

*Celebrating*



Mississippi Families  
for Kids

25  
YEARS



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

Year In Review

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## MFFK SUPPORTERS,

In 2023, we celebrated 25 years of providing permanency services to children and families in the state of Mississippi. The past year has presented great challenges as well as opportunities. In an increasingly changing political climate, we have seen a steady increase in poverty, homelessness, abuse, violence, mental health concerns, lack of healthcare, and numerous other disparities in our state. Now more than ever there is a great need in Mississippi for the services provided by Mississippi Families for Kids. The beauty in our method of integrated services is that we offer a "no-wrong-door" model whereby families may seek assistance with one concern and then find that they can benefit from any of the various supports available through our organization. Furthermore, they are met by caring and professional staff who work diligently to advocate and find solutions. As we continue to work with children and youth as well as families to find and maintain permanency through adoption services, counseling, parent and professional training, developmental resources, kinship care, respite services, and other outreach efforts, we keep in mind the ever-evolving needs of the family unit.

We have had some wins in 2023 that will help us to better serve families. MFFK updated the Help Me Grow centralized access point with a new, easy-to-remember number and trained staff specializing in early childhood development. Clinicians at the organization became groundbreaking leaders as trainers in the first statewide cohort to be endorsed in infant mental health informed practice through a partnership with the Mississippi Association for Infant Mental Health, the Mississippi Department of Health, and the National Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health. Professional endorsement through this initiative will allow us to become part of a workforce that specializes in early intervention with our most vulnerable populations, changing the way we look at mental health for small children and their caregivers. Additionally, we work to increase training to respond to other vulnerable populations such as survivors of human trafficking through the support of the Office of the Attorney General.

The state of Mississippi acknowledges that this work is an essential investment in our future by allocating millions towards incentives for supporters such as the state tax credit, which allows donors up to \$2400 in state tax credits when they donate to MFFK. As we move into the next 25 years of service, I encourage you to invest in an organization that has impacted so many lives by making a contribution. As always, thank you for joining us in creating a more healthy, inclusive, and empowering Mississippi that will make a difference for generations to come.

SINCEREST THANKS,

*Nadeane Cattrell*



NADEANE CATTRELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# Vision

*To make a large impact on the permanency and well-being of Mississippi's families and children*

# Values

*Inclusiveness  
Collaboration*

*Compassion  
Innovation*

*Transparency  
Empowerment*





# Our mission

Since our non-profit inception in 1998, we've had the same goal: **provide Mississippi with free or at cost permanency planning programs that promote stronger families and a more engaged and informed community.**

MFFK offers educational development opportunities, training, activities, and support like counseling to families and children so children can stay in their family of origin or find a forever home.



## Adoption & Foster Care Training & Placement

- **Adoption and Foster Care** licensing and support



## Advocacy

- **Black Family Summit**
- **Early Childhood Development Initiative**



## Family & Child Counseling & Support

- **Respite Care** for children and youth with special health care needs
- **Children Are Reaching Expectations Program (CARE)** for ages zero-eighteen
- **Incredible Years Therapeutic Program** for ages three-five to teach conflict resolution
- **Relatives Raising Others' Children** kinship care services
- **General counseling** for individuals, families, and groups with children ages three to twenty-one
- **Infant Mental Health** services and training

The "normal" family model isn't so normal after all.

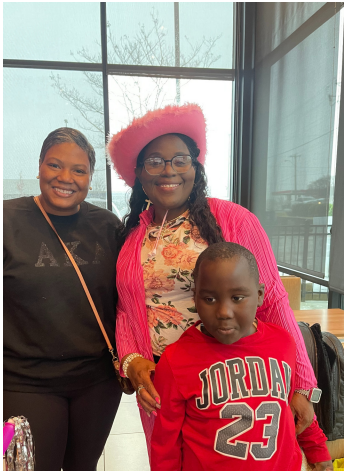
Families can look like:

- Kinship Care Families
- Foster Families
- Adoption Families
- Mixed or Blended Families



## Developmental Care Services

- **Help Me Grow** developmental screenings and support funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- **Ages & Stages Developmental Screenings**
- **Social & Emotional Screenings**
- **Autism Screenings**
- **Care coordination** to connect families to services



20  
23



IMPACT



*Over 6,000  
Mississippians  
Impacted in 2023*



## Family & Child Counseling & Support



## Developmental Care Services

65

Educators served

300

Total # of children, families served through C.A.R.E.

