# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT







### **MISSION**

KYFS promotes healthy development of children, youth and families in South King County by providing professional counseling, education and support services.

### **STATEMENT OF VISION**

Helping youth and families achieve their goals for a better future.

### **VALUE STATEMENT**

Equity and cultural inclusion, accountability, partnering, advocacy, and responsive to clients and community.

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# **Behavioral Health**

The KYFS behavioral health program is continuing to provide flexible services for clients by utilizing telehealth and in-person services, as well as continuing our partnership with the Kent School District, allowing clients to overcome transportation and access-to-service barriers by seeing counselors in school during the school day.

1,102
CLIENTS
SERVED

OF PARTICIPANTS
REPORT ACHIEVING
PROGRESS TOWARD
THEIR GOALS

10,534
HOURS OF
SERVICE

99%

OF PARTICIPANTS BELONG TO **LOW** OR **VERY LOW INCOME** HOUSE HOLDS

8 OUT OF 10 FAMILIES SERVED ARE FAMILIES OF COLOR

### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Counseling Services**

The Youth, Family & Co-Occurring Counseling program at KYFS provides counseling services for infants, toddlers, youth up to age 25, and families throughout Kent and surrounding communities. In 2023 we served youth as far north as Kirkland, and as far south as Enumclaw.

Our program is dedicated to those seeking help by creating services that are compassionate, effective, efficient, and culturally informed. We continue to see an increase in level of need from our clients and their families, including level of severity of symptoms and need for additional resources.

The number of clients served continues to increase year after year since the pandemic, which we attribute to the growing need, and a growing team of counselors, as well as our largest team of counseling interns in many years, to help meet that need. Our increase in capacity has allowed us to expand our reach into additional Kent School District schools, as well as continue our work building mental health supports for After School program youth through parent education, staff training, and weekly therapeutic arts sessions, funded through a grant provided by HealthierHere.

### Of all clients survey in 2023, 100% agreed with the statements:

I feel heard, understood, and respected by my counselor

The counselor respects my culture and values

I work on goals and topics that are important to me

### SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER COUNSELING

### **Youth and Family Centered Services**

### **Treatment Philosophy**

Our youth-centered approach to treatment services creates a welcoming and supportive environment for clients and families struggling with substance use. By offering a judgment free treatment experience to clients and families, and a positive approach to recovery, we empower our clients to practice the skills necessary to replace use of substances with healthier coping skills, make thoughtful decisions, and achieve their goals. Substance Use Disorder staff work with clients to improve relationships, improve academic performance, learn important life skills for a successful transition into adulthood, and build a peer-group supportive of abstinence and prosocial behaviors.

The Back on Track program is for those clients who don't have a diagnosis. In these cases, SUD counselors give education instead of treatment. Sessions can include topics such as drug and alcohol education, anger management, communication styles and coping skills.

Similarly to our Mental Health Counseling, we have seen a year of expansion and growth in Substance Use Disorder Services, including beginning to provide services in Renton School District.





OKAY to Feel...
OKAY to Love...
OKAY to Be....
Proud to be Openly OKAY!

**OKAY!** Is an open support group for LGBTQ+ youth ages 13 to 19. Currently, it is the only one like it in the Kent area. The goal of the group is to provide a community space where these young people know **it's OKAY to be themselves**. Groups are facilitated by mental health counselors and meet in person each Wednesday. In 2023 participants were able to attend Queer Prom and the Tacoma Pride Festival together.

They even received the honor of raising the Pride flag at Kent City Hall in June. The primary focus for 2023 was to continue to hold a safe space for participants to connect, feel supported, and express themselves freely through discussion, art, and other activities. The OKAY! group served 15 LGBTQ+ youth throughout 2023.

# **Early Learning**

# IN **2023**, WE SERVED **689 CHILDREN** THROUGHOUT KENT AND COVINGTON

90%

OF STUDENTS ASSESSED MET OR EXCEEDED EPECTATIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN READINESS

EARLY LEARNING SITES,

WITH 22 CLASSROOMS

86%

OF PARTICIPANTS BELONG TO LOW OR VERY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS 590

WERE ENGLISH AS A
SECOND LANGUAGE
HOUSEHOLDS

3 OUT OF 4

FAMILIES SERVED ARE FAMILIES OF COLOR

The Early Learning Program, encompassing Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), provides free preschool education and support services to children, three to five years old, and their families who meet the income eligibility criteria and who live within the Kent School District Boundaries. Services include family support and parent involvement opportunities, child health coordination and nutrition, and responsive services and referrals specific to the child's and family's needs. Participation in Head Start and ECEAP results in children who are healthier when they start kindergarten, more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college, and more likely to be employed and to earn more as an adult.

In 2023, although Covid concerns have lessened in the community, it has continued to have an effect on young children, parents, and the Early Learning program. Upon returning to the classroom, assessments and observations on preschoolers have reflected that many children were demonstrating lower skills overall, especially in the social and emotional domain, with more behavior concerns observed. Despite this, based on student assessment data, the majority of children showed gains in the nine learning domains that indicate school readiness.

# **After School Program**

In 2023 the KYFS after school program continued its commitment to the growth and development of youth with a well-structured schedule, incorporating academic support, physical activity, educational activities, enrichment, life skills sessions, and higher education workshops.

