



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEARS
2025 & 2026

2025

July 2024 - June 2025

2026

July 2025 - June 2026



Who We *Are*



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

→ 1 Peter 4:10

→ Mission

Impacting the lives of children, youth and families by offering innovative, trauma-sensitive programs rooted in faith to inspire positive change.

→ Vision

Leading the change for a healthy child, family and community.

→ Values

Accountability | Cultural Sensitivity | Excellence
Faith | Integrity | Respect | Trauma-Sensitive

Leading with *Hope*

→ Nickaila Sandate

Chief Executive Officer EmberHope, Inc.

As I look back on the last two fiscal years, my heart is full. *At EmberHope, we see hope come to life every day:* when children and families experience safety, stability, and well-being; when a foster family opens its home and heart; when a young adult takes brave steps toward independence; and when neighbors, friends, and supporters invest in brighter futures.

These two years brought meaningful change. We expanded services, launched EmberHope Connections in Sedgwick County, grew our foster care program, deepened partnerships across Kansas, and strengthened trauma-sensitive care throughout our agency. At the same time, **children and families faced increasingly complex needs that called us to respond with urgency, compassion, and innovation.**

Across child and family well-being, workforce shortages continue to strain the people and systems families depend on. Too few foster and residential placements, especially for children with complex needs, which makes it harder to find the right setting at the right time. Growing behavioral health needs also require more specialized, coordinated, and accessible support. These pressures *strengthen our resolve to recruit and support caring professionals and foster families, expand capacity, and build solutions centered on each child's well-being.*

One of our proudest milestones was **breaking ground on Hope Estates, a dream years in the making.** Hope Estates matters because stable housing, supportive relationships, and a sense of belonging can change a life. More than a housing development, it will create *an intentional community where young adults and families in transition can build stability, independence, and lasting connections alongside mentors and neighbors.* When basic needs are met, and people know they are not alone, hope has room to grow. We look forward to celebrating a ribbon-cutting in 2027.

The launch of EmberHope Connections allowed us to once again walk alongside **thousands of children, youth, and families in Sedgwick County.** Through permanency planning, adoption services, transportation, placement coordination, and case management, we help families move toward stability, reunification, and/or adoption. Our *EmberHope Youthville programs continued to provide compassionate, trauma-informed care* through residential services, family support, and aftercare. Our foster care program grew, while community partnerships and family-centered initiatives gave caregivers the tools and support they need to help children thrive across Kansas.

We were honored to receive **renewed three-year accreditation from CARF International, its highest level.**

This achievement affirms our commitment to quality, accountability, and continuous improvement. In 2027, we plan to build on this accomplishment by pursuing faith-based accreditation that further reflects who we are and how we serve.

As we approach *our 100th anniversary, I think often of the generations of children, families, staff, volunteers, foster parents, donors, and partners who made this work possible.* We will honor that legacy not simply by looking back, but by strengthening our workforce, expanding placement options, responding to behavioral health needs, and creating pathways to stability and belonging. Our vision for EmberHope's next century is clear: to be a trusted, innovative, faith-rooted partner so every child and family we serve can thrive.

To our employees, thank you for your compassion, resilience, and heart. **To our foster families,** thank you for offering stability and belonging when it matters most. **To our volunteers, donors, churches, businesses, foundations, and community partners,** thank you for believing in this mission and investing in the lives of others. *We could not do this without you.* As I look ahead, I am filled with hope for all we will do together. The challenges are significant, but so is this community. Because of you, *EmberHope can enter its next century ready to lead change toward healthier children, stronger families, and thriving communities.*



Connections & Youthville *Make an Impact at EmberHope*

→ Lori Gonzales

President of EmberHope Youthville

This past year, I had the privilege of overseeing our Youthville and Connections programs, and I continue to be inspired by the dedication, compassion, and resilience demonstrated by our staff, foster families, and community partners. **Together, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to serving children and families, providing support, hope, and opportunities for healing during some of life's most challenging moments.**

One of our greatest strengths has been the meaningful partnerships we have cultivated throughout our community. By working alongside service providers, healthcare professionals, faith-based organizations, and other community partners, *we have strengthened our collective ability to meet the unique needs of children and families.* These collaborations reflect our shared belief that lasting change happens when communities come together with a common purpose.

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to walking alongside parents, caregivers, and families throughout their journeys. **We recognize that every family's path is unique, and we are honored to provide encouragement, resources, and unwavering support as they navigate challenges and celebrate successes.** There is nothing more rewarding than hearing the heartfelt stories of children finding safety, stability, and permanency, whatever that journey may look like for them. Those moments remind us why our work matters.

This year, we also continued our *agency-wide commitment to implementing Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®)*, strengthening our trauma-informed approach across every program. By embracing these principles, we are creating environments where *children can experience connection, healing, and growth* while equipping caregivers and staff with the tools to build healthy, trusting relationships.

Whenever possible, we make **every effort to connect children with relatives or trusted kin**, recognizing the importance of preserving family and community connections. At the same time, **the need for compassionate foster families remains significant.** We are deeply grateful to the foster parents who continue to open their hearts and homes, allowing us the privilege of supporting them as they provide safe, nurturing environments for children in need. We also look forward to **welcoming new foster families** who feel called to make a lasting difference.

I want to express *my sincere appreciation for the staff* in all our programs and the extraordinary teams who serve children with some of the most complex behavioral and emotional needs. *Their dedication, expertise, and compassion make healing possible for youth who need it most, and their work exemplifies the mission and values of our organization every day.*

As we reflect on this past year, we do so with gratitude for the lives that have been impacted, the partnerships that have grown stronger, and the opportunities that lie ahead. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this important work. **Your support continues to transform lives and strengthen our community.**

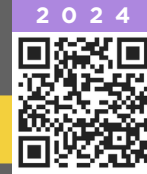


A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Gonzales".

National Adoption Day

Across FY25 and 26,
we finalized **358 adoptions!**

Scan to Watch the
Recap Videos on YouTube!



Every child deserves the opportunity to belong. Each year, National Adoption Day provides a joyful celebration of that promise as children and youth in foster care officially become part of their forever families. Across **FY25 and FY26**, EmberHope Connections celebrated the **adoption of 66 children into 40 families**, marking the beginning of new chapters filled with love, stability, and hope. Held at Exploration Place in Wichita, National Adoption Day brings together families, judges, attorneys, child and family well-being professionals, elected officials, volunteers, donors, and community partners to celebrate one of life's most meaningful milestones. What begins as a legal proceeding quickly becomes a celebration—one filled with laughter, tears, hugs, and the overwhelming joy of permanency.

