



FEDERAL HILL HOUSE
You Belong Here

Find Hope Here

The Impact of Hope

2024 Annual Report

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Staff compete in an intense Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament during a staff team building day.

Welcome Message



Kimberly Fernandez
Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters,

I didn't know until recently that sunflowers are a symbol of **hope**, but I like it.

It's been a challenging several months at **Federal Hill House (FHH)**—adjusting to the new political and funding realities that we're facing, and the uncertainty of what's to come. Community needs are rising just as resources are receding.

But when I look at our impact over the last year, and so far in 2025, I see hope all around.

Hope takes shape in the hands of a volunteer stocking the food pantry, in the smile of a child learning new words, and in the determination of a parent working toward a brighter future for their family.

Each year, **more than 7,500 households in our community** find support, education, and opportunity through FHH programs. From early childhood education to after-school enrichment, from food security to senior services, we are committed to **helping our neighbors thrive at every stage of life**.

This report highlights stories of **hope** and resilience—families overcoming challenges, individuals reaching new milestones, and a community that continuously uplifts one another.

Hope isn't just something we witness—it's something we create. What can each of us do, in a determined way, to bring **hope** to others?

For 138 years, FHH has thrived by engaging our community and working together to build a future full of promise. Thank you for being part of this incredible intergenerational community. You belong here and you'll find **hope** here.

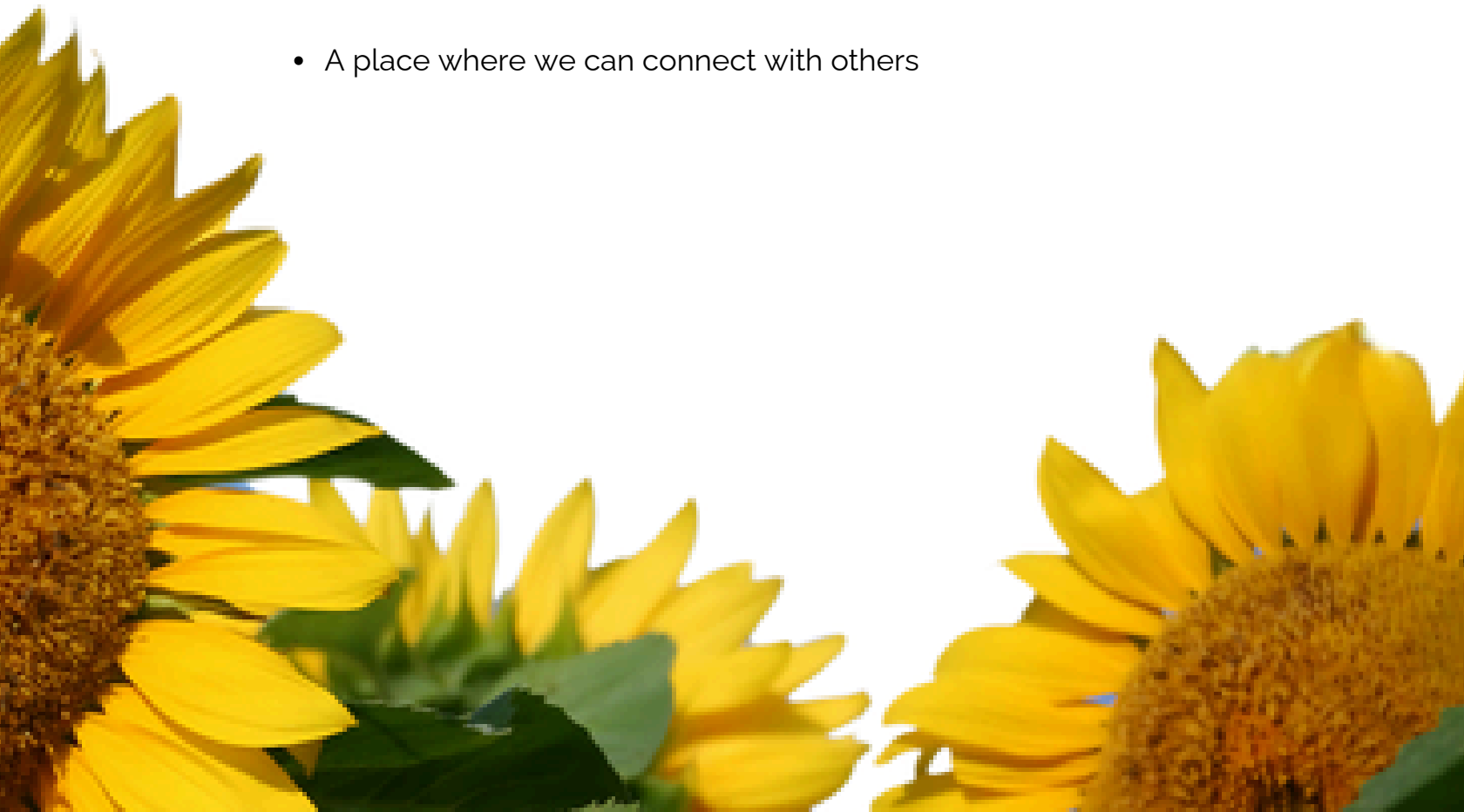
With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly E. Fernandez".

