

2024  
**Impact  
Report**

**Foster Village Peoria**

[www.FosterVillagePeoria.org](http://www.FosterVillagePeoria.org)  
[Info@FosterVillagePeoria.org](mailto:Info@FosterVillagePeoria.org)  
309-305-9888



## Table of Contents

From the Executive Director.....	2
The Need.....	3
About Foster Village Peoria.....	4-5
The Impact of Programs.....	6
Resource Closet Program .....	7-8
Youth Connect Events Program.....	9
Support Gatherings Program.....	10
Visit Room Program.....	11
Educational Worskshops Program.....	12
2024 Income & Expenses.....	13
2025 Projection.....	14
Leadership Team.....	15
Board of Directors.....	16
Volunteers.....	17
Sponsors & Donors.....	18
Donation Drive Partners.....	19
Join our Village.....	20
Contact Information.....	21



## from the Executive Director

# Hey everyone!

I'm so thankful for everything 2024 brought Foster Village Peoria and our community. When we launched our affiliate chapter of Foster Village Inc. in June 2022, we knew the need locally was great. Foster Village Peoria was an idea, a dream, a passion to support and provide resources for youth and caregivers affected by foster care and the child welfare system. We approach the brokenness of the system with a holistic approach, building programs to fit the biggest gaps of need.

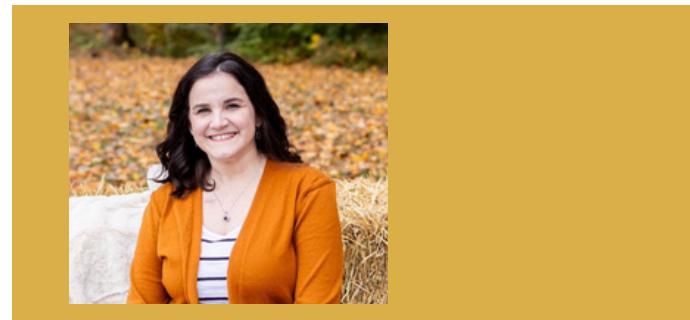


Since Danielle Carr, Emily Doubet, and I launched Foster Village Peoria, we continue to be blessed by the community's support and see how much this nonprofit can provide the foster care community. Our nonprofit continues to hear the "thank yous" and praise from foster parents, kinship parents, and biological families who are supported through our programs. Thank you to our 2024 Board of Directors, our leadership volunteers, our volunteer teams and committees, our donation drive partners, sponsors, and community partners--- we could not do it without you!

**Thank you!**

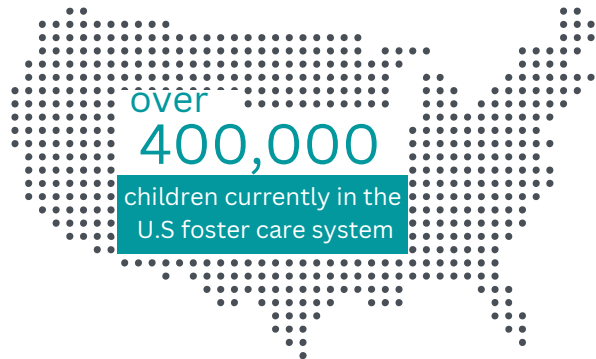
*Cheriz Kunkel*

Co-Founder & Executive Director



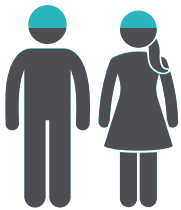
# WHY WE CARE

## Changing the statistics one child at a time



**50%**

of licensed foster homes stop fostering after their first placement



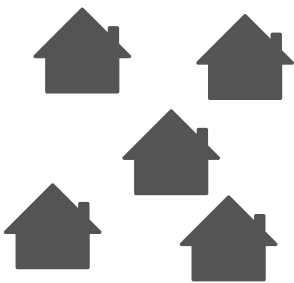
**98%**

of children who are identified as survivors of sex trafficking had previous involvement with child welfare services.



**40%**

of our homeless population are former or current foster youth.



**90%**

of youth with 5 or more foster placements enter the criminal justice system

at least **80%**



of foster youth suffer from mental health issues, such as PTSD and depression

## Our Local Need

**22,000**

youth in the foster care system in Illinois.

