

FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Phoenix



2024 - 2025

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION



A word from our Executive Director

It is a profound honor to serve as the Executive Director of Friends of the Children - Phoenix. Leading this organization is a responsibility I do not take lightly. Every decision I make is grounded in a deep commitment to our youth, ensuring they remain at the center of our work, our strategy, and our future.

This past year was one of alignment and exploration. We aligned our staff, values, communication, and roles, while also taking the time to thoughtfully explore and define our chapter identity. Through this process, it became clear where our focus must be. Our chapter is laser-focused on education, specifically strengthening literacy and math skills, as well as advancing mental health and well-being, supporting caregivers through two-generation programming, and intentionally prioritizing the enrollment of youth who are at risk of or involved in the foster care system. This clarity is guiding how we invest our resources, design our programs, and measure our impact.

I am incredibly proud of the board we are building. They are a group of leaders who are leaning into vision, accountability, and long-term impact. I am equally grateful for our dedicated team of staff who show up each day with courage, compassion, and perseverance, even in the sticky and uncomfortable moments that meaningful work often requires.

Most importantly, I want to thank our donors and supporters. Your continued generosity is more than a financial investment, it is a powerful vote of confidence in our youth and in the future they are building. Your acts of kindness provide hope, create opportunity, and spread joy in ways that will ripple far beyond today.

Together, we are changing the trajectory of lives. Thank you for believing in our mission, standing alongside our youth, and walking this journey with us.

With gratitude and pride,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Patris-Browne". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Cassie Patris-Browne
Executive Director
Friends of the Children — Phoenix



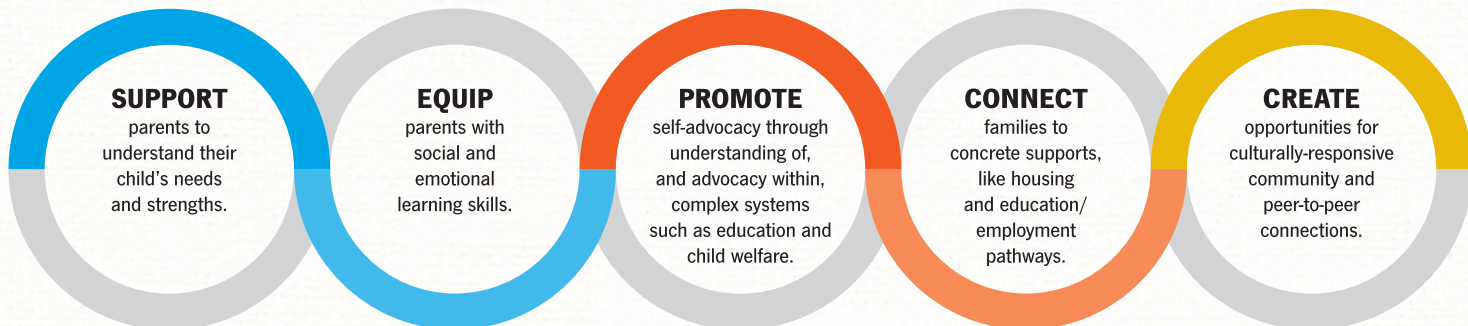
Our Mission

Impacting generational change by empowering youth, who are facing the greatest obstacles, through relationships with professional mentors

1
1

TWO-GENERATION (2GEN)
APPROACH:
HOW WE'RE DOING IT

Impacting change across generations – for both youth and their families:
Empowering families to move beyond obstacles such as poverty, foster care and criminal justice involvement, and toward health, well-being and community.



Community Impact

Today, 7 Friends are serving 70 children who attend 11 schools throughout the Roosevelt School District in South Phoenix, AZ.

Our approach has shown a social return on investment to society that is over 7 times greater than the cost of the program—a benefit of up to \$900,000 over the life of each youth served, and beyond.

Our Credibility

Friends of the Children is committed to regular, ongoing evaluation of our model and its outcomes.

To date, third party research evaluations have found that 83% of our youth graduate from high school, 93% avoid the juvenile justice system, and 98% avoid early parenting, despite the fact that over half of our youth have a parent that did not succeed in meeting one or more of these goals.

“I feel safe and happy when I am with [my Friend] Ashley. I like to be on outings with her and my friends. I like the clubhouse and the activities we do.” - Student



What Friends - Phoenix Youth Say About Us

Each year, the youth enrolled in Friends of the Children - Phoenix have the opportunity to participate in an anonymous survey to share their thoughts on their experience with our program in an age-appropriate way. Their feedback, combined with observations from our team, is critical to our program's continuous improvement.

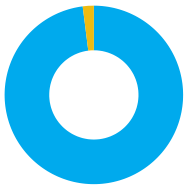
Of youth responding to our survey:



100% of youth exhibit or report a sense of belonging AND report having recently accomplished something they are proud of.