Kimberly E. Fernandez
Executive Director

We're a place where people can access what all families need to thrive:

- Support to help us be the best parents we can be, setting the stage for our children's health, development, and well-being
- Quality child care so we can work and our children can learn
- Education and enrichment opportunities for our school-age children
- Positive role models, skill-building, and resume-building opportunities for teens and young adults
- Access to healthy, culturally responsive food and meals
- Help maximizing income, benefits, and tax returns
- Opportunities for engagement when we are older
- A place where we can connect with others



Our Mission

Our mission is to help our neighbors in Federal Hill, Olneyville, and the surrounding community thrive, at every stage of life.

Core Values

Belonging

You belong here. No matter who you are, where you come from, what you bring to the table or what you need, you are welcome, valued, and respected.

Empathy

We listen to understand and respond with compassion to the needs of our staff, clients, and community.

Partnership

We have the greatest impact when our staff and community work together strategically toward collective goals over time.

Accountability

We hold ourselves and each other accountable for our actions.

Justice

We create opportunities for people to learn, grow, be cared for, and care for others, and work to make these opportunities accessible.



Hope for Our Children



Hope begins with opportunity. From a child's first words to their first job, we are there every step of the way, providing the building blocks for a bright future.

Through **Providence Talks** playgroups, families learn how to build early language and literacy skills through talking, playing, and reading with children.



FHH's **Early Learning Center** and **School-Aged Child Care** create strong foundations for lifelong learning and enable caregivers to provide for their families knowing their children are safe and engaged.

Our **21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLCs)** ensure that students have access to enriching, supportive environments beyond the classroom.



Our **youth internships, service learning, and work-based learning opportunities** equip young people with essential skills and real-world experience.

By investing in our children and youth today, we empower them to thrive tomorrow—because at FHH, **hope starts here.**

Hope, Growth, and Gratitude: Kash's Experience



Khaseem "Kash" Mills joined the school-age team as a work experience intern in 2021. He is now the Assistant Site Coordinator at the Asa Messer Elementary School 21st Century Learning Center.

“

"I've loved every moment of working with the children and staff over the years. Being here has helped me in my life tremendously. I've learned and grown so much as a young adult.

I couldn't be more thankful for the kids and my school-age team. Everyone at FHH has always seen the best in me—they've helped me attain goals I thought were unreachable. I plan to continue going above and beyond with my work here at FHH."

”

Feeding **Hope**: OFC's Growth and Transition

After seven incredible years of growth, resilience, and community impact, the **Olneyville Food Center (OFC)** has transitioned from Federal Hill House to the RI Community Food Bank.