**1,500**

youth in the foster care system in the Tri-County Area (Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell Counties).

at least **56**

foster youth in our Tri-County region currently don't have a foster home. They live in group homes, homeless shelters, and other locations.



# The Solution

The need is great... but we can work together to be part of the solution.

**Foster Village Peoria** is a 501c3 non-profit started by three local foster mamas (Cheriz Kunkel, Danielle Carr, and Emily Doubet) on June 28, 2022. They saw a huge gap in **support and resources for the foster community** and decided to fill that need and tackle the brokenness of the foster system. Foster Village Peoria is an affiliate chapter to Foster Village Inc. and since Foster Village Peoria launched we have built five programs providing support and resources to create a **community beyond the system.**



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

"Love what you guys do & how quickly you spring into action. Will definitely be using you guys for future placements and recommending to other foster homes." - Haley H.





PEORIA

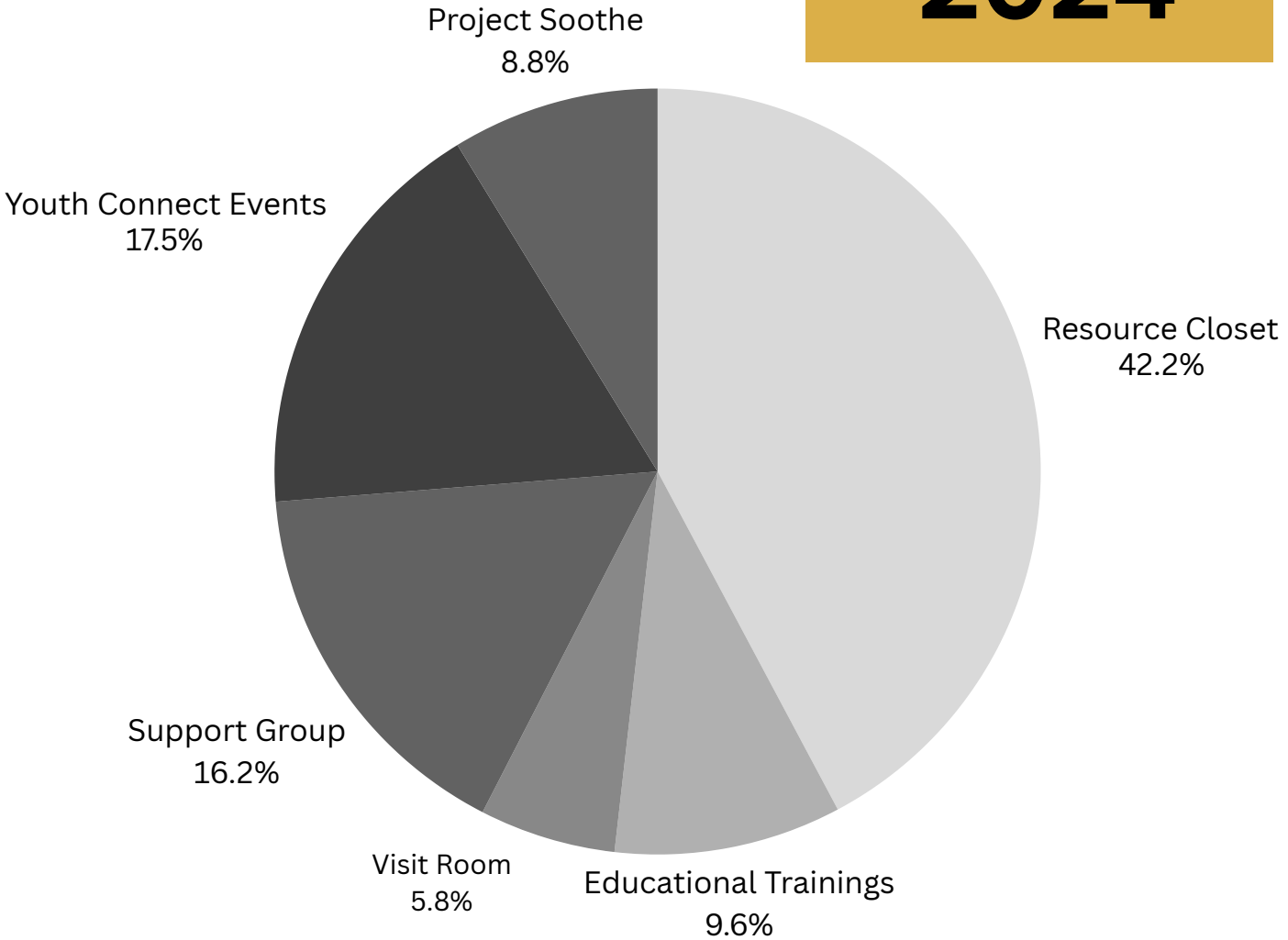
## OUR MISSION AT FOSTER VILLAGE PEORIA

**“Foster Village Peoria bridges the gap in the foster care system by meeting needs, providing educational and emotional support, and advocating for the foster care community.”**



