



HopeWell

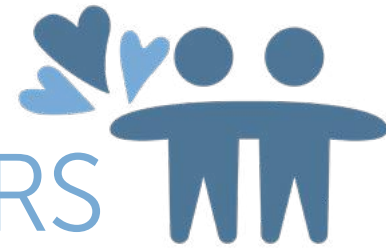
CARE IN ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR
2022

FISCAL YEAR
2022
year in review

131 TEAM
MEMBERS



SERVING MORE THAN

 **1500** INDIVIDUALS,
CHILDREN, & FAMILIES

ACROSS EVERY COUNTY
IN THE COMMONWEALTH



THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE
GENEROUS SUPPORT OF MORE THAN

200 DONORS





A Mission that Matters

We enrich the lives and expand the opportunities of individuals and families in need of love, support, and safe places to grow and thrive.

Service is a grounding practice, connecting us to our highest purpose as **allies to a cause greater than ourselves**. We stand with our community at the intersection of poverty, race, and interpersonal and community violence. We bear witness to suffering, inequality, and injustice.

Youth experiencing foster care deserve our collective attention. With minimal coordinated advocacy, their experiences go largely misunderstood, or worse, unknown. By just about every objective metric, youth experiencing foster care represent our country's most systemically marginalized group of young people. Life outcomes for this population lag behind their peers in virtually every category — **and yet there is stunning silence**. This is unacceptable in a system that is supposed to protect them and in a country where every child is supposed to have a fair shot at success.

HopeWell is working to elevate their voices and amplify their stories. We need to raise awareness about this stain on our nation's conscience, to identify what works, and to ultimately shift systems to be more accountable to an entire generation of youth and families.

While far from finished, I'm proud of what we have accomplished over the past year. From launching RISE, the nation's first model to help close academic opportunity gaps for youth experiencing foster care, to working with our elected officials on important advocacy and policy initiatives — we are **paving the way for a new future**, all in partnership with those who have lived experience. In this new future, the experiences of youth impacted by foster care are *known*, because it is only then that we can begin to reckon with the impact our systems have on the lives of so many.

I want to thank all of our partners, supporters, and team members for their relentless work on behalf of our community. This work requires a village and I am proud to serve alongside you.

In solidarity,



SHAHEER MUSTAFA
PRESIDENT & CEO



We are bridging gaps across sectors

Through partnerships — with those who have real-life, lived experience, as well as with school districts, colleges and universities, state agencies, philanthropists, other nonprofit organizations, civil servants, consultants, policymakers, and community leaders and members — **we are leading a paradigm shift about what is possible for the individuals, children, and families we support.**



Child Welfare **Education**

Our RISE program advances education equity for children experiencing foster care via personalized, home-based tutoring. Our first-of-its-kind approach is made possible through deep partnerships with state agencies, local school districts, and colleges and universities.

Education **Workforce** **Housing**

My First Place™ focuses on the unique challenges youth face as they “age out” of foster care. Individualized case management includes a combination of housing, employment, and education support to help each youth reach their full potential.

Child Welfare **Policy**

- We collaborated with other organizations and members of the Massachusetts legislature to advocate for the Foster Parent Bill of Rights.
- Massachusetts’ FY23 state budget includes amendments that we recommended to better support youth “aging out” out of foster care.

Child Welfare **Disabilities**

- We help parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities live independently.
- We support youth with disabilities as they transition out of foster care.

We are emerging as thought-leaders

We set a goal to positively impact social policy and systemic change. This year, we raised awareness, increased urgency, and built political will around key issues.

