



2024 IMPACT REPORT

Finding Her Future at Steppingstone

The only thing certain in Linda’s life was uncertainty. From ages 16-19, when most people stress about a science test or what their plans are for the weekend, she was wondering where she might sleep each night. For three years, she relied on friends to let her crash on their couches, stayed with cousins in a neighboring state, and even slept in her car. Struggling to survive was a daily challenge and a test of her strength.

A counselor from Linda’s high school noticed some warning signs and gave her information about ECH’s Kansas City Steppingstone program, which provides young adults with a stable place to live in group homes or one of their own apartments. They also gain valuable life skills, create educational and career plans, access healthcare, and work toward self-sufficiency.

It’s where Linda began her path to stability, one step at a time. “I’m so thankful for the staff checking on me and keeping me on track,” says Linda. “They helped me enroll in community college.”

Linda thrived within the program as she reached goals she set for herself. This impressive young woman recently moved to the Seattle area, where she is working and continuing her education with an expected graduation date of December 2026.



“Steppingstone was essential to help inspire me.”

– Linda, ECH Steppingstone Client



Hope for Every Child

Healing for Every Family

Every day.

“My therapist did an amazing job working with my family. She is a great listener and provided us with tools that helped us communicate more effectively with each other. We were able to use those skills in other areas of our lives as well.”

– Family Solutions for Kids parent

2024 Highlights

Dedicated in
APRIL 2024,

the William N. Dill Youth Development Center
houses

30 YOUNG PEOPLE
in our Residential Treatment program
at a time.

Our Foster Care team helped
189 CHILDREN
find their forever homes.

ECH was re-accredited by the
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION,
affirming our adherence to industry best practices.

73% OF RESIDENTS
who left the Residential Treatment program
were discharged to a less restrictive setting.

475 CHILDREN’S WISHES
were granted with
OVER 6,000 GIFTS RECEIVED
during our holiday campaign.

43% OF DAY STUDENTS
in the ECH School successfully transitioned
to a less restricted school environment.

11 YOUTH
in the St. Louis and Kansas City
Steppingstone programs received
their high school diplomas in 2024 and
3 ENROLLED
in higher education programs.



I am constantly inspired by the clients, staff, board, and donors at ECH. Our reach stretches throughout Missouri, providing care to our state’s most vulnerable children and families. It is an honor to be part of this organization that gives so much to so many, and to be a part of a **team that constantly innovates to meet the ever-changing needs of the community.** We are thankful to everyone who supports us in this work.



