



Helping Communities & Families Thrive

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT US

RISE believes in the power of human connection and the resilience that exists within everyone. RISE is one of the largest providers of early childhood development and education, respite care and mental health services for children and families in Dane County, serving more than 2,400 children, individuals and families annually. RISE uses a strengths-based approach with families, meeting participants in their homes and out in the community, building off their strengths and assets to create an individualized care plan. Because over 95% of the families we serve are living with low-to-no income or are at risk, often times children and families come to us with challenges related to homelessness, food insecurity, childcare, transportation, literacy, employment, etc. By taking a wraparound approach to our services RISE can best address families' needs beyond early childhood development, respite and mental health.

As a community-based organization, RISE provides many of our wraparound services by partnering with over 100 organizations in the Dane County community that provide a variety of the wraparound supports that families need to gain stability in their lives. Through these connections we can more effectively address their early childhood development and mental health needs. RISE is one of the few agencies in Dane County that can provide a continuum of care across the span of a child's development, from the time they are born through young adulthood.





OUR VISION

RISE will be a leader in wraparound services for early childhood, mental health, and wellness. We will jointly shape expectations alongside participants while framing equitable partnerships throughout the region.

We will be regarded for our stewardship of resources and success in nurturing an inclusive and caring environment for participants and staff alike.

OUR MISSION

Advance the wellness of children, individuals, and families by providing early childhood and mental health services to help communities and families thrive.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 brought with it the ending of the Children Come First (CCF) program, one of the first Medicaid Managed Care Wraparound programs for children's mental health in the nation. This program had been the reason Community Partnerships was formed in 2000 and continued with RISE following the merger in 2017. This innovative wraparound program served tens of thousands of children and families over nearly a 30-year span in Dane County. The primary goal of the program was to prevent or reduce the length of stays in residential care centers, psychiatric hospitals or juvenile corrections for children with significant mental health concerns and whose care could be coordinated in their community.

The results of the program speak for themselves. In the mid-1990s, there were well over 100 children in residential care centers per day. In 2000 this average dropped to about 80 children in care per day and by June 2023 when the program ended, Dane County had only 18 children placed in a residential care center. This dramatic reduction highlights the impact the CCF program had on children and families. Children remained in their community, achieving better outcomes and at a significant financial savings to Dane County, Medicaid and the local health systems.

In addition to providing quality community-based wraparound care, CCF was instrumental in bringing systems together to better serve children and families. Youth Justice, Child Protection, Mental Health, Law Enforcement and Educational systems began to work together differently to support children in the community.

Despite the ending of CCF, RISE will continue its work supporting children with mental health concerns in the community through the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program and the newly added Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) where we will serve those children who are dually enrolled in CCS and CLTS. RISE will continue to apply the wraparound approach to best support children and their families.

