



Generations Ahead

EMPOWERING YOUNG PARENTS

2022 Annual Report



VISION

All children and their families are resilient, thriving, and engaged in their communities.

MISSION

We empower young parents to become resilient by building positive relationships, strengthening family stability and raising healthy children.

2022 STAFF & INTERNS

Marjorie Rich
MPH, Executive Director

Kaili Dohm-Caron
Operations Coordinator

Jen Kraus
LMSW, Social Worker

Lisa Hendrix
Summer Internship Coordinator

Sarah Payette
MEd Program Director

Alison Woytowich
LMSW-C, Social Worker

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Dear Friends and Supporters

When we walk alongside our families, supporting them in making the changes they envision for their lives, we know that change is never easy and never fast. Making a significant impact that can change the course of someone's life takes time, commitment, and consistency. As the only organization in the Grand Traverse region that works exclusively with teen and young adult parents over several years, we help them find confidence and learn to become great parents.

Making a significant impact that can change the course of someone's life takes time, commitment, and consistency.

The daily work at Generations Ahead can be gritty and challenging. But looking back over several years, we are rewarded by seeing the progress a young mom or dad has made. We observe the baby steps forward (and occasionally backward) from month to month, but over years, these steps turn into miles of progress for our young families.

In this 2022 Annual Report, we share Jillian and Andrew's story, a young couple that we have been working with since our start as a nonprofit in 2020. Their story demonstrates many of the ways we support our parents as they learn to become more resilient. Jillian grew from being a tentative high school student to a young mother planning to open her own business; and Andrew and his mentor built a relationship based on trust, which has shifted Andrew's understanding of what it means to be a dependable father and partner.

As we look forward, 2023 promises to be a year of growth. Our board is envisioning the future and developing our Strategic Plan for 2024 - 2026. Staff are increasing evaluation efforts to better identify the most effective programs for driving our mission forward and positively impacting our young families. And with the recent funding received from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), we will expand programming to reach more clients and hire our first Development Director to help support this future growth.

With excitement for what lies ahead, we invite you to explore our 2022 accomplishments.



Kate Greene



Marjie Rich

Kate Greene
Chair, Board of Directors

Marjie Rich, MPH
Executive Director

Walking Alongside Our Families

Generations Ahead is the only organization in the Grand Traverse region that helps teen mothers and fathers. We empower them to address their unique challenges as individuals, as well as the comprehensive needs of their family. We support young parents at the start of their journey and walk beside them until age 22, when they are more self-sufficient, stable, and capable of meeting their children's social-emotional needs.

