



WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON
FOUNDATION

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FOUNDATION

2025

Impact Report

WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON FOUNDATION

WJRFFOUNDATION.ORG

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
Centricity
Joy
Empowerment





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FROM OUR DIRECTOR

What a remarkable year it's been! In January, we met with Juvenile Court to develop an intervention program for youth with a higher level of involvement in the justice system. We partnered with **Operation Making A Change** and the **Franklin County Attorney's Office** to offer intensive wraparound services to 20 youth.

We are in our 7th Year of offering **KRUSH- Kids Rising Up through Support and Healing** to more than 400 students in 11 schools! WJRF staff, Dr. Qui Smith and school guidance counselor Shannon Fryar, are developing a new evidenced-based curriculum, which is being piloted at Elkhorn Middle School.

Through city opioid abatement funding, our **Amachi Mentoring** program expanded to two staff. Rachel Moore joined Program Director, Trina Schimmoeller, in developing **Lunch Buddies**, an elementary school-based mentoring program, serving 34 students. This concept involves local businesses allowing employees to mentor youth weekly during their lunch break. Through this expansion, 26 volunteer employees meet with students in 5 elementary schools. Combined with our one-to-one match program, this increased our total number of mentees to 82 children and 79 adult mentors.

High school youth receive ongoing mentorship and support through our **High School Outreach** program led by Raven Kelley, MSW. In October, we started a weekly support group for youth impacted by familial substance use. We ended the year with a huge celebration, the **Boys and Girls Club of Frankfort** opened doors in November!

In 2026, we face some tough decisions and challenges, including the expiration of key grant funding. One thing remains clear, we enter this year with the Same Mission and Same Heart. Our staff and board have an unwavering commitment to the work at hand. We know the positive impact that is being made in the lives of Franklin County children and families.

Thank you for being an integral part of our work in Franklin County.

Did You Know

On a monthly basis, Wanda J staff averages a combined 1,000 miles driven in personal vehicles and \$700 spent on family assistance- *these are in kind donations*

9 members of our leadership team are Sustainers

ANN NANCE SNOW

CO-FOUNDER + EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2025 at a glance

- Increased capacity. More than 400 youth attend a school-based support group. This program stretches across eleven schools and meets at least twice a month, giving students ongoing support to develop social and emotional skills.
- Joined the community in providing extra support to families impacted by record breaking Frankfort flood.
- Hosted Summer Series for family visits, cooking with teens and relationship building
- Focused on our kids. We had 1,243 incidents of staff increasing protective factors through direct contact with youth during a one month span. *September 2025*
- Launched Lunch Buddies program
- Opened doors of Boys and Girls Club of Frankfort
- In 2025, Franklin County Attorney's Office Outreach Coordinator, Ashley King worked with our social worker, Raven Kelley, to oversee the Safe Streets OMAC Program for court-ordered youth. Through state opioid funding, we created a county government Prevention Specialist position, to work with youth in active and/or at risk of addiction. Deb Anderson was hired June 2025 as our Prevention Specialist.

our method

Offering family support while increasing Positive Childhood Experiences to combat Adverse Childhood Experiences

attends monthly **High School Outreach** meetup or outing

attends a weekly support group to connect with **Group Chat**

receives a **Yes Card** to assist with activity, sport or program fees



attends an in-school **KRUSH** group with peers every week

attends weekly **OMAC**- a violence prevention group

spends one hour per week with a positive adult mentor through **Amachi** program

checks in with **Youth Advocate** on a weekly basis to talk about goals



receives support from **Wanda J staff**

kids are involved in youth programs

participates in DBT as a family

support inside jails with classes and visitation

receives support from **Caregiver group**

receives financial support through **Yes Card**

ON AVERAGE, FAMILIES INCLUDE THREE YOUTH

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) (abuse, neglect, dysfunction) are traumatic events linked to poor long-term health, while **Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)** (nurturing relationships, safe environments) act as **protective factors**, building resilience and mitigating ACEs' impact. Together, they represent opposite sides of the spectrum for shaping adult mental/physical health.

Protective Factors

- Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Cognitive, Social and Emotional Competence of Children
- Nurturing & Attachment

Stronger Families

Reduce the impact of adversity and increase the well-being of children and families

WHAT ARE PROTECTIVE FACTORS?

Protective Factors are conditions in youth that, when present, help increase the health and well-being of youth and reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

SIX PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN KENTUCKY

YOUTH RESILIENCE

Youth bounce back when life gives them challenges.

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Youth have genuine connections with others.

KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Youth understand the science of their development.

CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

Youth find resources and support in their community that helps them.

COGNITIVE, SOCIAL + EMOTIONAL COMPETENCY

Youth know how to communicate their thoughts and feelings effectively.

NURTURING AND ATTACHMENT

Ensuring children feel loved and safe, forming a secure bond

DID YOU KNOW?

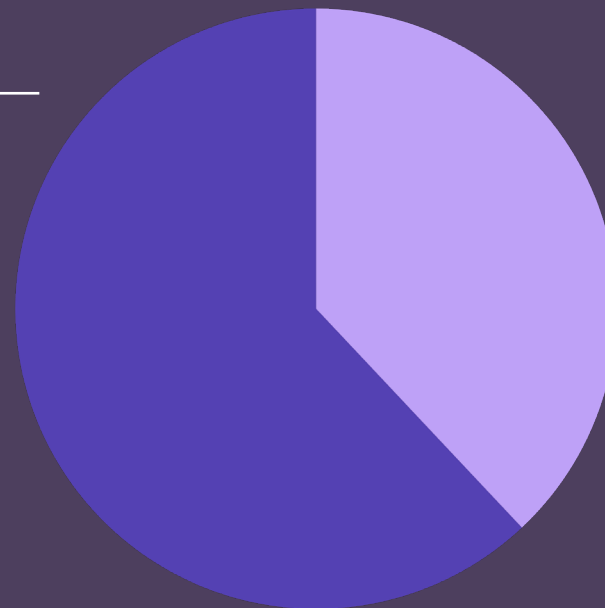
Kentucky's incarceration rate is 40% higher than the national average.

IN A 30 DAY PERIOD...

we are serving more than 550 youth

Around 900 Frankfort youth have been impacted by incarceration.

We are working with 63% of those youth on a monthly basis.



We still need to connect with the other 37%.

our results

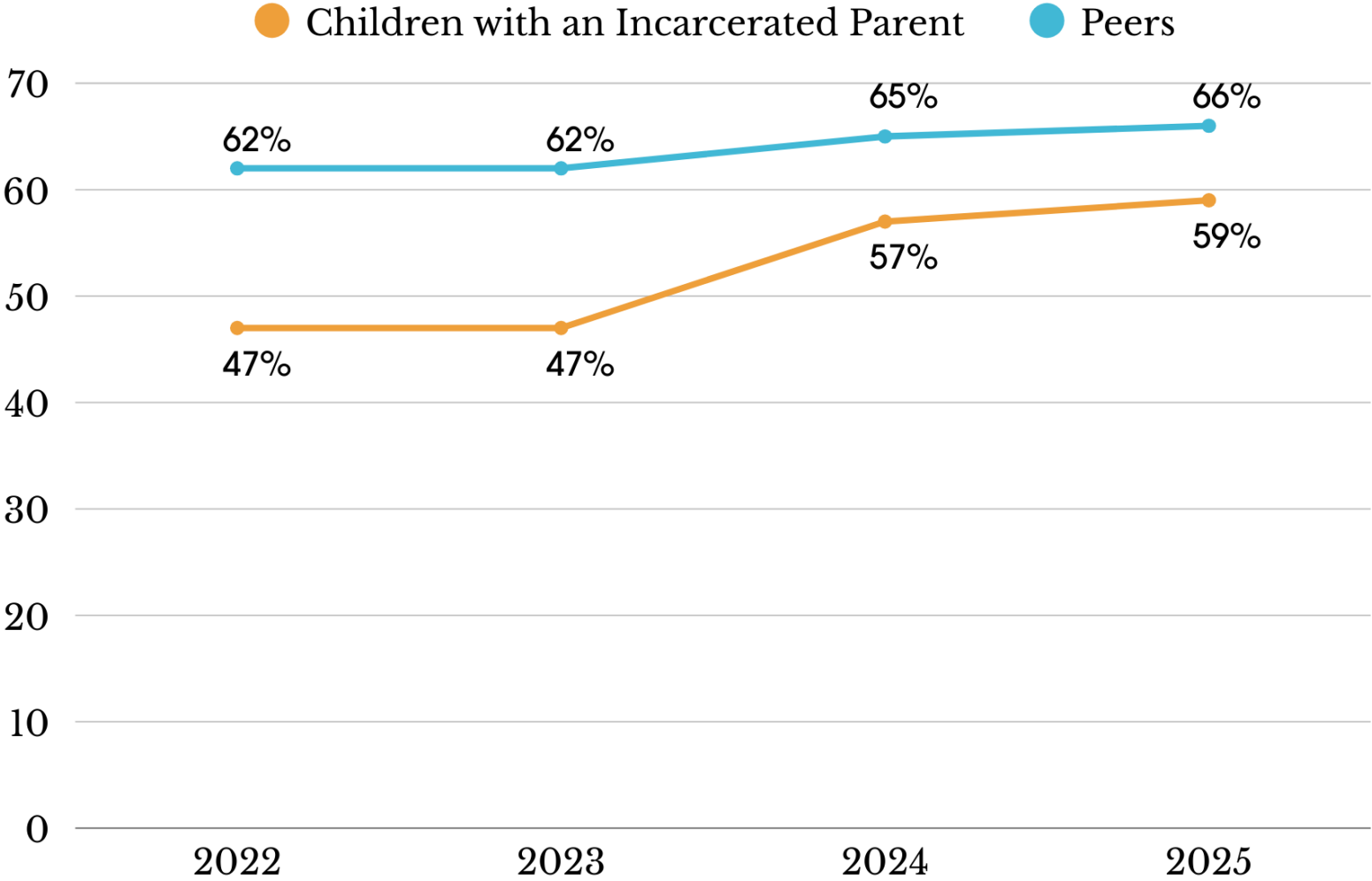
It's working! We have data showing that we are closing the gap for our youth. These charts show children of incarcerated parents (CIP) compared to peers.

