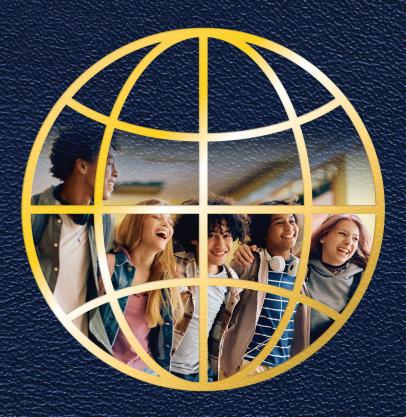
PASSPORT TO HEALING



2024 Annual Report





WELCOME



Dear Friend of KidsPeace:

Welcome to our 2024 Annual Report!

For this report we've adopted the theme of "journeys," because we know that an individual's path to better mental health isn't always a straight line. Our clients find themselves at times going forward, backward, sideways, or standing still as they seek to

face their challenges, and it's our job to support them all along their way towards Hope, Help and Healing.

We're uniquely positioned to serve as a guide on their journeys, thanks to our offering of programs across the spectrum of therapeutic support: crisis de-escalation at KidsPeace Children's Hospital; residential treatment in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Maine; community-based and outpatient programs; initial assessments like behavioral health urgent care and school-based clinics; foster care administration and care management; and expertise outreach through social media and websites like TeenCentral.com. The programming under KidsPeace's "Continuum of Care" umbrella provides the high-quality clinical and therapeutic care our clients need and deserve on their personal mental health journey.

As people become more aware of mental health issues and more comfortable seeking help for themselves and their families, we're seeing demand for our services rise dramatically. Overall, the number of clients served in our hospital, residential treatment, and outpatient programs increased by nearly eight percent over 2023. This growth in utilization of our *Continuum of Care* meant that our revenue, employment and average wages all rose in 2024. (You can learn more about the progress in specific programs elsewhere in this report.)

All of this is good news -- not just for our organization, but for the thousands of children who rely on our help to meet and overcome the challenges in their lives. The work of our dedicated associates has put KidsPeace in a strong position to continue to provide this needed care amid our own challenges, such as securing fair reimbursement rates for all services going forward.

Just as a passport is essential for safe entry to countries along a traveler's journey, KidsPeace programming provides those we care for with the essential tools to help them travel safely along their mental health journey. As you read through our 2024 Annual Report, take note of the many ways the commitment of our associates and the support from our communities provided a "Passport to Healing" for thousands of kids, adults and families cared for by KidsPeace over the year.

As always, thank you for your support of KidsPeace!

Michael W. Slack

Michael W. Slack President and CEO

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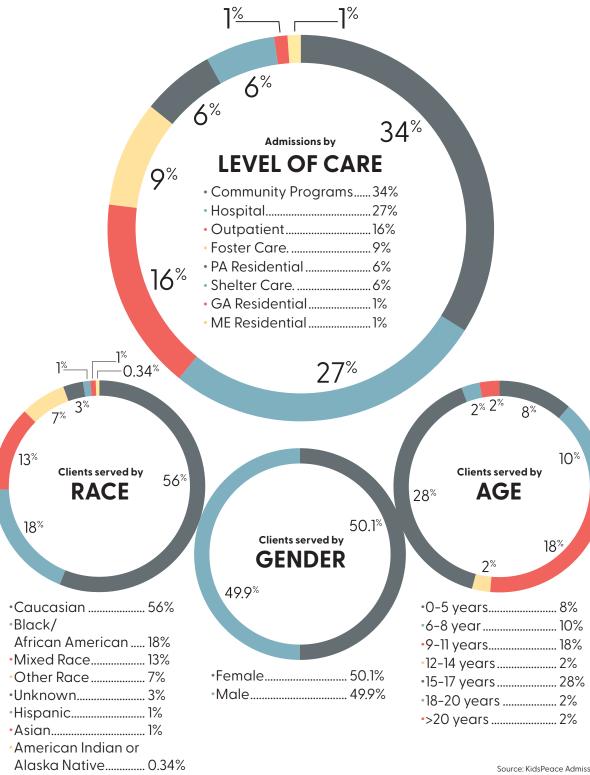
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DEMOGRAPHICS

Program Admissions: 5,012. In 2024, KidsPeace provided treatment and help to clients across its hospital and residential treatment services, outpatient and community programs, and foster care operations.





REACH OF PROGRAMMING

8,134	Clients Served in Programs during 2024
8,920	Episodes of Care delivered in 2024
1,750,000+	Expertise Outreach Contacts

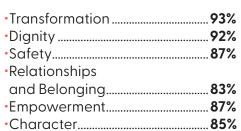
In 2024, **2,241** PA Residential referrals were received from 41 states, the District of Columbia, Mexico and Pakistan. 80 of the referrals were TRICARE related. **3,969** referrals were made to the KidsPeace Hospital in 2024.

AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, ME, MH, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV and WY



MODEL OF CARE

Each year, KidsPeace surveys its clients to gauge how well we met or exceeded their expectations in areas that comprise the foundation of our care-giving philosophy - the KidsPeace Model of Care.

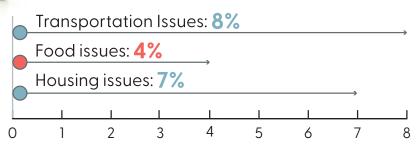




HEALTH CARE EQUITY

In accordance with the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals, KidsPeace surveys its clients regarding three areas of health-related social needs, to assess their health care equity situation:

Percentage of clients answering "Yes":



For these clients, KidsPeace programs provide support and information about community resources and services.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Locations: Georgia, Indiana, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia **Clients served: 3,576 in 2024**

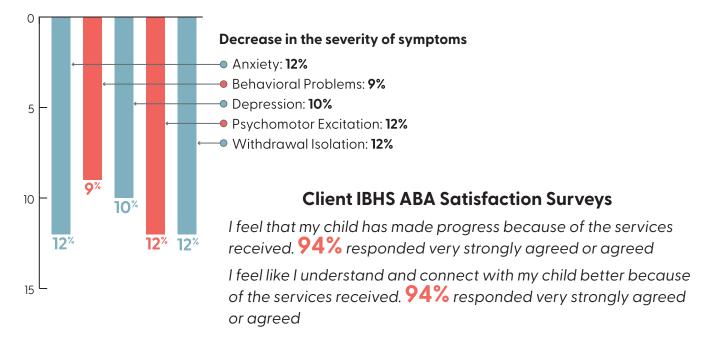
Services: Community-Based Outpatient Services including acute partial hospitalization, programs for children with autism, outpatient family, group and individual counseling, IBHS, Health Homes, diagnostic services, medication management, urgent care and walk-in screenings, among others.

