

*doing life together.*



*Mommies Matter*

2025

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Annual Report

a letter from our Executive Director

Monica Flynn

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Anyone who knows me knows I love a good story. So, as we look back on our accomplishments from this past year and look forward to the work ahead in 2026, I want to begin with one.

There was once a woman in a small village who carried water every morning from the well to her home. She had two jars tied to a wooden pole across her shoulders. One jar was strong and whole. The other had a small crack. Every day, by the time she returned home, the cracked jar was only half full. The cracked jar grew ashamed. One morning it whispered, "I am so sorry. You should throw me away. I am broken." But the woman only smiled. "Have you not noticed the flowers along your side of the path? I knew about your crack all along, so I planted seeds there. Every day as we walked, you watered them. This path is filled with beauty because of you. What you consider a weakness is, in fact, a blessing."

That is exactly how God works. He takes what feels weak or broken and transforms it into something life-giving. That is the story of the mothers we served this past year. These women carry enormous burdens. They are raising children alone, facing financial strain, and often enduring the weight of past trauma. Like the cracked jar, many come to our doors feeling the weight of shame. But here is where we, the Mommies Matter community, step in. Galatians 6:2 tells us to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." In 2025, we didn't just talk about that verse; we lived it. We came alongside these mothers to "do life together." However, we must also be clear about the environment in which we work. This brings me to another story.

A man once stood on a fence between God and the enemy. He thought he could stay neutral, telling both sides, "I don't choose either of you." But when the field vanished and darkness closed in, the enemy whispered, "The fence belongs to me."

Today, we are witnessing a spiritual battle. The enemy seeks to break down families and spread the lie that a baby in the womb is not a child. In our mission, neutrality is not an option. We cannot sit on the fence.

Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Our neighbors—these single mothers—often feel like that cracked jar: inadequate and exhausted. But God sees their potential. He calls us to love them in both word and deed.

Your support over the past year has been the water for those seeds. Because of your generosity in 2025, Mommies Matter provided the tangible support these families thirst for. Just a few examples of ways we show up:

- We were there in the delivery rooms.
- We sat in the courtrooms and the ER waiting rooms.
- We provided the car repairs and the tuition payments that kept families afloat.
- We offered the counseling that began the process of healing from trauma.

But most importantly, your financial support allowed us to create a space where these women didn't just hear about Christ's love—they felt it.

As we enter 2026, I am asking you to stay off the fence. Your gifts today water seeds of faith and courage. Because of you, those seeds will grow—not just into flowers along a path—but into strong families, thriving children, and living testimonies of God's redeeming love. Thank you for making this mission possible.

