



**PSFC**

Hope. Within Reach.

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# Pocono Services for Families & Children

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## 2022-2023 Annual Report



## Our Vision

Serving the community from the cradle to career/college. Promoting healthy and meaningful lifestyles leading to a joyful and comfortable life. Believing "hope is within reach" for all.



## Our Mission

The mission of Pocono Services for Families and Children is to provide resources for the evolving needs of community children and families, in support of efforts to achieve their goals.

## Message from Kristi Hammond

*"Building a bridge to their future, be our connection!"*

It is no secret that COVID-19 wiped out decades of progress on our families in the workforce, especially the impact it made on childcare. Like many other small businesses and nonprofits, childcare centers struggled to withstand the aftermath of the pandemic financially and some were forced to close permanently.

PSFC has been providing quality school readiness programs since 1965 and we have been lucky enough to be one of the few centers to work through and remain open after the pandemic. Like so many, we have lost staff, continue to train new staff, and struggle to maintain staff. We rely on our funds to support our programs and partners who provide high-quality early education, health services, and advocacy to support the evolving needs of our families and children.

It's up to our community to invest in our families and to invest in childcare services to support our working families. I encourage all who share a common goal to support community families by financially investing, supporting laws and policies, to advocate for Monroe County families. Doing so will strengthen our commonwealth's children, families, and our shared future.

We are dedicated to our community and thank you for taking the time to read about our programs and achievements.



*"As a lifeline for our children and families in need, PSFC depends on the generosity of people like you; people who make a difference."*

Kristi Hammond  
Executive Director



- Incorporated in 1965 as a private non-profit organization with 501(C)(3) {Tax-Exempt} IRS status
- Started as a six-week summer Head Start pilot program in 1965, served twelve (12) vulnerable preschoolers
- Moved from the campus of East Stroudsburg University to St. John's Church in Stroudsburg, increasing enrollment to 30 children.
- Upon establishing Pocono Services for Families and Children, Inc., the program moved to the basement of the East Stroudsburg Methodist Church, increasing enrollment to 75 children.
- In 1992, an additional center was established in Gilbert, increasing enrollment to 100 children.
- In 1998, more than \$750,000 was raised and the funds were used to purchase the Flick Building in East Stroudsburg for housing five classrooms to serve more than 100 children. Two of the classrooms were converted into our infant toddler center in 2015.
- A Pre-K Counts Classroom was established in J M Hill Elementary School in 2008.
- Several Head Start classrooms were opened at Resica and Middle Smithfield Elementary Schools in 2010.
- A Head Start class was established at Clear Run Elementary in Coolbaugh Township in 2013, which was relocated to the Mountain Center in 2016.
- Opening of The Mountain Center facility in 2016 to fulfill a promise to bring great change to our community. This educational and community services center, housed in a 100,000 square foot building, is located in the most underserved area of the county.
- Merged with Monroe County Employment Service, Inc. (YES) in 2019 to fulfill a promise to close a gap in PSFC serving youths.

*Today, PSFC programs are a year-round operation, benefiting more than 900 youths from programs such as preschool, infant/toddlers, school-age (kindergarten through the sixth grade), and Youth Empowerment Services (YES) (from sixth grade through 24 years old).*



## Head Start Services for Children and Families

### Early Learning and Development

- Building strong relationships as the foundational driver for early learning
- Engaging families in their child's learning
- Implementing effective practices to promote children's growth
- Encouraging learning through play, creative expression, and guided activities
- Creating welcoming learning environments in indoor and outdoor settings that are well-organized and safe
- Conducting ongoing screenings and assessments to ensure each child is making progress, and collaborating with parents and community agencies when further assessment is needed
- Supporting the full inclusion of children with disabilities and building on their strengths

### Health and Wellness

- Engaging all children in both indoor and outdoor physical activity
- Serving breakfast, lunch, and snacks that are healthy and nutritious
- Ensuring children receive medical, dental, hearing, vision, and behavioral screening
- Making sure children brush their teeth after meals and promoting oral health and hygiene
- Helping families understand and support their child's health and behavioral health needs
- Assisting with mental health services for children and families, as needed
- Building resilience to help children and families heal from traumatic experiences or events and overwhelming situations