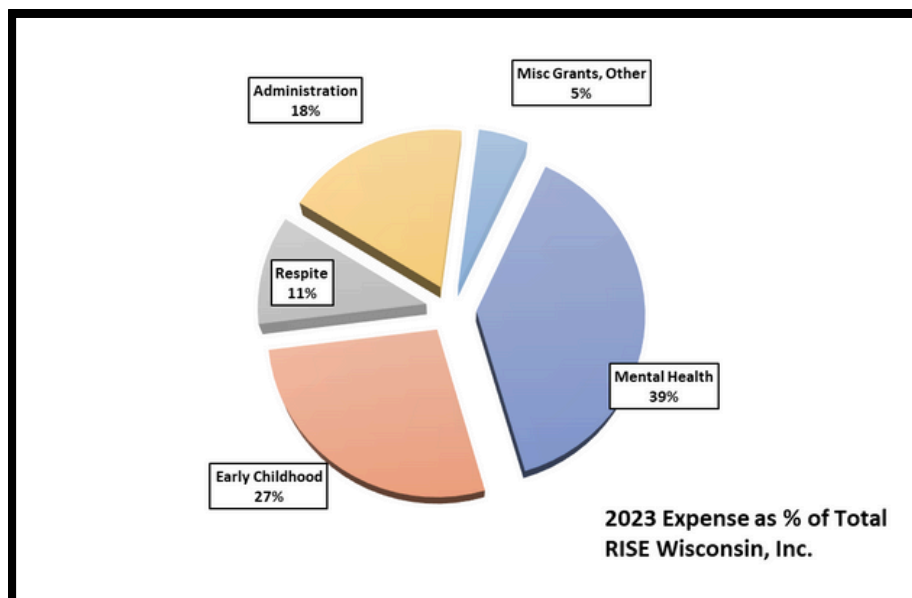
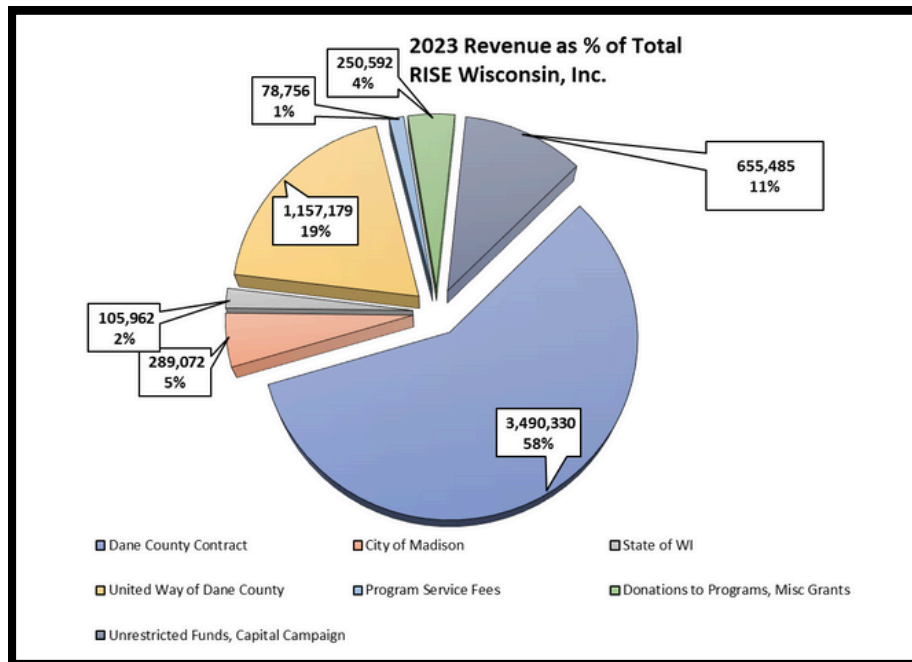
Warm regards,

Scott Strong

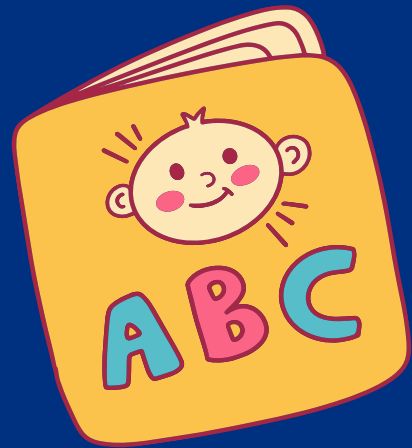
Executive Director of RISE



Financial Overview



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS





Welcome Baby & Beyond

50

children received
early childhood
development and
education



ParentChild+

104

children received
early literacy
support





Early Childhood Initiative

65

families received
early childhood
development and
education





RISE MENTAL HEALTH



Comprehensive Community Services

74

participants received
comprehensive
mental health care
and wraparound
support



CCS/Children Long-Term Support

31

families
served





Court Ordered Evaluations

787
evaluations
completed in
2023



Therapeutic Services Team

20
individuals
received
strengths-based,
trauma-
informed clinical
therapeutic
services



THE RESPITE CENTER



461

**Children received
planned or
emergency crisis
respite care.**

RISE LAUNCHES A 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



In 2023, RISE went through the final stages of planning and launched our 5-year strategic plan, which outlines a bold vision for the future of our organization. This plan will guide our efforts and investments over the next five years through 2028, with a focus on three key areas:

1. **Access** – Expanding access and improving care in early childhood, mental health and respite services.
2. **Workforce** – Enhancing organizational culture and leadership development.
3. **Visibility** – We will amplify our brand awareness and reputation as the leader in wraparound services.

To ensure the successful implementation, RISE has created and established four dedicated committees, composed of both board members and staff. These committees will play a pivotal role in driving key initiatives forward, leveraging their collective expertise and diverse perspectives. The committees focus on:

1. Marketing and Branding
2. Resource Development
3. Data Governance
4. Strategic Plan Accountability

Each committee is committed to advancing our goals in their respective areas, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that we stay on track to meet our strategic objectives each year.

RISE is confident that this strategic roadmap will empower us to achieve even greater success in fulfilling our mission and making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

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Timothy Otis & Mary Tierney
Tonia Neustifter and Ralph Cagle
Warren Buckles and Wendy Rakower
William Bird & Laura Bird
William White**



LET'S CONNECT!

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