



Nurturing strong beginnings.

ANNUAL REPORT



Data from August 2020 to July 2021

2020
2021



Nurturing strong beginnings.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



This past year has truly tested how resilient and remarkable we are here in Washington County. No one could have ever imagined the profound affect that the COVID-19 pandemic would have on our littlest ones in our community. The entire world was shutting down because of this strange and disorienting experience, schools and daycares closed and the unemployment rates began to rise. The challenges our families were facing were unlike anything we had ever experienced, but **Root for Kids** made a bold commitment to respond. Innovation lead us through these difficult times.



“Pivot” proved to be the theme for 2020-2021. This singular word became part of our daily lexicon as well as our behavior. **Root for Kids** was committed to providing the same quality of care and services that our community has come to count on. Through the leadership of our Board of Directors, Leadership and Management Teams, **Root for Kids** “pivoted” to a new service delivery model. Although not absent of challenges, our “virtual” home visiting model proved to have a profound impact. Home visiting gives pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, home visitors were no longer able to visit families in their homes on a weekly basis to offer support to the families. During this pandemic, families participated virtually or by phone in their regular home visiting sessions. Diapers, food, and educational packets were delivered to families, without contact, by **Root for Kids** staff. I have such great admiration for the staff at **Root for Kids**. Their passion and commitment during these difficult times have been unparalleled.

Thank you to our donors, supporters, and partners for standing beside us and believing in our mission. With this year’s report, we invite you to celebrate the many impacts and milestones we have achieved together.

Suzanne Leonelli



ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

Dealing with an ongoing pandemic 2020-2021 was no easy task, but **Root for Kids** quickly adapted to CDC standards by offering vaccination to all staff, social distancing and wearing masks, as well as offering our services indoors and outdoors to our families in need. We switched our annual Gala to virtual and were able to raise an impressive \$68,128 with the support of 18 sponsors and 132 guests.

We are proud of our accomplishments in the face of Covid-19.

1,315
children
served

943
families
served

43
pregnant women
served

289
children
graduated

9,870
home
visits

14,719
home visit
hours

CATERPILLAR CLUBHOUSE

Caterpillar Clubhouse is a forward thinking Early Childhood Development Center that promotes optimal development with high-quality care and learning opportunities that help your child receive the best possible start in life. We serve children from birth to age 3.

165
children
served



To best support each child's development, our classrooms utilize Creative Curriculum to guide classroom experiences. Our in-house USDA certified cook makes healthy food from scratch every day to provide the best nutrition for the little ones. Also, once a year we provide free health screenings with licensed professionals to children enrolled in childcare such as hearing, vision and development.

EARLY HEAD START



Early Head Start at Root for Kids serves pregnant women and children from birth to age three in Washington County, Utah. Early Head Start is a comprehensive family development program that promotes the physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth of infants and toddlers to ensure their school readiness. Root for Kids administered 3,468 home visits and 4,881 home visit hours in 20-21. Since the inception of our EHS program, our enrollment has never fallen below 100%. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 our average percent of funded monthly enrollment was 69%, but is showing signs of returned stability. Root for Kids served 3.1% of all eligible children (birth to 3) in Washington County.



193
children
served

34
pregnant women
served

162
families
served

131
families received
at least one
community referral

36
parents attended
Parent Night or
Policy Council

65
Father figure
involvement in at
least 1 home visit

88
families met
at least one
goal

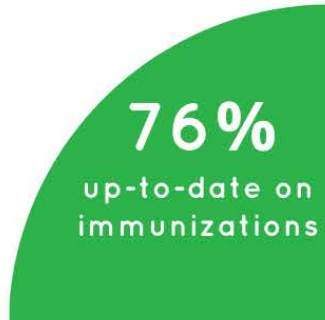
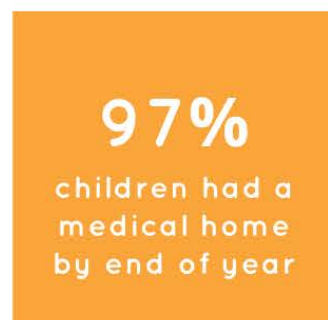
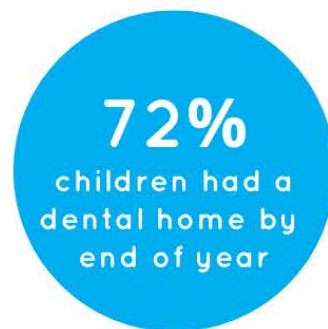
337
books given for
completing
reading goals



FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

"Root for Kids has been a godsend for us. The level of resources they have either provided to our family or been able to connect us with has been amazing. Our two little people had rough beginnings and Root for Kids has been instrumental in working with our family to mitigate the delays we were seeing and help us identify issues we might see in the future.