For Adoption Supervisor Wendee Harris, one moment from FY26 perfectly captured the significance of the day. After Judge Keith finalized the adoption of a teenage girl, she eagerly asked, *"What about my birth certificate?" When she learned it had already been updated with her new name, she jumped up and down with excitement. Her parents later shared that she had been waiting to frame her new birth certificate—a simple document that represented identity, belonging, and a future she could finally call her own.*

Moments like these are why National Adoption Day matters. Every detail—from personalized backpacks embroidered with each child's new initials to family portraits, celebratory meals, and community activities—is intentionally designed to **honor children and families as they begin a new chapter together**. These celebrations are made possible through the generosity of donors, sponsors, volunteers, judges, attorneys, and countless community partners who believe every child deserves to be celebrated.

While National Adoption Day celebrates the families formed each year, it also serves as a reminder that the work continues. Every adoption represents a child whose life has been forever changed, but many children are still waiting for that same opportunity. *EmberHope remains committed to walking alongside children and families until every child has the chance to experience the love, stability, and belonging of a forever family.*



2024



2025

Hope & a *Future*



The holidays can be an especially difficult time for children and families navigating foster care. Each year, EmberHope and our friends at Foster ICT work diligently to bring together an ever-growing network of community partners to host Hope & a Future—a *Christmas celebration that surrounds foster, adoptive, and kinship families with joy, generosity, and a true sense of belonging.* This annual event takes place each year at Sports Forum in East Wichita.



Across FY25 and FY26, the event continued to grow in both reach and impact. In **FY25, 1,400 children from 543 families** gathered for an evening of holiday fun, personalized gifts, cozy pajamas, family resources, and visits with Santa. Building on that success, **FY26 welcomed more than 1,500 foster, adoptive, and kinship children, representing 553 families** and eight group homes, making it the largest Hope & a Future celebration to date.



Behind every gift and every smile were months of planning and an incredible community of churches, businesses, civic groups, volunteers, and donors who worked together to ensure every child felt celebrated. As Director of Donor Relations Tamber Rouse shared,

"Each donation represents someone choosing to care—someone taking the time to say, 'These children deserve joy. They deserve to be seen and loved.'"



From sponsoring gifts and assembling nearly 1,800 holiday craft kits to welcoming families with activities, food, and festive experiences, each act of generosity reflected that message. Without the ongoing support of our incredible donors and volunteers, this event simply wouldn't be possible. From the bottom of our hearts, *thank you.*

Hope & a Future is more than a Christmas event—it's a powerful reminder of what is possible when a community comes together to **surround children and families with hope, compassion, and the promise of a brighter future.**



Susan's Kids *Partnership*



What began as a simple effort to restore dignity to children entering foster care has continued to grow into one of Kansas' most inspiring examples of community partnership.

Inspired by the reality that many children entering foster care must carry their belongings in a trash bag, the **Susan's Kids Care Drive** provides new backpacks and duffel bags, shoes, blankets, and comfort items that remind children they are seen, valued, and cared for during an incredibly difficult transition **since 2020**.

Across FY25 and FY26, the Care Drive experienced extraordinary growth. **In FY25**, more than **1,300 items** were collected through **40 community drop-off locations**, benefiting six child and family well-being professionals organizations across Kansas. Building on that momentum, **FY26** became the largest Care Drive in the initiative's history, with **more than 4,000 donated items collected**—more than tripling the previous year's total.

That growth was made possible through an expanding network of community partners, including churches, schools, businesses, and organizations across Kansas. **In FY26**, the drive also **partnered with Day1Bags**, a Texas-based nonprofit that donated **more than 2,200 new backpacks and duffel bags**, ensuring hundreds of children entering foster care could begin their journey with dignity instead of a trash bag.

Behind every donation were **volunteers who sorted, organized, and distributed thousands of items** to partner agencies across the state like DCCCA, St. Francis, FosterICT, and Hope Fostered. Together, these efforts demonstrate the incredible impact that is possible when a **community comes together around a shared purpose**.

The continued growth of the Susan's Kids Care Drive is a powerful reminder that even the simplest gifts can offer comfort, restore dignity, and remind **every child** entering foster care that they are **valued, supported, and never alone**.



Foster Parent Conference

*FY25 Foster Homes: 140
*FY26 Foster Homes: 155

*Youthville Licensed Foster Homes

Behind every successful foster care journey is a foster family willing to open their hearts and homes to a child in need. Across FY25 and FY26, EmberHope continued investing in those families by hosting annual foster care conferences designed to equip, encourage, and celebrate the incredible people who make healing and permanency possible every day.

In **FY25**, EmberHope partnered with TFI to bring foster families together for a day of learning, connection, and recognition. Through breakout sessions, expert speakers, practical trainings, and opportunities to build relationships with other caregivers, families gained new tools while strengthening the support network that surrounds them. The following year, EmberHope **expanded that vision with Camp Hope: Reignite Your Spark**, welcoming foster families to College Hill United Methodist Church for an inspiring day centered on renewing purpose, preventing burnout, and reconnecting caregivers with the "why" behind their journey.

As Director of Recruitment Bill Williams shared,

"Foster parents give sacrificially all year. I wanted the conference to do three things: Equip them, Encourage them, and Honor them."

Those three principles have become the foundation of EmberHope's foster parent conferences, recognizing that strong, supported foster families create stronger outcomes for children. Through keynote speakers, breakout sessions, continuing education, and meaningful fellowship, caregivers left feeling better prepared for the challenges ahead and **reminded that they are never walking this journey alone.**

These conferences also reflect EmberHope's belief that supporting foster families extends far beyond the licensing process. Whether through *ongoing training, peer connections, family events, or dedicated staff support, we remain committed to investing in the people who provide stability, healing, and hope to children across Kansas.* We are deeply grateful to our speakers, volunteers, sponsors, childcare teams, community partners, and, most importantly, the foster families whose compassion changes lives every day.



Back to School

Every child deserves to begin the school year with confidence, excitement, and the tools they need to succeed. Through **EmberHope's annual Back-to-School Drive**, our community comes together each summer to help make that possible for children and youth in foster care.