Warmly,



Monica Flynn  
Executive Director, Mommies Matter

Staff

Monica Flynn  
Executive Director

Gina McCauley  
Executive Assistant

Lauren Steinbauer  
Family Advocate / Childcare Coordinator

Kendra Utt  
Family Advocate

Daphne Suh  
Outreach Coordinator

Kelly Rubadue  
Volunteer Coordinator / Events and  
Enrichment Coordinator

Marie Kenna-Dixon  
Marketing & Graphic Design Coordinator

Advocacy Partners

Erin Eizenmits  
Financial Advocate

Meredith Murphy  
Life Coach

Board Members

Monica Flynn	Phil Kraker
Leisa Ehlers	Daphne Suh
Micah Haralson	

Our Mission

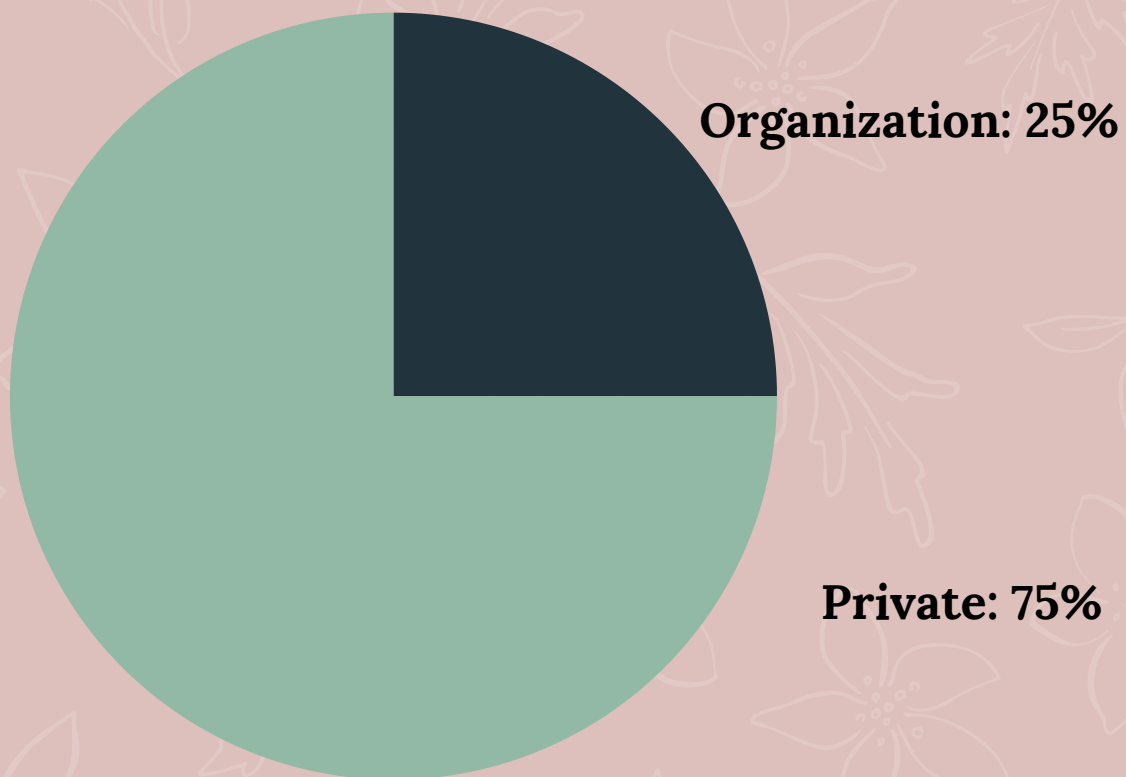
Empowering single, pregnant women by "Doing Life Together."

