



Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition

# Annual Report 2019



# From the Board President



“We’re living in uncertain times.” It’s a phrase you’re probably sick of. True, but at this point, obvious. You can’t make plans if you’re unsure what lies ahead. All you can do is hope.

For kids impacted by foster care, this is an everyday experience, often for years. Tragically, that uncertainty often persists after they go to their forever family. Traumatized by years without solid adult relationships, they’re unable to attach. They feel unable to belong.

Your support in 2019 allowed our team to find families for a record number of children in our community and to support more families than ever before. That support makes all the difference for parents struggling to help their children heal. It helps parents make their children feel loved and feel like they belong.

We have only been able to reach the point we’re at today because of your support for these past 30 years. You made everything in these pages possible, and because of the extent to which you’ve allowed us to push our work, we’ve been able to lead our region’s response in supporting foster, adoptive, and guardianship families.

We want to thank you on behalf of the kids, families, and professionals we serve. Thank you for helping us lift their voices. Thank you for helping us ease their burdens. In short, thank you for being a part of our Coalition Family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Bergan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joe Bergan, Board President

# 2019 at a Glance

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Together, we...

**Served**

**11,669 Children & Families**

**Raised**

**\$5,387,448**

**From**

**2,468 Donors**

**With the Help of**

**724 Volunteers**

**Who Gave**

**6,298 Hours**

# Mission & Vision

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## For Every Child . . . A Place to Call Home

**The Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (Coalition) exists to ensure every child has a place to call home.** To achieve that goal, we focus on finding homes for our community's hardest-to-place kids (older youth, sibling groups, and kids with special needs), and supporting foster and adoptive families so our kids can heal.

**Founded in 1989, the Coalition has since emerged as a national leader in foster care reform, especially for our innovative response to the opioid epidemic.** The crisis is real and immediate; we see more children in care today than we have in decades. But while children entering foster care three decades ago often spent their entire childhoods in the system, our programs find families for children in record time.

**The Coalition offers the way forward for an overwhelmed child welfare system.** We find new ways to build resilience in our families and create stability in our children's chaotic lives. We model transparency and accountability, setting the standard for data-driven solutions to complex problems. We inspire other agencies to reach higher in their service to children in foster care. Our innovative programs are currently being replicated at more than 20 other agencies around the country as they seek to reproduce our unmatched outcomes.





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**...while children entering foster care three decades ago often spent their entire childhoods in the system, our programs find families for children in record time.**

**The Coalition offers the way forward for an overwhelmed child welfare system.**

**Our innovative programs are currently being replicated at more than 20 other agencies around the country...**



## Recruitment Programs

We focus on finding homes for our community's hardest-to-place kids (older youth, sibling groups, and kids with special needs).

**33**

**Children found their adoptive families through Extreme Recruitment®**

**79**

**Children placed with kin through 30 Days to Family®**

**39**

**New foster families licensed**



## Program Highlight

# Extreme Recruitment®

**M**y great nephew Kylen came to me in 2013 when he was three years old. With his autism diagnosis and all his needs, it was clear he wouldn't be able to go back to his mom.

He stayed with me for ten months, but then I had to move out of state for work. Kylen was placed with a cousin, but the placement fell through. There was no other choice but to put him in the home of strangers. When my job didn't work out, I moved back to St. Louis and requested to have Kylen placed with me again. That's when Kylen's team told me they wanted to keep him in his foster placement.

I was devastated. No one wants their kin to grow up in a stranger's home. Would you? But there was nothing I could do. And then in 2017, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. My focus had to turn to taking care of myself and surviving.

In 2019, when Edna Green with the Coalition's Extreme Recruitment® Program called me, I was excited to meet someone who valued family like I did. Someone who knew the power of a permanent home. Edna gave me hope that Kylen would finally get the home he deserved.

Edna and her team found so many family

members, but one by one they told us no. Every no broke my heart. One thing I always say is, "Kylen has autism, but autism does not have Kylen." He deserves to live his best life. Well, it became obvious pretty quickly that if Kylen was going to be with family, he was going to have to be with me.

After successfully beating breast cancer, I was in remission and approved by my physician to adopt Kylen. I will admit I was nervous. But with Edna's encouragement and the support of the Coalition, I started to feel I was capable of anything.