Client Satisfaction Survey (IBHS ABA Group Services)

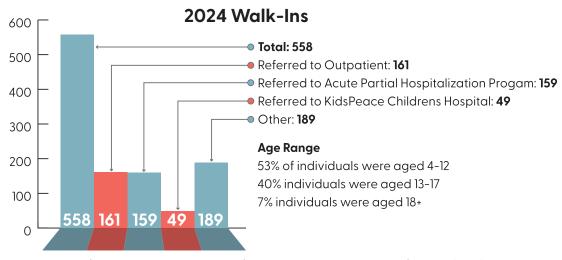


Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale for Children (BPRS-C)

The Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale - Children (BPRS-C) is a validated and widely used instrument for measuring levels of symptomatology. A decrease in scores represents a decrease in the severity of symptoms the client is experiencing.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Family Center Outpatient, Green Street Outpatient, Mount Pocono Outpatient and Berks Campus

2024 Post Walk-In Surveys

100% strongly agree/agree that KidsPeace staff made them feel heard, safe and supported.

98% strongly agree/agree that their experience with the walk-in service was positive.

96% strongly agree/agree that the service helped them avoid a potential crisis.

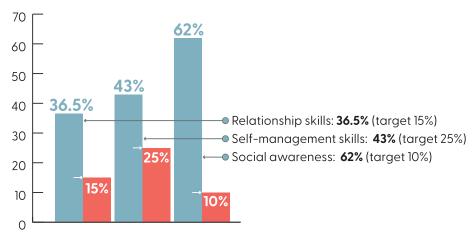
IBHS Vineland 3

Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Third Edition, is the leading instrument for supporting the diagnosis of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Vineland 3 aids in diagnosis and provides valuable information for developing educational and treatment plans.

73% of clients receiving IBHS showed improvement in one or more domain of the Vineland 3 in 2024

Social-Emotional Learning Edition (SSIS SEL)

Social-Emotional Learning Edition (SSIS SEL) is a comprehensive, evidence-based, social-emotional learning system designed to evaluate and teach key social-emotional learning skills.

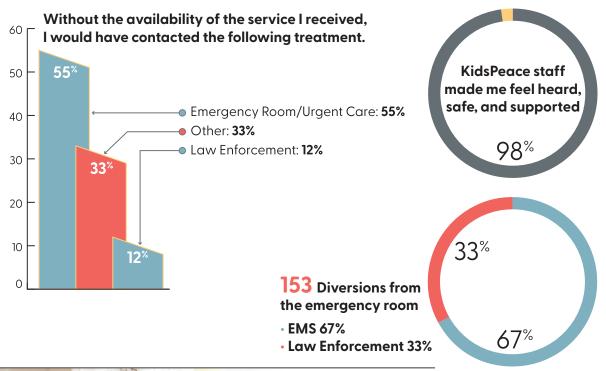




THE HOPE CENTER

Location: North Carolina
Clients served: 1,125 in 2024

Services: The Hope Center for Youth and Family Crisis, based in Fuquay-Varina, NC, is a partnership with Alliance Health of North Carolina. The center offers three programs including Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC), Mobile Outreach Response Engagement Stabilization (MORES) and Facility-Based Crisis (FBC). BHUC offers services for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis as an alternative to an emergency department visit. MORES consists of specially trained crisis responders who address immediate behavioral concerns and assists families by connecting them to community resources. FBC is a 16-bed program with 24/7 therapeutic programming for children ages 6 to 17 years of age. Combined, these innovative programs provide assessment, stabilization, and treatment for mental and behavioral health concerns, allowing for an immediate response to children and adolescents in crisis.





"I am glad this resource is available. Thank you!"

Model of Care Highlight (FBC)— **Safety** "I feel safe" – 100%

KidsPeace Quality Assurance, Outcome Studies and Research, 2024. Satisfaction Survey percentages reflect survey respondents who replied "Strongly agree" or "Agree."

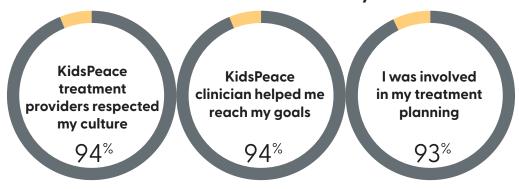


HOSPITAL

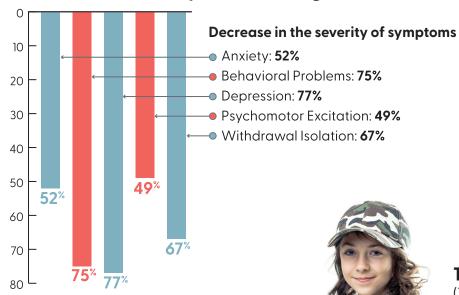
Location: Pennsylvania
Clients served: 1,492 in 2024

Services: KidsPeace Hospital is one of the largest free-standing inpatient children's psychiatric hospitals in the United States. The 110-bed facility provides intensive psychiatric services to youth ages 5-21 in serious crisis.

Client Satisfaction Survey



Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale for Children (BPRS-C)



Model of Care Highlight – **Dignity** "I respect myself and others" –

93%



(Trauma History Questionnaire)
At Admission our Hospital clients self-reported living through an average of approximately 7 categories of traumatic events prior to admissions.



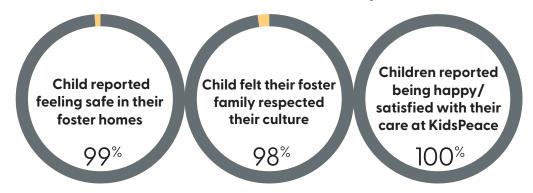
FOSTER CARE

Locations: Indiana, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia

Clients served: 737 in 2024

Services: Therapeutic, traditional and respite foster care. (For information about KidsPeace Foster Care Services in specific areas, visit the webpage of the office nearest you at www. fostercare.com/locations)

Client Satisfaction Survey



Permanency

In 2024, over 181 children achieved permanency upon discharge from foster care.

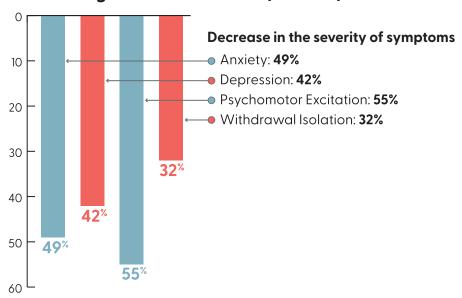


Reunified with their families: 44%
Adoptions: 41%
Placed with kin: 15%



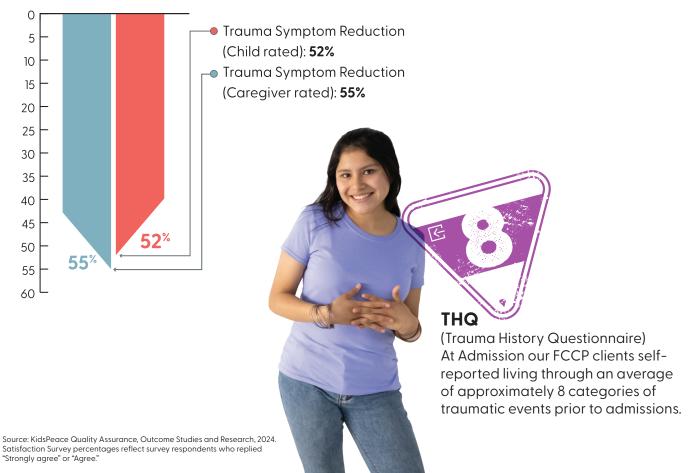
FOSTER CARE SITE PROGRAM

Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale for Children (BPRS-C)



