



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Mission: To support and empower children placed in out-of-home care and the families that provide for them.

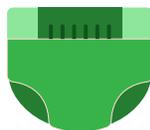
Dear Friends,

As the number of foster and kinship placements continues to skyrocket, it became abundantly clear that paid staff is necessary to help keep up with the needs and demands of placement providers and to meet our organization’s goals. Hence, our part-time office manager joined the team! Our volunteers were averaging 160 hours each month, collectively. We are still grateful for our volunteers to be just as connected, but with fewer hours.

Communication and consistency were two key areas for us this year. Not only by bringing on a staff person, but by being able to have consistent hours for our Care Closet for our families. Our team utilized our private online group, email, and our Care Closet to share resources, news, and events with families. This worked because we saw an increase in new parents this year.



116 families served



654 packages of diapers, pullups, or feminine hygiene products through Jake's Network



59 birthdays celebrated with a cake & gift

51 care kits packed



114 children provided with gifts for the holidays

We welcomed 29 new foster or kinship parents in 2022. That tells us that we are reaching more families; families that may not have known about us before, which is exciting. We want to make an impact on as many foster and kinship families as we can. We're able to do this by word of mouth of our current parents, our volunteers and board members, and our relationship with Manitowoc County Human Services.

We are looking forward to implementing new services and expanding our office space in 2023. Exciting changes are coming!

Molly Stolp

Molly Stolp
Board President

A Look Back

- Offered many events for the entire family, including: Bowling at Meadow Lanes West, Foster Care Awareness Day at Camp Sinawa, Back to School event, Glaze & Paint nights, Thanksgiving dinners, St. Nick, and our Holiday event.
- Through our partnership with Jake’s Network of Hope, we gave out 388 packages of diapers, 150 pull-ups, and 116 boxes of feminine hygiene products, totaling 654 total items.
- Partnered with Manitowoc County Human Services; they hosted support groups and training for kinship parents, and we provided child care while parents attended.
- Hired our first employee, a part-time office manager, allowing us to have more open and consistent hours each week.
- Created a section for culturally competent hygiene products in our Care Closet.



“Lakeshore Foster Family and Friends is an amazing resource to foster families. Helping out with daily needs of supplies, educational resources, and support. They are an amazing asset to our foster family community and I'm very thankful to have their support as I know other foster families are as well.”
- Lori F., Foster Parent

A Look Ahead

- Porta Potty Races, our large annual fundraiser, takes place on February 25th at the Smiling Moose.
- Expanding to the office space next door to allow us to host more events and services for parents and the children in their care.
- Developing plans to implement two new services to our families- computer/internet access and a teen resource area.
- With expanding our building and services, we are working on putting together a strategic plan for the next five years.



“Everything with your program has been a blessing to us!”

Care Closet

The Care Closet was one of the first programs we implemented, and it has evolved and grown since starting. The Care Closet consists of only new items and is available to any children in foster or kinship care. The items in the Care Closet are also used to pack Care Kits, which are essential items given to a child when



they are placed in care.

In 2022, the Care Closet served 85 children with items they needed, including clothing, winter gear, school supplies, hygiene products, and much more. 51 Care Kits were also packed for children newly placed into foster or kinship homes. These Kits are estimated at \$100-\$175 per kit.

LFFF also recognized a need for culturally competent hygiene products in our Closet. This was a big need expressed by parents, and we are able to keep items on hand.

"We have been satisfied and honestly overwhelmed with the generosity of this group and the services/programs they provide. When we went into foster care, some of these programs did not exist or we did not know about them. It is reassuring to know there is support for foster parents and it is a talking point we use when trying to recruit foster parents."

Brenda C., Foster Parent

Finances

We are thankful 2022 brought continued financial support from individuals and corporations in our community. Our revenue comes from local grants, monetary donations, fundraising, and in-kind donations. Our money goes towards resources for families, events, appreciation, and building/office expenses.

Looking towards the future with our fast-growing organization, we hope to be able to spend more time working on grants available to our organization.

Internet & Computer Access

Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends is grateful to be growing as an organization. With that, we are expanding to the office space next to our current location, which is doubling our square footage. The space will be used for offices, trainings, meetings, support groups, and a new program.

This new program will offer foster and kinship parents and children access to the internet and computers during our office hours, or by appointment. Frequently, parents need to complete online trainings, and attend meetings, or kids need to complete homework or assignments. What do you do if you rely on public wi-fi? By having computers, internet, and a printer available, we are hoping to see families utilize this space we are creating for them and let them be able to do what they need to do so they can be successful.

How to Support Us

Your support is greatly needed in order for us to continue to meet the needs of the growing number of children entering care. Your contributions will help us to ensure these children, and the families caring for them, have what they need.



Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends is not like other nonprofits. We are local so our focus can stay in our community and we provide our services to the families and children who need us most because of gaps in the system. We have created our programs based on the needs identified by the families we serve and believe no child should go without. Visit our website, lakeshorefosterfamilies.org, to find out more about our organization or to donate. There you will find our wish lists, how your company can host a drive, or how you can place a monetary donation. Each dollar donated makes an impact on our organization.

Thank you for your time and support. We look forward to what 2023 has to offer.