



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2025

W I S C O N S I N

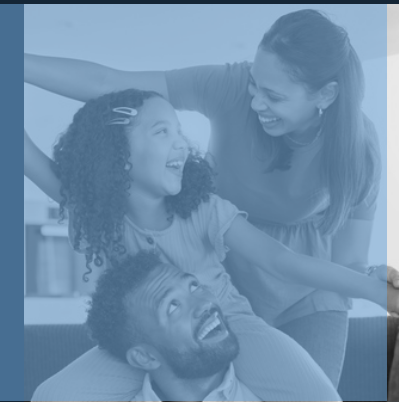
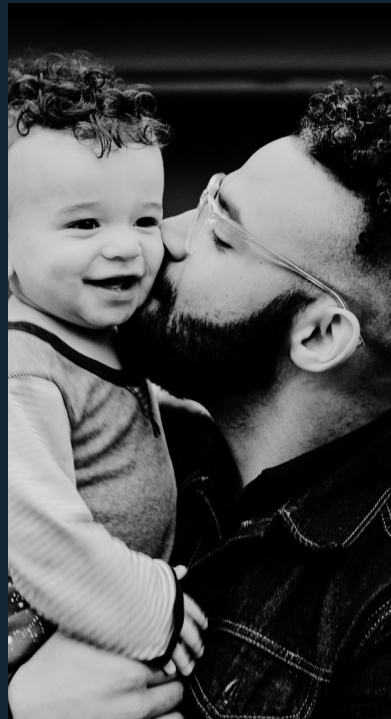


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WHAT WE BELIEVE



OUR VISION

We desire a world where vulnerable children are safe and isolated families are transformed through radically compassionate communities.



OUR MISSION

We host vulnerable children and create extended family-like support for isolated families through a community of devoted volunteers to keep children safe and families together.



CORE VALUES

Radical Hospitality
Disruptive Generosity
Intentional Compassion

Dear Friends,

"I don't need a system. I just need help."

This was an exasperated comment from a mother in crisis who was speaking to a child welfare staffer. My friend, the staffer, said he agreed with the mother. But all he could offer was a system.

What would happen if there were resources, people, friends – help – available before things got to the point that the child welfare system was involved? What if parents who had no one to call were offered help from people who just wanted to help them get back on their feet?

This report shows what that looks like.

It is the annual summary of the work of more than 1,100 volunteers across Wisconsin who opened their hearts and homes to keep children safe and families together. It is the 2025 story of Safe Families for Children Wisconsin, our staff, partner churches, volunteers, and supporters like you who literally make it possible.

These highlights aim to demonstrate the effectiveness of what we accomplished for the families we served, through our mission to provide the social support needed to prevent families facing crisis from requiring intervention by the child welfare system.

It is the stories of 1,100 volunteers from 83 churches who supported more than 928 children in 433 families through 97,398 hours of volunteer service – to help change the lives of families across the state.

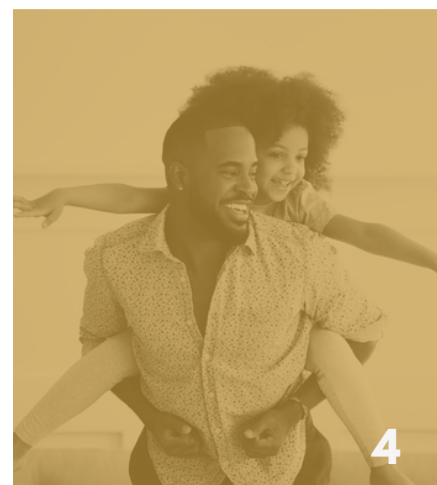
We also offer new information on Safe Families' nationally-published research which provides evidence of our model's effectiveness over time. And the data here in Wisconsin shows that 99.6% of the families we served stayed together in 2025 – the 10th year in a row when our numbers exceeded 95%.

Your support is invaluable and the backbone of what we do. Thank you for your encouragement. We pass along the hugs of gratitude we are honored to receive every day from parents and children with new hope – because the hugs also belong to you.

