



**Providing families with
community support,
housing, and resources
so that children impacted
by foster care can find
stability, healing and joy.**

Your generous donations are changing a child's experience in foster care. By partnering with Joy Meadows, you have stepped in as an advocate for thousands of children in foster care to offer them hope, healing and joy.

We experienced another year of growth in 2022 through increased financial giving, new volunteers, expansion of our programming, and the number of children and families served.

Since starting Joy Meadows in late 2017, the positive response has been overwhelming to experience so many individuals, churches and community organizations sharing in helping children in foster care.

Together we have been able to begin a new model of support for children in foster care, and the families who serve them.

We are grateful to step into this space and begin to change a child's time in foster care from simply a holding pattern, to one of transformation by offering experiences that can bring hope and healing. Your support has also provided caregivers of children in foster care with hope and encouragement to keep serving the children who are most vulnerable.

It is with humble thanks that we take this opportunity to share with you just a snapshot of the impact Joy Meadows offered in 2022.

Justin Oberndorfer
Executive Director, Joy Meadows





The Problem

The current foster care system causes trauma upon trauma for the children it is supposed to be helping.

Children experience multiple moves, they are separated from siblings, have delayed access to therapy, barriers to extracurricular activities, and there is a lack of foster home retention due to burnout and isolation.



Joy Meadows' Mission



To provide families with community support, housing, and resources so that children impacted by foster care can find stability, healing and joy.



To be able to walk through a garden and an orchard and know they are surrounded by food is very comforting for kids that have food issues.

-Caregiver



Housing



The Need:

Removing a child from their home usually results in removing them from their siblings as well, which is often one of their most important and safe relationships. This causes further trauma upon the trauma which they were removed from.

Research shows that separation from siblings causes increased anxiety, depression, isolation, challenging behaviors and an increase in moves to different homes. This can also lengthen their time in foster care by making reunification with biological families more difficult due to logistics.

In addition, few foster homes have the space required by DCF to house large sibling groups, or the support needed for caring with multiple children with trauma.

Our Answer:

Siblings can be placed together in a large on-site Joy Meadows home with plenty of space for sibling groups, as well on-site support for therapy and resources to help the children with excellence and dignity.

2022 Impact

- **2 new foster families** join the residences in our Housing Program
- New home **construction completed on Home #2**
- New home construction started on **Home #3** with spring 2023 completion date
- **Therapy and support services** provided to children in the resident homes



*"I love coming to this place and wish I could come here every day and spend time with the animals."
-Child at Second Saturday*



The Need:

- Traumatic experiences cause dysregulation, behavioral issues, inability to attach, uncertainty as to safe relationships, sensory disorders in children
- Transient nature of foster care and behavior from trauma prevents access to extracurricular activities or public family activities
- Majority of children in foster care have food insecurities
- Complex trauma, abuse, neglect, and experiences require overlapping therapy treatments, and most children do not receive trauma-informed therapy
- Families must drive to multiple appointments each week, kids miss school, other children must be cared for creating barrier for services
- School age and youth children lack accessible summer programs and cannot be left home alone
- Human-animal contact and nature provide opportunities for regulation, relational connection, and healing but most children do not have access to these due to cost and location.
- Children lack basic clothing, shoes and toiletries when they come into care

The Solution:

Every aspect of the Resource Programming at Joy Meadows is intentionally designed to incorporate trauma-informed, research-based healing opportunities as part of the solution. Resources support both the child and the caregiver to promote regulation, which allows for relational connection and healing, as well as meet immediate physical needs. We provide a Therapy Center, Animal Sessions, Garden/Orchard, Summer Day Camp, Clothing Closet, Mentors for therapy, and monthly family events in the great outdoors called "Second Saturdays."

Family Resources



2022 Impact

- Therapy Center
2024 therapy visits
- Clothing Closet
521 children served
- Second Saturday events
1,106 attended
- Animal Sessions Pilot Program
70 equine sessions
- **Summer Day Camp** program launched with elementary and youth camps
- **Thousands of pounds of produce** given to children and families
- **All Families requesting mentors** were matched



"Serving as a volunteer is one way I can help provide something that gives others the chance to enjoy a carefree life experience whenever they get to visit Joy Meadows."
-Animal Volunteer

The Need:

Those involved in the foster care system such as agencies, churches and nonprofits often act as silos, depleting the same resource and have limited opportunity to network. Caseworkers and agencies are overburdened and expected to resolve multiple issues with little time, limited resources, or emotional connection. The majority of faith communities have no involvement with foster care or a way to get involved. People want to help foster children, but do not know how or where to help.

