



2015

ANNUAL REPORT

“The habit of giving
only enhances the
desire to give.”

- Walt Whitman

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2015

July 2014 — June 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Tim Nelson, *RN*
President

Marc Lamontagne
Vice-President

David Reid
Treasurer

Stella Smith
Secretary

Thomas P. Connolly, Jr.
Julie Spenlinhauer
Sally Williams

Staff

Genevieve Gardner, *LCSW*
Executive Director

Nancy Harrison
Prevention Educator

Part-time Staff

Kelli Wedgewood, *LMSW-C*
Program Coordinator

Sheri Morrison
Accountant

Kathy Angel Lee
Grant Writer

WELCOME

Kids Free to Grow is a small non-profit with a big mission: to prevent Child Abuse and neglect by empowering children and families in York County.

When looking back on the 2014-2015 school year, Kids Free to Grow confirmed themselves yet again. They educated over 1600 students in local public schools in 22 towns across York County. Over 794 fifth and sixth graders were educated in “Break the Silence” and over 285 high school students participated in “Baby Think It Over.” 470 students completed “Personal Body Safety and Empathy” training and 58 parents learned about better parenting skills through evidenced-based parenting classes and they were able to share their experiences with other parents in their communities. Kids Free to Grow participated in United Way Rallies, Hall of Flags at the State Capital, Period of Purple Crying Campaign and held a Summer Institute for professionals with an ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) summit.

As we know, true commitment to generosity is refreshing. For this reason alone, your financial investment is inspiring and worthwhile. Kids Free to Grow had another successful year of fundraising with the 21st Bid Against Child Abuse Auction, Golf Event at the Webhannet Golf Club in Kennebunk and received donations through the annual giving campaign. They work hard with grant funders and our efforts continue to pay off. I would like to personally thank those local businesses who have gone above and beyond to support us this past year:

Biz Compass	P & C Insurance Company
Connections For Kids	Saco Biddeford Savings Institute
The Children’s Trust	Saco Valley Credit Union
Kennebunk Savings Bank	United Way

Sharon Salzberg reminds us all that “kindness is the practice of generosity.” We know how to make a difference in a child’s life - through our committed supports, quality programming and a mission that is worth supporting. Kids in York County suffer from abuse and neglect every day and as a RN in a local Emergency Room, I see first handed the effects on peoples’ lives. For this year – 2016, I encourage you to take a step back, reflect on what it means to be truly generous and think about supporting our mission. On behalf of our Board of Directors, we thank everyone who has provided Kids Free to Grow with the necessary funds to succeed with their important mission.

Regards,
Tim Nelson, *RN*
President, Board of Directors

OUR HISTORY

Kids Free to Grow (The York County Child Abuse Prevention Council) was established in 1978 by Marilyn Anderson, a child protective supervisor for York County at the Department of Health and Human Services. She began by going to speak at the Congregational Church in Saco, Maine. After a heartfelt speech, a group of professionals emerged that shared a similar commitment to children's safety in York County. It was then that the Child Abuse Prevention Council was established.

From 1980- 2001 the Council became incorporated and Marilyn Staples was hired as the Director. From 2001-2006 Kate Stern became Executive Director and moved the agency from the basement of a dentist office in Biddeford to its well established Kennebunk, Maine location. The Board of Directors changed from 24 members and over 80 volunteers who served on a several standing committees to a more sophisticated model of board government positions. From 2006-2008 Susan Lamb was hired and became the Executive Director where she developed Friends of Children, and other important funding resources.

Over the years, many people have worked hard to spread the mission of the council and in 2000 the name changed from York County Child Abuse Council to Kids Free to Grow. Then in 2008, Laurie DuPaul became the Executive Director until the summer 2012. Without an Executive Director for most of 2012, the committed Board of Directors stepped in to run the agency.

In 2013 Kids Free to Grow Board of Director created an innovative affiliation with Connections for Kids, a fully licensed mental health agency in South Portland, Maine and Genevieve Gardner, LCSW was named the Executive Director of both agencies. She had been Connections for Kids Executive Director for many years and was well diverse in running non-profits. This unique affiliation presented with opportunity to combine resources and create a network of strong non-profits. To this day, Kids Free to Grow, located at 62 Portland Road, Suite 15, Kennebunk, Maine continues to serve the children and families of York County with child abuse prevention education and resources.

Mission: To prevent child abuse and neglect by empowering children and families of York County.

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“Money is like manure; it’s not worth a thing unless its spread around encouraging young things to *grow*. ”

- Thornton Wilder

OUR PROGRAMS

Kids Free to Grow conducts educational programs in schools throughout York County. In the 2014-2015 school year our programs reached over 1,600 children, families and professionals working with children.

PINWHEEL GARDENS

PinWheel Gardens is a national initiative to raise awareness that children experience abuse in every community. April is National Child Abuse Awareness month and we encourage you to plant a pinwheel garden—learn how on our website.

PROJECT PREVENTION: NO MORE SECRETS PLAY

A sensitive one-act play for elementary-school children addressing the difficult subject of child abuse through a blend of music, humor and acting.

