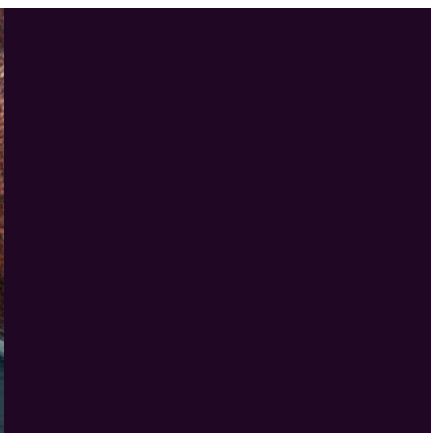


2019 Annual Report

WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON FOUNDATION



WJRFOUNDATION.ORG

OUR MISSION

Serving youth impacted by incarceration

INFO@WJRFOUNDATION.ORG

FACEBOOK @WANDAJOYCEROBINSONFOUNDATION

The 2019 Annual Report was prepared by Amy Nance Snow.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation

The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation, Inc. was founded by Krista Hudson, Amy Snow, and Dale Robinson in September 2018. The organization partners with schools, community agencies, and other non-profits to provide resources and services to children and families. WJRF has the unique capacity to “fill in the gaps” that macro-level services unintentionally create. WJRF represents “family”, as in total community- felon, caregiver, child/youth, law enforcement, correctional system, school, mental health, government, and business. Within this family, WJRF provides mentorship for both prisoner and child; support to parents and caregivers; and connection to COMMUNITY. We believe in a holistic approach to breaking the generational cycle of incarceration. This is achieved through the commitment and dedication of the foundation volunteers and board of directors.

Co-founder, Dale Robinson, is a former prisoner, turned successful business owner, of GURU gym, located in Frankfort, Kentucky. Dale is a sought-after motivational speaker endorsed by school systems, churches, businesses, and Kentucky’s correctional system. He is the father of two sons- Dalevon Robinson and Wan’Dale Robinson and the husband of Taylor Robinson. The foundation is named after his late mother.

I’m a full time wife; mother, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, daughter-in-law, niece, and friend. I have a full time job. I’m a church member. I am the mother of three daughters, one with a genetic disease requiring daily medical treatments. My life is busy, full time. Why am I a Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation co-founder and board president?

Because this is my community; my state; my nation. Because we are talking about children and families. I don’t know if you can see their faces, but they are absolutely beautiful. They come in all colors, all shapes and sizes; all walks of life. I believe from the core of my soul, that as a community, we are called to love one another.

The stats are shocking: Kentucky’s incarceration rate is more than double the national average. DOUBLE the national average. That number represents 145,000 Kentucky children. Kentucky leads the nation in the number of children living with relatives. This number does not include the more than 9,000 Kentucky children in foster care. Kentucky has the 2nd highest female incarceration rate in the country.

If crime and incarceration doesn’t affect you personally, it affects you financially. Children who grow up with an incarcerated parent are more likely to dropout of school; more likely to live in poverty; more likely to use drugs and alcohol; more likely to have mental health needs; more likely to experience trauma; more likely to be victims of abuse; more likely to become an offender themselves. This is our state. This is our community. This is Frankfort.

What about our workforce pipeline? Our ability to thrive economically? Research indicates that the human potential loss due to the achievement gap in school is equal to a national recession. Let me repeat this- the human potential loss is equal to a national recession. Our young adults are not prepared for adulthood because children can not be educated when basic needs are not met.

Families are desperate. The impact is devastating and I believe, that as a community, we are called to do something about it. Yes, I have my own children; however, I do not reside in a silo. Frankfort is my home. I intend to do my part to make my home, my community, a better place for all children. While parental incarceration is a “shared sentence” in terms of the impact on children; it most certainly does not have to be a generational sentence.

The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation epitomizes a mother’s unconditional love and hope for her children...that along life’s journey, our sons and daughters learn to love, forgive, believe, and overcome. We honor the late Wanda Joyce Robinson in our mission to serve children and youth impacted by incarceration.