Highlights

- ✓ We hired [Julie Segovia](#) as **Vice President of Research, Policy, and Learning**. Julie is HopeWell's first-ever executive responsible for leading advocacy efforts.
- ✓ As a direct result of HopeWell's first legislative effort, Massachusetts will collect transparent data around young people who are "aging out" of foster care **for the first time in state history**. This is a key step to ensuring they receive the supports they need and deserve. We proposed two amendments to the state's FY23 budget, which achieved bipartisan co-sponsorship in the House and Senate and were then signed by Governor Baker.
- ✓ We know foster families have a vital job, so we helped push the Massachusetts legislature to support the **Foster Parent Bill of Rights**. This legislation helps ensure foster families are included in important conversations about individual children that may influence decision-making about their placements.



our first ever
SPOTLIGHT ON HOPE
MAKING POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS A REALITY FOR YOUTH EXPERIENCING FOSTER CARE

Post-secondary opportunities can help people **live a life of their choosing** — and every child deserves a fair shot at their post-secondary goals. Navigating these pathways can be tricky for everyone — but youth experiencing foster care face additional challenges, such as housing instability and lack of support networks.

Among youth in foster care¹...

>70% want to attend college

10% enroll

<5% graduate

We can change these odds

Spotlight on Hope is our new annual convening of practitioners, policymakers, and thought-leaders.

This year's discussion about post-secondary success featured a panel of experts and advocates from around the country, including those with lived experience in foster care.



May 24, 2022

Artists for Humanity Epicenter
Boston, MA

Thank you to this year's event sponsors!

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Every young person in the foster care system should be at risk of success, right?

-Lyndsey Collins Wilson,
Spotlight on Hope panelist



We are the largest nonprofit provider of foster care in Massachusetts

Every child deserves a **safe, loving home** — and each year, our [Comprehensive Foster Care program](#) ensures that for nearly 500 children throughout Massachusetts.

We recruit, train, and support foster families. And we are a **trusted go-to provider** when the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is looking for foster homes to best meet children's needs.



This year, we ensured 490 children across Massachusetts had safe, loving foster homes.

“

I love providing them with lots of happy memories that all children should be able to have.

-Kathy,
HopeWell foster parent

”

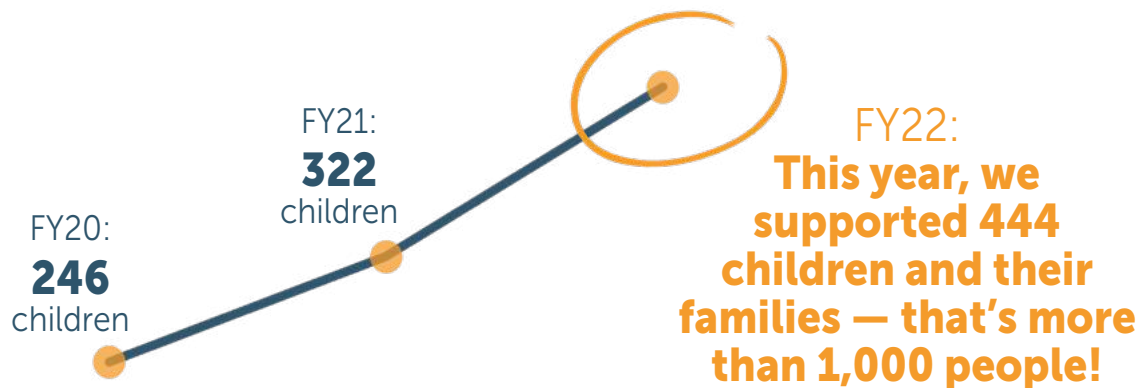
HOPE IN **FAMILY BONDS**

The number of families we support has nearly doubled since 2020

Families who have been referred to DCF are often experiencing strained relationships and multiple stressors, including poverty.

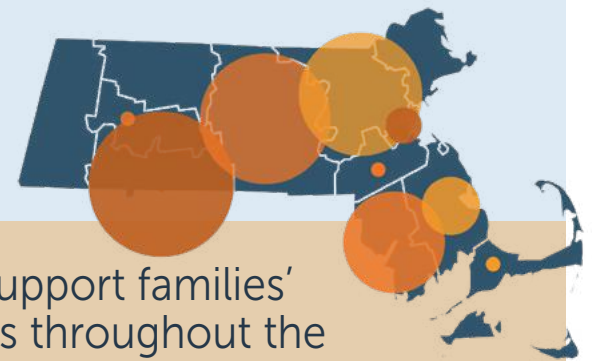
We team up with **families who are working to stay together**: we provide **intensive in-home supports** to families who are at risk of having their children removed from their home, as well as those who are actively working toward reunification with their children.

