



WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON FOUNDATION
Impact Report



OUR MISSION

To create and invest in relationships that strengthen the lives of children, youth and families impacted by incarceration.

OUR VISION

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.

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.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 2023, the director of Thorn Hill Learning Center scheduled a meeting with me to discuss a new family literacy program. Three days prior to that meeting, I visited the Boys and Girls Club in Barren County. Conversations began in October 2023 about the need for a club in Frankfort and I wanted to visit a thriving program. The site visit was remarkable- seeing children get off the school bus with smiling faces, happy to arrive in a safe, structured after school environment. The club provides academic support, multifaceted learning opportunities, a hot meal and positive, caring adults. BGC's motto, "great futures begin here" was certainly exemplified throughout the building.

Little did I know the plan that would unfold. I attended the meeting at Thorn Hill with two WJRF staff accompanying me. As soon as the meeting began, I interrupted Kelley Anderson and said, "WJRF needs to move into Thorn Hill and we are going to start a Boys and Girls Club." Without a second to pause, her immediate answer was, "Okay! Let's go see the basement."

Since that December conversation, WJRF is moving full steam ahead with expanding and increasing programs and services to families. A big goal we have this year is to connect with 150 people to join us as a Sustainer- a commitment of \$300 or more per year for five years. Since 2018, we have prayed for "the right people to show up at the right time" to help us accomplish our mission. More than 800 children in Frankfort, literally a high school building, need assistance. Please consider joining us as a WJRF Sustainer so that we have the resources needed to continue to provide quality, evidenced-based, and best practice programming to families in Franklin County.

whatever it takes,

ANN NANCE SNOW

WJRF CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are committed and passionate about our mission...

- Annual impact and finance reports
- A strategic plan since 2020
- Monthly oversight of finances
- Monthly board meetings with a strong, efficient and committed group of professionals
- A leadership team with more than 135 years of combined relevant experience



STAY CONNECTED

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



2024

More than 800 Frankfort youth have been impacted by incarceration. To put that into perspective, the total enrollment of students at Western Hills High School is 868.

In a 30 day period, approximately 374 children have a parent incarcerated in Franklin County Regional Jail. This is a conservative number as it does not include children with parents in the state prison system.

The foundation has received no major gifts, over the amount of \$10,000, with the exception of one from Justice Action Network, who donated \$50,000 in 2021. This allowed us to be in a position to apply for a federal grant, which is reimbursable funding only.

Kentucky has the 7th 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.

Frankfort, Kentucky is one of two state capitals in the United States without a Boys and Girls Club. Frankfort was identified in 2012 as a desired site for a club.

The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation at the Boys & Girls Club of Frankfort will leverage essential resources from the nationally recognized BGCA to provide a safe and nurturing environment for Frankfort's youth. This collaboration aims to foster growth and resilience in our community's young people.

COMMUNITY

In spring of 2024, we moved our office to *Thorn Hill Education Center*. This partnership has allowed both of us to expand programs and resources such as Alateen, Family Literacy, Classes, Family Support, Events and much more.

RELATIONSHIPS

We are ending 2024 with 50 mentors matched in our *Amachi* program. Mentors spend one hour per week (or more) with their assigned mentee.

We know that these relationships can make a huge impact on our youth.

RESOURCES

Through an amazing partnership with *Just Say Yes* and grant funding, we were able to provide more than 350 of our kids with a \$400 Yes Card in 2024. A Yes Card is an electronic gift card that can be used to pay for youth activities from a list of approved providers in Franklin County. It is part of Just Say Yes, a youth wellness and substance use prevention initiative that encourages positive support for young people in Franklin County.

COLLABORATION

Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation is working with our partners to bring a *Boys and Girls Club* to Frankfort in 2025. This national model offers a safe place for youth to go after school and on school breaks to ensure healthy habits and brighter futures.

2024 IMPACT

- WHO WE ARE
- WHO WE SERVE

25+ LOCAL AND STATE PARTNERS

○
8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We held **two** graduations inside the Franklin County Regional Jail for Parenting Inside Out classes

Four men participated in our FatherHood Re-Entry Program

Seven seniors were awarded the Adam Hyatt Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

We opened up a Ky Saves 529 account. Starting out, we have listed **ten** beneficiaries- kids of fathers who are participating in our FatherHood Re-Entry group. They each have \$250 in savings that will be given directly to a secondary institution upon their high school graduation and enrollment in college or career certification program.

○
8 FULL/PART TIME STAFF

We moved to Thorn Hill Education Center in April 2024.

○
10 CONTRACT STAFF

○
24 VOLUNTEER KRUSH LEADERS

○
30+ VOLUNTEERS

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

MORE THAN
350

\$400 Yes Cards given to Wanda J youth through a grant with *Just Say Yes*

MORE THAN
325

youth attend weekly KRUSH programs in Franklin and Anderson counties

MORE THAN
250
FOOD BOXES DISTRIBUTED

Locals Food Hub and Pizza Pub provided food boxes every other Friday for Wanda J families. Volunteers and staff delivered boxes to our families as needed.

