



Effective Use of CBCAP Funds to Increase Family Stability

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Safe Families for Children



Effective use of Funds to Increase Family Stability



Safe Families
for Children

Safe Families for Children is a family preservation movement committed to supporting and strengthening parents to prevent children from unnecessarily entering the foster care system.



From Vision to Infrastructure

- Safe Families for Children launched in Tennessee with a small \$10,000 grant in 2008–2009.
- Early sustainability depended heavily on church partner fees, private foundation grants, and volunteer capacity.
- Program reach was meaningful but fragile, often limited by funding and volunteer availability.
- Even in the early years, churches and partners saw the model strengthen families and reduce isolation.



Public Funding Fueled Stability and Growth

- COVID increased family stress as nonprofit resources declined.
- CB-CAP funding provided multi-year stability.
- Stable funding strengthened staffing, implementation, and volunteer support, leading to greater impact and new funding opportunities.
- Opioid Abatement funding expanded services for families facing substance misuse, recovery, housing, and childcare challenges.



Effective Funding Builds Family Stability

- Evidence-based prevention requires infrastructure: fidelity, documentation, screening, training, outcome tracking, and quality assurance.
- State funding provides the foundation for stability, accountability, and planning.
- Churches, donors, foundations, and volunteers add relational support, flexibility, and local ownership.
- The result is a stronger prevention model that keeps parents supported, children safe, and families together.



Objectives

CHILD WELFARE DEFLECTION

Reducing foster care placements by providing a safe alternative to custody.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

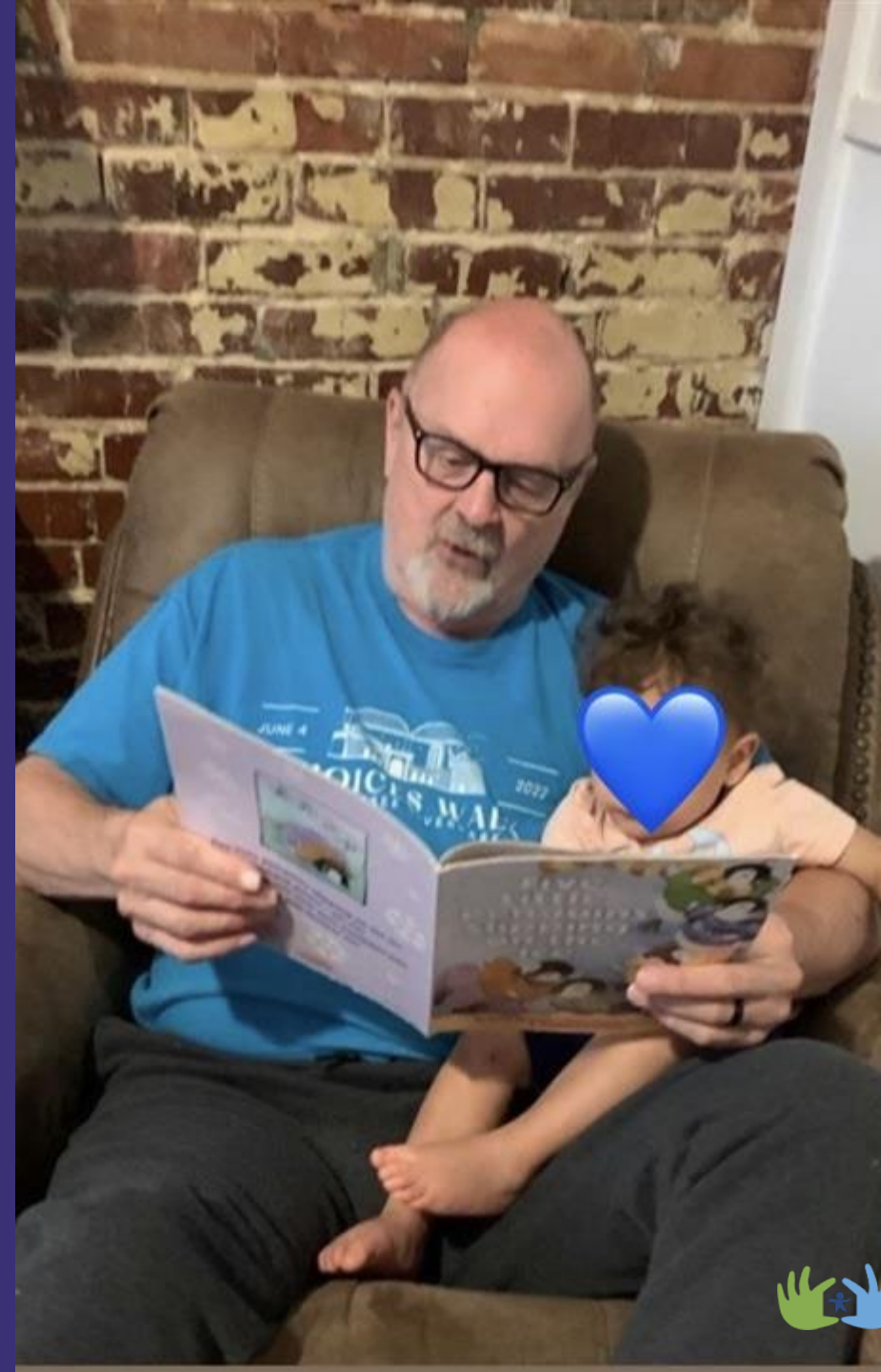
Providing safe, temporary care that aims to prevent abuse, neglect, and family separation.

