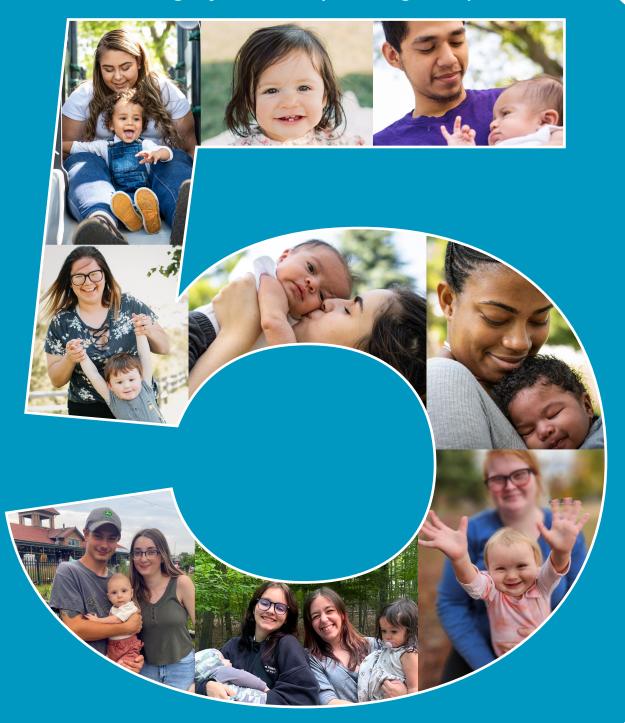


### Celebrating 5 years of empowering teen parents



I fundamentally believe that healthy children and healthy families make a healthy community. And unless every child in our community receives the same or equal services, our community is not going to move forward.



MARSHA SMITH, BOARD MEMBER

### **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.

### **2024 STAFF**

Lauren Brandstatter BA, Office and Communications Manager

Robin Lagerquist BSW, Case Manager

Sarah Payette MEd, Program Director

Chad Phillips
MA, Fatherhood Advocate

Marjorie Rich
MPH, Executive Director

Emmy Schumacher BA, Development Coordinator

### **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.

### 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Alison Metiva *Vice Chair* 

Robert Cooney Secretary

Sarah Sullivan Treasurer

Breanna Bailey
Generations Ahead Alumni

Sam Connell

Courtney Doyle

Lauren Flynn

Sara Wycoff McCauley

Miaya Running

Generations Ahead Alumni

Marsha Smith

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Kory Felker

Heather Sills

Finance

Mike Kebler

Daniel Baker

Fund Development

Anne Schnieder

Megan Shapiro

Amy Strom

Rebecca Teahen

#### **INTERN**

Angela lott

## **Dear Friends and Supporters**

Last year, Generations Ahead celebrated our five-year anniversary as a nonprofit organization. This milestone is a time to reflect on our growth as an organization and more importantly on the meaningful, positive impact we've been a part of for the individual families we support.

Because of your generous support, and the support of all the partners in our village, our families have built more positive relationships, strengthened their family stability, and are more equipped to raise healthy children.

### Throughout our first five years, our work has included:

- Supporting 141 moms, 33 dads, and their 195 children
- More than 5.300 hours of volunteer time from community members who've served as mentors, worked in our baby pantry, and supported our family enrichment programs
- More than 1.000 individuals like vou - who have made a financial contribution
- Expanding our from two to six employees, supporting our commitment to providing a breadth and depth of support to our families
- Adding two alumni representatives to our board, ensuring that we're elevating client-voice at all levels. in every decision

Alison Metiva



Mariie Rich

### In particular, we're drawing from a few key insights from 2024 to inform our work in the coming year and beyond:

- We're now supporting families from seven counties in Northwest Michigan a significant shift from our early years when we largely served just Grand Traverse County.
- Clients enrolled increased by 50% in 2024 and we expect this trend to continue - indicating growing awareness of our work and understanding the value of the support we provide.
- Our families are significantly more diverse than the general population reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and our strength in adapting to the diverse circumstances of those served.