84% of youth exhibit or report practicing persistence and grit as one of their core assets.



98% of youth reported feeling hopeful about their future.

Words youth use to describe Friends of the Children:

FUN! **SPECIAL** Kind **AWESOME!**

Youth tell us what they like best about Friends of the Children:

"They always care for us when we need help, are willing to try when we need something, and they never give up on us."



"Everyone is very nice and helpful. We get to go to fun places and meet new kids."

What Caregivers Say About Us

Each year, our caregivers have the opportunity to participate in an anonymous survey to share their thoughts on their experience with Friends of the Children - Phoenix. Their feedback plays a key role in informing our work going forward.

Of caregivers responding to our FY2025 survey:



90% feel supported by one or more Friends, and 86% agree that they feel connected to other Friends of the Children caregivers.



94% rated the likelihood of recommending Friends of the Children as a 9 or 10 out of a possible score of 10.



94% strongly agree that their child's Friend has helped them with school. 92% agree that their child's Friend helps the caregiver understand the child better.

Friends of the Children supported Caregivers with:

Accessing resources for special education support

Employment and adult education resources

Utilities and basic needs

Bereavement support

Connections to food assistance programs

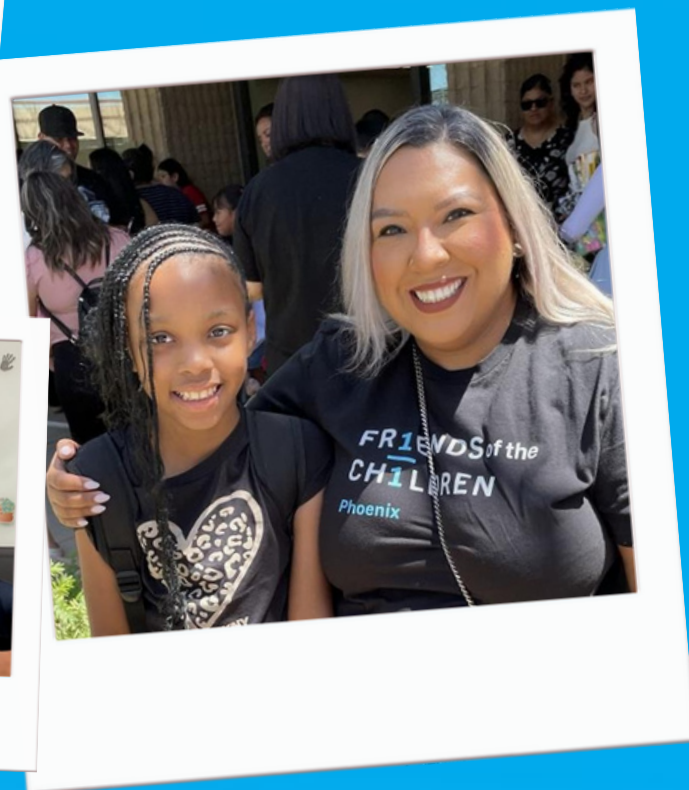
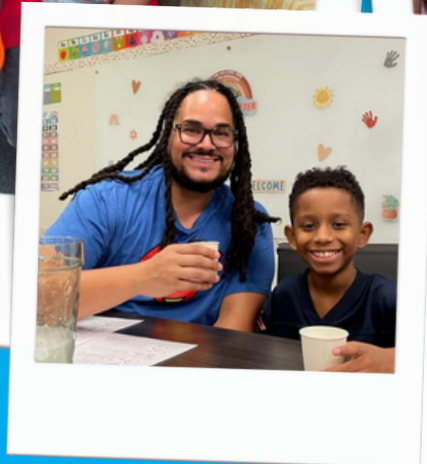
Caregivers tell us:

"We need more Friends of the Children. So many young mothers need this program."

"Our Friend has been fantastic at bridging the gap between the school and us as the family. My daughter is soaring!"



Note: 53 Caregivers responded to our FY25 Caregiver Survey, a more than 100% increase over FY24. Of those completing the survey, 41 were a biological parent, 8 were grandparents, 1 was a foster parent, and 3 were another caregiver. 63% of responding families report annual incomes at or below \$30,000.



A Year in Review

70

kids enrolled
for 12+ years

14,000+

hours of 1:1
Professional Mentoring

350+

caregivers & siblings
supported in the
“two gen” model

7

Professional Mentors
served as Friends

ONE CHILD. ONE FRIEND. 12+ YEARS, NO MATTER WHAT.

Friends of the Children - Phoenix is dedicated to breaking the cycle of generational poverty through salaried, professional mentoring. We select the children facing the biggest challenges and commit to walking alongside them from kindergarten through high school graduation.

