# FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022** 



# The Chase Home

Supporting children, youth & families since 1877.



Dear Friends,

FY 22 at The Chase Home was a year of renewal, managing risk, and overall positive growth. We continue to be inspired by the tenacity of the youth and families we work with as we have built the four signature programs of the agency: residential, independent living, home-based, and diversion. Our staff have worked diligently in all programs to provide trauma-informed care and support to each youth and family member even in the face of uncertainty and turmoil our world continues to experience economically, physically, and emotionally.

Thanks to the incredible support from our community, we were able to offer an adventure-based and fun summer program to the youth in our residential program. From fishing for the first time to climbing Mt. Washington, the kids were able to enjoy their summer and gain increased confidence and improved self-esteem along the way.

In October 2021, our Independent Living Program (ILP) was opened. This program is offered to young adults ages 18-21. The need remains high for this vulnerable population. The transition to adulthood is difficult to navigate and it is especially tough for youth aging out of the state system. These young adults often face insurmountable issues such as unemployment, food insecurity, homelessness, incarceration, and early pregnancy which makes their trajectory in life dim and often these issues are faced alone. The Chase Home is becoming the change agent for young adults in these situations. ILP promotes attainment of necessary life skills such as education, job placement, driver's license, money management, and mental health stability to prepare them for their future as self-sufficient, confident, and positive contributors to society. So far, we have humbly learned valuable lessons from the young adults who have lived in the ILP. These lessons include the need for us to fully understand the depth of mental health struggles and unresolved family conflict that these young adults grapple with daily and the need to resolve these issues in order for their transition to adulthood be successful.

FY 22 also presented challenges to The Chase Home with the top one being a workforce shortage. It has been difficult recruiting and retaining staff. The current staff members at Chase Home have endured, often worked long hours, and cannot be thanked enough for their true commitment to each young person. As 2022 has progressed, we have been able to hire dedicated and vibrant new staff members to join our team full of inspiring energy. In FY 22, Chase Home's building and grounds were significantly improved. Both dorms now have brand new bathrooms and new flooring.

As I reflect on the past fiscal year, The Chase Home could not do the life-saving work that is done each day without the love, care, and support received by YOU. I am so grateful and thankful for our donors, our community, our boards, and our staff. Heading into FY 23, there is a feeling of triumphant spirit and goodness fueling our commitment to best serve and care for vulnerable youth and families in New Hampshire.

From the bottom of our hearts, we are eternally grateful for your immense generosity.

Meme Wheeler, Executive Director

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Year in Review

FY 22



Across all programs, we served 63% girls and 37% boys. The average age was 16. The socioeconomic diversity of the youth and families we served last year was vast. We worked with youth and families from all parts of New Hampshire with a highest density of Manchester to Rochester.

**Seacoast Community Diversion Program** works with delinquent youth in the community by holding the youth accountable for their behaviors without resorting to legal/court intervention and by helping them develop skills relevant to their future success. In FY 22, we served an average of 20 kids and a total of 68 kids and family members combined. The majority of issues addressed were substance misuse and mental health challenges.

**Independent Living Program** assists older youth (18-21) in developing essential life skills to successfully transition into adulthood from living at Chase Home to living on their own. This is our newest program, having launched it on October 1 of this fiscal year. In FY 22, we served a total of 5 young adults with an average stay in the program of 5 months. Housing, food insecurity, and mental health needs were the prevailing issues of young adults coming into the program.

Home-Based Program works with youth and families in their homes providing wrap-around therapeutic services in order for family preservation or reunification from the residential program to be successful and enduring. In FY 22, we served 26 youth and a total of 78 youth and family members combined. The majority of families lived in the seacoast and the tri-city area (Dover, Somersworth, and Rochester). Isolation, anxiety, substance misuse, and economic stress were key factors addressed in our home-based work.

Residential Treatment Program offers youth who have experienced abuse, neglect or significant behavioral problems a place to live while helping them develop the skills they need to experience emotional and behavioral stability. In FY 22, we cared for 24 youth and a total of 48 youth and family members combined. 70% of the youth with whom we worked were successfully reunified with their families and achieved permanency and felt safe.

FY 22

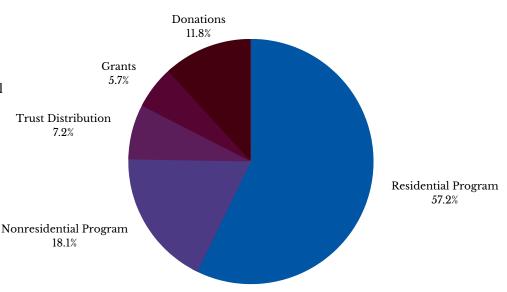
# **NUMBERS & STATISTICS**

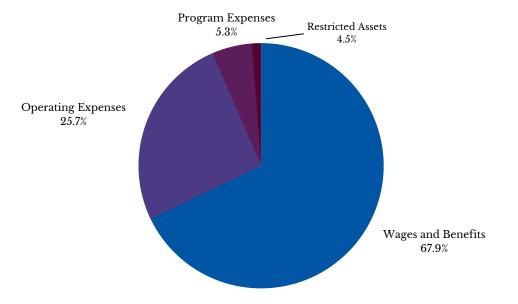
#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Chase Home begins FY 2023 on sound financial footing, poised for continued growth.