The Coalition's Families United team worked with Kylen's doctor to help get me licensed as a special medical home. That opened up a world of resources and support. Their Educational Advocates met with Kylen's school so he could reach his full potential as a student. Their STEPS team helped me navigate the Department of Mental Health so Kylen could get special services for his autism. Edna helped me find a specialized daycare and even arranged for the bus to get him to and from school.

Kylen came home to me on February 14th, 2020. I'll tell you that everyone in his life noticed the difference immediately. He came out of his shell. His demeanor at school changed completely. By mid-June he no longer needed behavioral therapy for aggression and was off most of his unnecessary medications. I can't thank Edna Green and the Coalition enough. They gave Kylen his family back. They brought him home to me where he belongs.

**- Margaret, Adoptive Parent**



## Recruitment Program Highlight

# 30 Days to Family®



**The Specialists of this innovative program work tirelessly to place children with relatives within 30 days of the children entering the foster care system.**

“Maddie with the 30 Days to Family® program came in and provided support to all of us when we needed it the most. Our lives became so much more on that day that two sibling groups, who had never met, were united, and Maddie made that happen. She was there helping those four precious children before they ever walked into our home. When they were alone before coming to live with us, Maddie was there with her heart, listening and caring. When Maddie moved them into our home, 30 Days to Family® provided wonderful items, including bedding for their new rooms, clothing, and hygiene items. After being placed in our home, Maddie was there to pop in, talk, and check on them and was always there when we needed her. She helped them feel safe in their new home, and she helped all of us feel comfortable in our new life together.”

**- Foster Parent**





# Support Programs

The Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition supports foster and adoptive families through innovative programs so that our kids can heal.

**74**

Children achieved their educational goals through Educational Advocacy

**100**

Children successfully served through crisis intervention

**4,125**

Little Wishes granted for children impacted by foster care

**11,545**

training hours provided to parents and professionals



## Support Program Highlight

# Educational Advocacy

**Mr. and Mrs. Byndom adopted their seven children on December of 2019. Educational Advocacy served two of their school-age children. Educational Advocates support families with school enrollment, accessing special education services, suspensions, and other educational needs.**

“Our educational advocate helped us every step of the way. Without her, I wouldn’t have been able to understand the process, the different meetings, and all of the terminology. She helped us to understand and to get good plans for the kids in place.”

**- Mr. Byndom, Foster & Adoptive Parent**



## Donor Highlight

# John Kuntemeier



**John Kuntemeier, who passed away this past February, was a dedicated donor and volunteer who advocated for many children in the St. Louis area throughout his life.**

“John was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) on a case with two siblings I was recruiting for adoption. Mr. John took his role seriously. He worked effortlessly at building a solid relationship with the siblings. He made it his business to learn the foster care system. Because he understood the importance of Family Support Team Meetings, he participated in person until he was too ill to travel and later by phone. It was Mr. John’s mission to encourage, support, and celebrate all the youth he served. He never wanted to miss any achieved milestones including school events, graduations, and extracurricular activities.” - **Edna Green, Extreme Recruiter**

## Little Wishes Volunteer Highlight

# Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo



**Little Wishes allow children in foster care to have childhood experiences they may not otherwise be able to enjoy. Generous donors grant wishes at [www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org).**

