

# 2025 Impact Report



**Community as Family**  
27 Years of Connection,  
Care, and Growth



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# A Year of Growth and Connection



Dear Peace4Kids Family,

This year, Peace4Kids returned to its roots. After years of post-pandemic limitations and space constraints, 2025 marked the first time all of our age groups gathered again. That reunion restored the rhythm of our Saturday community and gave caregivers space to rest, knowing their young people were in safe, affirming care.

A highlight was the evolution of our THRIVE program, now integrated across the entire Peace4Kids journey. THRIVE serves youth ages 16–26, supporting personal growth, healing, and independence through group connection, leadership development, and one-on-one coaching. Together, these supports ensure every young person has the relationships and resources needed to build self-reliance and purpose.

We also deepened our Heart-Centered Learning approach, recognizing that when adults are grounded in their own nervous systems, they can more effectively support youth who've experienced trauma. This commitment has strengthened the well-being of our staff, partners, and youth-support professionals.

Like many nonprofits, we navigated challenges in staffing and funding, but those experiences pushed us to grow stronger - refining systems for leadership, accountability, and collaboration.

Transformation is visible everywhere. Across Los Angeles County, educators and social-service agencies are embracing relationship-based care and nervous-system awareness - an approach Peace4Kids has championed for nearly 30 years.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about expanding our reach and deepening our impact, equipping the next generation to lead with heart, purpose, and vision. Thank you for helping us shape what's possible.

In peace and possibilities,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zaid Gayle".

**Zaid Gayle**  
Executive Director & Co-Founder

## Our Vision

“Community as Family” provides consistency, stability, and trust to people of all ages with lived experience in foster care.

## Our Mission

Creating a safe and affirming community where youth in foster care thrive and form lasting connections.

## Our Values

- Celebrate wholeness, assets, and strengths
- Encourage agency, voice, and choice
- Collaborate to incubate innovative community ideas
- Be flexible and adaptable to manage change
- Nurture intergenerational relationships and support
- Create safe, affirming spaces through co-regulation

### Our Team in Practice

*Members of the  
Peace4Kids’ team  
at our Day of  
Thanks community  
gathering.*



Peace4Kids’ work is carried by a dedicated group who show up consistently, week after week, year after year. Many bring lived experience in foster care, grounding the work in empathy, credibility, and deep understanding. With support from facilitators, consultants, volunteers, and community partners, this collective provides steady relationships rooted in trust and connection. That continuity helps youth and young adults grow and navigate life transitions.

