



**2025
IMPACT
REPORT**

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Reflections on Childhood

One of my earliest memories is sitting on the kitchen floor, tracing plates of various sizes with my mom. She'd cut them into spirals and place them over the floor vents, and I'd watch, mesmerized, as the rising heat pushed the paper into the air. By middle school, my brother and I were so comfortably "bored" that we constructed a three-foot-tall "Wheel of Boredom" out of cardboard. We'd spin it to decide our next adventure.

I often wonder how different my childhood would have been in today's world. Boredom has become a thing of the past. In this age of instant entertainment, handcrafted creation and raw experimentation have been replaced by passive consumption. But the cost of this digital immersion is higher than just a loss of creativity, it's a loss of well-being.

Recent data shows that 20% of high school students seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. This breaks my heart, but it also fuels our mission.

Our programming has become increasingly intentional. We don't just offer activities; we look at the research and provide the connection and stability that children desperately need. We're forming a new way of life for families, where they can step away from the noise of ads and entertainment and meaningfully connect.

I feel deeply privileged to have had a childhood defined by outdoor play, messy crafts, and too many sleepovers with friends to count. Because that is no longer the standard experience, we are doing everything we can to give a childhood marked by joy, connection and creativity back to those who need it most. Thank you for standing with us.

With gratitude & determination,

Sarah Lopez-Madrigal



OUR FOUNDER CIRCA 1995

FRACTURED RELATIONSHIPS

The problem we're tackling

2 in 10
(20%)

high school students seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year



According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Diagnosed anxiety disorders **increased by 61%** between 2016 and 2023

Oregon ranks 50th out of 50 states



in adult prevalence of a mental illness with nearly one in three adults in Oregon reported having a mental illness

According to the 2025 Mental Health America report

Research from the University of Bath reveals a staggering lagged effect of isolation:

young people (ages 4–21) who struggle with loneliness face a tripled risk of depression