Across FY25 and FY26, the drive continued to grow through the generosity of churches, businesses, volunteers, and individual donors. What began with hundreds of backpacks packed alongside volunteers at Central Christian Church expanded into FY26's largest effort yet, with *more than 600 fully stocked backpacks prepared for elementary, middle, and high school students.*

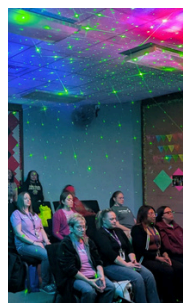
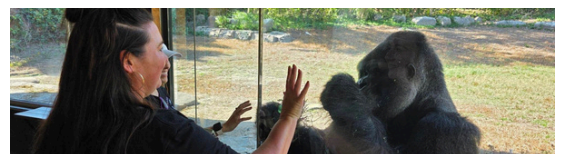
Supplies were collected through community donation drives and Amazon Wish Lists before more than 40 volunteers gathered to pack backpacks filled with school essentials. Along the way, staff members thoughtfully selected backpacks for children they knew personally, choosing favorite colors and characters that transformed a simple school supply into a meaningful gift.

More than notebooks and pencils, these backpacks represent opportunity. **They ease financial burdens for caregivers, equip students to fully participate in the classroom, and remind every child that an entire community believes in their future.** Thanks to the continued support of our partners and volunteers, hundreds of youth began the school year prepared, confident, and ready to learn.



Fostering Connections

Team Building



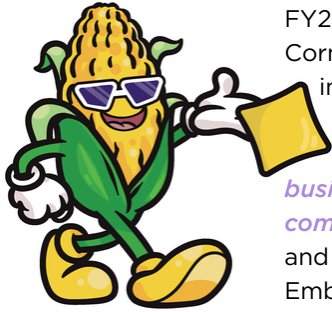
New Home for Youthville



In FY26, EmberHope Youthville celebrated the opening of its *new office within College Hill United Methodist Church (CHUM)*, creating a welcoming space that reflects our mission while strengthening connections with the community. The move positions our team alongside a partner that **shares our commitment to supporting children, youth, and foster families, opening the door for greater collaboration and expanded opportunities to serve.**

As President Lori Gonzales shared, *"This space is more than an office; it is a place of connection, support, and hope."* We are grateful to the congregation at CHUM for their warm welcome and partnership as we continue working together to build brighter futures for children and families across Kansas.

Cornament *for Hope*



FY25 marked the launch of Cornament for Hope, EmberHope's inaugural cornhole tournament, *bringing together community members, sponsors, and local businesses for a day of friendly competition* in support of children and families served through EmberHope. Hosted at The Sandbox

in Derby, the event featured tournament play, live music, raffle prizes, and nearly 20 local business sponsors, all while introducing new audiences to EmberHope's mission and expanding local awareness.

More than a fundraiser, **Cornament for Hope celebrated the power of community.** The event brought together supporters, volunteers, and staff around a shared purpose, creating new connections while raising critical funds and awareness for children and families in foster care. We are so grateful for each donor, player, and supporter who made this fun day possible for so many people to enjoy!



Driving Fore *Change*



On April 8th, 2026, *EmberHope joined CASA of Sedgwick County and Gathered* to host the first-ever Driving Fore Change fundraiser at Topgolf Wichita, demonstrating the *power of collaboration in supporting children and families impacted by foster care.* Thanks to the generosity of 19 sponsors, dedicated participants, and community partners, the event brought together supporters for an afternoon of connection, friendly competition, and shared purpose while **raising more than \$30,000 to benefit all three organizations.**

More than a fundraiser, Driving Fore Change showcased *what is possible when nonprofits unite around a common mission.*

The proceeds directly support foster family recruitment, advocacy, mental health services, and other critical resources for children and families across our community.

The overwhelming support from sponsors, volunteers, and attendees reinforced a simple but powerful truth: **together, we can create lasting change for children and families who need it most.**



Ignite Hope Festival

In May of 2026, EmberHope hosted the inaugural Ignite Hope Fest, bringing the Harvey County community together for a day of live music, a poker run, classic cars, local vendors, great food, and family fun—all in support of children and families across Kansas. What began as a benefit concert idea quickly grew into a community-wide festival that celebrated connection, generosity, and the power of coming together for a common purpose. Thanks to the support of attendees, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners, the event raised nearly \$10,000 in cash and in-kind donations while creating valuable new relationships throughout the region.

As Development and Volunteer Coordinator Virginia Lewis reflected, "Plugging into our community was the main goal of this event. The awareness and connections built through the event preparations are so valuable."

Ignite Hope Fest demonstrated the incredible impact that can happen when local businesses, volunteers, musicians, and neighbors unite around a shared mission. We are deeply grateful to every sponsor, vendor, performer, and attendee who helped transform a simple idea into an unforgettable day of hope, connection, and lasting community impact.



Three Cheers for Volunteers



Sarah Lewis

Notable Mention Volunteers with 10+ Hours

Staff

Julie Lindenmeyer
Jordan Tozier
Sean Gardiner
Kelly Reed

Groups

Grace Community Church
St. George Orthodox
Crossings Community Church

Non-Staff

Koci Family
Caleb Klassen
Sophie Lindenmeyer
Oshea English-Higgins

Deuteronomy 15:10 says "Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

A Lasting Legacy at Hope Estates

In September 2025, EmberHope announced an ambitious new vision for its *historic Newton campus: Hope Estates, a 38-unit affordable, trauma-informed supportive housing community designed to help individuals and families build lasting stability*. Just one month later, community leaders, partners, donors, and supporters gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of a project years in the making. More than the start of construction, the ceremony marked the **beginning of a new chapter in EmberHope's mission**—one that extends beyond child and family well-being professionals to address one of the most pressing needs facing Kansas families: **safe, affordable housing**.

Hope Estates will provide 38 units, including apartments, duplexes, triplexes, and townhomes for young adults transitioning from difficult circumstances, grandparents raising grandchildren, seniors seeking meaningful connection, and families working toward long-term housing stability. **Built around an intergenerational model**, the community will encourage neighbors to support one another while offering access to optional programming such as **financial literacy, employment readiness, education, life skills, and emotional wellness**. Together, these resources will help residents build stability, independence, and lasting connections.

As President & CEO Nickaila Sandate shared during the groundbreaking, *"This celebration was more than the start of construction on a project. It is a fulfillment of a promise. Hope Estates represents our expanded purpose—to provide safe, affordable housing that helps individuals and families transition on a path toward permanency and stability in their lives."* Made possible through partnerships with the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, the City of Newton, Riverstone Platform Partners, Scott Associates, Earls Engineering, and many generous supporters, Hope Estates reflects EmberHope's commitment to listening to community needs and creating lasting solutions. When complete, it will be more than housing—it will be a place where **individuals and families can heal, grow, and belong**.



