



DePaul Community Resources
Annual Report 2024

OPENING DOORS TO HOPE AND BELONGING

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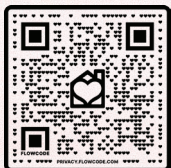
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LETTER FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENTS



In 2024, our Child and Family Services (CFS) division raised creative collaboration to a new level at DePaul. Our efforts include expansion of treatment team meetings, creation of CFS specialist positions that can work across programs, regional coverage of case management for flexibility, and enrichment of program offerings through pursuit of small grants. We provided substance use treatment and parenting education from our clinical staff to young adults in our Independent Living programs, encouraged families to participate in both foster care case management and post-adoptive supports, created counseling support for individuals with disabilities, expanded kinship care, and explored new avenues for healing such as music and play therapy.



In 2024, the Developmental Disabilities Services (DD) division continued to look for opportunities to develop new services, strengthen our existing services, and expand services into underserved areas. We strengthened our day support programs to offer more community involvement and social engagement for our participants. We introduced Agency-Directed Services and resumed group home services, ensuring children and adults with disabilities can be cared for in safe, supportive, and comfortable environments. We collaborated with DePaul's CFS division to integrate counseling services into our programs, providing additional support to the individuals we serve during times of loss and crisis.

As we continue to lean on teamwork and collaboration with every life we touch at DePaul, we are confident we can make hope and belonging an accessible reality for an increasing number of people across our footprint in 2025 and for many years to come.

In this annual report, we want to take the time to reflect on the impact we've had together in 2024. Our success stories and positive outcomes are achieved in partnership with you: our donors, community partners, providers, and volunteers. On behalf of everyone here, we thank you for your investment in the mission of DePaul and the work of hope and belonging.

Marya McPherson
Vice President of Child and Family Services

Gary Wilburn
Vice President of Developmental Disabilities Services

"The bigger the dream, the more important the team."

ROBIN SHARMA

LICENSURE AND MEMBERSHIP

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Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