Come join us.

amy nance snow



WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON
FOUNDATION

WJRF takes on the responsibility of helping to break the generational cycle of incarceration.

I believe that it's our duty to give back to our community and encourage change through action. Success is what we want for this generation and the generations that will follow. Through the WJRF, we lead by showing that success is only possible through hard work and the support of those around us. Together we can and will make a change.

DALE ROBINSON



WE BELIEVE

in **protecting** children and youth from experiencing ongoing disadvantages due to the incarceration of their family members.

in **providing** inspiration, encouragement, and support to each child and youth we encounter.

in the power of redemption, restoration, and resiliency of children and families.

in **providing** a comfort zone for our children and youth to fully express themselves without fear of judgment.

What's the issue?

The Annie Casey Foundation terms parental incarceration as a "shared sentence"; citing the "devastating toll of parental incarceration on kids, families and communities."



Kentucky has the *second highest* female imprisonment rate in the United States.

(U.S. Dept of Justice, 2018)

.....
U.S. Census data revealed that Kentucky ranks **FIRST** in the nation for children living with relatives; state advocacy groups cite addiction and mass incarceration

Children with either parent incarcerated are more likely to experience mental health issues, trauma, behavioral problems, substance use, learning disabilities, developmental delays, delinquency, teen pregnancy, and to drop out of high school.

www.epi.org



Three out of every five inmates in state custody have children.

(KY Dept of Corrections, 2017)

According to the *Annie Casey Foundation*,
145,000 (15%) Kentucky children have an incarcerated parent.
THIS IS DOUBLE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

What are we doing about it?

OUR GOAL IS TO EDUCATE, CONNECT + PREVENT.

285 TOTAL REFERRALS

*received via FCRJ;
school; social services;
and social media*



214

non-duplicated children and youth were provided a direct service

54 children and youth sponsored in an extracurricular activity.



51 children currently participating in a **KRUSH** group.

Over **400** individuals attended a Family Fellowship event in 2019.

PROGRAMMING



VISITATION

WJRF hosted three contact visitations at *Franklin County Regional Jail*. Dale Robinson met with inmates pre and post visits to discuss the realities of being a parent behind bars. WJRF volunteers provided games, books and the opportunity to take a family picture. Pizza, drinks and dessert were provided by FCRJ and WJRF. Sixteen families, including 27 children have participated in contact visitation.

WJRF has also provided support to a family to travel out of state to visit a parent in a federal facility.

Through a partnership with *Global Tel Link Corporation*, WJRF is able to provide free video visitation to children and youth. Seven families, including 11 kids have participated in video visitation regularly.



FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

A quarterly event held in March, June, September, and December. Our families gather together for food and fellowship with one another. Child and youth birthdays are celebrated. Over 400 individuals have attended our Family Fellowship events.



A FAMILIAR VOICE

Named by a prisoner at Franklin County Regional Jail, *A Familiar Voice* is a literacy initiative that was established in 2019. Two WJRF board members facilitate the program, which is sponsored through *Paul Sawyer Public Library*. Ten prisoners recorded themselves reading a book to their child. The book, recording and a book mark were mailed to the child. Eighteen children received a mailed package for Christmas.



HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH

WJRF provides college and career field trips; ACT prep classes; access to tutoring; job shadowing and life skills building opportunities. *Dale and Taylor Robinson* meet with groups of high school students, who are identified by school faculty as being impacted by incarceration, to share their testimony and motivational presentations. Dale and Taylor have met with over 100 students. Eleven students visited Paul Mitchell School this past Fall. Five of those students will be awarded a FULL scholarship.



SECOND THURSDAYS

Second Thursdays is a monthly support group for caregivers, led by a licensed clinical social worker. WJRF volunteers provide child care and dinner for families. First United Methodist Church provides bus transportation for families in need. This group meets every month. *Americorps VISTA* Meagan Morrow organizes volunteers, which include *Franklin County Regional Jail* staff. This is a unique opportunity for jail staff to interact with inmates' children. Nine families, including 16 children have been served through this program.



