



# homespace

Fostering Independence, Inspiring Growth

# Annual Report 2025





# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

## *Lindsey Carter*



2025 was a year of meaningful progress and renewed momentum for Homespace. Throughout the year, our team remained deeply committed to our mission of providing safe, supportive environments where young people can build the skills, confidence, and stability needed to become independent members of the community. Every day, our staff walked alongside the youth we serve, supporting them as they navigate education, employment, housing, and life's many transitions.

One of the most exciting milestones this year was the launch of Homespace's new brand identity, including our updated logo, mission, vision, and tagline. This process gave us an opportunity to reflect on who we are as an organization and the impact we strive to make in the lives of young people, while staying true to our roots in supporting individuals at risk of homelessness. The refreshed brand better captures the heart of our work: fostering independence, inspiring growth, and creating pathways for youth to build bright and stable futures.

Throughout the year, we also continued to strengthen and expand our programs and services. A key milestone was the launch of housing services through our Connecting Care program under the Medicaid 1115 Waiver, allowing us to support eligible individuals with access to safe and stable housing. This expansion not only broadens our reach beyond the traditional foster care population, but also creates a critical continuum of care for youth aging out of foster care, helping to bridge a long-standing gap in services.

Beyond programmatic growth, 2025 was also a year of connection and community. Through events such as our Bisons games, Homespace Day, end-of-school-year celebrations, and holiday gatherings for both youth and staff, we created meaningful opportunities for youth to spend time together in positive and supportive ways. These moments are an important reminder that the work we do is not only about services, but about creating a sense of home and community for the young people we serve.

At the same time, 2025 was a year of building a strong foundation for the future. Our team began preparing for our upcoming re-accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA), an important process that ensures Homespace continues to meet the highest standards in service delivery, safety, and organizational excellence. This work has encouraged us to reflect on our practices and ensure we are well positioned to support youth for years to come.

We were also grateful for the generosity of our community partners who continue to invest in the youth we serve. In 2025, Homespace secured over \$425,000 in grant funding to support youth programming, operational needs, and critical capital improvements. Significant contributions from partners such as the Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, Garman Family Foundation, M&T Charitable Foundation, and James H. Cummings Foundation played a critical role in strengthening our programs, improving facilities, and expanding support for youth as they transition toward independence. In addition, Homespace was awarded capacity-building funds through WNYICC to support the launch of our Connecting Care program under the Medicaid 1115 Waiver. These funds have been instrumental in building the infrastructure needed to deliver housing services and position the program for long-term sustainability.

None of the progress we achieved in 2025 would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the generosity of our supporters and community partners. Together, we are creating opportunities for young people to build independence and move toward a more stable future.



# A LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

*Cindi McEachon*



As I conclude my first year as Board President of Homespace, I am filled with both gratitude and pride for the remarkable progress we have made together. What began as a year of transition has grown into a year of renewed clarity, strengthened purpose, and collective achievement. It has been an honor to continue serving this extraordinary organization and its mission to support youth and families impacted by the foster care system.

Homespace continues to stand as a beacon of hope for young people and young families seeking stability, safety, and opportunity. Our housing programs, wrap-around supports, and trauma-informed services have not only provided shelter but have helped shape futures—futures filled with possibility, resilience, and self-determination. These outcomes are a direct reflection of the unwavering dedication of our board, staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners.

Throughout our rebranding efforts, I have witnessed a deepened sense of collaboration across all levels of our organization. Our board has strengthened its governance practices and strategic focus. Our staff has demonstrated exceptional commitment as they navigate increasing needs and complex challenges facing youth in care. Our community partners have stepped forward with resources, partnerships, and shared purpose. And our supporters—new and longstanding—continue to invest in our mission with generosity and conviction. What inspires me most are the young people we serve. Their courage, perseverance, and determination remain at the heart of every decision we make. They remind us daily why our work matters and why our commitment must remain steadfast. As we look ahead, I am filled with optimism. We have laid important groundwork this year—strengthening infrastructure, expanding partnerships, and imagining bold possibilities for the future.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your dedication to the mission of Homespace. It is my privilege to serve as your Board President, and I look forward to another year of building hope, transforming lives, and creating change, one generation at a time.