FAMILY SUPPORT & STABILIZATION

Our volunteers become an extended family-like support for socially isolated families.



Chattanooga mom story

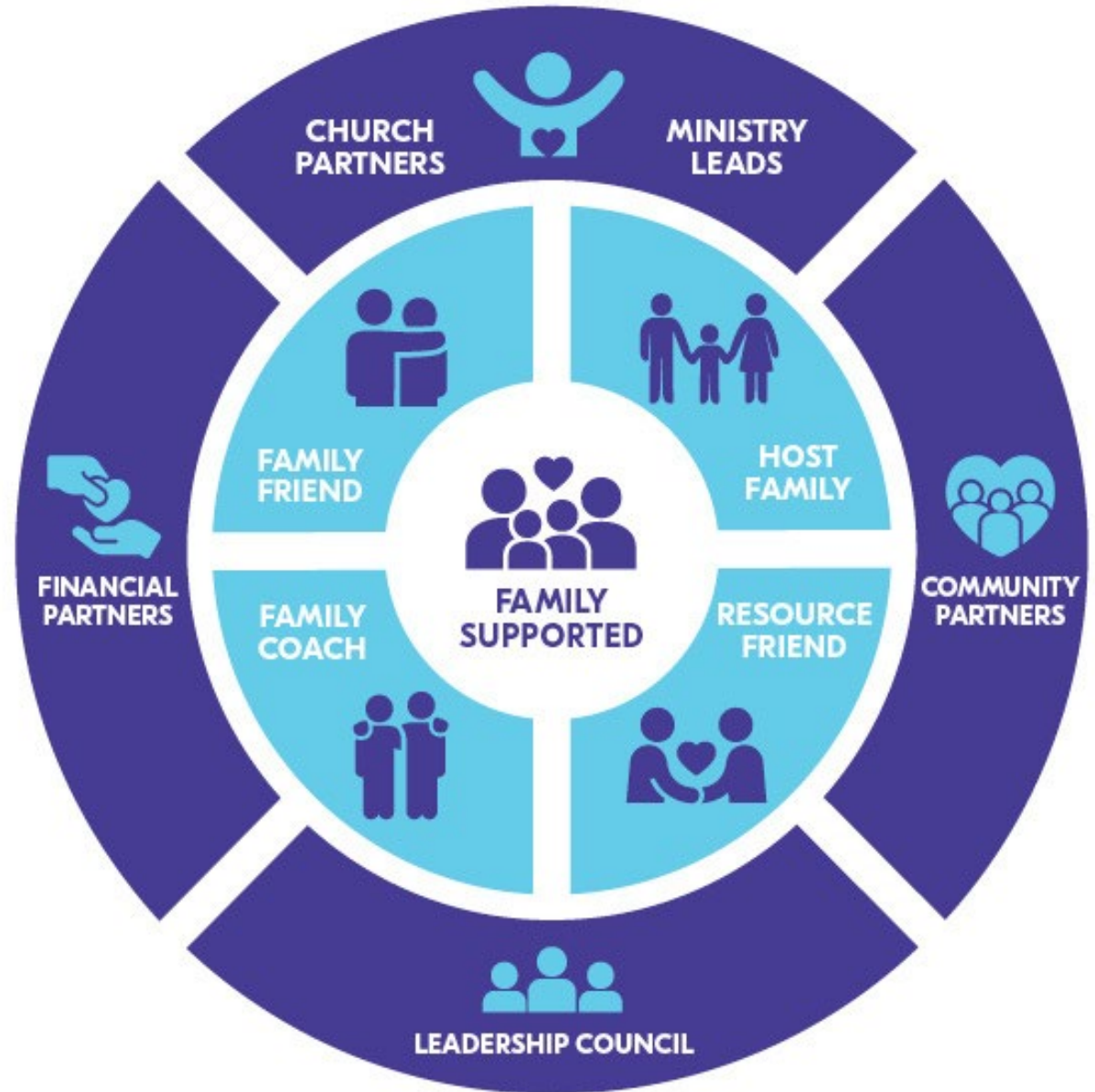


Key Takeaways

- Safe Families is **NOT** Foster Care
- Involvement is **VOLUNTARY**
- Parent(s) **DO NOT** lose custody
- Assistance is **TEMPORARY**
- We are **VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN, PROFESSIONALLY SUPPORTED.**

Circle of Support

Wrapping family-like support around parents to keep **children safe** and **families together!**





Safe Families for Children helps to build social support systems around families who are experiencing:



Social Isolation



Unemployment



Homelessness



Mental Health Issues



Addiction Recovery



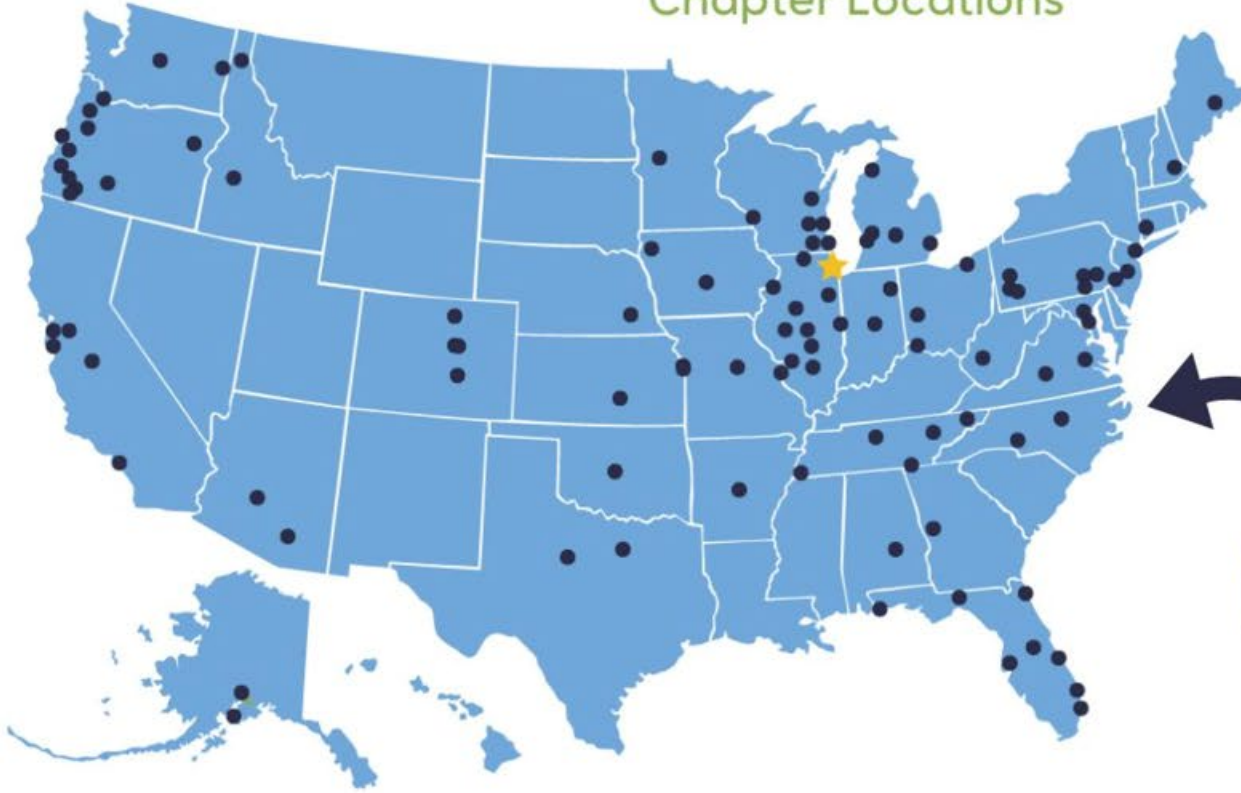
Domestic Violence



Medical Emergencies



Safe Families *for* Children
Chapter Locations



40,000+

Children and
Families Served

35,000

Volunteers

100

Chapters across
America

98%

Reunification
Rate



SAFE FAMILIES FOR
CHILDREN

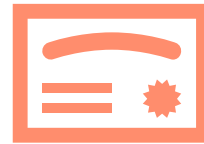
Breaking the cycle of foster care: Lakeisha's Story



EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare gave Safe Families for Children a **High Child Welfare Relevance Rating**, finding that SFFC is:

- Effective in preventing foster care placement
- As safe as usual services during maltreatment investigations
- Effective in helping reunify children with their parents



FAMILY FIRST IV-E APPROVAL