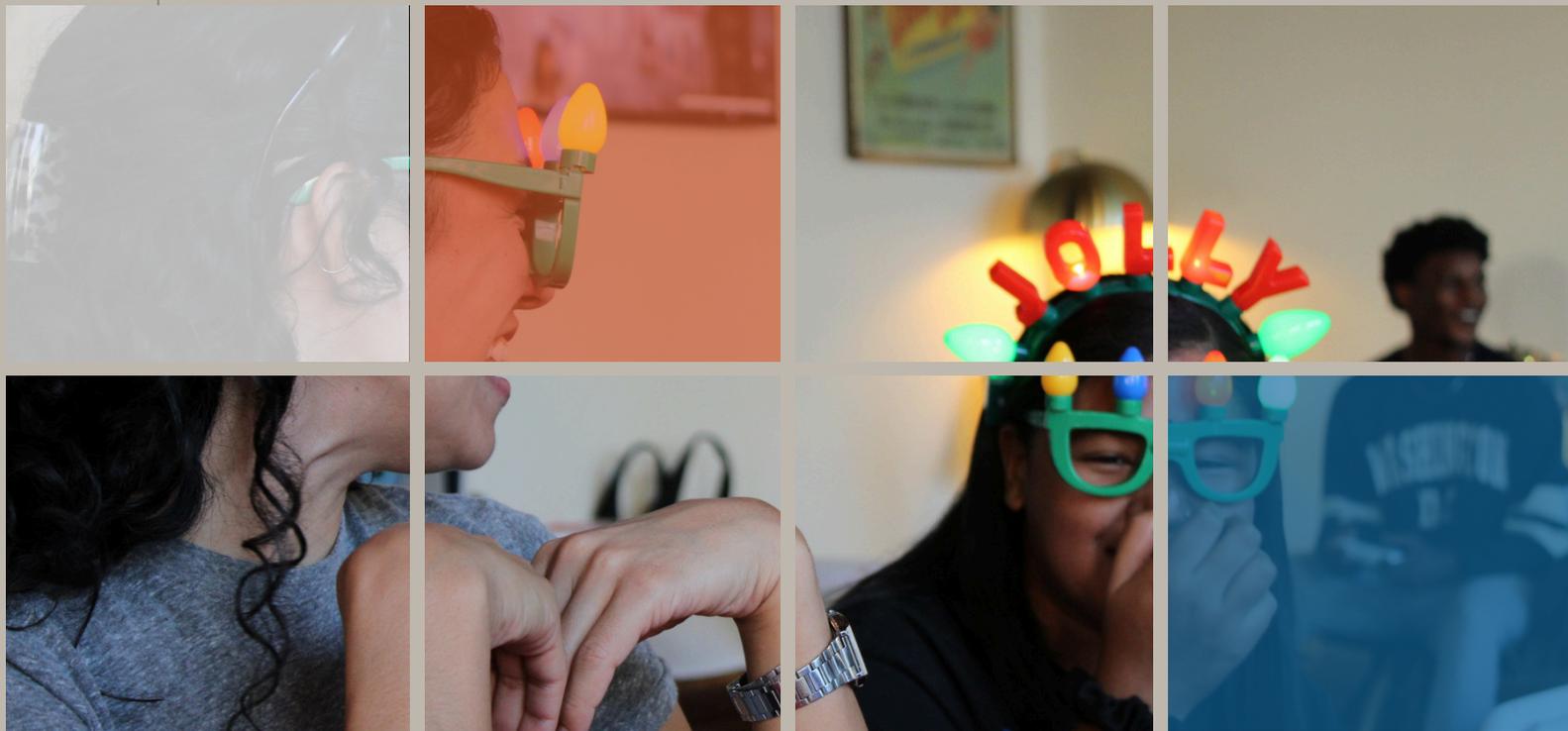
# Program Impact

## Where Connection Becomes Growth

Our programs create consistent, heart-centered spaces where youth in foster care build skills, confidence, and lasting relationships. Grounded in community and guided by lived experience, our approach nurtures belonging and supports youth across every stage of their development.



Peace4Kids is a place where young people are met with consistency, support, and room to be themselves.

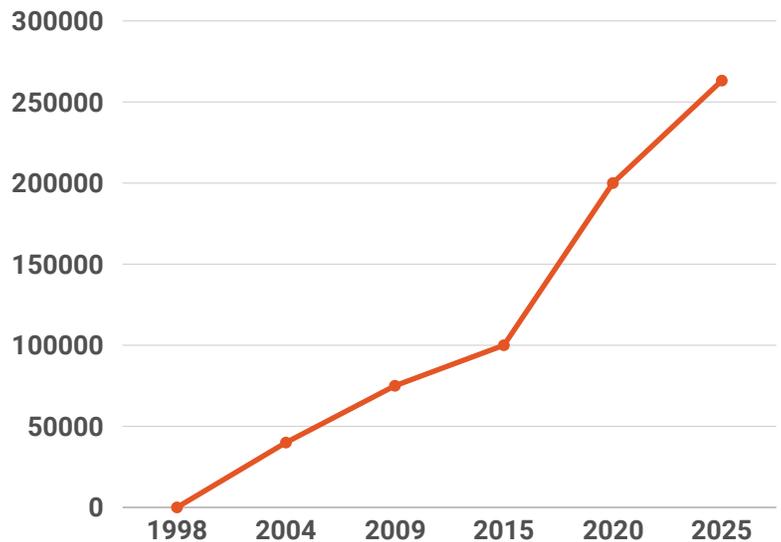


# 2025 at a Glance

## Consistent Reach. Stronger Relationships.

In 2025, we served **195 youth**, maintaining consistent reach while continuing to prioritize meaningful relationships. Through a combination of consistent weekly programming, individualized support, and longer-duration experiences, young people remained connected, supported, and engaged.

**With a 5% increase in annual connection hours and 263,234 lifetime hours of youth connection,** Peace4Kids continues to demonstrate what becomes possible when care is predictable, relational, and built over time.



↑ **9,332**

Youth connection hours



**91%**

Of our youth feel  
**very supported**  
by P4K

# Built for the Long Term

Consistency, care, and connection across years.

Our program model is designed for continuity, supporting young people not just at a moment in time, but across years of their lives. Rather than cycling youth through short-term services, Peace4Kids offers a place built for return - where relationships deepen, trust compounds, and growth is witnessed collectively over time.

