

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD





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# A Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past year at Firefly Children and Family Alliance, I am filled with gratitude and hope. Our theme, Lighting the Way Forward, beautifully captures the essence of our work – illuminating paths towards safety, healing, and opportunity for children and families across Indiana. In 2024, we impacted more of our community than we ever have before, growing our existing teams and beginning services at our newest location in Fort Wayne.

In a world often shadowed by uncertainty and adversity, our work remains rooted in hope and resilience. Whether it's guiding a young person toward a safer future, providing a family with the resources they need to stay together, or walking beside someone on their journey to healing from trauma, we are unwavering in our mission to strengthen families and build stronger communities.

The power of light is most evident in darkness. In a year marked by heightened need, political division and ongoing system changes, your partnership helped us extend our reach – illuminating hope where it was needed the most. Together we impacted more than 50,000 families and nearly 90,000 children. You helped us empower parents and equip caregivers with tools for lasting change, support survivors as they reclaimed their lives while recovering from trauma, and continue building healthy communities of thriving people.

Fireflies may seem small, but when they come together, they can light up darkness. The lights are their way of saying “I’m still here.” In that same spirit, our community, which includes each of you, has come together in powerful ways to ensure no child or family feels alone in their struggle.

As you read the stories and milestones in this report, I hope you are reminded of the light you help shine every day. Thank you for walking beside us, believing in our mission and lighting the way toward a brighter future for all.

