

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



A Legacy of Care:

Providing Steadfast Support for Generations to Come

Our Mission

Through Christ's love, we empower children and families to overcome challenges today so they can build a better tomorrow.

Our Vision

Generations of children and families across Missouri are safer and stronger together.

Our Values

- Courageous Faith
- Impeccable Integrity
- Service Excellence
- Strong Teams
- Innovative Ideas

Our Impact

In 2024,
18,558
children and family members benefited from the critical services that we provide.

A Message

From the LFCS President and CEO



Mike Duggar with Pastor David Rolf of Peace Lutheran Church in Kansas City at the LFCS KC Open House Event

For 156 years, LFCS has stood as a pillar of hope, resilience, and unwavering support for children and families in need across Missouri. In 2024, we took bold steps forward to ensure that our mission continues to reach those who need us most.

To better serve our communities, we expanded our presence in Kansas City and Mid-Missouri, moving into larger offices designed to provide a more welcoming environment for clients and staff alike. To mark these significant milestones, we invited our generous supporters to join us in celebrating the new spaces and the strengthened foundation they provide for those seeking safety and stability.



LFCS staff and supporters celebrate the grand opening of the new LFCS office in Mid-Missouri

This year we also enhanced our philosophy of care, ensuring that every aspect of our service aligns with our core values. This guiding framework reflects our enduring commitment to providing the highest quality holistic care for children and families, while navigating evolving needs and complex challenges.

In a cherished annual tradition, we gathered for the 41st LFCS Dinner and Auction at the Four Seasons – St. Louis, honoring the generosity



Guests joined us on the "red carpet" for the Old Hollywood Style 41st annual LFCS Dinner and Auction, which featured dinner, live music and dancing, and a live and silent auction

and dedication of those who make our work possible. And, in recognition of our commitment to fostering a positive, mission-driven workplace, we were honored to receive a "Best Places to Work" distinction from the *St. Louis Business Journal*—a testament to the incredible team that embodies our mission every day.

Beyond our local impact, LFCS gained national recognition by leading LCMS Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training and provided mental health awareness sessions at the LCMS National Youth Workers Convention in New Orleans. Equipping youth leaders from across the country with these essential skills strengthened our commitment to uplift communities through education and support.



LCMS leaders from all over the country attended the LFCS Mental Health First Aid training in New Orleans

Through every challenge and every triumph, LFCS has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving children and families with compassion and care. As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for our Board leadership, staff, supporters, community partners, and funders who ensure that this legacy of service will continue for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Mike Duggar, President and CEO



A Message

From the LFCS Board Chair

Serving as Board Chair for Lutheran Family and Children's Services has been a profound honor. As my term comes to an end, I reflect with immense gratitude on all that we have accomplished together. Over the years we have taken significant steps to expand our reach, strengthen our programs, and ensure that LFCS remains a beacon of hope for those in need.

It has been a privilege to work alongside dedicated board members, mission-driven staff, and generous supporters who all share a common vision: to ensure that generations of children and families across Missouri are safer and stronger together. As I pass the torch to new leadership in 2025, I do so with confidence, knowing that LFCS is positioned for continued growth, impact, and success.

Thank you for your trust, your commitment, and your belief in our mission. The future is bright, and I look forward to seeing LFCS continue to thrive.

With gratitude,

Matthew Brickler, Chairman of the Board



Matthew Brickler passes the gavel to New LFCS Board Chair, Tom Hohenstein

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

2024 Board of Directors

- Matthew Brickler, *Chair*
- Tom Hohenstein, *Vice Chair*
- Scott Dallman, *Treasurer*
- Louis Johnson, *Secretary*
- Pilar McGraw, *Strategy*
- Lynell Peebles, *Member at Large*
- Eric Breuer
- James Gibeaut
- Mike Griswold
- Annie Kowert
- Thomas Kapp
- Stephen Newell
- Mary Ann Peckitt
- Steven Pozaric
- Sarah White

Our Service Locations

- St. Louis
- St. Charles
- Franklin County
- Hilltop Child and Family Development Center in North St. Louis
- Cape Girardeau
- Columbia
- Kansas City
- Springfield
- Joplin
- 60+ Missouri schools and churches

Our Accreditations

- Council on Accreditation
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Licensed by the State of Missouri as a Child Placing Agency for Adoption and Foster Care