That continuity takes shape through how young people spend their time together:



### Health & Well-Being

*Self-care, sports and active play, cooking, gardening, breathwork*



### Creative Expression

*Art, music, movement, film, photography, digital storytelling*



### Community Experiences

*Outings, beach days, overnight camps, community celebrations*



### Relationship & Life Skills

*Responsibility, communication, respect, community building*

## What Makes Peace4Kids Unique

- **Longitudinal engagement:** Youth often participate across multiple life stages
- **Relational scale:** A 3:1 youth-to-volunteer & staff ratio supports emotional safety, attunement, and consistency
- **Shared environment:** Intergenerational programming in a shared environment
- **Consistent, neuro-inclusive routines** that help trust grow over time

## Who We Serve

Ethnicity	%
Black	60%
Latinx	28%
Multiracial	5%
Other	3%
White	2%
Asian	1%

Age	%
4–6	12%
7–9	12%
10–12	16%
13–15	13%
16–17	20%
18+	27%

Gender	%
Male	52%
Female	48%

# Belonging, in Practice

How connection shows up in everyday moments.

**2025 was defined by consistency** - steady relationships, predictable rhythms, and a community grounded in care. With all age groups back onsite, Saturdays became a space of shared interdependence. Younger youth practiced emotional awareness, older youth stepped naturally into mentorship, and caregivers experienced relief knowing their youth and young adults were supported together in one place.

**Across the year, belonging took shape through everyday moments:**

- Siblings finding consistent time to rebuild relationships fragmented by circumstance
- A community that slows down when someone is overwhelmed, offering settled support without judgment
- Youth naming their needs and being met with trust and care
- Small moments of communal regulation: a pause, check-in, or shared breath
- Young people staying and discovering they belong even on hard days
- Alumni returning because community still feels like home

# 84%

**of youth return to Peace4Kids year over year**

## Belonging at Peace4Kids Leads to Stability & Trust



**90%** earn a high school diploma



**90%** maintain stable housing



**98%** recommend or are open to inviting a friend



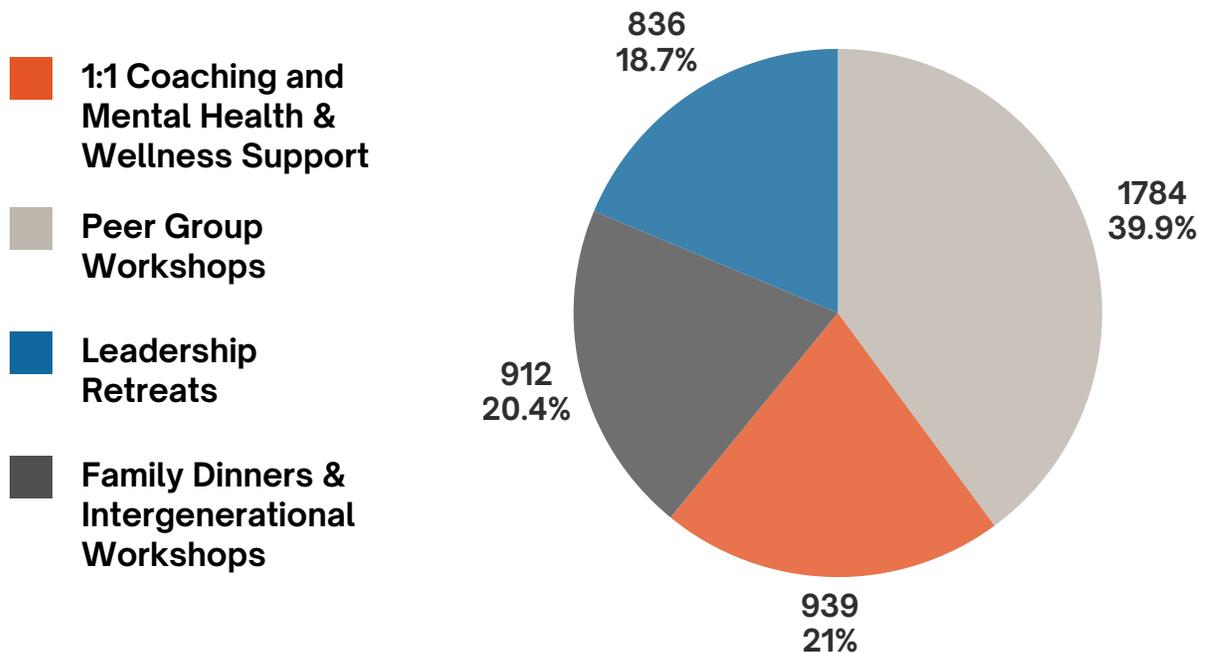
# THRIVE Program

**T**ransformational **H**ealing. **R**esponsible **I**ndependence.  
**V**isionary **E**xploration.

THRIVE reflects Peace4Kids' commitment to ensuring that belonging does not end as young people transition into adulthood. Through THRIVE, participants ages 16–26 can choose to attend group gatherings, build leadership skills, or receive 1:1 coaching on topics that matter most to them.