11

CPSS
(Childhood PTSD Symptom Scale)





GEORGIA RESIDENTIAL

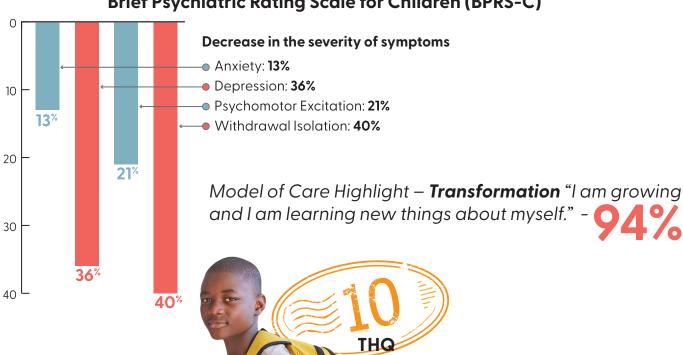
Locations: Bowdon, GA
Clients served: 101 in 2024

Services: Residential care and treatment services for Georgia youth. The 80-bed facility is designated as a Maximum Watchful Oversight Program, with four 20-bed living units. Three of the units serve 20 girls and 40 boys with a range of mental health, substance abuse and behavioral challenges; the fourth unit is a separate 20-bed unit for male youth with sexual behavior challenges. An on-site school, recreational facilities, and a wellness and behavioral-health center serve the needs of the youth in the program.

Client Satisfaction Survey



Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale for Children (BPRS-C)



(Trauma History Questionnaire)

At Admission our GA clients self-reported living through an average of approximately 10 categories

of traumatic events prior to admissions.



MAINE RESIDENTIAL

Locations: Ellsworth, Maine Clients served: 48 in 2024

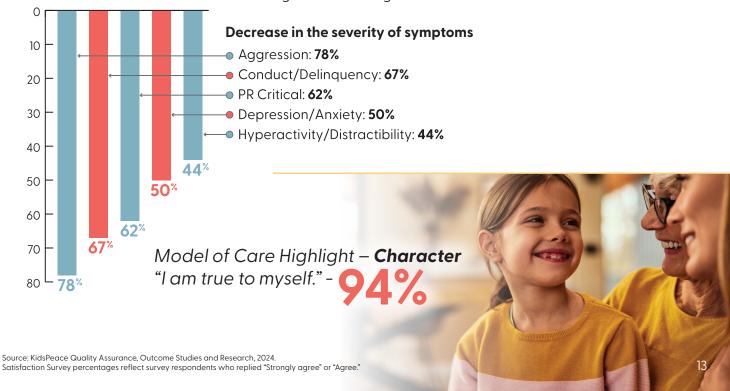
Services: KidsPeace New England's Residential Program at the Graham Lake Campus in Ellsworth, Maine, is a 44-bed facility providing therapeutic residential treatment, with an emphasis on serving clients with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The program features high-quality educational and recreational therapies for youth ranging in age from 3 to 20 years old, and also offers day treatment services.

Client Satisfaction Survey



The Youth Outcome Questionnaire® 30.2 PR/SR

The Youth Outcome Questionnaire® 30.2 PR/SR is a measure of treatment progress for children and adolescents (ages 4-17) receiving mental health intervention and is meant to track actual change in functioning.



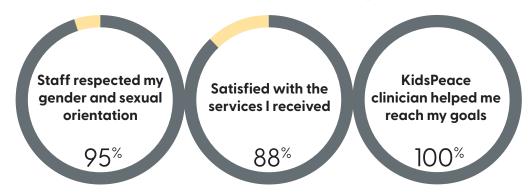


PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTIAL

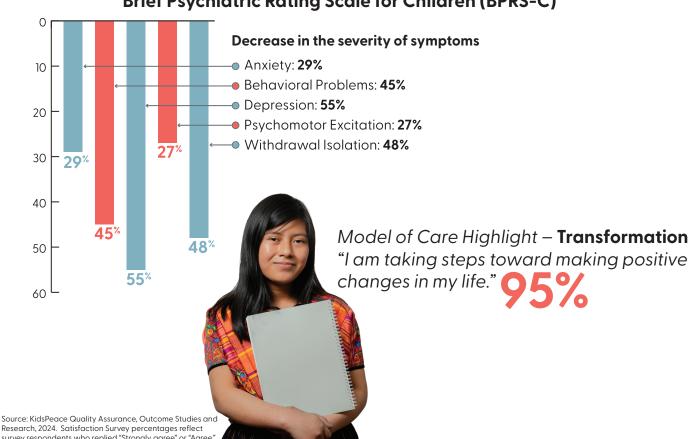
Locations: Orefield, PA Clients served: 505 in 2024

Services: KidsPeace's Orchard Hills Campus is a 182-bed facility that offers a wide range of residential treatment services - including trauma-informed evidence-based clinical approaches, Applied Behavior Analysis, recreational/creative therapies, life skill enrichment and education services.

Client Satisfaction Survey

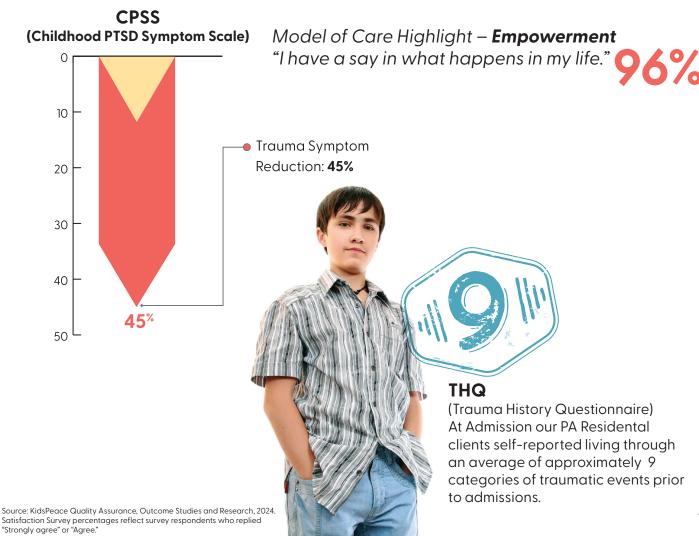


Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale for Children (BPRS-C)



PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTIAL







EDUCATION

Pennsylvania

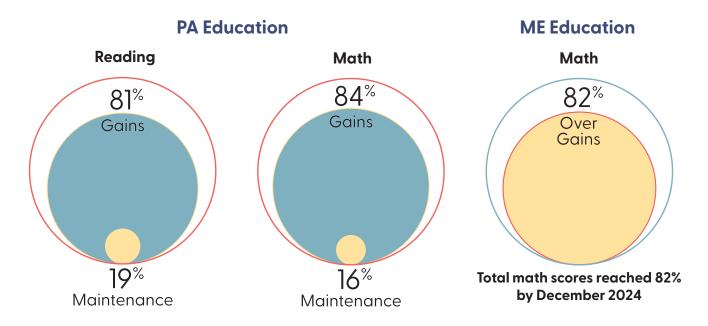
Students in KidsPeace's youth residential treatment programs attend on-campus classes with emphasis on the curriculum for their current grade level and home school district requirements. Many of our students are three to four years behind their peer group academically. KidsPeace's education efforts provide a multi-tiered approach to reading and mathematics interventions, career readiness, life skills, and social development. Instruction is differentiated (e.g., large-group, small-group, one-on-one sessions) to meet the unique needs of the students in each classroom, with the goal of maintaining/improving the child's academic skill levels.