We are deeply proud of what we accomplished—growing from serving 200 families a month to nearly 200 families a day, responding swiftly during the pandemic, and distributing over **1.1 million pounds of food** to **4,282 households** in 2024. This work was only possible thanks to our remarkable staff and volunteers, who created a space that offered not just food, but dignity, connection, and **hope**. As OFC moves into its next chapter, we look forward to continuing to nourish our neighbors through our **Swiss Street Food Pantry**, and we are profoundly grateful for your ongoing support.



Hope for Our Families



We believe that **hope** begins with stability. Families thrive when they have access to basic needs, financial security, and quality childcare—and we are here to provide that foundation.

Our **Family Support Team** offers resources and support to families, helping them access everything from food and housing to healthcare and job resources. They help parents learn about and support their children's growth and development, and access resources for their children when needed.



Our **food pantry** ensures no family goes hungry, and serves as an entry point to our menu of programs and services—including our family support team, who can refer families to other community partners.



FHH's **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program helps households maximize their refunds, keeping more hard-earned dollars in their pockets and ensuring taxpayers access all available credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Through these essential services, we empower families with the resilience, stability, and security they need to build a brighter, more **hopeful** future.

Family Support Team:

A Slam Dunk for Families

When Fedeliza first met **Family Support Team** member, Paola, she was pregnant with her younger daughter Nashla and on unsteady ground. Paola supported Fedeliza with information on child development, attachment, and nutrition, while working to build a foundation that would create a healthy life for her family.



Nashla holds court

Nashla, now four-years-old, attends our Early Learning Center, where through Early Intervention program efforts, she is receiving speech and language therapy.

Fedeliza navigated the lottery system and enrolled her elder daughter, Amy, in a nearby charter school. Last summer, Amy was thrilled to attend FHH's **summer camp** and plans to return this summer. True to our **multi-generational** appeal, Fedeliza's mother stays active by attending Zumba classes at the **senior center**.

Now, Fedeliza is employed and she and the girls are stable. They visit our **food pantry** to supplement their grocery budget. We all need help sometimes. When Fedeliza needs help she thinks of FHH. She has referred family and friends here.

Through each life stage and challenge, FHH has been there—this family is a testament to the deep, lasting impact of our work, the dedication of talented staff, and to Fedeliza's courage and determination.

Hope in Every Note:

Roderick's Impact on Children and Community



Roderick Jones is a talented singer, dancer, and mentor. In 2020, he started working at the FHH after-school program in addition to his day job as a behavior specialist in a public elementary school. Children immediately connect with Roderick—he gets to know each of them as individuals and keeps them active and engaged during **after-school and summer programs**.

When Roderick became a father in June 2022, he and his wife, Shanice, enrolled Alina in our **infant classroom**. Alina thrived with the love and care of the infant teaching team and **AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers (Foster Grandparents)**. After about a year, Roderick and Shanice tried enrolling Alina in a program closer to home. Alina wouldn't have it. She missed her friends and teachers—and her parents missed the close communication, quality education, and family atmosphere at FHH. So Alina's been back with us for 2 years; she's learning and growing at an incredible pace.



Roderick says, "I love working at FHH—it's a blessing to be a part of each child's growth and character development while creating new and exciting experiences they appreciate. It brings me so much joy and comfort knowing my child is next door, learning and playing with amazing staff members who truly care for Alina's development. We enjoy family events such as harvest festivals and community Thanksgiving. We even get our taxes done at FHH through the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program**."

Roderick sang for our seniors at the last holiday party—he embodies our mission of helping our neighbors thrive at every stage of life.

Finding **Hope**, Building Community:

Jen's Journey from Parent to Pantry Manager

Jen Bisio, FHH's **Swiss Street Food Pantry** Manager, lives just two blocks away. Eight years ago, Jen came to Federal Hill House as a parent seeking quality after-school care for her three boys. FHH quickly became a second home for her family.

