



JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025
ANNUAL REPORT

 207-985-5975

 kidsfreetogrow.org

 3 Webhannet Place, Unit 1, Kennebunk ME 04043

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Our 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.



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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, several Community Partners 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 the lives of the families we serve. And we deeply appreciate our partners in this endeavor. With the help of our supporters, we have touched many caregivers/children/professionals and community members at large across York and Cumberland Counties.

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

- Narragansett Number One Foundation
- Conaway Family Fund
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Hall Family Foundation
- David and Claire Genest
- Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation
- Maine Community Foundation
- Roy A Hunt Foundation
- Margaret Burnham Foundation
- Kennebunk Savings Bank
- Saco & Biddeford Savings Charitable Foundation
- William JJ Gordon Family Foundation
- Maine Children's Trust
- Connections for Kids
- International Women's Club
- P & C Insurance
- Open Net ME, LLC
- Connected Office Technologies

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,

Andrew LaPuke 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 changed 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.

2025 Board Members

Andrew Laduke, President

Marc Lamontagne, Treasurer

James Jaques, Vice President

Adam Aucoin, Past President

Daniel Cote

Daniel Puhlman

Tony Correale

2025 Staff & Consultants

Genevieve Gardner, LCSW
Executive Director

Imogene Alznauer
Director

Shannon Briggs
York County Coordinator

Hannah Collier
York County Educator

Sandra Jose
Cumberland County Coordinator

Deborah Fritzson
Accountant

Kathy Angel Lee
Grant Writer

Programs

Kids Free to Grow conducts educational parenting programs throughout the community throughout York and Cumberland County. In the 2025 fiscal year, our programs reached over 2,982 children, families/caregivers, and professionals working with children.

Parenting Programs

Nurturing Parenting

- Support for at-risk families with children from birth to 18, promoting positive parenting, healthy development, and appropriate expectations. Lessons can be home-based, group-based, or a mix of both.

Nurturing Fathers

- This is a program specifically geared towards Dads, soon-to-be Dads, Granddads or Sons who simply want to understand how their dads parented them.

Nurturing Parenting through Recovery

- Programs are held in a group setting, either in person or virtually, in which parents/ caregivers learn and develop skills such as empathy, self-worth, empowerment, roles, and expectations and how to discipline with dignity.

Inside-Out Dads

- This program is geared toward Dads who are currently incarcerated and are looking to learn new parenting skills/styles with the hopes of re-unifying their children and being a better parent/dad/person as a whole.

Active Parenting and Parenting 0 to 5

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

Circle of Security Parenting

- This program provides a friendly and supportive environment, where parents can openly discuss the successes and challenges of being a parent.

Parent Café

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

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

Front Porch Project

- A community-based program developed by the PA Family Support Alliance that provides education, support and training programs to make Pennsylvania safe for children. The Maine Children's Trust provides us with the funding and necessary training to be able to facilitate this program throughout Maine.

Infant Safe Sleep

- A presentation for parents and caregivers on safe sleep environments.

Period of Purple Crying

- This campaign educates parents and caregivers about the normal period of crying, and what to expect.

Community Outreach

- Kids Free to Grow actively participates in community fairs and events to support parents, while building awareness about our organization and distributing informational materials on all of our available services.

As Kids Free to Grow plays an active role in building awareness surrounding child abuse and neglect throughout Southern Maine's Counties, KFTG participates in several events in both York and Cumberland. Awareness and action to support children and families in healthy development practices is paramount in our mission in the pursuit of the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Financial Statements

REVENUE

2025

2024

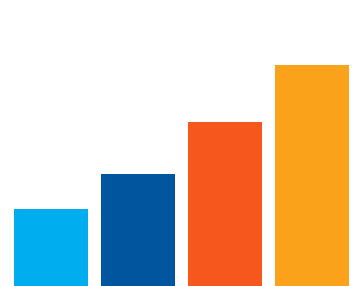
Grants	\$340,075	\$292,454
Donations & Fundraising	\$32,312	\$17,658
Direct & Indirect Public Support	\$12,750	\$14,125
Total	\$385,137	\$330,237

EXPENSES

2025

2024

Program Services	\$338,511	\$287,401
Fundraising	\$6,041	\$5,077
Management and General	\$24,117	\$15,282
Total	\$368,669	\$307,760



Donors and Grants

Friends of Children Circle

Individuals and companies who have committed \$1,000+

- Conaway Family Fund
- David & Claire Genest
- William JJ Gordon Family Foundation
- Kennebunk Savings Bank
- P&C Insurance
- Saco & Biddeford Savings Charitable Foundation
- Connections for Kids
- Open Net ME, LLC
- Connected Office Technologies

Individuals and companies who have committed \$1 - \$999

- Baker Newman & Noyes
- Bangor Savings Bank
- John and Kelly Burghardt
- Cummings Family Fund
- Linda Hodgdon
- Kozak and Gayer
- Andrew Laduke
- Northeast Credit Union
- Saco Valley Credit Union
- Vital I/O
- David Walker

