

KIDS IN NEED OF MCHENRY COUNTY

YEAR 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES  
ABOUT KIDS IN NEED OF MCHENRY COUNTY



# KIDS IN NEED OF MCHENRY COUNTY

4410 IL ROUTE 176  
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

THE BRIDGE - UNIT #10  
MAIN OFFICE - UNIT #11  
DONATION CENTER - UNIT #12

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## KIN VISITATION HOME

55 E CRYSTAL LAKE AVE  
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

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## KEY STAFF

Alicia Wehby  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michele Shepard  
FAMILY & PROGRAM  
MANAGER

Michelle Salzman  
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

## OUR MISSION:

To connect children with critical resources to help them feel seen, supported, and equipped to thrive.

## OUR VISION:

Together, we are a community where every child thrives, every caregiver is treated with dignity, and no family faces hardship alone.

## OUR BOARD:

Dawn Bremer  
PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Quijada  
VICE PRESIDENT

Kate Malmstedt  
TREASURER

Meredith Stiles  
SECRETARY

Troy Hawkes  
BOARD MEMBER

Mike Lehman  
BOARD MEMBER

Rachel Jesky  
BOARD MEMBER

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kids in Need of McHenry County was established in 2017 by foster mothers who recognized the resource gaps children and families were facing. Since then, KIN has remained committed to responding to real and evolving community needs with compassion, dignity, and practical support.

Kids In Need of McHenry County operates through two primary programs: Second Bridge and the Visitation Home. Second Bridge provides essential resources to children and families referred to us by school social workers, case managers, agency staff, and caregivers. Through this program, families are connected with clothing, shoes, socks, underwear, toiletries, bedding, toys, school supplies, winter gear, and gifts for birthdays and holidays. Families can access these supports through The Bridge, our free store, where they are welcomed into a dignified shopping experience designed to help them feel respected, supported, and cared for. When transportation is a barrier, requested items are delivered directly to families.

KIN's Visitation Home continues to offer a safe, warm, and family-friendly setting where children in care can visit with their biological families. In this fully functional home, families can share meals, play t

together, and spend meaningful time with one another while receiving a high level of supportive supervision. This environment helps preserve connection, strengthen family relationships, and support progress toward permanency.

Throughout 2025, KIN continued to make a meaningful impact in the lives of children and caregivers across our community. Through our programs, we provided essential items, fulfilled individualized requests, supported partner agencies, and created opportunities for children to feel celebrated, comforted, and seen. We also continued offering playdates for foster and adoptive families, creating moments of connection and support for both children and caregivers. Seasonal and holiday support remained an important part of our work as we helped ensure children could experience joy and normalcy during meaningful times of year.

The year 2025 reflected both growth and deepened impact for KIN. As community needs continued to shift, we remained focused on expanding access to critical resources, strengthening partnerships, and serving families with dignity. We are proud of what was accomplished this year and look forward to continuing this work in 2026 as we build a stronger, more supported community for children and families.

# A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Alicia Wehby



As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for how far Kids In Need of McHenry County has come. What began as a response to unmet needs in our community continues to grow into something even stronger, more responsive, and more deeply rooted in purpose. Each year brings new challenges for the children and families we serve, and each year we remain committed to meeting those challenges with compassion, dignity, and action.

Over the past year, we have seen meaningful growth across our programming. As needs in our community continue to evolve, KIN has worked hard to remain fluid, responsive, and intentional in the way we serve. We know that families rarely fit into a single box, and support is never one size fits all. Because of that, we continue to listen, adapt, and build programs that meet people where they are. That flexibility has become one of our greatest strengths.

Through Second Bridge, The Bridge free store, individualized requests, seasonal support, playdates, and our Visitation Home, we have continued expanding both our reach and our impact. We are incredibly proud that KIN remains an essential part of the community, offering not only tangible resources, but also comfort, dignity, stability, and hope. For many families, our support comes during some of the hardest moments in their lives. Being a trusted source of care during those moments is a responsibility we do not take lightly.

I am especially proud that even as we grow, we have stayed grounded in the heart of our mission. We believe every child deserves to feel seen, supported, and equipped to thrive. We believe every caregiver deserves dignity. And we believe strong communities are built when families do not have to face hardship alone. Those beliefs continue to guide every program we offer and every partnership we build.

Thank you for believing in this work and for standing with us as we continue to grow. I am so proud of what we have built together, and even more hopeful about what is ahead. KIN will continue to stay responsive, compassionate, and committed as we serve children and families across our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia A. Wehby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia Wehby  
Executive Director, Kids in Need of McHenry County



# 6011

children were impacted by the crucial programming of Kids In Need of McHenry County.

# 30%

impact increase from 2024.



# OUR PROGRAMMING

## SECOND BRIDGE

IMPACT: 2110 KIDS

Our Second Bridge program consists of The Bridge and the Donation Center. This program provides physical necessities to families directly and through other child-serving agencies. This is achieved by welcoming our families to shop free of charge. We also allow the families and case workers to submit requests for their needs.



## VISITATION HOME

IMPACT: 576 KIDS

As the inaugural visitation facility in McHenry County, this home provides a secure and welcoming environment for families to bond. The visitation center offers a variety of services, including supervised visits, monitored exchanges, parent training and coaching, individual and family therapy, as well as educational workshops and programs.

The house creates a cozy, homelike atmosphere where families can interact. With a living room, dining room, kitchen, and thoughtfully designed playrooms, it offers a unique chance for parents and children to partake in everyday activities such as mealtime, homework, and playtime.