This information has helped us be in front of problems instead of being reactionary. The employees at Root for Kids go over and above in every instance and we will always be thankful for them and credit them with the success of our littles, as they move forward in life. What a great foundation they have helped us provide. There are not enough words of praise... Thank you."

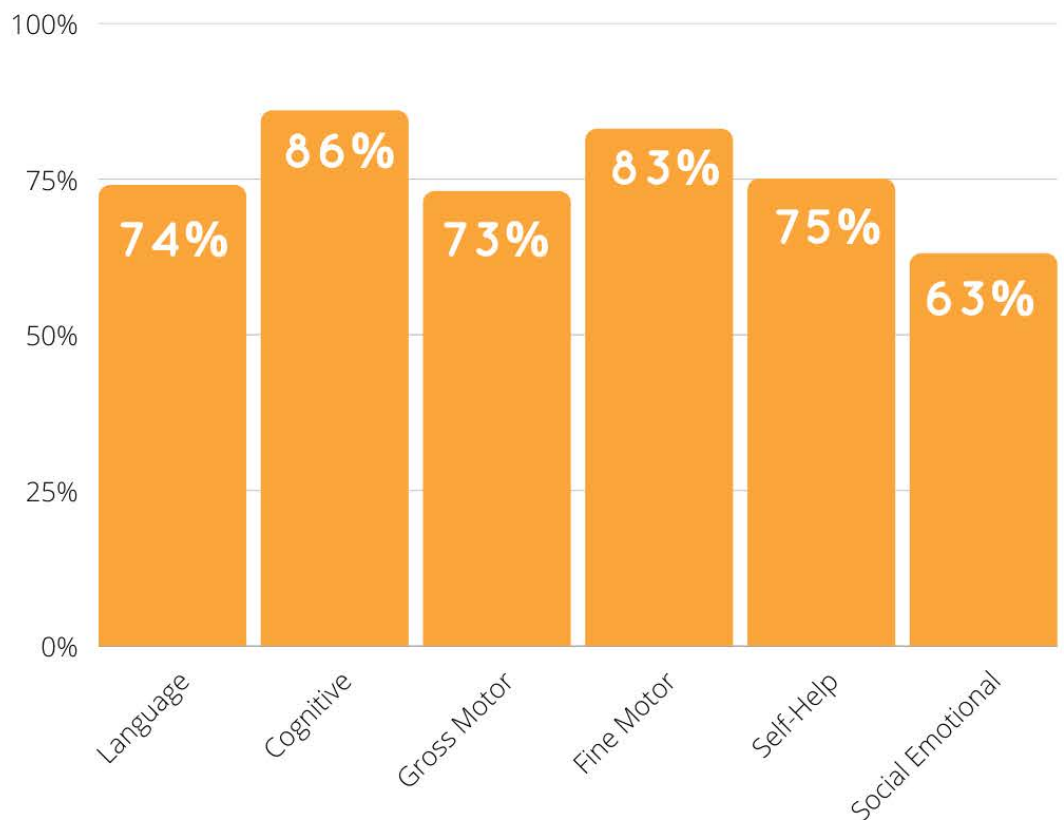




PROGRAM OUTCOMES

School Readiness Gains

The graph below shows the percentage of children assessed in our program who either met or exceeded goals for each of the areas of development.



Efforts to prepare children for Kindergarten





EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Intervention provides services to children who are showing a developmental delay or who have a condition strongly linked with a developmental delay.

We serve children from birth to age three who live in Washington County and along the Arizona Strip.