4,200

Total hours of counseling completed

66

Total parents and grandparents served through Relatives Raising Others' Children

887

Children served through Help Me Grow

61 hrs

Of training given to caregivers, providers, and educators

227

Developmental screenings completed through Help Me Grow

# BY THE NUMBERS

130

Families served for foster and adoption services - including adoption inquiries, orientations, and training

14

Community outreach contacts served

34

Total children served through respite care

3

Children placed

2

Adoptions finalized

3

Children/youth matched with potential families

5

Families licensed

5

Staff members chosen to help pilot the Infant Mental Health Training program for MS established



## Adoption & Foster Care Training & Placement



## Advocacy



# MFFK SERVICES IN ACTION



## The Houston Family

Thanks to collaboration with various partners statewide who direct families to MFFK, we offer essential services to families in crisis or need who often find access to support to be challenging and difficult to access.

This year, we were able to support the Houston family following a referral from the EversCare clinic. Ms. Houston sought developmental screenings for her 9-month-old baby and 2-year-old son, who were displaying some concerning behaviors such as repetitive motions and being unable to speak at their age level.

Post-screening, MFFK pinpointed and connected the family with vital resources to foster their children's learning, growth, and overall well-being, such as a full evaluation for developmental delay, connection to developmental specialists, and childcare resources.

Our commitment to the "no-wrong-door" model ensures that seeking assistance for one concern doesn't stop there. We know that to ensure lasting family stability and child welfare, a holistic approach to support must be taken. Because of this, we worked with Ms. Houston to identify additional support needs.

We were able to provide utility assistance and work with Ms. Houston to help her gain employment. With the help of our staff, Ms. Houston secured a full-time job and enrolled in an online GED course.

Later in the year, Ms. Houston participated in our Homes for the Holidays event, where her children received Christmas gifts. It was a joy to see her and her family again doing so well!

We are ever thankful to the partners that refer families to us and to the families that trust us to help see them through their path to welfare.

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# SPENDING COMMITMENT



## WHERE OUR DOLLARS WENT



**Adoption &  
Foster Care**  
**6%**



**Help Me Grow**  
**44%**  
(dedicated grant money  
included)



**Counseling &  
Respite Care**  
**29%**



**Outreach, Events,  
Advocacy & Admin**  
**21%**

# TEAM & SUPPORTORS



We are living through an unprecedented moment in time, but what gives me hope is our equally unprecedented commitment to responding to the needs of children and families in our state. Over the past year, individuals and businesses all across our nation have opened their hearts to help those we serve.

As we know, youth in foster care and those with disabilities are at a greater risk for becoming susceptible to human trafficking. These are the primary populations served by the Mississippi Families for Kids.

Funding from the Office of the Attorney General has given our staff crucial training resources to intervene and respond to survivors. The Mississippi Department of Health increased funding to expand respite services to families of children with disabilities. Numerous private donors committed significantly to school uniform drives, youth camp, Christmas gifts and other outreach services. The organization has touched the lives of hundreds of children and families during these 12 months.

We are grateful to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for their continued committed to transforming passion into impact by sustaining organizational services and showing a vested interest in enhancing agency leadership.

Wendy's restaurants continue to prioritize permanency services for children and youth in or at-risk of entering foster care in any way we can.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are dedicated to ensuring that every dollar received goes to strengthen the families and communities of Mississippi. I thank you for your support and invite you to join us in improving the lives of Mississippi's children.

## Hays Collins- President

Liquid Creative & Wendy's/Perimeter Foods



Pictured:  
Hays Collins & Nadeane Cattrell

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Shun Hatten-Secretary

Jackson Convention & Visitor's Bureau

### Addy Keith- Member

Community Bank

### Anthony McInvale-Member

McInvale Heating, Plumbing & Gas

### Chris Gray Sr.- Member

City of Jackson

### Greg Odom-Member

DeViney Equipment

### Larry Leggett-Member

United Johnson Brothers of MS

### Martha Ulmer-Member

Carlisle Corporation

### Supriel Hodges-Member

Hope Credit Union

### Willie Abston-Member

Abston Law

### Yolanda Wilson-Member

Jackson Pediatric Associates

### Lisa Smith- Member

Retired

# our team

There is something special at MFFK. Threaded through our staff's DNA is the ability live out MFFK's values. They are professional, knowledgeable, supportive, welcoming, and a breath of fresh air for children and families that are put in unthinkable situations.