Grand Slam *Giving*

In September 2025, EmberHope launched its inaugural Grand Slam Giving event in partnership with the Wichita Wind Surge, *bringing together more than 800 staff, foster and adoptive families, volunteers, and community partners* for an evening of connection and celebration at Riverfront Stadium.

Made possible through the generous support of Healthy Blue, complimentary tickets allowed our extended EmberHope family to enjoy a memorable night while raising awareness for children and families served through our programs. The evening also featured President and CEO Nickaila Sandate throwing out the ceremonial first pitch, symbolizing our shared commitment to strengthening children and families across Kansas.



More than a night at the ballpark, **Grand Slam Giving celebrated the relationships that make our mission possible.** The event strengthened community connections, recognized the dedication of our staff and foster families, and highlighted the power of partnership in creating brighter futures for children in care.

Hope Hits the Ice



Through our annual partnership with the Wichita Thunder, EmberHope has the opportunity to *bring child and family well-being professionals into the heart of our community.* More than a hockey game, EmberHope Night creates **meaningful opportunities** for families, supporters, and community members to connect while learning how they can **make a difference for children in foster care.**

Across FY25 and FY26, thousands of fans joined us at INTRUST Bank Arena, where staff connected with attendees, answered questions about foster care, volunteering, and giving, and celebrated alongside foster families. Each year featured **a special ceremonial puck drop** honoring those at the heart of our mission, including a special foster family!

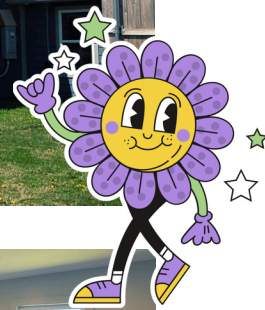
Community partners also played an important role in expanding the event's impact. In FY26, Flint Hills Construction sponsored EmberHope Night, helping welcome even more staff, families, and supporters to the arena. For EmberHope, the greatest victory wasn't on the scoreboard. *It was creating a space where foster families felt celebrated, children saw their community rally around them,* and thousands of attendees were reminded that every child deserves stability, belonging, and a future filled with hope.

Goddard Campus *Opens YRCII*

When children cannot safely remain at home and no foster family is immediately available, they still deserve stability, dignity, and compassionate care. That's why EmberHope invested in transforming the former Lakeside Academy at Lake Afton into our Goddard Campus. It is now home to our **Youth Residential Center II (YRC II)**. Serving girls ages 10-18 in state custody from Sedgwick County, the program provides a safe, trauma-informed residential setting that allows youth to remain connected to their community while longer-term family placements are identified.

Although the YRC II program was new in FY2025, its impact was immediate. Fourteen youth received residential care through YRC II, with an average daily census of eight residents, while the YRC II Night-to-Night Program served 96 additional youth in need of short-term emergency placement.

Together, the Goddard Campus provided support to 100 unique children during its first year of operation, ensuring that when no foster home was available, there was still a place where hope, healing, and belonging could begin.



Tyler House *Offers Stability*

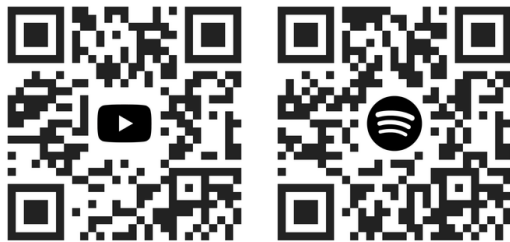


In February 2026, EmberHope Connections opened *a newly renovated Drop-In Home designed to provide children entering foster care with a safe, welcoming place to stabilize during times of crisis*. Replacing a facility-based setting with a traditional family home, the space was intentionally created to reduce trauma, promote emotional regulation, and offer youth the comfort of a warm meal, a private bedroom, and a calm environment while staff work to identify the best long-term placement.

As Vice President of Permanency Services Warren Sheridan shared, *"By placing this drop-in center in a single-family home, we provide an environment that suggests safety and belonging. It allows our youth to decompress in a space that looks like a neighborhood home, which is essential for emotional regulation and building initial trust."*

More than an emergency placement, the Drop-In Home reflects EmberHope's commitment to providing trauma-informed care that strengthens stability, supports permanency, and reminds every child they are worthy of dignity, compassion, and hope.

Little Sparks, Big Hope



EmberHope launched Little Sparks, Big Hope, *a podcast dedicated to sharing the real stories, challenges, and victories happening on the frontlines of child and family well-being professionals* in FY26. Hosted by Nikki Hays, Talent Recruiter, Autumn Huerter, Marketing Director, and Britt English, Associate Marketing Director, each episode features honest conversations with EmberHope leaders, staff, and community partners who are making a difference in the lives of children and families every day. Together, they explore topics ranging from foster care and adoption to residential services, trauma-informed care, and the people whose compassion is changing lives.

A special thank you to the incredible team at **City Life Church**, whose generosity and production support have made this podcast possible. Their partnership has allowed us to amplify voices, educate our community, and inspire others to get involved in our mission. Scan the QR codes to listen to Little Sparks, Big Hope on YouTube or Spotify and *hear the stories of hope, healing, and connection unfolding every day at EmberHope.*

Subaru Kept Us Cozy

Through *Subaru's national Loves to Help initiative*, *EmberHope received a generous donation of brand-new winter coats* to support children and youth in foster care, residential services, and families in need across our programs. This meaningful partnership, made possible through shared values and a commitment to serving children, ensures that youth entering care have **access to an essential item** that provides not only warmth, but also **dignity and comfort during the winter months.**

For many children entering foster care, basic necessities like a winter coat are not guaranteed. This gift helps ease the burden on foster families while reminding every child that they are seen, valued, and cared for. We are deeply grateful to Subaru and its employees for their generosity and partnership, demonstrating how *compassionate corporate support can make an immediate and lasting difference in the lives of children and families* across Kansas.



CARF Accreditation



In FY26, EmberHope **once again earned a 3-year accreditation from CARF International**—the *highest level of accreditation awarded*.

Following a comprehensive review of 2,072 standards, CARF issued just seven recommendations for improvement, affirming EmberHope's commitment to providing high-quality, accountable, and responsive services for children, youth, and families. This is our third time achieving this accreditation.

This achievement reflects the dedication of every member of the EmberHope team. As Chief Administrative Officer Jamie Riojas shared, *"Achieving accreditation takes a village. All staff are to be thanked for this accomplishment, as each of us contributes to the quality services provided to kids and families in our various roles."* The accreditation also reinforces our commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring our programs continue to meet and exceed nationally recognized standards of excellence.