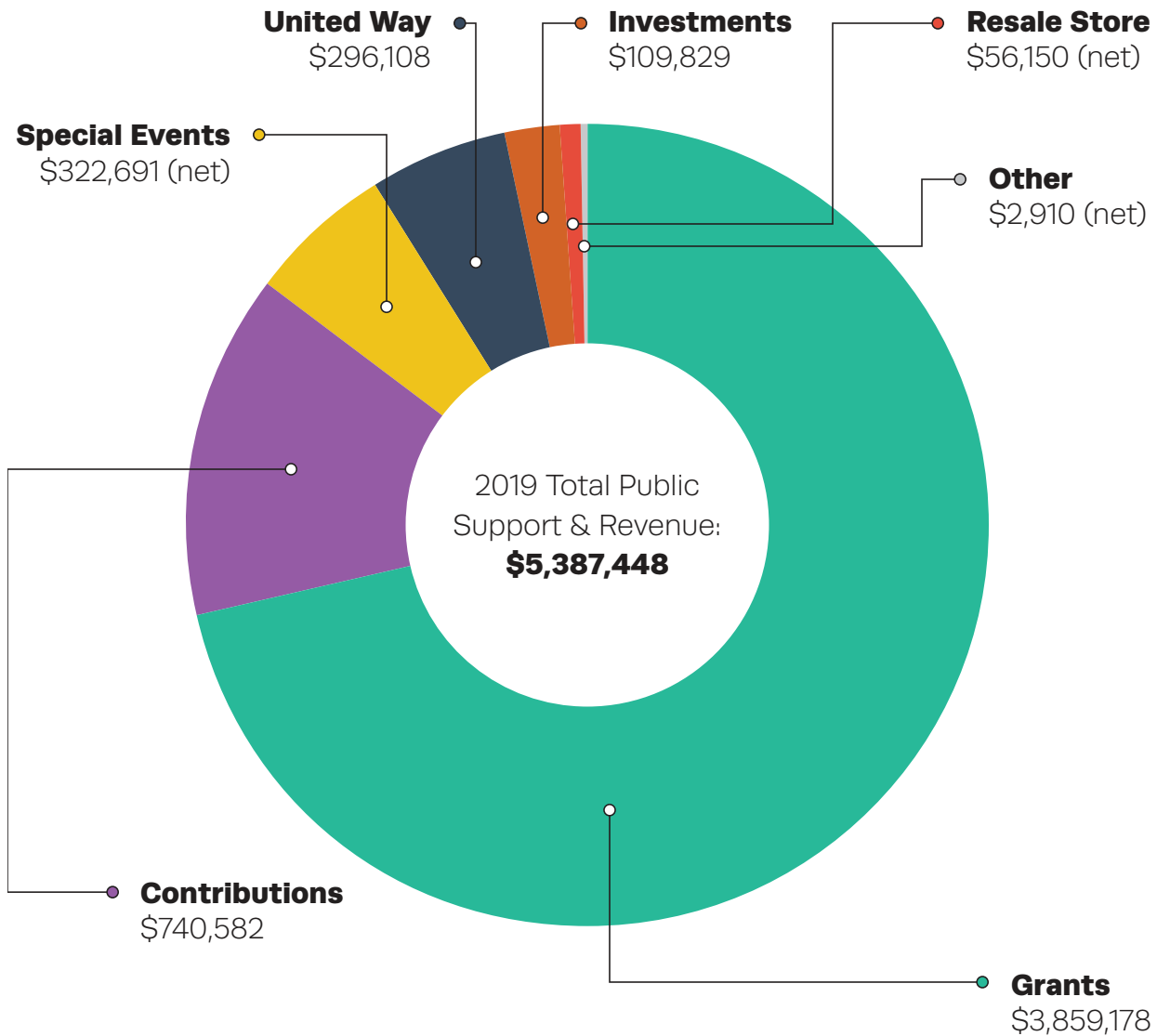
“Little Wishes is such an important program for the Saint Louis region, and I really love being a part of it. I was introduced to the larger work of the Coalition through the Little Wishes program. The holidays are a time when people connect with family and loved ones and it is in that spirit that Little Wishes operates. I grew up feeling loved and cared for by both my family and larger community. I hope that through Little Wishes, we let every youth in foster care know that they are cherished and supported. It is a joy to work with the other volunteers and see them year after year. I am convinced that bringing our individual talents together to work in community, and for community, is the way we make our world better for all.” - **Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, Assistant Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences, Washington University**





