FISCAL YEAR
2022
year in review

131 TEAM MEMBERS

SERVING MORE THAN

1500 INDIVIDUALS, CHILDREN, & FAMILIES

ACROSS EVERY COUNTY IN THE COMMONWEALTH

A Mission that Matters

We enrich the lives and expand the opportunities of individuals and families in need of love, support, and safe places to grow and thrive.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF MORE THAN

200 DONORS
Service is a grounding practice, connecting us to our highest purpose as allies to a cause greater than ourselves. We stand with our community at the intersection of poverty, race, and interpersonal and community violence. We bear witness to suffering, inequality, and injustice.

Youth experiencing foster care deserve our collective attention. With minimal coordinated advocacy, their experiences go largely misunderstood, or, unknown. By just about every objective metric, youth experiencing foster care represent our country’s most systemically marginalized group of young people. Life outcomes for this population lag behind their peers in virtually every category — and yet there is stunning silence. This is unacceptable in a system that is supposed to protect them and in a country where every child is supposed to have a fair shot at success.

HopeWell is working to elevate their voices and amplify their stories. We need to raise awareness about this stain on our nation’s conscience, to identify what works, and to ultimately shift systems to be more accountable to an entire generation of youth and families.

While far from finished, I’m proud of what we have accomplished over the past year. From launching RISE, the nation’s first model to help close academic opportunity gaps for youth experiencing foster care, to working with our elected officials on important advocacy and policy initiatives — we are paving the way for a new future, all in partnership with those who have lived experience. In this new future, the experiences of youth impacted by foster care are known, because it is only then that we can begin to reckon with the impact our systems have on the lives of so many.

I want to thank all of our partners, supporters, and team members for their relentless work on behalf of our community. This work requires a village and I am proud to serve alongside you.

In solidarity,

SHAHEER MUSTAFA
PRESIDENT & CEO

HOPE IN COLLABORATION

We are bridging gaps across sectors

Through partnerships — with those who have real-life, lived experience, as well as with school districts, colleges and universities, state agencies, philanthropists, other nonprofit organizations, civil servants, consultants, policymakers, and community leaders and members — we are leading a paradigm shift about what is possible for the individuals, children, and families we support.

**Child Welfare**
- We help parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities live independently.
- We support youth with disabilities as they transition out of foster care.

**Education**
- Our RISE program advances education equity for children experiencing foster care via personalized, home-based tutoring.
- Our first-of-its-kind approach is made possible through deep partnerships with state agencies, local school districts, and colleges and universities.

**Workforce**
- My First Place™ focuses on the unique challenges youth face as they “age out” of foster care.
- Individualized case management includes a combination of housing, employment, and education support to help each youth reach their full potential.

**Housing**
- We collaborated with other organizations and members of the Massachusetts legislature to advocate for the Foster Parent Bill of Rights.
- Massachusetts’ FY23 state budget includes amendments that we recommended to better support youth “aging out” out of foster care.

**Disabilities**
- We support youth with disabilities as they transition out of foster care.

[Diagram illustrating the integration of child welfare, education, workforce, housing, policy, and disabilities]
**HOPE IN ADVOCACY**

**We are emerging as thought-leaders**

We set a goal to positively impact social policy and systemic change. This year, we raised awareness, increased urgency, and built political will around key issues.

**Highlights**

- We hired Julie Segovia as Vice President of Research, Policy, and Learning. Julie is HopeWell’s first-ever executive responsible for leading advocacy efforts.
- As a direct result of HopeWell’s first legislative effort, Massachusetts will collect transparent data around young people who are “aging out” of foster care for the first time in state history. This is a key step to ensuring they receive the supports they need and deserve.
- We proposed two amendments to the state’s FY23 budget, which achieved bipartisan co-sponsorship in the House and Senate and were then signed by Governor Baker.
- We know foster families have a vital job, so we helped push the Massachusetts legislature to support the Foster Parent Bill of Rights. This legislation helps ensure foster families are included in important conversations about individual children that may influence decision-making about their placements.