### Family Well-being

- Providing parenting support and strategies
- Supporting parental health and links to community services during pregnancy
- Connecting families to community and federal assistance
- Assisting families in identifying and reaching their goals and dreams, including those related to finances and economic mobility, housing, employment, and education
- Providing a career pathway in early care and education

### Family Engagement

- Inviting parents to share information and insights about their child
- Celebrating the role of fathers and male caregivers through father engagement
- Engaging parents as their child's lifelong advocate
- Welcoming parents to offer ways to improve children and families' experiences in the program, including through leadership roles on the Policy Council
- Supporting child and family transitions when the child is ready for the next step, to Head Start, kindergarten, or another early childhood program





### What do we mean when we say “transition to kindergarten?”

The word transition refers to the process of change. Transitioning to kindergarten is one of the most significant changes a child will experience in their life. This is a time that can be very stressful for a young child. They are leaving either the home environment or the familiar environment of their preschool classroom to enter a new place.

### What opportunities will my child and family have that will help them to transition to kindergarten?

Families in Head Start will have the opportunity to participate in transition activities throughout the year. They can be an advocate for their child by participating on the Transition Advisory Board alongside Head Start staff and school district personnel.. They also attend a transition meeting with the school district to ask questions and share information about their child. Children will also be invited to participate in a kindergarten visit where they will get to meet kindergarten teachers and other adults in the building that they will often see!

### How will my child benefit from effective transitions?

Your child will gain increased self-confidence, improved relations with other children and adults, increased motivation, and an openness to new experiences.





**Federal and State Head Start and PreK Counts** promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. By providing family-centered services for low-income families with children, these programs are designed to promote the children's development, and to enable their parents to fulfill their parental roles while moving toward self-sufficiency.

**Early Head Start** provides similar services as preschool Head Start programs, the program is tailored for the unique needs of infants and toddlers through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving.

**School Age** specializes in the care of grade school students up to the 6th grade. The program provides before and after school care, as well as full day care for the students when school is not in session. Similar to the Early Head Start and Head Start program, the school age program subscribes to the philosophy of developmentally enriching caregiving. The result-oriented objective is that every student is supported in their learning throughout elementary school years.

**The Child Well Being System (CWBS)** monitors the social and emotional climate of all the children in the program. This program provide support and coaching to staff in and out of the classroom when there are behavioral concerns. When families are in crisis, the CWBS staff can provide support or guidance with their children or with mental /developmental/behavioral health needs. PSFC supports staff wellness.

**Family Advocacy** act as an integral part of the system that interface between the families and the classrooms. Families set up their own identified goals and through the family partnership with our family advocates alleviate any concerns or questions the guardians may have for their children. Family advocates also assist families in meeting their own personal goals and achieving self-sufficiency across a wide variety of domains, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security.

**Youth Empowerment Service (YES)**, serves youths aged 12 to 24 years old. YES accomplishes this through a variety of program activities that support the participants in their journey of exploring and planning their careers. Programs include Summer Youth Employment, year round support that provides direction in career, leadership, employability, communication, problem solving, and decision making, and summer camp. YES provides an introduction to college courses, collaboration initiatives with Workforce Investment and PA CareeLink Monroe County for career planning and career exploration, and the opportunity to attend job fairs. YES also assists youth involved in the legal system , to re-enter society through job training and career exploration.