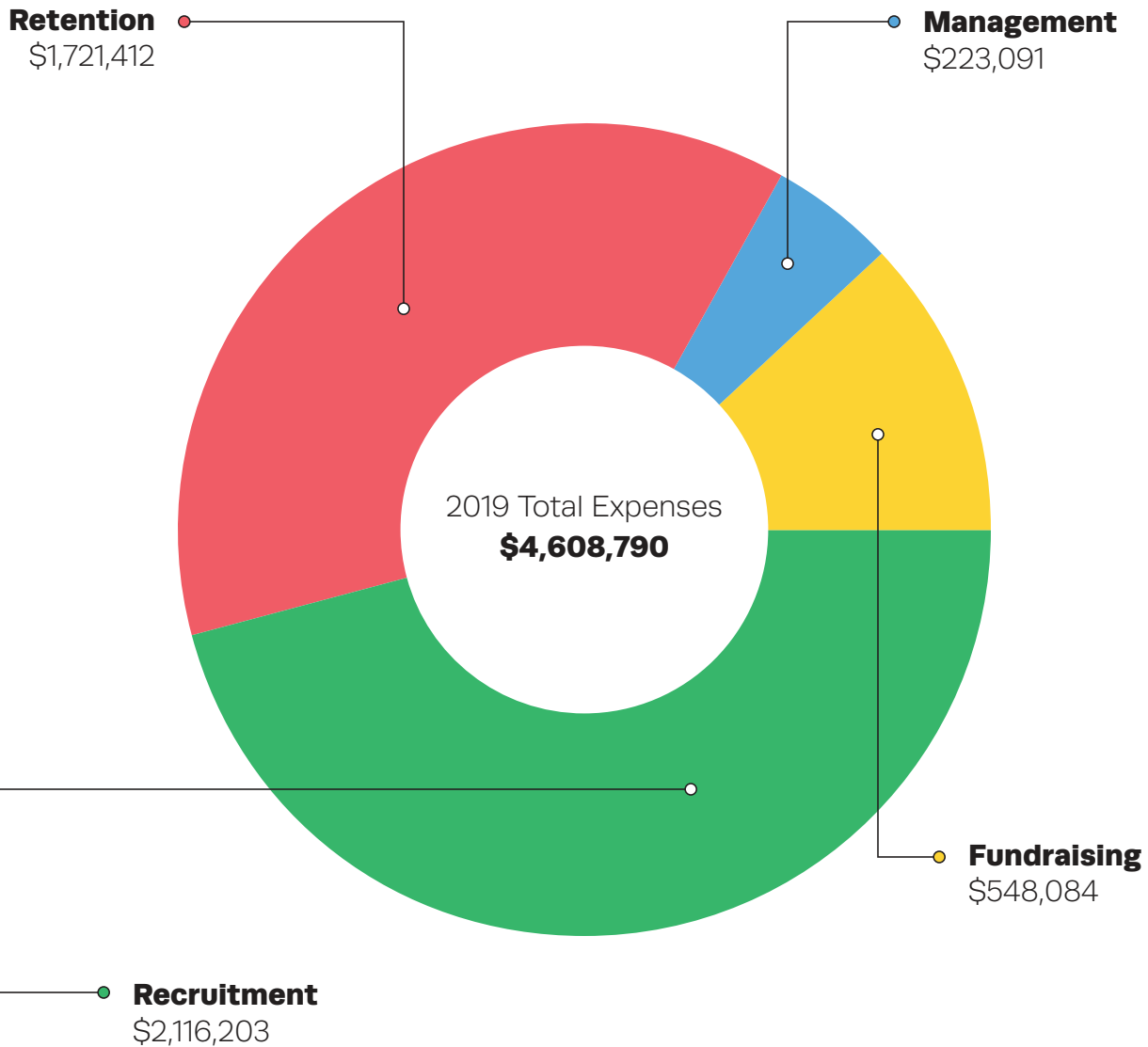
# Financials

## Revenue





# Financials Expenses





## 30th Anniversary

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In 2019 we celebrated 30 years of supporting children and families impacted by foster care. Thank you for celebrating with us and for sharing our vision.

# 50,000

**people have joined our mission to help children impacted by foster care by donating, volunteering, or fostering through the Coalition.**



# 2019 Board of Directors

## Board Officers

### President

**Joe Bergan**  
Edward Jones

### Treasurer

**Christina Schoemehl**  
Community Volunteer

### Vice President

**Cari Wegge**  
XIL Consulting

### Secretary

**Jackie Olinger-Rochelle**  
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd

## Board Members

### Bob Ahern

First Bank

### Mary Larner

Enterprise

### Carla Allen

The Allen Law Firm

### Jim Martin

Dowd Bennett

### Melanie Barrier

Rubrik, Inc.

### Lisa Mooney

Community Volunteer

### Mila Baumann

Express Scripts

### Mike Normile

First Bank

### David Bell

Schnucks

### Emily Romines

Spire, Inc.

### Ryan Blackburn

Matter® Family Office

### David Singer

Warehouse Fixtures

### Robert Cahn

Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC

### Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, Ph. D.

Washington University

### Terrance Chance

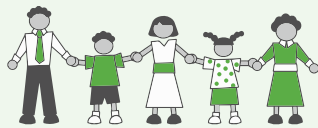
The Boeing Company

### Misty Watson

Danna McKittrick, P.C.

### LaShonda Lambert-Howze

Evans and Dixon Law Firm



**FOSTER & ADOPTIVE CARE COALITION**  
FOR EVERY CHILD... A PLACE TO CALL HOME

**Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition**

[www.foster-adopt.org](http://www.foster-adopt.org)

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