



2021 Annual Report

Someone to Lean On

When you're a teen, navigating lonely and uncertain times in the child welfare system, who do you lean on? Thankfully, Alexis, Felicity, Faith and Precious, pictured on the cover, can lean on each other. After years in foster care, these four sisters have been adopted together into a loving, joy-filled home.

At Ampersand Families, we make it a priority to keep siblings together. This year we helped grandparents to create a permanent home for three young brothers. And three other sibling pairs stopped worrying about being separated because we helped them find homes together.

Even when it's not possible for siblings to share a home, our team is persistent and creative – finding ways for teens to stay in touch with brothers and sisters, other relatives and kin, as well as their community and culture.

In this annual report we share examples of how Ampersand Families has increased belonging, dignity, and hope for youth in the child welfare system over the past year.

We want to thank the generous donors, volunteers, board and exceptional staff members who helped us advance our mission every day. We are grateful for the

confidence the community and youth place in us. And as always, we are deeply humbled by our families' commitment to helping youth heal.

We all need someone to lean on. Thank you for being there for us...so we can be there for these resilient, extraordinary teens.



Michelle Chalmers
Executive Director



Steve Kenney
Board Chair



Our mission

Ampersand Families provides permanency and adoption services to older youth and families who face barriers to equity in child welfare, and champions systemic changes that advance belonging, dignity, and hope.

Your gift restores hope!

Join our circle of remarkable supporters who make Ampersand Families' work possible.

View our complete donor list
and find out how you can help at ampersandfamilies.org

Our New Address:

1751 County Road B West, Suite 300 • Roseville, Minnesota 55113

ampersandfamilies.org

612-605-1904

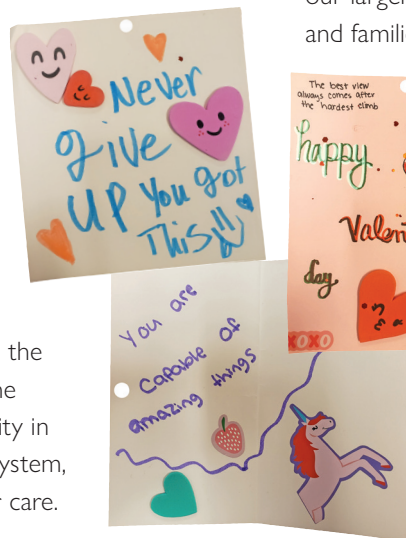
email: Info@ampersandfamilies.org

2021 Accomplishments

What a year! Once again, our team shined. They were inventive, resourceful and productive, delivering amazing services to youth and families in COVID-safe ways.

During FY21, we:

- Helped restore 32 youth to permanent homes. Our services are available across Minnesota and 11 tribal nations.
- Consulted with 50 relatives about their desire to provide permanency to a relative child. Ten began the home study process, and others provided additional support to the youth.
- Deepened our post-placement work. We expanded the Buddy Family respite program and creatively modified family retreats and other activities. Virtual meetups, family wellness boxes, and other supports helped youth and families navigate a stressful year.
- Provided 83 youth with professional photo sessions through the Minnesota Heart Gallery. They're enjoying their new photos, and social workers use them for family recruitment.
- Strengthened the MYVoice program, giving leadership development and engagement opportunities to 30 older youth who have lived experience in the child welfare system. The teens held online restorative justice circles about racial equity in their communities and the child welfare system, and they supported other youth in foster care.



- Launched a program to help secure relative/kin placements for children and teens immediately upon removal from their parent(s). This is part of our overall commitment to restoring youth to relatives, kin, community, and culture.



Equity and Excellence

In FY21, our board and staff created a new strategic plan to guide Ampersand Families' work over the next three years. We have recommitted ourselves to equity and excellence, pledging to 1) Strengthen program impact; 2) Take anti-racist action in all aspects of our work; 3) Ensure a work environment that advances equity, growth, transparency, and resiliency; and 4) Increase capacity to fulfill organizational aspirations.

To begin meeting our strategic plan goals, Ampersand Families moved to a new sun-lit office in Roseville. The space accommodates our larger staff – now 21 people – and is ready to welcome youth and families.

The team also made some small, but powerful, changes to our mission statement to be explicit about our commitment to equity in child welfare.

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Last year, the teens in the MYVoice program made valentines for their peers who were still in foster care.

FINANCIALS

Year Ending June 30, 2021

Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalent	611,954	395,625
Accounts Receivables	239,760	221,914
Other Assets	41,849	46,295
Total Assets	<u>\$893,563</u>	<u>\$663,834</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accruals	121,779	92,188
Deferred Revenue	0	0
Other Liabilities	0	0
Total Liabilities	<u>\$121,779</u>	<u>\$92,188</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	235,784	186,646
Board Restricted Net Assets	535,000	360,000
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	1,000	25,000
Total Net Assets	<u>\$771,784</u>	<u>\$571,646</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$893,563</u>	<u>\$663,834</u>

Statement of Financial Activity

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Contributions	393,607	287,784
In-kind Contributions	6,840	22,241
Government Grants	529,359	214,889
Government Contracts	850,470	830,700
Other	(22,352)	1,124
Total Revenue	<u>\$1,757,924</u>	<u>\$1,356,738</u>
Expenses		
Program Services	1,268,863	1,127,522
Management & General	224,267	169,470
Fundraising	64,656	55,050
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,557,786</u>	<u>\$1,352,042</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$200,138</u>	<u>\$4,696</u>