With gratitude and determination,  
Cindi

# FROM THE DIRECTORS

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## KATY COOPER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

2025 was a year of strengthening community collaborations and continued, sustained growth for Homespace's services and ultimately for the benefit of all of our clients. We had several success stories, such as a resident in the Next Step (NS) program securing a lead role in their school play and one resident successfully achieving a high school diploma in 2025, among other client accomplishments we are very proud of.

Homespace successfully strengthened community collaboration through active engagement with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition, supporting restorative practices for youth. This was a great way to uphold our values and belief in trauma informed care, and see its success in action.

We implemented a Post-Crisis Response process to enhance staff support, debriefing, and continuity of care following critical incidents. This allows staff and youth to feel an expanded sense of safety and security at Homespace.

Homespace expanded service capacity by securing three additional county contracts. This means we are able to serve even more youth in New York State, from 2025 onward, to further our reach and grow out impact.

And lastly, we improved our financial sustainability and service integration by expanding CFTSS billing across all program levels, including YSS, Clinical Team members, and Supervisors.

This lends Homespace to a strong, sustainable position as we move forward into 2026.

# FROM THE DIRECTORS

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## JULIE CORNELL, DIRECTOR OF HR/ADMIN

This past year was marked by significant growth, transition, and organizational strengthening. A key development was the realignment of the agency's structure, bringing payroll, medical billing, and training under the umbrella of Administration and Human Resources.

Homespace also saw several internal promotions, reflecting a commitment to staff development and advancement. Multiple Relief Youth Support Specialists transitioned into part-time and full-time roles.

The Onboarding and Recruitment Specialist implemented structured 30-, 60-, and 90-day follow-ups with new employees after orientation. Feedback gathered through this process led to meaningful enhancements to the onboarding experience, including the addition of on-floor training and individualized, supervisor-led sessions.

The agency also implemented a new Learning Management System, Relias, which has streamlined training tracking, expanded staff development opportunities, and laid the groundwork for a future "Ladders to Leadership" program planned for 2026.

Employee Engagement remained a priority throughout 2025, the agency launched the Homespace SPARK Committee. Formerly known as the Staff Engagement Committee, SPARK—an acronym for Staff Participation, Appreciation, Recognition, and Kudos—was rebranded to better reflect its mission of fostering connection, boosting morale, and enhancing workplace culture.

### **Workforce Overview**

Workforce stability improved notably this year, with attrition rates reaching their lowest level since tracking began. The annual attrition rate was 24.53%, representing 14 separations. The agency began the year with 57 employees and ended with 60, with full-time staff comprising approximately half of the workforce.

Recruitment challenges persisted in just a few specialized roles, including CASAC, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP). To address these gaps, the agency utilized contracted services for CASAC (grant-funded) and PNP roles (supported through medical billing).

Employee tenure remains a strong indicator of organizational stability and engagement. As of December 31, 2025, 45% of staff had been employed with the agency for four years or more, including six employees with over ten years of service.

# FROM THE DIRECTORS

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## KIM BERGHASH, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS

The agency was proud to be able to provide Medicaid 1115 waiver services with the rollout of the Connecting Care program to eligible Medicaid members starting mid 2025; our first program that is not specific to foster care. These applicable services focus on health-related social needs; the everyday things that people need to stay healthy.

These include having enough food, a safe place to live, reliable transportation, and support for their care. If these needs are not met, it can make it difficult for someone to stay healthy. Below are the services we screened for in 2025:

- Housing Assistance – Such as rent and utility payments for up to six months.
- Food Security – Such as consultations with a Registered Dietitian and shelf stable food packages.
- Transportation Support – Such as rides to and from services, bus tokens, Uber rides, etc.
- Care Management – Including navigation to eligible services for ongoing support.
- Screening and Navigation support

We served approximately 50 people in this program in 2025, and continue to implement it moving into 2026 in ways that work best for Homespace, keeping our mission top of mind.

