



2023 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.

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BA, Office and Communications Manager

Robin Lagerquist
BSW, Case Manager

Sarah Payette
MEd, Program Director

Marjorie Rich
MPH, Executive Director

Dawn Wisner
Development Coordinator

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OUR VALUES

DIGNITY

EQUITY

JOY

EMPATHY

INTEGRITY

RELATIONSHIPS



COVER IMAGE BY CEDAR & SAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Dear Friends and Supporters

As a valued supporter of Generations Ahead, thank you for your ongoing commitment to empowering young parents. In the past year, your generous contributions have addressed the pressing needs of young families in our community.

In this report, you'll read Fiona and Bennie's story of determination and commitment to overcoming the obstacles of having a baby as teen parents. **Their story is one of resilience and hope.**

Every year we work in-depth with about 40 families like Fiona and Bennie's. Our families face many of the same challenges of any new parent - sleepless nights and an emotional roller coaster as you tend to the needs of an infant. Yet our families often face additional issues such as barriers to staying in school, unstable housing, lack of food, unreliable transportation, financial challenges, and so much more.

Coupled with being young, having little or no family support, and lacking the concrete resources to provide for their baby, teen parents need and deserve the support of their larger community.

2024 promises to be a year of growth for Generations Ahead. We are excited to expand our work with young fathers, recognizing how critical their role is in a child's life. We recently hired our first Development Coordinator, allowing us to advance our reach and expand awareness to more people. And with the direction of our new 2024-26 Strategic Plan, we are poised to have even greater impact for the benefit of our clients and community.

As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to helping our region's most vulnerable families. Your continued support will be instrumental in expanding our programs, developing new initiatives, and delivering impactful results to all the families we serve for years to come.

With gratitude,



Kate Greene
Chair, Board of Directors



Marjie Rich, MPH
Executive Director



Kate Greene



Marjie Rich



IMAGES BY CEDAR & SAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Fiona's Story

Fiona and Bennie lived on her mother's property in a trailer with no bathroom, heat, or running water. When they first learned about Generations Ahead, they were 19 years old and Fiona was ten weeks pregnant. Facing the frigid November days of northern Michigan their future seemed uncertain, but they were determined to build a stable life for their growing family.

Generations Ahead provided support and became a champion for this young family during a time that felt overwhelming. Fiona and Bennie were connected with critical resources after Generations Ahead secured a grant to weatherize their precarious living situation into a safer, warmer space. After urgent needs were met, Generations Ahead provided a dependable, inclusive village that helped strengthen their resilience and foster positive relationships. Fiona and Bennie attended private childbirth classes, in partnership with Munson, gaining valuable knowledge and confidence. Additionally, Fiona was paired with a dedicated, compassionate mentor who was a guiding light in her housing search, and ultimately assisted Fiona's family with moving into their own apartment.

Fiona and Benny fiercely strive for independence and self-sufficiency. Since giving birth to their daughter in 2023, they coordinated working

“ They say it takes a village to raise a child, and our community has an opportunity to be that village for the families that Generations Ahead serves.”

ALISON METIVA

opposite shifts, allowing one of them to always be home with their baby and save the cost of childcare. While balancing busy work lives, Fiona embraced every opportunity for growth and connection in her new community at Generations Ahead.

With their baby daughter, Fiona and Bennie enjoyed two days at Generations Ahead Family Camp where her family shared walks in the woods, arts and crafts, and hearty meals in the dining hall with new friends. Additionally, Fiona attended our 3-series cooking classes for some social time with peers doing an activity she loves.

As Fiona has matured and gained confidence in her new role as a mother, she has become a beacon of connection within our community welcoming new parents and inviting them to participate and driving those in need to our events. Fiona is a shining example of how connections can transform lives. Her genuine warmth and commitment has made a profound impact, strengthening the very community that has supported her.

Fiona's journey exemplifies the power of Generations Ahead's mission: to build resiliency by



Since enrolling with Generations Ahead my family has been able to thrive. We got help getting housing and all the events that have been put on have created an amazing support system for me and my husband that we wouldn't have had otherwise.