**Spotlight on Hope**

- Among youth in foster care:
  - >70% want to attend college
  - 10% enroll
  - <5% graduate

Post-secondary opportunities can help people live a life of their choosing — and every child deserves a fair shot at their post-secondary goals. Navigating these pathways can be tricky for everyone — but youth experiencing foster care face additional challenges, such as housing instability and lack of support networks.

**We can change these odds**

Spotlight on Hope is our new annual convening of practitioners, policymakers, and thought-leaders. This year’s discussion about post-secondary success featured a panel of experts and advocates from around the country, including those with lived experience in foster care.

May 24, 2022

Artists for Humanity Epicenter

Boston, MA

Thank you to this year’s event sponsors!

Liberty Mutual Insurance • Boston Children’s Hospital • Eastern Bank

**Every young person in the foster care system should be at risk of success, right?**

-Lyndsey Collins Wilson, Spotlight on Hope panelist
Families who have been referred to DCF are often experiencing strained relationships and multiple stressors, including poverty. We team up with families who are working to stay together: we provide intensive in-home supports to families who are at risk of having their children removed from their home, as well as those who are actively working toward reunification with their children.

A crucial part of helping families build bridges toward longer-term success is making sure their most immediate, pressing needs are met. We are able to do this through the generous support of our donor community — so thank you!

Every child deserves a safe, loving home — and each year, our Comprehensive Foster Care program ensures that for nearly 500 children throughout Massachusetts.

We recruit, train, and support foster families. And we are a trusted go-to provider when the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is looking for foster homes to best meet children’s needs.

This year, we ensured 490 children across Massachusetts had safe, loving foster homes.

I love providing them with lots of happy memories that all children should be able to have.

— Kathy, HopeWell foster parent

We are the largest nonprofit provider of foster care in Massachusetts

The number of families we support has nearly doubled since 2020

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HOPE IN FAMILY BONDS

This year, we supported 444 children and their families — that’s more than 1,000 people!

We support families’ needs throughout the Commonwealth.

[Our HopeWell clinician] Courtney is a little blessing in our family. I hope she stays with us and continues to help knock down walls!

— Family member

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This year, we launched RISE to close opportunity gaps for children experiencing foster care by providing the building blocks they need to grow strong reading and writing skills:

- Consistent in-home tutoring, adapted to meet each child’s unique learning needs
- A research-backed, custom-designed curriculum, grounded in both the science of reading and social-emotional learning
- Ongoing support to equip caregivers with the knowledge and resources they need to promote learning at home and at school

**RISE is currently 100% supported by philanthropy**

Thank you to our supporters for making RISE possible and for believing in the power of reading to change children’s lives.

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**July 2021**
- Hired our first RISE program staff

**January 2022**
- Began serving the first students

**July 2022**
- 20 children actively receiving education supports or who are in the pipeline to begin services

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**WHAT DOES PROGRESS LOOK LIKE?**

- A child asking their caregiver to buy a book for them to read together from the Scholastic book fair — for the first time
- Siblings who have begun calling themselves “Superhero Readers”
- A child being excited to read the back of a cereal box

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**WHY IT MATTERS: EARLY READING CAN HAVE LIFELONG EFFECTS.**

When kids struggle to learn how to read, it can affect their behavior, self-esteem, and cumulative learning across subject areas.

- Fewer than 1 in 4 fourth-graders who are behind in reading will ever catch up.
- Students who are behind in reading during elementary school drop out of high school at a rate 4x greater than their peers.

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**Third-graders experiencing foster care face one of the largest educational inequities among any group of students in Massachusetts.**

- 51% of all third-graders are on track in reading
- 26% of third-graders experiencing foster care are on track in reading

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**IN FY22, we launched our newest program, RISE**

**READINESS • INQUIRY • SCHOLARSHIP • EDUCATION**

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**HOPE IN EDUCATION EQUITY**
Young people often face uncertainty as they enter adulthood — and this is especially true for youth who are “aging out” of the foster care system. Research underscores the challenges they face during this time — within a few years of exiting care, only about half will be employed and almost 40 percent will experience homelessness.\(^4\)

Our My First Place\(^{\text{TM}}\) program makes sure that the unique challenges transition-age youth face don’t get overlooked. We provide free housing to ensure a safe, stable foundation. And we provide the tools they need to reach their full potential, including individualized case management and education and employment support.

