

# ANNUAL REPORT

[www.tlc4kids.org](http://www.tlc4kids.org)

2022



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# Susan Fette

CEO



Dear Community Supporters,

Thank you for helping to cultivate wraparound care for foster, probation, transition age, and other at-risk youth through TLC Child & Family Services.

It has been a deeply challenging couple of years for our community as we have faced the ongoing pandemic, wildfires and other natural disasters, and social and economic turmoil. As an agency, we have witnessed the acuity of need in the youth we serve increase immensely. In this time, our community has come together in profound and moving ways to ensure that every young person has access to educational resources, mental health support, and a safe and stable home. You have helped provide specialized care to more than 250 young people everyday this year through TLC. This work wouldn't be possible without you.

As TLC witnesses the systemic barriers to success that at-risk young people face and confronts the changing landscape of child welfare, we continue to ask ourselves how we can impart impactful and lasting change. In doing so, we remain committed to always shifting and re-orienting our services to meet the real time demands of youth in need and to ensuring that each of our programs are aimed at creating healthy, healing environments in which all identities and human differences are valued.

Because of your support, a growing number of underserved youth across California accessed vital resources through TLC this year. Thank you for all that you continue to do to close the gap between at-risk youth and the life-sustaining services they need.

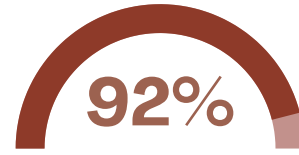
With deep appreciation,

Susan Fette, MFT

# IMPACT

How you made a difference for at-risk youth in 2022

## Transition Age Youth Housing Program



of TLC's transition-age youth achieved stable housing. This supports youth in securing childcare, finding and sustaining a job, accessing transportation, and receiving health care and mental health services while pursuing post-secondary education and other future goals.

TLC is committed to creating an inclusive environment for every young person and affirming cultural diversity in all of our programs and practices. We strive to eradicate prejudice and to develop a greater appreciation of multicultural diversity in our work, community, and beyond.

## Foster Care & Adoption Program



of TLC's discharged youth were reunified with parents and caretakers or adopted

## Mental Health Program



of TLC youth report that as a result of the program, they have people they are comfortable talking about their problems with

## Residential Treatment Program



of TLC residential youth reported that they successfully managed their substance use through the program

## Journey Academy non-public high school



of students graduated, successfully completed their goals and returned to a public school setting, or are continuing their education through the program

# Noah Owens

## A Story of Success and Resilience

Noah Owens, a thriving real estate agent today, was once a participant in TLC's Transition Age Youth Housing Program (THP). He credits THP for offering him the resources and support that an average young person would have received from their own family. Now, he shares "I'm at a stage in life where I am thriving and not just surviving."

Noah says that he is familiar with the staggering statistics on transition age youth in the U.S. Within four years of aging out of care, 70% of transition age foster youth will be on government assistance, 25% will not have completed high school, and less than 12% will ever earn their college degree.

"There are not many black males in Sonoma County," Noah shares.



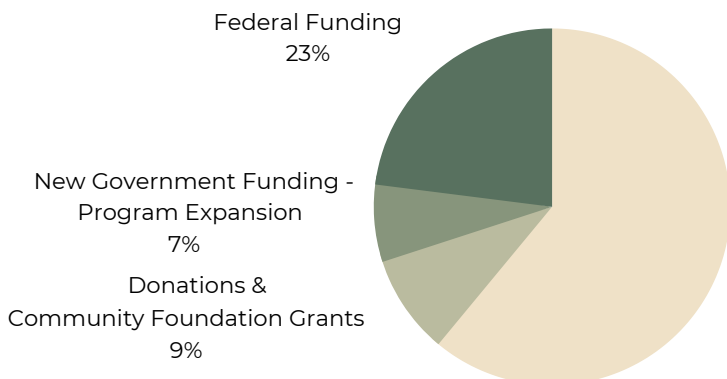
*"I knew I could have been a statistic. THP helped me to gain independence, balance my money, and pay rent. It wasn't always easy, but they were always there for me."*

Today, Noah is successfully practicing real estate at Coldwell Banker and wants to give back to the community. Noah hopes that his story encourages people to get involved and provide for current and future generations of transition age youth through TLC.

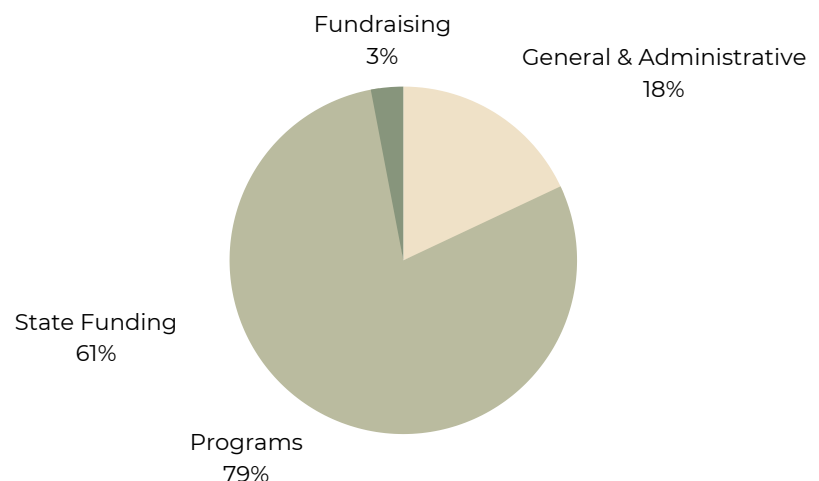
"The foster youth in this community need support," Noah says. "Help given to TLC will create success stories. I am here to prove it."