Her children Anders, Cameron, and Jonny, now ages 18, 17, and 13, thrived in the **after-school program**, benefited from distance learning through the pandemic, and looked forward to FHH **summer camp** each year. Anders and Cameron participated in FHH's **paid work-experience programs**, gaining valuable skills while working at the food pantry and summer camp. Jonny hopes to follow in their footsteps when he turns 14.

In 2021, FHH offered Jen an assistant position at the Swiss Street Food Pantry. Jen excelled in the role and was quickly promoted to Pantry Manager. Now, she plays a vital role in ensuring that families in her community have access to nutritious, culturally-responsive food as well as information about programs and opportunities at both FHH and community partners. Jen learned a ton of Spanish and runs a tight ship—essential when her team **serves 3,613 households** each year and **provides 301+ families** with **16,675 pounds of food** per week. That's an average of **392 visits** in just 16 hours a week!

Jen's story is a testament to resilience and community. What started as a simple search for care for her children turned into a life-changing journey—one where Jen not only found support but became a source of support for others. Today, she is an inspiring example of a family that finds **hope** at Federal Hill House, and brings **hope** to others.



Hope for Our Seniors



Hope shines brightest where kindness and connection come together. We see **hope** in the smiles of older adults finding community, in the hands of volunteers offering a warm meal, and in the hearts of seniors who dedicate their time to guiding the next generation.



Hope is not something that happens to us—it is something we create. Through our **Senior Center**, older adults find purpose and connection in **exercise and meditation** classes, shared **meals**, and health and **wellness** programs. Through our **AmeriCorps Senior Programs**, **Foster Grandparents** bring **hope** to children, offering patience, wisdom, and care while earning a small stipend for their service. Our **RSVP volunteers** embody **hope** by stepping up in **food pantries**, assisting families through **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**, and supporting after-school programs.



You, too, can be **hope**. Whether by lending a hand, sharing a meal, or giving your time, every act of kindness strengthens our community. **Hope** lives here—because of people like you.

From Classroom to Community:

A Festive Spirit and Compassionate Heart

For over a decade, Maria Alves has been a dedicated and vibrant member of the **Foster Grandparent Program**. Maria has a special way of brightening the lives of both children and staff. One of her most cherished traditions is celebrating the seasons in style—donning festive outfits that bring excitement and joy to the classroom.