Designed in response to youth voice and grounded in lived experience, THRIVE supports young people as they navigate school, work, housing, and personal growth - with agency, flexibility, and room to breathe.

In 2025, young people spent **4,471 hours engaged in THRIVE programming**, including a **73% increase in individualized support** across systems navigation, wellness check-ins, and therapeutic care.



# Reflections from the THRIVE Team

Watching our youth step into their power, support one another, and stay connected, reminded us why THRIVE matters so much. Youth balanced school, work, housing, and adulthood - showing up when they could, staying in community when things felt heavy, and trusting us enough to walk alongside them.

**That trust showed up in tangible ways, as young people navigated real transitions and milestones, including:**

- Moving into transitional housing
- Starting college, jobs, and training programs
- Earning licenses, advocating for themselves, and building stability
- Re-engaging when life shifts, knowing the door remains open
- Connection is built not only through support, but through shared moments of joy



## Reclaiming Stability and Building Forward

At 18, one young person had already experienced more transitions than most - entering foster care early, being adopted, and re-entering the system as a teenager. While his involvement with Peace4Kids had been intermittent, over the last four months, it became consistent and meaningful.

Together, we worked through concrete steps toward independence - securing a government-issued ID after multiple visits, navigating safety concerns, and exploring school completion and future pathways aligned with his interests.

This year also included moments of joy: celebrating his birthday at a local soccer match, being recognized in leadership spaces, and reconnecting with peers. With steady support, he chose to remain in extended foster care and recommitted to finishing high school.

With consistency and care, he is beginning to envision a future shaped not by instability, but by choice, connection, and purpose.

***“One of the most powerful moments this year was seeing older youth and alumni return - mentoring younger participants, supporting peers, and modeling what long-term belonging looks like. As someone who aged out myself, I know how rare it is to have a place you can return to.”***

THRIVE Team Member & Foster Care Alum



# Strengthening Community Networks

## Heart-Centered Support for Caregivers and Communities

In 2025, Peace4Kids expanded Heart-Centered Learning and Coaching to support the adults who shape young people's daily lives. Through training, reflection, and relationship-centered practices, we strengthen caregiving environments where youth feel safe, seen, and supported - extending impact far beyond any single program.

**100%**

of caregivers  
surveyed  
reported  
feeling very  
supported

**173**

Youth-supporting  
professionals  
trained

# Supporting Caregivers, Strengthening Families

## Caregiver support embedded in community and care

In 2025, Peace4Kids strengthened the ecosystem around youth by integrating Caregiver Corner into Community Day programming - making involvement, guidance, and relational support available whenever caregivers were onsite, and allowing caregivers to engage organically alongside youth programming rather than through standalone events.

Much of this year's impact occurred through individualized support, aligned with our THRIVE and Mental Health & Wellness teams, as caregivers navigated regulation, transitions, and complex systems - particularly when supporting transitional-age youth.



# 100%

**of caregivers surveyed would  
recommend Peace4Kids to  
other families**

**Throughout the year, caregivers  
were supported through:**

- One-on-one coaching and individualized support
- Community Days that recognize and honor caregiver partnership
- Coordinated support across the THRIVE and Mental Health & Wellness teams
- Resources and referrals responsive to caregiver needs

*“This program is outstanding. We are grateful for the seasonal activities throughout the year. The staff, volunteers, and programs are always amazing for our boys.”* \_\_\_\_\_ Peace4Kids Caregiver

# Heart-Centered Learning

## From tools to culture — from internal practice to shared leadership

Building on prior years' work, Peace4Kids deepened its Heart-Centered Learning in 2025 by moving from participation to internal capacity-building - ensuring these practices are learned, lived, shared, and **increasingly taught to other helping professionals.**

Heart-Centered Learning integrates nervous system awareness, culturally responsive practice, and mind-body approaches to support safer, more responsive environments for youth impacted by adversity.

**73%** of staff and facilitators are certified HCC Practitioners, with 7 certified HCC Facilitators actively applying and teaching Heart-Centered Connections.

*“This learning grounded my own perspective and communication, helping me show up for youth in the way they need.”*

Heart-Centered Justice Training Participant & Youth-Supporting Professional

### Learning in Practice

This year, something subtle but powerful shifted across Peace4Kids programs. Practices that once felt like tools - noise-canceling headphones, fidgets, grounding rituals - began to show up differently.