Grants

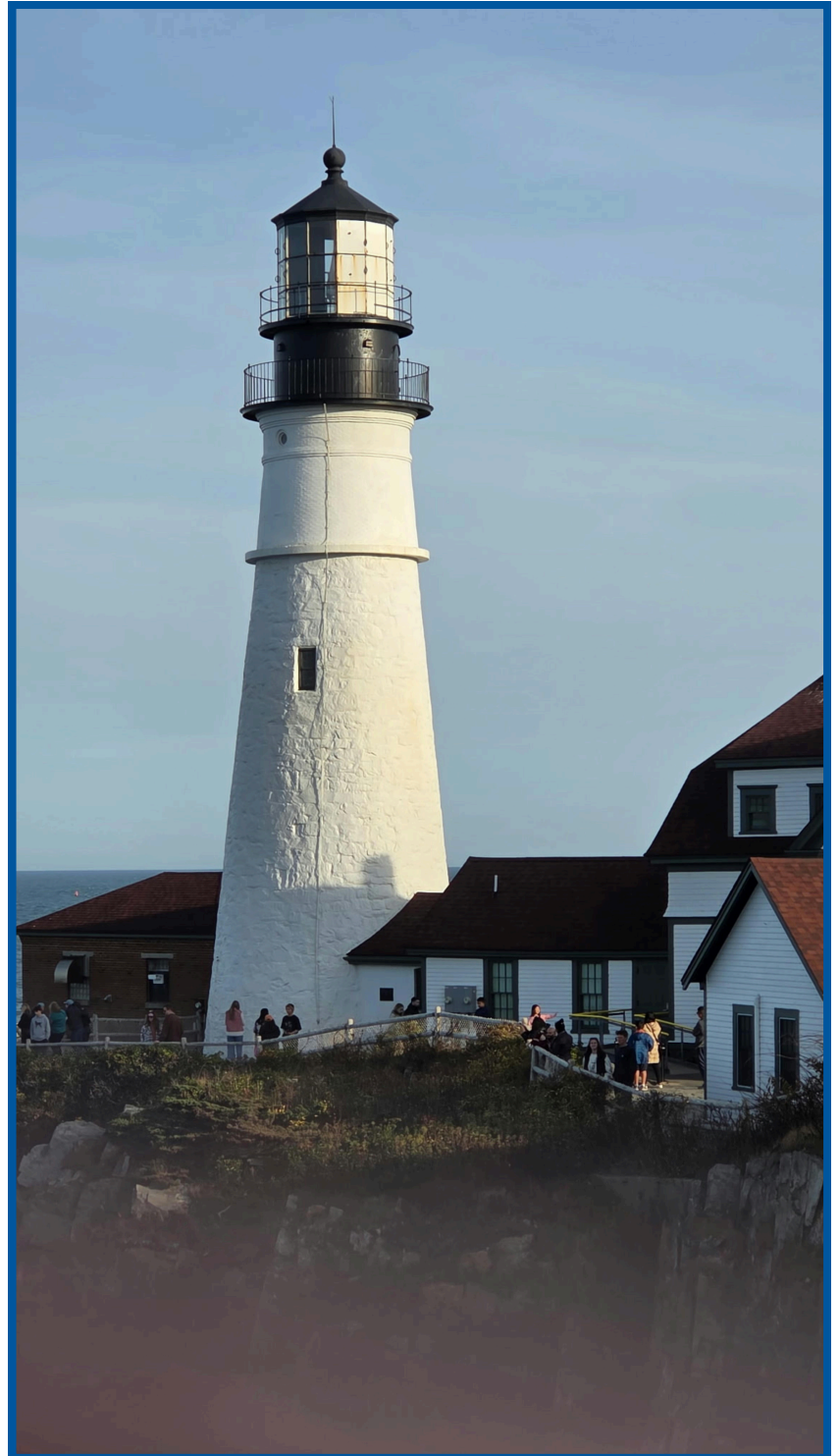
- William JJ Gordon Family Foundation
- Narragansett Number One Foundation
- Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation
- Maine Community Foundation
- Margaret Burnham Foundation
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- International Women's Club
- Maine Children's Trust
- Hall Family Foundation
- Roy A Hunt Foundation

Volunteers

- Adam Aucoin
- Amanda Bushwood
- Brianna McCarthy
- Chris Dinola
- Conor McKinnon
- Daniel Cote
- Daniel Pulham
- Danielle Raitt
- Diane Hancock
- Dr. Amanda Brownell
- Elizabeth Crowley
- Emily Miller
- Jen Lachance
- Jennifer Morrill
- Jennifer Viger
- Katherine Russum
- Kathy Angel Lee
- Andrew Laduke
- Kristin Crowley
- Whitney Fisher
- Kate Kelly
- Amy Dougrey
- Kayla Vatsinaris
- Kelly Roberts
- Kiersten Mulcahy
- Kristen Crowley
- Liana Popkin
- Lee Ann Dodge
- Marc LaMontagne
- Melissa Galioto
- Nate Stevens Stone
- Rev. Lauren Kay
- Sarah Groom
- Sarah Stowe
- Tammy Dwyer
- Tony Correale
- Virginia Crowley
- Whitney Fischer
- Liana Popkin
- Karen Small
- James Jaques
- John McKinnon
- Conor McKinnon
- Penelope Jordan

Municipal Supporters

- Acton
- Alfred
- Arundel
- Biddeford
- Buxton
- Hollis
- Kennebunk
- Kennebunkport
- Limington
- Shapleigh
- Waterboro
- Wells
- York





Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by
Empowering Families.



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