Foster families experience burnout and the average home quits within 10 months. Less than 50% of homes make it one year. Lack of retention causes children to move multiple times, a lack of connection needed for healing, and case disruption for children.

Our Answer:

The Community Support program gives everyone a role to play. People have a place to serve and impact lives using their unique skills and experiences. Networking resources and areas of specialty means that children receive more services and have needs met. The Church Network equips local congregations to be trained to create Care Communities for wrap-around support for foster and adoptive families.

Community Support



2022 Impact

- Church Network has **33 churches trained** in foster care support
- Families served by Care Communities continue to foster, **over 90% continue to foster into a second year**
- More than **4,275 volunteer hours** donated
- **Over 60 churches engaged** with Joy Meadows to provide volunteer hours or family support



2022 Improvements

Your partnership is providing the opportunity for hope, healing and joy to a child impacted by foster care.

Thanks to your generous giving we were able to implement several improvements to the property:

- New pavilion was built
- Playground installed
- New homes constructed
- Additional 15 acres acquired for pasture and property development



Future Plans

In 2023 we are expanding our impact for children at risk:

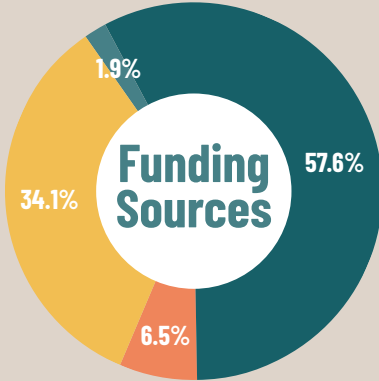
- Extending Summer Day Camp to entire season for over 100 children
- Animal Sessions over 300 will be offered
- "Hippotherapy" pilot program for OT equine therapy to launch
- 3rd home construction will be completed
- Land Use Development Plan to be completed





More than Numbers

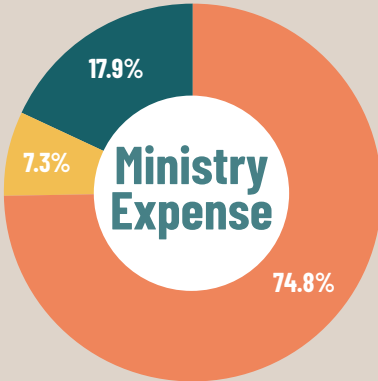
Every child you have helped through our Impact Model is more than a number. They are a life, they are a unique story, and providing them with hope and healing can have a generational impact of transformation.



Individuals	\$1,163,046
Foundations	\$689,400
Businesses	\$37,700
Churches	\$130,383

Total Revenue

FY 2022: \$2,020,530
FY 2021: \$1,127,143
FY 2020: \$770,453
FY 2019: \$594,879



Programs	\$313,108
Administration	\$30,737
Development	\$74,384

Capital Expense

\$1,338,067
Homes and pavilion construction



You Can Help Bring Joy All Year



Through Prayer

Include our foster families, guests, staff and volunteers in your daily devotions. Ask God to give them wisdom and guide their path. Join the prayer team.



Through Financial Contributions

Our greatest need is undesignated financial contributions. Respond to the mailing you receive from Joy Meadows or give securely on our website. Or consider becoming a monthly giving partner.



By Sharing Our News

Follow Joy Meadows on Facebook, Instagram, and Youtube for inspiring testimonies, urgent needs, volunteer opportunities and fundraising events.



By Giving Your Time

From picking apples to mentoring children, volunteers are needed in all areas of Joy Meadows. Sign up at joymeadows.org/volunteer.

Give Online: joymeadows.org/donate
Give by Mail: PO Box 182, Basehor, KS 66007

STABILITY • JOY • HEALING



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