



ANNUAL REPORT 2023





Supporting Kinship Caregivers

Step Up Parents (SUP) is uniquely positioned in the nonprofit space to serve kinship families impacted by substance use disorder (SUD). There is no other organization doing what we do. While many nonprofits address the treatment and recovery needs of individuals with SUD, we address the needs of their children and the kinship caregivers who step up to raise them. By supporting this often overlooked community, we help destigmatize SUD and provide a safe forum in which caregivers can ask for help. What began in 2019 as a call to action to help one family is now a financial safety net for kinship caregivers throughout New Hampshire and Southern Maine.

Kinship caregivers face many challenging circumstances that threaten family stability and security, the most immediate of which is often financial hardship. In many cases, caregivers are completely unprepared for the arrival of children, and they need everything. We provide financial assistance for food, clothing, shelter, baby supplies, beds, auto repair, childcare, utilities, and more. We recognize the significant collateral damage caused by parental substance use disorder, and we prioritize meeting the unique financial needs of individual families.

Our mission is straightforward and direct - to bridge gaps in household budgets so that kinship caregivers can cover the costs of raising the innocent children who are unexpectedly in their care. We have clearly tapped into a need. Together, we can make a meaningful difference for the children whose lives have been turned upside down by parental substance use disorder and the heroes who step up to raise them.

Even heroes need a hand.



Our Mission

Step Up Parents provides financial assistance to kinship caregivers in New Hampshire and Southern Maine who are raising the children of parents with substance use disorder. We are dedicated to honoring the efforts of these caregivers as well as valuing their dignity and supporting their family's well-being.



Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends of Step Up Parents,

Last year was filled with milestones and proud accomplishments. We continued to solidify our place in the nonprofit landscape as a needed and vital resource for kinship families devastated by parental substance use disorder. Our most exciting development was our expansion into York County, Maine. Helping Maine kinship families was always a long-range plan, and we were thrilled to realize this goal in May. Our hope is to expand into other areas of the state in the coming years.



In 2023, Step Up Parents served a record number of families - 186 families last year, compared to 32 families in our first year of operation! In total, we have helped over 300 families, impacted almost 600 kinship kids, and given over \$300,000 in direct assistance. We meet so many remarkable families living under the most challenging circumstances through our work, and their gratitude always astounds us.

Organizationally, 2023 brought many changes. We hired our first support staff, added new faces to our Board of Directors, and said goodbye to some board members who were instrumental in building SUP. Personally and professionally, the most significant change came with my decision to step aside as Executive Director in order to hire a more seasoned nonprofit professional to lead SUP into the future. Although I am stepping down as ED, I will continue to be involved and will take a seat on SUP's board.

My focus has always been to create a way to help and honor heroic kinship caregivers that was quick, easy, meaningful and done with respect, validation, and appreciation. SUP has grown far beyond my modest expectations, and this experience has enriched my life immeasurably. I am forever grateful to everyone who has helped make SUP a reality. SUP was built with grass roots enthusiasm, on-the-job training, and a drive to make an immediate and lasting difference. I am proud to say that we accomplish this every day.

Of course, our success is completely dependent on the generosity of our donors. Our funders are our life blood, and we are truly appreciative of their commitment to helping families suffering the collateral damage of parental substance use disorder. To all who support our efforts, I want to personally thank you from the bottom of my heart.

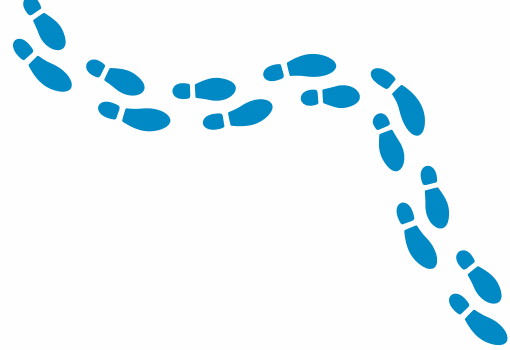
Looking ahead, I am excited to see where our new Executive Director, Jessica Parker, takes SUP. She brings invaluable nonprofit experience in the substance use disorder space and a genuine commitment to our mission. Under her leadership, SUP will start a whole new chapter, while maintaining our founding principles and core belief that "Even heroes need a hand."

