



WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON FOUNDATION

# 2023 Impact Report

[WJRFFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WJRFFOUNDATION.ORG)



## MISSION

The mission of the **Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation** is to create and invest in relationships that strengthen the lives of children, youth and families impacted by incarceration.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last September, on behalf of the Franklin County Fiscal Court, we were awarded a federal grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In the past year, we hired our first full-time staff and expanded our programming and services to families.

The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation invests in relationships that strengthen the lives of children, youth, and families. It is our vision to disrupt recidivism and end the cycle of incarceration by providing those we serve with a pathway of hope—empowering them to be seen and heard without fear or judgment.

Thank you, community partners, for your continuous support and encouragement. It is an honor to celebrate five years with you!



*AMY NANCE SNOW*

WJRF CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### STAY CONNECTED

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



The background of the entire page is a vibrant, abstract composition of thick paint splatters and brushstrokes in various colors including orange, red, green, blue, and purple, set against a white canvas. The paint is applied in a textured, expressive manner, creating a sense of movement and energy.

# **CORE VALUES**

## **HEART**

We do our best work when we do it with a strong sense of purpose and a passion for a better world. Even when we're doing hard things, we can find love and joy in unexpected places and understand the essential role hope plays in our work.

## **CENTRICITY**

We center the voices, priorities and wellbeing of the youth and families we work with in every decision we make and every action we take.

## **JOY**

We believe every young person deserves to have joy in their life. We create opportunities to be a kid and have fun every day, recognizing that joy is the key that unlocks positive youth development and brighter futures.

## **EMPOWERMENT**

We believe in the potential of young people and choose to invest in them as the key to a brighter future for our community and our world.



## **OUR VISION**

Our vision is to disrupt recidivism and end the cycle of incarceration by providing the children, youth and families we serve with a pathway of hope and empowering them to be seen and heard without fear or judgment.

Kentucky has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest incarceration rate in the world.

**Kentucky's incarceration rate is 40% higher than the national average.**

On average, children of incarcerated parents are six times more likely to become incarcerated themselves.

**40% of children in Franklin County live in Single Parent Families**

On average, there are 184 county inmates that are incarcerated in the Franklin County Regional Jail. Of those, 70% are parents.

## **WE KNOW THAT INCARCERATION AND TRAUMA IMPACT OUR KIDS.**

Developmental diversions and delays, learning disabilities

***Trauma can alter how we think, feel and process information***

Uncertainty/instability of a parent being gone

**Stigma/embarrassment/shame of having a parent incarcerated**

Financial difficulties

**Difficulty building attachments**

Uncertainty about the justice system

***Loss of family, home, safe place***

Hyper pursuit of acceptance

# 2023 IMPACT

○ WHO WE ARE

● WHO WE SERVE

We contracted with **TWO** parenting class instructors to lead an evidence based curriculum specifically designed for incarcerated parents. This year, we held **FOUR** graduations inside the Franklin County Regional Jail.

○  
**7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We focused on caregiver support by offering Parent Cafes, parenting classes, support groups, and more. On average, **SEVEN** caregivers and parents receive weekly mental and emotional support.

○  
**8 FULL/PART TIME STAFF**

We hired staff and moved into our first office!

○  
**10 CONTRACT STAFF**



**SIX** seniors were awarded the **Adam Hyatt Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000. Twelve of our high schoolers graduated from high school this year.

○  
**20 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

○  
**17 SUSTAINERS**  
Sustainers pledge to support WJRF financially for five or more years.

25+ LOCAL  
AND STATE  
PARTNERS

MORE THAN

800

children are impacted  
by incarceration in  
Franklin County.

MORE THAN

275

youth attend weekly KRUSH  
programs in Franklin and  
Anderson counties

145,000

12% of Kentucky kids have been  
impacted by incarceration.

40+  
TEENS

20

Our high school outreach program includes 4H positive youth development curriculum at the Franklin County Extension Office, mentor communication, events and more. On average, **FORTY** youth participate in monthly programs.