145,000

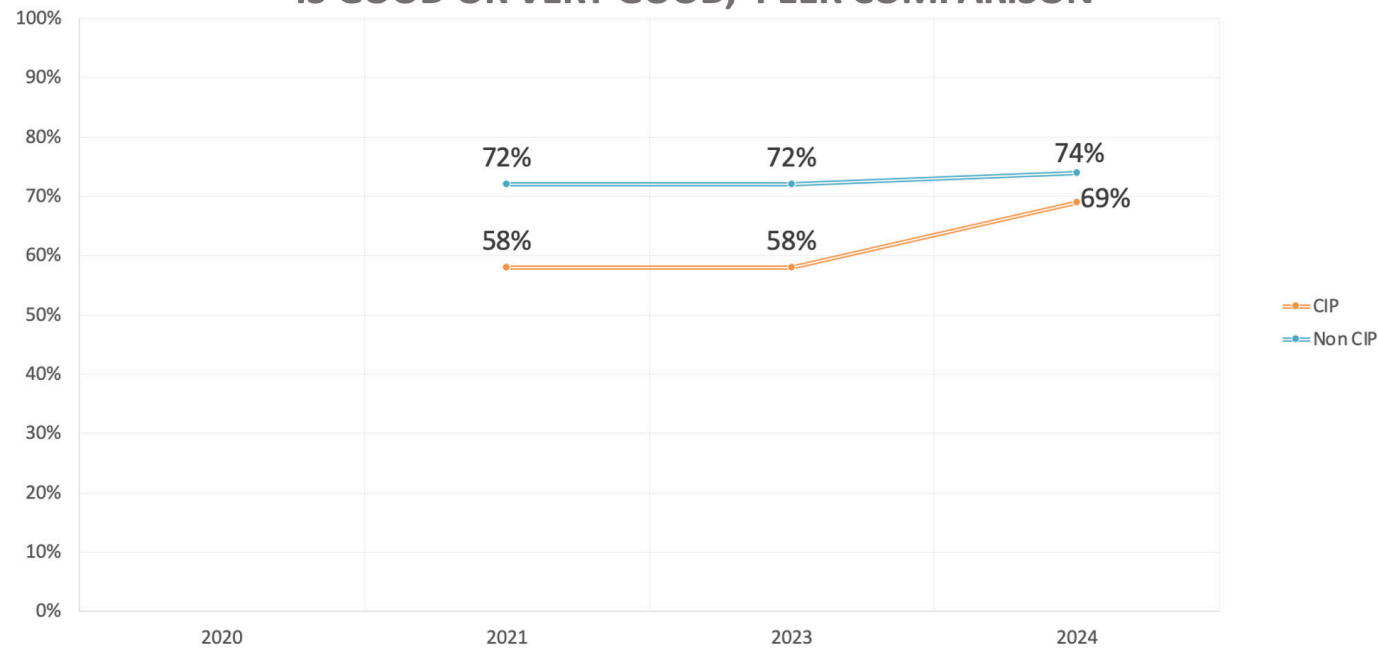
12% of Kentucky kids have been impacted by incarceration.

closing the gap.

According to the 2024 Franklin County Youth Survey, our kids (CIP) have made significant improvements within one year as related to their peers (NON-CIP). In the areas of mental and physical health, social connections, and nurturing (all of which are protective factors for mitigating trauma) our kids showed major gains as compared to their peers.

Youth survey is given annually to Franklin County students, 7th-12th grade.

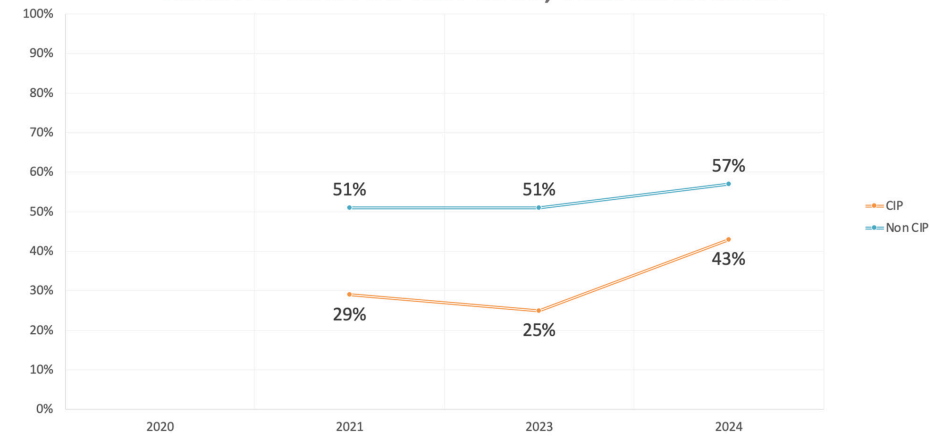
PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO REPORT THAT THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH IS GOOD OR VERY GOOD, PEER COMPARISON