## FINANCIALS

### Income Percentages



### Expense Percentages



# INNOVATION & ADVOCACY

## *TLC's Commitment to LGBTQ+ Youth*

TLC recognizes that LGBTQ+ youth face disproportionate challenges to success and independence. LGBTQ+ youth are profoundly overrepresented in foster care and a recent study found that 65% of LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness come from the child welfare system. These young people are consistently less likely than other foster youth to be placed in a permanent home, reunified with birth or kin families, or adopted. In the first half of 2021, nearly half of LGBTQ+ identifying teenagers in the U.S. reported having seriously considered a suicide attempt.

Through our programs and practices, TLC is committed to supporting and uplifting the voices and lives of every young person in the LGBTQ+ community, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. TLC's Project Flare is specifically designed to assist, connect, and empower LGBTQ+ youth to create emotional and financial stability. Through this program, young people who identify as LGBTQ+ have access to community building opportunities, networking events with potential mentors and future employers, and workshops focused on developing support systems, leadership skills, self-efficacy, and self-empowerment.

In June of 2022, TLC's Clinical Training and Competency Specialist and leader of Project Flare, Anna Richmond, Psy.D., was presented with the North Bay Business Journal's Pride Business Leadership Award. When asked by the journal about TLC's efforts to unite and elevate the voices of LGBTQ+ youth, Anna shared "we are learning how to interlock arms with other agencies who have a shared mission in the LGBTQ+ community like Family Builders, Positive Images, Community Matters and others" and "are always seeking out grant funds, and new donors who believe in our goals to undo aloneness and mentor a generation of LGBTQ+ leaders."

TLC remains dedicated to building wrap-around support systems and offering innovative avenues of connection for LGBTQ+ youth. As an agency, we continue to establish partnerships across the Bay Area to provide advocacy for families with LGBTQ+ children and actively train local businesses to create LGBTQ+ affirming business models and practices.



# The Headingtons

## *A Family Leading the Way*

Billy and Jess Headington have been committed and generous resource parents through TLC for many years, welcoming several children into their home. The couple has provided a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for each of these youth, empowering them to grow and develop into their own unique individuals. As parents, they are strong in their commitment to uplifting all identities and experiences and have incorporated LGBTQ+ affirming practices and trauma-informed care into their home life.



Resource parents hold a vital and complex role for foster youth. They are responsible for promoting and honoring the holistic wellbeing of the young people in their care, frequently navigating diverse, intricate dynamics and family systems. The Headingtons model this beautifully in their dedication to the youth who have entered their home, and when appropriate, in their support for the reunification of children with their birth families.

Beyond their work as resource parents, Billy and Jess have recently become TLC parent mentors. Through this leadership role, they are providing essential support and guidance to new resource families navigating the foster care system for the first time. TLC is extremely grateful for the care that the Headingtons provide for at-risk youth; we couldn't do it without people like you!

## OUTRIDE GRANT



TLC recognizes that physical activity and access to the outdoors are essential to the success and wellbeing of young people. Research published in the Journal of School Health shows that higher levels of physical activity are associated with improved cognitive performance, better grades, school attendance, and classroom behaviors.

The Outride program at TLC has just begun and we are already seeing the impact of this curriculum on the physical, academic, and socio-emotional wellbeing of underserved youth. Young people in this program are learning and developing new, positive coping and self care skills that will support them in persevering through challenges and becoming independent adults. Thank you to Outride and King Ridge for their dedication to youth in need through TLC!

TLC is honored to be a recipient of the 2022 Riding for Focus Outride grant. Through this sponsorship, foster care, probation, and other at-risk youth in TLC's programs will have access to school-based cycling education and use of 15 brand new Specialized bikes and helmets. Many of these young people have not had access to a bicycle or learned how to ride, so this grant opens up a world of new opportunities.

# FARM TO TABLE



Since its inception, TLC's Farm to Table Career and Technical Education Program has blossomed. The at-risk youth that TLC serves regularly face systemic barriers to accessing safe learning spaces, technical skill training, career preparation opportunities, and avenues to engage with the outdoors. We aim to close that gap and ensure that underserved youth have access to these vital resources and mentorship through Farm to Table.

This program will assist youth in cultivating personal and professional skills for their futures and in becoming greater land stewards and community leaders. Through Farm to Table, students will receive support in developing their Work Ready Certificate Portfolio, administered by the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), based on their development of six key aptitudes, including curiosity, communication, collaboration, empathy, initiative, and ethics. Farm to Table will create meaningful networks and pathways for youth towards potential careers in agriculture, culinary arts, and the hospitality industry among others.

This year marked important growth for the program as TLC began and completed the remodel and expansion of the organic farm on our main campus and developed plans for the renovation of our teaching kitchen and build out of the outdoor gathering and education space. Youth planted and harvested their first crop and began integrating the food they grew and skills they learned in the garden into TLC's new culinary arts classes. As the program grows, TLC is working to scale up our offerings to other underserved young people in the community in partnership with our local school districts. Congressman Mike Thompson recently joined us for a tour of the program on TLC's main campus, expressing excitement about the potential of getting involved and making a lasting difference for the next generation.

Our work is not done. TLC is committed to continuing to expand the Farm to Table Program to meet the growing needs of at-risk youth in our community. Every young person deserves opportunities to develop their skills and passions and to find their unique voice in the world. We are grateful to our community for the ongoing support you provide for underserved youth through the Farm to Table program.

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## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

TLC Child & Family Services is grateful to acknowledge those who have provided essential services and resources to at-risk youth at a leadership level from January 1, 2022 to November 1, 2022. Every gift, no matter its size, makes a lasting difference, and we thank you for your commitment to our community's most underserved young people.

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