Our Vision

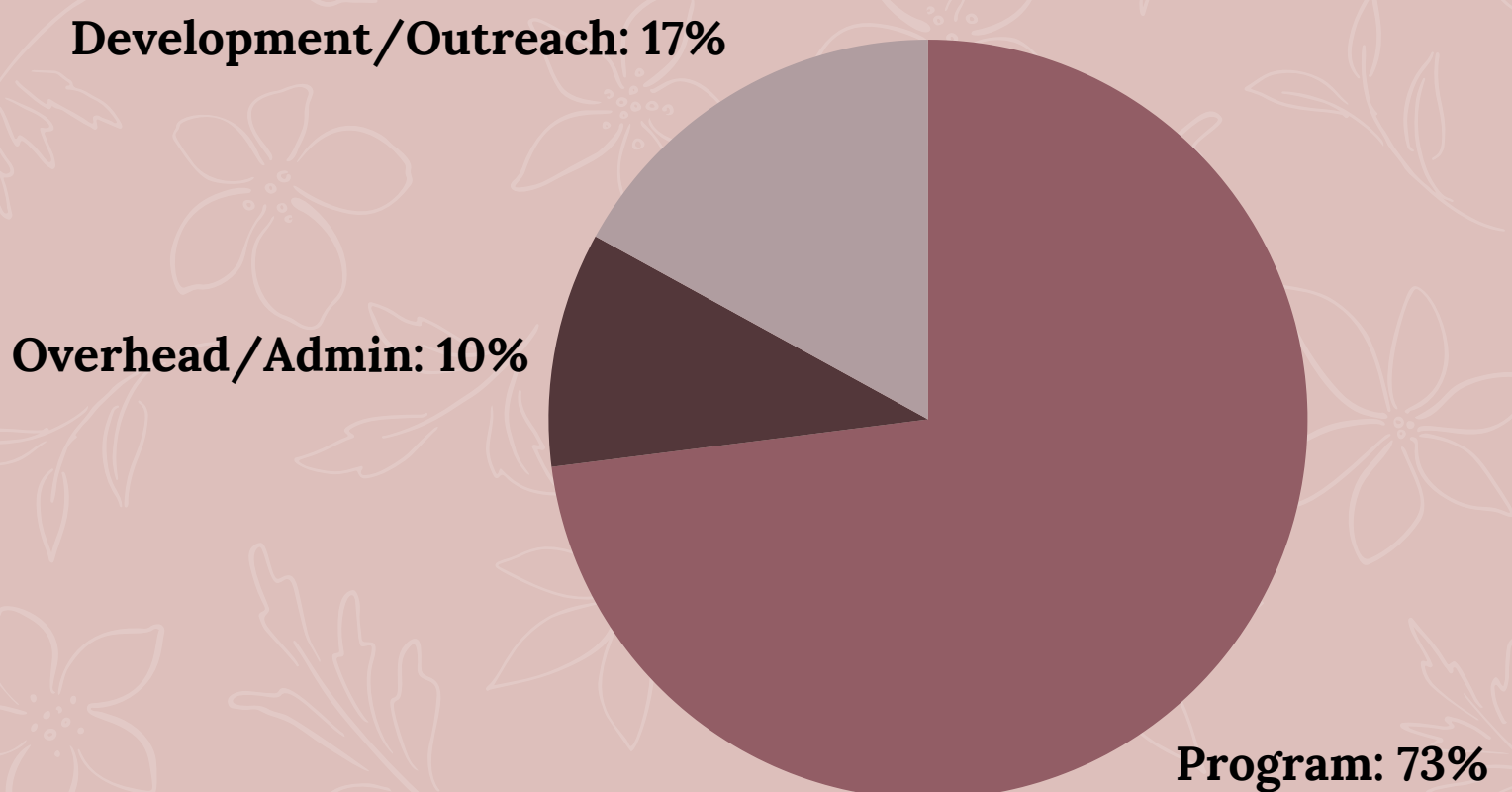
For every mother to embrace her dignity and value as a woman.

# Financial Summary

## Income



## Expenses



“Thank you all so much!

I’m blown away by the support from Mommies Matter!

I’m blessed to be a part of it! Thank you!”

– Mommie C.



# Year in Review



65

Mommies in  
the program



Babies Welcomed  
in 2024

23



174

Total number of Mommies  
and children served

Number of Volunteers

198



3308

Volunteer Hours





# Featured Mommie *Leslie*

My name is Leslie. I was born into a family with two older sisters and a mother who lived in fight-or-flight mode due to my abusive, crack-addicted father. I was an unplanned pregnancy, so much so that the day I was born my father was out feeding his addiction by selling all the food and electronic devices in the home. I grew up fighting and in fear of the unknown. We ran many times to shelter after shelter, sneaking out in the middle of the night, moving cross-county for refuge. At the age of three this was my life. My parents divorced when I was 13 years old, and that was one of the happiest days of my life.

By 2021, I was 33 years old and engaged to who I believed was the love of my life! We were trying to get pregnant, but I had been diagnosed with insulin resistance and polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) when I was 18 years old. The physician at the time told me I would never be able to have children, but the desire of my heart was to be a mother. We prayed, ate cleanly, worked out, took vitamins... and I became pregnant. Life was great, my partner was supportive, and we had life planned out. We had our baby late February 2022 and my heart was full!

By August, our son was six months old, and my supportive partner was no longer supportive. He was more distant than ever, and the relationship was down the drain. He exposed that he had been hiding an alcohol and drug addiction and became suicidal and scary. We completely split up. I was looking for hope, community and connection. I had this beautiful, smart, amazing little boy, yet here we were with life not going as planned.