# Growth & Families Served

**741 families served in 2024**



**OVER 1,587 FAMILIES SERVED IN OUR FIRST 2.5 YEARS!**



# Resource Closet



The Resource Closet program provides needed basic items to youth and caregivers impacted by foster care and/or the child welfare system. This includes youth experiencing foster care, youth that recently reunified with their family, and youth navigating adulthood on their own after transitioning out of foster care, and youth whose families are currently working intact case plan and need support.

## We provide two types of requests:

- 1.) **Welcome Bags** packed with clothing, toiletries, a blanket, water bottles, shoes, coat, comfort items and extra supplies needed.
2. **Special Requests** are larger one time needs. Most of the items requested were car seats or beds, along with mattresses and bedding.

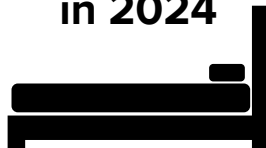
**231**

**Welcome Bags  
delivered  
in 2024**



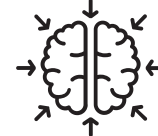
**126**

**Special Requests  
delivered  
in 2024**



**75**

**Kids received  
sensory items  
through Project  
SOOTHe**





# Resource Closet

## What Caregivers Say:

"This is a wonderful service, my wife and I had minimal expectations and were blown away by the service provided. The items received were remarkable. The service and attention is incredible. We are new to fostering and in the first seven days of this journey it feels like this is one of the only organizations that truly cares and wants to help to make these transitions successful." - John D.

"This service is phenomenal! The welcome bag came with so many wonderful essential items and some that I hadn't even considered (a new water bottle, lotion, a pillowcase!) The items inside were clearly selected based on the info and interests listed on the request form. My little one was so excited to see PJs with sharks, a pillowcase with cars, and a super cuddly elephant. I can't wait to be able to give back to this organization in the future. What a great resource!" - Laura L.



"You guys were incredibly helpful and kind. We are an emergency placement and we did not get much guidance at all from any agency, it was great to reach out and get such a prompt response with useful (and very helpful) information and support! Thank you for all you guys do!" - Cassie C.





# Youth Connect Events



Our youth connect events program offer youth who are impacted by the foster care system a chance to bond and play with children with similar life stores.

We host our youth connect events around the community, often renting out fun facilities (ex: Peoria Playhouse) to offer the children a safe, private, and environment with reduced stimuli. We also provide light refreshments and an opportunity for caregivers a chance to connect.

light refreshments and an opportunity for caregivers a chance to connect.

Bowling

Peoria Playhouse

Farm Park

Sing A-Long Concert

Holiday Party

Over **146** youth and their caregivers enjoyed our youth connect events in 2024!



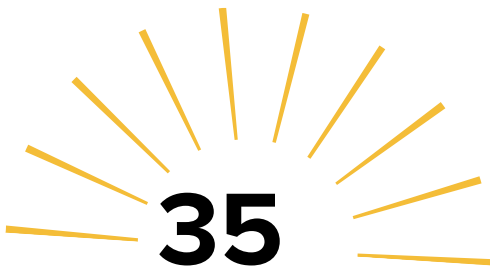


# Support Gatherings

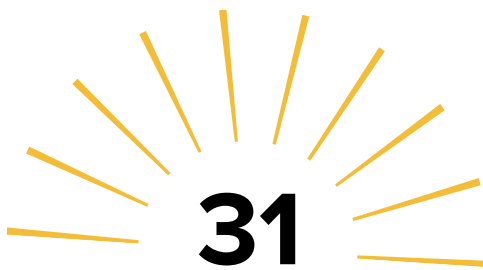
The Support Gatherings program provides a night of connection and relaxation for caregivers impacted by foster care and/or the child welfare system. Our Support Gatherings offer dinner and free on-site childcare provided for all families that attend.

