

## Lives We're Touching - A Mother Finds Her Voice

As a former single foster mom, my life changed when I adopted my two foster children, Emily\* and Mike\*. Emily was born addicted to drugs, and when she started kindergarten, her teacher noticed her frustration and communication struggles. I was thrown into the school system, trying to understand what an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) was and how to fight for Emily's needs. It felt like an endless battle, especially as things worsened in middle school. She faced bullying and ran away from school, and I felt so lost trying to navigate it all.

Then, in 2021, everything became even more challenging when Mike suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident. He moved through six different schools, and I was overwhelmed. Thankfully, I found Greenleaf's PEERS Parent Advocate program in 2022. Kristen, our advocate, was a lifesaver. From our first meeting, she reassured me, saying, "Take a deep breath; we will get through this." Our lives are completely different now, and I'm so grateful for the support that has helped my children flourish.

Before our involvement with the PEERS program, Emily was not meeting any educational goals. Kristen advocated on our behalf and helped us understand our children's rights, guided us through the system, and aided us in setting appropriate goals. She fought for occupational and physical therapy for our son, which we didn't realize he was entitled to.

The progress has been remarkable! My children are thriving; they are happy and now completing work at higher grade levels. Mike is performing better in school this year, and Emily is thriving at her new alternative school, even earning Star Student of the Week during her first week back. Our lives, as well as our children's lives, are now 100% different, and we are extremely grateful for the PEERS program.



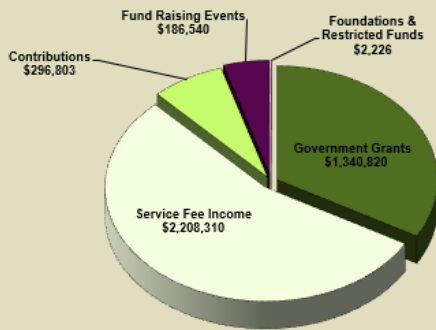
\*Names are changed to protect the privacy of the family.

## 22,300 - Total unduplicated clients served

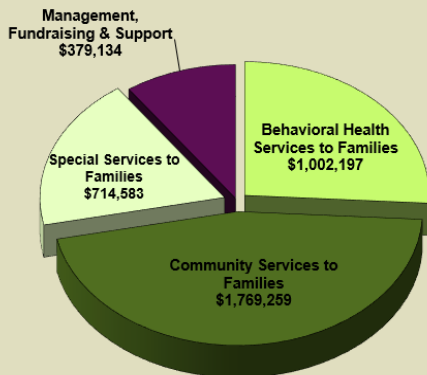
- 1 **16,218** students participated in **Suicide Prevention** programs in **45** schools. **9** schools were added resulting in a **43% increase** in individuals served.
- 2 **1,938** individuals received **Mental Health Counseling**. **886** mental health treatment sessions; **391** student sessions in their school; **573** assessments for intervention in lieu of conviction at the request of the court; **88** alcohol and/or drug treatment sessions.
- 3 **378** families received assistance from a **Parent Advocate** to support their child with multiple special needs. This is a **12% increase** over 2022.
- 4 **11,929** hours of **Deaf Interpreting Services** were requested, a **7% increase** over 2022.
- 5 **54** families received support services through the **Family Success Network**. This new program began in July.

## 2023 FINANCIALS

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



## Thank You

Our special thanks to Dawn Glenny for her leadership and direction over the last 10 years. Dawn retired as CEO at the end of 2023 and through her guidance, the agency continued to grow and flourish and we are grateful. In October we welcomed Jill Oldham who assumed the role of CEO following Dawn's retirement in December.

## New and Expanded Services

Greenleaf is delighted to announce our expanded services in 2023 to better serve the community. We are grateful for the generous support from our funders and donors.



The Family Success Network initiative, focusing on child abuse prevention, is collaborating with over 20 community agencies to offer family-led support to families at risk of child abuse and neglect.



Impactful funding from United Way of Summit and Medina Counties enhanced our infant vitality program, mental health initiatives, parent advocacy, and suicide prevention projects.



Community Services for the Deaf (CSD) program, expanded and now encompasses community education, employment assistance, basic needs support, access to government aid programs, independent living skills, communication access, information and referrals to community resources, and advocacy in community, educational, legal, and medical settings.

## Program Highlights



Nearly 100% of Parent Advocate program participants **STRONGLY** agreed that "since becoming involved with PEERS, I feel better able to advocate for my child's needs."



1,770 middle and high school students requested assistance for themselves or a friend following in-school Signs of Suicide presentations, nearly 11% of the students.



Our Moms and Babies First Program began a monthly support group to decrease reports of loneliness and isolation with 123 moms in attendance. Our Community Health Workers made 576 community referrals to ensure a continuum of care for our families.



Added emergency diapers and wipes to our KISSS contract which enabled us to provide these items to 312 families.



CSD received funding for a new full-time position dedicated to community outreach, advocacy and support in a 5 county region.