## OTHER PROGRAMMING

IMPACT: 3325 KIDS

Kids in Need of McHenry County provides a range of programs, such as playdates, special events for families, a holiday party, and holiday gift sponsorships. In 2025, our community partners collaborated with us to deliver gifts to more than 2,700 children.



**“This little munchkin came into our lives through foster care in August. We needed clothes, diapers, a car seat, and miscellaneous baby equipment. As foster parents, we receive a stipend but often that stipend can take a month or two. We have to supply all clothes, food, and diapers on day 1 with little or no notice. KIN and it’s volunteers have helped so much with necessary items and extra blessings during Christmas, Easter, and birthdays.”**

*~Foster Parent*

“As a CASA advocate, I accepted a new case. The case involved three children, ages 18, 6 and 4. They had arrived at their foster home on almost no notice so the foster parents were not prepared with the items they would need for three children. Foster Mom told me she had not yet received a stipend or any other type of assistance from DCFS and school was about to start. The children needed school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. I reached out to KIN who told me to stop by in about 48 hours. I did just that and she loaded my car to the brim with everything these three kids would NEED and a lot of what they would LIKE. Of course, it's difficult to buy clothes for an 18-year-old so she gave her gift cards to Target, Ulta (that was a BIG hit!), and some fast food places. The children were very happy with their new items and Foster Mom was thrilled and relieved. She had already raised 5 children of her own who were now adults and now was responsible for three more whom she did not even know. Through her amazing willingness to help this family and the generous donations she received through KIN the kids were now ready for school. That was one less thing Foster Mom and the kids had to worry about as the first day of school approached. What a blessing!”

*~CASA Advocate*

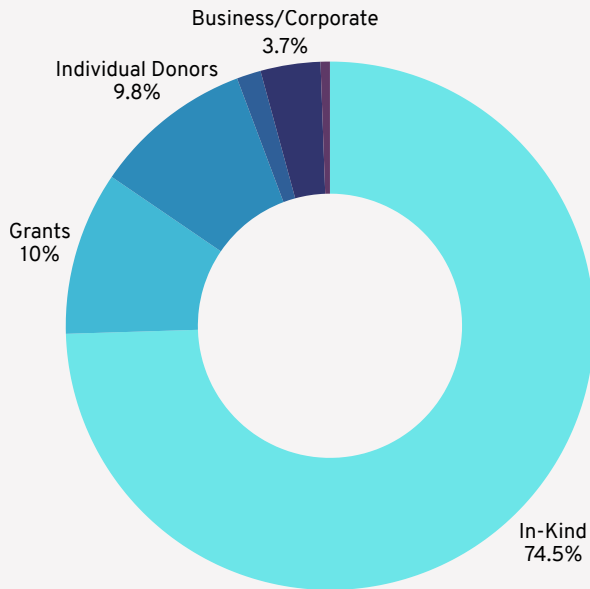
**I want to truly express my thankfulness for all of your donations, hard work and ability to aid so many families!! As a school social worker for over 18 years, I have seen the need for basic items continue to grow higher and higher. Until just a few years ago it was a huge struggle to aid such needs. Then KIN came into fruition and this organization blessed our families and helped our social workers with getting food, clothes, toiletries to our families. This allowed us to have more time to help the children cope with the many emotions related to the issues their families dealt with on a daily basis.**

**I am truly "Thankful" for KIN. I have seen a direct impact on ALL of your hard work. Also, the genuine smile of the many children who have received brand new backpacks, clothing and food. Many of these children have never had**

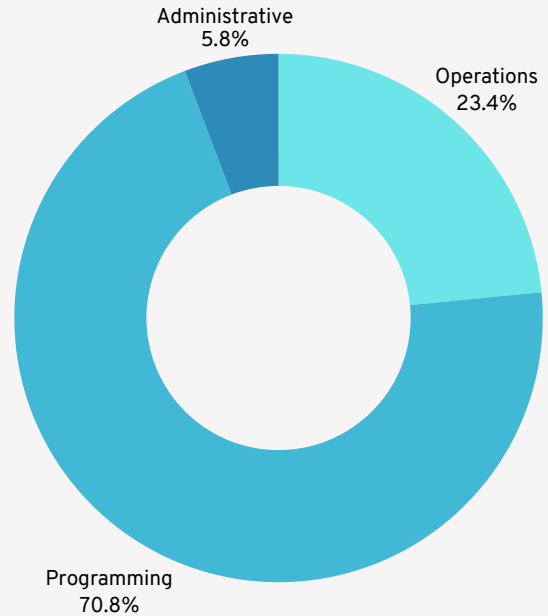
**"brand new" clothing with tags on them before. These children are so appreciative when receiving these items.**

*~School Social Worker, D15*

# FINANCIALS



## REVENUE



## EXPENSES

- Individual Donations - 9.74%
- In-Kind - 74.41%
- Grants - 10.14%
- Events - 1.48%
- Business/Corporate - 3.66%

- Programming - 75.48%
- Operations - 24.52%
- Administrative - 6.16%

## OUR SPONSORS

Allstate | The Bremer Team - Keller Williams Success Realty | Toys 4 Tots | Allied Facility Partners | Bob & Michelle Salzman | Lennar Homes | Porte Brown | Reina Imaging | Weyers McKeever Financial Partners

*Thank you* 

# Our Why...

- ♥ We believe that every child deserves to feel wanted and loved.
- ♥ We believe every caregiver deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.
- ♥ We believe every family deserves support so children can thrive.

## Kids In Need of McHenry County

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Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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(815) 310-5437

[contact@kinmc.org](mailto:contact@kinmc.org)

