

WANDA JOYCE ROBINSON FOUNDATION



2021 Annual Report

WJRFOUNDATION.ORG

The **Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation** is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive community by recognizing, respecting, and celebrating individual differences and commonalities in our board members, families, volunteers, and community partners.

mission

It is the Mission of the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation to provide mentorship and resources to children, youth, and families impacted by incarceration.

vision

It is the Vision of the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation to end the cycle of incarceration by providing the children and youth that we serve with a path of hope and a vision of a successful future.

we believe:

In protecting children and youth from experiencing ongoing disadvantages due to the incarceration of their family members.

In providing inspiration, encouragement, and support to each child and youth we encounter.

In the power of redemption, restoration, and resilience of children and families.

In providing a comfort zone for our children and youth to fully express themselves without fear of judgement.



Kentucky ranks third highest in the nation for parental incarceration.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings WJRF Family! 2021 was quite a year for our organization. I continue to be in awe of the “right people, at the right time” showing up to help us grow as we continue on our mission to serve children and youth impacted by incarceration.

Our board restructured to a 7-member Board of Directors and 16-member Advisory Council. By the end of the year, we were able to hire three part-time coordinators. We now have a video visitation coordinator who meets weekly with families and two high school outreach coordinators who are very excited about their mentoring, life skills classes, and field trips in 2022.

The WJRF Board and Advisory Council meet ongoing to oversee the operations of our programs and services to children and families. Committees provide direct supervision and implementation of programs. All of this...from a volunteer army!

We are truly grateful for our partnerships that allow us to be embedded in the community. It is our goal that as we continue to grow and sustain our programs, that we build capacity with the hiring of full time staffing positions. Our board is focused on finding sources of sustainable funding. We believe in partnerships that promote healing and unity in our community. Criminal justice reform is a non partisan issue and we are willing to sit at the table with folks who agree that our children and youth are the focus- that our mission to break the chain of generational incarceration is paramount.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core to our organization. We truly believe in family- that parent/felon, caretaker/parent, law enforcement, school, social services, and mentors are joined together by the children and youth that we love. We know that a supportive, extended family network is a key protective factor that allows our children and youth to envision a Path of Success for themselves and to trailblaze their own road in life.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are committed to breaking the chain of generational incarceration. Walk with us into 2022 knowing big things are happening!

with gratitude.



Amy Nance Snow

WJRF Co-Founder and President

THE WJRF BOARD

The Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation, Inc. is an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fosters partnerships aimed at healing and unifying our community. We welcome a diversity of ideas and experiences in our search for equitable and inclusive solutions to address the impact of parental incarceration on children and youth.

We have equipped ourselves with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant that will aide in creating a holistic learning environment that prepares our board members, families, volunteers, and community partners to be invested, educated, and accountable citizens for our local and global communities. We believe in protecting the rights of all board members, families, volunteers, and community partners regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, age, sexual and gender orientation, geographical origin/ background, or religious beliefs.

We acknowledge the need to learn from those who are different and to grow from varying experiences as they have the impact to influence our own beliefs. Our goal is to provide diverse, equitable, and inclusive opportunities for all board members, families, volunteers, and community partners through quality workshops and trainings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Snow
Co-founder and President

Issa Wright
Vice President

Rebecca Redding
Secretary

Jonathan Scott
Treasurer

Shelley Hearn
Member at Large

La’Quida Smith
Member at Large; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist

Dustin Bowman
Member at Large

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Alicia Smith
Parent/Caregiver Representative

Ashley Mulder
Franklin County Regional Jail

Dale Robinson
Co-founder

Debbie Moore
Franklin County Schools

Elizabeth Trebelhorn
University of Kentucky, Social Work Intern

Gregg Muravchick
Scott County Police Department

Kevin Hocker
Department of Juvenile Justice

Kim Beers
Franklin County Schools

Krystal Conway-Cunningham
Frankfort Independent Schools

Tisa Conway-Cunningham
Frankfort Independent Schools

Mackenzie Ware
Young Adult Representative

Margaret O’Donnell
Attorney at Law

Meagan Morrow
Franklin County Schools

Mitzi Geveden
Franklin County Clerk’s Office

Rachelle Chattin
Bookkeeper

Wil Rhodes
Kings Center Representative

CONTRACT STAFF

Amber Collins
Martin and Muir Counseling; Second Thursdays

Shannon Fryar
Video Visitation Coordinator

Meagan Morrow
High School Outreach Coordinator

Trish Freeman
High School Outreach Coordinator

OUR FOCUS AREA 12% of Kentucky children have had an incarcerated parent.

This number does not include parents under other forms of court supervision. At 12%, 862 Franklin County youth AND 442 Anderson County youth have been impacted by incarceration. That's just two counties!

STAY CONNECTED →

Follow us on Facebook for live updates on events, good news and community partnerships.