778
children
served

2,997
in-person
home visits

3,993
virtual
home visits

726
children served
through Baby Watch
Early Intervention

52
children served
through AZEIP

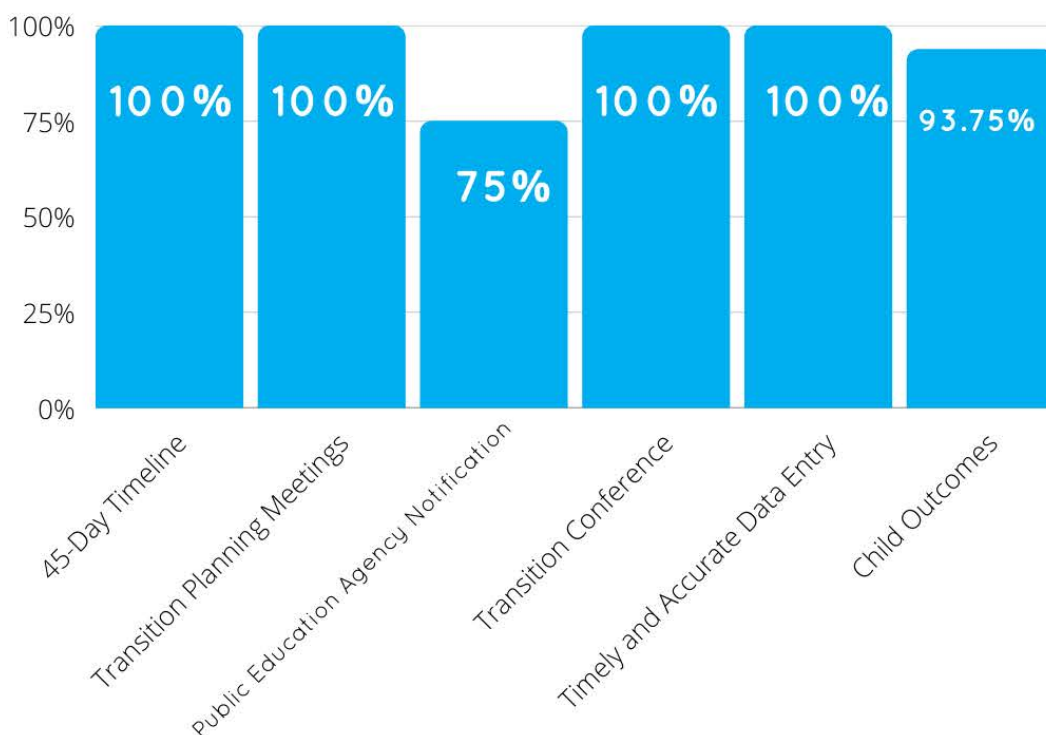
FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

"Theo's therapists always kept us informed about extra support at the Root for Kids' program and in the community. We loved that our physical therapist and occupational therapist would always bring in different toys and equipment that would help peak our son's interest and improve his abilities. We felt like the entire Early Intervention Team always had Theo's best interest at heart; while always letting us make the final decisions."



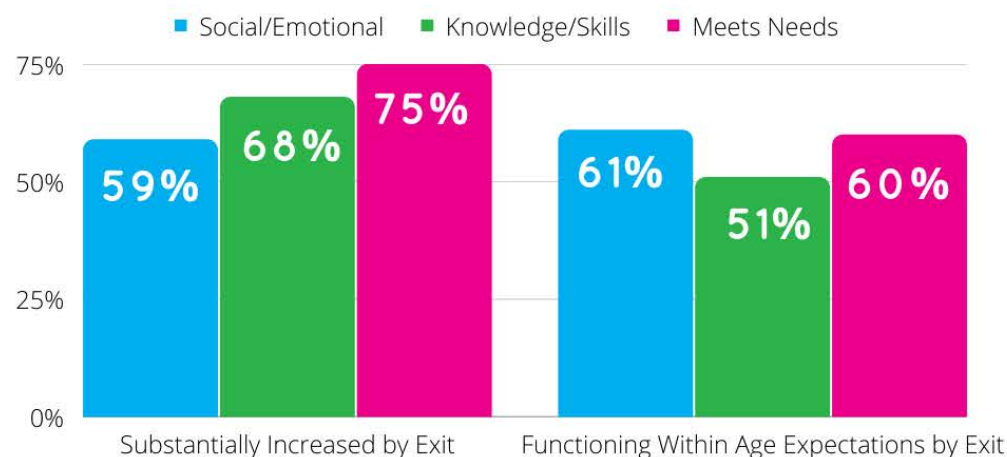
AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Each year, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), makes a determination whether each Service Providing Agency meets requirements.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Baby Watch Early Intervention (Utah)





MUSIC & PLAY STUDIO

Our Music & Play Studio became Kindermusik® certified in 2019 and gained a brand new room! On June 3, 2019, we invited the community to the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate with us. Kindermusik classes are open to the public and classes are open enrollment.