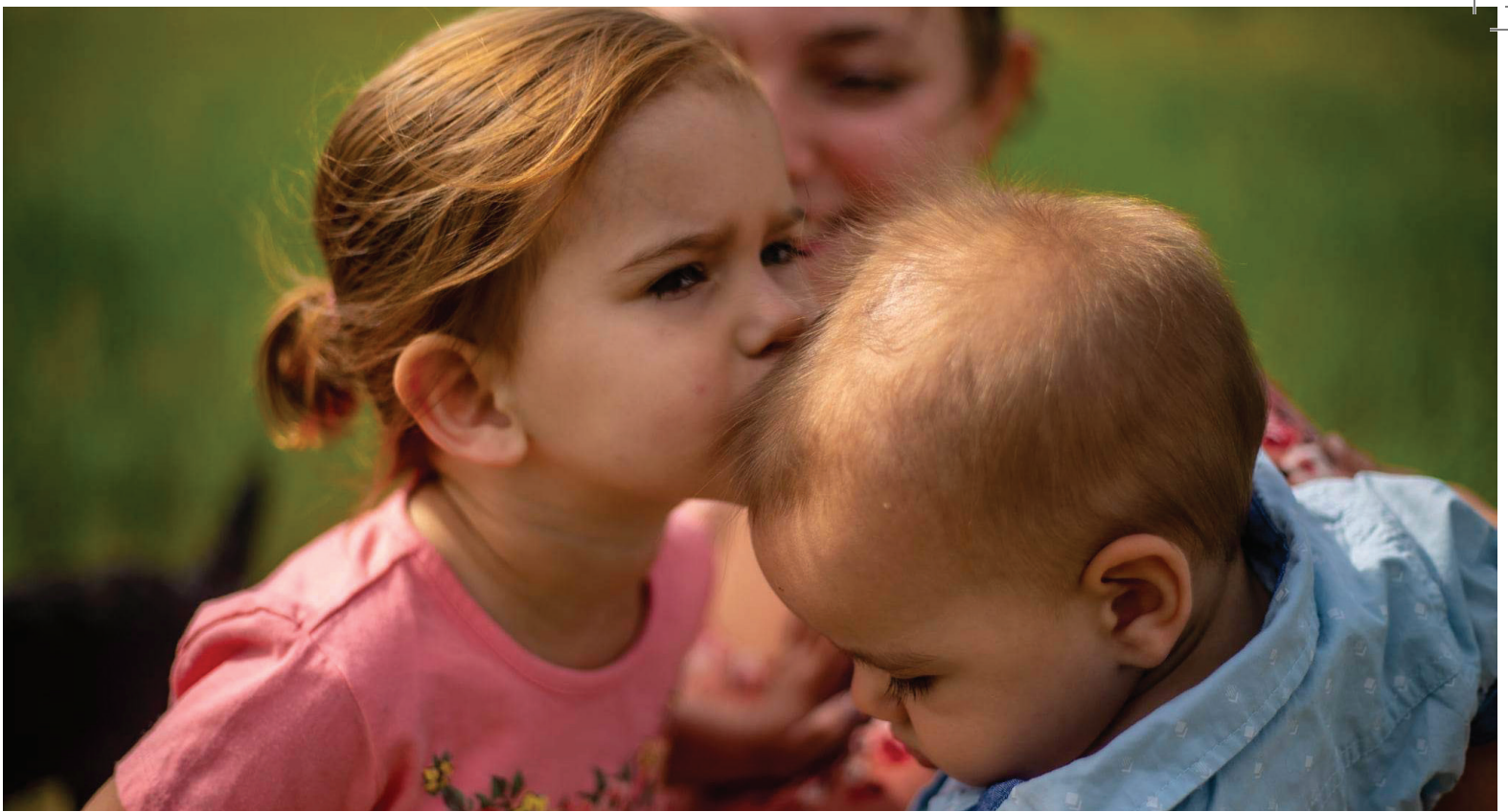
Pregnant teens walk in our door overwhelmed and scared, often without any parental support. We provide parenting information, counseling and support, opportunities to enhance life skills (such as problem solving, effective communication, and budgeting for a household) and financial assistance with gas cards and items from our baby pantry.

Jillian and Andrew are a loving young couple dedicated to their children and each other. We have had the privilege of walking alongside them for the past 3.5 years. We were first introduced to Jillian in the high school office at age 17, when she arrived to re-enroll after a brief absence. Jillian did not want to be there, but her father required this to move back in his home and Jillian grudgingly agreed.

Positive Relationships

Jillian and Andrew were a hesitant, naive unmarried couple when we first met them. Jillian looked to Andrew to finish her sentences and, at age 18, Andrew fully embraced the role of provider. When their daughter was born, it was as if the two were “playing house” with high stakes and lots of hope that they could create a little family they had dreamed of one day having.

Early on, Andrew was matched with his devoted mentor, Mike. They spent many months building trust with each other, sharing weekly text exchanges, and hanging out at the skateboard park. Over time, Mike took both young parents under his wing. And through his gentle and genuine honesty, taught them that adults could be counted on and what dependability looks and feels like.