For the children and families we serve—and for the donors, partners, and communities who support our mission—**this recognition provides confidence that EmberHope is delivering services with integrity, accountability, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.**

Long Live Play

Thanks to the generous support of the **Fidelity Bank Foundation**, EmberHope completed a new **accessible, sensory-focused playground at our Family Engagement Center** in Wichita. Designed for children of all abilities, the playground creates an inclusive space where *families can connect, play, and make meaningful memories together.*

Today, the playground serves children and families every single day as part of the Family Engagement Center, which provides a welcoming environment for family visitations and reunification services. By creating opportunities for joyful interaction in a safe and engaging setting, **this investment continues to strengthen family bonds and support the healing, hope, and connection** that are at the heart of EmberHope's mission.

As Fidelity Bank President & CEO and Fidelity Bank Foundation Board Member Aaron Bastian shared, *"We are honored to enable the construction of an accessible environment for families to begin creating cherished memories and plant the seeds of a brighter future."* That vision comes to life each day as children and families gather to laugh, play, and take meaningful steps toward a **brighter future together.**



Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Heavenly Father, As we look back on this past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude. Thank You for every child, every family, every caregiver, every volunteer, every donor, every partner, and every friend of EmberHope. Thank You for walking with us through both the joys and the challenges, and for reminding us again and again that hope can shine even in life's hardest moments.

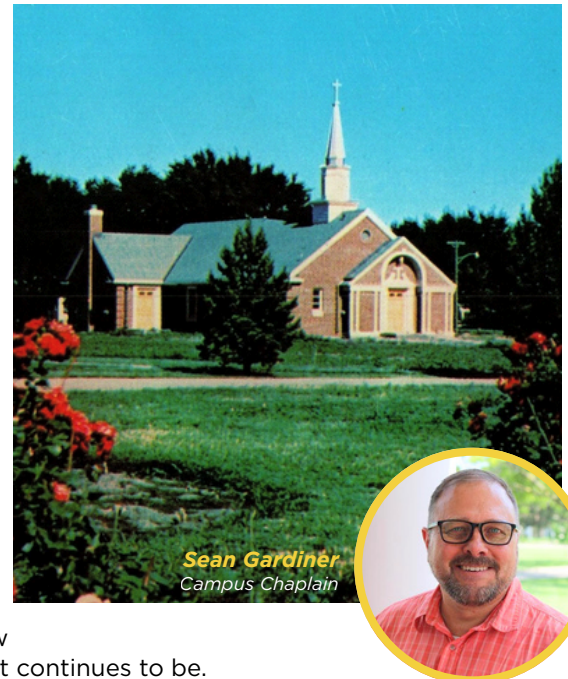
This year has been a testament to the power of people coming together. We have seen individuals from different backgrounds, experiences, and communities unite around a shared purpose: to ensure that children and families feel seen, supported, and loved. What could never be accomplished alone has been made possible through the compassion, generosity, and commitment of so many.

Lord, we offer our *deepest thanks for our supporters.* Their faithful prayers, encouragement, and generosity have been more than gifts. They have been *a source of strength and hope.* Through their partnership, lives have been changed, burdens have been lifted, and new possibilities have emerged for children and families facing difficult circumstances. May they know how deeply appreciated they are and how meaningful their impact continues to be.

We are especially grateful for the resilience You have cultivated in this community. **There were moments when the road was not easy, moments that tested our patience, our strength, and our faith. Yet through each challenge, You provided what we needed.** You gave courage when there was uncertainty, perseverance when the work felt heavy, and hope when it would have been easier to give up. Because of Your faithfulness, we have continued forward together.

As we reflect on the stories represented in this report, we are reminded that *behind every number is a person, a family, and a journey.* We celebrate the victories, honor the sacrifices, and give thanks for the countless ways lives have been touched through this work. As we look to the future, keep us united in purpose and grounded in compassion. **Give us wisdom for the decisions ahead, strength for the work yet to come, and hearts that remain open to those who need hope most.** Help us continue to be a light for children and families, reflecting Your love through every act of service and every opportunity to care for others.

May the promise of Romans 15:13 continue to guide us. Fill us with Your joy and peace. Help us to be that Ember of Hope to everyone we serve. For all You have done, for all You are doing, and for all that is yet to come, we give You thanks. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Thank You

We are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and community. Your commitment to our mission has made a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for walking alongside us—your belief in our work fuels our hope, strengthens our resolve, and inspires the continued transformation we strive to achieve every day.

Change a Life Today



Hope Begins With You.

As we close our 99th year of serving children and families, we do so with hearts full of gratitude.

For nearly a century, EmberHope has walked alongside children, strengthened families, and built brighter futures through the unwavering support of people who chose to say "yes." Yes to fostering. Yes to giving. Yes to volunteering. Yes to believing that every child deserves hope.



Now, we look ahead.

As we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary, we aren't simply reflecting on where we've been—we're imagining what the next century of hope can become. Together, we will continue expanding services, strengthening families, creating innovative solutions like Hope Estates, and ensuring every child has the opportunity to heal, belong, and thrive.

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

Matthew 25:40



Scan the QR code to support EmberHope through:

- Monthly or one-time donations, as low as \$15/mo
- Becoming a foster parent or volunteer
- Partnering your church, business, or organization
- Advocating for vulnerable youth in your community

Together, we can restore hope, rebuild families, and reimagine what's possible for Kansas youth.

Let's Stay Connected

Stay connected with EmberHope beyond the headlines, because the best stories don't just happen, they're shared.

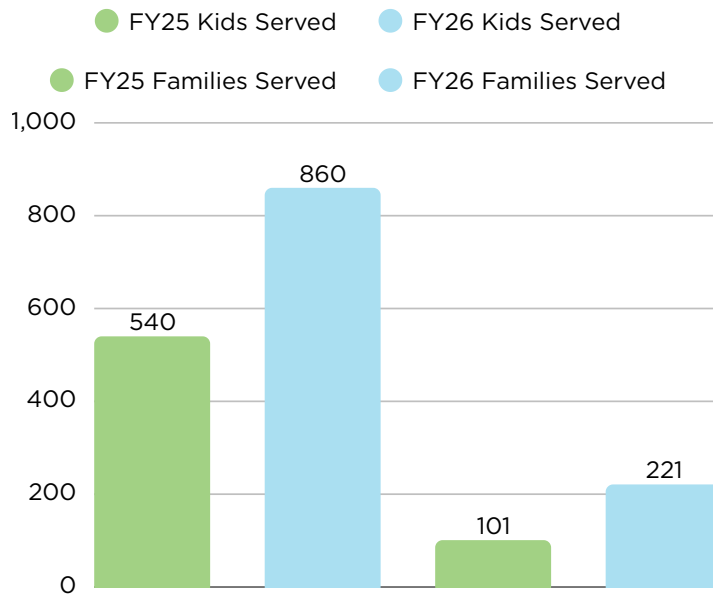
From heartwarming moments on **Instagram**, to powerful videos on **YouTube**, to uplifting community updates on **Facebook**, and meaningful professional insights on **LinkedIn**, there's a place for you to follow along and be part of the journey.