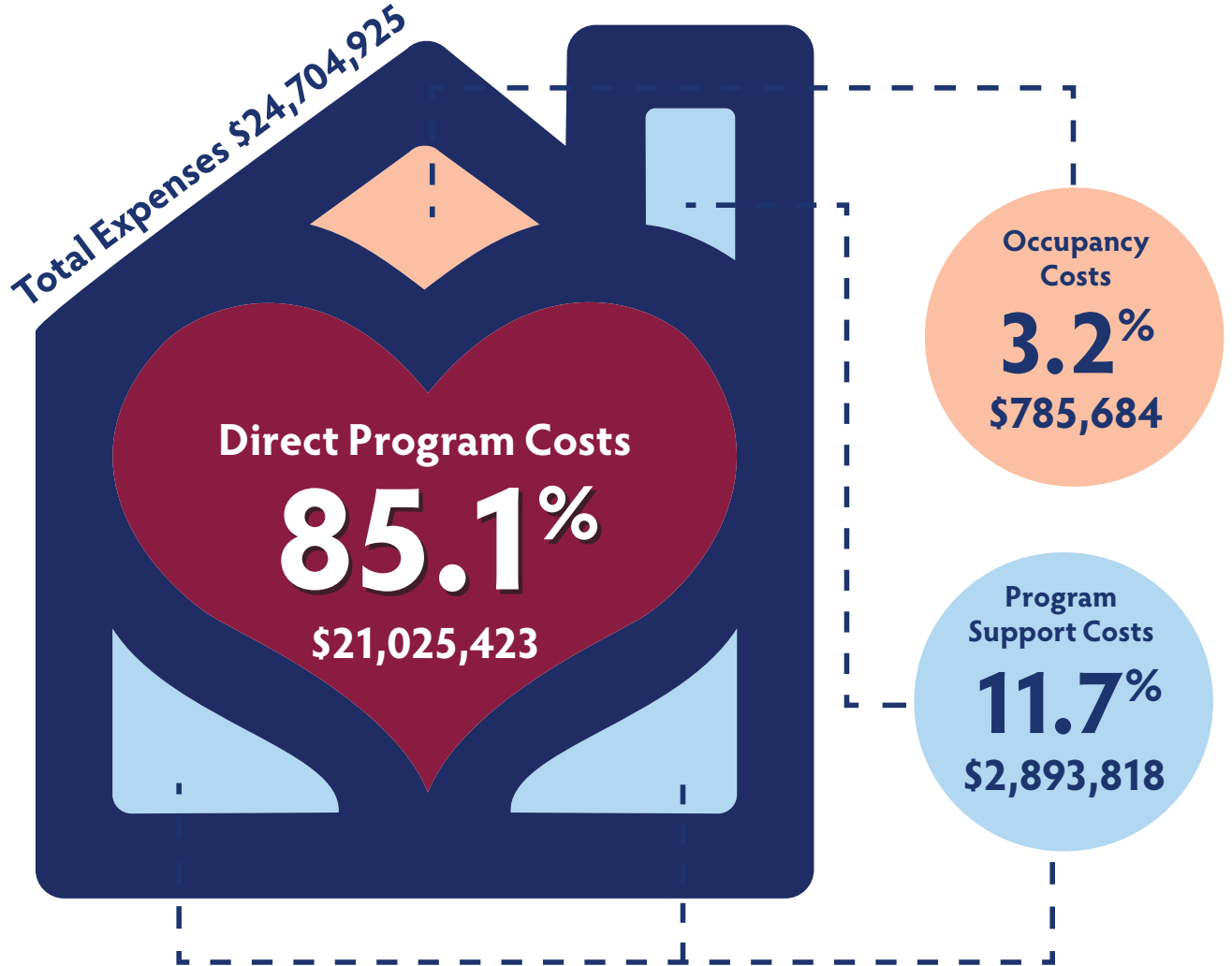


To protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.

MEMBER OF



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
Current Assets and Investments	\$9,903,927
Property and Equipment	\$2,744,200
Total Assets	\$12,648,127
Current and Total Liabilities	\$3,762,050
Net Assets	\$8,886,077
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$12,648,127

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Program Services*	\$23,651,283
Contributions	\$253,256
Investment Income Less Expenses	\$498,581
Government Grants	—
Other Income	\$13,850
Total	\$24,416,970

*Includes \$1,490,128 of grant revenues

Information pulled from annual financial audit as of June 30 each year.



BRIGHT FUTURE, BIG DREAMS

Story by Alison Wickline-Burns | Photos by Jill Meriwether Photography

Edis is proud of finding his independence. It is something he worked hard for, something he dreamed about, something he said would not have been possible without DePaul's Independent Living program.

"I'm really appreciative of what I have learned," said Edis. "It helped me to learn more about being responsible and independent. I enjoy the feeling of being able to depend on myself as much as I can."

Edis was born in Honduras. When he was 14, a family member brought him to America and he settled in Charlottesville. At that young age, Edis lived on his own in a rented room and worked in construction and painting to support himself. Just imagine being a teenager living alone in a completely new place far from home. It was not easy to say the least, and Edis was forced to grow up fast. He soon entered the foster care system and thankfully was placed in a home where he received the safety, stability, and support he desperately needed. Then, when he aged out of foster care at the age of 18, he made the decision to join DePaul's Independent Living program.

"I was led to DePaul's Independent Living program because I believed that it would be an opportunity



for me to learn more about adulthood," said Edis.

DePaul's Independent Living program provides guidance, compassion, and direction to young people as they transition from life in foster care to life as adults. While in the program, Edis graduated from high school, learned to cook meals on his own, obtained his driver's license, and even saved up \$15,000 by himself to purchase a vehicle so he could meet his own transportation needs.

"It made me feel very excited and accomplished," said Edis. "It also made me self-aware that if I continue to work hard, I can accomplish anything."

"Edis has a tremendous work ethic and has been an absolute joy in the program," said Chelsie, director of independent living. "We are extremely proud of him."

Edis transitioned out of the IL program late last summer—ready to spread his wings and live fully on his own. His future is bright, his dreams are big, and his life is full of promise and possibilities.

"I hope to have my own construction business, purchase a home, and be able to visit my biological family in Honduras," said Edis.

"I'm really appreciative of what I have learned. It helped me to learn more about being responsible and independent."

– EDIS



A FAMILY FULFILLED

Story by Alison Wickline-Burns | Photos by Taylored Images

Doug and Marta have full hearts and immense gratitude as they recount their journey as foster parents.

"There is no better feeling than knowing we have changed a child's life," said Marta. "At the same time, this child has changed our lives for the better. The process has made us realize how blessed we are and helped us appreciate the small things again."

"It's hard to explain," said Doug. "It's a roller-coaster of emotions. Seeing how happy he is now makes it all worth it."

Marta and Doug did not make the decision to become foster parents lightly. They knew they could make a difference in the life of a foster child, but they also knew that their children needed to feel safe, loved, and protected through the process. Together, as a family, they leaned into the training and support from DePaul and made the leap.