As the only organization in the region dedicated exclusively to working with teen and young adult parents, we empower them to build confidence and develop the skills to become great parents. With optimism for what the next five years will bring and the difference we can make for our families and our communities, we invite you to explore our 2024 Annual Report and the ways in which you are helping young parents and their children.

With gratitude,

Alison Metiva Chair. Board of Directors

Anson Metiva

Marjie Rich, MPH Executive Director

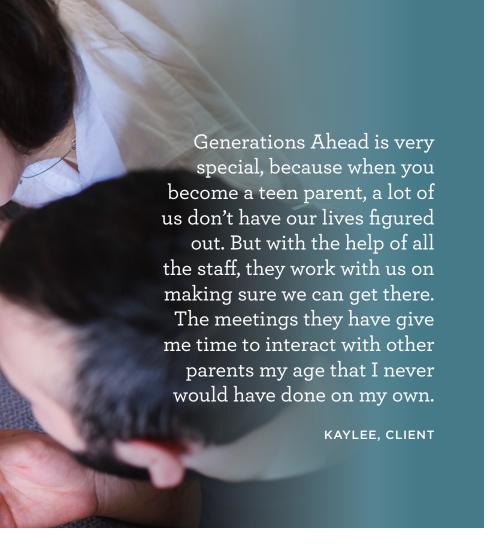
Maiji Rich



When Kaylee and Luke welcomed their first child, they were navigating one of the toughest challenges a young family can face. Their baby arrived prematurely, and through the NICU's social work team, they were referred to Generations Ahead for support. From the very beginning, our team was there, providing guidance, resources, and a sense of community that has made all the difference in their journey.

As they transitioned into parenthood, we walked alongside them, helping with tangible needs like securing essential items for their new home. Through our partnership with Cruz Control, Luke was able to obtain his driver's license, which opened up new opportunities for the family, including reliable transportation to his much-needed employment. While these steps were practical, they allowed for a significant shift in their lives, empowering them with renewed hope and determination to face the future.

Beyond practical needs, Kaylee and Luke found a sense of belonging and personal growth through our social groups, building connections that provided support through life's challenges and triumphs. One of their favorite experiences was attending Family Camp, where they bonded as a family and created lasting memories. Luke generously shared his fishing supplies with the other parents, and on our last day at camp he and our Fatherhood Advocate made breakfast for everyone.



When their second baby arrived, they once again turned to our baby pantry to ensure they had everything they needed for their growing family. Just before the birth, we were also able to assist with a car payment, easing a financial burden during a crucial time.

Like many new mothers, Kaylee faced postpartum struggles. Her Case Manager connected her with one of our contracted mental health providers. Today, she is actively attending counseling, gaining strength and healing as she navigates motherhood. Our team also connected them to other community resources, continuing to lift them up as they face the struggles that many young parents know all too well.

Kaylee and Luke's story is a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience that so many of our young parents develop. With the right support system in place, they continue to fight to build a stable, loving home for their children. We are honored to be part of their journey.

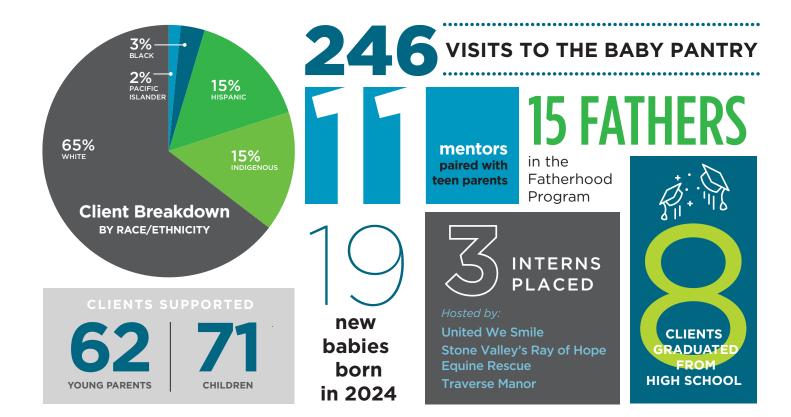
We are also deeply thankful for the unwavering support of our community. Without the contributions and partnerships that help make this work possible, stories like Kaylee and Luke's wouldn't be possible. Together, we are creating a stronger, more supportive environment for families to thrive. The personal touch
that GA has with
all of their clients
is why they are
making a difference
in our community.
They offer support
beyond donations they are getting out
there and making
direct impacts on
the lives of all those
they work with.