## In 2024 we had two monthly support gatherings:

- 1.) **Foster Parent Support Gathering:** This group met the fourth Thursday of the month at Foster Village Peoria in order to learn, share, and navigate their fostering journeys together.
2. **Adoptive Foster Parents:** This group met the second Tuesday of the month at Foster Village Peoria in order to support each other post-adoption. Once a family goes through adoption there is no more ongoing support from their foster agencies.



**35**  
families attend  
support gatherings  
in 2024



**31**  
different support  
gatherings were  
hosted. Two to  
four each month.

## Exciting News!

We received a \$15,000 grant for our support gatherings in 2024

Thank you  
Community  
Foundation of  
Central Illinois





# Visit Room

## the problem

Often families need to visit in the evenings to avoid interrupting work and school. Agencies often close at 4pm. Finding a safe place to host visits for multiple siblings and their parents can be difficult.



## our solution

Our visit room is available for parents to visit their children by appointment. Our space is a neutral, safe, flexible space that is available even when agencies are closed. This allows families to visit during evenings, weekends, and on holidays. Our visit room is our newest program, and continues to grow in number of families using the space each month. This years over **107** hours of visitations were hosted at Foster Village Peoria.



**Thanks to J.E.M project for sponsoring our library of books, that allow children to take home a book after their visit!**



One foster agency based out of Charleston, Illinois uses our visit room as a central location for a sibling visit, driving over 2 hours for them to visit!

### Exciting News

We received a grant of \$1,520 to help us update our visit room!



*Gather · Grow · Grant*



## Educational Workshops

Did you know over 50% of foster parents quit after 1 year or after their first placement, citing lack of support and resources as the reason?

Our Educational Workshops offer knowledge and resourceful tools to help caregivers while they navigate taking care of children from hard places. We choose topics with greatest need and impact, often suggested by caregivers in the community. Our workshops are done online via zoom and led by a community professional in the topic.



### Topics we covered in 2024:

- Mental Health and Youth
- IEP and School Supports
- Nutrition and Food Resources
- Trauma Based Relational Intervention 101
- Sensory Input and Regulation
- Trafficking and Online Safety
- Zones of Regulation

**80**  
families learned  
valuable information  
& skills in our  
workshops in 2024

**16**

hours of trainings were  
offered in 2024.

In fact, our local foster agencies give foster parents continuing education hours to caregivers who attend our workshops.