Program Highlights



- **K.R.U.S.H.- Kids Rising Up through Support and Healing** is now offered in 13 elementary and middle schools in Frankfort and Anderson counties. This preK-12th grade social emotional curriculum is offered to students impacted by incarceration and is led by school faculty. Approximately 150 students participate in this weekly program! As a board, we are beyond grateful to the school staff- **guidance counselors, social workers, FRYSC coordinators**- who make these vital groups possible.

- **Second Thursdays**, our monthly caregiver support group is led by a licensed counselor, **Amber Collins**, of Martin and Muir counseling. Volunteers and WJRF board members provide childcare while this group meets.

- **Provided dorm room items for a graduated senior attending Sullivan College.**
- **Adam Hyatt Memorial Scholarship.** We awarded two new recipients, Jakob Hosley, Campbellsville University and Aevelon Jones, Kentucky State University. This scholarship is renewable for up to three additional years. *Our three previous awardees Tre Simmons, Abbey Willhoite, and Jasmine Simpson, were renewed.*

- **25 Extra-Curricular Sponsorships**
- **Jalina Wheeler, Kristi Whitaker and Dale Robinson** presented the KRUSH program at the KY School Counselor Association conference.
- **Multiply Church** sponsored 46 kids

for Christmas. Church members organized presents and held a drive-thru for board members to pick up presents and deliver to families. Pastor **Forrest Coleman** is our WJRF volunteer chaplain and is available to meet with families as needed. Multiply provided an end of year giving that will be used for our High School Outreach in 2022. An additional 17 children were sponsored by individuals in the community, for Christmas.

- **Capital City Christian Church** provided an amazing experience for three contact visitations with incarcerated fathers and their children. Families were able to eat dinner together and open presents, wrapped by the fathers, in a family room style setting, complete with a

Christmas tree! Capital City Christian Church also provides facility usage for our monthly caregiver support group and transportation for our families often.

- Met with senators at the Capitol to discuss a Bill of Rights for Kentucky Children of the Incarcerated.
- The **Franklin County Sheriff's Office** provided a day for our kids to go fishing; and they each received a new pole! The Sheriff's office also transported 12 bicycles, assembled by **Future Forward** students in the **Fayette County Juvenile Detention Center**, to Frankfort. Future Forward also recorded books for our children and families to listen to during the month of December. Books were delivered to families.

- In June, grandparents/caregivers gathered at **Franklin County Schools** conference room for lunch and met virtually with **Kentucky Youth Advocates** to participate in an open discussion about the impact of parental incarceration on caregivers and children.

- **Kentucky Youth Advocates** also invited WJRF to participate in a press conference to launch the 2021 KIDS COUNT County Data Book. The virtual event was held in November and featured **Dale Robinson** and other guest speakers--legislators, community partners, and youth--discussing highlights for the data book, how this data is reflected for families across Kentucky, and the action steps to improve child and family well-being.

- **COMING SOON** ● Through a partnership with **Yes Arts**, a **WJRF team** comprised of a grandmother and two board members participated in a two-day training in the **Strengthening Families Parent Cafe** program. WJRF will facilitate it's first **Parent Cafe** in March 2022.

What are Be Strong Families Parent Cafes?

According to the Be Strong Families website, "Parent Cafés are physically and emotionally safe spaces where parents and caregivers talk about the challenges and victories of raising a family. Through individual deep self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning, participants explore their strengths, learn about the Protective Factors, and create strategies from their own wisdom and



BLUEPRINT FOR KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN

KYYOUTH.ORG/BLEPRINTKY/

The Blueprint for Kentucky's Children is a coalition of non-profit, public, and private organizations that stands on three pillars: thriving communities launch strong families, strong families launch successful kids, and successful kids launch a prosperous future for Kentucky.

As the commonwealth works to overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and address systemic racism, the Blueprint speaks with a common voice to create brighter futures for all Kentucky kids and their families.

Kentucky can...
Hold Parents Accountable in Ways That Minimize the Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children

Children need their parents to care for them and work to meet their basic needs. Unfortunately, in Kentucky more than one in 10 children have had a parent separated from them due to incarceration—the 6th highest rate in the nation. Having a parent incarcerated can negatively impact a child's behavioral, educational, and health outcomes. Even short stays in jail for a parent can create negative consequences for children and for the parent's ability to financially support the family.

Parental Incarceration is an Adverse Childhood Experience that has been referred to as a "shared sentence" due to the short and long-term effects it has on children.

To minimize the impact on children, Kentucky needs a system of justice that promotes accountability and reserves incarceration for those who pose a flight risk or risk to public safety.

For parents who have committed a nonviolent offense and do not pose a risk to public safety, there are community-based alternatives to incarceration, like required substance use treatment, parenting classes, vocational training, or mental health services. With a statute similar to Tennessee's, Kentucky can allow judges more options for imposing these community-based alternative sentences if the person who committed the nonviolent offense is a primary caregiver of a dependent child.

