



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Kidsfreetogrow.org
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Mission

Kids Free to Grow is a small non-profit in Kennebunk, Maine with a big mission: to prevent child abuse and neglect by empowering children and families in York and Cumberland County.

Dear Friends,

Kids Free to Grow is a small non-profit in Kennebunk, Maine with a meaningful mission: to prevent child abuse and neglect by empowering children and families in York and Cumberland County.

Kids Free to Grow works closely with our own Advisory Board, United Way, and Maine Children's Trust to conduct a yearly needs assessment for York and Cumberland County while using Maine Office of Child and Family Services data to direct our efforts. You may have seen us at one of many community events spreading our important message.

We work hard to make a difference in children's lives, and we truly appreciate our partners in this endeavor. With the help of our supporters, we've educated over 116 parents and worked with over 1,619 students in local public schools across York County. With 4,119 community members, students and parents, Kids Free to Grow each past year.

We'd like to especially thank the following businesses, funders and individuals who have been extremely generous in supporting Kids Free to Grow:

- Conaway Family Fund
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Ed and Linda Hodgdon
- David and Claire Genest
- Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation
- Sam L. Cohen Foundation
- Kennebunk Savings Bank
- Saco & Biddeford Savings Charitable Foundation
- William JJ Gordon Family Foundation
- Maine Children's Trust
- Connections for Kids
- United Way of Southern Maine

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of you who have provided Kids Free to Grow with the necessary funds to continue our meaningful work.

Warmly,

Adam Aucoin, CPA

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 Human Services. She began by speaking at the Congregational Church in Saco, Maine. After a heartfelt speech, a group of professionals emerged who shared a similar commitment to the safety of children in York County. It was then that the Council was established.

From 1980-2001, the Council became incorporated, and Marilyn Staples was hired as Director. From 2001-2006 Kate Stern served as Executive Director and moved the agency in 2002 from the basement of a dentist's office in Biddeford to a Kennebunk location and changing the name in 2004 to the Child Abuse Prevention Council of York County. From 2006-2008 Susan Lamb took the reins as Executive Director and developed Friends of Children and other important funding resources. Then in 2008 Laurie DuPaul became the Executive Director serving until the summer of 2012. She developed a fresh face for the agency, changing the name to its current Kids Free to Grow. Without an Executive Director for most of 2012, the committed Board of Directors stepped in to run the agency.

In 2013 an innovative affiliation with Connections for Kids, a fully licensed mental health agency in Portland, Maine was created. Genevieve Gardner, LCSW the experienced Executive Director of Connections for Kids was named Executive Director of both agencies. This unique affiliation continues and provides the agencies with the opportunity to combine resources and create a strong non-profit network of support.

2023 Board of Directors

Adam Aucoin, President

Marc Lamontagne, Treasurer

Dan Cote, Past President

Andrew Laduke

James Jacques

Daniel Puhlman

Tony Correale

OUR PROGRAMS

Kids Free to Grow conducts educational programs in schools and the community throughout York and Cumberland County. In the 2022-23 school year, our programs reached over 4,119 children, families and professionals working with children.

School Based Programs

- Empathy & Healthy Relationships - Kids Free to Grow utilizes books, video, songs, and activities to help children develop empathic skills and practices. (Pre-K - grade 2)
- Personal Body Safety - Kids Free to Grow offers age-appropriate educational opportunities to help young children understand personal safety. (Pre-K - grade 4)
- Healthy Relationships Project - This program offers a healthy sexuality education and child abuse prevention curriculum for children. (Pre-K - grade 8)

Parenting Programs

Parent Café - This parenting group helps parents to build protective factors, promote deep individual self-reflection and provide peer-to-peer learning.

Active Parenting and Parenting 0 to 5 - These Active Parenting programs emphasize cooperation, self-esteem, and responsibility and promote non-violent discipline.

Nurturing Parenting Program - This parenting program is held in a group setting in which parents or caregivers learn and develop skills such as empathy, self-worth, empowerment, roles, and expectations and how to discipline with dignity.

- Circle of Security Parenting (COSPP) - friendly and supportive environment, as a parent the role can be openly discuss the success and challenges of being a parent.
- Infant Safe Sleep - a presentation for parents and caregivers on safe sleep environments.
- Period of Purple Cring - this campaign educates parents and caregivers about normal period of crying, and what to expect.

Professional Programs

Strengthening Maine Families - This program supports childcare providers. Childcare providers learn to approach parents as the expert, to listen openly to concerns and ideas and to work together with parents to find answers to questions and concerns about child development.