O.M.A.C.

Operation Making a Change is a prevention and intervention program for youth at-risk of being involved in the court system. The program was founded by Gerald "Geo" Gibson, a former prisoner, who is employed by the Lexington Police Department. WJRF funds the OMAC program at Franklin County High School. Twenty-one students participate in the weekly program.



THE KINGS CENTER

Dale Robinson, WJRF board members, and volunteers have provided a bi-monthly program, since January 2019. WJRF meets with 100% of all children who are present the first and third Thursdays of the month. They meet with children for thirty minutes in three small groups divided by age. Groups focus on social, emotional and life skills topics.

WJRF *Americorps Vista*, Meagan Morrow's office is located on the second floor of the Kings Center. Meagan is able to meet with volunteers and host trainings at the center.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPONSORSHIPS

54 children were sponsored in some type of positive activity-dance, gymnastics, sports, summer camps, martial arts, etc. Our end of year ask for donations in 2019 was directed towards getting our kids involved in activities in 2020.



AMACHI OF FRANKFORT

Amachi is a nationally based program, specifically designed for children of the incarcerated, that originated in Philadelphia in 2001. *Amachi* is an African word that means *who knows what God has brought us through this child*. *Amachi* of Central Kentucky began in 2004 and is located in Lexington. The program is based on "people of faith (and goodwill) mentoring children of promise."

WJRF obtained permission from corporate, to begin *Amachi* of Frankfort. Meagan Morrow, our *Americorps VISTA*, is developing the infrastructure of this program. Meagan meets regularly with *Amachi* of Central Kentucky to learn all aspects of the program.

K.R.U.S.H.

Kids Rising Up through Support and Healing is a Kindergarten-12th grade curriculum that is aligned to the Kentucky Department of Education standards. It was developed by a Russell Independent Schools elementary school guidance counselor and classified staff, in Greenup County. WJRF paid for both ladies to travel to Frankfort and provide two trainings, in July and October, for a total of 39 educators.

Pilot KRUSH groups began at Collins Lane Elementary, Hearn Elementary, and Elkhorn Middle School after fall break. Fifty-one students are currently participating in KRUSH at these three schools. Additional programs will begin in the spring. KRUSH programs are being included in individual Comprehensive School Improvement Plans, (CSIP); a legal document.

WJRF's goal is to assist with the implementation of KRUSH in every Frankfort/ Franklin County school. WJRF is committed to sustaining the programs through financial stipends to each school and by facilitating a community-wide summer KRUSH camp.

KRUSH LLC and WJRF will further our partnership in 2020 by training state-wide and beyond.



ADAM HYATT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

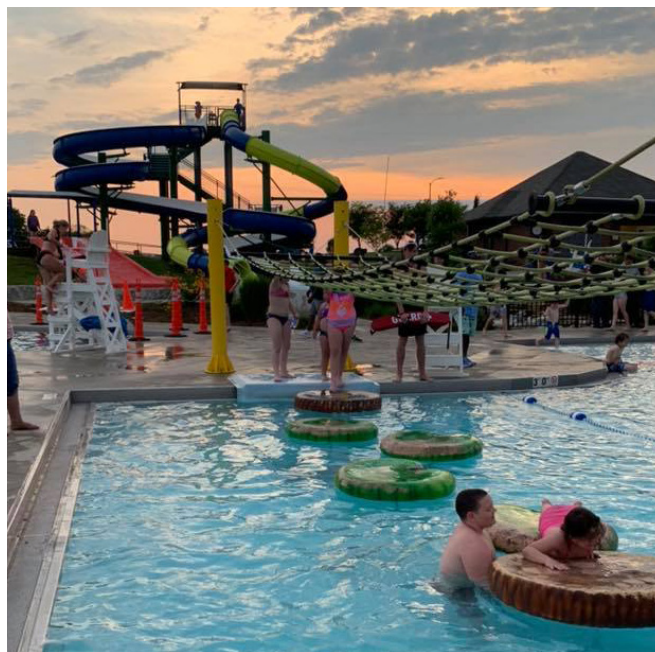
WJRF offers scholarships to graduating seniors who have been impacted by incarceration.