Fondly,

*Tina M. Cloer*

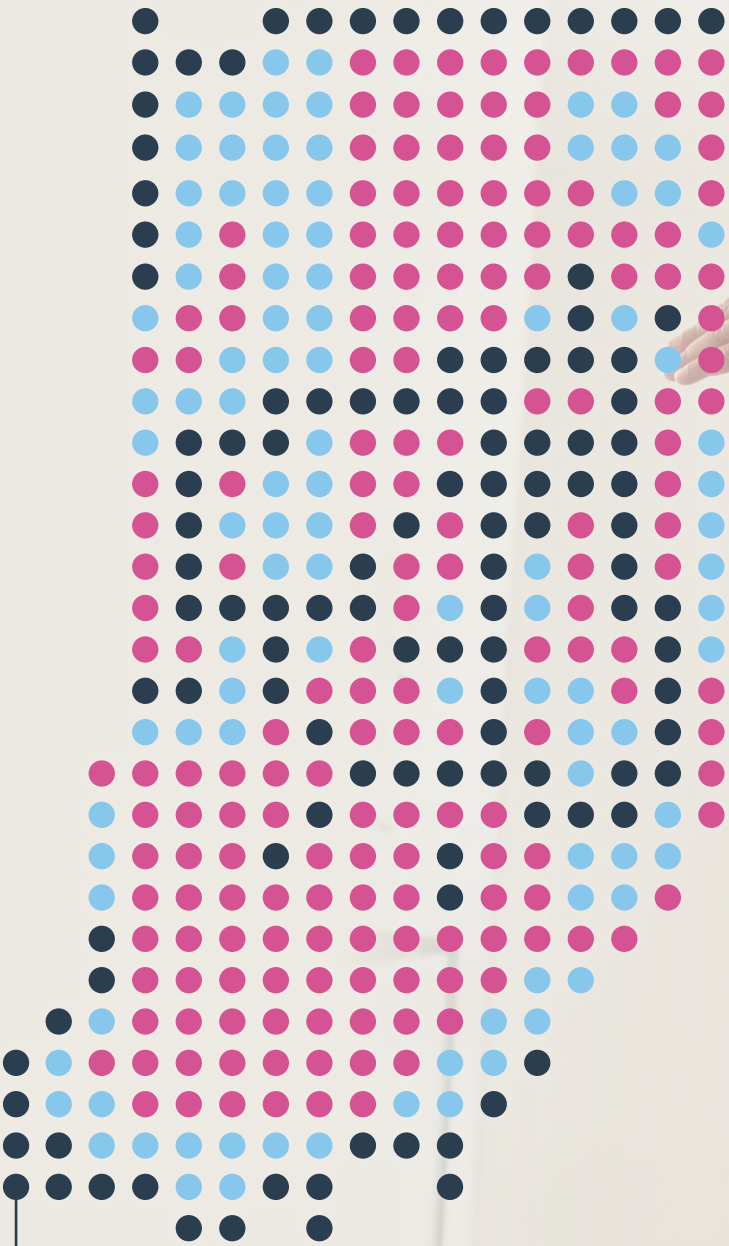
Tina



TINA CLOER  
PRESIDENT & CEO



# Proudly offering services across the entire state.



Every dot represents 500 children, families, and individuals we had the privilege to lead out of the darkness in 2024.

57,169

● Adults

50,376

● Families

89,478

● Children

REVENUE	Government Contracts, Grants & Service Fees	89.12%	\$ 42,752,663
	Non-government Grants	5.49%	\$ 2,635,057
	Contributions & Special Events	2.35%	\$ 1,126,615
	Other Income (includes investments)	1.41%	\$ 675,855
	United Way	0.99%	\$ 476,538
	In-Kind Donations	0.64%	\$ 306,740

TOTAL REVENUE: \$47,973,468

EXPENSES	Programs & Services	80.42%	\$ 36,651,262
	Management & General	15.43%	\$ 7,031,000
	Development/Fundraising	3.48%	\$ 1,585,757
	In-kind Donations	0.67%	\$ 306,740

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$45,574,759

Net Surplus / (Loss) \$2,398,709

## Client Assistance Fund

Each year, Firefly distributes **hundreds of thousands** of dollars in emergency aid to children, families, and individuals for a variety of needs. In doing so, we help fill the gaps that often exist as families navigate services on their way to stability. Individual donations **directly impact** communities around the state, lifting up those who need our help the most.



EDUCATION  
OPPORTUNITIES



BUS PASSES



CHILD SAFETY  
SUPPLIES



CLOTHING



HOME REPAIRS



LEGAL AID  
FEES



TEMPORARY  
SAFE HOUSING



UTILITY BILL  
PAYMENTS



HOLIDAY GIFTS  
FOR KIDS



Programs and Services

# Strengthening Families

IN 2024, THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS SERVED:

- Adoption Services

  - 886 children
  - 540 families
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)

  - 54,412 children
  - 33,214 families
- Community Partners for Child Safety (CPCS)

  - 30,606 children
  - 14,680 families
- Home-based Services

  - 2,414 children
  - 1,429 families
- Family Resource Centers

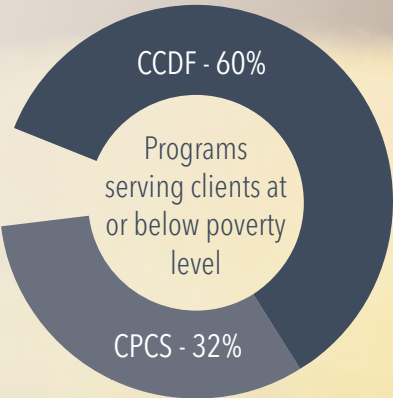
  - 1,505 individuals

**88,318** Children   **54,863** Families   **1,505** Guardians

Serving the most vulnerable members of our community.

96% of our adult clients are currently experiencing poverty, making it difficult if not impossible to afford child care.

Of those families, more than 90% come to us through one of two programs: CCDF and CPCS. The primary goal of each is to keep children safe, support families in building healthier habits, and, ultimately, reach a point where they no longer need our services.



**33,214**

**Low-income families received access to child care.**

CCDF

**886**

**Children were helped on their journey to their forever home.**

Adoption Services

**30,606**

**Children benefited from free community resources.**

CPCS



# Empowering Youth and Young Adults

**573**  
Youth aging out of foster care who didn't enter adulthood alone.

Older Youth Services

## IN 2024, THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS SERVED:

Foster Care Services	Older Youth Services (OYS)	Children's Shelter
→ 89 children	→ 573 children	→ 205 children
→ 103 families		→ 107 families

**867** Children **216** Families

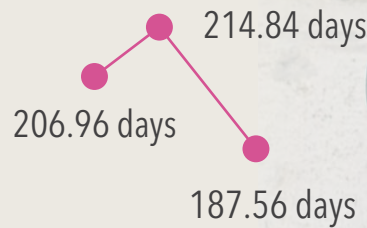
**188**  
Days spent on average in a foster care placement until reunification or adoption.