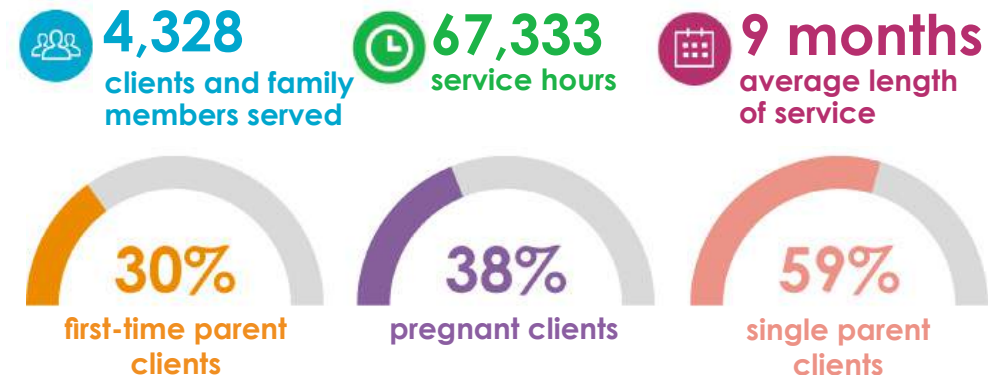


Parenting Education and Pregnancy Support

Empowering Parents, Strengthening Families

In 2024, LFCS equipped parents across Missouri with practical skills and renewed confidence through parenting education and pregnancy support. Whether first-time parents or those facing new challenges, families found a trusted partner in LFCS—ready to walk beside them with compassion and encouragement. We are proud to have been awarded a contract through the Missouri Parenting Partnership Program (MOPPP), allowing us to expand our Home Visitation Services statewide. These services help eligible families navigate the challenges of parenting and build brighter futures for their children. We know that when parents are empowered, children flourish. That's the kind of legacy we're building: confident caregivers raising strong, healthy kids.

Our 2024 Impact at a Glance:



Measuring Client Success:



Why is this important?

Building resilience and encouraging positive parenting practices is crucial for creating a foundation of safety and stability for children. When parents are equipped with the skills and support needed to manage stress, overcome challenges, and cope with adversity, they are better able to provide a nurturing environment for their kids.

“

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Contact LFCS and let them guide you towards your needed resources and support. You'll build relationships that last a lifetime, gain valuable skills, and discover your strengths.

Mia

LFCS Parenting Client

”

In 2024, **33%** of parents in the U.S. reported high stress levels, and **48%** of parents stated they often feel completely overwhelmed.

LFCS is here to help.



“

I want to emphasize how essential LFCS is for families like ours. They didn't just help my daughter. They saved her.

Melanie

Mother of LFCS Counseling Client

”

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that **25%** of kids under 18 have issues with anxiety. **LFCS is here to help.**

Behavioral Health Services

A Legacy of Care in Every Conversation

For decades, LFCS has been a trusted provider of compassionate counseling for children and families. In 2024, we expanded our reach to offer behavioral health services in Kansas City and Springfield, deepening our commitment to strengthening families and communities. This expanded impact will continue to create positive, lasting change for generations to come.

Our 2024 Impact at a Glance:



10,454
clients served



30,331
service hours



20.3
sessions per client

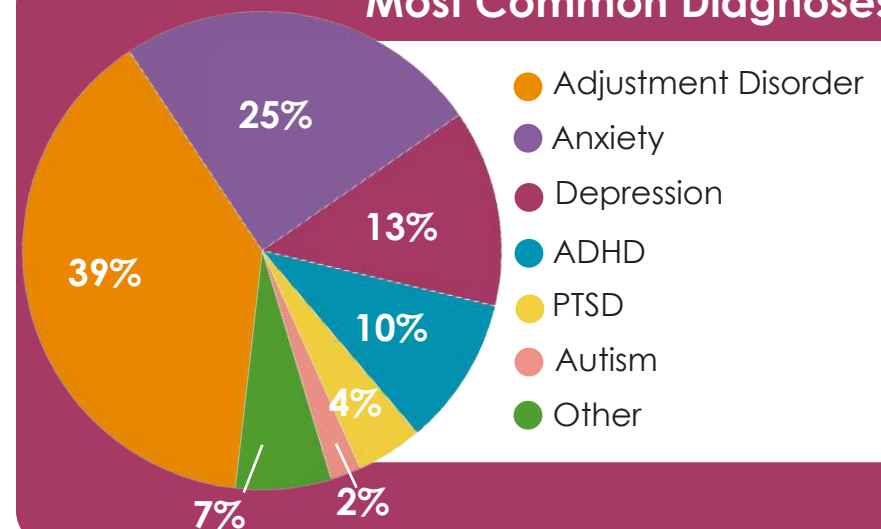


46%
services in-office

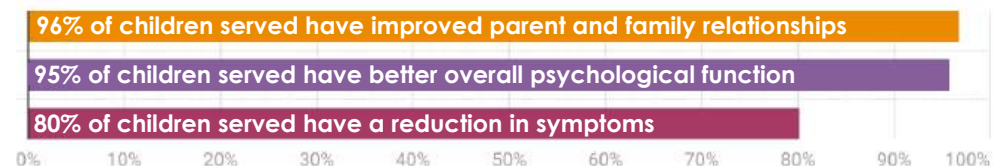


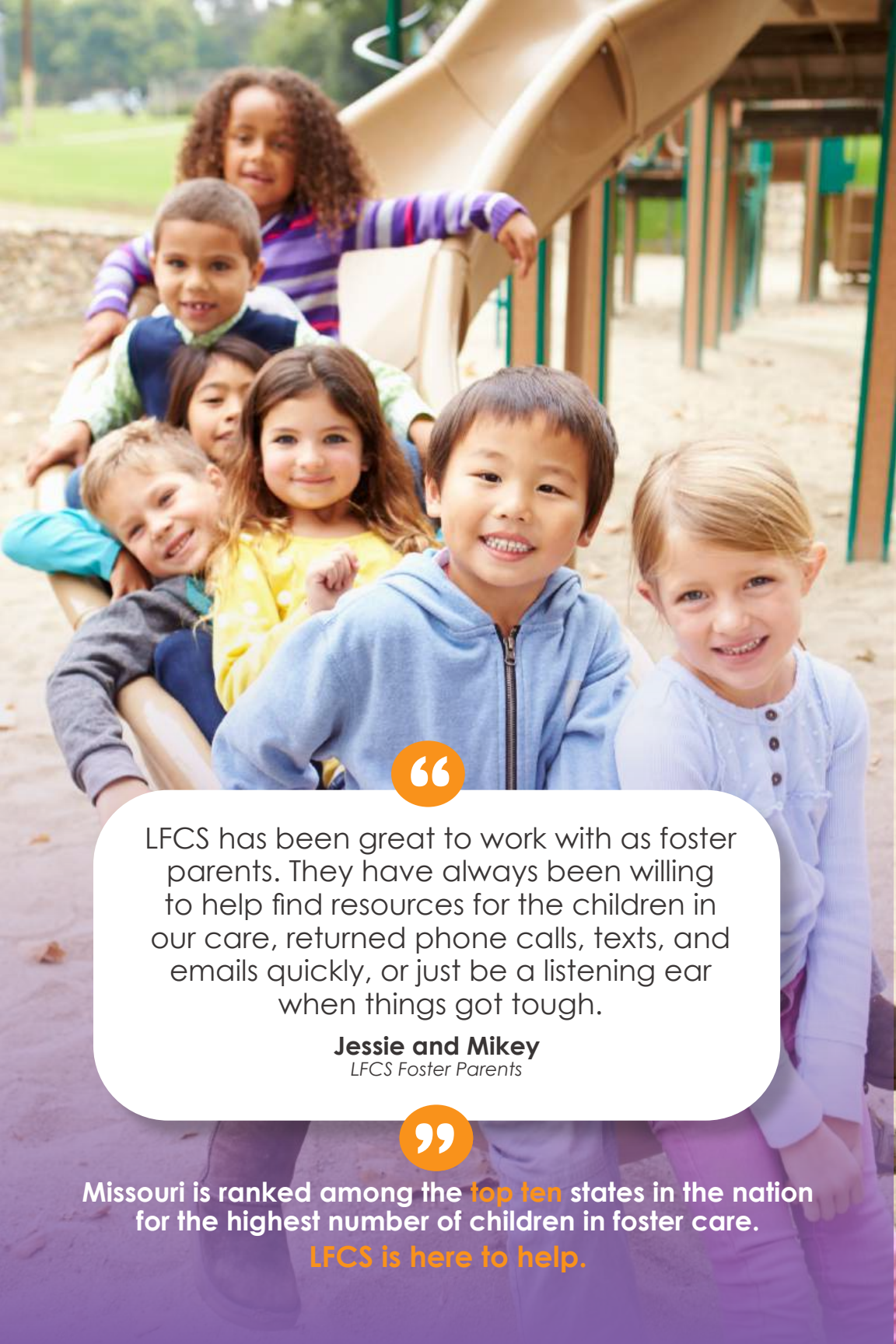
54%
services in-school

Most Common Diagnoses:



Measuring Client Success:





Foster Care Case Management

Steadfast Support for Safe, Nurturing Homes

Every child deserves a safe, loving environment where they can grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. In 2024, LFCS remained steadfast in its mission to provide foster care case management in St. Louis City and County, Franklin County, and St. Charles County, offering unwavering support to both foster parents and biological families working toward reunification.

As a proud member of St. Louis Partners—a collaborative effort with Good Shepherd and Bringing Families Together—we work in unison to ensure that children in our care not only receive the stability they need but also achieve lasting permanency. Through our trauma-informed approach, we provide education, guidance, and emotional support for families navigating complex systems.

“

LFCS has been great to work with as foster parents. They have always been willing to help find resources for the children in our care, returned phone calls, texts, and emails quickly, or just be a listening ear when things got tough.

Jessie and Mikey
LFCS Foster Parents

”

Missouri is ranked among the **top ten** states in the nation for the highest number of children in foster care.
LFCS is here to help.



According to the Missouri Department of Social Services, there are over 4,000 children in foster care in the St. Louis region alone. LFCS is doing our part to create a legacy of restoration- helping children find the stability they need today while laying the groundwork for a better tomorrow.

Our 2024 Impact at a Glance:

 **593**
clients served

 **18.9 months**
average length of stay in foster care

 **10**
children achieved permanency through guardianship

 **31**
children reunited with their birth families

 **15**
children found loving homes through adoption



Adoption Services

Creating Brighter Futures, One Forever Family at a Time

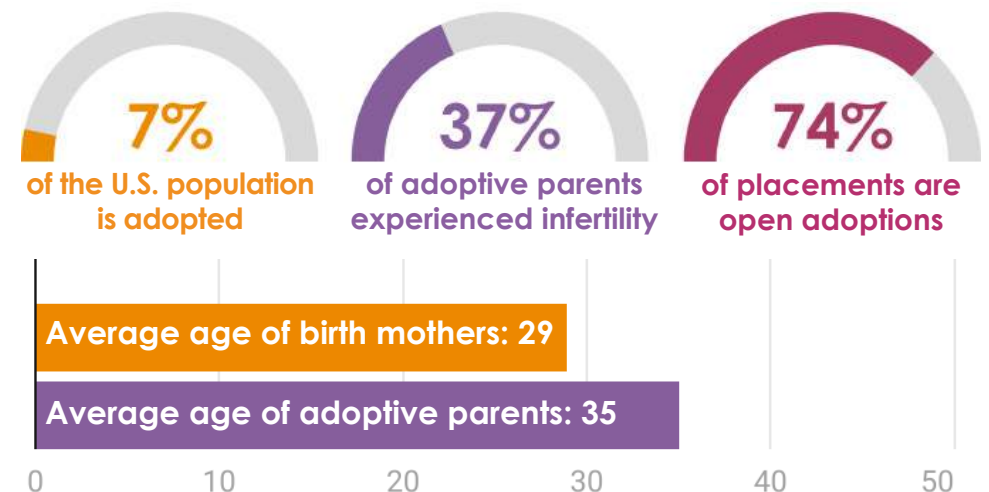
At LFCS, adoption is more than a service—it's a lifelong commitment to creating loving, stable families. In 2024, we continued to serve all members of the adoption triad- birth parents, adoptive families, and adoptees- through every step of the adoption journey. We also introduced adoption-competent counseling in Southwest Missouri, to help families navigate the joys and challenges of adoption.

Our team's expertise, coupled with deep compassion, ensures that every adoption plan is thoughtfully crafted and supported, honoring the unique journey of each family. The legacy we build through adoption is one of unconditional love, resilience, and hope—for today and for generations to come.

Our 2024 Impact at a Glance:



Adoption by the Numbers



“

LFCS is like part of our family now...they have just gone above and beyond, more than they have ever had to do. The care that they give the birth family, the care that they give us, it means a lot to us.