# 2022-2023 Program Accomplishments ...



## Early Head Start programs

- Number of applications processed- **449**
- Number of applications on the wait list- **174**
- Number of funded enrollment- **248**
- Number of Self Pay/ CCIS enrollment: **50**
- % of our 0-5YO living below 100% of federal poverty served at both locations- **90%**
- % of families who meet program eligibility requirements- **100%**
- Total children and families served- **314**



## School Readiness

- # of children moving on to Kindergarten- **66**
- # of referrals to community resources- **135**
- # of children supported with child care subsidized payments- **40**



## Parent Engagement

- # of families who developed and individual goal plan- **248**
- # of parenting education workshops- **3**
- # of home visits, in person and virtual- **496**
- # of families whom a need was identified and received referral services.- **186**

## Children receiving Well Care

- % of children receiving physical- **99%**
- % of children receiving Dental- **64%**
- % of children receiving immunizations- **76%**

## Youth Empowerment Services

- Number of participants in Job Fair- **50**
- Number of participants in Project Discovery/Reentry- **5**
- Number of Participants in Spirit Girls/Healthy Young Adults- **78**
- Number of participants in Summer Education Camp- **55**
- Number of participants in Project Success- **50**
- Number of participants in SYEP- **69 workers, 189 applicant processed**
- Number of applications processed- **250**



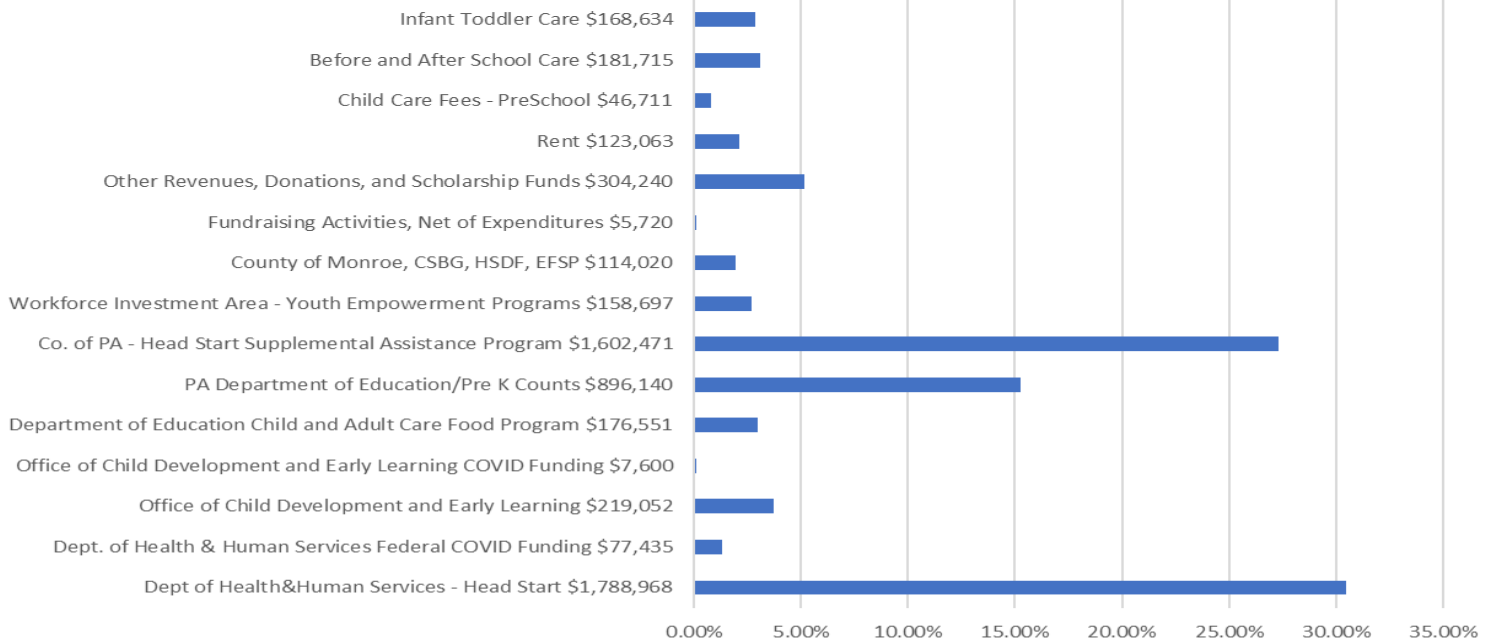
*"William and Alivia Thomas have been with us for 3 years and participated in Project Success and the Summer Youth Employment Program. Both of these programs have exposed them to the many opportunities related to career building and work fields in our area. William began working at Walmart for \$15/hour after finishing SYEP with MCTI. He has shown interest in mechanical engineering, carpentry, and piano playing. Alivia is still pinpointing her interests but enjoyed her time doing landscaping with MCTI for SYEP. William and Alivia have amazing parents who support their children in exploring what opportunities they will have as they reach the end of their years in high school. We are excited to continue helping both William and Alivia on their journey to success." - YES Staff*