Strengthening Family Stability

In the early days of parenting, their lives were chaotic. Andrew worked long hours in the restaurant business. Jillian attended school and worked evenings and weekends. With their baby daughter, they moved from home to home, never stable or comfortable in their location.

Through their consistent counseling sessions with the Generations Ahead social worker, they better understood the trauma of their own childhoods and the impact it had on their baby. They knew they wanted to create a more stable environment for her, and set goals for themselves to make this happen.

Jillian and Andrew committed to working together as a couple and despite it being a cold, rainy day, they had a beautiful

outdoor wedding officiated by Mike, Andrew's mentor!

Andrew started an entry level job in the automotive industry which allowed for predictable hours and room for professional growth. Jillian graduated from high school and participated in the Generations Ahead summer internship program. Through this experience, Jillian was exposed to a woman-owned business and was able to envision this opportunity for herself.

The steady income from Andrew's job allowed them to move into their own apartment, with an independence that they treasure. Their discussions with Mike have moved from finding steady employment and "what does trust look like" to 401Ks and planning for their future.

Raising Healthy Children

Jillian gave birth last summer to their second child, a healthy

and happy boy. Unlike her first pregnancy, this one was planned and intentional. She attended regular prenatal visits and together, Jillian and Andrew made decisions about the pregnancy, birth, and how they wanted to parent and raise their children.

Their daughter is now enrolled in a preschool program, with a plethora of books at home, and a dad who lets her style HIS hair. Both children join their parents for family excursions in the woods, fishing, and playing frisbee golf.

At times, life will continue to challenge this family, but with Jillian's goal of starting her own cleaning business, and Andrew's career path taking off, there is realistic hope that this little family has broken toxic patterns experienced early in their lives. Their two children have loving parents that see a future of hope.

2022 Highlights

“Luna has been a great addition to our staff. She arrived as a Generations Ahead Summer Intern during a transitional time at our office (the only legal assistant we ever had here in TC was retiring after more than 10 years with our organization). While Luna understandably lacked experience, she made up for it by being bilingual and a quick learner. At the end of her internship, our former legal assistant retired and we were happy to offer Luna a permanent staff position. Since then she has been a reliable worker, and she is eager to expand her role within the organization.”

Marcelo Betti, Legal Co-Director

BUSINESSES THAT HOSTED OUR INTERNS

TCAPS
Technology Department

Brookside Family Medicine

Justice for Our Neighbors

Cherryland Humane Society

MoneyFit

5 CLIENTS PARTICIPATED IN CAREER INTERNSHIPS

30 clients received counseling and case management services

16 clients working with a volunteer mentor

9 CLIENTS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

CLIENTS SUPPORTED

60 YOUNG PARENTS | **56** CHILDREN

41 PARENTS + 35 CHILDREN adopted by donors for our Partners of Joy Holiday Program

Empowerment Partners

Our Empowerment Partners value a community where all children and their families are resilient, thriving, and engaged. Their support empowers young parents to become great parents!

Our Partners ensure that the pressing needs among Generations Ahead families are met. They receive regular updates on our work and the impact their support has on empowering young parents to raise happy and healthy families. We connect our Partners with different initiatives and celebrate our accomplishments together.

The investment of Empowerment Partners is essential to ensuring we can support our young families. To learn more about becoming an Empowerment Partner, please visit our website or contact us: info@generationsahead.org



Our Empowerment Partners have an unwavering commitment to the mission of Generations Ahead. Our partners strengthen existing initiatives and create opportunities for new programs.

2022 PARTNERS

Anonymous

Ross and Brenda Biederman

Mary Byl

Farley Family Foundation

Soon and McKeel Hagerty

Grand Traverse Pie Company

Jim and Diana Huckle
Family Foundation

William G. Janis and
Susanne M. Janis
Family Foundation

M & D Kaplowitz
Family Fund

John and Mary Melvin



OUR MENTORS

Our mentors participate in an intensive five week training program, and are then matched with a young parent for a minimum of a year. Mentors provide support and encouragement when our teen moms and dads have no other caring adult to help them. With their time and attention, mentors show their clients that they are important and deserving of care.