A crucial part of helping families **build bridges toward longer-term success** is making sure their most immediate, pressing needs are met. We are able to do this through the generous support of our donor community — so *thank you!*



“ [Our HopeWell clinician] Courtney is a little blessing in our family. I hope she stays with us and continues to help knock down walls!

-Family member ”



We support families' needs throughout the Commonwealth.

In FY22, we launched our newest program, RISE

READINESS • INQUIRY • SCHOLARSHIP • EDUCATION

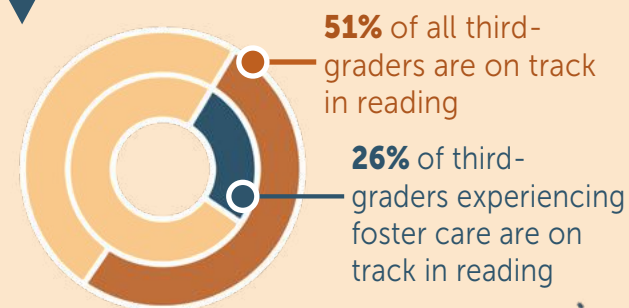
This year, we **launched RISE** to close opportunity gaps for children experiencing foster care by providing the building blocks they need to grow **strong reading and writing skills**:

- ✓ Consistent in-home tutoring, adapted to meet each child's unique learning needs
- ✓ A research-backed, custom-designed curriculum, grounded in both the science of reading and social-emotional learning
- ✓ Ongoing support to equip caregivers with the knowledge and resources they need to promote learning at home and at school

RISE is currently 100% supported by philanthropy

Thank you to our supporters for making RISE possible and for believing in **the power of reading to change children's lives**.

Third-graders experiencing foster care face **one of the largest educational inequities among any group of students in Massachusetts.**²



WHY IT MATTERS:

EARLY READING CAN HAVE LIFELONG EFFECTS.³

When kids struggle to learn how to read, it can affect their behavior, self-esteem, *and* cumulative learning across subject areas.



Fewer than **1 in 4** fourth-graders who are behind in reading will ever catch up.

Students who are behind in reading during elementary school drop out of high school at a rate

4x
greater than
their peers

HELPING CHILDREN **RISE**

July 2021

Hired our first RISE program staff

January 2022

Began serving the first students

July 2022

20 children actively receiving education supports or who are in the pipeline to begin services

Now, with more referrals from social workers, case managers, and teachers coming in, we are continuing to grow our reach and impact

WHAT DOES **PROGRESS** LOOK LIKE?

- ✓ A child asking their caregiver to buy a book for them to read together from the Scholastic book fair — for the first time
- ✓ Siblings who have begun calling themselves “Superhero Readers”
- ✓ A child being excited to read the back of a cereal box



Through My First Place,TM we support youth as they reach their goals at a pivotal time in their lives

Young people often face uncertainty as they enter adulthood — and this is especially true for youth who are “aging out” of the foster care system. Research underscores the challenges they face during this time — within a few years of exiting care, only about half will be employed and almost 40 percent will experience homelessness.⁴

Our [My First PlaceTM program](#) makes sure that the unique challenges transition-age youth face don't get overlooked. We provide free housing to ensure **a safe, stable foundation**. And we provide **the tools they need to reach their full potential**, including individualized case management and education and employment support.



I like the consistency of someone checking in on me, making sure that I'm meeting goals, and that there are updates within those goals.

-My First PlaceTM participant



Since launching in 2018, My First PlaceTM has served 77 young people across Greater Boston.

In fall 2022, we are thrilled to be expanding My First PlaceTM to Greater Springfield, Massachusetts. Stay tuned for updates!