"Bringing a child we had never met before into our home was challenging," said Doug. "The hardest part was the unknown—we didn't know what to expect or what would happen. But things got better after a couple of months as we embraced

the situation with love, understanding, and positivity. After a couple years, the journey exceeded our expectations beyond our imagination. It made us better parents and a better couple."

In November, the family officially adopted Austin.

"Austin is such a sweet boy," said Marta. "He greets everyone he sees and is curious about everything. When he moved in, he didn't even want to touch a ball. Now, he wants to play sports all day."

"He was so scared and lost, carrying a lot of guilt he shouldn't have been carrying because of how things happened," said Doug. "He has a contagious personality—funny and brave."

Marta and Doug did not imagine they would adopt so soon into their foster care journey. But after welcoming Austin into their home and family—adapting and adjusting to life together—adoption was an easy decision.

"We realized Austin was the perfect addition to our family," said Marta. "We couldn't imagine our lives without him, so we decided to adopt him."

Together, this family is proving that there is plenty of love and care to go around.

"There is no better feeling than knowing we have changed a child's life. At the same time, this child has changed our lives for the better."

– MARTA







THE POWER OF PLAY

Story by Alison Wickline-Burns | Photos by Taylored Images

Sometimes it's swinging, sometimes it's jumping, sometimes it's building. Brooklyn's play therapy sessions with DePaul therapist Kim look different every time, but the goal of the sessions is still the same—to create a safe, welcoming, and fun space where Brooklyn can learn to manage her big feelings and become more independent.

"This has definitely exceeded my expectations," said Nikki, Brooklyn's mom. "The experience has been nothing but wonderful. My daughter has grown in so many ways since starting services with Kim."

Nikki and her husband started looking into counseling services in hopes of helping Brooklyn have an easier transition to preschool. After lots of searching and finding waitlist after waitlist, they were thrilled to hear that DePaul's program would welcome them immediately.

"I knew I wanted to get her help, but we were having such a hard time finding somewhere who would accept her within a short amount of time," said Nikki. "By the end of the very first appointment, I knew this is where we needed to be. Each time we go, things just get better and better."

According to the Association for Play Therapy, toys are like the child's words and play is the child's

language during play therapy. Through play, therapists may help children learn more adaptive behaviors when there are emotional or social skill issues. Through play therapy, children can reduce their anxiety, improve communication and social skills, learn to express their feelings, develop coping strategies, build problem-solving skills, and more.

"Play is the language of children and how they learn," said Kim. "Brooklyn has made such great strides toward her goals utilizing a safe and free environment to process her emotions and needs using the language of play."

Through generous grant funding, DePaul has been able to grow its play therapy program and support Kim as she explores this creative therapeutic tool with children and families. Hope and belonging can come in many forms; it can look different for everybody. But it's clear by the smile on Brooklyn's face that no matter what it looks like, providing hope and belonging for those in need always makes a powerful, positive impact.

"DePaul has been so welcoming and helpful to our family, and we are forever grateful," said Nikki. "I would absolutely encourage other parents to try counseling services at DePaul. They would quickly see, as we did, how it could change their child's life."

"This has definitely exceeded my expectations. The experience has been nothing but wonderful. My daughter has grown in so many ways since starting services with Kim."

– NIKKI



A LEGACY OF LOVE

Story by Alison Wickline-Burns | Photos by Lady B Photography

Michelle misses her son Nathan every second of every day.

“Nathan was empathetic, loving, smart, funny, strong-willed, and determined,” said Michelle. “He loved listening to music and going for long car rides, and he built special bonds with everyone around him. He overcame countless obstacles. Nathan proved time and again that individuals with disabilities—even multiple disabilities—have unique and amazing personalities and make the world a better place.”

Nathan passed away in 2022 at the age of 18. In the last year of his life, DePaul’s Sponsored Residential program provided support to the family, allowing them to spend more quality time together—something Michelle will always be grateful for.

“It’s comforting to know that he spent his final months doing exactly what he loved every single day,” said Michelle.

In the early days after Nathan’s passing, the loss felt insurmountable. How could Michelle, her husband Mike, and her son Joshua move forward without their “Nater Gator?” But Michelle and her family knew Nathan would want them to find healing and happiness, so they did. They took time to grieve, leaned on their family and friends for support, and made a commitment to preserving Nathan’s legacy and continuing his impact on the community.