Join us across our channels and see how hope shows up every day.



Hope Through Service

Between FY25 and FY26, **EmberHope Foundation** used its volunteer database and resource room of beneficial goods to serve children, families, and improve our campus. We are so grateful for the continued support of our community and the generosity that makes this possible.



VALUE VOLUNTEER TIME: \$17,439.60



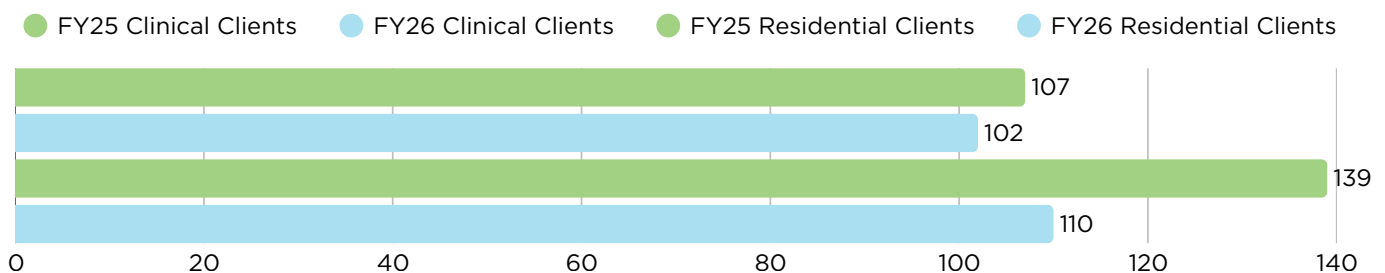
VALUE VOLUNTEER TIME: \$28,926.47

**Value of Volunteer data collected from
www.IndependentSector.org*



Care That Counts

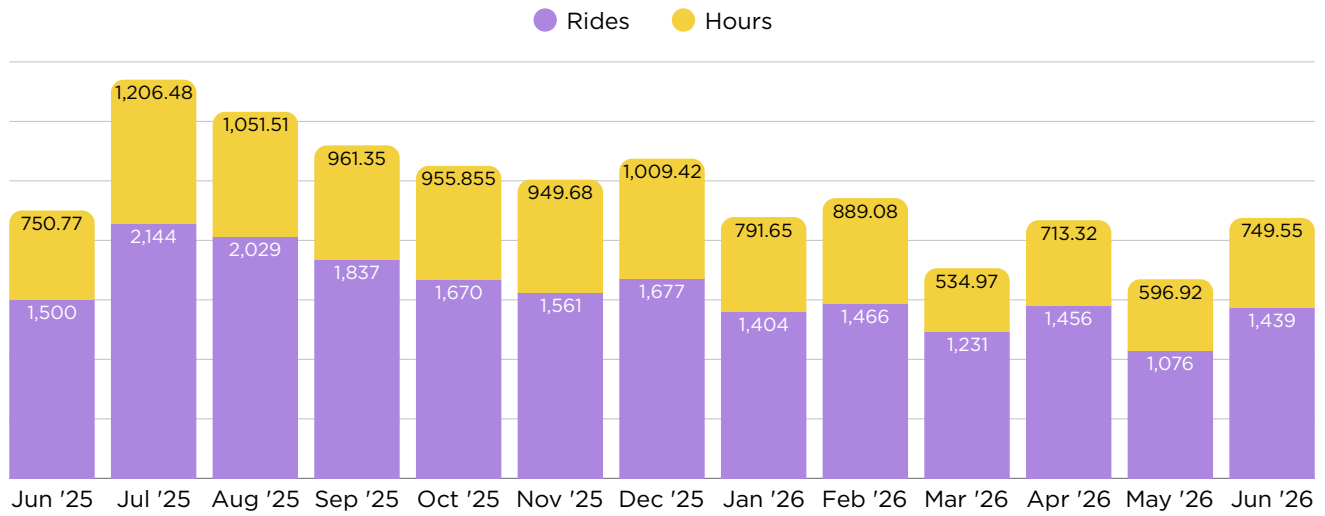
Explore the impact of hope and healing through the number of clients served by the Clinical and Residential Services at **EmberHope Youthville** during FY25 and FY26.



