

# impact report

2022 ANNUAL REVIEW



 **We Care**  
Services For Children



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*\*As of April 2023*



# our mission



Through targeted, compassionate, and effective early intervention services, We Care helps young children and their families reach their full potential, regardless of their abilities or circumstances.

Our mission comes to life every day in the efforts of our therapists, educators, specialists, clinicians, and all who support their work. What drives us at We Care is knowing that the critical services these talented and dedicated individuals provide to young children and families are changing lives for the better.

What enables these services is you.

The support we receive from this community is what makes the difference between a family learning to change the impact of generations of trauma, or not. Between a child entering kindergarten ready to learn, or not. Between a child thriving, or not.

The accomplishments you see in these pages were once just our goals. Because of you, your generosity and compassion, they are what happened. The benefits will continue to grow for these families and the community because there is no better social investment than improving the outcomes for young children.

We deeply appreciate your partnership in these efforts.





# a message of gratitude



Dear We Care Family,

Thank you taking the time to review our annual Impact Report.

For an agency with 63 years of challenges, successes, and defining moments, 2022 definitely stood out.

In February, there was a large fire at the office complex in Concord where we had based our mental health services since the early 2000s. Our clinic was destroyed. But while that was incredibly disruptive, the skills we honed during the worst of COVID served us well. Our staff rallied their remote-treatment interventions to ensure that every child and family in our mental health programs knew they could still count on us to be there – and to give them the help they needed.

In addition, the developmental and educational programs at our Kirker Pass site continued to provide those critical services while navigating new COVID outbreaks and the lingering pandemic impacts on children, families, and the community systems that keep them safe.

It was a very difficult time, but for those children who benefited from the exceptional efforts by an extraordinary staff, it was life-changing.

By the end of last year, our mental health programs had landed in a new home right on Todos Santos Park in the heart of downtown Concord. This is closer to many of the families we serve, with better public transportation access, and in a building that houses a number of our nonprofit partners. New collaborations and innovative projects are already in the works.

2022 proved once again that We Care is so fortunate on many fronts, including having an amazingly resilient staff who can turn bad luck into opportunity, and a community of supporters who ensure that 63 years in, we're achieving more than we even thought possible.

Thank you so much for being such an essential part of that story — and I hope this report gives you a sense of what your partnership with us last year created.

I could not be more appreciative.

A blue ink signature of Pete Caldwell.

Pete Caldwell  
Executive Director



# highlights 2022

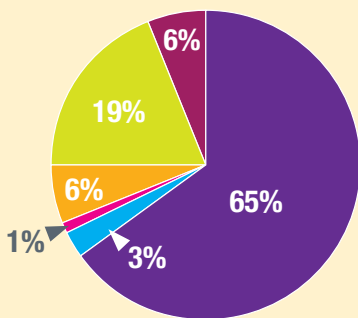


## 2021- 2022

### Financial Report

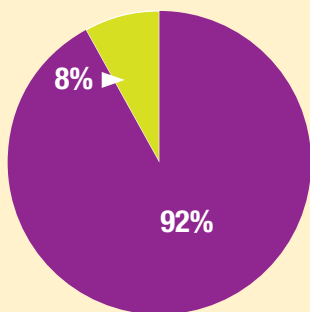
Below is a review of our financials for our Fiscal Year 2021-22

#### REVENUE



- CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES
- CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRST 5
- REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
- PRESCHOOL
- INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE SUPPORT
- GRANTS & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

#### EXPENSES



- PROGRAMS
- ADMINISTRATIVE & FUNDRAISING



OUR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS  
ENGAGED MORE THAN

## 1,200

CHILDREN & FAMILIES



For more than six decades, volunteers have been an integral part of the work we do. From helping in our classrooms to managing special projects or community outreach to serving on our board, these inspirational and talented people share their time, resources, and hearts to help at-risk children reach their full potential. On behalf of all the children and families we serve – thank you, volunteers, for your endless support!



