

WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON FOUNDATION

2022 Annual Report

WJRFOUNDATION.ORG

The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive community by recognizing, respecting, and celebrating individual differences and commonalities in our board members, families, volunteers, and community partners.

mission

It is the Mission of the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation to provide mentorship and resources to children, youth, and families impacted by incarceration.

vision

It is the Vision of the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation to end the cycle of incarceration by providing the children and youth that we serve with a path of hope and a vision of a successful future.

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 resilience of children and families.

In providing a comfort zone for our children and youth to fully express themselves without fear of judgement.



Kentucky ranks third highest in the nation for parental incarceration.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WOW! Just WOW!! 2022 was such an incredible year for WJRF. By December, every goal listed in our strategic plan had been accomplished including the hiring of full time staff.

In January, I tasked our intern, Elizabeth Trebelhorn, with finding a grant that would allow us to hire full time staff and... she did! In September, on behalf of the Franklin County Fiscal Court, we were awarded a federal grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that provides funding for four full time staff and two contract positions for three years. There were eight awards nationally. Seven were prison systems; the eighth was WJRF!

During the last 12 months, we have been able to gather real data for Franklin County and expand our programs and services to families. We know that over 800 children and youth in Frankfort are impacted by incarceration. KRUSH is now offered in every school in Frankfort. More than 200 students participate in this weekly program, led by 24 school staff.

This is what I know...

Every decision that is made, whether it be financial, personnel, operational, will ALWAYS be made with our mission at the forefront- to SERVE children and youth impacted by incarceration. In November, we hired a staff member to start our Amachi of Frankfort mentoring program. Amachi is a nationally based program designed for children of the incarcerated. I was able to meet with the founder Dr. Wilson Goode, Sr., who reminded me that Amachi means, "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child?"

As we enter 2023, I've shifted my view- yes, our children have been impacted by incarceration but they are also impacted by relationship. We are helping them to move forward. (Insert Michael Jackson's Man in the Mirror song.) What is your role in helping more than 800 children and youth in Frankfort? Who was a mentor to you? How many hours did that person pour themselves into your life? Our children need YOU. A relationship with a positive, caring adult prevents truancy from school; dropout; substance use; social isolation; suicidal ideation, teenage pregnancy, gang activity, delinquency, low self esteem and so much more.

As an organization, our vision is to end the cycle of incarceration by providing the children and youth that we serve with a path of hope and a vision of a successful future. It will take all of us to accomplish this task. Our children desperately need to be impacted by a positive relationship; someone who can walk that path of hope with them as they create their vision of success.

Who's ready to make a change? Together, 2023 will be a game changer.

Come join us.



AMY NANCE SNOW

WJRF CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE WJRF BOARD

The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation, Inc. is an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fosters partnerships aimed at healing and unifying our community. We welcome a diversity of ideas and experiences in our search for equitable and inclusive solutions to address the impact of parental incarceration on children and youth.

We have equipped ourselves with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant that will aid in creating a holistic learning environment that prepares our board members, families, volunteers, and community partners to be invested, educated, and accountable citizens for our local and global communities. We believe in protecting the rights of all board members, families, volunteers, and community partners regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, age, sexual and gender orientation, geographical origin/background, or religious beliefs.

We acknowledge the need to learn from those who are different and to grow from varying experiences as they have the impact to influence our own beliefs. Our goal is to provide diverse, equitable, and inclusive opportunities for all board members, families, volunteers, and community partners through quality workshops and trainings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Redding
Board Chair

Issa Wright
Vice Chair

La'Quida Smith
Secretary, DEI Specialist

Jonathon Scott
Treasurer

Dustin Bowman
Member at Large

Shelley Hearn
Member at Large

Todd Horstmeyer
Member at Large, Major Gifts Officer

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dale Robinson
Co-Founder

Amy Snow
Co-Founder, Executive Director

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Alicia Smith
Parent/Caregiver Representative

Ashley King
Franklin County Regional Jail

Debbie Moore
Franklin County Schools

Krystal Conway-Cunningham
Frankfort Independent Schools

Tisa Conway-Cunningham
Frankfort Independent Schools

Margaret O'Donnell
Attorney at Law

Meagan Morrow
Franklin County Schools

Mitzi Geveden
Franklin County Clerk's Office

Rachelle Chattin
Bookkeeper

Amy West
University of Kentucky Department of
Social Work Intern

STAFF

Amy Snow
Executive Director

Elizabeth Trebelhorn
Director of Development

Eric McKee
Amachi Match Specialist

Amy Perry
Family Transition Coordinator

Shannon Fryar
Video Visitation Coordinator

Meagan Morrow
High School Outreach Coordinator

Trish Freeman
High School Outreach Coordinator

2022 WINS FOR WJRF



NEW HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM

The model of our High School Outreach program includes the hiring of part-time mentors who maintain a caseload of 15-20 youth. In 2022 we hired three HSO coordinators. 30 youth participate in the program. The goal is to provide mentorship for youth through high school graduation. Youth can call/text mentors at any time. Monthly Large Group meetings/field trips occur. With the hiring of full time staff, this program has been aligned to Positive Youth Development and Protective Factors and has evidenced based outcomes. A youth leadership group meets to guide the planning of activities.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Scholarships were awarded to 4 high school graduates and 2 college students were re-awarded.

Our co-founders, a mother and her two children, and board members presented information to the Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity.

105 youth received a \$400 Yes Card, for extra-curricular activities, through Just Say Yes. 16 additional children were provided sponsorships through WJRF.

A monthly caregiver support group was led by Virginia Marshall.