Our inaugural scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$500, to a Franklin County High School student. This scholarship was renamed in memory of Adam Hyatt, a FCHS teacher, who supported WJRF since inception. Mr. Hyatt attended our community meetings, volunteered, mentored numerous students and believed in our foundation.

We now have a board committee that oversees the scholarship. Individuals can donate directly to the scholarship fund at Independence Bank. Students can apply online, on our website. Awardees are notified in the spring.

RESEARCH

SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAMS



Kentucky Public Health developed a Kentucky Strengthening Families Protective Factors Action Guide, in 2017. This is a research-based, statewide initiative to improve outcomes for children and families. WJRF provides 5 out of the 6 listed protective factors including: Parental Resilience; Social Connections; Concrete Support in Times of Need; Social and Emotional Competence; Nurturing and Attachment.

The Annie Casey Foundation's number one recommendation to tackle the issue of parental incarceration is to "ensure children are supported while parents are incarcerated and after they return."

Children of incarcerated parents may also need emotional support and counseling in school. In addition to collaborating with mental health professionals, such as psychologists and guidance counselors, classroom teachers can help children work through their feelings about parental incarceration and/or connect these students to additional supports.

"UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS: WHAT EDUCATORS SHOULD KNOW", TURNEY



"Supporting caregivers through an intervention program was associated with an increase in family cohesion and positive caregiving"

STRENGTHENING INCARCERATED FAMILIES, 2013

Maintaining contact with one's incarcerated parent appears to be one of the most effective ways to improve a child's emotional response to the incarceration and reduce the incidence of problematic behavior. Children who maintain contact with their parent during incarceration exhibit fewer disruptive and anxious behaviors. In addition to these direct benefits to the child's emotional health and behavior, maintaining contact helps the incarcerated parent as well. Studies suggest that it lowers recidivism rates.

BROKEN BONDS: UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS



Children of the incarcerated, who are mentored, are more likely to graduate high school and enroll in college.

MENTOR: THE NATIONAL MENTOR PARTNERSHIP

Amachi mentoring program provides guidance and support to children of incarcerated parents by pairing them with a mentor who spends time with them once a week. Amachi is based on the premise that children who have caring adults in their lives are likely to be resilient in the face of challenges such as parental incarceration. Pairing children with a mentor can have positive educational and behavioral outcomes for children.

"UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS: WHAT EDUCATORS SHOULD KNOW", TURNEY

“We support the *Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation* because we believe in Dale Robinson. We have seen the dramatic impact that incarceration had on the life of his children and him personally and we are supporting his efforts to improve the lives of others.”

CAPITAL COURT AUTHORITY



“I think this is a wonderful organization that helps these youth feel that they matter and can succeed in what they want and do.”

FACEBOOK FOLLOWER

GTL is a proud sponsor of the *Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation*. Working with the children of incarcerated parents is a vital key to helping reduce recidivism and the positive impact the foundation has had on this community is remarkable!”

CHUCK GEVEDEN GTL



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Kings Center; Capital Court Authority; Global Tel Link Corporation; Paul Sawyer Public Library; Josephine Sculpture Park; Franklin County Agency for Substance Abuse Policy Council; Capital City Dance; Frankfort Martial Arts; GEMCats; KRUSH, LLC: Operation Making a Change; Twany Beckam; Kentucky State University; Amachi of Central Kentucky; Paul Mitchell School; Bluegrass Community College; Franklin County Schools; Frankfort Independent Schools; Franklin County Regional Jail; Andrew Hager; Kiwanis of Frankfort; Bluegrass Care Navigators; Frankfort Police Department; Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, Northern Kentucky University, Kentucky Compact, YES Arts, Department of Community Based Services

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

ZACHARY HORN *Attorney at Law*
HARROD AND ASSOCIATES CPA
INDEPENDENCE BANK



PROGRAM TEAM

Amy Snow, board president oversees all foundation programming.