Respectfully,

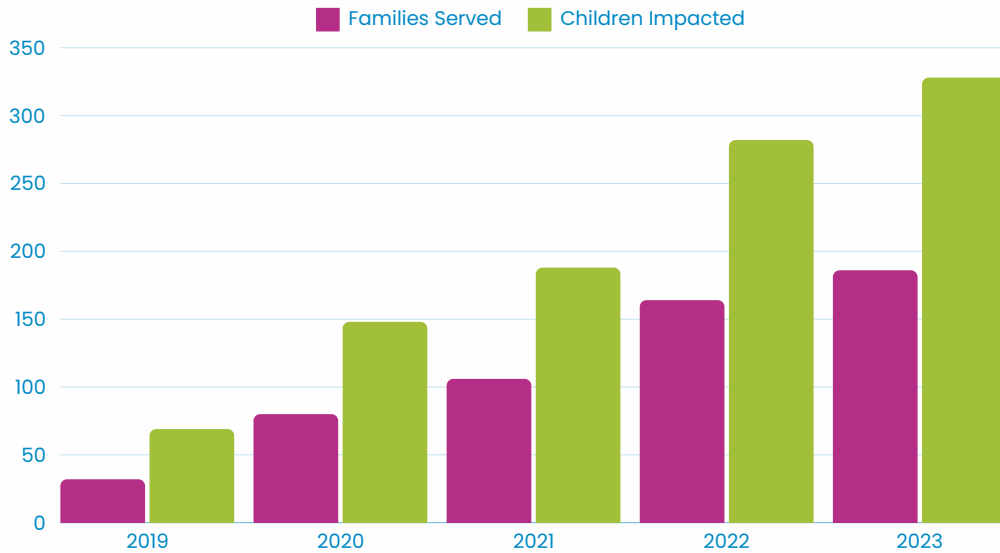
Denyse Richter



2023 Impact



Kinship Families Served



In 2023, we welcomed 15 Maine families with 26 kinship kids into the SUP family.



In 2023, SUP Served 186 families, compared to 32 in 2019



“Thank you for the Christmas gift card that you sent to me and my family. It's reassuring knowing that kinship caretakers are not forgotten. I used our gift card towards Christmas dinner. Whether you say it's a small gift of appreciation it's much more to us. Raising three grandchildren is no easy task. Especially when we are retired and live on fixed income. Trying to give our grandchildren a good life takes a lot. When we were planning our retirement many years ago, we didn't know that our complete savings would be exhausted prior to turning 60 years old. So having you help our family is a gift with in its self. Thank you for helping all the families that are trying to just survive month to month. We appreciate all you have done.”