CLOSING THE GAPS FROM 22-25

Risk & Protective Factor	CIP	Peer
Parents know where they are in the evenings	+2	-1
Easy to get care and warmth from parents	+10	+5
Parents know parents of their friends	+15	+6
Try their best at school	+6	+5
Adults at their school care about them	+12	+4
Mental Health is good or very good	+18	+9
Have cut or harmed themselves on purpose	-10	+1
Physical Health is good or very good	+9	+5

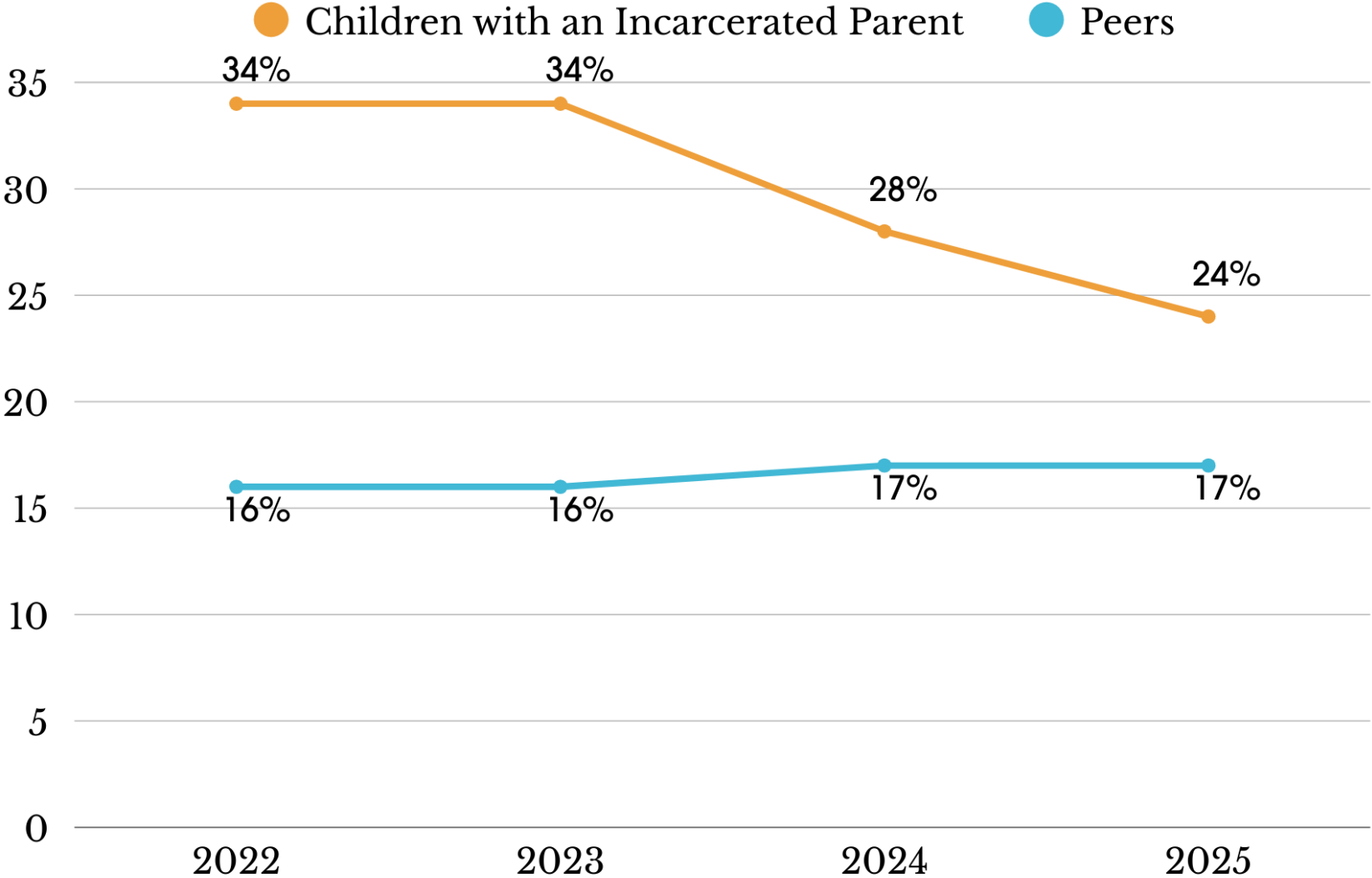
Numbers represent change in percentages

ADULTS AT THEIR SCHOOL CARE ABOUT THEM, PEER COMPARISON



In addition to our staff going into schools, we work with KRUSH leaders, Lunch Buddies and schools to advocate for our kids. In 2025, we partnerd with **Zero V** and **Just Say Yes** to create a **Youth Advisory Council**- an open group for teens that meets regularly to help address violence in our homes, schools and communities.

HAVE CUT OR HARMED THEMSELVES ON PURPOSE, PEER COMPARISON





FROM MENTEE PARENT

"She goes above and beyond to help not just Sadie but our family. She is kind and loving and always checks on us and ask if we are needing anything. She knows we don't have a car at the moment so she will offer a ride. She has brought me dinner so I didn't have to cook sometimes. She has been a good friend to me. I know I can trust her when I talk to her. She goes above and beyond any mentor. She knows I lost my job so she has prayed for me to find a better job. She is wonderful and we are lucky to have her in our life. She is not just Sadie's mentor she is our mentor and friend. She is our family!"

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Amachi + Lunch Buddies

more than 150

youth are mentored weekly through Amachi of Frankfort, Operation Making a Change and High School Outreach

NEW IN 2025

Lunch Buddies is an Amachi program that matches trusted adults with kids for a weekly lunch date at school.



Amachi of Frankfort
WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON FOUNDATION

Programs made possible by City Opioid Abatement Funding



FROM MENTOR