SAM CONNELL, BOARD MEMBER



Over the last 5 years, Generations Ahead has helped **369** young parents and children

## 2024 Highlights



## Partners of Joy

- 126 individuals received gifts during the 2024 Holiday Season
- 45 businesses, community groups, families and individuals donated gifts for a family during the holidays

The holidays can be a particularly challenging time for teen parents, who may be balancing school, work, and the demands of raising a child. Our Partners of Joy program is designed to help make the season a little brighter for these young families by providing support, gifts, and basic necessities they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Through this program, community members and organizations have the opportunity to "adopt" a teen parent family for the holidays. Donors are matched with a family and given a wish list of requested items, which may include gifts for the child, winter clothing, household goods, or gift



cards for groceries. This support helps relieve some of the financial stress many teen parents face during the holidays, allowing them to focus on spending quality time with their children.

Teen parents often face economic hardships and emotional challenges as they navigate early parenthood. The Partners of Joy program not only helps with material needs but also sends a powerful message of community care and support. By participating, community members can help alleviate some of the burdens they face and provide them with the hope and encouragement they need to continue building a strong future for themselves and their children.

## **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 a baby's first year, 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 AND PARENT ENRICHMENT** offers young parents the chance to connect with one another while participating in child-friendly activities that support their social-emotional wellbeing. We also provide educational playgroups for children and organize family-oriented activities within the community, fostering both personal growth and stronger family bonds.

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

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:** Clients participating in the internship program are paired with an organization or company that matches their professional interests to help them develop skills and knowledge in their desired field. The paid internship is approximately 60 hours.

PARENT EDUCATION: These groups offer valuable opportunities to share experiences and build relationships with fellow teen parents, while also gaining practical knowledge about effective parenting strategies. Through discussions, activities, and expert guidance, participants learn how to strengthen their parenting skills, enhance their bond with their child, and navigate the unique challenges of raising a family as a teen.





Fatherhood Advocate, Chad, spending quality time with a young father

### **FATHERHOOD PROGRAM**

In 2024 we focused on engaging more fathers in our program. In June, we created a new position and hired a Fatherhood Advocate. This program is designed to support dads in building strong, positive relationships with their children while developing essential parenting skills. It provides a welcoming space for teen fathers to connect with others who are navigating similar experiences. Through discussions and engaging hands-on activities, teen fathers gain valuable tools for effective coparenting, improving their communication, and gaining confidence in their role as a father. Our goal is to empower teen dads to be actively involved in their children's lives, fostering both personal growth and stronger family bonds.

It takes one person, such as the mentors at Generations Ahead. checking in and saying "Hey I care about you. I want you to make it." The word "empower" from their mission statement is what resonates most with me. I'm trying to empower them to realize they can have a bright future, and we're going to help them do it.

> LISA THORINGTON, MENTOR

I love my mentor!
She is such a sweet, kind, genuine person.
She is a really good listener and I like that I can have someone to talk to and basically vent. She's really my only friend honestly. Words really can't describe how grateful I am that she became my mentor.

CLIENT

### MENTOR INFORMATION



Our Mentor Program provides young parents with guidance, support, and empowerment to navigate the challenges of parenthood while pursuing their personal and academic goals. 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.

This program fosters trust, builds confidence, and strengthens parenting skills. Mentors offer valuable advice, emotional support, and resources, helping teen parents improve their decision-making, resilience, and overall well-being. The program creates a positive, lasting impact by promoting independence, reducing isolation, and ensuring both parents and children have opportunities for a brighter future.

Thank you to our mentors for their ongoing support and dedication to our mission.