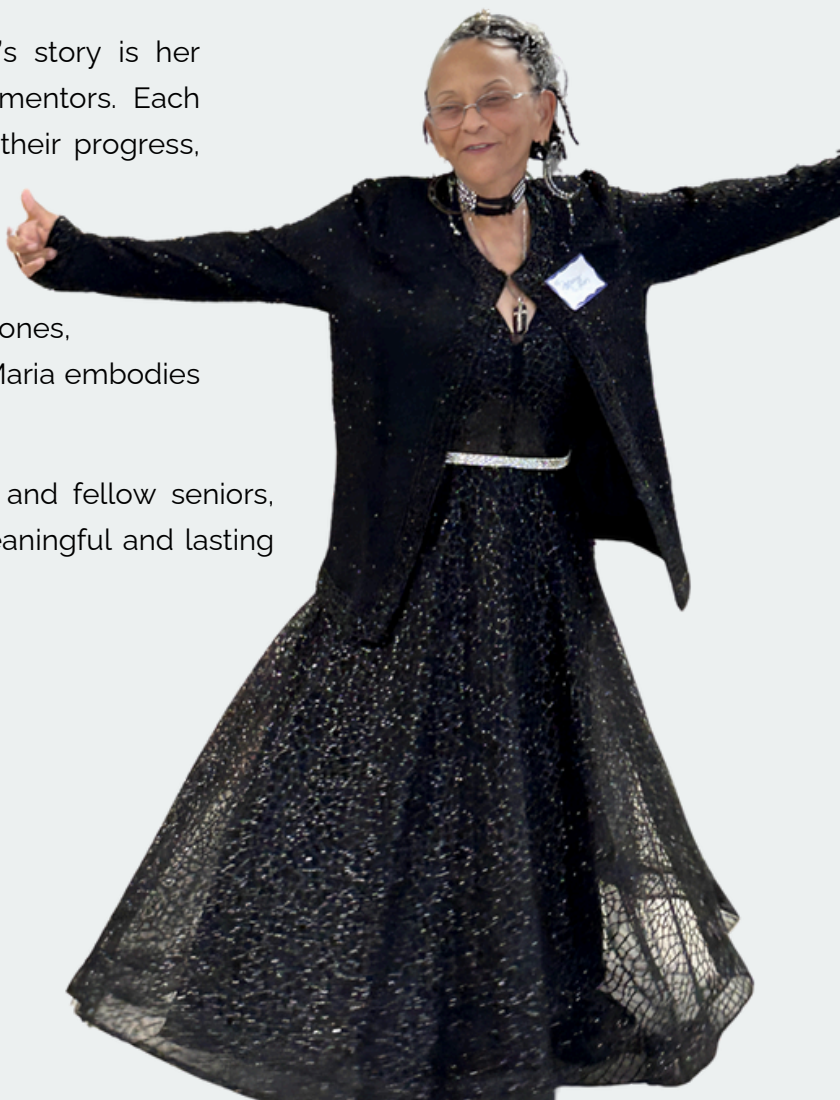
Maria fully embraces **senior center** events, participating in activities such as Zumba, Tai Chi, and Bingo. Maria enjoys nutritious meals at the meal site, takes part in **social and wellness programs**, and ensures her well-being by accessing **food pantry** services and **CSFP senior food boxes**. Maria is hard of hearing and reads lips; she speaks fluently and does not miss a beat in the classroom, senior center, or community.

Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of Maria's story is her unwavering dedication to the children she mentors. Each month, she eagerly shares anecdotes about their progress, demonstrating her deep investment in their development.

Whether comforting a child, celebrating milestones, or simply offering words of encouragement, Maria embodies the heart of the **Foster Grandparent Program**.

Her presence is a gift to the children, staff, and fellow seniors, proving that age is no barrier to making a meaningful and lasting difference filled with **hope**.

Her lively spirit earned her first place in the talent show, where she dazzled in a splendorous and glittering outfit—a testament to her infectious joy.



The Power of Compassion

Grandma Elsa's Quiet Lesson in Kindness

Grandma Elsa serves as a **Foster Grandparent** at the Genesis Center's Early Learning Center. She was recognized by her site manager as a wonderful teacher—not through grand gestures, but through the simple and compassionate routines she brought to the toddler classroom each day. One child, in particular, struggled with emotional moments, often crying inconsolably. Rather than trying to stop the tears quickly, Grandma Elsa began to gently rub the child's back, offering soothing words of comfort and encouragement. Part of a **Foster Grandparent's** role is to model and encourage **healthy social-emotional skills** development.

Over time, the child learned to expect a moment of calm reassurance in the middle of a big feeling. **But what was truly remarkable was how Grandma Elsa's kindness began to spread**—other toddlers in the classroom noticed. When one of their toddler classmates was upset, they, too, would gently rub a classmate's back or whisper soft words of comfort, just as they had seen Grandma Elsa do.

Her simple yet powerful act of compassion not only helped one child feel safe and supported but also nurtured an environment where **empathy and kindness became second nature to the entire group**. Grandma Elsa's presence in the classroom has left a lasting impact, showing that even the smallest gestures can shape a community of care and understanding.



Hope for Our Future



In times of uncertainty, our core values are unwavering. For 138 years, Federal Hill House Association has been a safe haven, a beacon of **hope**, and a place where everyone is always welcome.