"I can't begin to thank you enough for matching me with Dixie. Every day there is something new and wonderful with her. "



finances

100%
of staff
are grant
funded

377
donations
ONE MAJOR GIFT
FOR \$10,000

44
sustainers
OUR GOAL IS 200

\$418,000

loss of funding due
to expired grants

Grants do not last forever. Grant money has an expiration date. An organization must constantly seek out and apply for grant funds.

WE ARE COMMITTED AND PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR MISSION...

An important mission like ours takes intentional planning and financial support to accomplish.

Annual impact and
finance reports

Monthly board
meetings with a
strong, efficient and
committed group of
professionals

A strategic plan
since 2020

Monthly oversight
of finances

A leadership team
with more than 135
years of combined
relevant experience



LEARN MORE

All financial information is public and can be found at wjrfoundation.org/financials.

2025 AWARDS + RECOGNITION

Flood Relief Grant

FRANKLIN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Social Workers Presentation

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

DR. QUI SMITH + ELIZABETH TREBELHORN

Community Partner Award

FRANKLIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Victory Over Violence Presentation

DR. QUI SMITH

Bounce University Presentation

DR. QUI SMITH

Pennies for a Purpose Grant

BLUEGRASS ENERGY

Starbucks Neighborhood Grant

STARBUCKS

County, City + State Opioid Abatement Funding



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 • **Dr. La’Quida Smith** Director of Development • **Trina Schimmoeller** Amachi Program Director • **Rachel Moore** Amachi Match Specialist • **Rebecca Redding** Director of Marketing • **Raven Kelly** Social Worker • **Debbie Demers** Family Transition Coordinator • **Cathy Catlett** 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

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.



STAY CONNECTED

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



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

find ways to support us at

WJRFFOUNDATION.ORG