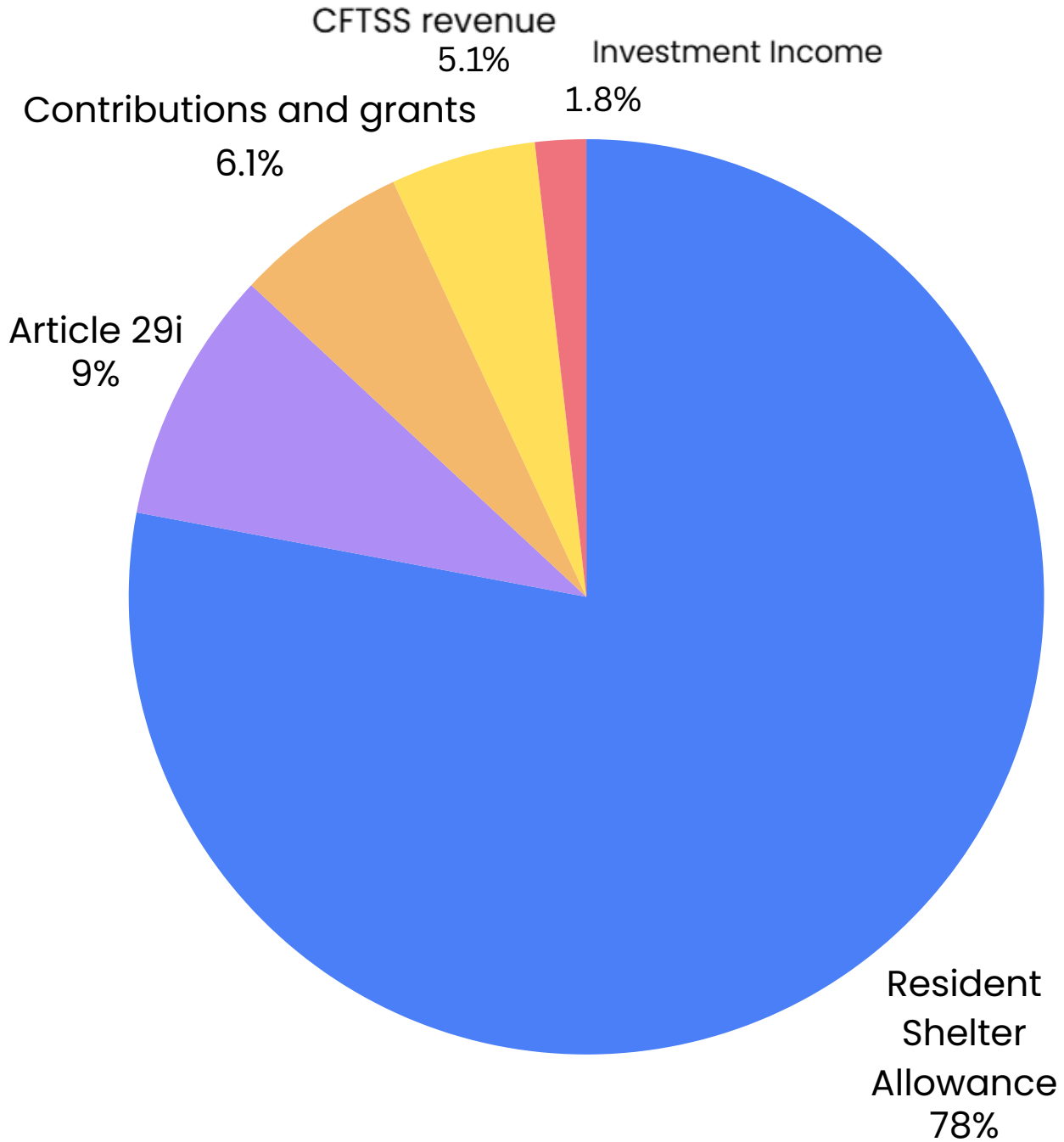
In 2025, the development committee was restructured and revamped to strengthen our overall fundraising capacity. New fundraising events were introduced including the Buffalo Bisons game, spring flower sale, happy hours and gift card sales with local restaurants, as well as a continuation of our annual Mister Goodbar fundraiser which we plan to continue to run yearly as a Homespace staple.