Student's reading, math and written expression skills are assessed using the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test III (WIAT-III). In 2024, 81% of our student population experienced gains in their academic performance in reading and 84% of students showed academic improvement in their math scores during their residential placement with KidsPeace.

KidsPeace education continues to use Q-Interactive through Pearson to assess student academic achievement. We are using the following Norm-referenced assessments: WRAT-5, and/or WIAT-IIII (Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-4th Ed.). Through Pearson's Q-Global site, KidsPeace education is able to use the BASC-3 (Behavior Assessment System for Children, Third Edition) making the program available to send to parents, teachers and other professionals electronically. This gives others involved in our student's lives easier access to providing input.

Maine

Math4ME is a three-year, whole-school project designed to support all educators (classroom teachers, special educators, ed techs, and interventionists) to strengthen math proficiency for all learners with a specific focus on increased math proficiency for students with math IEP goals.



PASSPORT TO HEALING

"Of all the books in the world, the best stories are found between the pages of a passport."

Every year at KidsPeace, we care for thousands of children and adults - each with their own story of journeying through mental and behavioral health challenges. We respect their journeys as we create and implement individualized treatment plans - involving the client and their family as part of our interdisciplinary team approach.

Our goal: to add to their stories of struggle and fear on their journey, a concluding chapter of hope and success...

During my first session with KidsPeace, I wasn't too happy to be receiving KidsPeace services. But, over the years I got used to them, and now I really appreciate all the help I've gotten from them and everything they taught me...

The team were consummate professionals. I feel like my family member's health was taken seriously

KIDSPEACE STAFF GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR THEIR FOSTER KIDS AND FAMILIES -- EXTREMELY HAPPY WITH SERVICES!

This was the first place I had been where I felt safe enough, to understand that I could act out, but that I would be contained, and it would be not looked at as, "Well this is a horrible kid" but as "This is someone who's hurting severely and we need to help them as best we can..."

When I first came to KidsPeace I was, like, "I'm just going to get out of here and I'm going to go back to doing the same things I was doing before." But then I realized that if I wanted to get out but still have the kind of life I wanted, then I really need to work for it.

I recommend this place for people like me. I loved this place because it helped me care about my life.

A would honestly say that, you're safe at KidsPeace. You can heal at KidsPeace. And it can change your life if you let it.

KidsPeace has made a world of difference for my son. I am very, very happy we chose to use them!

I WANTED TO TELL OUR STORY SO THAT OTHER FAMILIES WOULD KNOW THERE IS HOPE IF THEY HAVE A CHILD IN A SIMILAR SITUATION... HERE'S WHAT I WANT THOSE OTHER FAMILIES TO UNDERSTAND: THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND - OUR DAUGHTER'S ALIVE TODAY BECAUSE OF KIDSPEACE.

Thanks a ton, Kidsfeace - I could not have done it without y'all!







The staff is extremely welcoming and welcoming and flexible with myself and my child.

They communicate tremendously and my tremendously and my child has improved so child has improved so much in a short time!"



June, 2024

I am glad this resource is available. Thank you!

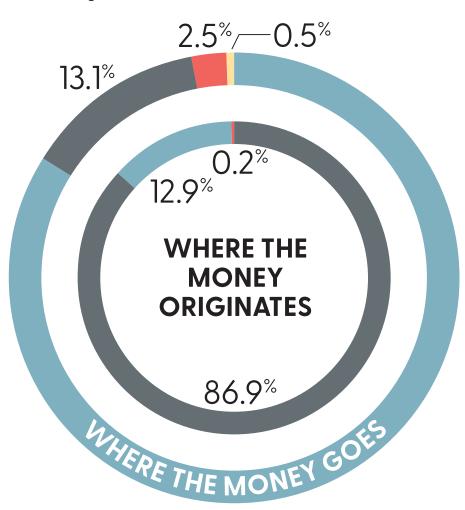




RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES

Over its 143-year history, KidsPeace has built a reputation for providing a level of care noted for its exceptional quality and effectiveness. For a nonprofit like KidsPeace, providing such care requires substantial financial resources. The bulk of our funding comes from fees paid by governmental agencies and private insurers; we are fortunate also to have a base of generous donors - individuals, foundations and granting organizations - who provide additional funding for our variety of services.

More than four out of every five dollars spent by KidsPeace in 2024 went toward program expenses to provide care and treatment to our clients, with the remainder funding administration, marketing and advancement activities.



Where the money originates

• Fees for Service: 86.9%

Donations and Grants: 12.9%

Miscellaneous: 0.2%

83.9% Where the money Goes

• **Programs: 83.9%**

Administration and General: 13.1%

Interest: 2.5%

• Fund Raising = 0.5%



ASSOCIATE RECOGNITION

The strength of KidsPeace over its long history has always been our thousands of dedicated associates – who come from all circumstances of life, and bring their experiences and life lessons to the challenge of helping those in need. No matter what program they work in, or what their specific function may be, our associates share a spirit and passion for the success of the kids and other clients in our care.

In November, the following individuals received 2024 Associate Achievement Award recognition.

Spirit of KidsPeace

Jacqueline LaTorres, PA Admissions

Kaitlin Pubentz, PA Hospital

Model of Care

Francisco Mendez, PA Residential
Sophia Vaughn, GA Human Resources

Creativity & Innovation

Lindsay Schmall, PA Community Programs

Tara Koch, FCCP Harrisburg

Customer Service Karina Lugardo, Information Technology

Rebecca Greenlaw, Graham Lake Campus

Leadership Logan Ellison, The Hope Center

Alicia Eby, PA Residential

Team Kingston NY CFTSS, NY

Graham Lake Food Service, Graham Lake Campus

President's Award Debbie Blose, Admin Services



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Dr. Scott Reines, Chair · **Lesley Fallon**, 1st Vice Chair **David Small**, 2nd Vice Chair · **Michael Slack**, Ex-Officio Director





























Directors

- 1 **Dr. Scott Reines**, PA Independent consultant
- **2 Lesley Fallon**, PA Owner, Folks Tales, LLC and planning consultant
- 3 **David Small**, FL Retired EVP of Operations -Verizon and Chief Operating Officer - Verizon Wireless
- 4 Ann Bieber, PA
 President, Lehigh Carbon
 Community College

- (5) Trey Carter, GA Retired Founder of Summit Behavorial Health & Former CEO of Acadia Healthcare
- 6 J. Jackson Eaton, PA Partner, Gross McGinley, LLP
- 7 Wilson (Ben) Garrett, GA President/CEO, RA-LIN and Associates, Inc.
- 8 **Dr. Alisa Gutman**, PA Founder and Medical Director of the Philadelphia Human Rights Clinic & Outpatient Division Director, Crescenz VA Medical Center

- Diana Marshall, PA Retired nurse and retired attorney
- 10 Susan Mullen, PA Retired Nurse
- (1) Lynn O'Connor, PA Sr. Counsel, Div. of Enforcement, Cyber Unit, US Securities & Exchange Commission
- 12 Naomi Yergey, PA Owner, Yergey HR Solutions
- 13 Michael Slack, PA President/CEO KidsPeace

IN GRATITUDE

It's through the generosity of our donors that we are able to go beyond offering our clients loving care, and provide true hope and healing to those in need. Thank you!