“The experiences and programs provided are outstanding. The children have so many opportunities to learn that it is no wonder so much growth occurs while they are at We Care.”

— Cara

### We Care Community Investment

Highly specialized services have significant impact and create dramatic results. Every dollar invested in learning programs saves \$4 to \$7 on costs for special education, welfare, foster placement, juvenile justice and crime costs.

Sources: Masse, L. and Barnett, W.S., A Benefit Cost Analysis of the Abecedarian Early Childhood Intervention (2002); Karoly et al., Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise (2005); Heckman et al., The Effect of the Perry Preschool Program on the Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills of its Participants (2009)

# developmental services



## **“We Play” Developmental Playgroups**

Our developmental playgroups focus on the needs of very young children who have not qualified for government-funded programs but whose healthy growth is at risk due to one or more developmental delays. These playgroups bring parents and children together to provide small-group activities – designed both therapeutically and educationally – to develop and enhance language, fine and gross motor skills, cognitive abilities, and social and emotional development.

During 2022, we fully returned to in-person activities while incorporating many of the elements from the virtual sessions that we discovered the children and families respond well to. The ongoing positive response we receive from families, as they “graduate” from the eight-week sessions, assists us in enhancing elements of the program and further strengthens our commitment to this highly impactful service.



## **Beyond Boundaries Toddler Program**

Last year, we opened our Beyond Boundaries classroom, which offers early intervention for children 18 months to 3 years with autism or who are at risk for autism. This developmental program provides opportunities for individual learning within a natural group environment through the implementation of the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) practices. ESDM is an evidence-based program centered on naturalistic and routine-based theories built on relationship-focused teaching practices.

Our Beyond Boundaries caring staff spent the past year with a small group of toddlers as we learned how to help meet the children’s needs in the way that works best for them. We saw one-on-one attention from teachers, social-emotional learning, positive reinforcement, play-time, and lots of room for the children to get to know each other in an organic, unforced way.

We are honored to be part of these children’s lives and are excited to continue developing this important program.



## **Preschool**

Initially created as a way to embed children receiving our mental health services in a classroom with typically developing children – as well as support children from low-income families in our community – our preschool program provides at-risk children with developmentally appropriate and mental health-enhanced learning activities. After a decade of offering pre-academic readiness and positive social skills that prepare each child for success in kindergarten, our state preschool classrooms will be closing at the end of the 2022/23 school year (please see the last page of this report to learn more about what’s on the horizon).

We are extraordinarily grateful to the children and families we’ve been honored to serve, along with the teachers, administrative staff, and volunteers who give their time every day to offer these children so much more than simply classroom learning. The experiences we’ve shared have created memories that will last a lifetime – for us all.

# mental health services



## Home and Clinic Services

Our attachment-based clinical services for families with children from birth to age six include parent/child, individual, and family therapies. In 2022, we had the opportunity to craft a hybrid model by offering telehealth options to those who benefit within that model, and seeing children and families whose needs are best met through in-person interactions.

We Care provides critical treatment options to hundreds of families who now, more than ever, are dealing with trauma, anxiety, depression, and behavioral issues.

We couldn't be prouder of the adaptability shown by the children, their families, and our staff as we navigate this new normal together.



## Wraparound Program

Our Wraparound program is a family-driven, team-based process that provides individualized and coordinated services to meet the goals of a family whose child is struggling with emotional and/or behavioral challenges.

This process encourages collaboration between the family, providers, and community to create a plan customized to best use the strengths of each family. As a service focused on whole-family needs at a time when so many of them continue to face or, hopefully, begin the road to recovery from unfathomable illness, unemployment, and extraordinary stressors, We Care's Wraparound has been a lifeline for its participants. We continue to seek new ways to reach even more families in need.



## Intensive Foster Care Services

This program provides intensive case management services for young, high-risk children in foster care or in the "family reunification" process.

It is designed to meet the complex needs of the most vulnerable children in our community. We Care ensures that these children – and the families taking care of them – get the necessary treatment to move through this period in their lives with new skills, comprehensive support, and hope for a brighter future.