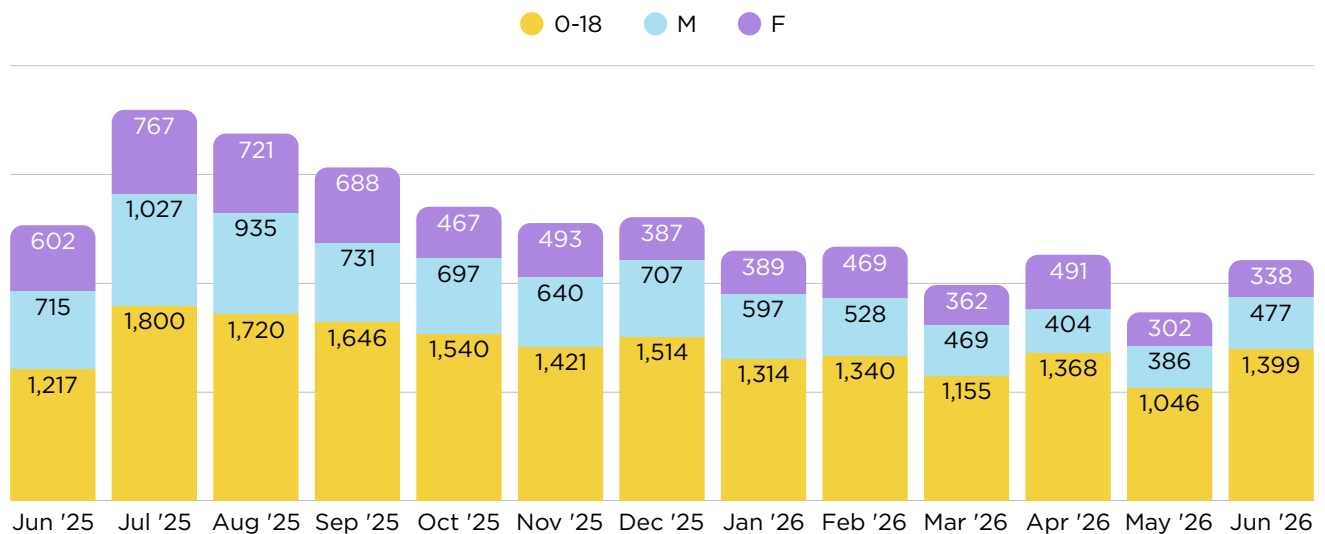
Driven By Purpose

These numbers are a direct reflection of our Connections transportation department, helping to ensure that the children and youth we serve stay connected to their communities. Reasons for transportation include visiting biological family, going to medical appointments, getting safely to school, and so much more.

Total Rides and Passenger Hours

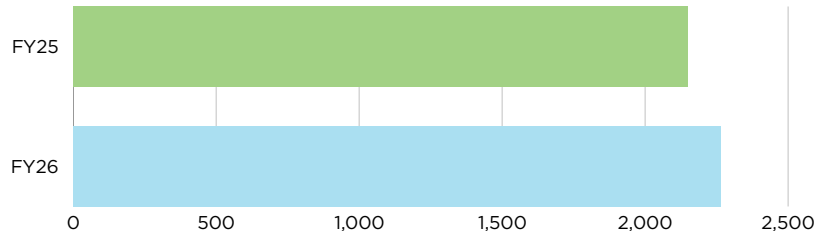


Total Rides of 0-18 Year Olds by Gender



Serving the Youth

Between FY25 and FY26, **EmberHope Connections** was entrusted to provide care for a total of 4,413 youth in Sedgwick County, offering services that best met each individual need.

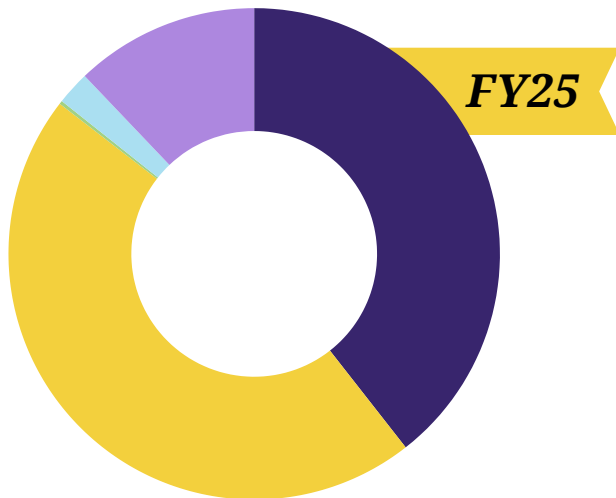


FY25 3,496 PLACEMENTS

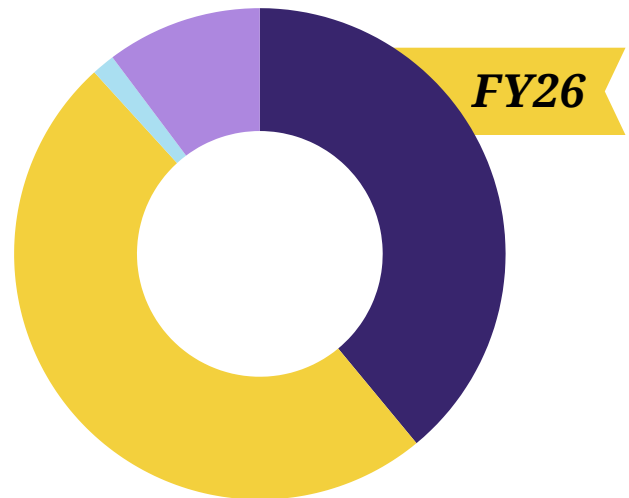
FY26 3,325 PLACEMENTS

Achieving Permanency

For any youth entering care, achieving permanency is the goal. This can happen in several ways, including a child reintegrating back with their family of origin, being adopted into a forever family, or entering into a permanent custodianship.

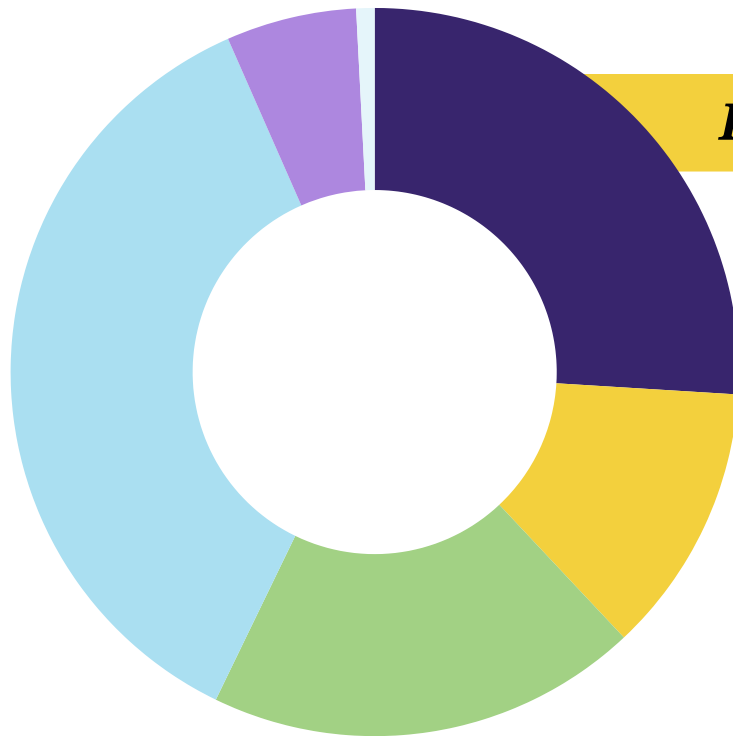


- Adoptions | 179
- APPLA* | 55
- Permanent Custodianship | 10
- SOUL+ Permanency | 1
- Reintegrations | 209