We've seen tremendous growth in our non-profit, which has led us to expand our team. We are excited about offering more programs and services to families now that we have added more social workers and Help Me Grow support staff.





# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Whether you are giving as an individual, group, or business, you make our services possible. Each dollar directly funds our services, programs, and events.

Thank you for your commitment to Mississippi families in 2023.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Special thanks to these dedicated donors who have gone above and beyond for MFFK.

- Atmos Energy
- New York Life Foundation
- United Johnson Bros. of MS
- Martin's Furniture
- Cowboy Maloney

### WK Kellogg Foundation

has dedicated significant funding to MFFK since its inception to support the growth of services to Mississippi's children. They are currently the organization's primary funder.

### Elijah Ministries

contributed \$5,000 to Homes for the Holidays so that children can have gifts under the tree for Christmas.

### Wendy's Co-op

is a collection of Wendy's restaurants who have committed to supporting the permanency work of MFFK since its inception. Their consistent contributions have made many of our permanency services possible.

### Brown-Forman

has supported MFFK events through in-kind donations for over a decade. This year, they have gone a step beyond to identify MFFK as community scholarship recipients.



Special thanks to our **Partners** who have helped us achieve and accelerate our mission!

## PARTNERS

- Abston Law
- BankPlus
- Belhaven University
- Boys and Girls Club
- Brown-Forman
- Business Networkers International
- Canopy
- Catholic Charities
- CAY Center
- Christ United Methodist Church
- City of Jackson
- Clean Slate Behavioral Health Solutions
- Community Bank
- Delta Sigma
- Demo with Mo Podcast
- Eaton Aerospace
- Dr. Yolanda Wilson
- Everscare Clinic
- Faith Haven
- First United Methodist Church
- Glory Empowerment Outreach
- Good Men Golf Association
- Greater New Jerusalem M.B. Church
- Growing Up Knowing
- Harmony Court
- Hinds Behavioral Health Services
- Home & Business Services & Property Management
- Hope Credit Union
- Hope for Mississippi
- Jackson Association of Black Social Workers
- Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center
- Jackson Hinds Library
- Jackson Police Department
- Jackson Rotary Club
- Jackson State Univ.



## PARTNERS cont.

Jefferson Davis County School  
Johnson Elementary  
Kiddie Korner Childcare  
Life of Mississippi  
Luxe Eighty  
Madison Preschool  
Medical Assurance of America  
Methodist Children's Home  
Mississippi College  
Modern Woodman of America  
MS Association for Infant Mental Health  
MS Department of Health  
MS Department of Mental Health  
MS Thrive  
MSU/SSRC  
NAMI-MS  
NAPA  
New Jerusalem Church (childcare)  
New York Life

North MS Child Care Resource & Referral  
Open Up Mississippi  
Operation Shoestring  
Peak Solutions  
Project HOPE  
Raines Elementary  
Sunnybrook  
Reddix Medical  
Teen Cry Out  
The Baptist Children's Village  
The Way Christian Center  
Trustmark Bank  
United Johnson Brothers of MS  
University of MS (R & R Center)  
University of Texas  
VFW  
Women's International  
Youth Villages

Our "Homes for the Holidays" for children in our programs was a huge success.  
125 children given Christmas gifts



# GET INVOLVED



## General Giving

You can give a one-time donation through our website and choose which area of MFFK you want your donation to go to. You can also set up a fund at MFFK by contacting us.

## Sponsorships

We host numerous events throughout the year that you or your business can sponsor including our Youth Leadership Camp, Wendy's Golf Classic, Winter Gala, Homes for the Holidays, and more.

*Check out our website or social media for more information.*



## Volunteering

We love our volunteers! Your time can make a huge impact. Contact us to learn more.



[mffk.org/donations](https://mffk.org/donations)

## GIVE AND GET BACK

Donations to MFFK qualify you for a special MS **dollar-for-dollar tax credit**- up to \$2,400 for couples and \$1,200 for singles.

Businesses also qualify for **dollar-for-dollar MS tax credits** through the Eligible Charitable Organizations (ECO) program.



## Referrals and third-party giving

Donations don't have to be monetary! We'd love your support by following us on social media, sharing our content, or referring our services to a friend.

You can also choose MFFK as your preferred charity through Amazon and Kroger to support us while you shop, at no cost to you. More information can be found on our website.



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT.  
HERE'S TO CHANGING  
LIVES IN 2024!

Learn more



[mffk.org](http://mffk.org) | 601.957.7670 | [info@mffk.org](mailto:info@mffk.org)