I was introduced to Mommies Matter by another Mommie in the program. Our boys were the same age and we clicked instantly. What I did not know was all that I was going to gain from this program, and I don't just mean financially. Mommies Matter inspired me. I was intrigued by American Sign Language (ASL), and one day at an Enrichment event, I noticed Monica (Founder and Executive Director) signing. I was surprised to see someone signing in a room full of hearing people. I later learned about her history with ASL, and I knew I wanted to be around her. I spent a weekend getting to know Gina (Executive Assistant and Donor Management) for who she is. I was also able to recognize that I was suffering from postpartum depression and was able to take advantage of Mommies Matter's life coach, Meredith. I am extremely thankful to have had Meredith, as she challenged me weekly. I looked forward to speaking to this woman whom I had never met in person at the time. Being able to have an adult conversation every second and fourth Tuesday each month was refreshing.

I also wanted to learn and grow deeper in my faith and lead more people to Jesus, and Mommies Matter has been a huge part of my spiritual growth. I've connected with so many amazing women, especially Kendra (Mommies Matter's Family Advocate). She's been there for me through thick and thin, always offering prayer and support. Kendra is like family to me, and I trust her completely. When I needed diapers, wipes, and other baby items, Mommies Matter was always there to help. My son and I have made lifelong friends through the organization, and our kids have grown up together like cousins. Mommies Matter has taught me the true meaning of kindness, trust, and consistency.

The women of Mommies Matter are truly the hands and feet of Jesus. They have poured into my son and me. Their empowerment encouraged me to go back to school to become a certified community health worker, and then on to becoming a certified doula. My son is now four years old, growing bigger and smarter every day. Life has its difficulties, but we all have choices and I choose the greatest things life has to offer and to not be defined by my circumstances. To Kendra, Monica, Gina, and Meredith -- Thank you for meeting me where I am and showing me grace. I love the Mommies Matter community, and as a community health worker, I always sing its praises. With life settling down. I wanted to give back in any way I could, so I answered the volunteer ad for Allies, hoping to do for others what was done for me. Now as a Mommies Matter Ally, I want to see women win in whatever way that looks like for them.





# Volunteer Spotlight

## Gina Schuler

In honor of her tremendous efforts, compassionate heart, and commitment to the mission at Mommies Matter, it is a pleasure to recognize and spotlight our long-time volunteer, **Gina Schuler**. Gina joined Mommies Matter five years ago. She has mentored seven Mommies through her role as an Ally. She has also procured countless donations from area vendors for our



annual fundraisers every year, and she also provides delicious meals for our families at our in-person enrichment sessions. Gina is such an invaluable part of our Mommies Matter family, and we are so grateful for her service!

**“All good giving and every perfect gift is from above.” James 1:17**

*Upon retiring in 2020, I felt a need to volunteer, and Mommies Matter became an answer to my prayers. As an Ally, I have been blessed to serve seven Mommies in my five years of service. Mommies Matter has truly been the best decision for enhancing my faith, encouraging personal growth, gaining insights into the realities of poverty, and maintaining constant trust in God.*

*I’ve been so inspired by our Mommies who handle stress and hardships with a positive attitude. One special Mommie of twins described a 5AM morning routine before work. It was so intense, it made the rest of us tired just hearing about it.*

*Many experiences with Mommies Matter have deepened my faith, but none as much as a pregnant young lady who did not want to be pregnant and had an appointment. With Monica’s counseling and many prayer warriors in action, she bravely chose life. I am in awe of God’s gifts every time I see her beautiful children. After the birth, Mommies Matter kept promises of babysitting, meals, and any other help needed. I could list so many more exhilarating examples of our Mommies’ challenges, courage, and strength.*

*Monthly Enrichments - Creating a loving atmosphere where I always feel God’s presence. My favorite in the last year involved prayer teams who prayed over our Mommies and Allies. It was truly an emotional experience and lifted all of our hearts. I always walk away from Enrichments feeling that I get more than I give.*

*Finally, I feel very blessed to be on the fundraising committee. Praying before I ask teaches me that God’s generosity has no limits. It warms my heart to see so many businesses, artists, and caring people make generous donations.*

*I know God is smiling on Mommies Matter when I see how we are growing and becoming who He wants us to be.*

## A Night to Remember

The 2025 Fall Fundraiser was the most successful event to date, thanks to the generosity and involvement of our incredible supporters!