with negative mental health outcomes **persisting for at least nine years**



REPAIRING CONNECTION

2025 Impact in numbers



196 LIVES INVESTED
IN ACROSS **50**
FAMILIES

71 KIDS ENGAGED
IN OUR OUT-OF-
SCHOOL PROGRAM

746 HOURS OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL
INVESTMENT IN KIDS ACROSS
373 DAYS

1,254+
VOLUNTEER
HOURS ACROSS **25**
YOUTH MENTORS

6 FAMILY
GATHERINGS

53 ADVENTURE
OUTINGS



MEANINGFUL GROWTH

Youth survey responses

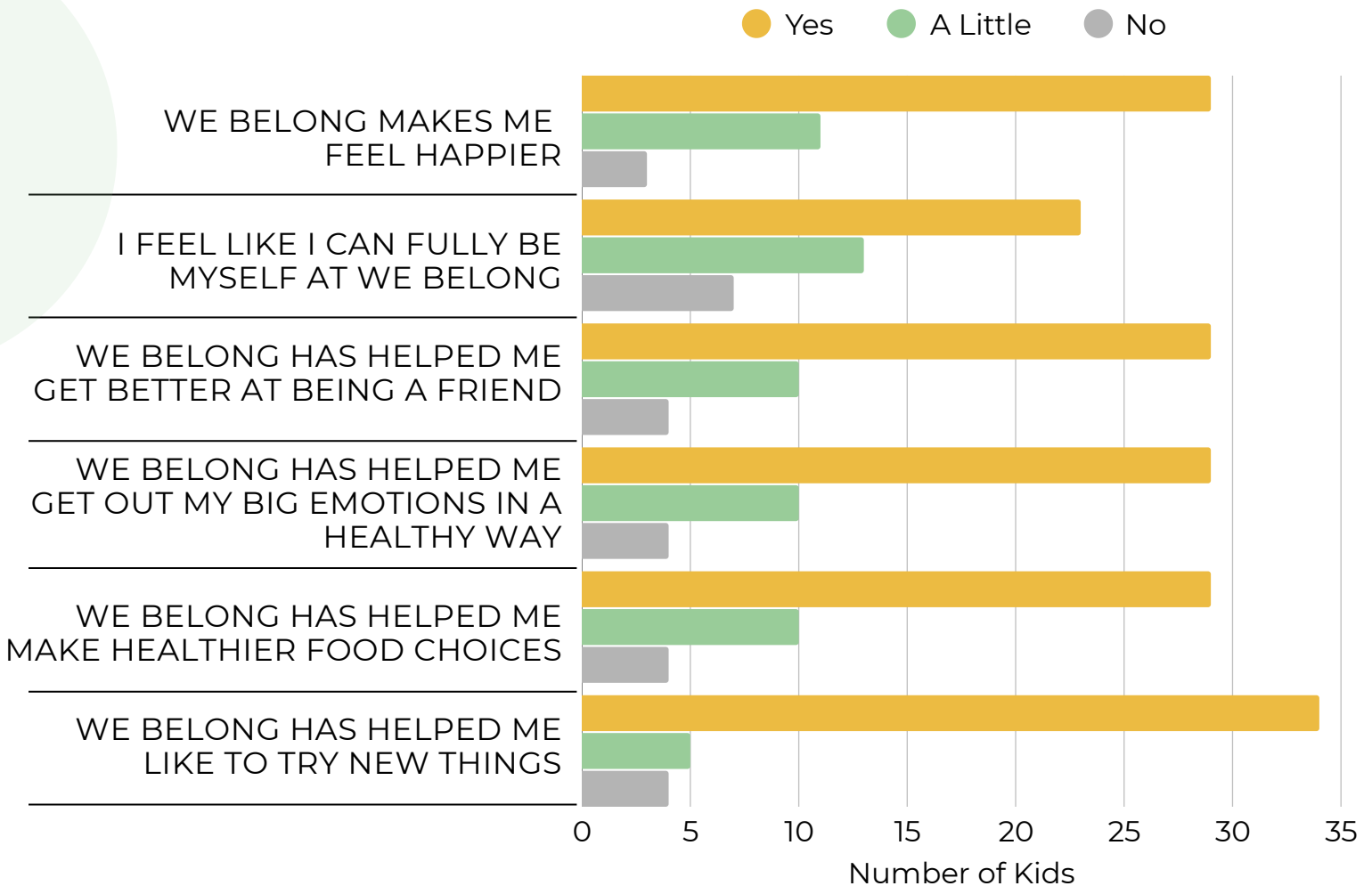
94%

SAID THERE IS AT LEAST ONE ADULT AT WE BELONG WHO THEY TRUST AND KNOW THEY CAN GO TO FOR HELP



81%

SAID THERE IS AT LEAST ONE PEER AT WE BELONG WHO THEY TRUST AND CONSIDER A GOOD FRIEND



MEANINGFUL INVESTMENT

Parent survey responses

“We Belong has given my child a true sense of belonging and confidence. Knowing they are seen, supported, and celebrated has made a meaningful difference for our whole family.”

