



FIVE YEARS OF SHOWING UP

No Matter What





IMPACT AT-A-GLANCE

7,944

Hours spent with youth

220

Individuals served

(including household members)

63

Youth served

36

Schools we work in

7

Family engagement events



OUR MISSION + VISION

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

WHO WE ARE

Friends of the Children–Tacoma is an independent organization and part of a national network with a model that is distinct, courageous, and proven. We select and invite youth—all of whom have unique talents, interests, and dreams, and who face multiple systemic obstacles—to be paired with a paid, professional mentor called a Friend. We hire and train Friends to support our youth from as early as age 4 through high school graduation: 12+ years, no matter what.

Our model revolutionized the youth mentoring field by creating the first and only long-term professional mentoring program in the country. We are experts in building sustained, nurturing relationships with youth. Each child receives a dedicated, one-on-one Friend who listens to their hopes and dreams, empowers them to set and achieve their goals, and creates meaningful experiences that build life skills and healthy choices, all while celebrating and exploring each child's diverse talents and interests.

We believe everyone deserves the chance to reach their full potential, because where you start shouldn't determine how far you go.



OUR VALUES



PUT CHILDREN FIRST

One of our key values, putting children first, means the youth we serve are the primary focus of everything we do at Friends of the Children. We intentionally serve youth who are facing great obstacles. We listen to youth and base decisions on their needs and dreams as they write their own stories of success. We foster a supportive, consistent relationship between each youth and professional mentor—a relationship that grows through high school, and into their adult lives.



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS ON LOVE

We nurture long-term relationships from a foundation of love and acceptance. Our practice is rooted in the wisdom of communities, tailoring support to honor each youth's unique identity and shared heritage. We don't give up easily and take a "no matter what" approach to our work. We intentionally develop collaborative relationships over time with trust, empathy, and healthy communication. We build community through one-on-one connections that are authentic, respectful, and meaningful.



COMMIT TO EMPOWERMENT

We leverage personal strengths to take ownership of our futures. We build relationships within the communities of our youth and families to strengthen social networks and provide bridges to new opportunities. We consistently inspire possibility through empathy, hard work, and fun. We model all of this for our youth, families, and each other.



PURSUE GOALS RELENTLESSLY

We celebrate all achievements, big and small. We are disciplined in our commitment to goals, while innovative in how we reach them. We believe the definition of success requires intentional reflection and adjustment over time. We work together and hold each other accountable with data to achieve short and long-term outcomes.



UNLOCK ALL POTENTIAL

We believe everyone deserves the chance to reach their full potential, because where you start shouldn't decide how far you go. We advocate to ensure every child, regardless of historical and present challenges, has the resources, support, and voice needed to thrive. We amplify and listen to the hopes and dreams of the children, families, and communities we serve. We harness different perspectives to overcome barriers and drive measurable change for every child. Together, we work to challenge and remove obstacles so potential isn't limited by any circumstance.



Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

Thank you. That is where I have to begin, because none of what you will read in these pages would be possible without the trust, generosity, and belief you have placed in the young people of Tacoma and in our work together.

This year marks a milestone: the close of our fifth programmatic year (September 2024 through August 2025). When Friends of the Children–Tacoma opened its doors in 2019, we were an idea rooted in deep community investment and the unwavering belief that every child deserves a champion. Five years later, that idea has grown into something real, lasting, and unmistakably Tacoma’s own.

This year, Tacoma continued to welcome our work with open arms. Our partnerships have deepened, our impact has sharpened, and our roots have grown stronger. What makes our model powerful is not a program or a curriculum. It is a person, a Friend, who shows up, consistently and unconditionally, year after year. It is the relationship. It is the 12+ years, no matter what. That commitment is the through-line of everything you will read here, and it is the reason I wake up every morning grateful to do this work.

As we step into our next chapter, we carry with us everything this community has poured into us: the trust of families, the collaboration of educators, the vision of our funders, and the resilience of our youth. We are ready to grow in size, depth, excellence, and lasting impact.

With the power of collective perseverance,

JR. Nobles

Executive Director, Friends of the Children–Tacoma



OUR STAFF



JR. Nobles
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



Alexis Dumonchelle
PROGRAM
DIRECTOR



Eden Redmond
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

Not Pictured:

Rahel Woldemariam EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATOR

OUR FRIENDS



Sherell Dickson



Mike Hollis



Jamie Jones



Dalton Walker



Reid Newlin



Kiesha Tymas



Dazjon Johnson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shareka Fortier
DeAnne Hamilton

Emily Happy
Spencer Hill
James Hushagen

Tai Moultrie
Rafael Saucedo



PROGRAM DATA

Each year, we ask the caregivers of our youth to share honest feedback about our program. Their responses reflect the lived experience of families in our community and tell us the relationships our Friends build are making a real, measurable difference at home, at school, and in the life of every child we serve.

