

Ampersand Families 2020 Annual Report



A Path to
the Future

Blazing a Trail

On the cover is a new family—Brian, Brandon and their son, Leo. Together, they've cleared away obstacles that were thrown in Leo's path during his many years as a ward of the state.

Leo, like most of the approximately 900 Minnesota youth who await adoption from foster care, had experienced incredible trauma and loss—separation from his family as a toddler and multiple moves from foster home to foster home.

Brian and Brandon believe—like we do—that “every kid should have a home.” Every year, Ampersand Families helps to blaze the trail for dozens of teens and families like Leo and his dads. Their stories are remarkable.

So, too, is the research on outcomes for adopted youth. In a study completed by Wilder Research in 2020, we learned that young adults who were served by Ampersand Families were healthier, more hopeful, and more often employed than were their peers who had aged out of “the system” without being restored to a family.

Building a new family is not easy—but our youth are worth the effort. Thankfully, many people are working together to break down barriers for resilient youth like Leo. We are especially grateful for the adoptive parents who make lifelong commitments. And we thank our exceptional staff, volunteers, and [generous donors](#). We appreciate you all.

Thank you for helping struggling teens to become optimistic young adults. Together, we are clearing paths to brighter futures.



*Michelle Chalmers
Executive Director*



*Steve Kenney
Board Chair*

2020 Accomplishments

Ampersand Families is Minnesota's only nonprofit adoption agency focused exclusively on providing permanency services to teens and families who face the greatest barriers in the child welfare system. We help our community's oldest, longest-waiting youth to move from temporary foster care into permanent, loving families.

In FY2020, 88% of the youth we served were age 10 or older and about two-thirds were youth of color. We provided individualized family recruitment, proactive training and matching, comprehensive transition services, and innovative post-placement supports.

We can work with counties and tribes anywhere in the state. Last year, we:

- Helped 35 youth to join adoptive families
- Completed home studies for 25 families
- Supported 59 family members who sought to provide a permanent home for a relative child

We also:

- Strengthened post-placement supports, expanding our Buddy Family program and hosting in-person and then virtual family retreats
- Arranged free professional photo sessions for 70 children and sibling groups (www.minnesotaheartgallery.org)
- Built up the MYVoice leadership program for 25 older youth who experienced foster care



Leo had lived in the child welfare system for more than 10 years and didn't meet his new family until he was age 15. This year, he graduated from high school and is confident about his future.



Plus, in the last quarter of the year, in the face of COVID, escalated calls for racial justice and economic recession, we doubled down on delivering exceptional direct services. We:

- Adapted youth and family activities to creatively provide support in COVID-safe ways, like sending family wellness boxes in lieu of in-person retreats
- Helped families to support our youth, who are uniquely affected by the triple pandemics of COVID, systemic racism and fears about the impact of the recession on the people they love

Above all, we continued to take an anti-racist, family-affirming approach to our work during this time that demands proactive, visible leadership.

FINANCIALS

Year Ending June 30, 2020

Statement of Financial Position

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalent	395,625	391,579
Accounts Receivables	221,914	203,108
Other Assets	46,295	51,155
Total Assets	\$663,834	\$645,842
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accruals	92,188	78,892
Deferred Revenue	0	0
Other Liabilities	0	0
Total Liabilities	\$92,188	\$78,892
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	186,646	262,950
Board Restricted Net Assets	360,000	255,000
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	25,000	49,000
Total Net Assets	\$571,646	\$566,950
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$663,834	\$645,842

Statement of Financial Activity

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Contributions	287,784	299,562
In-kind Contributions	22,241	54,998
Government Grants	214,889	148,705
Government Contracts	830,700	745,095
Other	1,124	1,191
Total Revenue	\$1,356,738	\$1,249,551
Expenses		
Program Services	1,127,522	1,103,718
Management & General	169,470	121,321
Fundraising	55,050	49,574
Total Expenses	\$1,352,042	\$1,274,613
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,696	(\$25,062)

At an
Ampersand
Families
retreat
(before the
pandemic), a
youth chose this
temporary henna
tattoo. "Family"

says it all—we all need
connections to relatives, kin,
community and culture to blossom and grow.



ampersand
families

belonging · dignity · hope

Our mission is to recruit and
support permanent families for older
youth, and to champion practices in
adoption and permanency that restore
belonging, dignity and hope.

ampersandfamilies.org

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