Our program offered a diverse range of activities covering academic support, life skills, socialemotional learning, youth leadership, career exploration, health, and recreation,

In addition to regular programming, we also held specialized workshops that covered essential life skills. These sessions focused on goal setting, time management, self-esteem, identity, stress management, and more. We aim to empower our youth to navigate challenges and build a foundation for personal growth.

This year also included a collaborative project with KYFS' Behavioral Health team, providing:

- 1) expressive arts groups, facilitated by mental health therapists, at all three after school sites,
- 2) parent education workshops focused on whole person health, and
- 3) after school staff mental health training.

With this three-prong approach, we worked to build the mental health skills, tools, and supports of the youth we served.

The KYFS After School program remains dedicated to making a positive and lasting impact on the lives of the youth in our community.

# 529 KIDS SERVED IN 2023

REPORT **DOING BETTER** AT SCHOOL SINCE PARTICIPATING IN THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

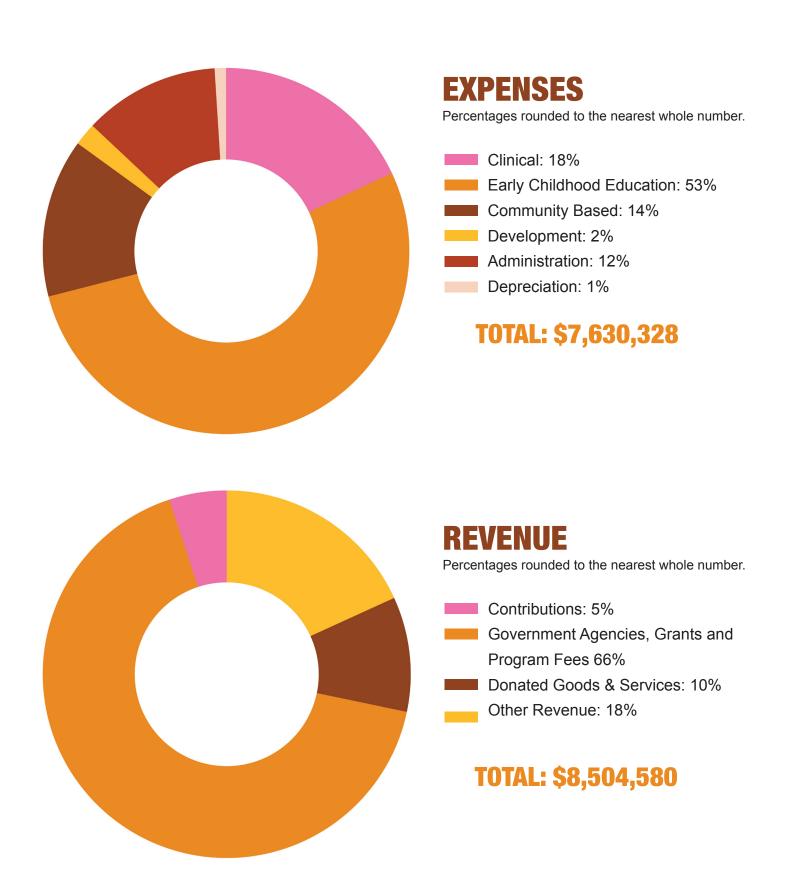
**82**%

REPORT **FEELING HAPPIER** OR **LESS STRESSED** SINCE PARTICIPATING IN THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

REPORT THAT HAVE OR WOULD **ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN** THE PROGRAM

In response to the prompt "at this program I have learned," the majority of respondents touched on themes of **kindness** and **respect**.

## **Financials**



# **Our Team**

SUE CAMOU ARRANT, Interim Executive Director

LILY STELLMON, Director of Operations

STACIA RUSSELL, Director of Finance

CYOON MCBRIDE, After School Director

THERESA LARONDE, Early Learning Director

BRENDA ROGERS, Mental Health Director

### **OUR BOARD**

PRESIDENT: Cynthia Boyd

Marketing Manager, Kent Station

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Brandy Reed** 

Liaison Nurse, Kairser Permanente

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Brian Smith

Athletics & Activities Director, Kent School District

SECRETARY: Vicki Foege

Community Relations Manager, HomeStreet Bank

**TREASURER: Hira Singh Bhullar** 

Manager of Application Development, Starbucks Coffee Company

PAST PRESIDENT: Lesley Hogan

VP of Human Resources, Renton Technical College

47% of current board memberships are persons of color and/or cultural diversity. One member is a high school student; with ten females and five males.

#### AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Hannah Chelimsky

Associate Attorney, Curran Law Firm

Jane Prestbye

Retired, Lead Pastor, Kent Lutheran Church

Rafael Padilla

Chief of Police, City of Kent

Gabby Beecher

Just Poke, Owner

**Michael Mathews** 

Banner Bank - Kent Branch Vice President & Branch Manager

Viriya Reichersamer

VP, Treasury Management Officer, JP Morgan Chase

Claire Eaton

Kent School District Student

# **Supporters**

### **INDIVIDUALS**

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Steven Shiver
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# **THANK YOU**

to those of you that have donated through online fundraisers, The One Thing Experience, and through employee giving. We appreciate your support and we cannot do our work without you!

We apologize if your name is not represented above.





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