



**A
Decade
of
Changing
Futures**



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



"When I found Cherish Families, I was living in my car. My kids had been taken from me by the FLDS under Warren Jeffs. I felt completely hopeless.

Cherish Families helped me through the court process. I was able to get my children back and enroll them in school.

They helped me get job training, and now I have a stable job, my kids are thriving, and we have a home of our own.

I'm so grateful. I finally feel like we have a future." -Marie

MESSAGE FROM

Executive Director & Board Chair

Ten years ago, Cherish Families was a vision, a belief that families from polygamy deserved safety, dignity, and a chance at rebuilding their lives. What began as a small circle of support has grown into a statewide movement that has touched thousands of lives.

This milestone is not ours alone. It belongs to every donor, volunteer, board member, and friend who believed in us when the road ahead was uncertain. It belongs to the agencies that collaborate with us. It belongs to the staff who poured their hearts into this work, and to the families who trusted us with their stories. Together, we've created something extraordinary: a community that stands as proof that understanding and compassion change everything.

The past decade has brought shelter in times of crisis, voices in courtrooms, education and training for new beginnings, and reunions of parents with children once thought lost. **These are not only services; they are lifelines.** The impact has rippled outward, strengthening neighborhoods, schools, and communities across the Mountain West.

As you read this report, we hope you see yourself in its pages. Every number represents a life touched, every story a future rewritten. Your support has been the steady hand behind each success, the light that made new paths visible.

Looking ahead, our mission remains clear: to walk beside families as they discover stability, healing, and possibility.

With you at our side, the next ten years hold a promise even greater than the last. Thank you for standing with us and for proving what's possible when we cherish families together.