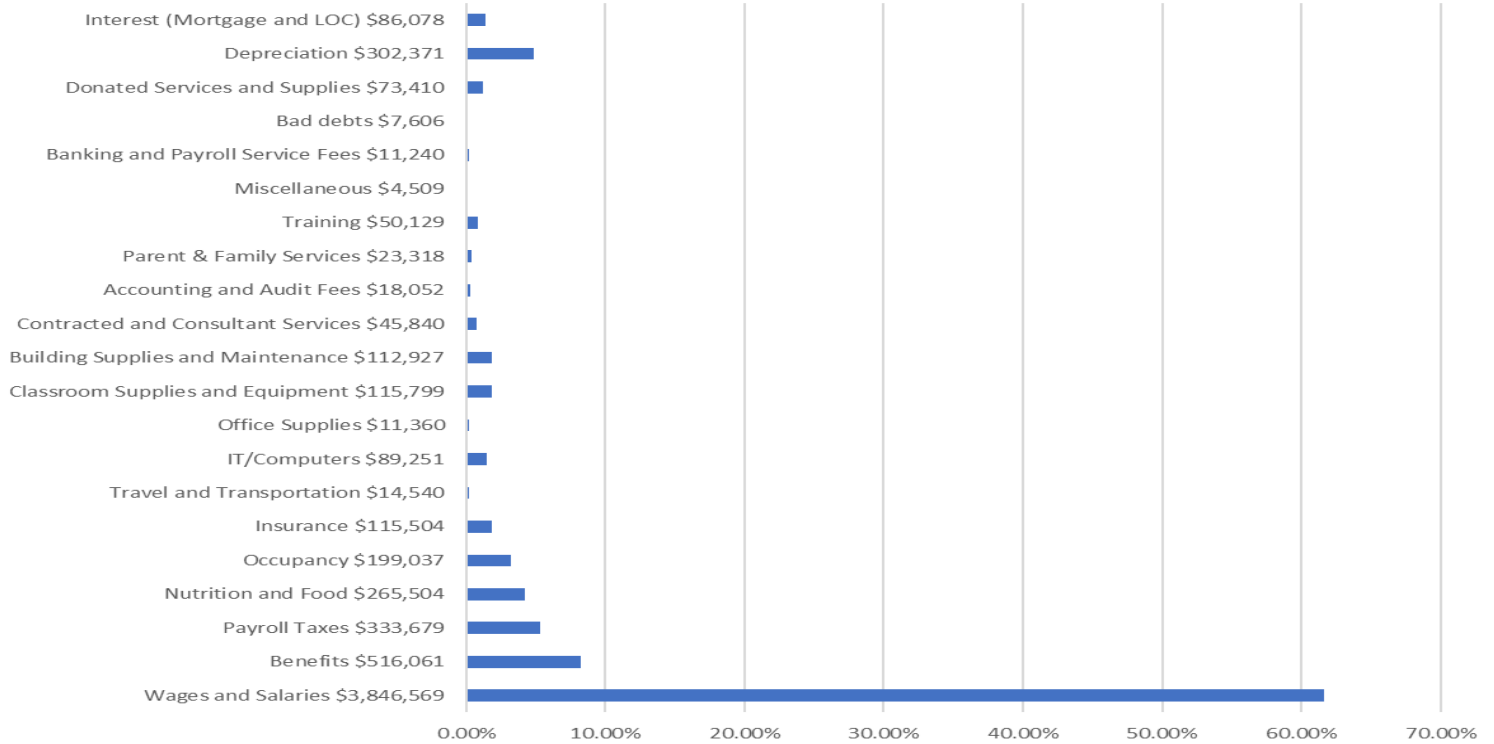
# Summary of Unaudited Financials



## Pocono Services for Families and Children Revenues (Unaudited) 2022-2023



## Pocono Services for Families and Children Expenditures (Unaudited) 2022-2023





## Meet our Partners

### One Stop! That Stops the Run Around:



#### **AARP/Senior Employment Services: 1,380 volunteers**

Dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults. AARP promotes positive social change and provides its members with information, advocacy, and services. Through AARP Foundation's SCSEP, job seekers can be placed in a wide variety of positions including daycare centers, senior centers, governmental agencies, schools, hospitals, libraries, and landscaping centers.

#### **Feeding Family Ministries, Inc.: 16,000 individuals served**

The Mission: God has called us to offer our lives in service to each other. One example of loving service to others is the care and feeding of the working poor and hungry. This is the ministry which we intend to provide without judgment or qualifications to those in need. We have an emergency food source for those struggling with hunger.

**Habitat for Humanity:** A nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live.

#### **Monroe County Area of Aging: 128 seniors**

To strengthen family life, assist individuals in attaining or maintaining independence and self-care, and protect adults in danger of neglect, abuse or exploitation.

**Monroe County Transit Authority:** MCTA (a.k.a. the Pocono Pony) is the public transit authority for Monroe County, PA. Services offered include provision of rural fixed route service as well as a paratransit program for the disabled and elderly.

**PA State Rep. Maureen Madden Legislative Office:** Represents the 115th Legislative District. Her office can answer questions and provide resources to constituents.

**Read Across Monroe:** An early literacy project to put books into the hands of children whose families struggle to afford or to have access to them. We collect, store, and distribute new and gently used children's books.