KidsPeace Foundation Board

Established in 2017, the Foundation seeks to foster enduring and trusting relationships with donors to secure resources to assist KidsPeace in transforming the lives of children, youth and adults in need of hope, help and healing, regardless of their financial means.



From left to right- Foundation Board: 1. Jonathan Craig | 2. Anthony DaRe | 3. Lesley Fallon, Chair, September 2024, 4. Michael B. Kent | 5. Sandra Kerr | 6. Angela Haney Orkin | 7. Bob Oster | 8. L. Richard Plunkett | 9. Dr. Scott Reines, Chair | 10. Margie Rogers | 11. Jonathan Moore Sharaf | 12. Michael Slack | 13. Richard Tisinger | 14. Naomi Yergey

Foundation Board Administration: Ann McCauley, President; Michael Callan, Treasurer; Linda Rothrock, Secretary

Boards of Associates

Across KidsPeace, local volunteer Boards of Associates champion the mission and vision of KidsPeace. Each Board of Associates dedicates time and talent to locate, maintain and enhance local resources for KidsPeace, raise public awareness and increase contributions and grants in support of the KidsPeace programs in their respective regions.

Southeast Region/ Bethlehem

Chair

Christopher Swiggard

KidsPeace Liaison

A.J. Cordi

Program Manager

Central Region, PA

Chair

Stephanie Salvatori

KidsPeace Liaison

Martha Brown,

Regional Manager

Fayetteville, NC

Chair

Erika Campbell

KidsPeace Liaison

Mike Edelman,

Program Manager

Raleigh, NC

Chair, Open

KidsPeace Liaisons

Will Hatch, State

Manager

Sarah Dowd Jennifer Taylor Georgia

Assistant

Chair,

Wesley Stone

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KidsPeace Liaison **Dr. Randall Hines**,

Executive Director

Jennifer Bryant, Director

of Human Services

Pam Cline, Executive

Lehigh Valley, PA

Chair

Shawn Hughes

KidsPeace Liaison

Missy Hartney, Director

of Development

Graham Lake, ME

Chair

Daniel Stewart

....

KidsPeace Liaison

Rebecca Greenlaw Community Outreach

Specialist



On December
15th, KidsPeace
Fayetteville
held its annual
Winter Gala.
Former Board
Chair, Regina
Thompson, once
again hosted
us at her barn –

which is now newly renovated and looks amazing! Regina provided all of the food, gift bags for EVERY child in a KidsPeace home (foster, biological, adopted, etc), snacks to take home, centerpieces that were also take-home gifts, blankets to take home, and entertainment in the form of a hay ride around her beautiful farm property. The wonderful supporters of KidsPeace Fayetteville supplied gifts to all of the KidsPeace Fayetteville clients which were all wrapped by KidsPeace staff and board members and under the tree at the event for the families to take home. Yearly Foster Parent awards were also handed out.

Our National KidsPeace Governing Board made generous donations of luggage to our PA Residential children. Inspired by their "Mountain of Luggage" we posted on social media for additional donations from the public to help us with "Project: Goodbye Garbage Bags". This inspired yet more donations from the community! Pictured here are just some of the over 100 suitcases collected to make certain KidsPeace children and youth don't ever leave here with black garbage bags filled with their belongings.





• Grace Deliverance Church, Broad St., Bethlehem donated multiple gift bags filled with games, arts & crafts and a large box of multicultural books for

our Orchard Hills Campus. Delia Mitchell coordinated the donations. Delia previously donated 27 new backpacks to our residential kids a couple of months ago as well. Thank you, Delia and Grace Deliverance Church



• Throughout November and December KidsPeace worked to execute their holiday present campaign. We secured support from 14 organizations, and received 1,632 presents for the children in our PA Residential program and those receiving help and healing at our PA Hospital.

Contributing organizations in Pennsylvania included:

Bethlehem Counseling Associates

BSI Corporate Benefits

Clear Channel Outdoor

Clifton Larson Allen

First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union

HCSC, Inc.

IQVIA

Lehigh Valley International Airport

Moravian University

Parkland School District

Premier Environments

St. Luke's University Health Network

Secant / Solesis





Thank you to these special BOA Members from Georgia, Babbie Mason and Jacqueline Johnson (and husband Dr. Chris Johnson) with Santa, for making magical and spiritual memories for our children and youth in Georgia. The 8th Annual KidsPeace Christmas Gala was a heartwarming evening filled with joy and laughter, as children,

staff, and guests united to celebrate the festive spirit of the season. Before the Gala kicked off, Santa made a surprise visit, spreading even more magic and joy as children and staff alike gathered for photos with him.

This marks Midway Church's second year serving at our Christmas Gala, and their dedication to our kids continues to make a meaningful impact for which we are incredibly grateful. Joined by the incredibly talented Babbie Mason, a multi-Dove Award-winning gospel singer and songwriter, two of our youth took center stage to perform "The Twelve Days of Christmas," adding a personal and unforgettable touch to the event. And Reverend Karen Kagiyama of Community First United Methodist Church delivered a heartfelt and inspiring message to last throughout the years ahead for our children, Associates and quests.

Georgia:

Suzy Revelle: Gives each client an embroidered towel with their name for their birthdays.

Indian Creek Baptist Church: Bowdon, Ga: Ladies sewing group crochets blankets for each our clients when they discharge.



The Central Region BOA was able to successfully plan their first event for the foster families and kids in the Bloomsburg and Williamsport offices! They wanted to plan a fun event to engage family togetherness. They worked together and brought hundreds of eggs to stuff with treats and the Family Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for Saturday, 23, 2024 at the Hughesville Park baseball fields. The BOA members gathered in the Bloomsburg office to tour the facility and spent the evening getting to know one another and stuffing eggs for the hunt! Everything was set for a fun filled day, however, mother nature felt otherwise and the forecast was not cooperating, so the BOA made the decision to cancel the egg hunt BUT came up with a creative alternative to still give the foster families a great activity to do together! Each family received a bag or bucket full of filled eggs for them to hide and have a family egg hunt! Also, in each tub were kits for dyeing their own eggs together and other various fun items! The BOA included a very special message to all the families and kids. The foster care staff in both offices delivered the baskets to each family prior to the Easter holiday weekend. We received numerous reports from families on how much fun they had together and they so greatly appreciated all the efforts by the Central Region BOA.