BREAK THE SILENCE

Kids speak out about abuse by telling their own stories in a video to empower students to get help for themselves or a friend in need. Program format includes engaging discussions and activities for kids in grades 5 and 6.

PROJECT EMPATHY AND NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

Puppets in a “Playground Pals” video will model empathy in four skits highlighting respectful behaviors, bullying prevention, and increasing accountability in personal and social interactions, includes review of personal safety rules. Students in grades K - 4 take part in role play and discussion.

BABY THINK IT OVER

Baby Think it Over uses computer simulator “babies” to teach parenting and child abuse prevention skills to students in grades 7-12. Adolescents learn about why nurturing and empathy are important skills, and the importance of never shaking a baby.

PARENTING PROGRAMS

Kids Free to Grow offers parenting programs in the community. We generally offer 2 - 4 classes in the Fall and again in the late winter/early spring months. The parenting programs utilize the Active Parenting Now curriculum and Nurturing Parent Program which promotes healthy communication, the establishment of empathy in the parent and non-violent ways of discipline.

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Kids Free to Grow Summer Institute is an intensive training that covers the topic of child abuse from a professional’s perspective.

MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING

Training for a variety of groups who work with children, educating mandated reporters about the laws regarding reporting, how to report and why it is important to do so.

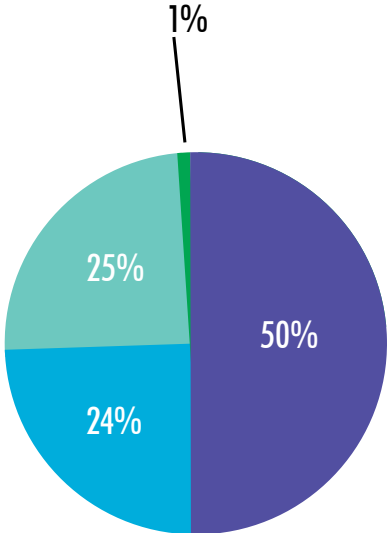
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Grants to support our programs are becoming even more difficult to secure and United Way dollars are spread more thinly throughout the community. Ten years ago, private donations made up only 10% of the council's revenue; this year, private donations accounted for 27% of revenue.

We are working hard to continue to maximize the impact of each dollar by decreasing overhead costs and increasing the percentage of each dollar that goes to program. Operating expenses were \$114,084 for 2014-2015.

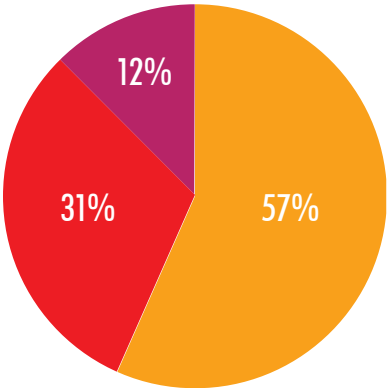
REVENUE

● Donations Fund Raising	\$62,115
● Direct and Indirect Public Support	\$29,839
● Grants	\$30,039
● Other Income	\$1,391
Total	\$123,384



EXPENSES

● Program Services	\$64,603
● Fund Raising	\$35,283
● Management and General	\$14,198
Total	\$114,084



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN CIRCLE

Individuals who have committed \$1,000 or more for child abuse prevention.

Ralph & Suzanne Austin
Andrew & Elizabeth Mantis

OUR DONORS

\$500 +

Ralph & Suzanne Austin
Biddeford Savings Bank
BizCompass
Guy Campbell
Connections for Kids
Customers of Cummings Market
Linda Hodgdon
Ice Time Charitable Endowment
Kennebunk Savings Bank
Marc Lamontagne
Andrew & Elizabeth Mantis
Saco & Biddeford Savings
Saco & Biddeford Savings Charitable Foundation
Saco Valley Credit Union
Thomas & Lord
Wells High School Activities Account
Sandra Welzel
Williams-Greco, P.A.
York County Federal Credit Union

\$100 - \$499

Amy Brooks
John & Kelley Burghardt
Colby Jack Cain
Tom & Donna Connolly
Customers of George's Sub Shop
Haley's Metal Shop
Paul Hogan & GERALYN FITZGERALD
Kany Community Service Award/
Marc Lamontagne
Ken Labrecque
Kathleen Lee
Libby O'Brien Kingsley, LLC
John & Debora Mayer
Ronald Mullenaux
Tim & Susan Nelson
NVEST Financial Group
Dr. & Mrs. Costa Papastephanou
Paquin & Carroll Insurance
Michael Petit
David Rankin
Douglas & Pamela Saurman

\$50 - \$99

L. Dianne Barbour
Tracey Bell
Josh Fearon
Bill & Monica Grabin
John & Louise Grzybowski
Hannaford Community Cash
Lucky & Toby Hollander
Brian & Yvonne Jumper
William & Holly Kany
Kirk Kimball
Megan McMahon
Jordan Petrin
Cheryl Sargent
Stanley Smith
Bill Soucy
Alalia Thaler
Richard & Janet Tockman