Many grants were awarded from community and corporate partners for necessary capital improvements at facilities, and health and wellness programming as well, and a strong foundation was laid to fortify Homespace's sustainability for the future.

Marketing efforts were made around our rebranding to complete the transition to our new logo with new PR folders and brochures, as well as a brand new website at [www.homespacecorp.org](http://www.homespacecorp.org) that all better reflect our current aesthetic, mission and clients served. Development steps into a strong position in 2026 to continue to grow our agency's mission.

# 2025 Financials

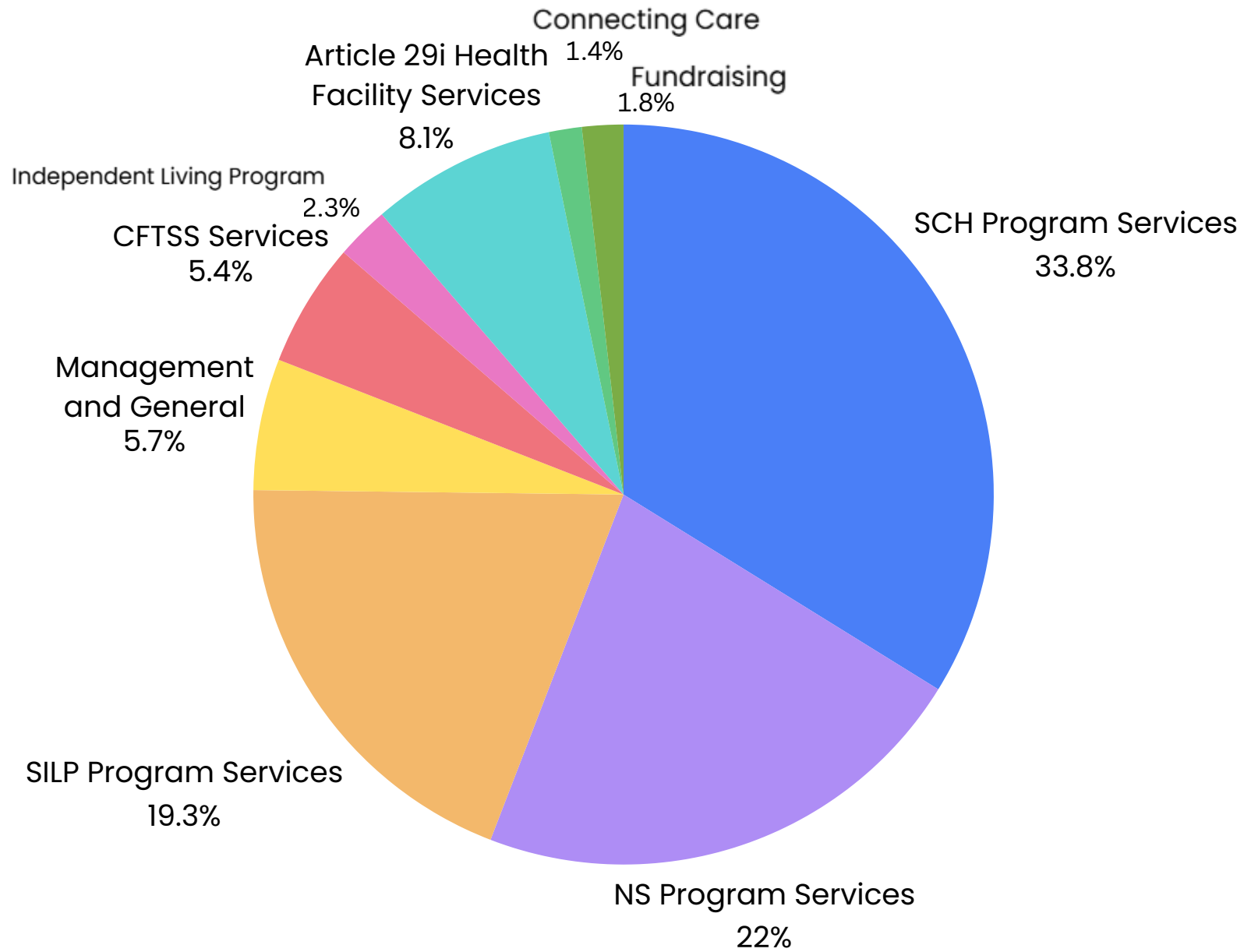