Foster Care Services

## Getting kids to a permanent, safe home quicker.

By facilitating strategies like co-care and kinship placement, case managers can help birth families stay connected with their children during a foster care stay, reducing trauma and aiding in a quicker reunification timeline.

Average Foster Care Placement Length of Stay 2022-2024







## Programs and Services

# Promoting Well-being

### IN 2024, WE SERVED:

Survivor Advocacy → 913 individuals	Survivor Counseling → 325 individuals	Batterers Intervention Program → 460 individuals
Mental Health Counseling → 262 individuals	Substance Use Recovery → 371 individuals	

**2,347** Individuals

**913** ————— ●

**Survivors were supported by advocates to help navigate their way to safety.**

Survivor Services

Helping adults find their way through their darkest moments.

**92.5%**

Of individuals in substance use treatment used their prevention plan to avoid relapse.

**96.5%**

Of batterers intervention program participants reported an increase in knowledge of healthy relationships.

**100%**

Of survivors are likely to stay or become safe as a result of the services they received.

● ————— **371**  
**Individuals are on the road to recovery from substance use.**

Substance Use Recovery



# A Mother's Journey Out of Darkness

## Amanda's story.

In 2020, after temporarily transferring custody of her youngest daughter to a relative, Amanda began taking steps to find safety by formally separating from her abusive spouse and living with one of her parents.

"I never felt safe," Amanda said about the years of domestic violence she endured. She no longer knew what a safe space felt like, no matter where she was or who she was with.

While she embarked on the journey of finding safety for the first time in years, her youngest child was away from her for what would be "330 days and almost 4 hours. But who's counting."

In 2021, she walked up to the front doors of Firefly, riddled with anxiety. She circled the parking lot several times. She sat in her car for 30 minutes trying to build the courage to walk in.

When she did, she was greeted by the building's receptionist, Ms. Karen, not just with a hello, but with a hug.

"That hug... it changed everything. I felt seen. I felt like maybe I belonged here."

While Amanda continued her healing, her child's father was mandated to attend Firefly's Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP), which is designed to help individuals address the root cause of domestic violence and recognize the effects of their behavior.

In the program, perpetrators of domestic violence learn to be accountable for their actions and identify triggers, handle strong emotions, and develop strategies to avoid violence.

As part of his graduation from BIP, he was required to write a letter to Amanda, apologizing for the violence he had inflicted. He chose to share the letter with her, hoping to show the steps he had taken to become a better man.

Amanda, on her own time and on her own terms, chose to read the letter. Today, he maintains a healthy co-parenting relationship with Amanda and his youngest child.

Violence within the family tends to create a distance between family members, no matter who bears the brunt of it. Everyone is affected in some way over the course of time.

By moving her youngest daughter out of state, Amanda tried to keep her from witnessing the ongoing cycle of violence she was experiencing.

"When I first got her back, she remembered. She remembered things that happened when she was 13 months old," Amanda said. "I know she was 13 months old when this incident happened, and she described it to me, and it just, it breaks my heart."

She is beginning to watch those memories gradually fade from her youngest child now that they are happily in a new home together. They're starting to make joyful new memories again, feeling safe and supported, and continuing to heal in both group and individual therapy.

"There's not a step I've taken that she's not taken with me," Amanda said of the strong relationship she shares with her Firefly advocate, Kayla.

Looking back, Amanda can see how dark her situation had become, which makes her family's light shine even brighter now.

"Had it not been for Firefly, for Kayla, and for the warm welcome from the front desk when I walked in – I don't know where we would be, or if we would be at all. And that's scary to say, but that is the reality of it."