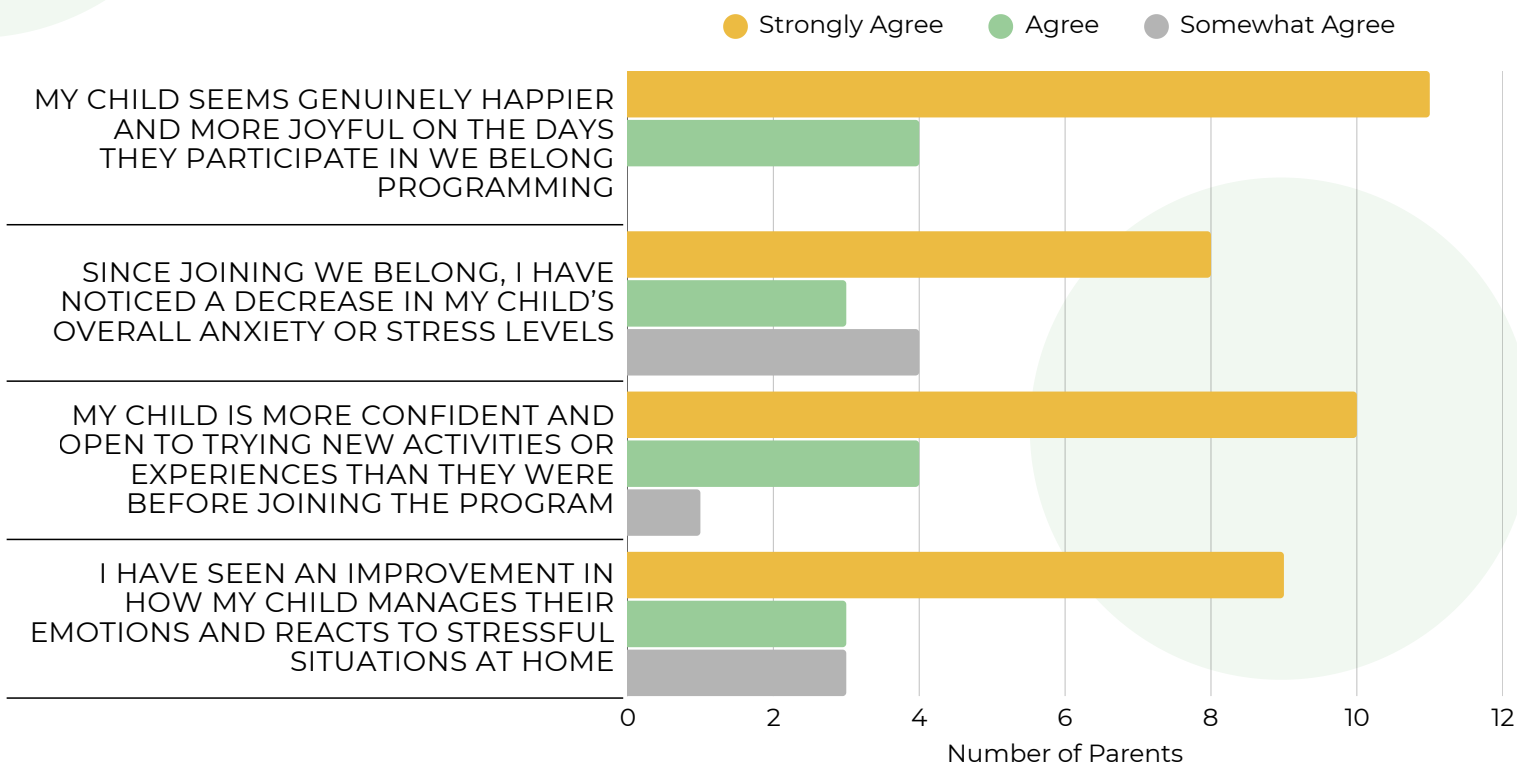
~ *We Belong Participant since 2024*



“After my mom passed away last year, just the support that We Belong showed me and my family meant so much to us.”

~ *We Belong Participant since 2023*

All parents who completed the survey reported a neutral-to-positive sentiment, scoring 3 or higher out of 5 across all four survey questions. The detailed breakdown is as follows:



FINDING A PLACE TO BELONG

What the parents are saying



“When he talks about his favorite part of the day he usually says We Belong.”

“He has more confidence when talking to people he barely knows.”

“My son consistently says that WeBe was the best part of his day because he gets to have fun there. He’s close friends with the other kids in his program and his teacher (site director) is just the best! We are so grateful!”

“My child is excited and asks everyday when the next time she gets to go hang out with the group.”

“She is more social and more willing to participate.”

TRANSFORMATION AT HOME

A Family's Journey

For many families, the hours between 3pm and 6pm are often a challenge. Before joining We Belong, one mother of three described that time frame as a constant state of overwhelm.

The Weight of the "Juggling Act"

With two working parents and family support available only two days a week, every afternoon was a stressful calculation of work shifts and pickup logistics.

"It was overwhelming," she recalls. "Just constant juggling and wondering if we could make it all work."

More Than Just a Logistics Solution

When her children joined We Belong, the relief was immediate. The program provided the vital window of time she needed to excel in a new job and pursue professional education. But the impact went far deeper than a cleared schedule:

"It's not just about the transportation, my daughter loves the hands-on activities. Knowing she's in a place she loves gives me peace."

Instead of a frantic rush through tasks while the kids are on screens, Mom now has the space to prepare dinner and center herself. When the family reunites, they are ready to truly be together.

"The children now come home eager to share what they learned, trading screen time for board games and activities they first discovered at the program."



The Ripple Effect: From Program to Changed Family Habits

The most meaningful shift is how the program follows the children home. We Belong hasn't just filled time; it has sparked a new family identity centered on curiosity and play.

"My daughter is always encouraging us to try things she did at the program. We've even bought the board games they play at We Belong because she was so excited to show us how to play. It has involved our whole family in more play."