A special thank you to Zayne Harshaw of Blue Spectrum Band and Steve Simeone for providing us with relatable, good-humored comedy that brought many laughs and smiles to our guests! Great thanks to our many corporate and individual sponsors, churches and local Knights of Columbus Councils that helped to make the evening one to remember.

A very special mention of gratitude to Mommie Tatum, who told her story in a video that debuted at the event (Tatum's story is one you're going to love, and you can view it anytime on our website). We were glad to have Tatum and her children with us in the audience that evening, as well as four other Mommies who attended the event as guests.

Your faithful commitment to this cause is what makes Mommies Matter possible, serving as a place of connection for pregnant single mothers in our community. Save the Date for this year’s **2026 Fall Fundraiser on October 7<sup>th</sup>**, featuring a very special guest speaker: Roy Hall Jr., former Ohio State 2-time champion and NFL Wide Receiver, who is known nationally for his motivational messages on leadership, resilience, and overcoming adversity!

—Monica Flynn, Executive Director





# Referring and Supporting Agency Partners



# *Church Partners and Financial Partners*

## **Church Partners**

Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption  
Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church  
Columbus Christian Center  
Ethos Church  
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
Life Church at Easton  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church  
Palmetto Presbyterian  
Powell Faith Community Church  
St. Agatha Catholic Church  
St. Brendan Catholic Church  
St. Brigid of Kildare Catholic Church  
St. Catharine Catholic Church  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church  
St. Frances de Sales Catholic Church  
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
St. John Neumann Catholic Church  
St. Mary Catholic Church  
St Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church  
St. Patrick Catholic Church  
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church  
St. Peter Catholic Church  
Sunbury Christian  
Westerville Christian

## **Corporate and Financial Partners**

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Connected Pathways Early Learning Center  
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Good Samaritan Ministry at St. John Neumann  
Grange Insurance  
JP Morgan Chase  
Knights of Columbus state and local chapters  
Lynch Family Foundation  
Serenity Fairway Foundation  
St. Martha's Giving Circle  
The Catholic Foundation  
The Mary Foundation  
Trinity Financial  
Young Catholic Professionals



## *Other Partners*

Abigail Erdy Photography  
Action for Children (Arla Lyles)  
Anna Lincoln Photography  
Amanda Mahle Photography  
Beth Escudero Photography  
Baby Bundles  
Big Walnut Friends Who Share  
Bishop Hartley High School  
Bishop Watterson High School  
Byers Motor Mart  
Byron Sanders Foundation  
Caroline Pitts Doula  
Chelsea LaGrasse (Self Defense Training)  
Christ Child Society  
Christian Brothers Automotive  
Columbus Diaper Bank  
Corn Maze Adventures at Lynd's Fruit Farm  
Daughters of Erin  
Diocesan Office of Social Concerns  
Evolve Women's Collective  
FNPhenomenal (Aisha Taylor)  
Greater Columbus Right to Life  
Kona Ice  
Little Ladies Soft Serve  
Maire Richards Doula Services  
Newborns in Need  
Nicole Ready Massage Services  
Operation Warm  
Pastaria  
Project Linus  
Rachael Laurin Photography  
Resume Reel (Anne Gottwald)  
Sally Hackett Counseling  
SJN HUGS  
Sondra Yothers Catering  
Steve Fulkert Foundation  
Story Point Gahanna  
Subba & Ria  
Suzanne Kelly  
St. Charles Preparatory School  
St. Gabriel Catholic Radio  
St. Vincent De Paul Society, Lancaster  
Texas Roadhouse  
The Catholic Times  
Tim Horton's Westerville  
Trader Joe's Easton  
Westerville Realty Association  
Young Lives for Underage Pregnant Moms in Need