**Youth started offering support to one another before adults intervened.** A group paused together, allowing settledness to lead instead of urgency.

What emerged wasn't just improved behavior - it was shared responsibility. Habits became rituals. Rituals became culture, creating environments where youth could stay engaged, feel safe, and belong.



# ROCMove, Research & Youth Voice

Listening first. Learning together. Shifting culture.

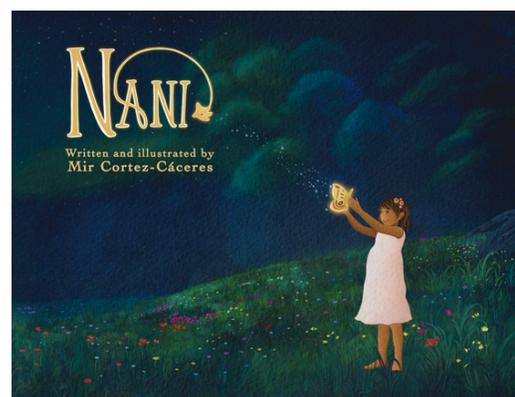
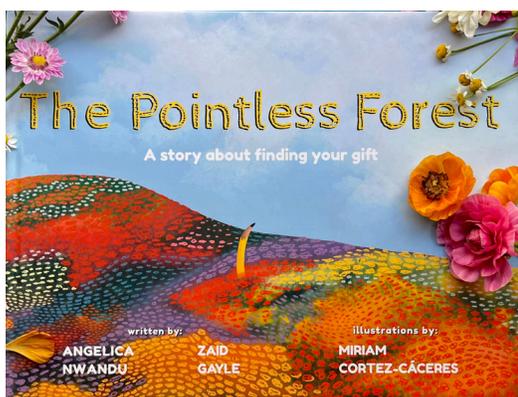
**ROCMove** (Revolution of Care Movement) was initiated by Peace4Kids youth and alumni - intergenerational leaders with lived foster care experience committed to shifting how young people in care are seen and understood.

Rooted in youth voice, ROCMove laid the foundation for **Heart-Centered Learning**, which emerged directly from what young people shared about safety, belonging, and how adults show up in their lives.

**22** Youth listening sessions in 2025  
Conducted across programs and gatherings to inform advocacy, learning design, and future research.

## Storytelling as Advocacy

Peace4Kids has published **two children's books** created by members of our community. These books remain available and continue to serve as accessible advocacy tools for families, educators, caregivers, youth-supporting professionals, and community members.



## Looking Ahead

Building on youth voice and Heart-Centered Learning, future ROCMove efforts will continue to elevate intergenerational leadership and relational approaches to systems change.

# Our Community

## Partners in a Shared Ecosystem of Care

Peace4Kids is built on relationships. Community partners show up with consistency, care, and shared purpose - expanding our capacity to create spaces where youth experience belonging, opportunity, and support. Together, we strengthen the ecosystem that makes our mission possible.



# Volunteers

## A Community Designed for Belonging

**Volunteers are at the heart of Peace4Kids.** In 2025, they showed up with consistency, care, and shared purpose, supporting weekly Saturday programming across all ages, stepping in for transportation and special activities, showing up for camping trips and Community Days, and bringing joy and creativity to THRIVE events throughout the year.

More than offering help, volunteers made it possible for youth to experience connection, agency, and belonging. Their presence - steady, relational, and responsive - helped create the kind of environment where trust grows over time and young people feel seen, supported, and empowered.



**5,290** Total volunteer-supported hours

- 4,466 individually tracked volunteer hours
- 824 guest & group volunteer hours

**20%** of our volunteers have lived experience in foster care

With small group ratios anchored around one adult for every three to four youth, Peace4Kids creates environments where adults ensure emotional safety and inclusion while intentionally stepping back so youth leadership and peer connection can emerge.

*“One of the most meaningful things I learned is that making choices is a privilege. Supporting young people to make their own choices - even when mistakes happen, is a powerful part of empowerment and autonomy.”*

Peace4Kids Volunteer

# Community Partners

## Expanding capacity through presence, generosity, and shared care

Community partners strengthen Peace4Kids by contributing time, resources, and experiences that support joy, ongoing relationships, and consistency across our community.

Partners such as **Be Peace-Be Hope**, **National Charity League**, **Chadwick International School**, **Wolf Connection**, **Tennis Is Fire**, and **For Goodness Cakes** support Peace4Kids in meaningful and complementary ways - from extended leadership camps, shared meals, beach days, pool days, and celebratory treats, to grounding field trips and confidence-building clinics.