## Preschool Consultation Program

Our Preschool Consultation program provides early childhood mental health consulting for community preschools.

Experts work with early care and education staff – and families – to improve the ability of each to prevent, identify, and respond to mental health issues among young children. These services help reduce expulsions, and provide children and families with guidance and support at a time when it can be most effective. Over the past year, our focus has remained on preventing expulsions and building capacity within area preschools, with our consultants providing support virtually or in-person.

This program continues to be one of our community's most effective ways to mitigate the damage of early childhood education failure.



## Everyday Moments Program

In its second year, this program has continued to reach even more families as we offer support and guidance through the everyday experiences shared between parents or caregivers and their children.

We Care – along with our partner agencies Early Childhood Mental Health Program, First 5 Contra Costa, C.O.P.E. Family Support Center, and Lynn Center – offer a combination of parent community groups and individual home-based consultations. These are designed to help families find and make the most of opportunities in daily life to nurture their children's growth and development.

This program aims to equip and empower parents with community, resources, and support no matter how big or small their questions. The families we've reached have expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support, and we look forward to continuing to help more families find the magic in everyday moments.



## Infant/Parent Services for Families with Babies up to 18 Months Old

Our staff supports parents with help to soothe and support babies (newborn to 18 months of age), and to become more confident and connected caregivers.

Our infant specialists visit families in their homes, or via telehealth, and establish a collaborative relationship with the family to help meet the needs of infants who are crying excessively, are difficult to soothe, may seem to be distant or not connected, are having problems with sleep, are recovering from a stay in the newborn ICU, or are experiencing difficulties with feeding.

This program has continued to be successful, both in person and virtually, by supporting parents and caregivers who are feeling helpless, worried, and alone.

# on the horizon

## 2023 will be Another Defining Year for We Care

After more than a decade of strategic planning efforts focused on leveraging We Care's resources to best benefit at-risk children, we have accepted an offer from Contra Costa County to purchase our property at 2191 Kirker Pass Road.

A ten-acre site bordering the Concord Naval Weapons station and across from the Concord Pavilion, this beautiful place has been We Care's home base for over half a century. Generations of children have passed through these doors with an array of needs that our programs and services were created to address.

Over the years we've turned down many offers from developers and for-profit organizations. And now we believe we can best honor the intent of our founders' achievements by ensuring that this property continues to serve the community. The purchase agreement requires the site to be used to expand mental health services in our county. Our Developmental Playgroups will continue to be held at First 5 Centers and we will find new space for the Beyond Boundaries classroom.

Like the extraordinary parents who formed this agency in 1960, we have an eye on a We Care that outlasts us – and will always be positioned to adapt to changes and opportunities.

We will provide more detail in upcoming newsletters about the exciting programs we'll be introducing in 2023.





“When we adopted our son, we were referred to We Care to help us deal with some of the problems he had. Our therapist made such a difference in our lives that every year at Christmas we “adopt” a current We Care child and donate to support families less lucky than our own. It’s the best feeling.” — Anonymous

# message

## we care’s board of directors

Bob Sachs, Board Chair

In March 2022, I expressed optimism about the year ahead for We Care. Despite some serious obstacles, as you can see from this report, those expectations were met – and often exceeded. The board is very grateful to the wonderful We Care teams for the commitment and excellence they demonstrated, and sincerely appreciates the many individuals and organizations that supported the agency during the year.

### **You made it all possible.**

I look forward to working with the board and leadership to continue to develop We Care’s long-term future. The needs of many young children and their families in our community remain great. Achieving our goals will not be easy. The cost of providing services, like many things, has gone up. The funding does not fully cover the delivery of the programs.

During 2023, We Care will provide exceptional services while also looking for ways to enhance and innovate so more kids can have the opportunity to realize their full potential. **On behalf of the board, I am grateful for all that will be accomplished by We Care’s exceptional staff and for the ongoing support of the community we serve.**

