

SKOOKUM KIDS



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

*Child abuse is our gravest and most costly public health issue in the US. Its overall costs exceed cancer or heart disease. If we eradicated child abuse in America, we would reduce the overall rate of depression by half, alcoholism by two-thirds, and suicide, IV drug use and domestic violence by three-quarters.*

*—2019 CDC Report on Adverse Childhood Experiences*

When you invest in the health and recovery of kids who have been abused or neglected and find themselves for a short time in foster care, you are making a very high leverage investment in the health of your community.

When you volunteer, when you help spread the word about the needs, **when you donate you are doing a lot of good, not just for some kids out there somewhere, but for yourself, for your family, for your neighbors.**

Because those kids, when cared for like we know how, they don't grow up to live on the street and commit crimes and abuse their own children. No! They aspire to build for themselves the kind of life, the kind of family that they were invited into as a child. They know they are loved.

If not by the people whom they expected to love them, then by some generous strangers who gave, who made sure they were safe and fed, who read them story after story until they fell asleep, who made them a part of a new family, and who believed in their parents when nobody else did. **Kids who get that kind of care; it changes their lives forever.**

I know it can be hard to see all that from your vantage. Unless you volunteer every month or serve as a foster parent yourself, you don't have the honor of bearing witness when a healing child's personality blossoms for the first time. But there is nothing more sacred. It signals the change that's coming, the change that we are making together.

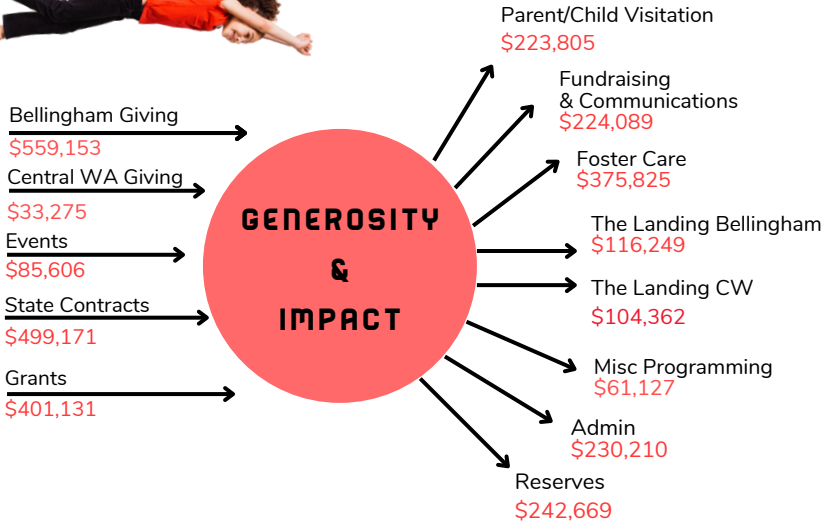
As you are considering where to send your support this holiday season, **I hope you'll give in support of the kids & families in foster care.** Because we are working together at the root of some of society's biggest and hardest problems. **And with your generosity, real change is possible.**



**RAY DECK III**



# WHAT IT TAKES TO CHANGE THE WORLD



## SKOOKUM BY THE NUMBERS

- 15 children successfully exited foster care to reunify with their families.
- We facilitated more than 1,000 visits between children in foster care and their parents.
- 95 children spent at least one night at one of our emergency shelters.
- 34 children were thoughtfully placed into the foster homes we support.
- 9 new families were prepared to become foster families.



"You are in the trenches with the kids. That has always stuck with me, and I think it's beautiful. It makes all the difference in the world to them."

*Jen Siler, Skookum Foster and Adoptive Parent*

**Thank you for reading!**

[skookumkids.org](https://skookumkids.org)

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