

2025 Community Impact Report



Who We Are



4,857
children and families
served in 2025

420 more than previous year

OUR MISSION

To help children and empower families by providing safety, advocacy, and support.

*“Every day at DABSJ, I’m reminded that this generation of children carries a goodness that can shape our future. The kids and families we walk alongside are not defined by their challenges; they are building new stories with strength, support, and hope. Our staff, partners, and donors make that possible. **When we show up together, we give every child a chance to stand on solid ground and move toward a life filled with possibility.**”*

— Ed Spillers, Board of Directors Chairperson



OUR CONTINUUM OF CARE

DABSJ’s programming and services provide a full continuum of care for children and their families. We’re there for those who need us, in the ways they need us.

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Providing stable homes for children when they can’t stay safely with their parents — and supporting the families who care for them.

FAMILY PRESERVATION

Helping families stay together through case management, counseling, psychiatry, and prevention services.

CAMPUS LIVING

Creating space for youth to heal, grow, and plan their next steps with specialized support.

Learn more at dabsj.org

Family Preservation Services

Helping families stay together.

As long as children are safe, they do best when they're with their families. At DABSJ, our goal is to help families stay together, navigate hard times, and develop the skills they need for a brighter future. We support children and families experiencing trauma, mental and emotional health issues, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and more — through tailored case management, counseling, psychiatry, and prevention services.

SUPPORT FOR STRONG BEGINNINGS: TAYLOR'S STORY

After welcoming her second child, Taylor couldn't remember the last time she felt like herself. She was suffering from severe postpartum depression, struggling to bond with her baby, and couldn't show up as the parent she wanted to be. That's when she found support in the **Early Childhood Attachment** program.

Taylor began working with a therapist specializing in parent-child relationships and healthy development. A year later, she feels like the best version of herself. Taylor has rediscovered enjoyment in friendships and hobbies, her bond with her children is stronger than ever, and she's planning to go back to school. Thanks to your support of DABSJ, Taylor is excited about the life she's building with her family.

1,331

children supported by
Family Preservation Services

A 16% increase from previous year



MEETING FAMILIES WHERE THEY ARE

The Family Preservation Services team connects with families where they are — literally and figuratively — to provide relationship-centered knowledge, tools, and resources to thrive.

"It's crucial in my work to meet families where they are. I never want families to feel like connecting with me is a burden; it's my role to make sure that I'm providing support in a way that is accessible."

— Joel Gustafson, Wraparound Services Facilitator

"Empowering families looks like acknowledging their efforts and strengths, encouraging them through difficulties, and identifying areas for greater support. Being on their team is such an honor!"

— Amber Ladd, Family Support Services Coordinator

Foster Care & Adoption

Providing safety and stability in a difficult time.

When a child can't remain safely at home, DABSJ comes alongside families with foster care to provide stable, loving environments. Whether a child is placed with a relative or community foster parents, our primary goal is family reunification. And when reunification isn't possible, we work to help find a supportive path forward, whether through adoption or other forms of care. We empower foster and adoptive families with compassion, clear guidance, and practical resources every step of the way.

CARING FOR CAREGIVERS: LINDA'S STORY

When Linda's grandson Daniel entered foster care, she left Florida and moved back to Michigan to care for him. She wanted to be his support system, but soon realized she needed help, too.

Struggling to meet basic needs and get legal answers, Linda felt overwhelmed and alone. She called DABSJ and spoke with a resource navigator who listened and took action, connecting her to a free legal consultation, support groups and counseling, and essentials like food and clothing.

By the end of the call, Linda had a plan — and hope. Thanks to your support of DABSJ, caregivers like Linda receive the resources they need to provide children like Daniel with safety, stability, and family connection.

31,165
days of care provided
for 133 children in
foster care

72%
of adopted children were
placed with relatives

*Maintaining family connections and resulting
in better outcomes for children*



STRONGER TOGETHER

Adoption can be a unique way to grow a family, but it doesn't need to be a lonely one. The Adoptive Family Support Network (AFSN) provides adoptive and foster parents across the state with education, support, and a community that shares their experience.

3,064 families supported across 81 Michigan counties

99% of children remained in their adoptive home





Campus Living

Creating space to heal, grow, and belong.

The transition from youth to adulthood brings both excitement and uncertainty. For teens aging out of foster care or young people with experience in the justice system, it can present additional challenges. DABSJ's on-campus homes provide youth a safe, stable environment with specialized support as they heal past trauma, learn independent living skills, and plan their next steps.