Together, these partnerships add generosity, reliability, and care to the broader Peace4Kids ecosystem.

## Partners in Systems Change

Peace4Kids participates in countywide initiatives that strengthen prevention-focused, culturally responsive systems of care through shared learning and collaboration.

As part of a regional learning community that includes the **Youth Development Network (YDN)**, the **Ready to Rise** initiative, and **Elevate Youth California**, Peace4Kids contributes alongside peers to improve long-term outcomes for Black and Brown youth.



# 2025 Financial Stewardship

## Responsible Practices Supporting Long-Term Sustainability

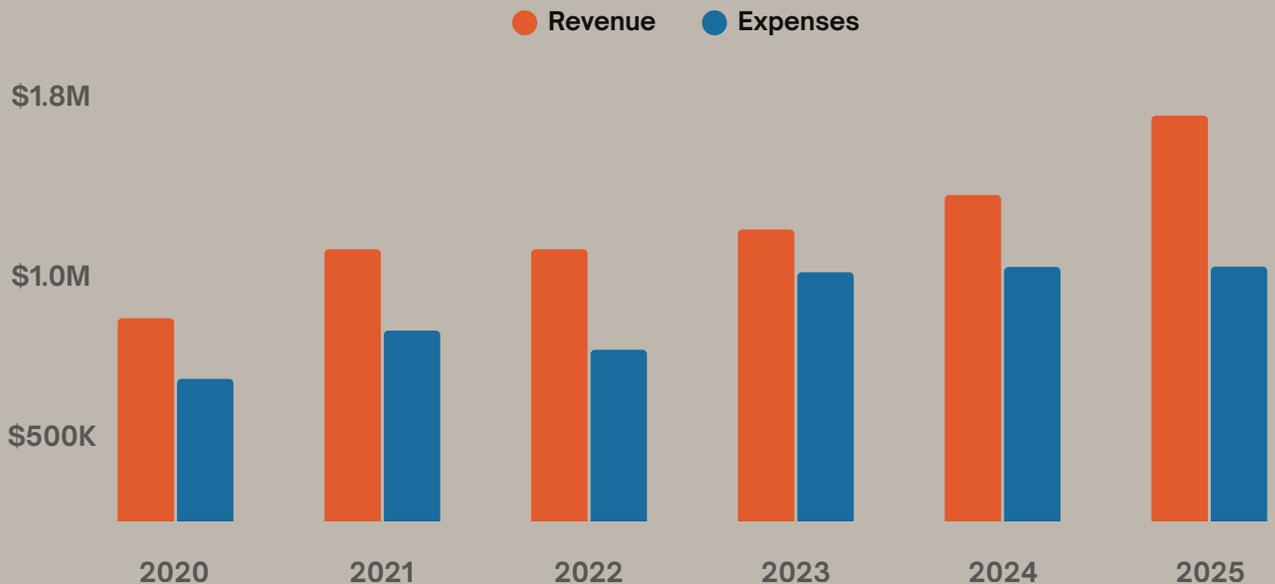


For nearly three decades, Peace4Kids has managed its resources with intention and integrity.

Balanced financial practices, trusted partnerships, and diversified revenue streams allow us to sustain programs and respond to the changing needs of youth in foster care.

This approach ensures resources are stewarded responsibly and aligned with our mission - today and into the future.

### 2025 Revenue and Expense Reporting



# Donors

Your generosity fuels Peace4Kids' mission. With your support, we create meaningful programs that strengthen youth in foster care and those who care for them.

## \$100,000+

California Community Foundation  
*Ready To Rise*  
Conrad Hilton Foundation  
Sierra Health Foundation  
*Elevate Youth California*  
LA County *Department of Youth Development*  
State of California - *CalCRG*  
Susannah Blinkoff & Jordan Corngold

## \$10,000 - \$30,000

Albert & Mackenzie  
America Online Giving Foundation  
Bruce Albert  
Dorothy Lemelson Foundation  
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund  
In-N-Out Burger Foundation  
Laguna Fabrics  
The Green Foundation  
The Rotary Club of Los Angeles  
UCLA Foundation

## \$50,000 - \$99,999

Karisma Foundation  
Pritzker Foster Care Initiative  
William I. Smith Foundation