We Know Trusting Relationships take Time

We are honored to have received the Program Quality Award for Quality Time from Friends of the Children - National! This recognition highlights the dedication of our entire team as we follow through on our core commitment to putting children first. Whether that looks like teaching youth to fish for the first time, helping them apply for their first library card, or any of the other countless opportunities that our Friends make possible.



Fishing fun!

Thankful For Our Community of Supporters



Nick Richards Outing at Dick's

We are grateful for our partnerships with organizations that provide otherwise impossible opportunities for Friends - Phoenix youth. Whether it is Paws for Youth, formerly Gabriel's Angels, support of our literacy programs; golf lessons provided by Bank of America; and shopping outings sponsored by Phoenix Suns player Nick Richards and Executive Council Charities, we couldn't do this important work without our community of supporters.

Building Trust

When Miguel* first met his professional mentor, Valentin, he was facing significant challenges. Raised by his grandmother, struggling with behavioral issues, and at risk of being held back in school, Miguel's family had grown accustomed to conversations focused on what was going wrong. Valentin took a different approach. He listened first, asking about the hopes and goals the family held for Miguel's future. Through years of consistent presence, advocacy, and trust-building, Valentin helped secure educational supports for Miguel and his sister, connected the family to behavioral health resources, and opened doors to opportunities that may otherwise have been out of reach. Today, Miguel's family has a trusted partner in their corner, his support system is stronger, and his path forward is brighter.



One fun outing at a time!

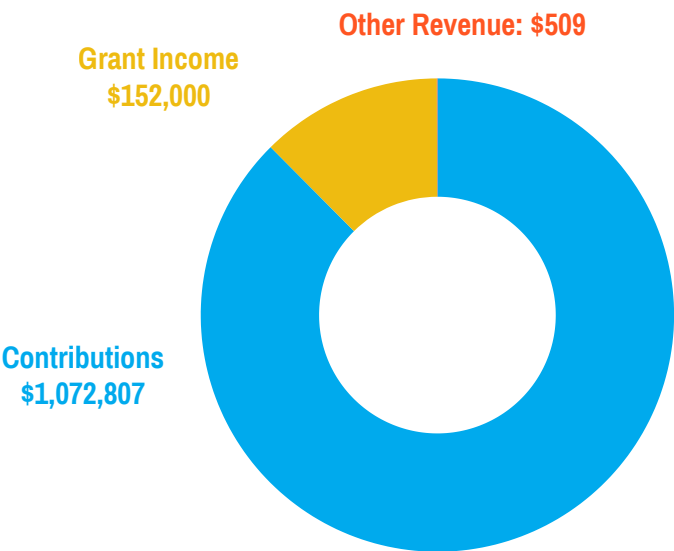
FY 2025 Finances

Since our founding in 2022, generous philanthropic partners have helped Friends of the Children – Phoenix launch our program, hire professional mentors, and build the infrastructure needed to walk alongside youth for our unique commitment of 12+ years.

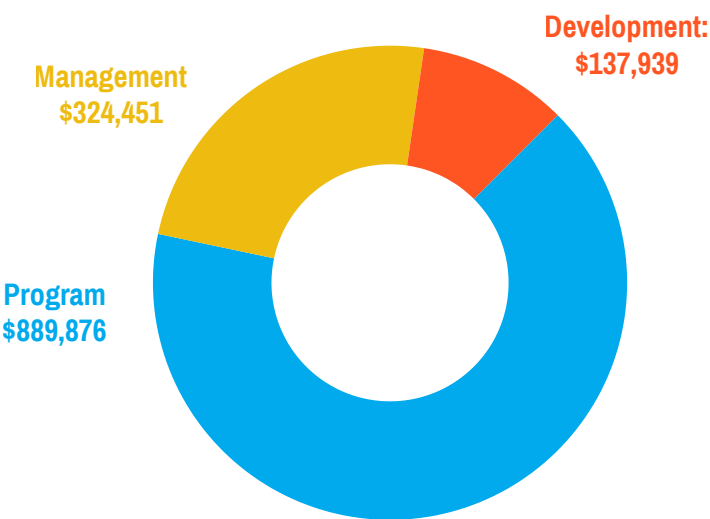
FY2025 marked an important step in our transition from early-stage seed funding to a more diversified annual fundraising model. We generated more than \$1.22 million in public support and revenue—more than doubling what we generated in FY2024—while continuing to invest in the capacity necessary for long-term sustainability.

Together, these early investments have laid the groundwork for a strong and sustainable financial foundation for the future, positioning Friends – Phoenix to maintain our commitment to youth for the long term.

Total Revenue: \$1,225,316



Total Operating Expenses: \$1,352,266



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Learn More

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