Holding parents accountable in these ways allows them to continue caring for their children and helps them be more successful in contributing to society. Higher rates of incarceration overall impact people's ability to keep jobs and find employment after release, impacting a community's workforce.

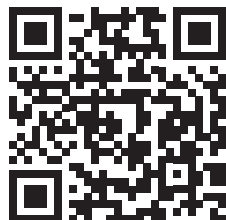
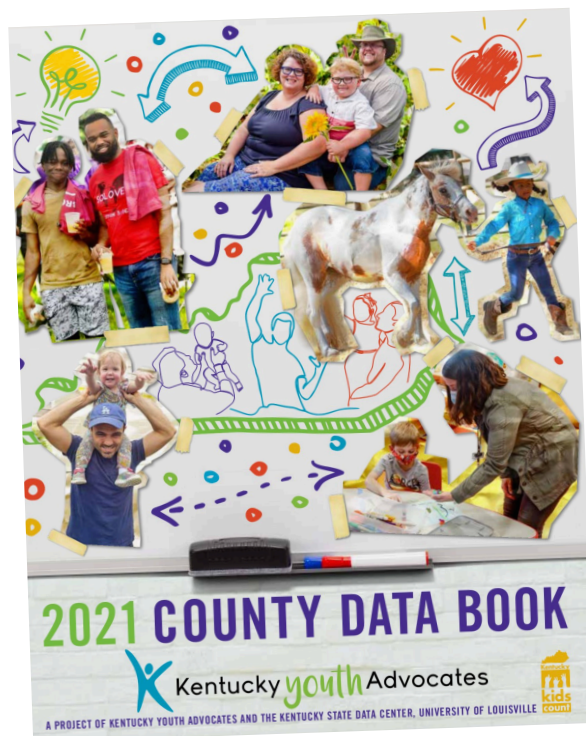
Utilizing alternative sentencing that allows parents to stay connected to children would minimize the trauma for children of having a parent incarcerated and the disproportionate impacts on Black youth.

What does the data tell us?

- Due to systemic inequities within the criminal justice system, Black children are disproportionately impacted by having a loved one incarcerated across all community types.
- More than half of adults in state custody are parents, including 64% of women and 55% of men.
- Black men are overrepresented in the incarcerated population, and therefore, in the population of incarcerated fathers.
- Women (at 27%) are more likely than men (at 15%) to be incarcerated for a drug offense as their most serious offense, and 53% of women are in state custody for a Class D non-violent, non-sexual offense.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:
Utilize community-based sentencing alternatives that promote both rehabilitation and accountability while factoring in whether a person is a primary caregiver so parents can continue providing for their children.

BLUEPRINT for KENTUCKY'S CHILDREN | kyyouth.org/blueprintky



2021 KIDS COUNT SURVEY

KYYOUTH.ORG/KENTUCKY-KIDS-COUNT/

A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation since 1990, KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States.

— FINANCIAL REPORT



WJRF received our first EVER grant from the United Way of the Bluegrass, to support our K.R.U.S.H. programs, which are now active in 13 elementary and middle schools in Franklin and Anderson counties. WJRF provides stipends to each group for supplementary resources, crafts and activities.

Two additional grants, from the **Kentucky Social Welfare Foundation** and the **Lexington Leadership Foundation**, provided the infrastructure for our High School Outreach program, which is sustained through additional WJRF fundraising efforts. Our vision of a seamless social emotional support for students impacted by incarceration is now a preK - 12th grade reality!

A fourth grant, through a partnership with our **Franklin County Schools Family Resource and Youth Services Centers** provides resources for monthly meetings with our kids, during our caregiver support group, Second Thursdays.

2021 FUNDRAISING

We hosted our first annual golf scramble this year! It was a huge success, raising \$15,000 and paving the way for new community partnerships in the future. We will host our second golf scramble on Father's Day weekend, 2022.

The GoodGiving Challenge is a week long online giving challenge for local nonprofits hosted by **Blue Grass Community Foundation** and **Smiley Pete Publishing** every November. The WJRF raised \$14,900 during the 2021 GoodGiving Challenge, including matches and prizes.

2021 budget is available to view on our website.



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE WJRF?

donate

wjrfoundation.org
Paypal Giving Fund
Facebook
Amazon Smile
Brokerage Account

sponsor an event

Capital City Derby Gala
APRIL 2022
Golf Scramble
JUNE 2022

connect us with sources of sustainable funding.

contribute to our scholarship fund.

donate during the goodgiving challenge

The GoodGiving Challenge is a week long online giving challenge for local nonprofits hosted by Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing.

CONTACT US

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Our mission is to support children and youth that have been impacted by incarceration. Find our Annual Reports, Strategic Plan, research and data along with examples of the foundation in the media.



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STAY CONNECTED →
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The 2021 Annual Report was prepared by Amy Nance Snow.

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