



2025 Annual Report

PARTNERS WITH US

"A HUGE thank-you to you, the volunteers, the donors, the churches who open their doors for events, and anyone connected to Kids Belong! We are blessed and grateful!"

- an adoptive mom after a Back To School Event

One of the greatest gifts we can give to foster, adoptive, and kinship homes is a place to belong in community. Community is the leverage that will move an impossible situation and turn it into something that is possible. Community has the power to turn surviving into thriving.

Community takes lots of partners and lots of support. It is partners that make this kind of community possible.



A Few 2025 Highlights

We added a FOURTH location for Back to School in 2025! This year we served families in Grand Haven, Muskegon, Silver Lake, AND Fremont! Kids Belong continues to expand to reach families in new areas.

Through our 4 Back to School events we served 225 families, giving away over 700 backpacks filled with School Supplies! This would not be possible without the churches who host these events and businesses that sponsor, and the churches and businesses who host donation drives for backpacks and school supplies!



2025 was another record breaking year for us in terms of events. More events hosted, more partners worked with, higher overall attendance and higher average attendance. We are so grateful to connect with so many amazing families.

We hosted a total of 83 events in 2025, that's about a 33% increase over last year.

Altogether through our programming, **we served 327 foster, adopt, and kinship families!**

In total, we supported 1725 individual moms, dads, and kids who are impacted by foster care.

Mom's Nights and Dad's Nights continue to foster meaningful connections! In 2025 we've tried some new things and expanded moms and dads nights to new areas. We continue to find strong connections and support through these important spaces. Here we even see the dads get together for a rare group photo!



In Their Words...

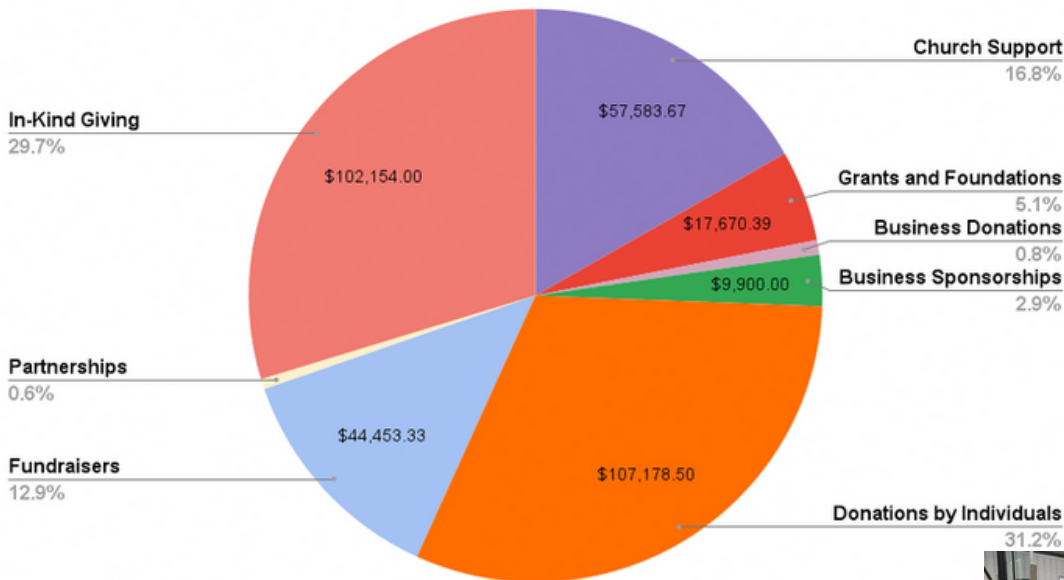
From a foster parent...

Thank you for continuing to bless our families. Not only did you provide stockings for the 5 boys in my home, but I was able to send gifts with our (foster) girl when she left. And to top that off, we took a new (foster) placement on 12/15. On 12/21, realizing he would still be with us for Christmas, I reached out to (Kids Belong) and asked if there was any way... And by Tuesday, (there was) a stocking at the house for him

2025 Financial Report



2025 Giving \$343,707.45 (including in-kind but not First Place)



We were very blessed by some large projects and fund raisers hosted on our behalf in 2025 that made a big impact in our ability to fund our expanding programs and purchase much needed equipment! (pictured below)

Giving this year was strong enough to support the expanding programs we have been able to offer. And it will also be supporting **expansion** of another kind in 2026.

We hear all the time from families who are far from our services and who are lacking the kinds of supports that Kids Belong offers. We have big plans for significantly expanding the areas we support in Michigan. *By this time next year, we hope to report about new support in new regions of Michigan...*



In Their Words...

From an adoptive mom...

"We are so thankful for Kids Belong! Our kids (and us) love going to the monthly get togethers. They know they are free to be themselves. They get to hang out with kids who are just like them and have such a blast doing it. The Back To School Event and the Christmas parties are a highlight for them!

It is also great for us parents too! We get to be with parents just like us, living the same life...or at least similar. People who get it. Who understand. Who don't judge.