Sarah and Michael
LFCS Adoptive Parents

”

Adoption is a deeply personal journey which can be both heartwarming and complex for all involved.

LFCS is here to help.

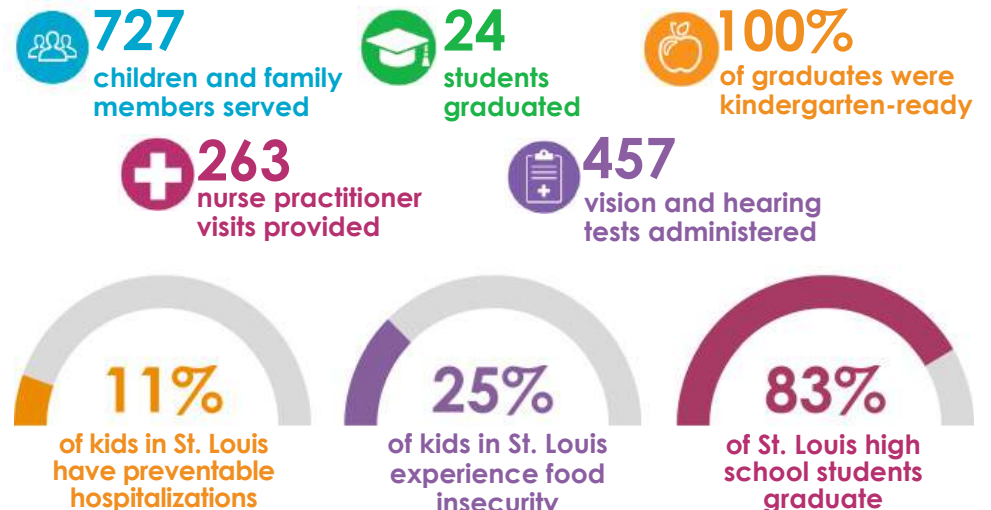
Hilltop Child and Family Development Center

A Strong Start for Lifelong Success

At Hilltop, our early childhood education center in North St. Louis, we believe that every child deserves an excellent start. In 2024, we provided nurturing, high-quality care and preschool education to children from infancy through age five—supporting their emotional, cognitive, and physical development. This year, we also introduced music therapy to our Hilltop students, further enhancing their learning experience and helping them express themselves creatively.

Our legacy at Hilltop is one of equity and opportunity. For working parents, we offer peace of mind. For children, we provide a joyful, safe space to explore, learn, and grow—laying a strong foundation that will support them for years to come.

Our 2024 Impact at a Glance:



Why is this important?

Early childhood education plays a critical role in shaping a child's future, and studies show that early learning opportunities are key to improving future graduation rates. When children have access to quality education alongside basic needs like food, healthcare, and stable housing, they are more likely to succeed academically. Missouri's overall graduation rate is higher than that of St. Louis at 91%, highlighting the critical need for accessible early education in our community. We are here to help ensure that every child reaches their full potential, setting a strong foundation for a bright future.

“

I have a son in pre-k, and I have a daughter that was here 12 years ago. My history with Hilltop has been ongoing...I have a niece that went here and my cousin goes here as well. The history and the transition I've seen since my daughter was here has been amazing...the things that my kids learned here that they've taken with them, I'm blessed because this is family now.

Shenetra
Hilltop Parent

”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty rate in St. Louis City is almost 20%, which can lead to limited education and poor health.

LFCS is here to help.

Honoring the 2024 Caring Congregations

In 2024, LFCs presented the “Caring Congregation” Award to the following churches for their generous support of our mission:

St. Louis Area

- Holy Cross Lutheran Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Chesterfield
- Lutheran Church of the Atonement
- Living Lord Lutheran Church
- Immanuel Lutheran, St. Charles
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Des Peres
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church
- Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood
- King of Kings, Chesterfield
- Pathfinder Church
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Clayton



Lindsey Heffner presenting the award to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Clayton



Krista Adams presenting the award to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Nixa

Southwest Missouri

- Faith Lutheran Church
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, Springfield
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nixa
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Marshfield
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield



Trueman Orson and Donna Weber presenting the award to Trinity Lutheran in Columbia

Mid-Missouri

- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Salem Lutheran Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson City
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Cole Camp
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia
- Campus Lutheran Church
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Southeast Missouri

- Concordia Lutheran Church
- Hanover Lutheran Church
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jackson
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altenburg
- Salem Lutheran Church
- Sargent's Chapel Lutheran Church
- St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- St. Mark Lutheran Church
- St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church- Altenburg
- Trinity Lutheran Church- Cape
- Trinity Lutheran Church- Jackson



Christy O'Neal presenting the award to Concordia Lutheran in Frohna

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds..”