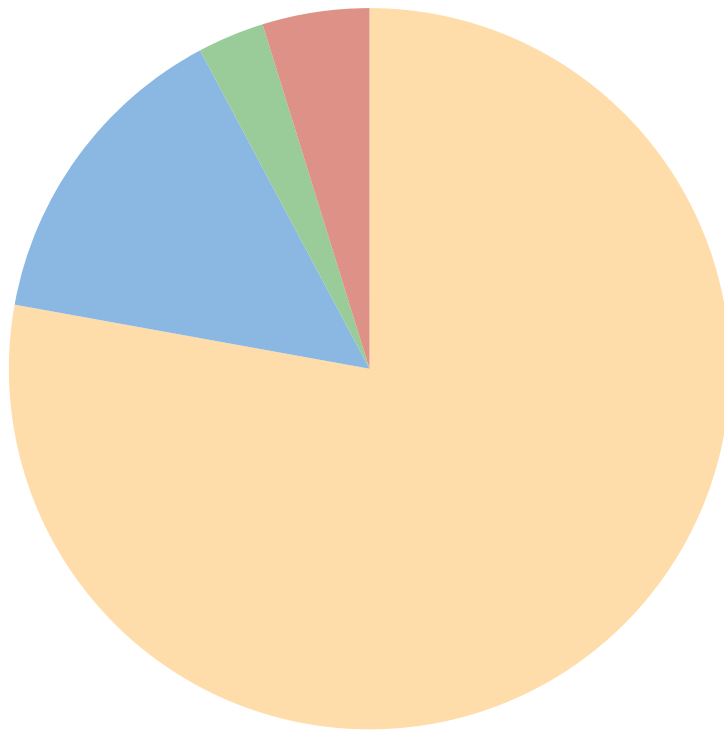
From exploring new landmarks discovered on summer outings to regular family game nights, We Belong goes beyond child investment - it inspires families to explore, play, and connect.

A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

Full-time investment for full impact

Deep relationships are the fabric of a healthy neighborhood. That's why our Youth & Family Wellness Directors are full-time fixtures in the lives of those they serve.

Here's a look at their monthly investment:



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT 78%

- Out-of-School (OOS) Activity Planning & Prep
- Leading OOS program (including set up/tear down)
- Organizing & implementing group outings
- Documentation related to incidents & growth goals
- Communications with school & church partners
- Communications with parents (OOS activity related)

MENTOR ENGAGEMENT 4%

- Vetting & onboarding new mentors
- Communications & after program check-ins
- Continued annual training

GENERAL PROGRAMS 5%

- Weekly staff meetings
- Twice monthly individual check-ins with Executive Director
- Quarterly professional development

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT 13%

- Home drop-by's
- Organizing & implementing family gatherings
- Family related communications by phone
- Outreach & onboarding new families