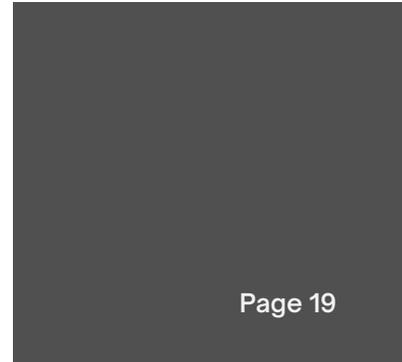
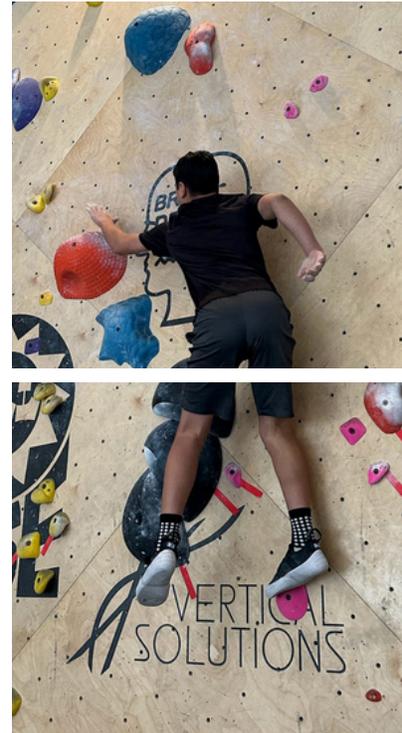
## \$5,000 - \$9,999

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Bennett Silverman  
Carrie & David Schulman  
*Family Foundation*  
J & B Family Charitable Fund  
Joe & Leslie Ponciano  
Joshua Stein  
Vistas for Children

## \$1000 - \$4,999

Cristina Rodrigues  
Charles Schwab  
*Donor Advised Fund*  
Craig Issod  
dd's Discounts  
Delight Art Foundation  
Diane Martell  
Dr. Niki Elliott  
Drew Anderson  
Dushanthie Jayamaha  
Fidelity  
*Donor Advised Fund*  
Hannah Ziskin  
Ilene Resnick  
Jacob Stein

James Dwyer  
Jennifer Ching  
John Harris  
Kimberly Adams  
Kira Magnin-Forster  
Lauren McCall  
Maicol & Rachel Parker-Chavez  
Mira Zimet  
National Charity League  
Patrick Wardle  
Richard Mead  
Rick Theder  
W. Haywood Burns Institute  
Youth4Ward



## \$500 - \$999

Case Hotel Master  
Tenant, LLC  
Catherine Idema  
Cindy Stein  
Clemence de Lutz

Darrell M. Blocker  
Gracie Blaising  
Karen Canady  
LaKeisha Thomas

LT and Dorrie  
Woods  
Maisha Daniel  
Michelle Tattini  
Monique DeBose

Richard Loring  
RSF Social Finance  
Susanna Munro  
Zaid Gayle

## up to \$499

Adriana Yugovich  
Akin Abioye  
Alan Treves  
Anne Dyer  
Asailah Brown  
Ashly Sigle  
Boris Zalder  
Briana Sanchez  
Brooke Lykins  
C.J. Lonoff  
Caitlin Cutler  
Cathy Asapahu  
Charlotte Lewis  
Chequita Capanna-  
Neal  
Christine Cho  
Cristina Echiverri  
DAFgiving 360  
Daniel Roth  
Darlington Ibekwe  
Davin Costa  
Dawn White

Deirdre Feeley  
Denise Wallace  
Eileen Dorsey  
Elijah Deleon  
Elise Puritz  
Emma Groezinger  
Gabriel Gibaldi  
Giselle Camarillo  
Goldman Sachs Donor  
Advised Fund  
Gurutej Khalsa  
Hannah Kaufman  
Jackie Lai  
Jacob Goldman  
Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Jamaica Crist  
James Short  
Jason Simon  
Jennifer Jacoby  
Jessica Ceballos  
Jill Reilly  
Joanna Silverman