CAREGIVER SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS



78% agreed that the Friend helped their child with school



92% agreed that their child's Friend listens to them



92% agreed that their child feels close to their Friend



78% agreed that they feel supported by one or more Friends



92% agreed that they can express their feelings with their [child's] Friend



83% agreed that their child's Friend has shared new resources



YOUTH OUTCOMES

At the close of the 2024–2025 school year, our youth demonstrated meaningful, measurable growth across both social-emotional and academic dimensions. We are so proud to walk with them as they progress through school and life. One step, one goal, one accomplishment at a time, these youth are rewriting their stories.

97%

Youth demonstrating growth in prosocial skills and development

57 of 59 youth assessed

98%

Youth making progress toward academic goals and efforts

58 of 59 youth assessed

“I was so impressed by the work that Alexis did in my classroom. She helped to bolster Kyra’s confidence and was a highlight of her week. I found a partnership with Alexis that helped me better support Kyra’s academic and social emotional needs. She also served as a bridge between Kyra’s home life and school life. My other students grew to love Alexis and looked forward to her time spent with us. When I needed help with big, unexpected behaviors, Alexis was always ready to serve as a safe, neutral, and calm space for her student to regulate. I highly recommend having a Friend in the classroom!”

– Tacoma School Educator



WHAT'S NEXT?

When Friends of the Children–Tacoma began in 2019, it was at the invitation of the local community. In these first five years, we have joined arm in arm with funders, local organizations, educators, and families to make undeniably positive impacts for the youth enrolled in our program. As they graduate from elementary school and enter their adolescence, we too are maturing into our next form.

In the next five years of our work, we envision transforming from a beloved, homegrown, community organization into a remarkable, established, mentorship hub helping Tacoma's youth live their fullest lives.

This work will be guided by three strategic priorities:



FUEL THE MISSION

Sustain and deepen diverse funding and partnerships to bring children the most meaningful opportunities possible.



POWER THE PEOPLE

Coach and invest in our team to ensure relationships are nourished and youth can thrive.



ELEVATE OUR VOICE

Amplify our partnerships and community presence so youth, families, and partners feel seen, recognized, and supported at Friends–Tacoma.

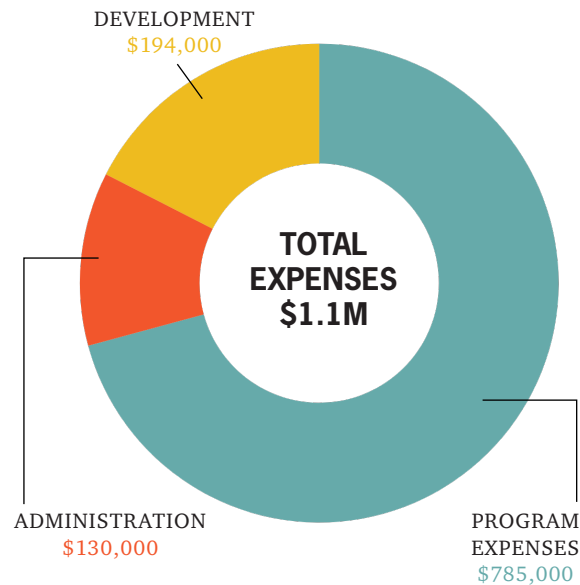


FINANCIALS

In fiscal year 2025, our financial reality reflected our projections: a year of steady, intentional stewardship. We focused on maintaining stability for our program team, protecting the relationships and resources that matter most to our youth and families.

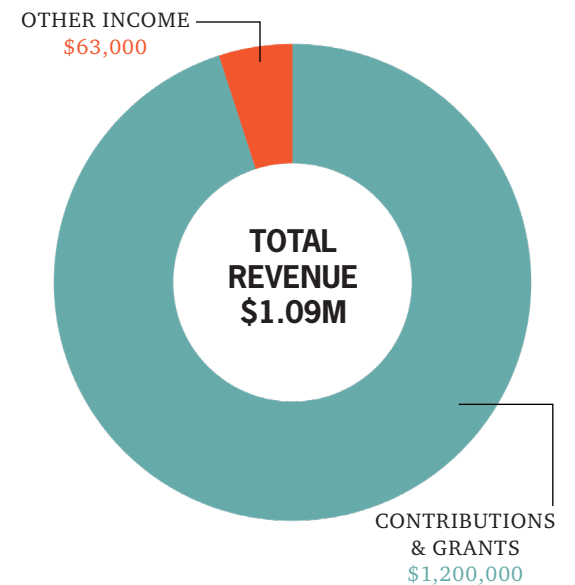
EXPENSES

Our 2025 expenses rose 5%, reflecting changes in the cost of goods in the market.