May God Bless Your Family and Your Work,



Julia Weede
CEO/State Director



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS 2025

Santa in
La Crosse



Boogie for
Safe Families
Fox Valley



Southern Lakes
Team



Safe Families
Reunion 2025



SAFE
FAMILIES
FOR
CHILDREN

Family
Move Day
Racine/Kenosha



Ribbon
Cutting in
La Crosse



WHAT IS THE RESEARCH SHOWING?

99.6%

of Wisconsin families receiving SFFC support were able to stay together and avoid foster care placement.



[VIEW EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH FACT SHEET!](#)

OUR UNIQUE MODEL



Prevention-Focused

We believe a prevention approach helps support parents so fewer kids enter foster care and more families stay together.



Relationship-Centered

SFFC believes in the power of long-term relationships to support parents and provide stability to families.



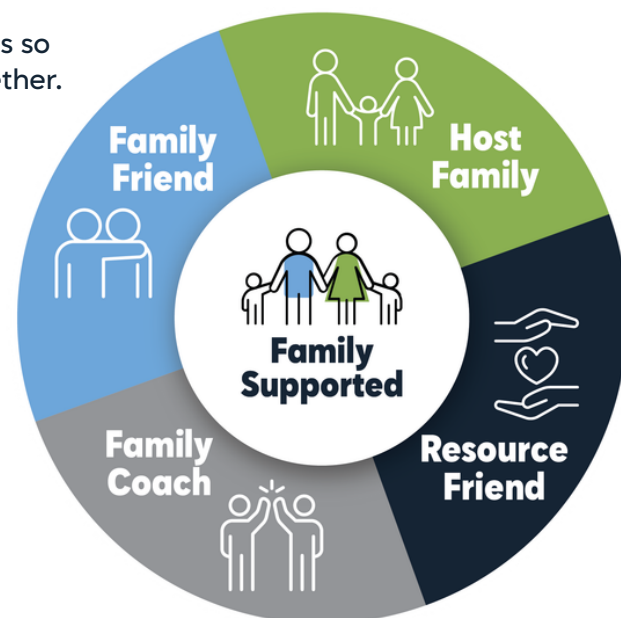
Volunteer-Driven

There is a role for everyone to play in helping keep children safe and parents supported in communities.



Evidence-Based

SFFC is recognized as an evidence-based model proven effective to deflecting families from foster care.



EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH

Safe Families for Children has undertaken research to assess the effectiveness of its model. In June 2024, the results of a random control study done at the University of North Carolina, accepted into peer-reviewed journal IJCM, was accepted as “highly relevant” for child welfare practice by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare, the leading rating system for evidence-based practice in the field of child welfare.

PURPOSE OF EVALUATION

The aim of the evaluation was to measure SFFC effectiveness in preserving children in the legal custody of their parents by developing a plan that ensures a child's safety while parents address their crisis situation. The plan was based on a safety assessment conducted by Illinois CPS, which evaluates whether children are at serious risk of harm and need an immediate change to ensure their safety.

The Evaluation Supports

1

SFFC is a safe and effective intervention for deflecting families from foster care.

Question

Would children involved in an investigation for maltreatment be less likely to be taken into protective custody or later moved into foster care if involved in the SFFC intervention groups compared to families who received child protective services as usual (SAU)?

Findings



of families that received SFFC hosting were deflected from protective custody, compared to



of families receiving services as usual.

2

SFFC is as safe as services as usual when a child remains in their home during a maltreatment investigation.

Question

Are children receiving services provided by SFFC more likely to experience a recurrence of mistreatment than children receiving child protective services as usual (SAU)?

Findings

Children receiving services provided by SFFC were at no greater risk of reoccurring maltreatment than children receiving SAU. These results mitigate the concern that leaving the children in their homes or that reunification too quickly exposes the child to a higher risk of repeat maltreatment.

3

SFFC is an effective safe intervention for reunifying children with their parents.