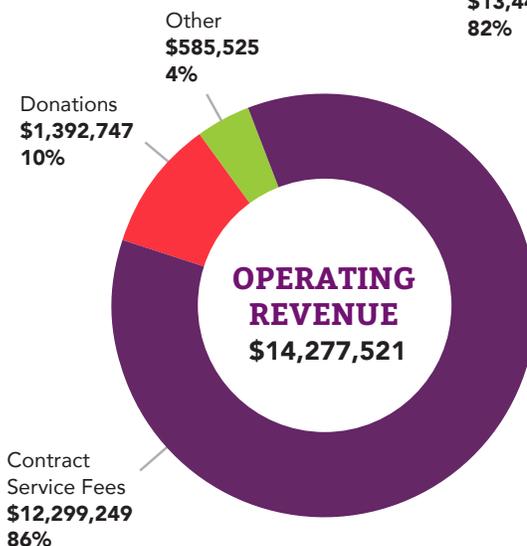
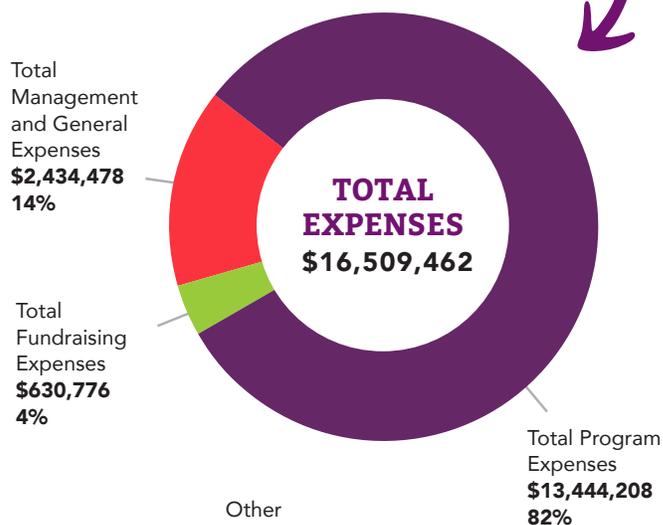
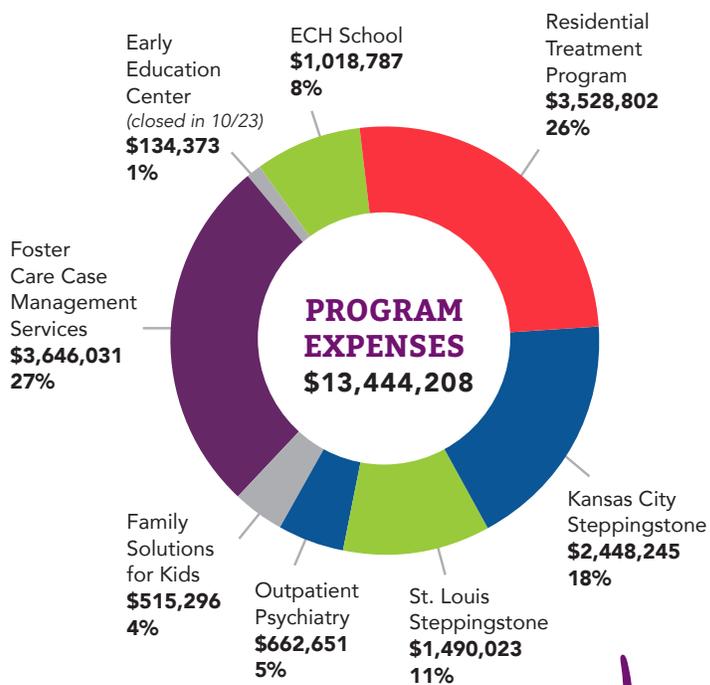
Shari Smith,
ECH Board President

As I reflect on our impact over the past year, I feel a sense of pride and gratitude. Each number in this report represents a person, a life with hopes and dreams, and I am so proud of the courageous and passionate staff at ECH who have been there to meet their needs. **I am forever grateful for the unwavering support we receive,** for we couldn’t do this work without it. The needs are great, and our team is wholeheartedly committed and honored to carry on the mission of ECH that has been serving children and families for 167 years.



Julia Adami, MS, LPC,
Chief Executive Officer

2024 Financials





Every Child's Hope

8240 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63114



Mission Statement

Partnering with the community to assist children, youth and families in their unique pursuit of health and wholeness through quality, professional, and faithful services.



Agency Leadership

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Chief Executive Officer

Angie Sliepen, M.A.
Chief Operating Officer

Pete Guiffrida, B.S.
Chief Financial Officer

Sherry Gerke, M.A.
Chief Development Officer

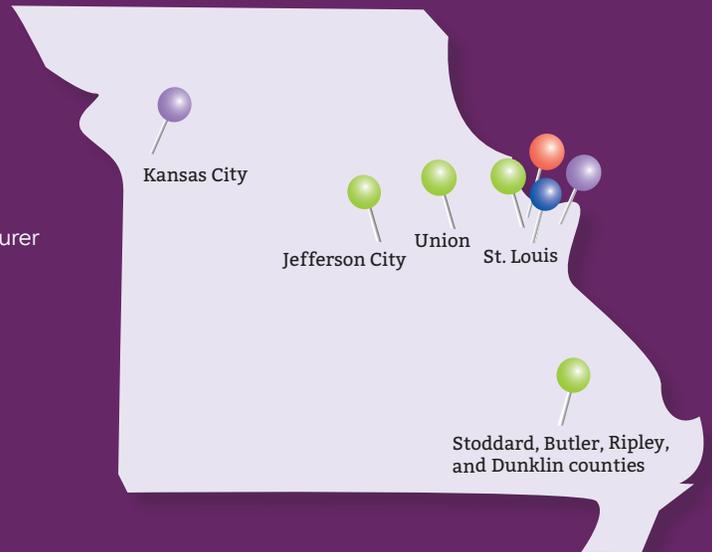
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Chief Administrative Officer

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- Educational Programs
- Home & Community Based Services
- Residential Treatment
- Transitional Living

everychildshope.org