## 2025 Revenue



Total Revenue: 4,270,851

# 2025 Financials

## 2025 Expenses



Total Expenses: 4,246,273

# Client Demographics

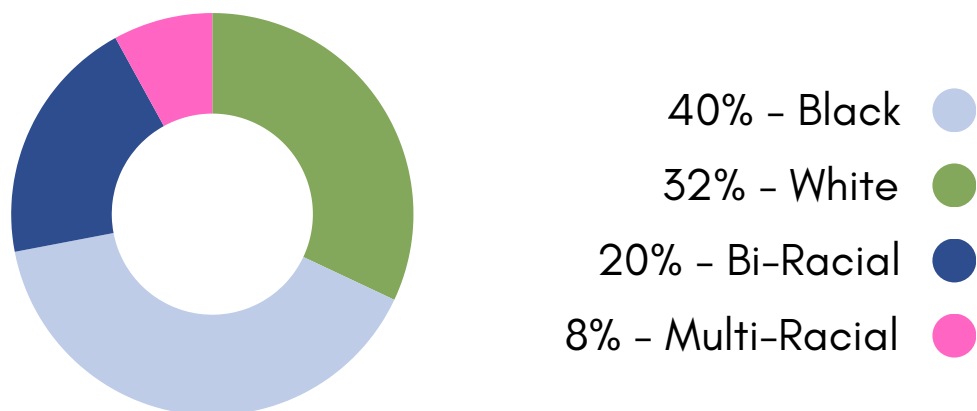
2025



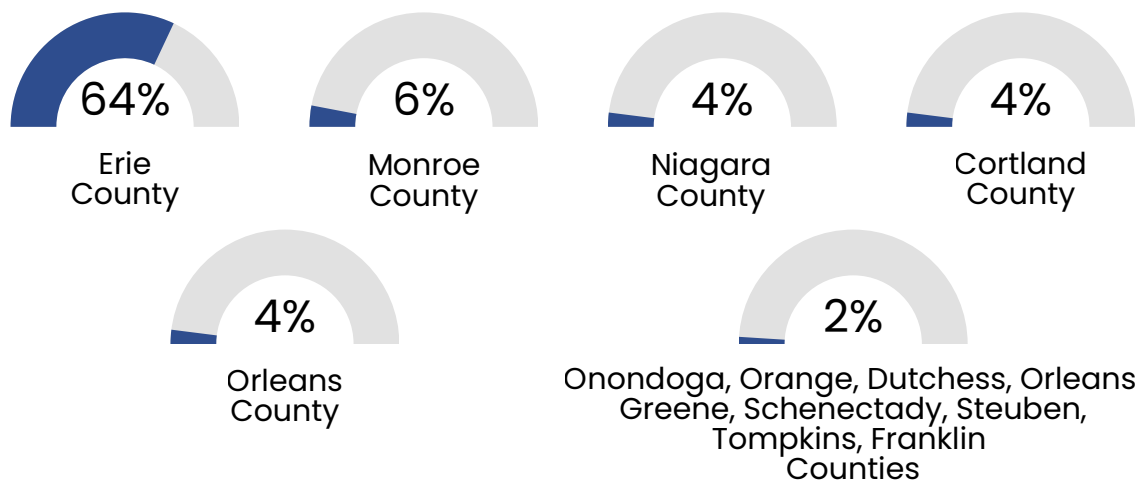
Total youth served: 61



## Racial Census



## County of Origin





# Homespace's Impact:

*Our 2025 statistics as compared to national statistics on youth in foster care*

**NATIONAL AVERAGE**

**25%**

of youth exiting the foster care system at 21 become homeless by the age of 24

**HOMESPACE AVERAGE**

**100%**

of Homespace clients in our 21-24 year old programming lived in stable housing in 2025