Question

Will children involved in a child maltreatment investigation be more likely to stay in the custody of their parents or return to their custody within one year if allocated to the SFFC intervention group rather than the child protective services as usual comparison group?

Findings



of families receiving SCCF hosting services had their children in their home one year after the hosting service ended. As compared to



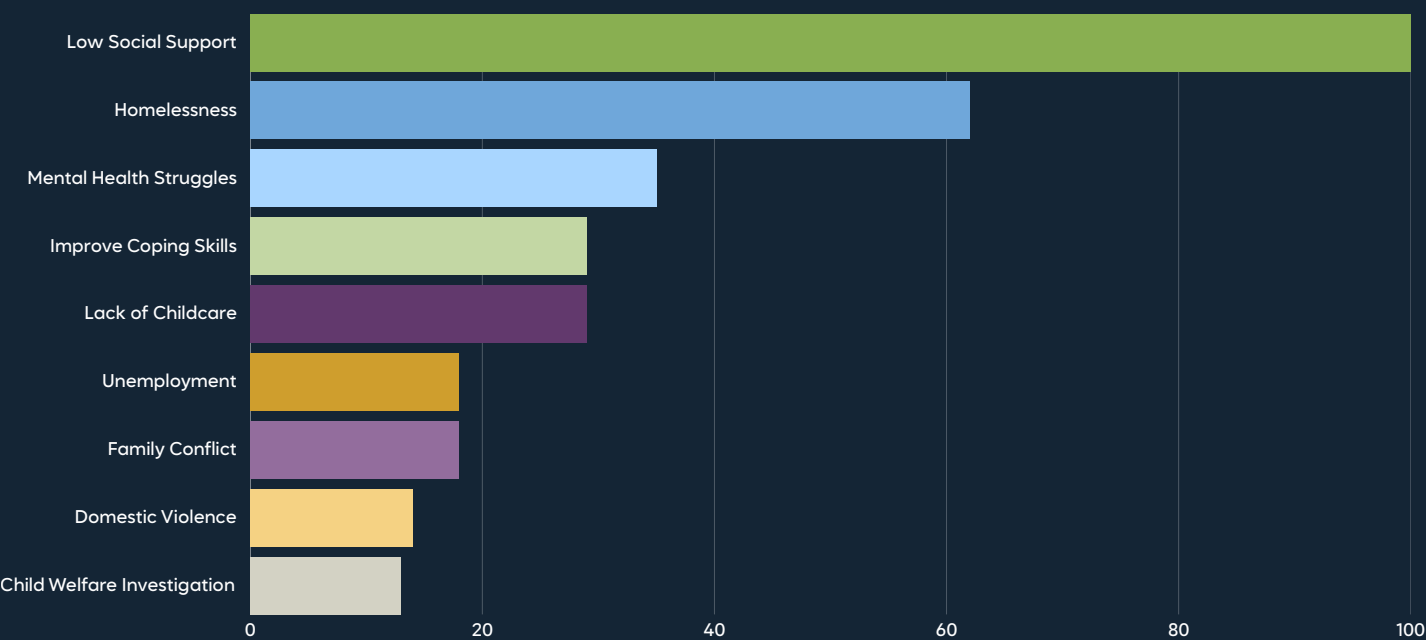
of families receiving service as usual.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We could not exist without the support of community partners and referral agencies across the state. Together, we collaborate to support families in achieving shared goals, offering benefits such as increased resources, relationship-based supports, expanded reach, and enhanced services.

REASONS FOR REFERRALS*



*Of parents who completed the survey.