Hebrews 10:24

Stronger Together

Acknowledging the Support of our Partners and Funders

Funders:

- Ameren Charitable Trust
- Arnold and Elfrieda Strickert Family Foundation
- Bernhard and Anna Nuessli Fund
- Boone County Children's Services Fund
- Cape Girardeau Mental Health Tax Board
- Children's Trust Fund
- Cornelsen Charitable Foundation
- Emerson Charitable Trust
- Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
- Franklin County Area United Way
- Franklin County Community and Children's Resource Board
- Heart of Missouri United Way
- Jefferson County Community Mental Health Fund Board
- Jefferson Foundation
- Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Neeb Family Foundation
- O'Reilly Auto Parts
- Perry County Youth Tax Board
- Pott Foundation
- Raymond and Grace Harmon Charitable Foundation
- Rushing Family Trust
- State of Missouri Children's Division
- St. Charles Community and Children's Resource Board
- St. Louis City Mental Health Board
- St. Louis County Children's Services Fund
- Sunderland Foundation
- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- United Way of Southeast Missouri
- Veteran's United Foundation

Community Partners:

- Brave Love
- Bringing Families Together
- Catholic Charities of Kansas City – St. Joseph
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks
- Council on Accreditation

- Diaper Bank of the Ozarks
- Children's Home Society of Missouri/ DBA Family Forward
- First Chance for Children
- Good Samaritan Boys Ranch
- Good Shepherd Children and Family Services
- MBCH Children and Family Ministries
- Midwest Music Therapy
- New Madrid County Family Resource Center
- Nurses for Newborns
- Ready Readers
- St. Louis Area Diaper Bank
- St. Louis Center for Hearing and Speech
- Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Youth in Need
- Whole Kids Outreach
- Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Recognized by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
- Member of the Missouri District – LCMS
- Member of the Central States Synod – ELCA

Thank you to all of our supporters who contribute so much to help children and families in need. Together we will continue our legacy of care- rooted in love, guided by faith, and strengthened by hope.



Financial Overview

A Year over Year Comparison

At LFCS, we take pride in being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We are committed to transparency and efficiency, ensuring that **86 cents of every dollar raised** goes directly to supporting the needs of children and families in our communities. You can count on us to make every contribution count, creating lasting impact where it's needed most.

2024 REVENUE



		2024	2023	2022
79%	Grants- Government	\$14,262,646	\$12,699,237	\$10,578,924
9%	Grants- Other	\$1,595,795	\$1,462,200	\$841,898
8%	Contributions	\$1,452,943	\$1,478,493	\$1,670,262
2%	Client Fees	\$444,437	\$840,455	\$805,696
1%	Other	\$239,697	\$263,656	(\$196,276)
	TOTAL	\$17,995,518	\$16,744,041	

2024 EXPENSES



		2024	2023	2022
87%	Programs	\$16,122,770	\$14,904,306	\$12,210,665
7%	Management/General	\$1,300,286	\$1,298,436	\$2,217,079
6%	Fundraising	\$1,018,443	\$1,140,003	\$1,055,233
	TOTAL	\$18,441,499	\$17,342,745	\$15,482,977

2024 EXPENSE CATEGORIES



		2024	2023	2022
66%	Staffing/Payroll	\$12,104,377	\$11,771,758	\$10,179,698
18%	Individual Assistance	\$3,359,059	\$2,835,958	\$2,075,931
5%	Occupancy	\$935,956	\$871,750	\$782,535
11%	Other	\$2,042,107	\$1,863,279	\$2,444,813
	TOTAL	\$18,441,499	\$17,342,745	\$15,482,977

2024 STAFFING



		2024	2023	2022
85%	Programs	\$10,272,613	\$9,893,182	\$8,431,884
8%	Management/General	\$1,001,423	\$981,623	\$905,851
7%	Fundraising	\$830,341	\$896,953	\$841,963
	TOTAL	\$12,104,377	\$11,771,758	\$10,179,698



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