FIONA, 2024

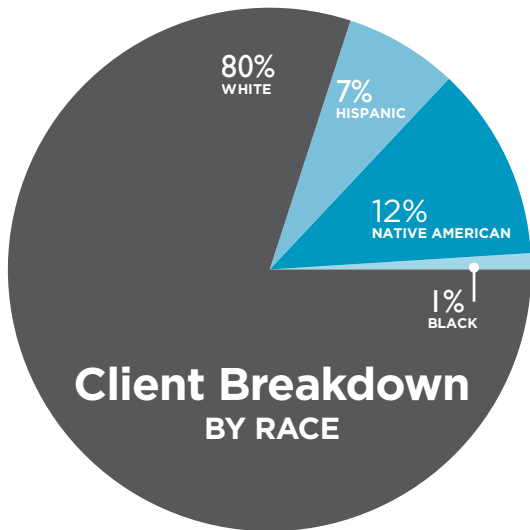
fostering positive relationships and strengthening family stability. Through our programs and support, individuals like Fiona are empowered to overcome obstacles, connect with others, model healthy relationships, and become leaders in their own right. Without the support of Generations Ahead during the early days of Fiona's new parenting journey, Fiona may have struggled to find stability, and our community would have missed out on a valuable, inspiring and compassionate member.

This is the transformative power of community. Fiona's story, just one of the countless lives touched by Generations Ahead, is a testament to the impact of collective support on individuals, families, and the entire village we build together. By providing essential services and nurturing connections, Generations Ahead empowers individuals and families to thrive, creating a ripple effect of resilience and hope.

Let Fiona's story inspire you to join us in fostering a more resilient and interconnected community. Together we can help countless others find their own strength to build healthy, safe and empowered families for generations to come.

** Names changed for confidentiality*

2023 Highlights



232 VISITS TO THE BABY PANTRY

9 mentors paired with teen parents

4 CLIENTS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

CLIENTS SUPPORTED

48	54
YOUNG PARENTS	CHILDREN

29 FAMILIES adopted by donors for our **Partners of Joy Holiday Program**

Internship Program

Clients participating in our internship program are paired with a local company aligned with their professional interests. Participation in the paid 50 hour internship promotes the development of basic employment skills, and provides knowledge and job contacts in their desired field.

In 2023, four clients participated in a Career Internship at the following host sites:

- Bill Marsh Auto
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- The Greenspire School
- New Leonard Media



Programs & Services

Creating a safe, fun, engaging space for teen parents and their children.

100% of programs and services are provided at no cost to the families served.

BABY PANTRY has all the supplies needed for babies, toddler, and moms - with 90% of our supplies donated by the community.

MENTOR PROGRAM pairs young parents with a caring, trained volunteer mentor who provides individualized support.

FAMILY ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES provide an opportunity for young parents to connect with each other and engage in child-friendly activities to address the social-emotional needs of the parents.

PLAY GROUPS offer opportunities for parents to socialize with each other and their little ones while increasing positive parenting practices and child development knowledge, fostering a stronger child/parent bond.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES assist with a variety of needs including basic resources, parenting struggles, health concerns, relationships, educational goals, etc..

PARTNERS OF JOY: Our holiday program allows a group or business to shower our families with gifts during the season, relieving some financial pressure and helping our parents feel loved!



“As a therapist who works with children, I see tremendous value in supporting young parents as they embark on one of the hardest jobs there is. Parenting is challenging work and being a teen parent with fewer resources and support can make parenting even more challenging. I believe that mentoring young parents helps them to manage and reduce the stress in their life, and thereby strengthens the whole family.”

REBECCA SWENSEN, MENTOR



OUR MENTORS

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 our young parents that they are important and deserving of care. After attending a 4 week training, mentors may be matched with a parent, or provide more informal support such as transportation, or help at a group activity.

1 YEAR OF SERVICE

Jenne Claridge
Larissa Galnares
Terri McCardell
Robin Nance
Belle Payette
Tina Soyring

2 YEARS OF SERVICE

Renne Ball
Amanda King
Sandy Pittman
Sue Schmidt
Lisa Thorington
Linda Wade

3+ YEARS OF SERVICE

Natalie Brown
Marco Cabrera
Carly Petrucci
Jodi Simpson
Rebecca Swensen
Shari van der Grijn



Scan here to check out
our mentor page and learn more

With sincere appreciation

FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2023

Collectively our volunteers and board members provided over 900 hours supporting our families.

