

KIDS IN NEED OF MCHENRY COUNTY

YEAR 2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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

KIN VISITATION HOME

55 E CRYSTAL LAKE AVE
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

KEY STAFF

Alicia Wehby
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michele Shepard
OPERATIONS MANAGER

OUR MISSION:

To identify and provide kids in need the important resources necessary for a happy and healthy childhood.

OUR VISION:

Kids In Need serves as a vital resource for schools, families, and organizations seeking support to meet the needs of children.

OUR BOARD:

Dawn Bremer
PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Quijada
VICE PRESIDENT

Stephanie Conley
TREASURER

Troy Hawkes
BOARD MEMBER

Jackie Merritt
BOARD MEMBER

Mike Lehman
BOARD MEMBER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Kids in Need of McHenry County was established in 2017 by foster mothers who sought to address the resource gaps they encountered. KIN remains committed to creating new programs tailored to the evolving needs of families.

Kids In Need of McHenry County operates through two primary programs: Second Bridge and our Visitation Home. Second Bridge offers essential resources to families referred to us. We collaborate with school social workers, case managers, agency staff, and caregivers to assess the needs of children. In 2024, we introduced The Bridge, a free store where families can shop for clothing, shoes, socks, underwear, toiletries, bedding, toys, and much more. Additionally, they can access school supplies, winter apparel, and gifts for birthdays and holidays. For those without transportation, we ensure that requested items are delivered directly to our families.

KIN's Visitation Home is a fully functional home where children in care can visit with their biological families in a safe and friendly environment. Families can enjoy the living areas, eat together, play together, and enjoy being a family while they receive a high level of supportive supervision.

This year, we are thrilled to announce the opening of our free store, The Bridge. Our registered and referred families were invited to shop for essential items at no cost. The store was designed with dignity as a priority, ensuring that all families feel respected and deserving while shopping at The Bridge.

In the past year, KIN made a positive difference for over 4,500 children in our community through our essential programs. Our initiatives provided vital items including clothing, shoes, bedding, personal care products, and toys. We responded to requests from families directly as well as through our partner agencies. Furthermore, we offered high-quality visitation and parent coaching in a warm, home-like environment to facilitate case permanency. We also arranged free playdates for our foster and adoptive families to support both the children and their caregivers. Additionally, we celebrated a holiday party for 150 of our most vulnerable children. The year 2024 was filled with support and growth, and we eagerly anticipate 2025 as we collaborate with other agencies to broaden our impact.

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Alicia Wehby



My dedication to supporting families stems from my journey as a biological, foster, and adoptive parent. Each new placement presents unique challenges, including unfamiliar backgrounds, diverse personalities, fluctuating emotions, and differing objectives. As a foster parent, it can often feel isolating, as if you're stranded on an island. I have consistently aimed to bridge the gaps in services, offering support and resources to families facing similar circumstances to those I have experienced.

When I began fostering 18 years ago, I found myself among those families rushing out late at night to buy a crib, clothes, diapers, and other essential items. I had countless questions about what to anticipate and felt lost navigating the system. I never wanted anyone to feel unsupported during such a pivotal time. As my children have grown, their needs have evolved, trauma has manifested in new ways, and the gaps in available services have become apparent. I continue to collaborate with the KIN team, our community partners, and various child-serving agencies to offer resources for all foster families, as well as all those in need of assistance.

It has truly been a privilege to observe the growth of our organization and team throughout 2024. We are fortunate to have over 40 dedicated volunteers who assist us weekly, with many more stepping in for events and fundraisers as needed. The time and skills contributed by our volunteers, along with the financial support from our donors, enable us to continue assisting the hundreds of families we serve each year. Thank you for your generosity! We are thankful to have you as a valued member of our village.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia Wehby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Alicia Wehby
Executive Director, Kids in Need of McHenry County



4712

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

23%

impact increase from 2023.