SERVICE AREAS

1 Chippewa Valley
Eau Claire Co., Chippewa Co.

2 Western
LaCrosse Co., Vernon Co., Monroe Co.

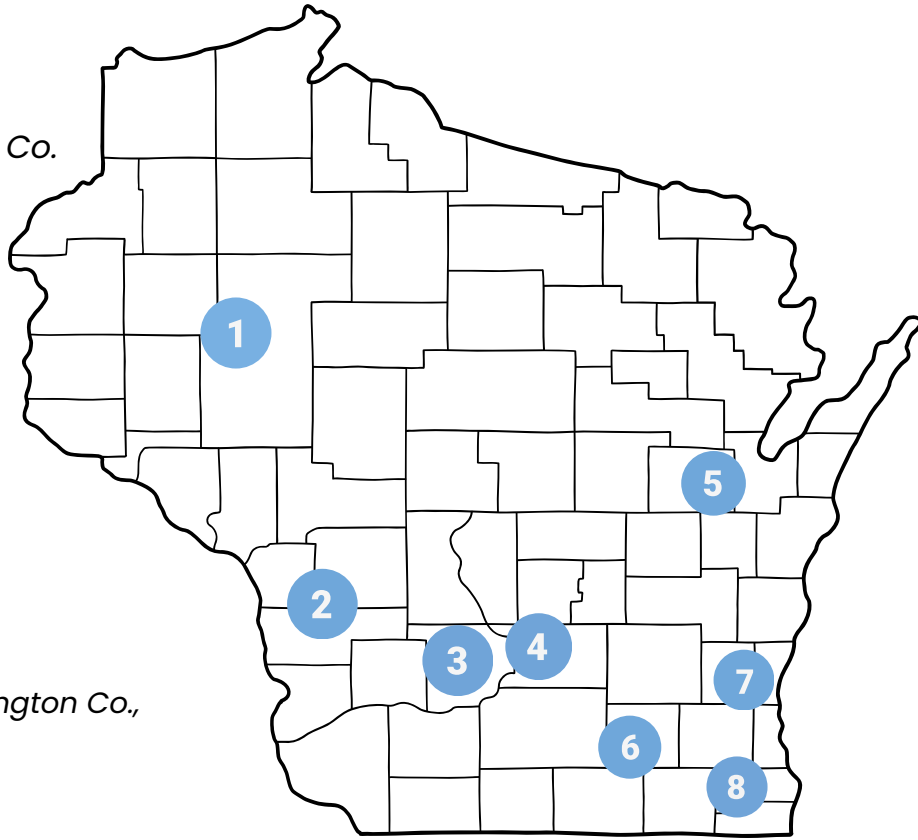
3 Sauk Co. **4** Dane Co.

5 Northeast
Green Bay, Fox Cities, Oshkosh

6 South Central
Jefferson Co., Dodge Co., Rock Co., Walworth Co.

7 Greater Milwaukee
Milwaukee Co., Waukesha Co., Washington Co., Ozaukee Co.

8 Racine Co. & Kenosha Co.



GENEROUS FOUNDATIONS

Thank you for actively supporting our mission and work!

- 1923 Foundation
- Antioch Foundation
- Austin Family Foundation
- Bader Philanthropies
- Basic Needs Giving Foundation
- Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation
- Celebrate Children Foundation
- Central Lutheran Church Foundation
- Community Foundation of Chippewa County
- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
- Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin
- Covey Family Foundation
- Crowther Foundation
- De Pere Christian Outreach
- Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation
- First Lutheran Church Foundation
- Greater Delafield Community Fund
- Gundersen Health System
- Harry Heeb Foundation
- J. J. Keller Foundation
- Jefferson Community Foundation
- Jockey Being Family
- Kaztex Foundation
- Kenosha Women's Network
- Lewis Family Foundation
- Kunes Family Foundation
- Lake Mills Area Communication Foundation
- Lundmann Family Fund
- Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research
- Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
- Oshkosh Women's Fund
- Otto Bremer Trust
- PPC Foundation
- Racine Community Foundation
- Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation
- Siebert Lutheran Foundation
- Smith Family Foundation
- Spirit Lutheran Foundation
- Stackner Family Foundation
- Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation
- SueAnn Gelatt Foundation
- Sonnentag Foundation
- The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
- The ROS Foundation
- The Sartori Family Foundation
- Theda & Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation
- Theisen Foundation
- Theodore Batterman Family Foundation
- United Way
- U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation
- Valley Kid's Foundation
- Walker Family Foundation
- Wallace Family Foundation
- Walter Alexander Foundation
- WE Energies Foundation
- Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region
- Women Who Care Oshkosh Area Community Foundation



FAMILIES SERVED

With Safe Families, I found a loving and safe community so I could get my life back together for my two girls.