*In March, we took **TWENTY** of our high school youth to Washington D.C. on our first ever out-of-state educational trip!*

23 VOLUNTEER  
KRUSH LEADERS

30 VOLUNTEERS

FOCUSED ON

# BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY



You all are making such an impact in this community. I wish I had something like this growing up because my mother was a felon. I needed the support without judgement.

*community member*

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE -Yes Arts



**WJR Foundation will forever hold a special place in our hearts.**

*Kelley and Mike Hawkins, WJRF Supporters*

This program is awesome it helps a lot of women and kids. I appreciate them helping my daughter so much.

*anonymous family member*

Thank you all for all organizing this for our kids! They were all so excited (and so were we) to be a part of just fun and focused conversations.

*school counselor about KRUSH camp*

This is so awesome!! I know each and every teen is getting the support they need to be successful!!

*WJRF Supporter*

**We are thankful to be apart of so many positive life changing events happening in our facility and in our community.**

*Franklin County Regional Jail... about Parenting Inside Out Class*



## STATE + BEYOND

Kentucky General Assembly • Department of Corrections  
Administrative Office of the Courts • Kentucky Department of Education  
Juvenile Justice System • Child Protection Services • OJJDP • Kentucky Youth  
Advocates • Congress and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
Prevention • Cabinet for Health and Family Services Council of State  
Governments • Kentucky Nonprofit Network

## LOCAL

Frankfort Independent Schools • Franklin  
County Schools • 4-H • Law Enforcement Agencies  
Franklin County Fiscal Court • ASAP Yes Arts • Just Say  
Yes Franklin County Regional Jail • FAIR Teams • Franklin  
County Health Department • Community Action and Faith  
Partners • City of Frankfort • United Way of the Bluegrass  
Blue Grass Community Foundation • Agency for Substance  
Use Prevention Council • University of Kentucky

## WJRF

Family Transition Coordinator • Parenting  
Inside Out • Parent Cafe • Caregiver Support  
Group Visitation Support • Amachi Mentors •  
KRUSH School Program • Family Fellowship • A  
Familiar Voice • High School Outreach • Youth  
Leadership • Operation Making a Change  
Middle School Outreach • Extra-Curricular  
Sponsorships and Scholarships

## INDIVIDUAL

Children, youth,  
parents, caregivers  
impacted by  
incarceration





## **2023 AWARDS + RECOGNITION**

### **2023 Beloved Community Award**

FRANKLIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### **Inauguration Parade Participant**

INVITED BY FRANKLIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

### **Westfield Grant**

WESTFIELD INSURANCE FOUNDATION

### **Child Abuse Prevention Month Window Display**

PAUL SAWYIER PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **WellCare Grant**

WELLCARE OF KENTUCKY





TOGETHER...  
WE CAN

grow our impact.  
fill in gaps.  
serve more kids.  
create more joy.

and build  
a **stronger**  
**community.**

## LEADERSHIP

### STAFF

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**Amy Snow**, Executive Director • **La'Quida Smith**, Director of Development  
**Trina Peiffer**, Amachi Match Specialist • **Rebecca Redding**, Director of Marketing  
**Elizabeth Treblehorn**, Director of Data Analysis • **Debbie Demers**, Family Transition Coordinator • **Melissa Payne**, Office Administrator

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Todd Horstmeyer**, Board Chair • **Tuesday Lemon**, Vice Chair • **Shannon Woodard Bright**, Secretary  
**Jonathan Scott**, Member at Large • **Dustin Bowman**, Member at Large • **Shelley Hearn**, Member at Large

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Qui Smith • Tisa Conway Cunningham • Krystal Conway Cunningham • Justin Whitehead • Deborah McKee  
Sarah Rhodes • Andrea Boyd • Meagan Morrow • Virginia Marshall • Whitney Jennels • Robin Winkfield •  
Melissa Payne • Alicia Smith

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Todd Horstmeyer • Margaret O'Donnell • Paul Edwards • Wil Rhodes

*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 aide 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.*