Mandated Reporter Training - We offer training to a variety of professional and non-professional groups who are mandated reporters. We educate those who work with children about the laws regarding reporting, how to report, and why it is important to do so.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Pinwheel Gardens - Kids Free to Grow facilitates the sprouting of Pinwheel Gardens throughout the county as part of the National Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign. Awareness and action to support children and families in healthy development practices lends to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

- Community Outreach - Kids Free to Grow attends community fairs and events to support parents and distribute informational materials on available services and parenting tips.

2023 Staff and Consultants

Genevieve Gardner, LCSW, Executive Director

Patrice Leary-Forrey, York/Cumberland Director

Shannon Briggs, York County Coordinator

Hannah Collier, York County Educator

Christina Kenney, Cumberland County Coordinator

Deborah Fritzson, Accountant

Kathy Angel Lee, Grant Writer

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Grants to support our programs continue to be difficult to secure and United Way dollars are spread more thinly throughout the community. We held our annual golf tournament in the Fall of 2022 and 2023.

We have been working hard to continue to maximize the impact of each dollar received by decreasing overhead costs and increasing the percentage of each dollar going directly to program services.

REVENUE	2023	2022
Grants	\$276,899	\$274,039
Donations & Fundraising	\$47,219	\$35,074
Direct and Indirect Public Support	<u>\$9,225</u>	<u>\$22,677</u>
Total	<u>\$333,343</u>	<u>\$ 331,790</u>

EXPENSES	2023	2022
Program Services	\$287,194	\$280,717
Fundraising	\$4,035	\$ 3,806
Management and General	<u>\$12,300</u>	<u>\$14,606</u>
Total	\$303,529	<u>\$ 299,129</u>

OUR DONORS

Friends of Children Circle

Individuals who have committed \$1,000 or more

Conaway Family Fund
 David & Claire Genest
 Ed & Linda Hodgdon
 Kennebunk Savings Bank
 P&C Insurance
 Saco & Biddeford Savings Charitable Foundation
 Connections for Kids

\$500 +

A&W Promotional Products
 Kozak & Gayer

\$100 - \$499

Ralph & Suzanne Austin
 Adam Aucoin
 Baker Newman & Noyes
 Anthony Correale
 Bruce & Jan Fraser
 Deborah Pepin Gelardi
 Haley's Metal Shop
 Sandra Janes
 Brian & Yvonne Jumper
 Marc Lamontagne
 Kathleen Lee
 Deborah Litalien
 Wayne & Michelle Oosterman
 J Douglas & Pamela Saurman
 Vital I/O

\$1 - \$99

Amazon Smile
 Dorothy Argenziano
 L. Dianne Barbour
 Carolyn Boyd
 Michelle Connors
 Dan Cote
 Katharine Dickerson
 Richard & Joan Fowler
 Christopher Gable
 Robert Gowen
 David and Lisanne James
 Bill & Holly Kany
 Mary McLaughlin
 Conner & Wendy Moore
 Jane Murray
 David & Denise Pepin
 David & Jane Smith
 Bill Soucy
 George and Anna Mae
 Twigg
 Janet & Randy Underhill
 Megan Vincenzi

Grants

Sam L. Cohen
 Foundation
 Maine Children's Trust
 Elmina B. Sewall
 Foundation

Municipal Supporters

Acton
 Alfred
 Arundel
 Buxton
 Hollis
 Kennebunk
 Kennebunkport
 Lebanon
 Limington
 Shapleigh
 South Berwick
 Waterboro
 Wells
 York

Our Volunteers

Adam Aucoin
 Melissa Beaulieu
 Valeria Bembry
 Marie Briggs
 Dr. Amanda Brownell
 Laura Buckley
 Tony Correale
 Dan Cote
 Kelly DeMattia
 Lee Ann Dodge
 Tammy Dwyer
 Melissa Galioto
 Tracee Golet

Virginia Hodgkins Somers
 Foundation
 United Way of Southern
 Maine

Our Volunteers

(continued)

Sarah Groom
 Patricia Hall
 Diane Hancock
 James Jacques
 Lauren Kay
 Jen LaChance
 Andrew LaDuke
 Marc Lamontagne
 Kathy Angel Lee
 Stephanie Lefebvre
 Molly Louison
 Steve Mazza
 Meaghan McAvoy
 Virginia McCormack
 Denise Merrill
 Emily Miler
 Kiersten Mulcahy
 Liana Popkin
 Jennifer Quimby
 Danielle Rait
 Kelly Roberts
 Katherine Russum
 Karen Small
 Nate Stevens-Stone

Sarah Groom

57 Portland Road, Suite 4, Kennebunk, ME 04043

207-985-5975

Sarah Stowe

Kayla Vatsinaris



**Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect
by Empowering Families.**