“We were fortunate to have excellent educators and therapists serving our son, and we want others like him

to have the same opportunities to realize their potential,” said Michelle. “This is why we created the Nathaniel G. Hughes Memorial Scholarship for students seeking a career in a special education-related field.”

Along with the scholarship, the family felt called to open their hearts and home to an individual with disabilities in need.



“It took two years of healing through our grief, but the entire time we knew the end goal would be to accept someone into our family and provide support,” said Michelle. “When we decided it was time to move forward, DePaul’s staff was supportive and helpful, carefully listening to what we hoped for and what our needs were as a family.”

The family is now caring for a 15-year-old young man with multiple disabilities, including autism and ADHD. Every day,

they work hard to provide a loving, supportive environment where he can grow and thrive. They face challenges, but they are learning to adapt and adjust together.

“We have strong faith and believe that Nathan might have had a hand in this placement,” said Michelle. “I hope he would be proud that his ‘MomMommy’ and ‘DadDay’ are utilizing the lessons he taught us about unconditional love and service for others. I imagine Nathan’s beautiful face smiling down on us with approval and love.”

“I imagine Nathan’s beautiful face smiling down on us with approval and love.”

– MICHELLE



In Loving Memory of
Nathan Hughes
Son, Brother, Grandson and Friend
2003-2022



CALLED TO CARE

Story by Alison Wickline-Burns | Photos by Taylored Images



Caring for individuals with disabilities has become a true calling for Monica. She was initially introduced to DePaul's Sponsored Residential program through a close family member. Soon, her heart led her to open her home as a compassionate caregiver.

"I knew it was time to open my heart and home to an individual in need," said Monica. "I was inspired by DePaul's mission and saw the steadfast support from staff, so I felt confident I could do it if they walked alongside me."

"The journey into sponsored residential services often begins with a personal connection, and for one of our dedicated providers, Monica, that connection was deeply rooted in family," said Lisa, regional manager of residential services.

In 2023, Monica welcomed Donna into her home.

"Donna radiates warmth and joy and brings positive energy to those around her," said Monica.

Donna was looking for support, connection, and more independence. She dreamed of being part of her community, building strong relationships, and expanding her world view. Together, Monica and Donna have made those dreams a reality. Whether it's trips to the beach, visiting a local coffee shop, listening to music they love, or doing self-care days, Monica and Donna make the most of every moment.

"Monica's dedication goes beyond daily care," said Lisa. "She fosters a nurturing environment where Donna can embrace her interests, gain new experiences, and enjoy greater independence. Their shared journey reflects the true spirit of sponsored residential services—providing a home where individuals are supported, respected, and encouraged to lead full, meaningful lives."

"The journey into sponsored residential services often begins with a personal connection, and for one of our dedicated providers, Monica, that connection was deeply rooted in family."

– LISA

Your 2024 Impact...

- ♥ **Foster Care: 123** children and teens experienced safety and healing in a family home.
- ♥ **Adoption: 169** children and teens received support during their adoption process, including **78** who were officially welcomed into their forever homes. **334** families received post-adoption services for enhanced stability and connection.
- ♥ **Day Support: 23** individuals with disabilities were provided opportunities for social inclusion, skill-building, and community engagement.
- ♥ **Sponsored Residential Care: 132** individuals with disabilities resided in family homes instead of institutions.
- ♥ **Counseling Services: 315** individuals and families worked toward healing and strengthened their relationships.
- ♥ **Independent Living: 26** young adults transitioned into college, employment, and stable housing.
- ♥ **Kinship Care: 18** families were provided vital kinship support resources to ensure children stayed close to their family network and out of foster care.
- ♥ **Agency-Directed Services: 112** families received services so they could care for their loved ones with a disability in their own home.



What Needs To Be Done...

- ♥ **1,685** children in foster care are waiting to be adopted
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2025
- ♥ **66** adults still reside in training centers
Source: The Arc of Virginia, January 2025
- ♥ **757** children are living in temporary care facilities, group homes, or residential treatment facilities
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, January 2025
- ♥ **15,436** Virginians with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for waivers
Source: The Arc of Virginia, January 2025
- ♥ **442** youth aged out of foster care without a permanent placement during fiscal year 2023
Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, December 2024





You Made It Possible



The William Dean Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee and the Phalia M. and Guy M. Kinder Fund from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia both awarded support grants this year totaling \$16,800 to ensure our therapy dog, Daisy, can continue offering comfort during DePaul counseling sessions. Daisy's presence lowers anxiety and encourages communication—which is especially critical for young people who struggle to talk about past traumatic events. Our experienced outpatient therapist, Kim, LCSW, incorporates Daisy into counseling sessions when beneficial to help her clients make a turning point in their journey to recovery and healing. "I've seen firsthand the impact animal-assisted therapy can have, especially with children and clients with complex trauma," said Kim. "There are clients who ask for Daisy the minute they walk in."