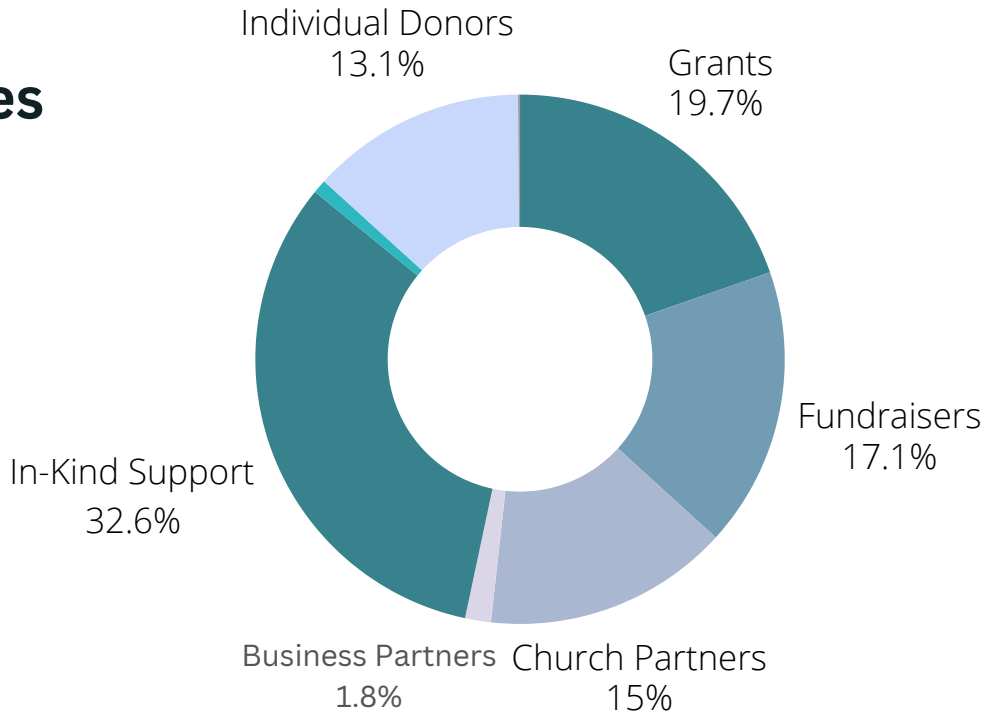
# Income & Expenses

## 2024 Income Sources

**Total: \$77,956**

**(with in-kind): \$115,516**

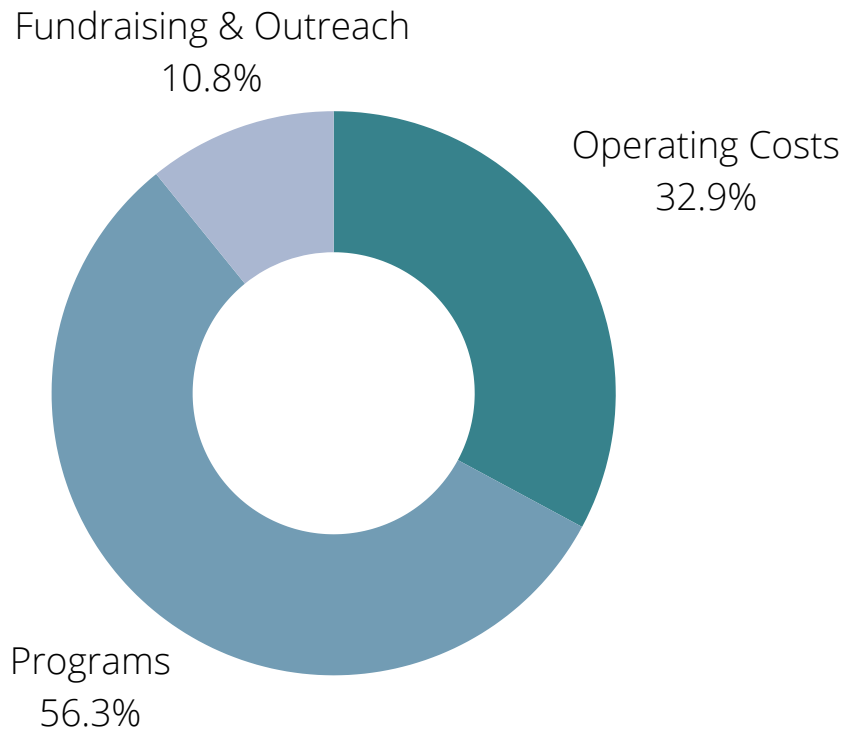
- Grants: \$22,695
- Fundraisers: \$19,855
- Church Partners: \$17,309
- Individual Donors: \$15,162
- Business Partners: \$1,821
- Family Foundations: \$971
- Donor Advised Funds: \$143
- In-Kind Support: \$37,560