#### **St. Luke's Family Medicine- Tobyhanna: 2,134 patients served**

Offers quick, convenient access to treat our community's urgent care needs. Individuals and families can choose a walk-in urgent care center or a doctor video visit to treat one of the many urgent care conditions that has listed at the center. This center will provide treatments to everyone, regardless of their income or insurance status.

#### **Women / Infant / Children (WIC): 7,200 clients served**

Maternal and Family Health Services. To safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.

**Women's Resources: 6 cases** To provide a safe and caring environment that encourages healing and empowerment for anyone whose life has been impacted by domestic and sexual violence. We strive to engage our community through awareness, advocacy, and prevention. The Vision: To end domestic and sexual violence for all within our community.

#### Additional Partnering Programs:

- ESL Classes -Citizenship Classes -SewNCrafts -NA/AA Meetings

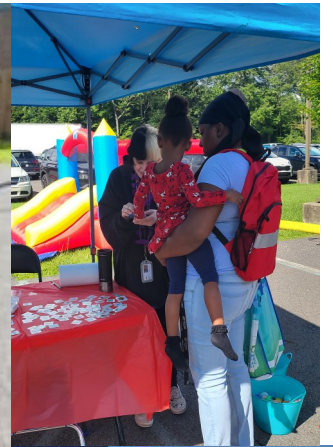


# A Year In Pictures





# A Year In Pictures





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to our supporters**



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**Thank You !**



## **Grantors & Program Assistance Agencies**

**Monroe County Commissioners in support of the Community Services Block, Human Service Development Fund, and Emergency Food and Shelter Program grants**

**Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, in support of our Head Start Program and American Rescue Plan Funding**

**Pennsylvania Dept. of Education in support of Child and Adult Care Food, PreK Counts, and Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program**

**Berks County Intermediate Unit in support of services to Early Head Start Child Care**

**Pocono Mountains United Way**

**Pocono Counties Workforce Investment Area in support of youth empowerment programs**

**PA CareerLink- Monroe County**



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