For the third year in a row, the E. C. Wareheim Foundation has awarded DePaul's Independent Living (IL) program \$20,000 to support young adults ages 18 to 21 who have aged out of foster care. Irvin and Sam Marshall made sure each young adult in the IL program had gifts for the holidays. DePaul foster parent Vickie Widener rallied her community and donated gifts, trees, and holiday decorations to young adults in the program. Ayers Financial Services and More Better Technology hosted donation drives with their clients and employees to provide supplies and much-needed items. These young adults have experienced hardships in the foster care system and the majority endured abuse and neglect. Without a permanent family home and the opportunities needed to succeed, they are at an increased risk of devastating outcomes, including homelessness, substance abuse, violence, and incarceration. With the help of generous community members, DePaul's IL program improves the odds for young adults and gives them the tools they need to achieve their goals.

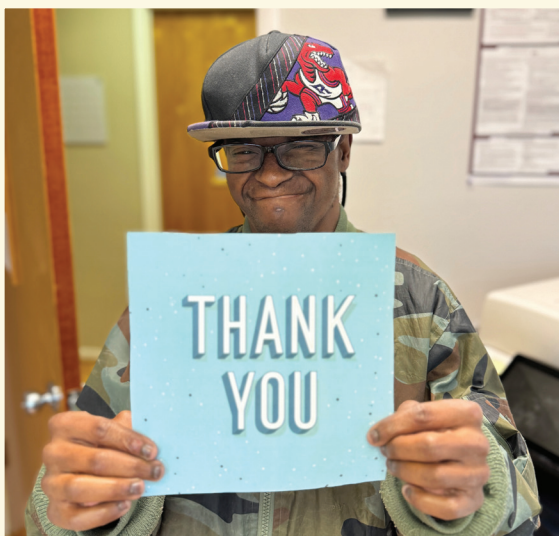


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Since its inception, DePaul's Kinship Care program has provided support and services to more than 51 children and teenagers. Their ages range from 14 days old to 18 years old. DePaul started this program in hopes of improving outcomes for youth at risk of entering foster care that could benefit from placements within their extended families. The kinship care program is 100% grant and donor funded. Its positive impact in the community would not have been possible without the generous financial support of many foundations and donors, including Richard & Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust, Nordstrom Cares, Roanoke City, Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, Freedom First, and most recently, RCM&D and the Roanoke Women's Foundation. "It is critical that we devote resources and support to the families in our community to prevent them from suffering the trauma of separation if at all possible and to have a positive impact on an overstretched foster care system," said Renee Brown, DePaul president and CEO.

The Community Foundation of Central Blue Ridge, the Al Stroobants Foundation, and the Julia and Tunncliff Fox Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee each awarded DePaul grants totaling \$15,000 this year to enhance activities for participants of our OPTIONS day support programs in Madison Heights and Fishersville. DePaul's OPTIONS centers are welcoming, loving places to belong for individuals with disabilities, with activities inside and outside the center that are tailored to the abilities and interests of participants. Funding from these grants provided our OPTIONS centers with critical program support and helped our participants engage in meaningful and fun activities outside of the center. Their favorite place to visit remains the Virginia Safari Park.



DePaul's Bridge to Hope Fund continues to meet needs in our community thanks to your generous donations. Now in its fourth year, grants and donors have helped more than 60 children, 41 individuals with disabilities, and 75 families access critical supplies, equipment, and services when everyone else has said "no." Grants this year from the Earl D. and Carrie Leigh Doran Fund of the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, the Sam and Marion Golden Helping Hand Foundation, Jessee N. Bosang Trust, Harry and Zoe Poole Foundation, and Wythe-Bland Foundation collectively awarded more than \$20,000 to support the Bridge to Hope Fund throughout the state.



OUR CORPORATE MISSION

We work to support the success of our clients by providing a high-quality, sustainable, accountable, and supportive organization that clears the skies for our workforce.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES MISSION

We work to ensure safety, promote permanency, facilitate healing, and support independence for the children and families we serve.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES MISSION

We work to support personal choice, promote individual growth, and increase social inclusion to improve quality of life for individuals who have a developmental disability.

KEY

Office



Day Support