1 YEAR OF SERVICE

Sandi Pittman
Sue Schmidt
Lisa Thorington

2 YEARS OF SERVICE

Natalie Brown
Amanda King
Laura Otwell
Jim Rose
Rebecca Swensen
Shari van der Grijn
Christina Winter
Glenna Wood

3 YEARS OF SERVICE

Diane Feenstra
Candice Hamel
Trissa Killeen
Jennifer Morneau
Jodi Simpson

4 YEARS OF SERVICE

Marco Cabrera
Carly Petrucci



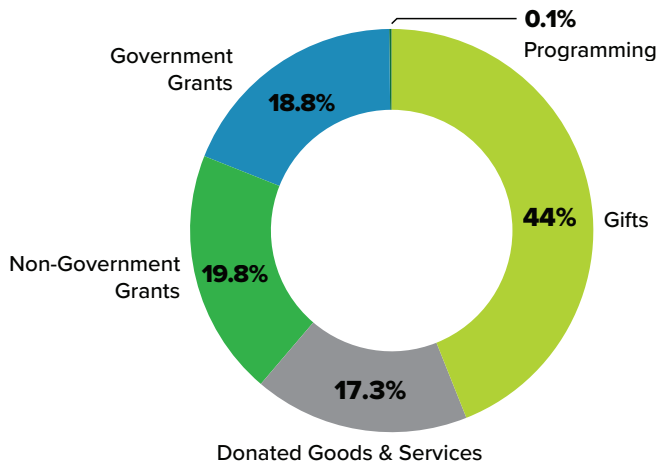
Scan the QR code to learn about volunteering opportunities

“Being the daughter of a teen mother, participating as a mentor has allowed me to take the experience I gained mentoring in a corporate setting and apply it to a more personal matter. I’ve often wondered how my own mother may have benefited from mentoring to help her chart a path to realize her education and life goals even though she had a young child. It’s been rewarding to work with Generations Ahead clients - opening them up to new possibilities and finding ways to navigate challenges so they can achieve their life goals.”

SHARI VAN DER GRIJN



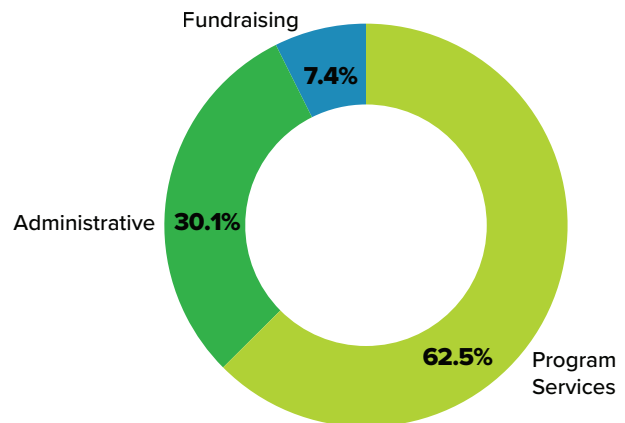
Financial Overview



Revenues	Amount
Gifts (Individuals and Businesses)	\$175,100
Donated Goods & Services	\$68,771
Non-Government Grants	\$79,078
Government Grants	\$75,059
Programming	\$557
Total	\$398,565

1,134 volunteer hours provided in 2022.
This is equal to approximately \$34,000.

Expenditures:	Amount
Fundraising	\$24,374
Administrative	\$99,383
Program Services	\$206,590
Total	\$330,347



***Program Services include:** Mental Health Counseling, Mentor Support, Group Activities, Substance Use Screening and Education, Transportation Assistance, Career Internships, Household Needs, and the Holiday Support Program

Cost of Services

There is no income eligibility required to participate, and all services are completely free for our families.