— *The Conway Family*



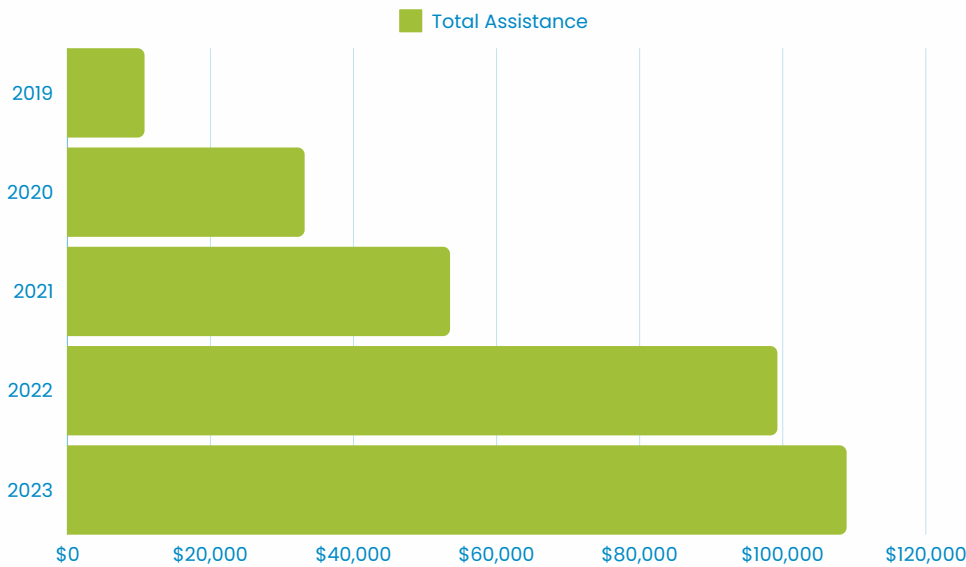
2023 Impact

“Hi my name is Avah. I am 11 years old and I live with my grandmother. My grandma has been raising my sister and I for a very long time by herself. I feel very lucky to have a grandma who cares and loves me and was able to take on the challenge of raising me and my sister. I have been wanting to be on a swim team for a long time, but my grandma has never been able to afford it, so I am saying thank you to Step Up Parents for giving me the money so I can be on the swim team. When I swim, I feel very confident and good about myself and strong. Thank you.”

— Avah



Direct Assistance



In 2023, 171 New Hampshire families with 302 children in kinship care were assisted by SUP.



In 2023, SUP provided \$108,928 in direct assistance compared to \$10,791 in 2019.





2023 Financial Report

In 2023, Step Up Parents experienced a tremendous outpouring of support. This increased revenue will help SUP to achieve the growth and expansion goals set forward in our strategic plan.

We are so grateful for every gift made to SUP, which helps to further our mission to assist kinship caregivers who have stepped up for so many children in our community.

Pictured right is one of two 2023 college scholarship recipients SUP was able to help with your generous support.



FISCAL YEAR 2023 FINANCIALS

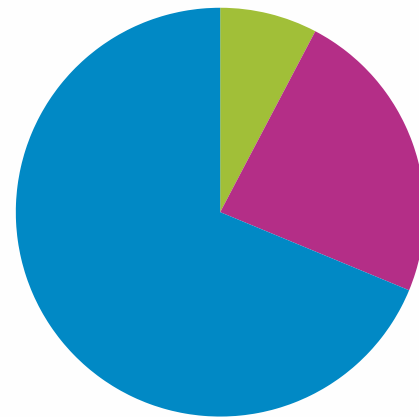
2023 REVENUE

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| DONATIONS | \$ 72,807 |
| EVENTS | \$ 56,782 |
| GRANTS | \$125,750 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL | \$255,339 |



2023 EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| ADMINISTRATIVE | \$ 16,412 |
| FUNDRAISING | \$ 50,154 |
| PROGRAMMING | \$146,495 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL | \$213,061 |





2023 Donors

Thank you to all of our donors and supporters!
The assistance Step Up Parents provides kinship families is made possible through your generosity.

Anonymous (2)
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Amazon Smile
Laura Ananian
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Lorraine Bailor
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Kittery Block Party
KRB Kitchen and Bath
Lagos Ice Cream
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Courtney Lamers
Lisa Lane
Lexi Leddy
Donna Levenson
Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
2023 Lonza Harvest Open
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Kathleen Malsbenden
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Merrimack County Savings Bank
Mergi Miftari
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New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
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June Newsome
Kelsey Nowak

*Every effort has been made to accurately recognize our many financial supporters.
Please notify us if an omission or error has been made and accept our apologies.*



2023 Donors

Thank you to all of our donors and supporters!
The assistance Step Up Parents provides kinship families is made possible through your generosity.

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Mildred Oberlander
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Candie Wright
Linda Yesline
York Rotary Club
Sheri Young
Alan & Alice Zaff

Very special thanks to the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, whose sizable grants in the last few years have bolstered and allowed us to grow our organization to meet the rise in need.



In 2023, we were honored to have been a beneficiary of successful fundraisers like the Lonza Harvest Open and Spinning for Generosity. We are beyond grateful for these amazing businesses and organizations who choose to support SUP through community events.





Stepping Into The Future



Step Up Parents

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