Pictured left to right is Jessie Young, Amy Lutz, Stephanie Salvatorie, Jessica Casale, Patricia Lawton, and Jensen Cirelli



Adulting 101 Independent Living Program Williamsville, NY FCCP

KidsPeace is grateful to the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation for funding towards independent living programs for youth in foster care or receiving supportive social services through KidsPeace Foster Care & Community Programs in Williamsville, NY.

Part of the generous funding received through this grant has been used for youth to participate in the "Easy Eats for Everyl" cooking camps through Community Services for Everyl.



KidsPeace recognizes
the extensive and critical
need for supportive and
educational independent
living programming for youth
at risk. KidsPeace utilized this
generous funding to access
resources for youth who are
currently living independently
within the community but

continue to receive services, or for youth in foster care or without supportive family resources. For these youth, independent living skills training is essential to success during care and after their transition to adulthood.

To date, Community Services for Everyl has hosted a series of 10 cooking camps for KidsPeace participants. The cooking camps are broken into two age groups, 9-12 and 13-19, and each class can hold 12 youth. The younger class averages five youth (as there are fewer children in this age range in care) and the older class is consistently full. **KidsPeace staff enthusiastically report, "They LOVE it!"**

According to the program leaders: "Each group voted on their collective theme (music, Buffalo Bills, and sports) for the duration of camps, which led to themespecific menus for increased engagement. Within the first class, participants and staff discussed the goals they wanted to focus on to ensure collaborative progress toward skill attainment.

While attending the Easy Eats for Everyl KidsPeace Cooking Camps, the campers accomplished the following goals:

1. Development of healthy cooking techniques through hands-on, person-centered lessons.

Through individualized and small group instruction, the Easy Eats for Everyl Chefs introduced youth to foundational culinary skills that were used in camp activities—and that can later be practiced at home as an Independent Living Skill.



2. Preparation of healthier and easy-to-follow

Meals. Using the Easy Eats for Everyl teaching kitchen at CSEl's Jefferson Career Exploration Center, the youth from KidsPeace were immediately asked to put their newfound culinary skills to the test by preparing menus of healthy and simple to prepare dishes. Generally, the Chefs set a menu around a particular theme, so these camps were a collaboration of kids' and chefs' ideas.



3. Enjoyment of healthy meals.

The young culinary artists from KidsPeace were given ample time to eat and celebrate their creations as a team around the Easy Eats for Everyl Camp meal tables. It was quickly found that the Easy Eats for Everyl meal table doubles as

an informal support group, a place where youth feel safe to de-stress and get a boost from peers and from the Easy Eats for Everyl Chefs (who also have professional experience in promoting positive life skills and nutritional health).

The participants of these camps have begun their journey in learning new and lifelong culinary skills that will transfer to independent living skills as they get older.

Easy Eats for Everyl sums the experience up by saying, "We have the belief that the kitchen can take you anywhere, from the comfort of your home to a career around the world! We couldn't be happier to have been a part of each and every participant's culinary journey!"

• KidsPeace is grateful to the **Kelly for Kids Foundation** and the Lake Shore Savings Foundation for supporting equine therapy for youth with histories of trauma receiving services through KidsPeace Foster Care & Community Programs in Williamsville, New York. Thanks to their generosity, 25 foster youth



and youth receiving social support services between the ages of 7 and 20 had an experience that would otherwise have not been possible.

The youth learned the basics of caring for a horse, horse safety and keeping the horses' stalls

clean. However, the life lessons the youth learned were much deeper. Their experiences taught them about mindfulness, using breathing techniques, body language, relating to others, experiencing emotions, building trust and attachments and responsibility. The program, which featured experiential, handson learning, culminated in an art therapy project that gave the youth a way to memorialize their experience.

As each of the youth have histories of trauma, their interaction with horses were therapeutic and engaging. The social and emotional support this experience allowed the youth were invaluable, giving them an opportunity to expand their coping skills, develop positive self-esteem, improve communication and social skills, improve their impulse control, learn to build healthy and safe boundaries and develop healthy relationships through trust-building exercises.

The program was invaluable and created lasting memories for everyone who participated.

The impact of the funding and the program is best felt through the words of Vanessa, co-owner of Peaceful Pastures (along with Gina), where the project took place. Vanessa shared:

"At the beginning of [this] small business, there was a big vision. This vision passed a place where hurting souls could be in the company of our healing, gentle giants. As a social worker, I was frustrated at the lack of creativity for "healing." As a horse trainer, Gina was frustrated with the message that horses were meant to be used for rides and entertainment, essentially tiring her most precious companions. After hours of conversations about bonding human souls with the most compassionate animals, we had our vision.

During our time with KidsPeace, we proved that our vision and "why" were spot on. During the first week, KidsPeace employees entered our barn with wide eyes and very nervous children. I noticed that the children and some workers seemed nervous about what they had signed up for. After walking through





the barn, we met in a circle under our willow tree. In the distance, horses grazed, and all that could be heard was the breeze and the horses in the other barn. We started with a conversation about the barn and horse safety. This conversation let us see how horses are in tune with our vulnerabilities and feelings. I talked to the participants about body language and how their emotions come from breathing, standing, and speaking. We talked about mindfulness and how being mindful of our feelings while we were with horses weighing 1600 pounds would be necessary. We did breathing exercises to prepare them for when they were nervous in the stall. We taught them that often, our horses will copy how we breathe and see if they can sense that. After that, the fun kicked up as we paired everyone up with their horses based on our assessments of the personality of both the participants and the horses.



At first, everyone was too intimidated to go inside the stall with their horse. I encouraged them to lean into this emotion and not try to cover it up. Gradually, one by one, everyone entered their stall, groomed, and got to know their companion.

Each session from there built off our first one. In session two, we talked about how horses have families called herds. Each horse has a rank and bond with the others. We pointed out that most herds have no blood relation, which means nothing regarding emotional safety and trust. I could tie this lesson into attachment, and the participants opened up about issues in their personal lives, such as trust, attachment, and emotional safety. The horse time was spent teaching the participants how to harness their horses and walk them out of the barn into the grass. We taught them that horses are most at peace when their companion stands beside them as they gaze.

As the second half of our program progressed, we watched with delight as the participants and their workers ran to the barn and into their horse stalls to hug them. Watching them form this relationship made Gina and me realize our vision was happening right before our eyes. We contemplated our responsibility lesson before trying it. In this lesson, we discussed what it means to be responsible for a living and breathing animal or person. Their next task was to clean their company stall. I was nervous that the kids would be less than thrilled. To our amazement, every

participant was excited and had VERY high standards for how they wanted their horse's stall to be cleaned. They worked hard and were proud to show their horses what they did after we taught the participants how to make meals for their horses!

Our last session featured an art therapy project. We had the kids sit under the same tree we started at. They decorated their wooden picture frame for them and their horse. We had a professional photographer take stunning photos of the kids with their new best friend as a gift. Having KidsPeace in our barn taught us that these kids would stay in our hearts.