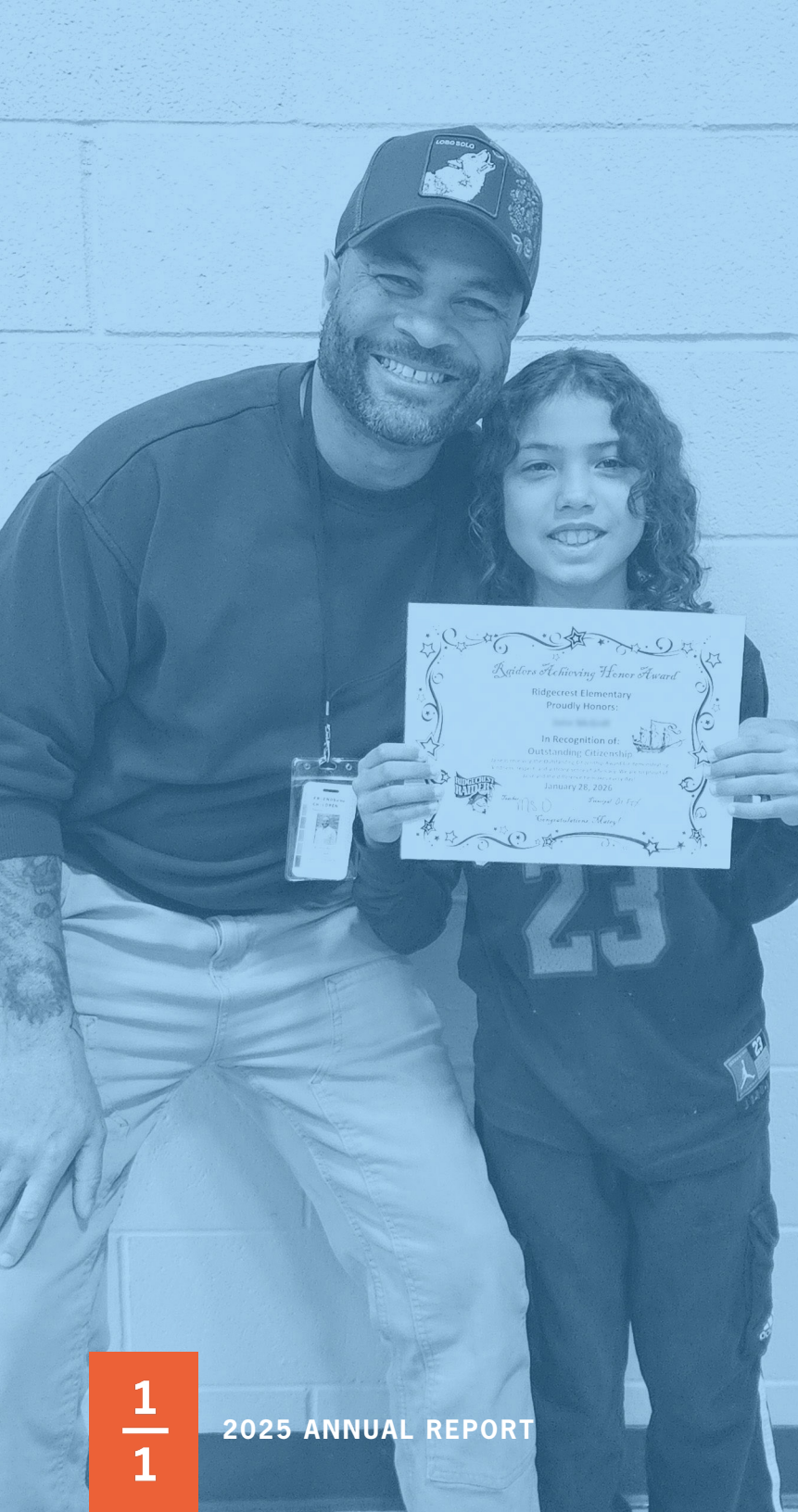
REVENUE

Our 2025 revenue grew 2%, reflecting an increase in supportive income.



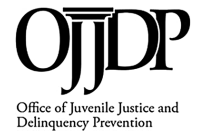
ASSETS

Our assets are \$795k | \$148k is restricted



OUR PARTNERS

None of this work happens in isolation. We are deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations, government partners, and community organizations who invest in our youth and make this mission possible. Your partnership is not just financial—it is relational, and it reflects the same values of consistency and commitment that define everything we do.





THANK YOU + STAY CONNECTED

f  Follow us @friendstacoma

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Friends of the Children–Tacoma is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN: 84-3340283.