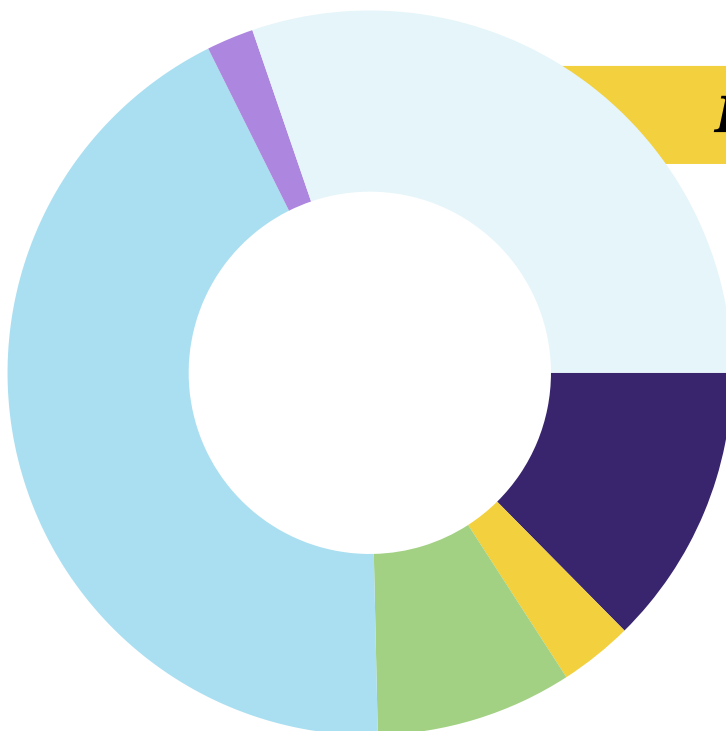
- Adoptions | 179
- APPLA* | 47
- Permanent Custodianship | 7
- SOUL+ Permanency | 0
- Reintegrations | 226

Donations Received



Unrestricted	\$398,774.29
Restricted	\$184,502.31
GIK	\$294,451.91
Trusts	\$555,864.65
Grants	\$88,792.53
Pledges	\$12,500

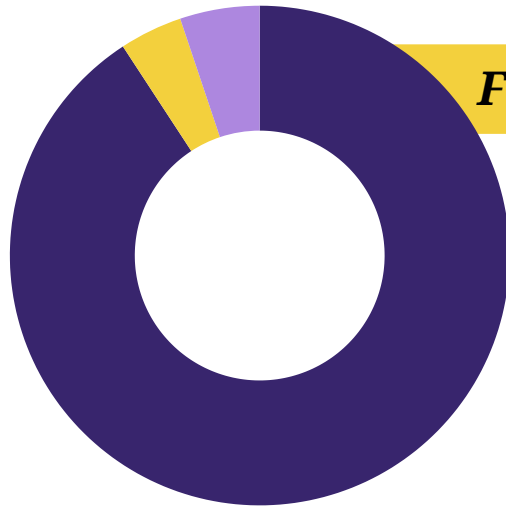
Total: \$1,534,885.69



Unrestricted	\$468,341.77
Restricted	\$121,926.62
GIK	\$326,295.63
Trusts	\$1,598,471.79
Grants	\$78,270.20
Pledges	\$1,125,000

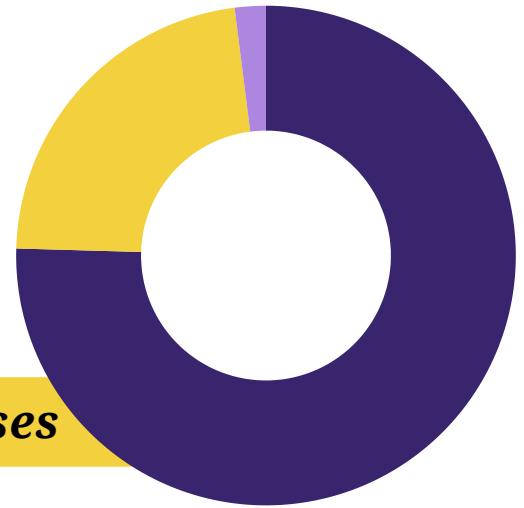
Total: \$3,718,306.01

By the *Numbers*



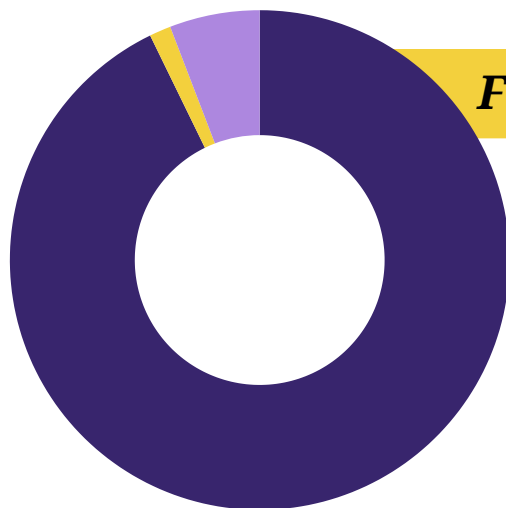
FY25: Revenue

- Program | 93%
- Contributions & Grants | 3%
- Interest, Investments & Other | 4%



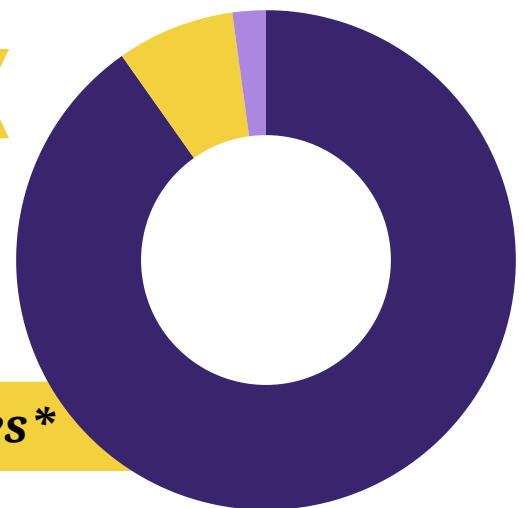
FY25: Expenses

- Program | 75%
- Management & General | 23%
- Donor Development & Fundraising | 2%



FY26: Revenue*

- Program | 93%
- Contributions & Grants | 1%
- Interest, Investments & Other | 6%



FY26: Expenses*

- Program | 90%
- Management & General | 8%
- Donor Development & Fundraising | 2%



EmberHope Newton Campus,
Circa 1930



EmberHope

900 W. Broadway, Newton, KS 67114 | 1-855-260-**HOPE**

EmberHope.org