# Coming Together in Kinship Care

## James and Shalonda's story.

"More than three years before Zion Christopher was born, I had a recurring dream that someone would entrust us with their baby boy," said Shalonda, an adoptive parent with Firefly.

Shalonda and James have been married for 25 years and have parented 6 children together. Four of those children being biological, and their two youngest joining the family through kinship care.

Kinship care involves placing a child with a relative—such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other family member—when the child's birth parents are unable to provide proper care.

As they celebrate their milestone anniversary this year, the couple reflects on the past five years and the journey they have taken to formally adopt their children, Zion Christopher and Desirae.

When they first received a call from the Department of Child Services (DCS), they quickly agreed to ensure the siblings would remain together. For Shalonda, it felt like a step toward fulfilling her

earlier dreams, despite understanding their various challenges ahead.

"Navigating kinship care, adoption, and foster care is certainly not for the faint of heart," she said.

Despite these difficulties, the family recognizes that their children might have faced a much different and more uncertain future without external intervention, as many family members were frequently involved in the prison system and struggled with substance abuse. They felt the importance of breaking that cycle in their family.

The process required consistent effort and perseverance, but Shalonda and James noted that their older children had shown maturity and a sense of responsibility, offering support and encouragement throughout the journey.

"You know, when we were thinking about throwing in the towel, the kids,

our older kids really stepped up, because they just grew attached to them as well," she said.

Their biological children have already developed strong bonds with their kinship siblings and adapted well to the new family dynamics.

"The resilience of our family comes from holding on together—faith, community support, and a dedicated team made this kinship placement possible," Shalonda emphasized.

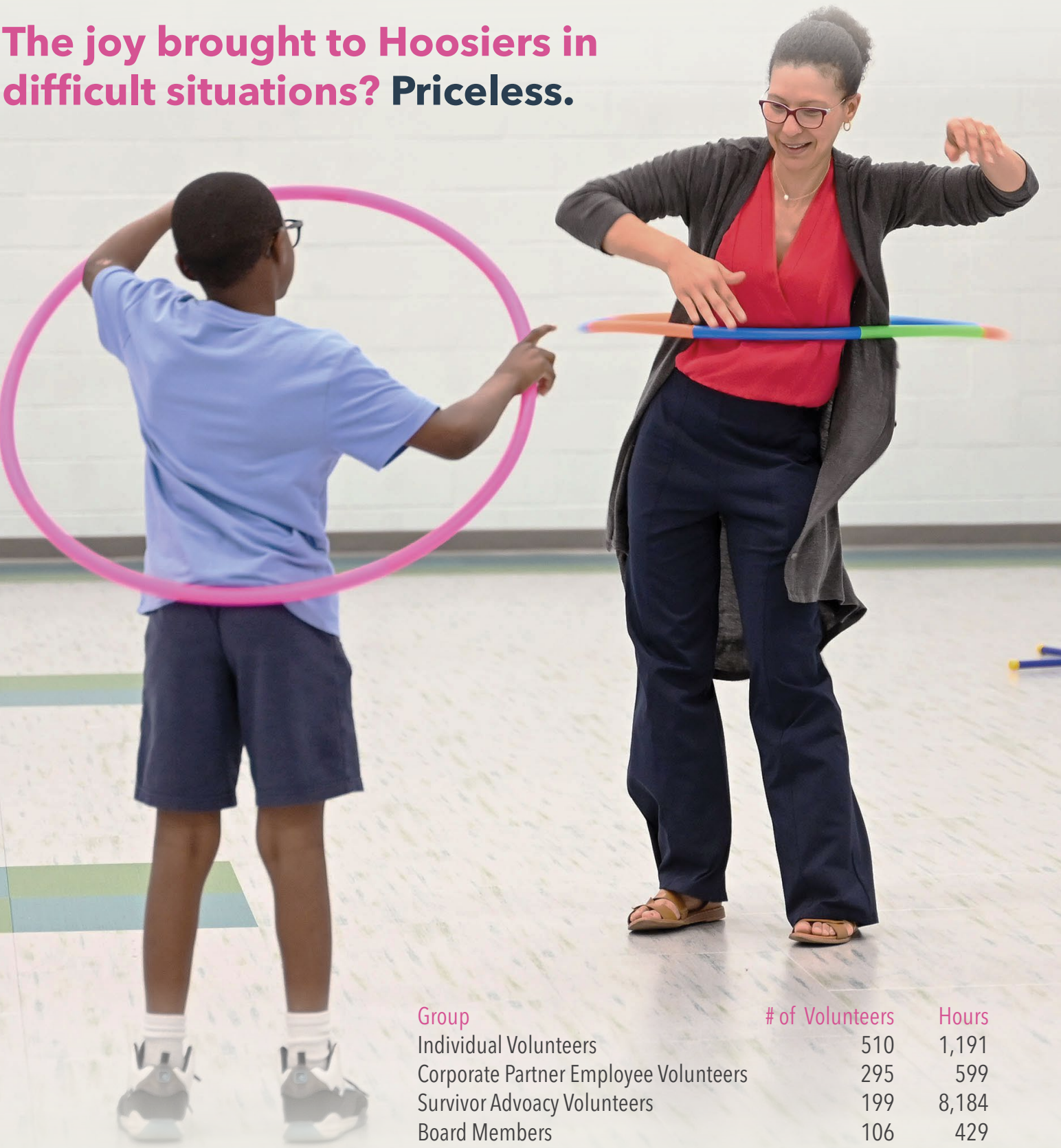
In their downtime, this family likes to spend time relaxing and watching movies and then discussing them together. These simple moments help everyone feel closer. They visit The Children's Museum and go bowling, spend time with family and go to church together, savoring all of the quality time they can get.