**NATIONAL AVERAGE**

**50%**

of youth in foster care do not graduate from high school

**HOMESPACE AVERAGE**

**92%**

of Homespace clients were either enrolled in an educational program or were gainfully employed in 2025



Ainslie Evans  
Alexa Kertzie  
Alexandra Martin  
Alfonso Harris  
Allie Martin  
Alyson Krause  
Amy White  
Anderson's Frozen Custard Inc.  
Andrea Boron  
Angela Downey  
Anne Marie Comaratta  
Anonymous Donor  
Anthony Eldridge  
Anthony Trusso  
Arianna Williams  
Barbara Stoehr  
Bennett Graebner  
Brady Corporation  
Brian Cardamone  
Brian Fowler  
Buffalo AKG  
Buffalo Bisons  
Buffalo Public School  
Buffalo Renaissance Foundation  
Buffalo Sabres  
Camille McNally  
Carmen Bocchino  
Catherine Hill  
Cheyenne Freely  
Children's Foundation of Erie County, Inc.  
Christine Sabuda  
Cindi McEachon  
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo  
Corneisha Brown  
Darcy Weigel  
Darren Lehman  
Dave Ruch  
David Mellerski  
Deborah Pass  
Deke Kassabian  
Dennis and Maureen Barrick  
East Hill Foundation  
Eileen Stack  
Elizabeth Roberts

Enlightenment Bookstore and Literary Arts Center  
Erie County Sheriff's Office  
Erin Codd  
Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund  
Fierra Green  
Garman Family Foundation  
Geico  
Grassroots Gardens  
Hodgson Russ  
Ingram Micro  
James H. Cummings Foundation  
James Ostroff  
Jasmine Morrison  
Jason Davies  
Jason Oliver  
Javeena Edwards  
Jen Goetz  
Jennifer Chazen  
Jennifer Schulefand  
Jerry Irving  
Jessica Capron  
Joann Tomasulo  
John D Cornell III  
John Hellriegel  
Jonni Bocchino  
Joseph Fagan  
Josephine Goodyear Foundation  
Julie Cornell  
Julie M Cornell  
Karen Brim  
Karen Spaulding  
Katelyn Kowal  
Katy Cooper  
Kelli Simpson  
Kids Event Tickets  
Kim Berghash  
Kim Neupert  
Kristina Hess  
Kristy Lamb  
Legends  
Level Financial Advisors  
Linda Wagner  
Lindsay Batrowny  
Lindsey Carter

## 2025 DONOR INDEX



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Madison Medina  
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Melo Roofing  
Melody Westen  
Michael Hill  
Michael Jackson  
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Michele Messina  
Michelle Ranahan  
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Moog, Inc.  
Myquan Jackson  
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Nicole Thelen  
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Pappy McMahan  
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Rachel Marzello  
Rebekah Thomas  
Rexhina Elezi  
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Riley Augello  
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Samantha white  
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Scott Corcoran  
Scott LaBounty  
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SEFA  
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Sharon Finley  
Sharon Kookan  
Sofia Salim  
Stelican Field House  
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Steve McClellan  
Susan Carter  
Susie Green  
Suzanne Kennedy  
Taylor Brown  
Tessa Covello  
The Marks Family Foundation  
Theresa & Sal Malangone  
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Thomas Hyde  
Thomas Owen  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
United Way Of Buffalo & Erie County  
Velvet Clothing Boutique  
Viviana Cohen  
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William Ruch