Kelly, Partner Parent

What does it take to keep a family together? This might seem like a simple question, but many families lack the support system necessary to stay together when a difficult circumstance arises.

This was the case with Kelly. She was in an abusive relationship with two small girls and needed to get out. She was scared and had no one to call. No family to step in.

"I needed emergency housing for me and my girls. . . **and losing my kids was just not an option.**" Then, Kelly heard about Safe Families for Children and everything changed!



HEAR KELLY'S STORY!

2025 SNAPSHOT DATA

433

families supported

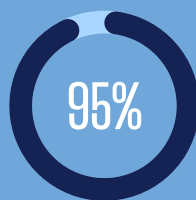
928

children benefitted

7,103

bed nights provided

DEMOGRAPHICS



FEMALE
GUARDIAN



REUNIFIED
WITH PARENT



KIDS 6 AND
UNDER



SOCIALLY
ISOLATED



CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

A WORD FROM A PARTNER PASTOR

I want my people in the pews not to just hear the Word, but to become it. I want them to live it out and experience it in a powerful and life-changing way. I can't think of a better opportunity to bring in more people to your church because you are loving them. It will change your church.



CLICK TO WATCH
Video from Pastor Dan Smith,
Lead Pastor of New Life
Church



83

partner churches

1,115

approved volunteers

97,398

volunteer hours

\$3,388,476

value of donated time*

*determined by the "Do Good Institute" as \$34.79/hr



PROVIDING CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

Forever Relationships, Forever Impact

When a circle of support comes around a family, it doesn't always look neat or easy. Sometimes we think we know how the story will unfold—but then life throws curveballs. Challenges come, fears rise, conversations get hard... and yet, when we choose to stay, to listen, and to honor one another, something beautiful happens.

I think of one mama we walked with who found herself in a very difficult season. Her journey had been marked by struggle and trauma, and in a vulnerable moment, her children needed a safe place to stay. Because she already had a trusted relationship with a family in her circle of support, her children were able to go to them. That meant her kids could stay safe and cared for without ever being placed with strangers or entering the foster care system. What a gift of peace in the middle of the storm.

But the story didn't end there. That same family later became the ones who provided a permanent home. And yet, it wasn't either/or—it was beautifully both/and. The children are safe, thriving, and loved, while mom is still surrounded by this very same family who continues to support, encourage, and celebrate with her.

Today, mom has her own apartment, is working hard, and is refreshed by the blessings of a caring community. She is experiencing renewed joy, deeper faith, and fresh hope because God has been faithful. This is what He does—He removes fear and despair, He exchanges brokenness for peace, and He celebrates His goodness in community.

Circles of Support are more than a temporary solution—they are layers of love that surround parents and children, making sure no one has to walk alone and families can stay together!

This is the power of

Prevention

This is the power of

Community

This is the *Hope* we carry!

...BECAME LIKE MY OWN DAUGHTER

SERVING THROUGH HARD TIMES TO GET TO GOOD TIMES

I will never forget our first Safe Families connection. It was a young mother with her son. It took a long time, and although the mom wasn't always open to communication, in time, through consistent and intentional outreach attempts, she began to trust us. Through it all, she became like my own daughter and we consider her son our grandson.

One time she was angry with us and threatened to never let us see him again. I asked, "do you think that it would be the best thing for him?" She paused and said, "you are right" and our relationship was restored. These experiences matter because God put us in each of these children's lives for a certain reason and period of their life and for that of their parents – to help them get back on their feet and accomplish whatever goal it was that caused them to reach out to Safe Families in the first place.

IT HAD BEEN ON OUR

HEARTS TO HELP

CHILDREN. WHEN WE

SAW THE VIDEO

ABOUTS SAFE FAMILIES

AT CHURCH WE KNEW

THIS WAS IT.