Christmas was amazing- Fayette Co Regional Juvenile Detention Center provided 10 bicycles; Multiply Church sponsored 43 children; children were sponsored by Capital City Christian Church who hosted our contact visitation; and additional children were sponsored by community volunteers. KSU and Frankfort Kiwanis hosted a Christmas party; our high schoolers took a December trip to Champs.

Two Parent Cafes were offered to parents and caregivers.

Five OMAC, Operation Making a Change, groups led weekly by Gerald Gibson.

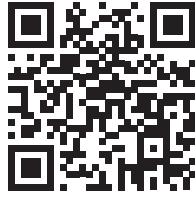
We've been able to support the HANDS program for first time mothers being offered in our county jail.



OUR FOCUS

More than 800 children
in Franklin County are
impacted by incarceration.





BLUEPRINT FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

KYyouth.org/blueprintky/

The Blueprint for Kentucky's Children is a coalition of non-profit, public, and private organizations that stands on three pillars: thriving communities launch strong families, strong families launch successful kids, and successful kids launch a prosperous future for Kentucky.

As the commonwealth works to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and address systemic racism, the Blueprint speaks with a common voice to create brighter futures for all Kentucky kids and their families.



Kentucky can... Hold Parents Accountable In Ways That Minimize the Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children

Children need their parents to care for them and work to meet their basic needs. Unfortunately, in Kentucky more than one in 10 children have had a parent separated from them due to incarceration. Incarceration negatively impacts a child's behavioral, educational, and health outcomes. Even short stays in jail for a parent can create negative consequences for children and for the parent's ability to financially support the family.

Parental Incarceration is an Adverse Childhood Experience that has been referred to as a "shared sentence" due to the short and long-term effects it has on children.

To minimize the impact on children, Kentucky needs a system of justice that promotes accountability and reserves incarceration for those who pose a flight risk or risk to public safety.

For parents who have committed a criminal offense and do not pose a risk to public safety, effective community-based alternatives to incarceration, like alcohol and substance use treatment, parenting classes, vocational training, or mental health services. With a statute similar to Tennessee's, Kentucky's criminal justice system is preventing thousands of children from being separated from their parents who committed the criminal offense as a primary caregiver of a dependent child.

Holding parents accountable in these ways allows them to continue caring for their children and helps them be more successful in contributing to society. Higher rates of incarceration overall impact people's ability to seek, get, and find employment after release, impacting a community's workforce.

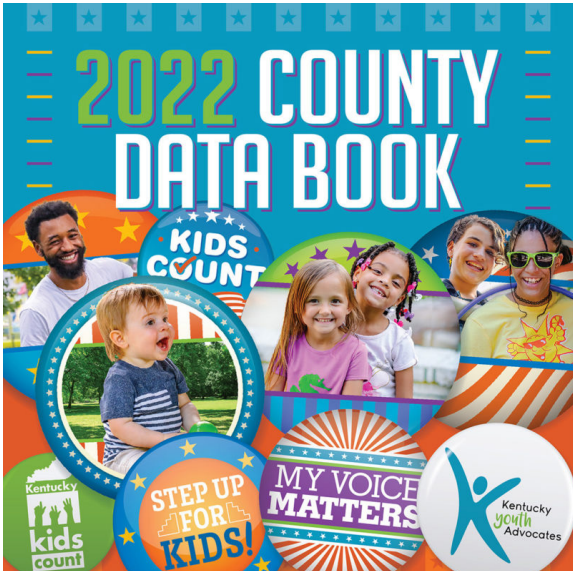
Utilizing alternative sentencing that allows parents to stay connected to children would minimize the trauma for children of having a parent incarcerated and the disproportionate impact on Black youth.

What does the data tell us?

- Data on systemic inequities within the criminal justice system, Black children are disproportionately impacted by having a loved one incarcerated across all community types.
- More than half of adults in state custody are parents, including 64% of women and 55% of men.
- Black men are overrepresented in the incarcerated population, and therefore, in the population of incarcerated fathers.
- Women get 27% or more likely than men get 13% to be incarcerated for a drug offense, 66% more likely for a sexual offense, and 63% of women are in state custody for a Class D non-violent, non-sexual offense.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Utilize community based sentencing alternatives that promote both rehabilitation and accountability while ensuring in whether a person is a primary caregiver, so parents can continue providing for their children.



2022 KIDS COUNT SURVEY

KYyouth.org/kentucky-kids-count/

A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation since 1990, KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States.

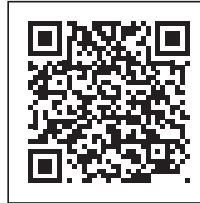


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Our mission is to support children and youth that have been impacted by incarceration. Find our Annual Reports, Strategic Plan, research and data along with examples of the foundation in the media.

STAY CONNECTED
Follow us on Facebook for live updates on events, good news and community partnerships.



HOW YOU CAN JOIN US

- Become a mentor.
- Connect Us with people you know who may be interested in becoming a mentor.
- Provide a meal for our caregiver group.
- Provide a "self care" gift bag to our caregivers.
- Provide snacks for our school-based KRUSH groups.
- Be a table host for our Parent Cafes.
- Provide hygiene items; children and youth socks and underwear.
- Provide household items for parents in re-entry.



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE WJRF?

donate

wjrfoundation.org
Paypal Giving Fund
Brokerage Account

sponsor an event

Derby Gala
APRIL 2023

Golf Scramble
OCT 2023

connect us
with sources
of sustainable
funding.

contribute to our
scholarship fund.

donate during the goodgiving challenge

The GoodGiving Challenge is a week long online giving challenge for local nonprofits hosted by Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing.

CONTACT US

info@wjrfoundation.org



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The 2022 Annual Report was prepared by Amy Nance Snow.

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