

# Friends Program

# IMPACT REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023

**Building positive connections and solutions for at-risk youth, families and seniors since 1975.**

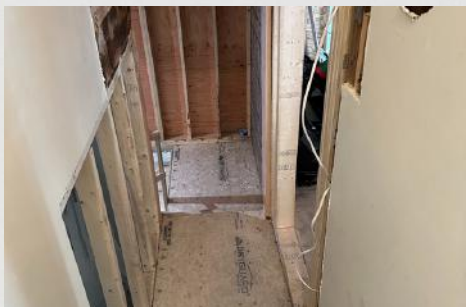


## We are on the *Home Stretch* of the renovation of the Emergency Housing Shelter:

In 2023, we were able to truly enter the “home stretch” of the long-planned renovation to the family shelter that began before the pandemic. Since 1980, we have been providing a safe space for families experiencing homelessness to find shelter while they work to secure long term housing. This renovation is designed to make the century old building a better place to live, add space for a ninth family and enhances our ability to deliver individualized trauma-informed services.

This is a community effort and we are grateful beyond measure to all of the individuals and businesses who have supported the project. It is our goal to always remember that **KIDS LIVE HERE**. We work to do everything we can to ensure that as we support parents to secure housing, kids have a warm, safe and friendly place to take their first steps or blow bubbles in the backyard. We want the kids to remember not that they lived in a shelter but that this was a place where they lived once, and that the people were kind.

Please follow our progress on the website and social media. Your support will get us to the finish line!



# Providing Emergency Shelter and Improved Access to Long Term Housing Stability for Families:

## 23 Families Housed in 2023

Friends Program Emergency Housing, the only low-barrier permanent shelter for families with young children in Merrimack County, can house up to 8 families (soon to be 9) at a time with an average stay of 4-6 months.

In 2023, Emergency Housing Services greatly expanded the Continuum of Care model where staff support families for at least six months after they have exited the shelter. This support greatly increases the success families experience in the community.

**"Little do they know how much they helped me. They've impacted us so much. My life is really coming together"**

*Mom who found shelter with us in 2023*



**100% of the families who have transitioned out of the shelter have maintained permanent housing in the last 3 years!**



## Improving Educational Outcomes for Children around the State:

Classroom Grandparents mentored and tutored nearly 800 students in 2023, a 75% increase over 2022! They provided **41,790** hours of service at 49 schools and childcare sites around the state!

That extra support and personalized attention improved participation, increased attachment to school and increased emotional and social skills development. 93% of the at-risk youth served by a classroom grandparent demonstrated improved literacy and 95% improved in math!



**“I can come home each day knowing that I’ve touched a life and made a difference”**

*15 year Foster Grandparent Volunteer*



## Increasing Access to Food Security:

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers around the state grow, harvest, prepare, and distribute food to over **7,200** people at-risk of food insecurity.

in 2023, the Backpack Program provided over **15,000** meals to children who would otherwise go hungry over weekends and vacations.

RSVP Caregivers volunteers completed 486 shopping trips for isolated seniors in the greater Concord area.



**"My volunteer provides so much more than shopping. She brings a smile to my door. I can stay in my home because of my volunteer!"**



*A recipient of Caregivers Shopping Services*

## Leveraging the Power of Volunteers to Address Community Needs:

RSVP volunteers serve around the state to address unmet community needs. You will find them growing and gleaning crops for food pantries, mentoring young children, stocking supplies at the diaper pantry, ushering a show at your community theater, working a blood drive, or even volunteering their favorite canine for some pet therapy. The possibilities are limited only to our imagination.

**RSVP volunteers served 31,727 clients in 2023.**



**58 community organizations were made stronger with AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers.**



## Helping Seniors Live Healthy Lives:

**2459** Bone Builders free exercise classes were held throughout Rockingham, Merrimack, and Belknap Counties- an 18% increase over 2022.

**2013** rides to important appointments and 275 friendly check-in calls were provided by volunteers to isolated seniors.



**“I have improved my balance & mental health.”**

*-A participant in Bone Builders exercise classes*



**“It’s not just a ride-line... It’s a life line!”**

*-A participant in the medical ride program of Caregivers*

## Inspiring Confident Kids:

Youth Mentoring served at-risk youth through community based one-to-one matches with a caring adult and site-based programs that use younger volunteer mentors.

In 2023, we broadened services offered to at-risk youth to include short-term mentoring opportunities and family enrichment activities all at no cost to families. Classes included creativity and focus, game night and a collaboration with Media Power Youth.