Over the last 5 years mentors have provided 2,003 hours



#### **NEW 2024 MENTORS**

Margaret Williams Susan Wooton Ann McDonough Annie Page Ruthie Passolt Ingrid Pylvainen Sherry Horner Torey Caviston

### **3 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Sandy Pittman Sue Schmidt Lisa Thorington Natalie Brown

#### 2ND YEAR OF SERVICE

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

### 4+ YEARS OF SERVICE

Marco Cabrera Rebecca Swensen Shari van der Grijn Renne Ball

Scan here to check out our mentor page and learn more

# With sincere appreciation

### FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS IN 2024

We are deeply grateful for our incredible volunteers, whose dedication and engagement make everything we do possible. From organizing our baby pantry and helping with administrative tasks, to providing transportation and childcare during events so young parents can connect with one another, volunteers play a crucial role in our community. We are thankful for their time, energy, and passion, and recognize their lasting impact on the lives of others.

Renee Ball Elise Ballinger Brenda Biederman Shelley Bisson Dana Boomer Zinnia Burks Torey Caviston Jenee Claridge Ginny Coulter Lew Coulter Shelley Duke **Emily Erwin** Lynn Erwin Diane Feenstra Larissa Galnares Lena Gerstle

Teri Gorsline Susie Janis Megan Klabunde Dana LaCuesta Marisol Lopez Ann McDonough Sue Murchie Robin Nance Meredith Nissley Annie Page Ruthie Passolt Margy Patchin Belle Payette Kristina Pepelko Sandi Pittman **Beth Price** 

Sue Schmidt
Anne Schneider
Sarah Sullivan
Becky Tester
Caroline Thomas
Llsa Thorington
Suzanne Vanderklipp
Peyton Voss
Patty Weaver
Rebekah Weeks
Margaret Williams
Alice Wolfe
Susan Wooton

Over the last 5 years, volunteers donated more than than **5,300** hours of time

2024 was my first year as a volunteer, and I enjoyed it immensely! I felt very appreciated by the staff each time I volunteered.



Scan here to learn about volunteering opportunities



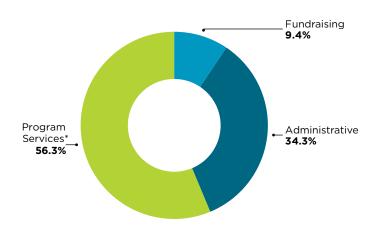
## **Financial Overview**

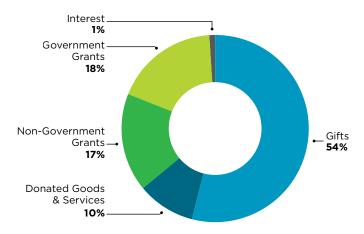
By investing time and money to support teen parents, we help break cycles of poverty and create brighter, more hopeful futures for their children. Your generosity empowers teen parents to fulfill their potential—transforming their lives and creating a ripple effect of positive change in their communities. All services are provided for free to our families.

Revenue	Amount
Gifts (Individuals and Businesses)	\$328,778
Donated Goods & Services	\$62,337
Non-Government Grants	\$102,677
Government Grants	\$110,525
Interest	\$5731
Total	\$610,048



(at \$33,49/hour, this equates to \$37,442 in donated time)





Expenditures:	Amount
Fundraising	\$47,386
Administrative	\$172,453
Program Services*	\$282,579
Total	\$502,418

### \*Program Services include:

Case Management, Mentor Support, Family Enrichment Activities, Play Groups, Counseling, Career Internships, Financial Assistance (Transportation & Household Needs), and the Holiday Program

### **Client Relief Fund**

Our Client Relief Fund is dedicated to providing immediate support to teen parents facing critical and urgent challenges. This fund assists with a wide range of essential needs, including transportation needs, help with paying bills, education assistance, daycare payments, and other urgent financial burdens that may arise. By offering this vital support, we aim to alleviate the stress and uncertainty that can come with parenting at a young age, allowing teen parents to focus on building a stable future for themselves and their children. Whether it's covering basic living expenses or helping with educational opportunities, this fund serves as a lifeline for those navigating the complexities of young parenthood.