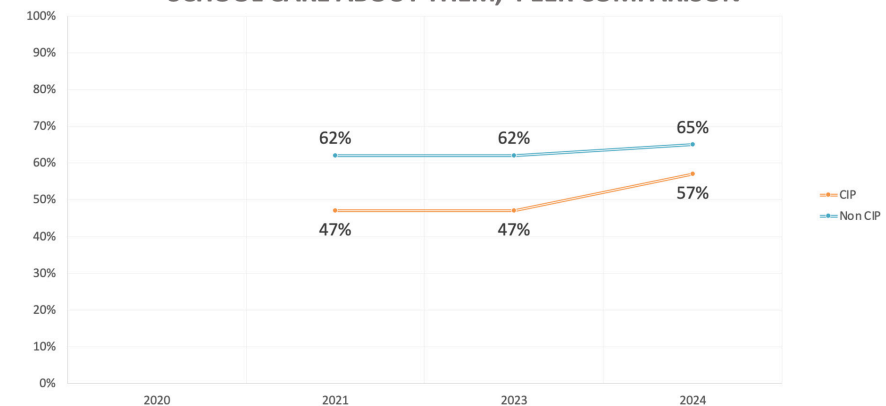
CIP: CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENT

NON-CIP: PEERS

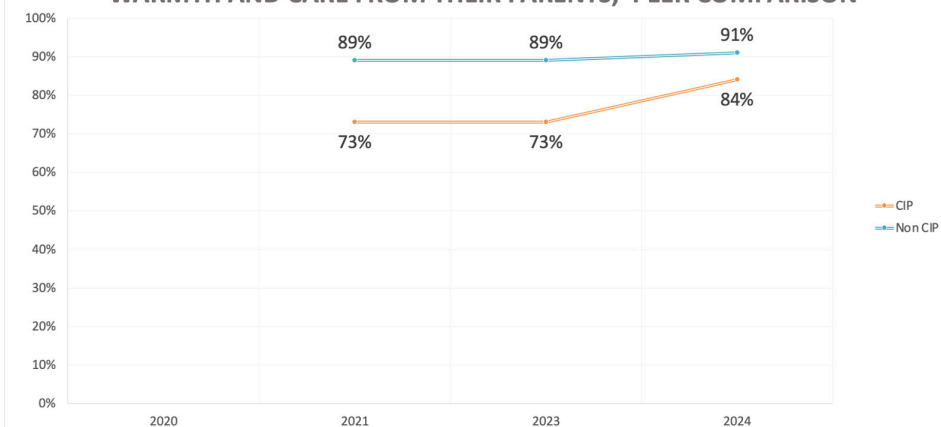
PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO REPORT THAT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH IS GOOD OR VERY GOOD, PEER COMPARISON



PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO REPORT THAT ADULTS AT THEIR SCHOOL CARE ABOUT THEM, PEER COMPARISON



PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WHO REPORT THAT IT IS EASY TO GET WARMTH AND CARE FROM THEIR PARENTS, PEER COMPARISON



What does this mean?

Children of the Incarcerated in Franklin County are improving their overall health and our programs are addressing their needs.

2024 AWARDS + RECOGNITION

Community Builder's Award

FRANKFORT/FRANKLIN COUNTY- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PERSONS

Family Literacy Partner

NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY LEARNING
THORN HILL EDUCATION CENTER

KRUSH Collaboration + Mural

YES ARTS + FRANKFORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Starbucks Neighborhood Grant

STARBUCKS

State Opioid Abatement Funding

KENTUCKY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE



in loving memory
MELISSA REED PAYNE

LEADERSHIP

We work hard to be part of community organizations and work that align with our mission and support of families/youth. We value collaboration and our partners in Frankfort. Wanda J staff/board members attend meetings, participate in and share resources from these important groups:

- Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (ASAP) Council
- Black Youth Suicide Prevention Taskforce
- Cares Coalition
- DJJ Emerging Leader
- DJJ SEJAY, Subcommittee Equity and Justice for All Youth
- FAIR Team
- Fayette Co. Juvenile Detention Center Community Advisory Board
- Franklin County Extension Office Advisory Board
- Franklin County Extension Office Advisory Council
- Health Department MAPP
- Just Say Yes Steering Committee
- Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health- Juvenile Justice Workgroup
- Kentucky Strengthening Families; Youth Thrive Workgroup Training
- Kynector
- Kentucky Youth Advocates
- LEAD KY
- National Center for Family Literacy
- Situation Table
- State Inter-Agency Council (SIAC)
- Wellcare Franklin County Community Impact Council, Re-Entry

STAFF

Amy Snow Executive Director • **Elizabeth Trebelhorn** Associate Executive Director • **La'Quida Smith** Director of Development • **Trina Schimmoeller** Amachi Match Specialist • **Rebecca Redding** Director of Marketing • **Debbie Demers** Family Transition Coordinator • **Kaitlyn Simpson** Office Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Horstmeyer Board Chair • **Tuesday Lemon** Vice Chair • **OJ Oleka** Treasurer • **Shannon Woodard Bright** Secretary • **Chuck Geveden** Member at Large • **Lindsey Carr** Member at Large • **Shelley Hearn** Member at Large • **Scott Tracy** Member at Large

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Todd Horstmeyer • Margaret O'Donnell • 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 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.



*All financial information is public and can be found on
our website at wjrfoundation.org/financials.*

find ways to support us at

WJRFOUNDATION.ORG