2024 Impact



168+

Families completed program

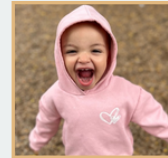
29+

10-week parent-child playgroups

8+

Libraries and community centers across Providence

Early Learning Center



115+

Enrolled

6

Classrooms serving 6 weeks to 5 years



School-Age Programs

Childcare & Camps



82%

Childcare participants receive DHS subsidy

66+

After-school at Swiss St.

125

21st CCLC participants at Kizirian and Messer elementary schools

57+

Summer campers



Youth & Young Adults

26

Paid work experiences

12

Unpaid service experiences

7

Hired permanently

Senior Center

Visitor Outcomes



81 Active Seniors

100%

Felt an increase in social support and felt less lonely

65

Enjoyed recreational activities with **894** attendances

1,646

Meals served

76

Meal site visitors

53

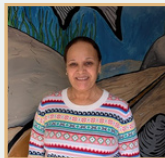
Exercised with **576** attendances

43%

Would miss meals w/o lunch program



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**
Foster Grandparent
Program



53,445 Service hours

50+
Active FGPs

85+
Children
impacted

6 SITES
• **5** Early Learning
Centers
• **1** Elementary
School



Federal Taxes

661
Returns accepted

\$835,821
Total refunded

State Taxes

764
Returns accepted

\$419,662
Total refunded

44% seniors

Food Pantries



575+
Volunteer
shifts

45,434
Visits

7,066
Unique households

48
Unique volunteers

2,083,479
Pounds of food distributed



**AmeriCorps
Seniors
RSVP**



91+ Active Volunteers

52 Food pantries

7 Providence
Talks
program

17 Senior centers

15 Volunteer
Income Tax
Assistance

**Family Support
Team**



191+
Families served

229
Community
resource referrals

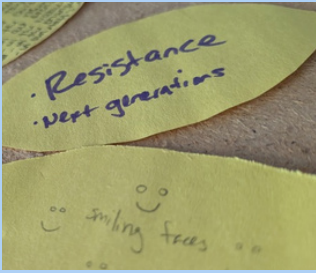
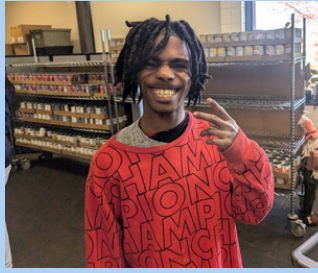
Hope From Our Supporters

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Alternatives for Youth Foundation
Anonymous Foundation
A-State Medical Billing Management
Aurora Civic Association
Bank Newport
The Beacon Foundation
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island
Bradforde Sutcliffe
Bristol County Savings Bank
City of Providence
Community Development Block Grant Administration for Children and Families / U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Conley Law
Corporation for National and Community Service
CVS Foundation
Dexter Donation Fund
Emma G. Harris Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

Gilda's Pantry Fund
Hasbro Children's Fund
Internal Revenue Service
John C. Clarke Foundation
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Meals on Wheels Rhode Island
Navigant Credit Union
Ocean State Charities Trust
Rhode Office of Healthy Aging
Papitto Opportunity Connection
Providence Tour Company
RI Energy PPL Foundation
Private donors & friends
PuroClean
Rhode Island Community Food Bank
Rhode Island Foundation
Rhode Island Department of Education
See the Gaps, Inc.
United Way of Rhode Island
Washington Trust
Wealth Management Resources

Thank you!

Hope for Our Community



Contact Us



PHONE

(401) 421-4722



MAIN CAMPUS

*Early Learning Center, Senior Center, Volunteer
Income Tax Assistance*

9 Courtland Street, Providence RI 02909

SWISS STREET CAMPUS

*School-Age Child Care, Summer and Vacation
Camps, Providence Talks, Food Pantry, Family
Support Team*

35 Swiss Street, Providence RI 02909

21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

After-School Programs

Harry Kizirian Elementary School
Asa Messer Elementary School



EMAIL

info@federalhillhouse.org



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