Our older participants are now in Gina's internship program. They are learning the "ins and outs" of having a horse farm and are loving it. Our experience with KidsPeace has inspired me to keep dreaming and thinking of more ways to help people heal in our barn."



Without the support of Kelly for Kids Foundation and Lake Shore Savings Foundation, this would not have become a reality for so many youth. Several older youth who took part in this program would not have the experience of their current internship (which Peaceful Pastures has extended to them

at no additional cost). And the youth would not have gained the invaluable experience and life lessons that their time with the horses taught them.

Bird & Squirrel Sanctuary Berks Campus



KidsPeace is grateful to the Wawa Foundation for the \$2,500 awarded to the KidsPeace Berks Campus Bird and Squirrel Sanctuary.

The sanctuary proj-

ect was led by a KidsPeace associate's son, who completed the transformation of the space as part of an Eagle Scout project. They cleared the area, laid stepping stones, planted, mulched, hung bird feeders and built squirrel feeders.



Youth at KidsPeace have thoroughly enjoyed observing the birds and squirrels who use the space as a feeding area and a sanctuary. The activity and the space have had a positive effect on the youth, bringing peace and joy to their daily experiences.

BSA Troop 163 received several handmade cards from the older youth thanking them for the fantastic job. In warmer weather, they were able to sit on the benches outside with their therapists.

Our younger clients LOVE observing the squirrels eating up close at the window. After gym class, this is usually the first stop! They also love watching the birds splash around in the bird bath.

Bernard and Eva Bredbenner Fund Grant



Betty M. Gilmour, Director of Grantmaking from First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania visited us in the Bloomsburg FCCP office to present a check from the Bernard and Eva Bredbenner Fund to utilized towards purchasing Life Skills Reimaged for our

Independent Living Youth from Columbia County Children and Youth. Life Skills Reimagined is an online, evidence-based, trauma-informed curriculum for youth and adults to learn life skills.

Angelene DeLarge, PA State Manager, Martha Brown, Central Region Regional Manager and Kelly Little, PA Assistant State Manager, Child Welfare met with Betty, shared a story about a recent adoption, shared information about Life Skills Reimagined and discussed immense need for the organized curriculum. Betty was a pleasure to meet and chat with and we look forward to a continued partnership with her and the FCFP.



The support from all of you makes a difference in the lives of our children, and helps them to know they are loved and cared for. A very special thank you to each and every one of you.



"We have continued to support KidsPeace over many years because they have provided support, care, and education to a wide variety of kids with mental health issues."

Elaine and Dick Oeler



"There is an old expression stating that children are our future - which my wife and I believe to be true. This means all children are the future not just those who have been insulated from many of the harsh realities of life. There are some kids who have been subjected to unimaginable trauma and unspeakable neglect in their lives - unfortunately this is a tragic reality of life for some children. Fortunately there is another reality - KidsPeace - the team of professionals who have dedicated their lives to helping kids in crisis. My wife and I have been privileged to support KidsPeace for over two decades - and we derive great satisfaction knowing that KidsPeace is working hard to ensure that all children have an opportunity to have a positive future. Investing in a kid's future is possible through the work of KidsPeace and the professionals who give of themselves to help children navi-

David & Sandy Small

gate their way through crisis."



"I'm a proud member of the KidsPeace Board of Directors. It's so rewarding to be helping the KidsPeace mission with my service. It's also fun to help support some of the special projects, like the gently used luggage collection for residential children in PA leaving care. I placed a request for assistance on my personal FaceBook page and was overwhelmed by the response!!. These old suitcases have journeyed around for many years. It's wonderful to know they'll have a new set of adventures with a child setting out on their new life journey after their stay at KidsPeace."

Naomi Yergey



"Our aim is to support causes where our dollars will do the most good. KidsPeace never fails to deliver on that goal."

Scott and Trisha Reines

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- Pizza Avenue
- PJ's Garden Center
- Portland Museum of Art
- Portland Observatory
- Portland Paddle
- Portland Sea Dogs • Premier Environments, A One
- Point Company
- Project Linus
- Quality Jewelers • Rainbow Girls - Brewer
- Masonic Lodge
- Joe and Randi Regenski Scott and Tricia Reines
- Renv's · Rinaldi's Café
- Roba's Family Farm
- Sawmill Bar and Grill
- Scenic Flights of Acadia
- Cheryl Schneider
- Schooner Olad • The Scratch Kitchen
- Mike and Michelle Slack
- David and Sandy Small • St. Joseph's Catholic Church
- St. Luke's University Health
- Network
- Stacy Stanos
- SUNY Niagara Tattoo 07
- The Rotary Club of Ellsworth
- The Secant Group • The Stourbridge Line
- The Summit Church Fuguay Campus
- Tideway Market • TOPS Friendly Market
- Union Lutheran Church • Union River Toys

- Scott Webb • David and Amber Wheaton
- Woodstone Country Club
- Viking Lumber, Inc. Lexington Cooperative Volta
 - Wind Creek Casino
 - Windjammer Cruises
 - Zi Photography

IN HONOR OF...

● In honor & support of Bremen, Georgia:

George Hewlett

● In honor of Pete Castagna:

• David Camardella

¶ In honor & support of KidsPeace Indiana Offices:

• Mike & Gail Vogel

● In honor of Theadora Krogh:

- "In honor of Theadora's 3rd Birthday"
- · Sara Krogh

● In honor of Alice Kwiatkowski:

- "Who gave all she could give to KidsPeace!"
- Susan Mullen

● In honor of Robert Martin:

- "In recognition of the important work that he, and KidsPeace does."
- Michelle & Ian Tauber

In honor of Kira, Quinn, Brooks, and Levi:

Mary Maynard

● In honor of Ann McCauley:

Alisa Gutman

● In honor of the KidsPeace Team:

- "In honor of a great mission and fun golf tourney as always! Well done Ann, Missy and Team! "
- Patrick Slattery

● In honor of Brian Winter:

- "Thank you, Brian for being a good dude and supporting the mission of KidsPeace!"
- Patrick Slattery

● In honor of Dominique Womack:

- "Cheers to Dominique Womack for being such a strong advocate for the work of KidsPeace. I am encouraged to give this donation in honor of her dedication!"
- Ashanti Bennett

IN MEMORY OF...

● In memory of Donald Amann

- "To Patrick & Family, we are so sorry to hear about your dad. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers."
- Randy & Debbie Blose

● In memory of Shirley Amann (Slattery)

- Michael Slack
- Maurice and Maryanne Szklenski

In loving memory of Oliver Blose

- Althea Blose
- Randy & Debbie Blose

In memory of Diane Bolling

James Meaders

In memory of Sally Davis

• Kathleen Bielinski

● In memory of Nancee DiMenichi

· Sharlee DiMenichi

● In memory of Kurt W. Frizlen

Joan Frizlen

◆ In memory of Maureen "Mo"Harrington

- "In memory of our dear family friend Maureen "Mo" Harrington. She was, "one of a kind person," always offering her help and support to whoever needed it. We love you and miss you, sweet Mo.
- · Lorraine & Michael OHare

• "In memory of Mo, a truly wonderful, caring and giving person."