“

[My First Place™] allows
a fresh start, a fresh home,
and personal guidance toward
creating a life for yourself.

-My First Place™ participant

”



We cultivate caring communities for adults with disabilities

We support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they work toward gaining greater independence and mastering critical aspects of daily living, such as managing finances and using public transportation.

As part of our Shared Living Program, **we get to know individuals' strengths, needs, and interests** and we match them with host families who provide a consistent and nurturing environment. We support these Shared Living host families with guidance and training to help them navigate situations that may arise. For adults who need more support, we run staffed community homes around metro Boston.



HOPEWELL VOICES: ANITA DIRECTOR OF ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Three years ago, I met a young lady who had two young children and lived in a Shared Living placement with a caregiver. **From the moment I met her, she expressed her desire to live more independently.**

Together with her support team, she has worked hard to develop more independent skills over the past three years. She recently organized and moved all of her belongings and her children into a new apartment, gave birth to her third child, and has been **thriving ever since.**

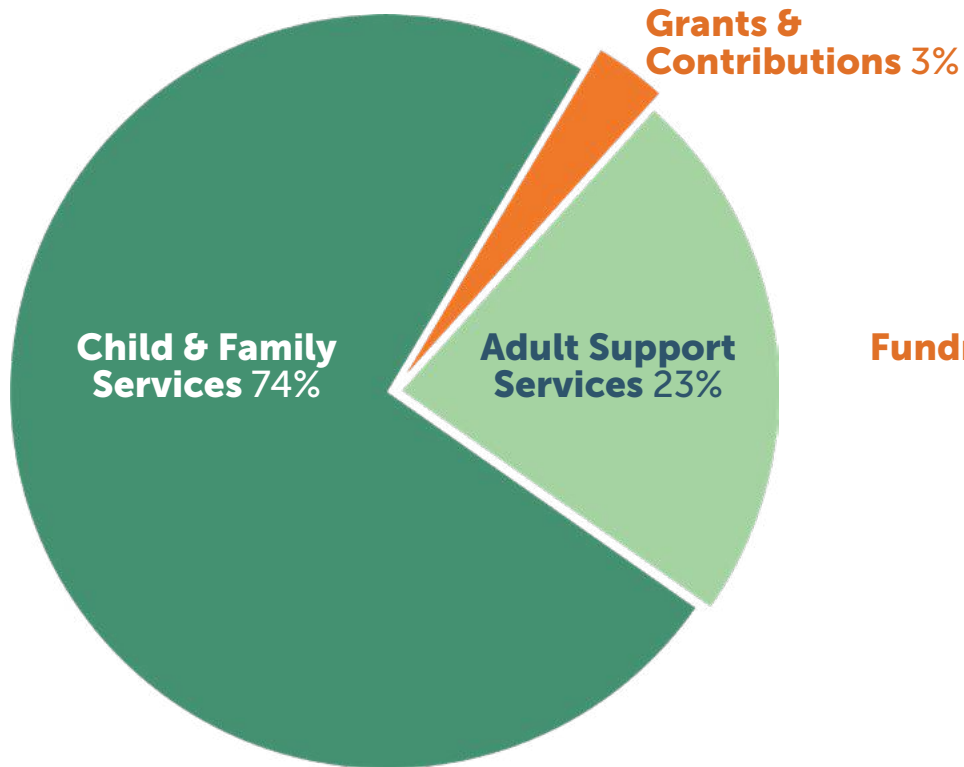
When I visited her this spring, she thanked me for believing, supporting, and assisting her in obtaining

HER DREAM.