## 2024 Expenses

**Total: \$80,761.80**

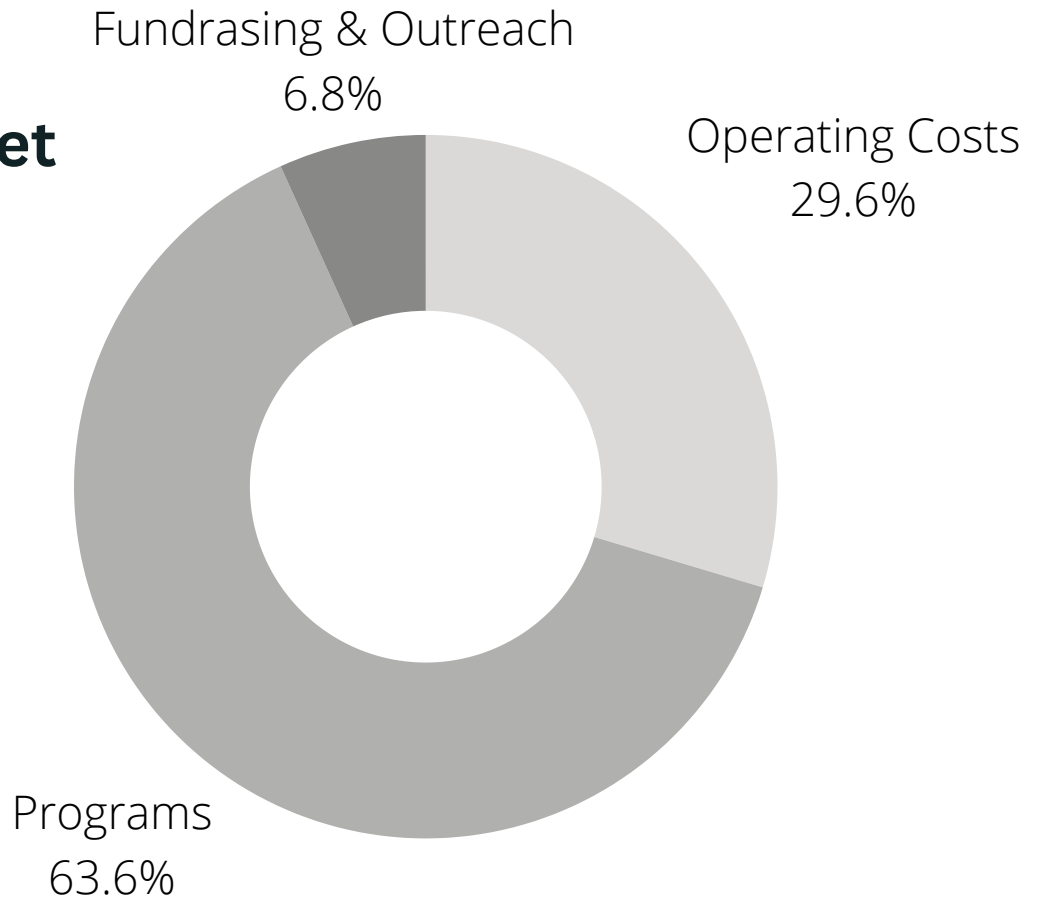
- Programs: \$45,345
- Operating Costs: \$26,454
- Fundraising: \$8,962





## 2025 Projected Costs

**2025 Budget**  
**\$121,885**



*Thank you!* **for your support as we grow!**

Our 2025 budget is set based on sustaining and growing our programs where we see the need. We are so thankful for all the grant funding, monetary donations, and in-kind donations for the Resource Closet. Thank you for your generosity.



# Leadership Team

Our Leadership Team is comprised of volunteers that oversee all the programming and events at Foster Village Peoria. They are responsible for our daily operations making sure everything is running smoothly so youth and caregivers in our community can receive what they need and be supported.



*Cheriz Kunkel*  
Executive Director



*Kim Brug*  
Finance Manager



*Christine Johnson*  
Volunteer Coordinator



*Katie Olinger*  
Resource Closet  
Coordinator



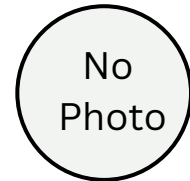
*Emily Kunzeman*  
Visit Room  
Coordinator



*Emily Doubet*  
Support Gathering  
Coordinator



*Jenny Hancock*  
Youth Connect Events  
Coordinator



*Rachel Yontz*  
Educational Workshop  
Coordinator



*Heather Jones*  
Donation Drives



*Andrew Loebach*  
Support Group Leader



*Angie Powers*  
Fundraising Chair

*Thank  
you!*





# Board of Directors 2024

Our Board of Directors meets every month to oversee the operations of our nonprofit. They invest in and support our mission and programs. Thank you for serving and advocating for our community and its needs.



*Kristen Leman*  
**President**



*Julie Bonar*  
**Secretary**



*Jonna Randleman*  
**Board Member**



*Barb Curtler*  
**Board Member**



*Steve Roach*  
**Board UUMC Liasion**

*Thank you!*

## Our Founders



*Cheriz Kunkel Danielle Carr Emily Doubet*

## Our Volunteers

Thank you to **EVERY volunteer** that packed or delivered a resource closet request, that volunteered during a visit, volunteered at a youth event, joined a committee, cleaned our space, painted or assembled furniture, or donated their time or talent in any way!



**OUR VOLUNTEERS Poured OVER 4,140  
HOURS INTO RUNNING OUR OPERATIONS!**



# Our Sponsors and Donors

Thank you to EVERY 2024 SPONSOR!