Renne Ball
Elise Ballinger
Zinnia Burks
Marco Cabrera
Jenne Claridge
Yvonne Cunkle
Pam Forton
Larissa Galnares

Teri Gorsline
Dorothy Grow
Jacque Iriarte
Sophia Karagas
Susie Kerndt
Daniel Kinga
Terri McCardell
Robin Nance

Belle Payette
Carly Petrucci
Sandi Pittman
Sue Schmidt
Megan Shapiro
Stephanie Slawnik
Mandy Stark
Tammy Stoerker

Monica Sun
Lisa Thorington
Linda Wade
Rebekah Weeks
Margaret Williams
Stephanie Wiitala
Glenna Wood



“Generations Ahead was one of the first organizations that I learned about and as I met some of the volunteers and donors who support their work, I realized how well respected Generations Ahead is by the community. It made me want to be part of the important work that’s happening here.”

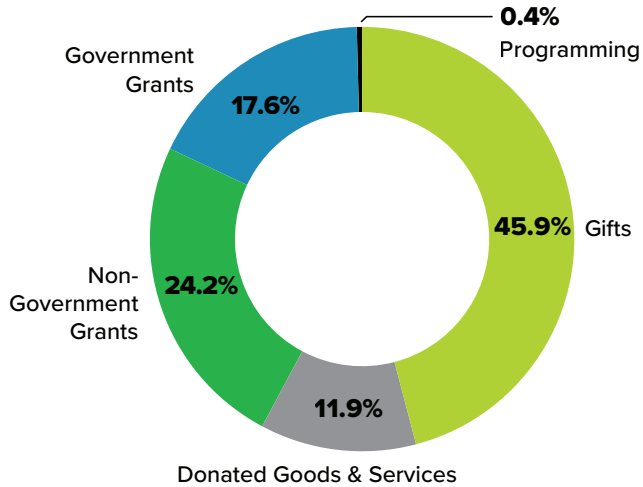
ELISE BALLINGER, VOLUNTEER

Scan here to learn about
volunteering opportunities



Financial Overview

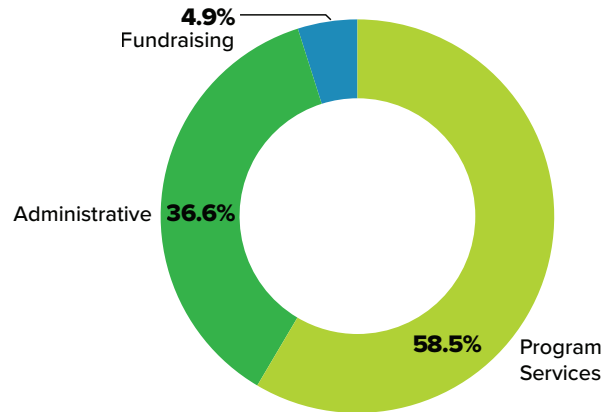
Investing in the lives of our most vulnerable young families is an investment in our future. From an economic perspective, prevention is always a better investment than paying to support young people that have lived through adverse childhood experiences and struggle to find a way forward. All services are provided free of charge to our families.



Revenues	Amount
Gifts (Individuals and Businesses)	\$188,705
Donated Goods & Services	\$49,219
Non-Government Grants	\$99,900
Government Grants	\$72,534
Programming	\$1,759
Total	\$412,117

913 (\$31.80/hour) volunteer hours provided in 2023. This is equal to approximately \$29,033.

Expenditures:	Amount
Fundraising	\$17,502
Administrative	\$130,256
Program Services*	\$207,979
Total	\$355,737



***Program Services include:** Mentor Support, Family Enrichment Activities, Play Groups, Case Management, Career Internships, Transportation Assistance, Household Needs, and Partners of Joy.

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
Summer internship	\$3,500/client
4-week Mentor training	\$3,500
Support for one family	\$6,000/year

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2023:

“ The best thing anyone can ever do in life is to touch another person’s life in a way that makes that person’s life better. And to me that is what Generations Ahead is all about, touching the lives of people that are in difficult situations and helping them find a better way to be. ”

HOMER NYE
GENERATIONS AHEAD BOARD MEMBER 2019-2023



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

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JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2023

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Nancy Walton
Diana Huckle

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Julie Maxson
Marty and Grete Finkelstein

Maureen Nelson
Jennifer Kirkpatrick Johnson

Jo Rundio
Pug Rundio

Scan here to
 donate to
 Generations Ahead



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.

Scan here to watch
our new video





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