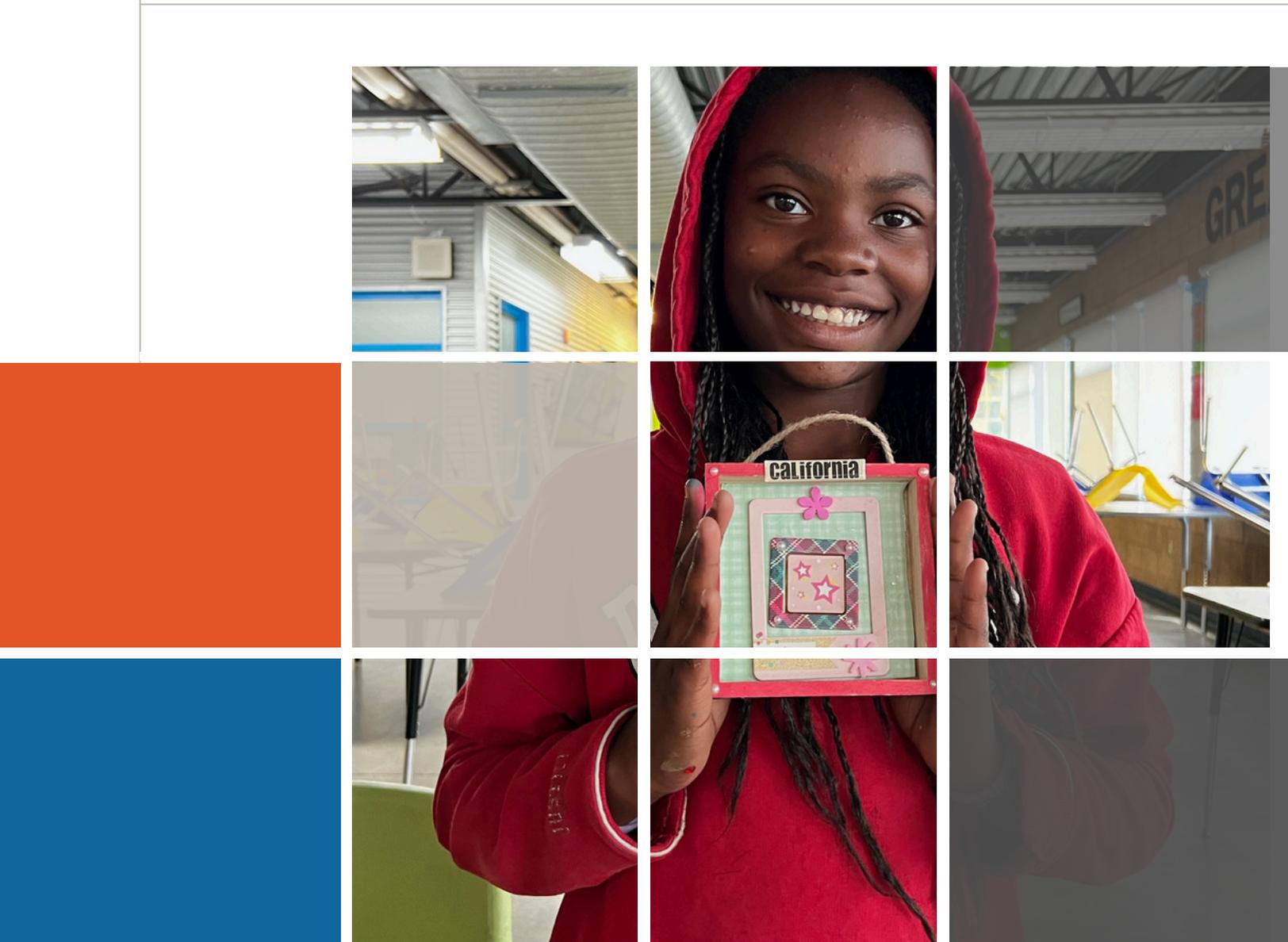
Joseph Milburn  
Julia Arias  
Kelly Tucker  
Kristy Sherrer  
Kyle Feucht  
Larry Woods  
Laura Arias  
Louise Grasmehr  
LR Fox  
Maria Gutierrez  
Maria Romero  
Maria Whitford  
Martha Lainez  
Mary Anne Bishop  
Michael Ripberger  
Michele Cardella  
Michelle McElroy  
Mike & Colleen Cotter  
Milissa Brockish  
Nancy Silverton  
Nicholas Peters  
Nick Robinson

Nicole Percz  
Ovanni Gallaher  
Phillip Goldberg  
Rachel Thomas  
Ray Few  
Robert Butner  
Ronald Kaufman  
Ryan Ososky  
Sabrina Gardner  
Sam Robinson  
Sasha Piligian  
Savannah Ashour  
Sheryl McClain  
Sofia Guerra  
Steve Zimmer  
Steven Kaufman  
Tanya Wold  
Temur Jesrai  
Varsity Bakers  
Verneece Jackson  
Vicky Choy  
Vicky Regan

**During a conversation about Santa giving someone a gift that would last a lifetime, a young person overheard and said:**

***“Peace4Kids? Are you giving them Peace4Kids? Because Peace4Kids helps you for the rest of your life.”*** \_\_\_\_\_ Peace4Kids Youth





# Thank You!

Your partnership creates community and belonging for youth in foster care. Each connection you make expands our capacity for healing and hope. **Thank you for walking with us into the year ahead.**

 323-569-2034

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 [www.peace4kids.org](http://www.peace4kids.org)