Individual volunteers: **707**    Total hours spent volunteering: **10,527.5**  
Total value of labor that volunteers provided: **\$349,116.29**

The joy brought to Hoosiers in difficult situations? Priceless.



Group	# of Volunteers	Hours
Individual Volunteers	510	1,191
Corporate Partner Employee Volunteers	295	599
Survivor Advoacy Volunteers	199	8,184
Board Members	106	429
Young Professionals Advisory Board	41	138

Special Events

- Trivia Night
- Leadership Retreat
- Golf 'Fore' Kids
- Cornhole Tournament
- Staff Retreat
- The Family Table
- Sweets with Santa
- Hope for the Holidays

A bright future of gatherings

In 2024, we had our inaugural seating of The Family Table, a special event that brings together Firefly supporters for a one-of-a-kind family-style dinner. Each year, the event is hosted by a new chef at a new location, representing a fresh take on food, family, and friends.





Donors

We are grateful for the many donors who supported our msson in 2024. Listed on pages 16-17 are the individuals, corporations, and foundations who made financial gifts of \$250 or more between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. Thank you.

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**\$10,000+** Michael & Amy Alley | The Douglas W. & Deborah W. Balogh Charitable Fund | Andrew & Jennifer Clouse | Michele & Steven Kawiecki | Matt & Candace Nelson | Smarrelli Family Giving Foundation | The Stitz Family Foundation | William & Roberta Witchger

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**The Roberta West Nicholson Society** recognizes those individuals who have included Firefly Children and Family Alliance in their estate plans. Roberta West Nicholson was the President of the Board in the 1940s and remained active with the agency throughout her lifetime. Mrs. Nicholson was the only woman to serve in the 1935 State Legislature and was a tireless advocate for children. Members of the Society are listed below.

Mary and David Allen  
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For more information on joining the Roberta West Nicholson Society, please contact Tim Ardillo, Chief Development Officer at 317.264.2700 or tardillo@fireflylin.org.

Firefly goes to great lengths to verify this information for accuracy and completeness. While great care is given to compiling these lists of donors, the possibility of error and unintentional omissions always exists. We kindly request you notify us with any corrections. Please contact Tim Ardillo, Chief Development Officer, at 317-254-2700 with any questions, concerns, or corrections, or for more information on joining the Roberts West Nicholson Society. Thank you.



# Support and Leadership

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