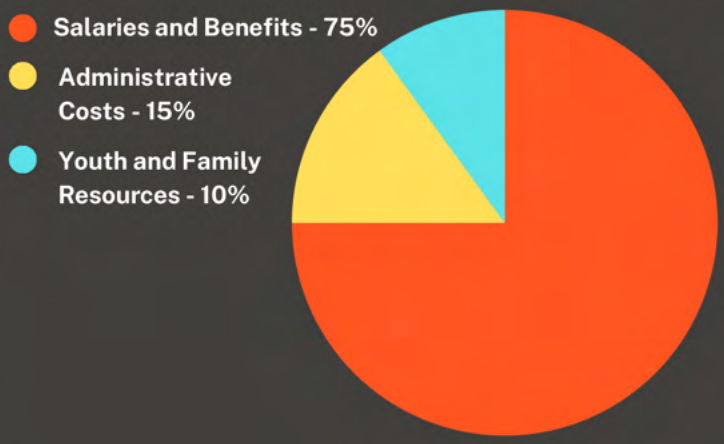
AN INVESTMENT THAT YIELDS DIVIDENDS

- 100% of enrolled Youth have had zero further involvement with DCFS
- 94% of caregivers say Friends LA supports their child's academic success
- 84% of caregivers say their child gained another positive role model
- 90% of caregivers say their child experienced activities that built confidence and connection
- 91% of caregivers feel more connected to helpful community resources
- 83% of caregivers report support in their own personal development, including education, training, or employment opportunities

REVENUE



EXPENSES



FY25 financials reflect disciplined growth, with **85% of expenses** directly supporting program delivery and mentor staffing.

Every dollar invested in Friends LA represents **belief** — not just in a program, but in the potential of young people across Los Angeles County.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

A Los Angeles County where children and families facing the greatest barriers have access to consistent, long-term support from a Friend — no matter where they live. This vision has guided Friends LA's expansion decisions over the past three years.

GET INVOLVED

Lasting change doesn't happen alone. Whether you give, volunteer, advocate, or share our work, there's a place for you in the future we're building.

Scan the QR code or visit friendsla.org to learn how you can get involved.

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STAY IN TOUCH

www.friendsla.org
info@friendsla.org
@friendsla

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Generational Change, One Child at a Time

Los Angeles