224
children
served



FAMILY TESTIMONIAL

"Kindermusik has provided her the opportunity to engage with other kids her age, as well as adults in a classroom type setting, without the pressure to perform or be away from Mom. She loves the music more than anything. I think music was the biggest draw for her progress. It helped immensely with her language and communication. She has also been given opportunities to engage with toys and instruments that she may not otherwise have the chance to use, which has been fantastic exposure for her sensory development. I greatly appreciate the instructors. They have been so patient with her, and welcome children of all levels and abilities. We have had a wonderful experience with Kindermusik, and I'm grateful for the program and what it has done for my daughter. It has been a great precursor to help her prepare for Preschool, while also being a great Mom and Me activity that we can do together."



PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parents as Teachers is an early childhood family support and parent education home-visiting model. Family Support Specialists work with parents to strengthen protective factors and ensure that children birth to 5 years old are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

We serve children from birth to age five and pregnant women who live in Washington County and along the Arizona strip.



Screenings and Assessments Completed





FAMILY STORY

We had a young single mother referred to the Parents As Teachers program in early 2018. She had recently given birth to her first child and had separated from the baby's father. Despite being separated, she continued to live with her ex-boyfriend and his parents. She was working at a local furniture store and saved a little money every month towards an apartment of her own. She was working hard to prepare for the real estate licensing exam. Schooling had always been difficult for her due to dyslexia, but it was her goal to receive her license. Her big goal was to save enough money to purchase her own home and provide for her child.

Around February 2019 she finally received her real estate license! Within a month she was hired at a real estate agency and sold her first home shortly afterwards. Since then, she has sold several additional homes. She has reconciled with her baby's father, and they have moved into an apartment together. They are saving money for the down payment on their own home.

"Thank you Root for Kids for the fun group activities that you do. It is a great way to meet other families and get to know my community better. And thanks for telling me about Coins For Kids and helping me apply for that."



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers come in all ages and types! The impact of volunteering with Root for Kids benefits hundreds of young children in Washington County and the Arizona strip.

Volunteers can help with projects such as such as bundling diapers, painting blocks and coloring matching games. Larger groups often help with work in our garden and yard area, our playground and assemble projects such as sensory bottles and fishing games.

A vertical image on the left side of the page showing a stack of many hands of different ages and skin tones, symbolizing community and support.

419
Volunteers

3,687
Volunteer
Hours

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

"I have enjoyed the many years I have volunteered at Root for Kids. It helps to give me purpose."

-Naomi Ross

"Over the past few years, I have really enjoyed volunteering at Root for Kids. Everyone is very nice, helpful, and appreciative of my time. They always have something fun for me to do and they work with my schedule. It is great volunteering in an organization that is making such a huge impact in our community"

-Sue Sims



DONORS

\$100+

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a bright red, glossy heart. The hand is positioned on the left side of the page, with the thumb and index finger visible, gently holding the heart. The background is a solid light blue color.

Alice Erickson
Alta Bank
America First Credit Union
Becky Thomas
Benjamin Green
Brandon Honsvick
Brenda Armstrong
Brenda Jones
Brock & Janie Belliston
Bryce Christensen Excavating
Cache Valley Bank
Charlotte Shelley
Connie Smith
Costco United Way Campaign
Craig & Marilyn Hanson
David Nelson
Dixie Escalante Foundation
Dominion Energy
Charitable Foundation
Donna Ricci
Ellen Arch & Karl Ashliman
Film and Media Alliance
of Southern Utah
Friends of TLC
Grapevine Crossing
Guild Mortgage Company
Infinite Solutions
Intermountain Healthcare
IRONMAN Foundation
Jace Burgess
James & Ilona Christopherson
Jana Stapley
Jennifer Neal Madsen
Joan V. Eggert, MD
John Clayton
John Johnson
Kelsey and Beneton Hunt
Kim & Sonja Christensen
Larry H. Miller Charities
Larry R. Hansen
Linda Helquist
Litehouse, Inc.
Lowry & Sheryl Snow
Lucina Marsh
Main Street Insurance Agency
Merrill - A Bank of America Company
Mobile Dental Hygiene of St. George
Monica Novello
My Brother's Keeper
Nancy Hauck
Nancy Hubler
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Rayne Loder
Rick and Susan Sims
Rick Kreuzer
Rocky Mountain Power
Ruby Heaton
Sandra Hetrick
Snow Jensen & Reece
Stapley Pharmacy
State Bank of Southern Utah
TDS Telecom
The Albertsons Companies Foundation
The Kahlert Foundation
Tim & Tracey Welsh
Todd Hughes & Karyn Salerno
United Methodist Women of
Shepherd of the Hills United
Methodist Church
Utah Food Bank
Walmart
Washington County Fair
Watts Construction
Yesi Arrey