Maureen Chesley

In memory of Mom

- "Dear Papa, I sent Kidspeace a little donation in memory of Mom for her birthday. Love, Shar"
- Sharlee DiMenichi

● In memory of Fred & Betty Kerber

- Althea Blose
- Randy & Debbie Blose

● In memory of Kimberly Grace Massett

Cheryl Massett

● In memory of Amy Meleck

Richard Oeler

● In memory of John Smith

James Meaders

● In memory of Mike Steed

- Kay Bullock
- Cathy & Lane Poston

In memory of William C. Tewksbury

• Heather Tewksbury

In loving memory of Susan Keene Timberlake

Jack Timberlake

● In memory of Nia Winn

Sara Thomas

● In loving memory of Evelyn Zumas

- Diane Harpster
- Stephen Zarnas



VOLUNTEERS



Stephanie Salvatorie

Stephanie Salvatorie is the Chair for the Central Region Board of Associates. Stephanie has a passion for helping children and has been an incredible asset to the newly formed Central Region BOA. Without hesitation,

Stephanie stepped up and volunteered to chair and has been going strong ever since. Her dedication is evident and inspiring. In one short year, she has helped plan two large events for foster families in the Bloomsburg and Williamsport foster care offices and has been integral in being involved in planning the Christmas party for Williamsport! She has secured multiple donations for the second time now and has truly made this festivity memorable and special for those foster families. We truly appreciate everything that Stephanie has done thus far and can't wait to see what the future brings with her leadership!



Naomi Yergey

It is always satisfying when you have a National Board Member who not only wants to participate in supporting and governing our organization, but at a deep level wants to roll up sleeves and make a difference.

We are fortunate to have a great number of such Board Directors at KidsPeace. And Naomi Yergey is a great example. Naomi goes above and beyond attending meetings outside of her responsibilities as a Board Member, and frequently asking "what can I do to help". As a result, over the years of her service our children and youth have benefited from several drives and collaborative projects as Naomi engages all of her friends in being a part of the support. From beautiful hand-made and lovingly designed quilts to car loads of suitcases, Naomi is always looking to see how she can make a difference.



Regina Thompson

Regina Thompson is our Fayetteville, NC former Board of Associate Chair and a former KidsPeace Foundation Trustee. She annually hosts our Fayetteville team and Families in her beautifully renovated barn. The setting is amazing and Regina provides all the food and gift bags for EVERY child in a KidsPeace home (foster, biological, adopted, etc), snacks to take home, center pieces that are also take home gifts, blankets to take home, and entertainment in the form of a hay ride around her beautiful farm property. The wonderful supporters of KidsPeace Fayetteville supply gifts to all of the KidsPeace Fayetteville clients which are all then wrapped by KidsPeace staff and board members and under the tree at the event for the families to take home. Yearly Foster Parent awards are also handed out. We are so grateful to Regina who has pulled all of this together for a fabulous end of year gala for the last several years.



Suzy Revell

Mrs. Revell is an inspiration to everyone that she comes in contact with. Mrs. Revell makes all of our clients a personalized towel for their birthday. She also has partnered with a local church that

makes each client a blanket to take with them when they discharge. She also works with her church to host different events for the clients.



Wanda Darrah

Wanda is an amazing advocate for KidsPeace. Wanda works with a company outside of Georgia to provide our clients with Christmas gifts. She makes sure that each client gets gifts on Christmas to bring in some

normalcy of the holiday season. She also works with a group from her church and makes bags that are filled with items for the clients when they discharge.



Wesley Stone

Thank you to Wesley Stone who stepped in to serve as the Chair of the GA Board of Associates and has done a fantastic job of keeping all members of the Board focused on supporting the campus and the staff. The

results have been tremendous and several members of the Board of Associates have stepped up to take on specific areas needing attention as a result of

VOLUNTEERS

his strong leadership. Additionally, Wesley's passion for the work KidsPeace does with Georgia's most vulnerable population has resulted in him bringing members of the community to come tour with us to learn more. These introductions prove invaluable in demonstrating our expertise and caring-focus on our children and youth, and in bringing new resources and friends to our community of support.

One of our teens submitted an entry in the Gingerbread House competition at Peddler's Village! Our theme was "A Home for the Holidays"

and he did a great job and was very creative with his use of gingerbread, cotton candy, lollipops, and more!

Lehigh Valley Board of Associates

Not only do they volunteer their time, but they also dodged, ducked, dived and dodged for KidsPeace this year and got in the game. All of our BOA members not only helped to organize and close sponsorships – they got down and dirty to help the event succeed.



• Going above and beyond Foster Parents – Williamsport and Bloomsburg:

• In the Williamsport office, the foster families have become a very supportive and tight knit community. In the fourth quarter, two foster families gave support to a family who was struggling with a child she has been caring for that is being reunified with her biological family. They offered supportive advice and ways to cope with the foster child being reunified. The foster family was incredibly grateful for this as it is very difficult for foster parents to love these children unconditionally yet know at any time, reunification can occur. Not many people understand the grief and loss that accompany these situations and they know that they have people that will help them through this time.

• In the Bloomsburg office, a sibling group of three children had to be split into two different foster homes. Both foster families have been incredible in working together to ensure that these siblings remain bonded and to navigate their biological family visitation schedule. Both families reside over an hour away from the children's CYS office but they have been able to take turns with one another transporting and supporting one another through the difficult biological family situation. They have developed a great working relationship with one another that has helped these children transition in to foster care more successfully!

Jackie Johnson

Jackie took the role of planning our Christmas Gala and did a great job.



Babbie Mason

Babbie works with our kids to have our KP Choir. She also comes in days before the Gala and practices with our kids. Our kids enjoy working with Babbie.



• We would like to recognize our newest member of our BOA, **Bridgette Shorey**, VP and Manager of Maine Savings Bank in Ellsworth. Bridgette has been dedicated to our program since joining our BOA in September. She has toured our campus,

attended on- campus events, suggested a potential new BOA member from the Maine Savings Old Town location and more. She has been a true "gem" to add to our BOA in Maine. We look forward to many years of working with her as a BOA member.





KidsPeace Locations

KidsPeace Headquarters - Schnecksville, PA

KidsPeace Campuses, Schools and Community Programs

Georgia-Bowdon

Maine-Bangor · Ellsworth · Lewiston · Millinocket

· Old Town · South Portland

North Carolina- Fuguay-Varina

Pennsylvania- Allentown · Bethlehem · Orefield · Temple

KidsPeace Foster Care Programs and Adoption Centers

Indiana-Franklin · Merrillville · Muncie

Maine-Bangor · Biddeford · Lisbon Falls · South Portland

New York- Kingston · Westchester · Williamsville

North Carolina - Fayetteville · Raleigh

Pennsylvania-Bethlehem · Bloomsburg · Chalfont

· Harrisburg · Honesdale · Scranton · Temple · Williamsport

Virginia- Richmond



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