OUR PROGRAMMING

SECOND BRIDGE

IMPACT: 2591 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: 431 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: 1690 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 2024, our community partners collaborated with us to deliver gifts to more than 1,000 children.



“This little munchkin came into our lives through foster care in August 2021. 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

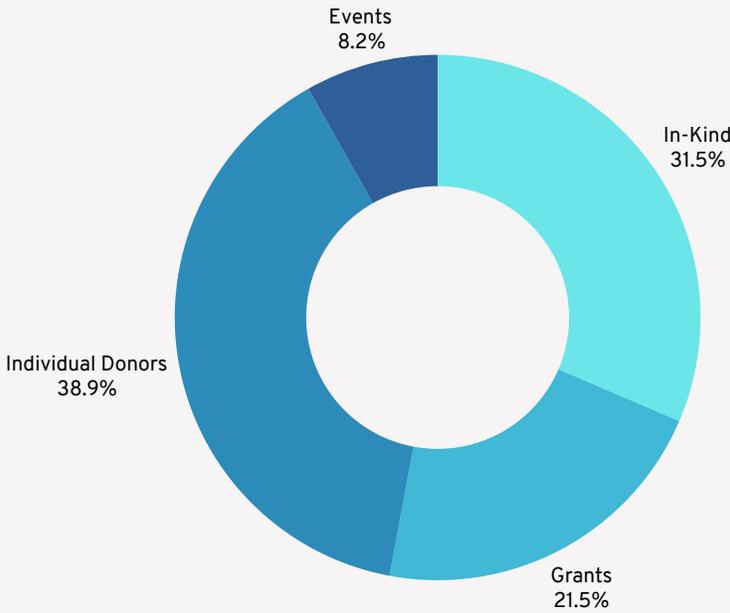
I want to truly express my thankfulness for all of your donations, hard work and ability to aid so many families!! As a school social worker for over 18 years, I have seen the need for basic items continue to grow higher and higher. Until just a few years ago it was a huge struggle to aid such needs. 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

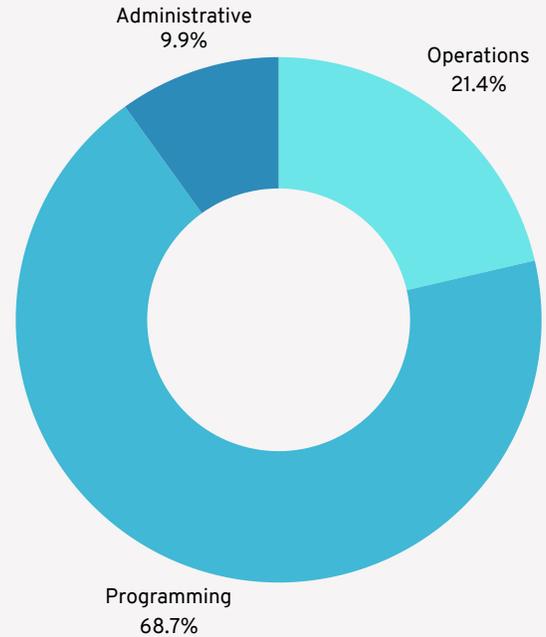
"brand new" clothing with tags on them before. These children are so appreciative when receiving these items.

~School Social Worker, D15

FINANCIALS



REVENUE



EXPENSES

- Individual Donations - 38.9%
- In-Kind - 31.5%
- Grants - 21.5%
- Events - 8.2%

- Programming - 68.7%
- Operations - 21.4%
- Administrative - 9.9%

OUR SPONSORS

Allstate | The Bremer Team - Keller Williams Success Realty | Toys 4 Tots | Allied Facility Partners | Bob & Michelle Salzman | Lennar Homes | Porte Brown | Buss Ford | Reina Imaging | Law Offices of Roger Stelk | Alice Picchi Team - Keller Williams Success Realty | Wakeman Law Group | 20/20 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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