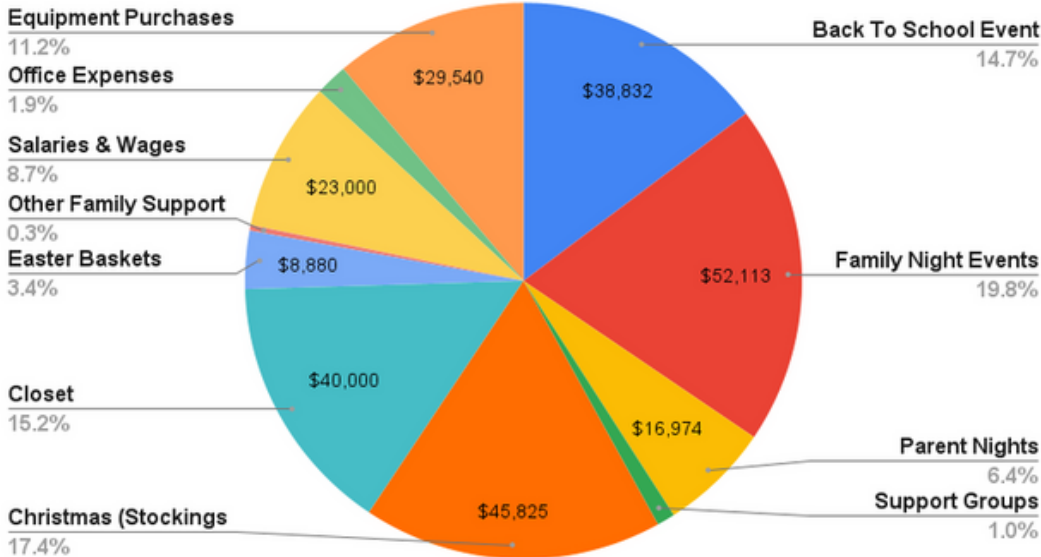
We are so blessed as a family! To all the volunteers, people who donate, people who spend time getting to know our families...thank you!!! It takes a village to raise kids. And it takes a really big village to raise our foster/adopted kiddos!"



2025 Financial Report



2025 Spending \$263,667 (including in-kind)



Our events have continued to grow in number and in size as we connect with more and more families who are trying to make it without adequate support. The amazing support of our partners, sponsors, and donors have filled in the gaps where it was most needed!

In Their Words...

From some Kinship parents...

"We are so very grateful for finding this group/organization a few months ago! We had no idea this existed and we were struggling to know what's what. But now we have an awesome clothing closet to keep our kiddos dressed, amazing social events for all of us, and awesome holiday treats and treasures. When we are done and through this phase of our lives, we look forward to supporting our community through this organization.

Thanks for finding us, reaching out, being available to answer our questions, and providing so much fun and support!"

"We adopted two siblings which were (relatives)... We are older and all of my friends don't have young kids, only grandkids their age. So I appreciate everything that Kids Belong does for us families and most importantly, the kids. Thank you and God Bless you and everyone that puts their own time in to this, and thank you to the sponsors"

2025 Business Sponsors and Partners



Natashka W. Fris



Schultz Land & Water Consulting

E&A Grocery

Best Financial Credit Union

Langlois Home Furnishings

Thank you for being partners with us in 2025!

2025 First Place Update

ONE MILLION REASONS TO BE GRATEFUL



When we started First Place housing for aged-out foster youth, we were looking at a wooded lot that was in the perfect location to build housing for this purpose. It is close to town, close to services and education, and close to transportation. We would always talk about the apartments we would build and how the program would work and what we would accomplish. Then we would usually end that discussion by saying that in order to make it happen, *"All we need is a million dollars."*

\$1,000,000 was a quick figure, a round number that we could throw out to describe the scale of the project. A few short years ago it was an idea with \$0 behind it, so it was more than we could imagine at the time – until a few weeks ago, that is.

At the close of 2025, total fundraising for First Place reached just over \$1,000,000!

Today we have 8 apartments and residents who have lived with us for a year or more. We have young people working, earning money, and paying their bills for the first time ever. We have young people learning to budget, to plan ahead, and who are taking steps toward a more stable future for themselves. And it is all thanks to donors and volunteers who are making it happen.

As it turns out... it is going to take more than a million dollars to finish it.

We have 8 apartments right now, but we have room for 14. We also need a house to serve as the office and meeting space, also counseling space and support for our residents and foster care in Muskegon.

As of January 2026

First Place total giving = \$1,008,009

First Place total expenses = \$697,254

This means we have cash in hand to complete the phase 2 clearing and site work and build at least one more duplex. It also means we are in the home stretch for First Place fundraising.

The rendering above shows the full site plan. We are working through the approvals process. We will keep going and keep supporting more young people through First Place. Now when we talk about it we will say...

"All we need is another \$500,000"

You can help complete First Place and serve more youth! Find out how to give at kidsbelong.org/firstplace

The Kids Belong Board is:

Sandy Allen
Brad Hilleary

Janice Hilleary - Secretary
Judge Jenny McNeill

Jeff Steele - President
Katie Steele

Amber Yaussy - Treasurer