43
youth supported
through Campus
Living

NEW IN 2025: JUVENILE JUSTICE HOME FOR GIRLS

“Opening a residential treatment home for girls involved in the juvenile justice system reflects both a continuation of our longstanding work and an intentional expansion of it. For years, our programs have supported youth connected to the justice system, including many with overlapping child welfare needs. This home builds on that foundation while creating new opportunities to serve these youth and their families.”

— Joel Bell, President and CEO

LIVING INDEPENDENTLY, BUT NEVER ALONE: FREYA'S STORY

Freya had two goals: finish high school and build a future on their terms. Aging out of foster care, Freya entered **Independent Living Plus** to get support for the transition to adulthood. On DABSJ's campus, they had access to a coach, resources, and a safe environment where they earned their diploma while learning to manage responsibilities, advocate for themselves, and plan their next steps.

Freya graduated high school in spring 2025 and left ILP to attend Grand Valley State University. Now, having completed freshman year, Freya says the support they received at DABSJ helped them reach this milestone. “Having someone there who knew how systems worked — but still let me make my own decisions — made a huge difference. I did the work, but I didn't have to figure everything out alone.”



Community in Action

Events & Volunteer Impact

It takes a village to support children and families. Volunteers, sponsors, and community partners walk alongside the DABSJ team, helping to make donation drives and fundraising events possible. Together — with strong leadership from the DABSJ Guild — we ensure resources are distributed with intention, dignity, and respect for families.

Thank you to our volunteers and supporters for your steady presence and partnership.



Launched in July 2025 by the DABSJ Guild of Volunteers, the **Care Closet** supports families by providing access to essentials while centering dignity and choice.



The 29th Annual David Samrick **Golf for Kids Outing**, sponsored by Mill Steel Company, raised over \$347,000 for DABSJ's work.

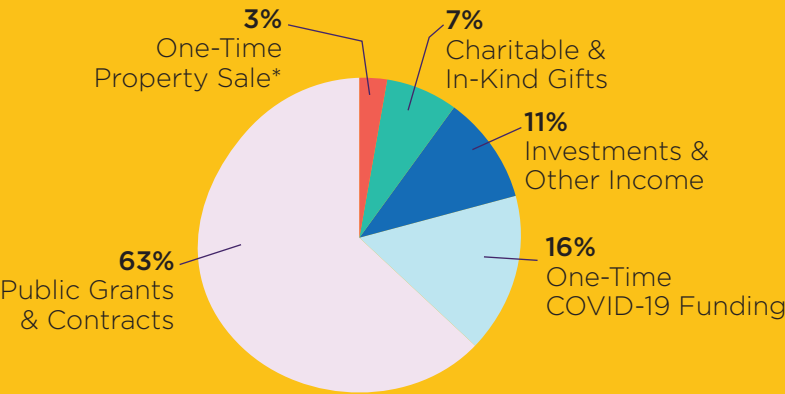


Volunteers fulfilled 420 wish lists and distributed more than 5,000 donated items through December's **Holiday Gift Drive**.

718
volunteers
contributed
1,600 hours

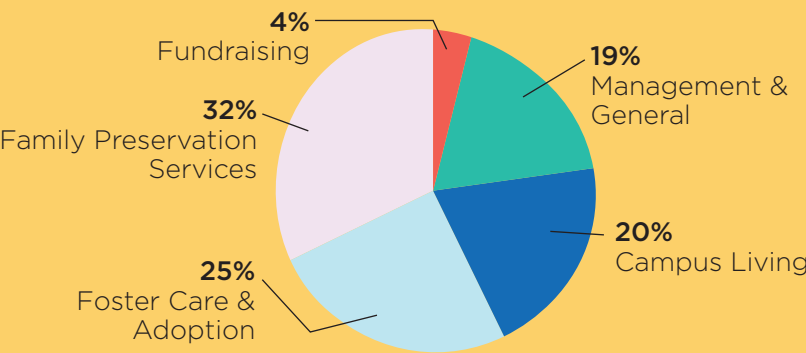
Financials

REVENUE
Total: \$20,165,298



*Revenue from sale of unused land parcel is designated to future campus home improvements.

EXPENSES
Total: \$15,096,102



Board of Directors

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Join a Community That Cares



Your support of DABSJ makes safety,
advocacy, and support possible.

Get involved today at
[**dabsj.org/be-involved**](https://dabsj.org/be-involved)



MAKE A GIFT



BECOME A FOSTER PARENT



STOCK THE CARE CLOSET