\$1 - \$49

Eva Barnfather & Martha Larkin
Cafe Press
Customers of Yummies Candies & Nuts
Judith Fletcher
Cecile & Hobart Harnden
Carolyn Lamontagne
Bernadette Marcotte
David & Pamela Nelson
Filamina Peck
Phyllis Pecorella
Debra & George Pettengill
Sarah-Jane Poli
Poofberrys
Lisa Randall
William & Nancy Sanborn
Kenneth Scott
Sylvia & Bill Searle
Nancy Spooner
Denise Whitehead

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

The prevention of child abuse requires everyone's involvement. Our efforts would be impossible without the generosity of so many individuals, businesses, services organizations, schools, churches, and municipal groups. We take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge those people who have joined with us as a Partner in Prevention through their contributions both financial and in-kind.

Allagash Brewing Company

Amtrak

Applebee's Restaurant

Ralph Austin

Barnacle Billy's

Brian Bedard

Beech Ridge Motor Speedway

Biddeford City Theater

Big Daddy's

Bintliff's Restaurant

Bunganut Lake Camping

Cape Neddick Country Club

Casco Bay Lines

Sam Casey

Cathy's Lobster Bake

Sheila Clark-Edmands

Clip & Snip

Color Me Happy

Compliments Gallery

Connections for Kids

Tony Correale

Cranmore Mountain

Custom Built

Daytrip Society

Federal Jack's Brew Pub

Fern Leaf Bakery

Fleurant

Funtown/Splashtown

Genevieve Gardner

Deandra Gordon

Great Lost Bear

Hackmatack Playhouse

Haskell Photography

Hearth and Soul

Julee Holcombe & Jamie Carver

Hurlbutt Design

Huston & Company

It's a Dog's World

Jim Godbout Plumbing & Heating

Jimmy the Greeks

Jonathan's Restaurant

Joseph's by the Sea

Kennebunk Resort Company

Kennebunk Toy company

Marc Lamontagne

Callie Lavoie

Kathy Lee

Lowery's

Maine Squeeze

Mark Jones Photography

Megan McMahon

Malcolm Merrill

Sheri Morrison

Muse Paint Bar

Muse Yoga Studio

Tim Nelson

Nestle Waters North America

Nicely and Company

The Nonantum Resort

Ogunquit Lobster Pound

Ogunquit Playhouse

On the Marsh

P&C Insurance

Paul Parent

Chris Patterson

Pearl Pettey

Pie in the Sky

Pine Point Productions

Pineapple Ketch

Portland Dine Around Club

Portland Paddle

Portland Sea Dogs

Portland Stage Company

R&W Engraving

Ray's Truck Service

Peter Rice

Run of the Mill

Saco Valley Credit Union

Annie Schlesinger

David & Carrie Shaw

Dennis Shores

Stella Smith

Smittens

Striper's

Studio 90 on Fleet

Paul Sullivan

Symquest

The Holy Donut

Thom's Twin City Florist

Tibbetts Family Farm

Vacationland Bowling

Vic's Appliance

Village by the Sea

Water Country

Wehannett Golf Club

WMTW/News Channel 8

Xuron Company

York County Federal Credit Union

York's Wild Kingdom

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SUPPORT FROM MUNICIPALITIES

Acton
Alfred
Arundel
Buxton
Eliot
Kennebunk
Kennebunkport
Kittery
Limerick
Limington
Lyman
North Berwick
Sanford
Shapleigh
South Berwick
Wells
York

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Diana Abbott
Michelle Allen
Ralph Austin
Diane Barbour
Birdhouse Sanctuary
Blackrock Farm
Alanna Borst
Helen Boyd
Margaret & Peter Brewitt
Virginia Calvo
Jamie Carver
Tom Connolly
Lynn Cox
Kim Crook
Kaley Daley
Brett Davies
Joanne Dewitt
Gregon Doxsee
John Fulp
Jeff Furbish
George Geyherhan
Nancy Geyherhan
Ruth Hernandez
Margareta Jacobson
Kerry Jamieson
Anita Jones
Marianne Kotsonis
Kelly Labrecque
Ken Labrecque
Marc Lamontagne
Kathy Lee
Helene Lewand
Megan McMahon
Annette Merrill

Jackie Millet
Morgan Moulton
Tim Nelson
Betsy O'Brien
John Paltanawick
Chris Patterson
Amanda Peterson
Nancy Plaisted
David Reid
Gail Roller
Maggie Shellene
Hilda Shelton
Janelle Sherman
Anne Smith
Bella Smith
Stella Smith
Polly Ann Sobier
Elizabeth Spahr
Lee Spanger
Ann Spaulding
Julie Spenlinhauer
Allison Spies
Joyce Stobo
Carol Straub
Becky Surel
The Colony Hotel
Barbara Wartenburg
Bo Wartenburg
Alan Waters
JoAnn Waters
Kelli Wedgwood
West Kennebunk Community Garden
Sally Williams
Ruth & Art Winter



“Real generosity towards
the future lies in giving
all to the present.”

- Albert Camus



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KIDSFREETOGROW.ORG