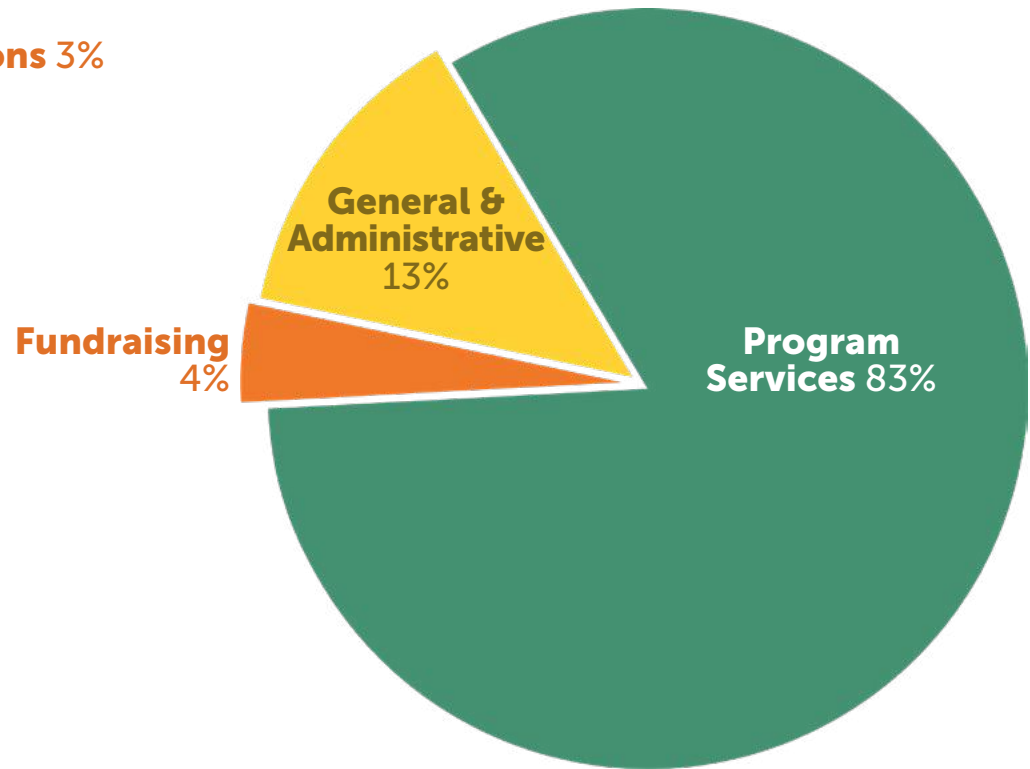
That is what success looks like to me.

Financial Snapshot

TOTAL FY22 REVENUE:
\$20,967,430



TOTAL FY22 EXPENSES:
\$22,067,430



Note: The snapshot above represents unaudited figures.

HopeWell's FY22 operations resulted in a planned deficit of \$1.1 million due to capacity-building initiatives, made possible by a \$4.2 million growth in net assets during FY21. Our FY23 budget projects grants and contributions to account for 10 percent of total revenue, as we continue to expand our fundraising and communications efforts.

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OUR SUPPORTERS EMBODY
**CARE IN
ACTION**

Our Supporters

HopeWell gratefully acknowledges the individuals, families, corporations, foundations, and organizations that have so generously supported our mission. The following includes gifts received between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of donor names. Please contact us with any changes to your listing.

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There are various ways you can support our mission and the work we do each day.

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hopewellinc.org/ways-to-help



You can also use this link to directly purchase items (such as blankets and baking sheets) for individuals, children, and families in need via our Amazon wishlist.



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The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for loving foster parents across Massachusetts. Adults from all walks of life can make amazing foster parents.

To learn more, visit:

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I ENJOY OPENING MY HOME TO THESE **BEAUTIFUL KIDS**.
I ENJOY GIVING THEM *a loving family to grow with,*
A PERSON THAT THEY CAN TRUST, COMMUNICATE WITH, HAVE
CONFIDENCE IN, AND BE HAPPY WITH. I TRY MY HARDEST
**TO MAKE EVERY KID FEEL IMPORTANT AND
HAPPY**. AND I TRY TO HELP THEM HEAL FROM WHATEVER
THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH IN LIFE.

-Susan, HopeWell foster parent





HopeWell

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