Program	Cost
Life Skills and Parenting classes	\$285/class
Baby Pantry annual distribution	\$850/client
12 sessions of counseling	\$1,200/client
Summer internship	\$3,500/client
5-week Mentor training	\$3,500
Support for one family	\$6,000/year

JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2022

Donors

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Molly and Nick Agostinelli
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Great Lakes Job Alliance

GTRCF Rotary Endowment:
- on behalf of Elizabeth Osborne
- on behalf of Marsha Smith
- on behalf of Michael Strom
- on behalf of Robert Cooney
- on behalf of Sarah Sullivan
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Agnes Hayden
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Camille Hoisington
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Christine and Stuart Hutchings
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Jan Warren
Nancy Warszawski
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Alison and Rich Woytowich
Kari Young
Sue Zell
Zonta Club of Traverse City

JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2022

Donors

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Advent Lutheran Church
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Tess Williams
You Be You Yoga
Sue Zell
Zonta Club of Traverse City

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Grand Traverse Pie Company
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Larkin Group
Molina Health Care
Northern Financial Management
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Grants and Family Foundations:

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Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
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GTRCF Campbell Endowment
GTRCF Campbell Endowment
GTRCF Robert B. Murchie STRIVE Endowment
NMRE - Local Michigan Public Act 2 Funds
Oleson Foundation
Rotary Club of Traverse City - STRIVE donation
The Art & Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation
United Way of Northwest Michigan

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(Donor in italics)

Mimi Bruder
Barb Auer

Carolyn Calcutt
General Reinsurance Corp.

Polly Chevala
SOS Learning Lab

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Kate Greene
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Dr. Richard Faller
Veronica Faller

Teri Gorsline
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Diana Huckle
Barb Auer

Jim Huckle
Barb Auer

Michelle Howard
Traverse Area District Library staff

Susie Janis
Alfie Logo Gear
Peggy A. Jonkhoff

Andrea Johnson
Cynthia Wagner

Robin Nance
Steve Nance

Oryana Food Co-op
Image 360

Kent Walton
Diana Huckle

In Memory of:

(Donor in italics)

Jo Rundio
Pug Rundio

“I can proudly say that the Board of Directors takes our commitment to steward donor dollars in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. We exercise due diligence and oversight to ensure Generations Ahead is well-managed, that every gift and grant is used as directed, and that all we do helps to empower our young families.”

**Camille Hoisington,
Generations Ahead Board Treasurer**

Teen parents are less likely to finish high school, more likely to experience poverty as adults, and more likely to have kids with poorer behavioral, educational, and health outcomes. Instead of focusing on possible negative outcomes, at Generations Ahead the focus is on positive youth development. It is our priority to support our young parents' self-determination, and empower them to decide the direction of their future.



Our Values

Dignity

We sincerely respect our clients' individual capabilities, potential and needs. We support and honor their self-determination.

Empathy

We are non-judgmental, treating others always with compassion and acceptance.

Equity

We are open, ethical, and inclusive in our relationships, believing in the unique strengths of all individuals and their ability to succeed.

Integrity

We behave with honesty, transparency, and trust, committing ourselves to excellence in service.

Joy

We are positive, supportive, and encouraging every step of the way. We celebrate progress and growth.

Relationships

We proactively model and support healthy, enriching and trusting relationships with individuals, families, and communities.

“I got pregnant in high school and have dealt with, and I’m still dealing with, people saying it ruined my life. People telling me I could’ve done more and better things if it wouldn’t have happened. But without them I probably wouldn’t have pushed to graduate. I wouldn’t have gone to college. High school was rough and people were mean. But my boys gave me a reason not to quit and not to give up. They give me purpose. They didn’t ruin my life, they gave me hope, love, and purpose... and I’ll always love them.”

Generations Ahead Client

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Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 360-0053

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info@generationsahead.org
generationsahead.org



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and how you
can get involved