## \$10,000

- Connect Church of Washington

## \$1,000

- Julie Bonar
- Samantha Sedig
- Adam & Kristen Leman
- University United Methodist Church
- Angie Powers
- Mollie & Dan Getz
- JJ Macneil

## \$750

- Kyle & Katy Endress
- Ed & Peggy Kunkel

## \$500

- Mike & Mary Jo Gustafson
- Larry & Juanita Eftefield
- Hattie Mendoza
- Brad & Christine Johnson
- Amber Johnson

## \$250

- Emily Clark
- Jan Diessler
- Douglas & Rachel Yontz
- Audrey LeMasters
- Bryan Spragg
- St. Luke's Catholic Church
- Laura Greer
- Kim Wolpert

## \$100

- Spencer Null
- Daniel J. Miller Chiropractic
- Eric Masters
- Deb Conkin
- Doris Hayes
- Dennis Backstrom & Elaine Chapman
- Marlowe Meinders
- Daniel Smith
- Patricia Tillman
- Robert & Diane Olinger
- Dustin & Christina Hite
- Terry Goff
- Deb & Rex Newton
- Melinda Weber
- Ann Galick

## Gala

- Hy-Vee
- Angie Powers Realtor

## Birthday Brunch

- Hy-Vee
- EPIC
- Angie Powers Realtor
- University United Methodist Church
- Kayla Phillips Design

## Holiday Party

- Handmade by Peggy K
- Kazia Gray Photography
- J.E.M Project
- The Bridge UMC
- CEFCU
- Shaw Foundation
- Trefzgar's Bakery
- Culvers

## 2024 Grants & Foundations

- Community Foundation of Central Illinois \$15,000
- Grace and Peace Lutheran Endowment \$2,500
- South-West Kiwanis of Peoria \$1,6750
- Helping Hands Resale Shoppe \$1,221
- Morton Community Foundation \$,520
- Pilot Club of Peoria \$1,000
- Pekin Kiwanis \$1,000
- Vanek Foundation \$500
- Shaw Foundation \$200

Thank you to all our donors who made a one-time donation, donated monthly, and donated through Facebook fundraisers!! Those donations add up and make a huge impact!

*Thank you!*



## Donation Drive Partners

Thank you to **EVERY** donation drive partner in 2024

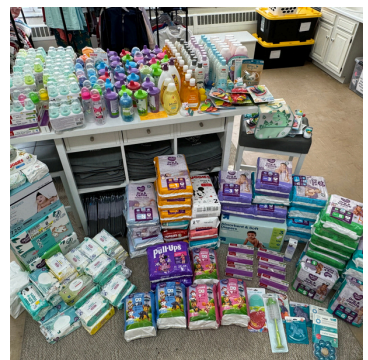
- Flat Branch Home Loans
- University United Methodist
- HyVee (Grand Prairie)
- St. Michaels and All Angels
- OSF on-call Nurse Triage
- Second Baptist Church of Peoria
- Carle ICU
- Cedar Hills Baptist Church
- Joelle Hancock & Friends
- Heather Jones & Friends
- The Mom Collective
- Grace and Peace Lutheran Church
- CEFCU
- Richwoods Christian Church
- PreSchool for All and St. Paul's Baptist
- Ridgeview Elementary School
- Imago Dei Church
- Frito Lay

Thank you to **EVERY** Shopper in 2023



**Learn more!**

**OVER \$37,210.55** worth of new items were donated to our Resource Closet, helping us keep program costs much lower, allowing us to serve more!





# Will you be part of our village?

## Donate or Sponsor

1

Check with your employer to see if they match donations

IRS Tax ID #88-1903054

2

Donate online or by mail



[www.FosterVillagePeoria.org/give](http://www.FosterVillagePeoria.org/give)

Foster Village Peoria  
2818 N. University st.  
Peoria, IL 61604



3

Purchase items off our wishlist and it ships to us



Host a Donation Drive!

OR



4

Volunteer with us!

[www.FosterVillagePeoria.org/volunteer](http://www.FosterVillagePeoria.org/volunteer)





**309-305-9888**



**[www.FosterVillagePeoria.org](http://www.FosterVillagePeoria.org)**



**@FosterVillagePeoria**



**@FosterVillagePeoria**



**Foster Village Peoria  
2818 N. University St.  
Peoria, IL 61604**