DONORS

\$100+ (IN-KIND)

Amber Rich
Brett Keefe Family
Brock Belliston
Chris Clayton
Dixie State University Dental Clinic
Einsteins Bros. Bagles
InfoWest
Joni Prince
Katering Koncepts
Lori Mayfield
Lynne Barnum
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Rainbow Sign & Banner
Red Rock Media
Stapley Pharmacy
Winchester 2nd Ward Relief Society

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF:

Jeff & Cambria Hauck

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF:

David Brown
Diane Osborn
Uncle Stan Dalton

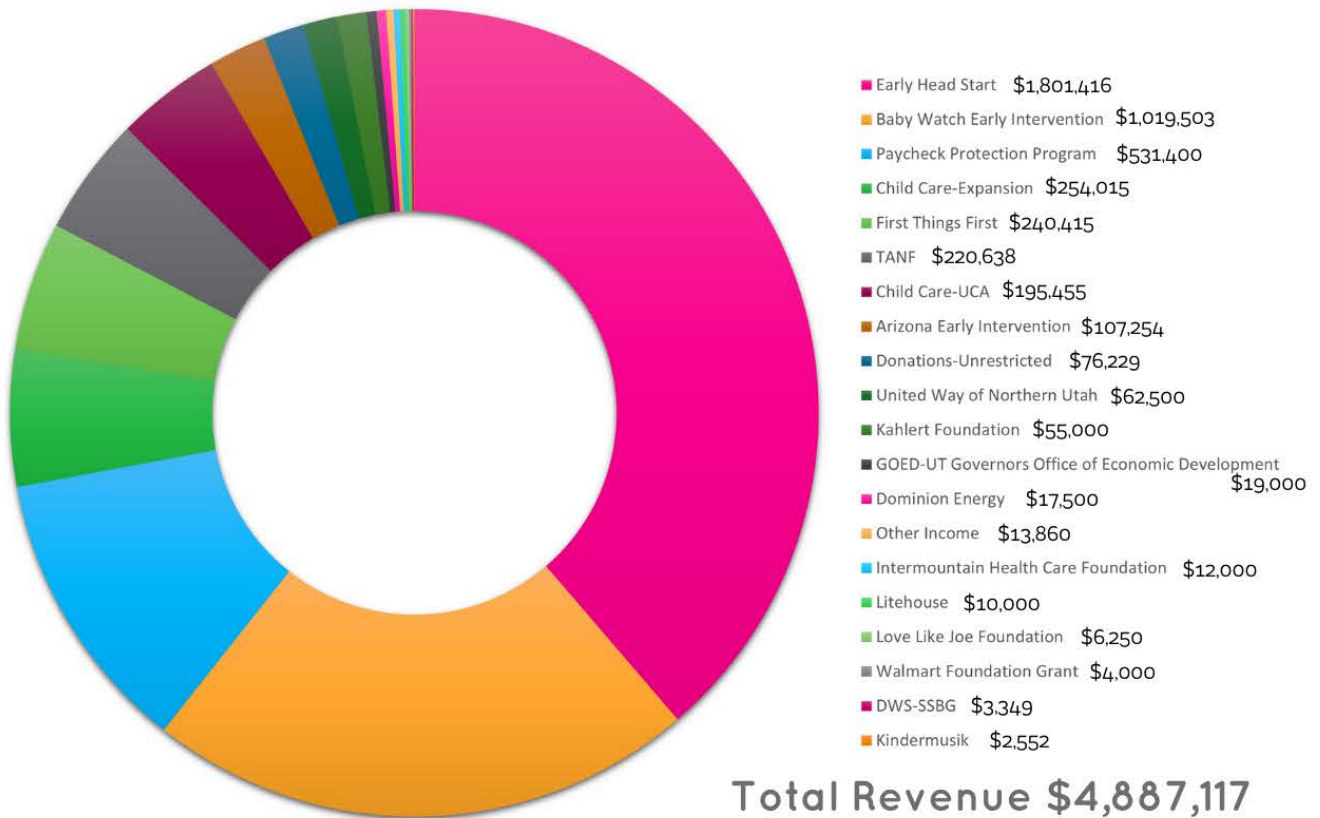
DONOR TESTIMONIAL

"Having had four nephews receive care and assistance from Root for Kids for being nonverbal, I am a huge fan! Root for Kids went in to their homes (for free!) and worked with each child. Now we can't get those boys to be quiet! 😊 One way I also support Root for Kids is by donating monthly. In what I would spend on a few fountain Diet Cokes each month, I am instead helping a very deserving non-profit organization whose span of goodness can reach further than I. From Beaver Dam to Fredonia and every where in between, Root for Kids continues to nurture strong beginnings. And in some small way, I can be a part of that."