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) is 1 of only **29 nationally recognized programs** approved by the Prevention Services Clearinghouse, making it eligible for **Families First Title IV-E funding**.

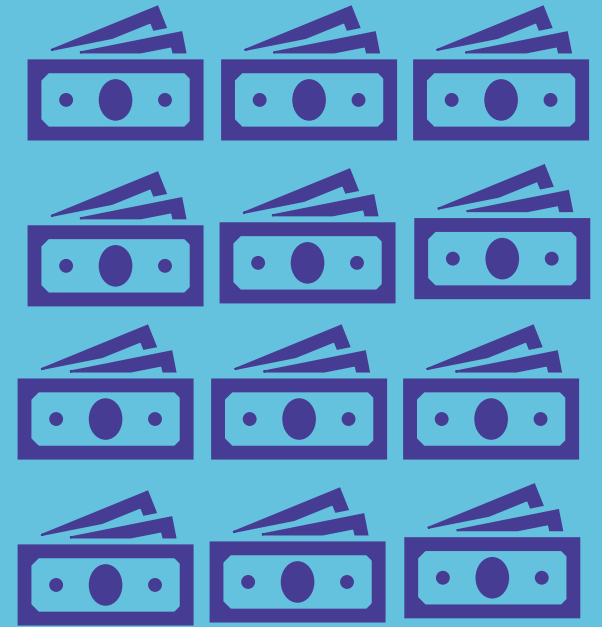
- States can include SFFC in their IV-E plans and receive federal reimbursement.
- **Next step:** Advocate for Tennessee to add SFFC to its Families First Title IV-E plan.

COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND ROI

Safe families costs less than 5% of the average cost of foster care. Safe Families decreases the need for short-term state custody while improving child, parent and community well-being.



\$4,700
AVERAGE
COST PER
FAMILY
SERVED 1
YEAR



\$30,000
AVERAGE
COST PER
FOSTER
PLACEMENT

Nashville mom story



Tennessee growth analysis

Outreach expanded rapidly while support shifted toward family friending and case management.