### • \$9,642 spent on Client Relief in 2024

This funding comes from the following grants: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), mAIDens of Michigan, The Art and Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation, Eagles for Children Over the past year, our financial goals have exceeded expectations due to strong donor relationships and astute investment decisions. Financial wellness is the foundation of impactful work, and I'm pleased to share through this annual report how Generations Ahead is proving its sustainability for years to come.

SARAH SULLIVAN, TREASURER



## **Supporters**



We recognize the Biederman, Huckle, and Janis families for their early and generous support. As champions of our mission, they have inspired others and helped to establish the village that our families rely on.

Pictured (from left to right): Renee Mittelstaedt, Martha Bowman, Bill Janis, Susie Janis, Brenda Biederman

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

### **2024 EMPOWERMENT PARTNERS**

Anonymous

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Tester Family Endowment Fund

JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2024

## With sincere gratitude to our supporters in 2024

### **DONORS**

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Jason and Suzanne Allen

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Tara Conrad

Robert and Karin Cooney

Elizabeth Cooper

Sam Copeland

Lew and Virginia Coulter

Steve and Sheri Cronk

Donald and Yvonne Cunkle

What stands out the most about GA is the attention given to each individual family. GA acknowledges that our measure of success will look different for everyone. Our differences are applauded here and that's really amazing to feel.

CLIENT

Kathy and Steve Davis
Tom and Alison Dayton

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Michael and Teckla Dettmer Annie and Mike DeVries

Eleanor and Robert DeYoung

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Earthen Ales

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Red Spire Tandem Ciders

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JJ Warren

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League of Women Voters

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Light Quaker Church Erik and Cristy Lindstrom

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Jody Lundquist

Stephanie and Greg Luyt

Laurie Mackowiak

Marco and Joni Marcantoni

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Alicia and Jeff Mason

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MoneyFit Moomers

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Scott Newman-Bale Elise Ballinger and

Nick Nissley

North Bay Produce

Northern Glow Midwifery Homer Nye and Becky Mang

Amber Ochoa
Old Mission Flowers
Oleson's Market

Amie Ollis

Shannon Olshove Oryana Food Co-op

Megan Owens Miriam Owsley Andra Ozburn Molly Pardini

Mark and Ruthie Passolt

Belle Payette

Kristina Pepelko

Performance Chiropractic

Danielle Piotrowski Tina Piotrowski Sandra Pittman Lydia Potthoff Premier Floral

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Traverse City Pit Spitters
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Northern Financial Management

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American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds administered by Grand Traverse County

The Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Inc.

Eagles for Children

GTRCF Boys & Girls Club of GT

GTRCF Campbell Endowment

GTRCF GT Families in Action for Youth Endowment

GTRCF Robert B. Murchie STRIVE Endowment.

**GTRCF Youth Endowment** 

GTRCF Joan McGarry Family Education Endowment

Michigan Health Endowment Fund

NMRE Local Michigan Public Act 2 Funds

Oleson Foundation

Regions 2 & 3 Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Rotary Charities of Traverse City

The Art & Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation

### **HONORARIUMS:**

(Donor in italics)

**Barbara Auer** 

Jim and Diana Huckle

Diana Huckle

Nancy and Kent Walton

Marsha Smith

Jason and Suzanne Allen

Nancy Walton

Jim and Diana Huckle

### IN MEMORY OF:

(Donor in italics)

Diana Huckle

David Maxson Barbara and Tom Auer Nancy and Kent Walton

#### Julie Maxon

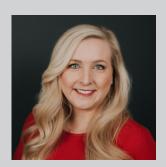
Susan and Michael Hornby David Maxson Marty and Grete Finkelstein Dana Maxson

Jo Rundio

Pug Rundio

The exponential growth we've seen year over year shows the tremendous impact Generations Ahead is having on the lives of young families in our community. Our donors should be really proud of the impact that they're having on these parents and their children, I know I certainly am.

> COURTNEY DOYLE, BOARD MEMBER



Scan here to donate to Generations Ahead





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