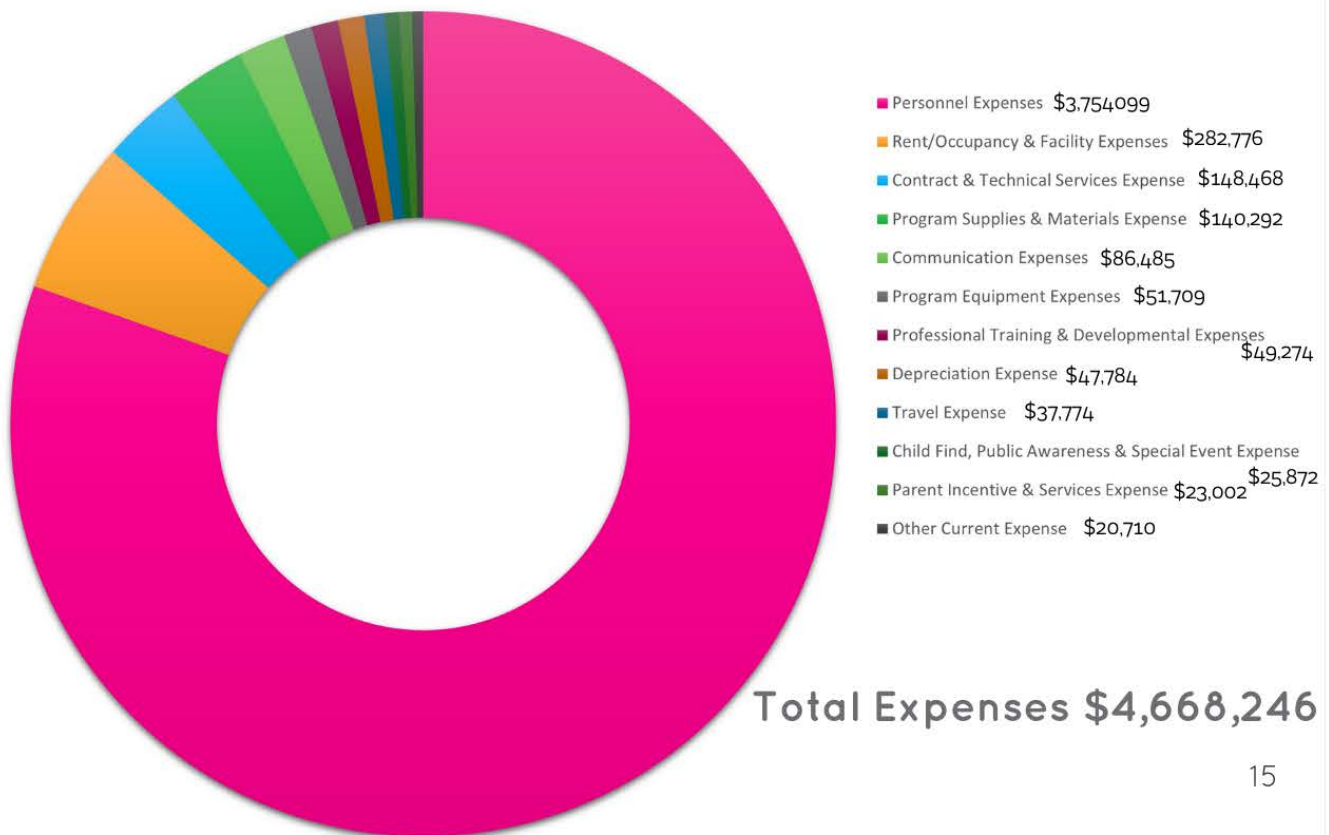
FINANCIALS



Root for Kids Revenues 20-21



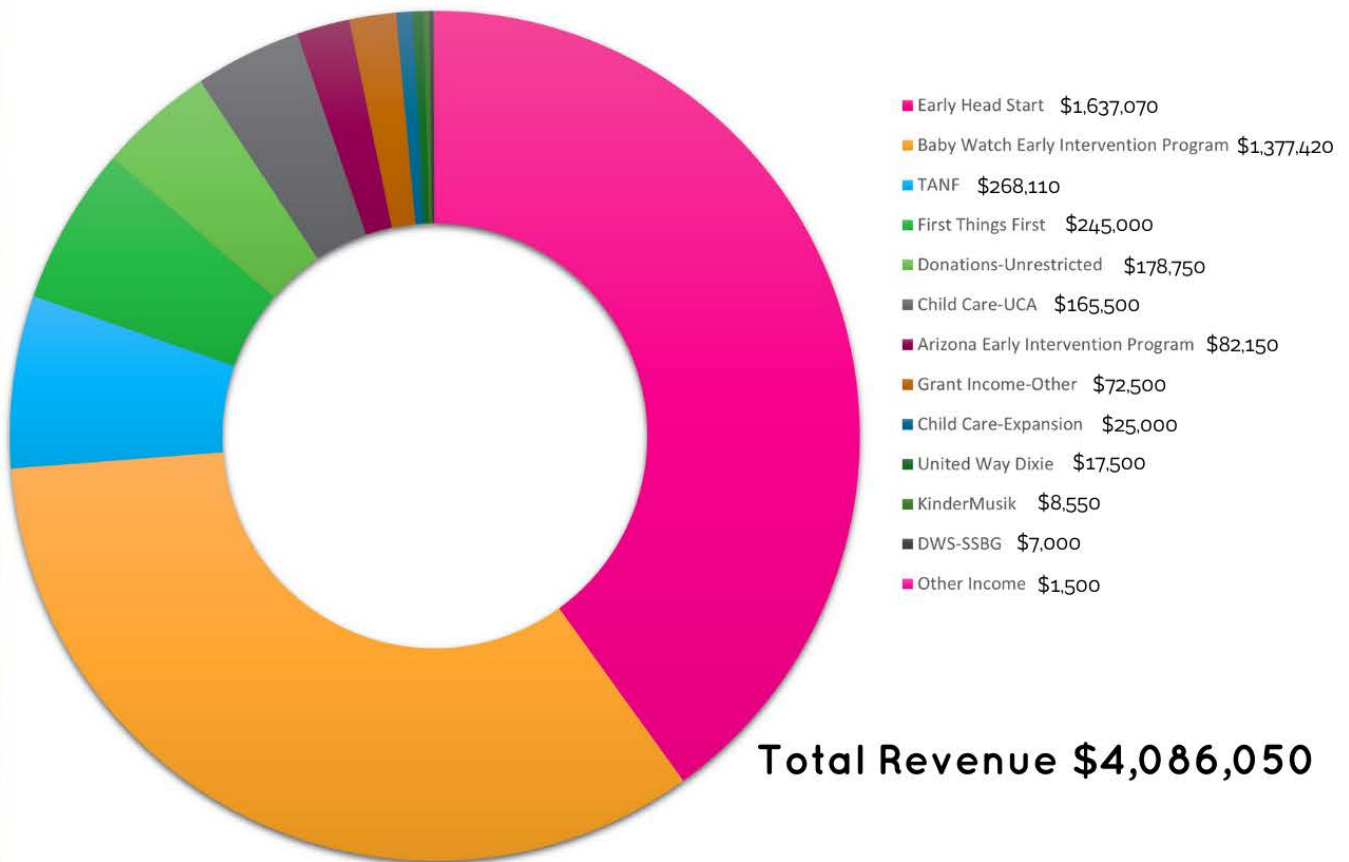
Root for Kids Expenses 20-21



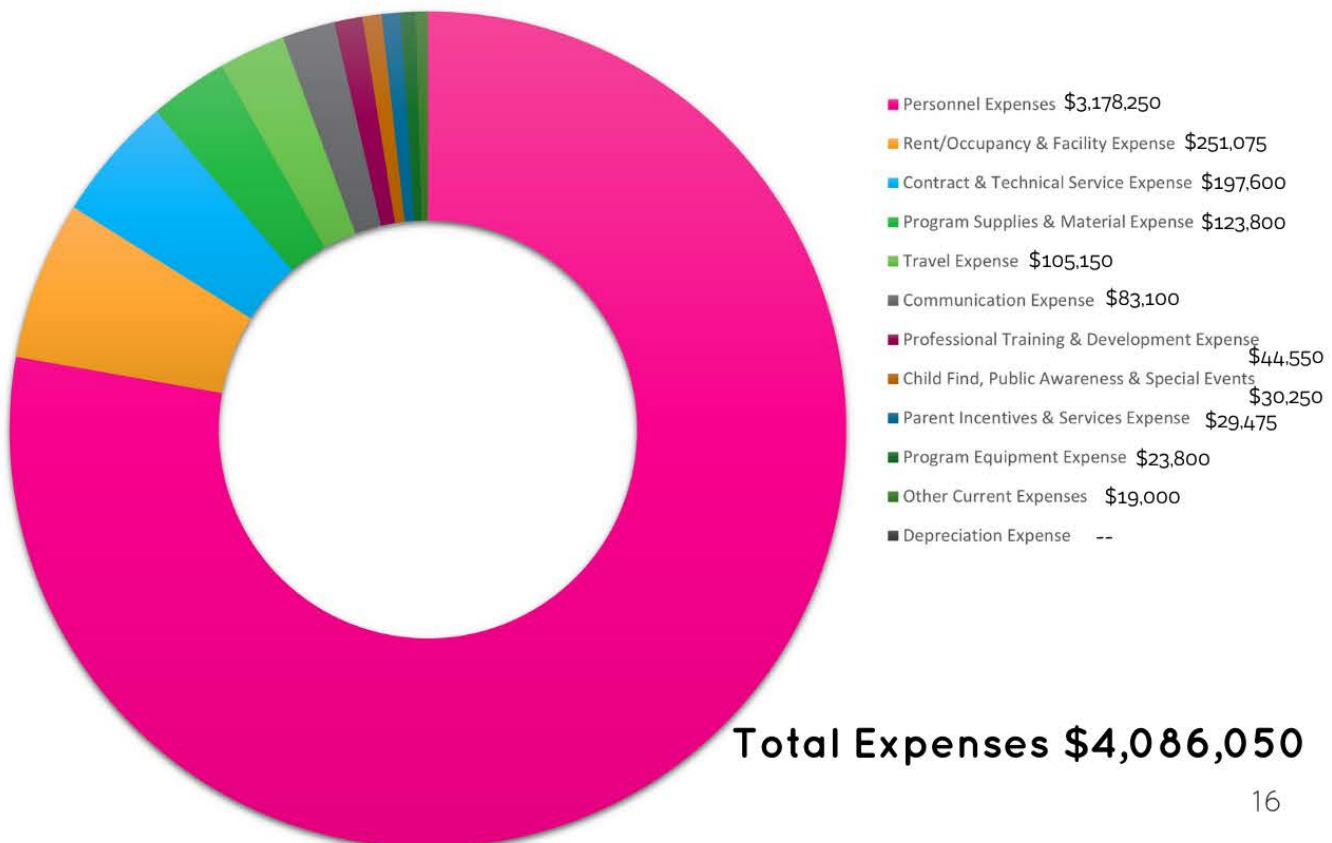
21-22 APPROVED BUDGET



Root for Kids Budget Revenues 21-22



Root for Kids Budget Expenses 21-22





FINANCIAL AUDIT

Root for Kids financial statements were independently audited by Hinton Burdick CPA's and Advisors. Their findings were summarized as follows:

"We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). In our opinion, The Learning Center for Families, dba Root for Kids complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2021."

GRANTORS



FIRST THINGS FIRST



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