I like the consistency of someone checking in on me, making sure that I’m meeting goals, and that there are updates within those goals.

-My First Place\(^{\text{TM}}\) participant

Since launching in 2018, My First Place\(^{\text{TM}}\) has served 77 young people across Greater Boston.

In fall 2022, we are thrilled to be expanding My First Place\(^{\text{TM}}\) to Greater Springfield, Massachusetts. Stay tuned for updates!
**HopeWell’s FY22 operations resulted in a planned deficit of $1.1 million due to capacity-building initiatives, made possible by a $4.2 million growth in net assets during FY21. Our FY23 budget projects grants and contributions to account for 10 percent of total revenue, as we continue to expand our fundraising and communications efforts.**

**Financial Snapshot**

**TOTAL FY22 REVENUE:**
$20,967,430

**TOTAL FY22 EXPENSES:**
$22,067,430

**Program Services** 83%

**Adult Support Services** 23%

**Child & Family Services** 74%

**Grants & Contributions** 3%

**Fundraising** 4%

**General & Administrative** 13%

**Note:** The snapshot above represents unaudited figures.

**We cultivate caring communities for adults with disabilities**

We support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they work toward gaining greater independence and mastering critical aspects of daily living, such as managing finances and using public transportation.

As part of our Shared Living Program, we get to know individuals’ strengths, needs, and interests and we match them with host families who provide a consistent and nurturing environment. We support these Shared Living host families with guidance and training to help them navigate situations that may arise. For adults who need more support, we run staffed community homes around metro Boston.

**HOPEWELL VOICES: ANITA DIRECTOR OF ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

Three years ago, I met a young lady who had two young children and lived in a Shared Living placement with a caregiver. From the moment I met her, she expressed her desire to live more independently.

Together with her support team, she has worked hard to develop more independent skills over the past three years. She recently organized and moved all of her belongings and her children into a new apartment, gave birth to her third child, and has been thriving ever since.

When I visited her this spring, she thanked me for believing, supporting, and assisting her in obtaining HER DREAM.

That is what success looks like to me.
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OUR SUPPORTERS EMBODY CARE IN ACTION
Our Supporters

HopeWell gratefully acknowledges the individuals, families, corporations, foundations, and organizations that have so generously supported our mission. The following includes gifts received between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of donor names. Please contact us with any changes to your listing.

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- Frieze Family Foundation
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Matt & Jennia Vettel

$50,000 and up

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$10,000 and up

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$5,000 and up

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Sources Cited in This Report


2. Massachusetts Department of Education State and District Profiles: 2021 Next Generation MCAS Achievement Results.


Become a Foster Parent

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for loving foster parents across Massachusetts. Adults from all walks of life can make amazing foster parents.

To learn more, visit: hopewellinc.org/foster

"I ENJOY OPENING MY HOME TO THESE BEAUTIFUL KIDS. I ENJOY GIVING THEM a loving family to grow with, A PERSON THAT THEY CAN TRUST, COMMUNICATE WITH, HAVE CONFIDENCE IN, AND BE HAPPY WITH. I TRY MY HARDEST TO MAKE EVERY KID FEEL IMPORTANT AND HAPPY. AND I TRY TO HELP THEM HEAL FROM WHATEVER THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH IN LIFE."

-Susan, HopeWell foster parent

Get Involved!
There are various ways you can support our mission and the work we do each day.

MAKE A DONATION
To donate, visit: hopewellinc.org/ways-to-help

You can also use this link to directly purchase items (such as blankets and baking sheets) for individuals, children, and families in need via our Amazon wishlist.

STAY IN THE LOOP
Sign up to receive occasional emails with news, updates, and resources by visiting: hopewellinc.org

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