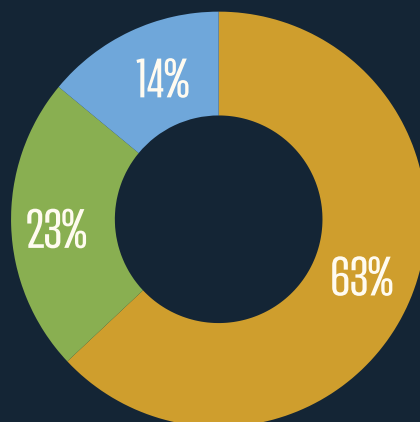
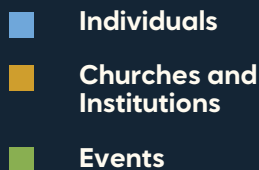
WISCONSIN FUNDING

How Donations Empower **Safe Families** to Expand Support to More Families Facing Crisis

**WE SEEK TO
RAISE A TOTAL
OF \$2.6 MILLION
IN 2026**

The money donated to Safe Families Wisconsin funds local programs by supporting staff and providing an operating budget to serve and support families facing crisis. Your financial partnership is crucial as we seek to serve more families in 2026. Would you consider becoming a monthly donor? safefamilieswi.org/donate

**TOTAL \$2,290,674
REVENUE 2025**



HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS

234



REFERRALS RECEIVED

865



AVG. # OF MO. FRIENDSHIPS

118

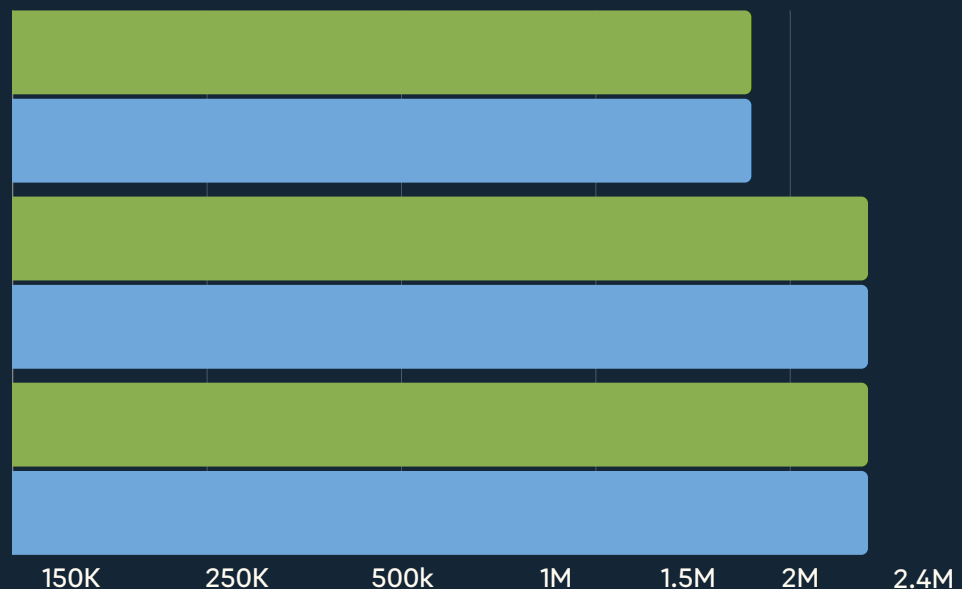
**LAST
3 YEAR'S
BUDGETS**



2023

2024

2025





Interested in volunteering?
Learn more at
safefamilieswi.org/get-involved

**Know a family that
needs help?**

**[safefamilieswi.org/
find-support](https://safefamilieswi.org/find-support)**

SUPPORT OUR WORK IN WISCONSIN



<https://bit.ly/SupportWisconsin>



**Want to support
our families?**

**[safefamilieswi.org/
donate](https://safefamilieswi.org/donate)**



**Safe Families
for Children
Wisconsin**



**"The problem with
the world is that we
draw our circle of
family too small."**

Mother Theresa