AMERICORPS VISTA

Meagan Morrow, BSW, recruits, trains, and engages our volunteers for all programs/activities, including our Amachi of Frankfort mentoring program. The Kings Center provides office space to WJRF, on the second floor. Meagan is able to host volunteer training at the center.

THE PIECES TO OUR PUZZLE

Lauren Brown, MSW, volunteers as our direct contact/follow up of referrals. Lauren contacts caregivers via phone and conducts an interview, so that we can assess family needs and also inform caregivers of ways to be involved with WJRF.

Board member **Shelley Hearn**, BSW, assists with the supervision of our child and family direct services.

Melinda Simpson, LCSW, leads our monthly support group for caregivers.

building a better community...together

Board members **Ashley Mulder**, FCRJ, and **Bailey Slucher**, PSPL, facilitate our literacy initiative, *A Familiar Voice*, at Franklin County Regional Jail.

Board members **Abbigail Dunn**, **Kalissa Yates**, and **Dale Robinson** facilitate The Kings Center bi-monthly group meetings.

Gerald “Geo” Gibson, founder of **OMAC**, leads a weekly group for high school youth at Franklin County High School, for WJRF involved students.

KRUSH
Jalina Wheeler and **Kristi Whitaker** are the founders and trainers of

the **KRUSH** program. Jalina and Krista lead trainings in Frankfort and provide support to educators who are implementing **KRUSH** groups in Frankfort/Franklin County Schools.

WJRF BOARD MEMBERS ACT IN A VOLUNTEER ROLE, TO ASSIST WITH ONGOING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

VOLUNTEERS
Over 100 individuals volunteered in some aspect with WJRF during 2019. Volunteers help with each of our programs- whether it’s driving a youth to martial arts; baking cookies; tutoring

a student; leading a program- our volunteers are the cornerstone of WJRF. Volunteers are required to complete a packet, orientation, and in cases of direct supervision, a background check. Meagan Morrow facilitates this process. She also coordinates all of our volunteers for programs and events.

A Franklin County High School senior, **Abigail Wilhoite**, is a Miss Kentucky Teen Pageant contestant, the pageant that selects the representative for the U.S. state of Kentucky for the Miss America’s Outstanding Teen pageant. The impact of parental incarceration is Abbey’s platform. Abbey attends WJRF board meetings and volunteers at events.

FINANCE REPORT

2019

WJRF held our inaugural Gala event in May 2019, at The Frankfort Country Club. After cost, \$48,171.12 funds were raised through sponsorships and auction sales. Those funds were utilized as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE \$9,691

Storage unit, group messaging system for contact with families, accounting software, child/family database software, professional training, board insurance, printing, marketing, social media ads, website development and maintenance, email, web domain, business phone, postage, office supplies, annual business filings, attorney fees, accounting, fundraising software, Chamber membership

AMERICORPS VISTA \$8000

Meagan Morrow is our Americorps VISTA. This is a federally funded position provided through a contract with Northern Kentucky University, Kentucky Compact. Meagan is contracted with us September 2019-August 2020.

PROGRAMMING \$3,856*

Juniper Hills Aquatic Center rental, Thorn Hill facility usage fee, Capital Bowl, food, crafts/games, birthday gifts during Family Fellowship

EXTRACURRICULAR SPONSORSHIPS \$3,112*

54 children were sponsored in some type of positive activity: dance, gymnastics, sports, summer camps, martial arts, etc.

KRUSH TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS \$2,535

39 educators from Frankfort Independent; Franklin, Madison, Henry, Owen, and Bullitt counties attended our July and October trainings.

WJRF hosted an on-line Fund a Need campaign during the month of November. Each donation is tracked via an online report. Donors also receive a confirmation email of their donation. \$1,447.50 funds were raised in November. 100% of these funds will be utilized to sponsor children and youth in extra-curricular activities.

*not including in-kind donations



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

WJRF received an outpouring of financial support in 2019. As a board, we are truly appreciative of your financial giving and support. YOU made so many amazing things happen for kids and families in Frankfort.