FINANCIALS

Revenue: \$351,550

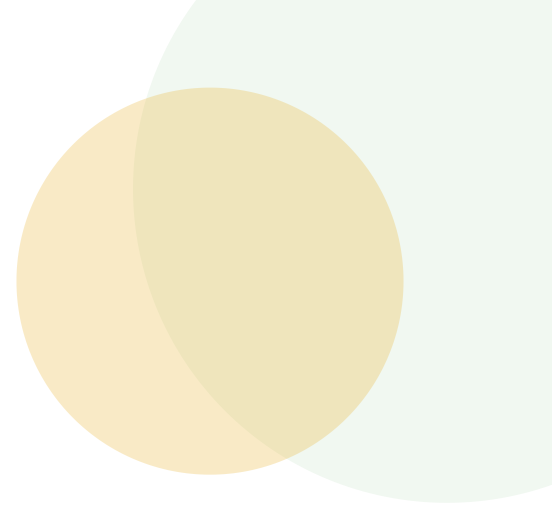
Expenses: \$305,795

Net Income: \$45,755

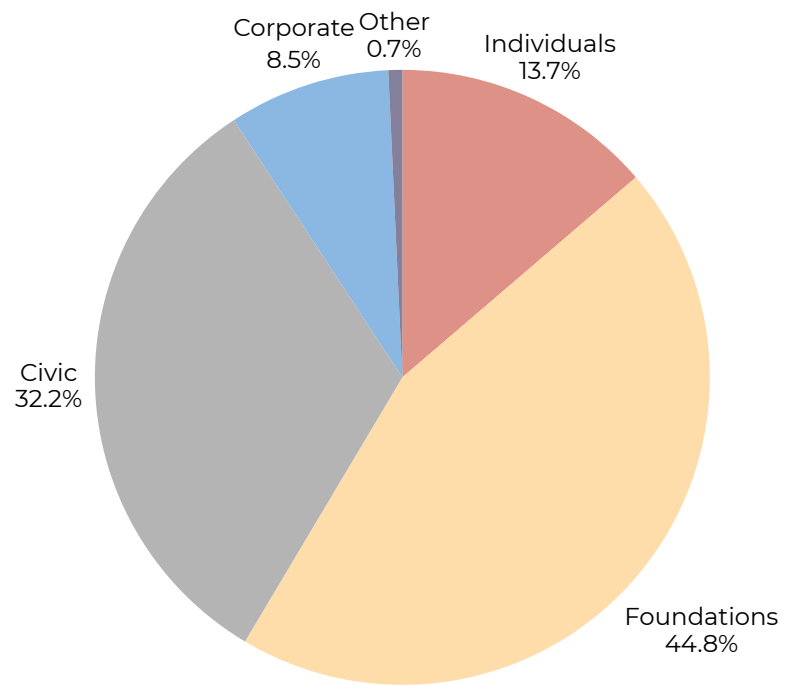
Thanks to the generosity of many, we ended the year net positive!

This allowed us to enter 2026 continuing programs in confidence and introduce new program elements.

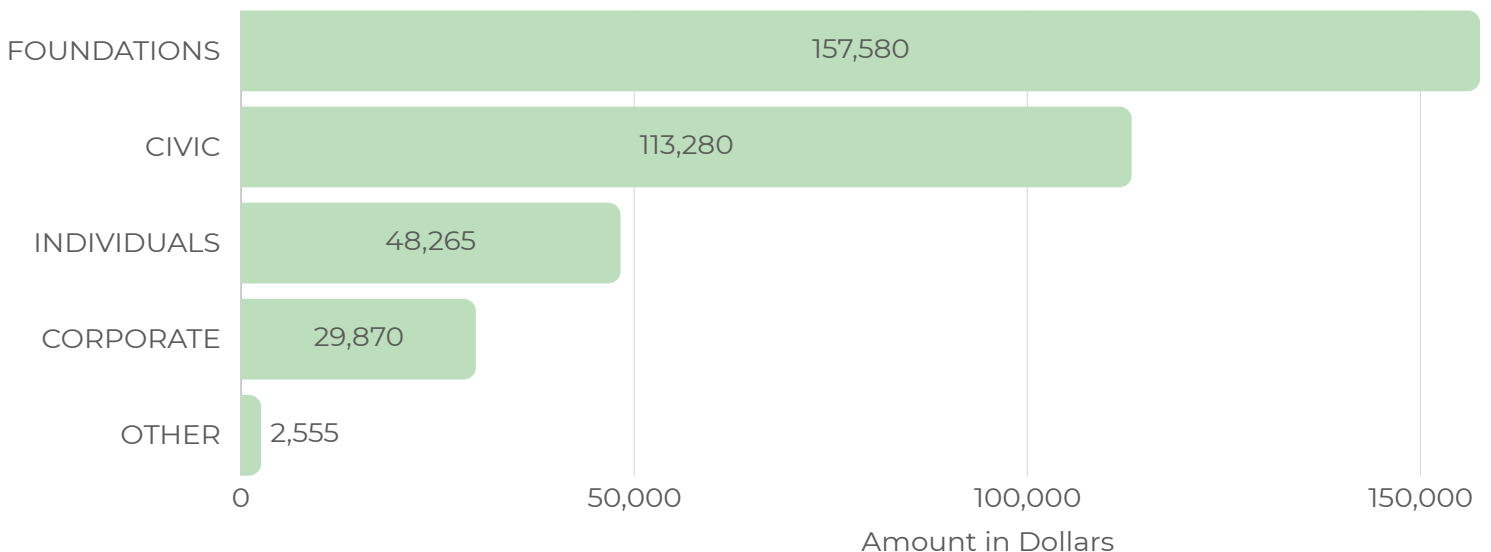
HUGE THANKS! Our hearts are full of gratitude.