+175%

Outreached individuals

1,557 → 4,275 | 2024–2025

+109%

Outreach events

202 → 422 | 2024–2025

+57%

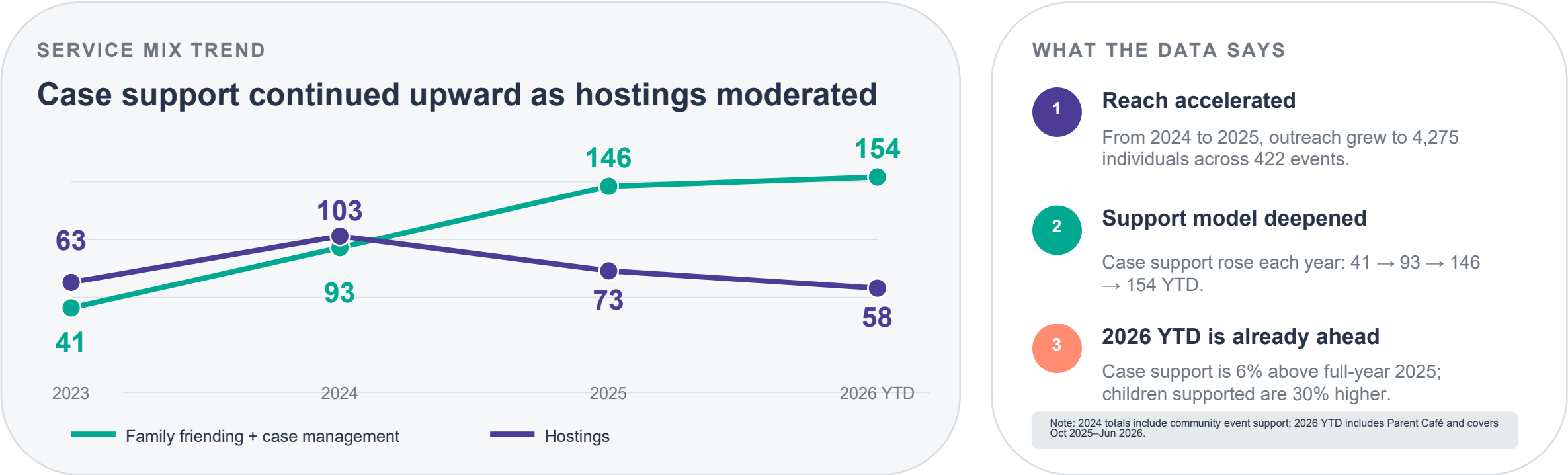
Case support
Family Friend & Case Management

93 → 146 | 2024–2025

–64%

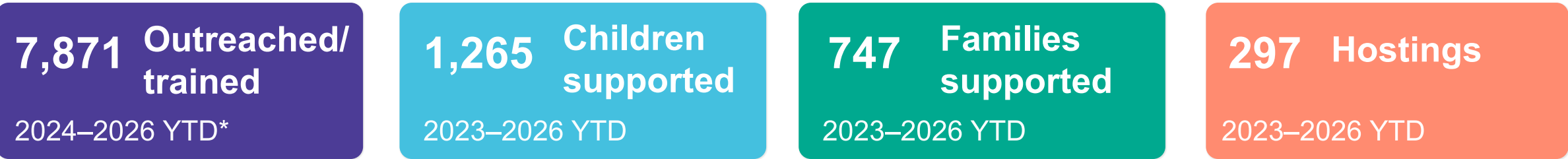
Average hosting stay

28 → 10 days | 2024–2025



Safe Families Tennessee impact | 2023–2026

Four reporting periods show broad reach, sustained direct support, and nearly 300 hostings.



ADDITIONAL REPORTED IMPACT



Annual family-friending and case-management volume rose
41 → 93 → 146 → 154 YTD.

WHAT THE TOTALS SHOW

- 1 Direct support reached families at scale**
1,265 children and 747 families were supported across the four reporting periods.
- 2 Case support expanded every year**
Family-friending and case-management activity totaled 434, rising each period.
- 3 Hostings remained a core service**
297 hostings were reported from 2023 through 2026 YTD.

CONNECTING FAMILIES TO FAMILIES THROUGH

PARENT CAFES



Memphis mom story



Stronger families, safer children



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