#### INCOME

The Chase Home income includes four broad revenue streams: residential services, nonresidential services, fundraising, and a trust distribution. Revenue for FY 2022 totaled \$2,070,055.





#### **EXPENSES**

Wages and benefits make up nearly 68 percent of The Chase Home's annual expenses. Total expenses for FY 2022 were \$2,061,758, resulting in a net income of \$8,297.

# "AN INSIDE LOOK"

A DEEPER PERSPECTIVE INTO HOW WE HELP



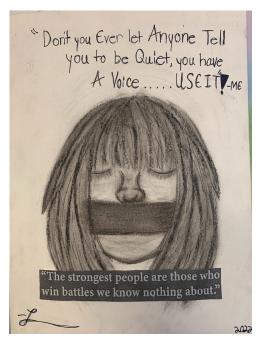
There may be no one more qualified to provide an inside look into The Chase Home than Program Director Lindsey Ellis, who has worked in various roles throughout her 14 years here. "I began as an intern while I was a student at UNH," she said. "I then worked as a Residential Counselor, Education Coordinator, and ultimately have been in the Program Director position for the past 6 years."

As for what she feels makes Chase Home so special, she cited the opportunity to support youth and families. "Being part of special moments in youths' lives, such as graduating high school, getting their first job, and obtaining their driver's license is extremely fulfilling," she said. "Watching youth reunify with their families makes the difficult days worth it."

In her current role, she said a big part of her job consists in ensuring that staff follow policies and procedures. Her work also entails scheduling structured programming, supervision of residential staff, and hiring new personnel. It is this last task that presents her with many of her biggest challenges.

"It is difficult to find appropriate staff to work with at-risk youth," explained Lindsey. "When the program doesn't have adequate staffing, it affects all aspects of the program including the treatment for the residents."

Staffing issues, including high turnover rates, also created logistical challenges related to training, especially as it relates to trauma-informed care. "I think many people don't understand the effects of trauma on the brain and that this is what ultimately leads to the behavioral issues that we see with many of our youth in residential care," she explained. "It is imperative that youth feel safe in order to begin healing and working through their personal traumas, and this is the environment that we strive to provide at Chase Home."



Artwork drawn by Chase Home Resident Referenced in Success Story

#### Success Story

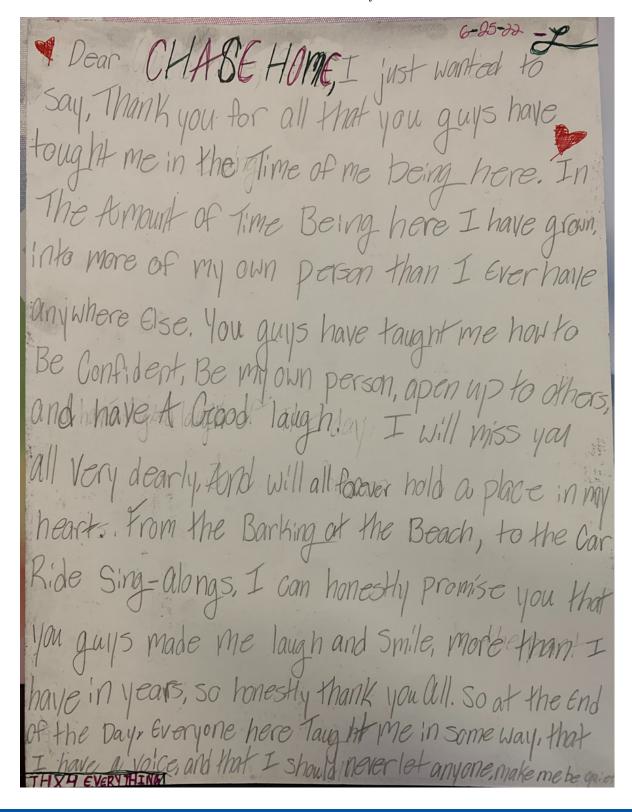
One of Lindsey's most memorable success stories involves a female youth who transitioned to Chase Home from an out of state intensive level treatment center. "She had a significant history of inpatient hospitalizations, suicidal ideation, and self harming behaviors," Lindsey explained.

The goal, she said, was for the youth to step down to Chase Home in order to successfully reunify with their guardian. "Chase Home was able to provide access to mental health services immediately upon admission to support the mental health needs of this youth and secure an appropriate alternative education setting with increased emotional support," she said.

The result was that the youth reported feeling safe and heard at Chase Home, which allowed her to work through her triggers throughout her treatment. "Our Clinical Coordinator was able to challenge her thought processes," said Lindsey. "The youth was able to see things from a different perspective when challenged as well as able to improve and organize her thoughts to be able to succeed across settings."

#### "AN INSIDE LOOK" CONT.

The youth was reunified with her family in approximately 3 months. "Our staff listened to her, validated her feelings, and supported her with her goals," she said. "We had the community wrapping around this youth and her family with services...These are the kinds of stories we strive to create each day at Chase Home."



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