Revenue in % by Category



Revenue in Amount by Category



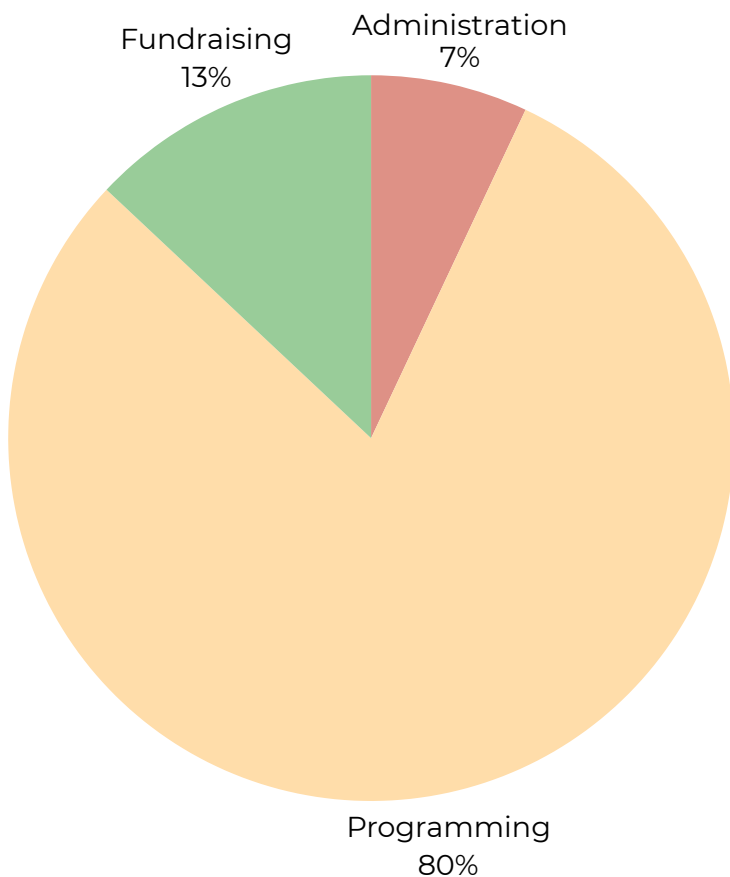
FINANCIALS

Programs: \$245,394

Fundraising: \$41,225

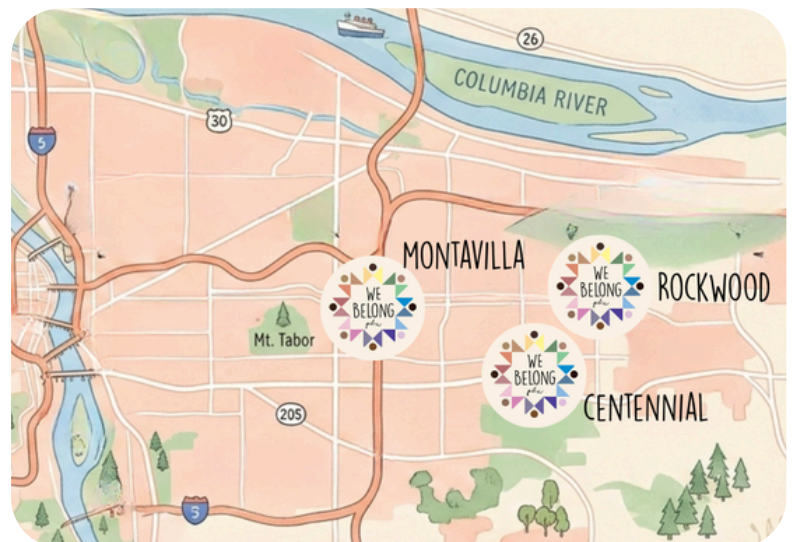
Admin: \$19,176

Percentage Breakdown of Expenses by Category



This Spring (2026) our Board of Directors and Executive Director will gather for a full day retreat.

Our aim is to complete a three year strategic plan to ensure that, although eager to invest in more families in new neighborhoods, we grow with organizational health and sustainability in mind.





WE CAN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF OTHERS

To those who gave financially or with their time:

Thank you for joining us in fighting the epidemic of loneliness, anxiety, and depression among our kids today and repairing social connection in communities at large. We look forward to the growth in impact that's ahead and hope you will continue to be an integral part of it.



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GET INVOLVED