WJRF understands it's fiscal obligations to it's donors, volunteers and the kids and families we serve. As co-founders, Dale Robinson and myself have never received any form of payment, financial or in-kind gifts; 100% of our time and talents are donated to this foundation. Our board secretary does receive payment for her marketing and web design, at a discounted price of 50% her normal rate. By trade, she is a trained graphic designer and does not charge WJRF for all of her expertise; most of what she does is donated to us because she is passionate about this foundation.

Beginning January 1, 2020, our fiscal budget aligned with the calendar year. Our board has a finance committee that is comprised of four members. Finance policy and procedures are in place and have been approved by our board and CPA, including an addendum to our by-laws, that designates Amachi of Central Kentucky as the beneficiary of all assets should WJRF ever dissolve. Board meetings are open to the general public. If you are interested in attending, please see our website for meeting details.

As treasurer, Kim Beers utilizes the Aplos accounting software to manage our finances. This software has the capacity to report spending in each of our operating budget categories. It can also track donations, online giving, assist with fundraising, such as ticket sales, among many other features.

A soft audit was conducted by a third party of our 2019 Gala fundraising event. The findings were clear and as a board, we are transparent with our fundraising. We are ecstatic about how YOUR financial contributions are improving the lives of the children and youth we serve and WE WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT IT!

Moving forward in 2020, board members give monthly contributions to offset administrative costs. We fully support Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation with our monthly giving of our time, expertise, and financial support. As board president, I am confident in our standards of best practice and the team of people we have leading this foundation.

amy nance snow

2020 BOARD

KIM BEERS

DUSTIN BOWMAN

KRYSTAL CONWAY-
CUNNINGHAM

TISA CONWAY-
CUNNINGHAM

ABBIGAIL DUNN

SHELLEY HEARN

KEVIN HOCKER

WHITNEY JENNELS

AEVEION JONES

MEAGAN MORROW

DEBBIE MOORE

ASHLEY MULDER

GREGG MURAVCHICK

MARGARET O'DONNELL

MARIA PEARL

REBECCA REDDING

WIL RHODES

DALE ROBINSON

TAYLOR ROBINSON

JONATHAN SCOTT

BAILEY SLUCHER

KAITLYN SIMPSON

AMY SNOW

ALLYSON TAYLOR

ISSA WRIGHT

KALISSA YATES

BOARD STRUCTURE

**Officers of the Corporation/
Executive Committee**

CEO/President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Ex-Officio Membership, non-voting

Robinson Family Member

Youth Representative

WJRF Americorps VISTA

WJRF Practicum Student

Prisoner/Parent Representative

Young Adult Representative

General Board Membership

Parent/Caregiver Representative

Kentucky State University

Franklin County Schools

Frankfort Independent Schools

Attorney at Law

Franklin County Regional Jail

Law Enforcement

Mental Health

Social Services

Business

Government

Department of Juvenile Justice

Faith-Based

Kings Center

Healthcare

Administrative Office of the Courts

2020

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

GALA

Our second annual Gala will be held Saturday, June 13, 2020. Businesses and/or individuals interested in being an event sponsor should contact board member Shelley Hearn. This event is open to the public and includes live and silent auctions, special guest appearances, dinner, and dancing. Come join us for an amazing night! Tickets will be available in March.

NOVEMBER FUND A NEED GIVING CAMPAIGN

During the month of November all online and mailed donations are designated for sponsorships of extracurricular activities for our kids.

PROJECTED SPENDING

PROGRAMMING \$18,000

including our monthly Second Thursdays caregiver support meeting, weekly OMAC meetings, KRUSH stipends per school, KRUSH training for educators, and quarterly Family Fellowship events

ADMINISTRATIVE \$12,570

as listed above for 2019, also including Bluegrass Community Foundation fee and video documentaries

AMERICORPS VISTA \$9,500

new contracted position, September 2020-August 2021, (application fee due in July).

SCHOLARSHIP

A designated percentage of our 2020 Gala event will be designated for our Adam Hyatt Memorial Scholarship.



WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON
FOUNDATION