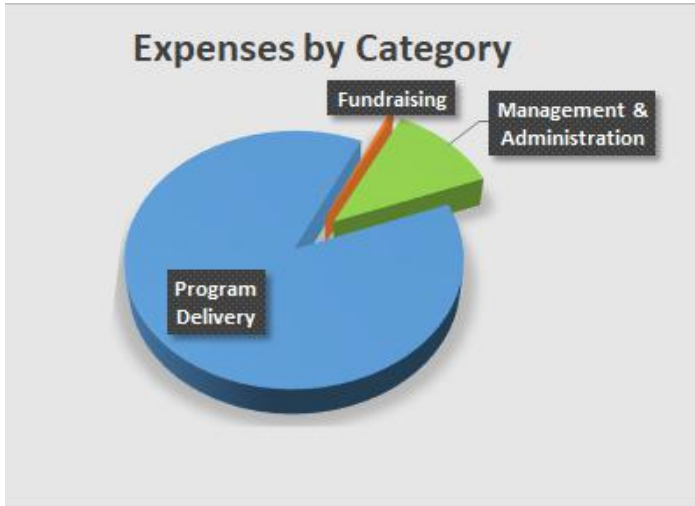
**“My mentor makes me feel special... I look forward to seeing them every Monday. It’s a boost to my week!”**

*-Mentees in the St. Paul’s Mentoring Program*

***Youth Mentoring offers a powerful opportunity for connection, growth, and resilience.***



# 2023 Financial Snapshot



<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	\$ 521,037
Property, Plant & Equipment	289,970
Other Assets	601,117
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,412,124</b>

<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
Current Liabilities	\$ 127,181
Long Term Liabilities	58,517
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,094,742
Net Assets with Restrictions	131,684
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,412,124</b>

Program Delivery	87.7	1,221,754
Fundraising	0.5	6,785
Management & Administration	11.8	165,199
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$ 1,393,738</b>

*Your support creates an impact that lasts a lifetime.  
Thank you!*

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Full financial statements are available upon request.  
990 filings are available at [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org), or [irs.gov](http://irs.gov)  
Please email [lmiller@friendsprogram.org](mailto:lmiller@friendsprogram.org) for assistance.



## Individual Donors:

*The Friends Program gratefully acknowledges the individuals and organizations who donated to our agency between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023. If your name was omitted or misspelled, please accept our humble apology and contact our Development Director, Laura Miller at [lmiller@friendsprogram.org](mailto:lmiller@friendsprogram.org) so that we may correct the error. Thank you to all our supporters!*

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*Honor and Tribute gifts support the work of the Friends Program and celebrate the special individuals in our lives.*

### **In honor of Emily Odey:**

Mary Barrie Stokes

### **In honor of Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc.**

#### **Concord Staff:**

Angela Sullivan

### **In memory of Jason Dickey:**

Martha Dickey

### **In honor of Zonta Club of Concord:**

Lynn Stanley

### **In honor of Jeannette Gonyea:**

Lorrie Russell

### **In honor of Stratham Bone Builders Leaders:**

Janet McSweeney

### **In honor of Laura Miller:**

Keryn Kriegl- Roberts

### **In honor of Dick McIntire:**

Cynthia Christie

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## Bone Builders:

*The Friends Program would like to thank the participants of Bone Builders classes, the leaders and hosts for their generous support and in-kind sponsorships.*

Andover Community Hub  
Boscawen Library  
Atkinson - Kimball Public Library  
Boscawen Library  
Concord Good Life  
Concord Horseshoe Pond Place  
Derry Veterans Hall  
Epsom Public Library  
Franklin Hope Community Church  
Hampton Parks & Recreation  
Henniker White Birch Community Center  
Kingston Community Library  
Londonderry Senior Center  
Newbury Heights Community Room  
Newmarket Sunrise/Sunset Center  
Plaistow Vic Geary Senior Center  
Portsmouth Senior Center  
Salem Kelley Library  
Salem Senior Services  
Seabrook Public Library  
Stratham Parks & Recreation  
Suncook Senior Center  
Tilton Senior Center



## Ways to Give:

Your tax-deductible donation will help us to create positive connections and solutions for at-risk youth, families and seniors. You may also set up recurring monthly gifts, bequests or planned gifts of real property, stocks and bonds. Thank you!

Visit our secure giving portal at [www.friendsprogram.org](http://www.friendsprogram.org)

or mail your gift to: 130 Pembroke Road,  
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Email [lmiller@friendsprogram.org](mailto:lmiller@friendsprogram.org)  
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