With deep gratitude,



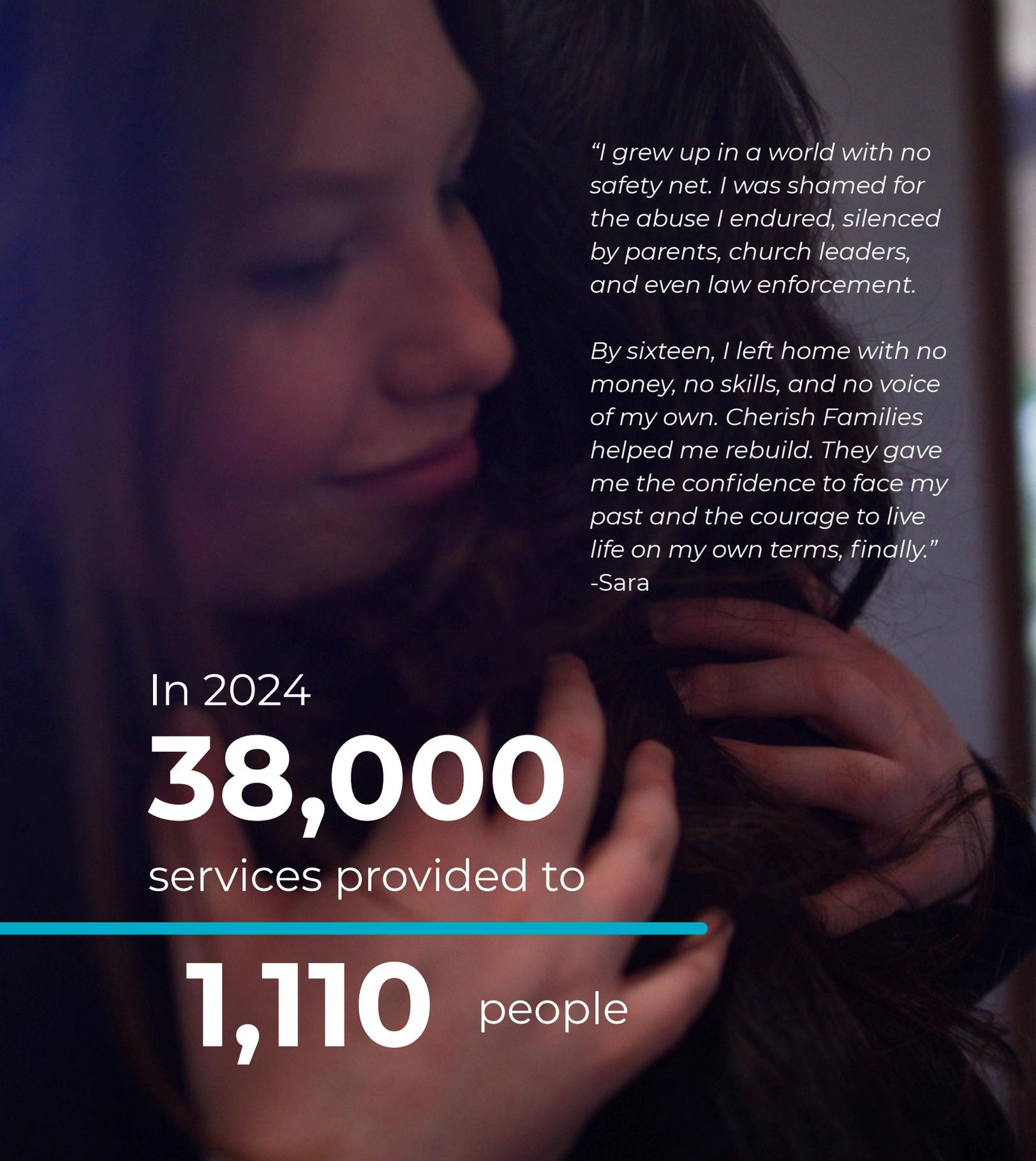
Alina Darger

Alina Darger
Executive Director



Rachel Wipf

Rachel Wipf
Board Chair



"I grew up in a world with no safety net. I was shamed for the abuse I endured, silenced by parents, church leaders, and even law enforcement.

By sixteen, I left home with no money, no skills, and no voice of my own. Cherish Families helped me rebuild. They gave me the confidence to face my past and the courage to live life on my own terms, finally."

-Sara

In 2024

38,000

services provided to

1,110 people

Vital Services Rendered in 2024

Our "Crisis to Thriving" continuum meets people where they are and offers intensive, wrap-around support to help them achieve stability and independence.



Advocacy Services:
12,569



Housing Services:
1,508



Legal Services:
781



Therapy Sessions:
3,823



Peer Support
Services:
2,797



Food and
Basic Needs:
46,782

"I was told I didn't need a driver's license because I'd never need independence, that leaving my abusive marriage was a sin, and that the abuse was my fault. I came to Cherish Families in crisis, needing safe housing and help to not feel like I was going crazy. They saved my life and helped me believe in myself." -Anna





TEN YEARS OF



2014

Opened

Achieved Nonprofit status
2 Volunteer Staff

2015

2 Programs
First small grant received

Added:

- Mentoring
- Cultural Sensitivity Training

2016

3 Programs
Added:
VOCA Crime Victim Services

2017

4 Programs
Acquired Colorado City Building
Added:

- Community Events
- Food Pantry/Basic Needs

2018

5 Programs
Received Utah State Funding
Added:

- Family Peer Support,
- Eligibility services,
- Summer lunch program,
- Financial literacy classes

2019

11 Programs
Added:

- Financial Lit Classes
- Summer Lunch Program
- Eligibility Services
- Housing Services
- Mental Health Support
- Legal Services

TRANSFORMATION

“*Individually, we are drops;
together, we are an
ocean of impact*”

2020

14
Programs

Pandemic
created
big spike in
demand

Added:

- Crisis to Thriving
- Food Bank
- Community Education Classes

2021

15
Programs

Became
Walmart Partner

Added:
Community
Assessment

2022

15
Programs

VOCA
Funding cuts

Certified Court
Advocate

2023

15
Programs

Completed remodel
of the Colorado
City office

Completed Utah
Community
Assessment

2024

18
Programs

Purchased Alpine
Office with
funding from the
state

Added:

- Low Income Housing Project
- TANF Housing Program
- Adult High School Services



2024 Growth Highlights

We expanded our footprint with a new office in Alpine!

This location gives us a base for better outreach in the Northern Utah area. Deep gratitude to the State of Utah for helping us secure the location.



We saw our second-highest number of clients (after the pandemic) with average monthly services of 5,569!

Our advocates are busy!



We began facilitating adult high school classes in our Colorado City site in collaboration with Southwest Adult High School



We started our low income housing project, and received a TANF grant to assist families in securing housing



“Ten years ago, I left the FLDS faith with my eight children, stepping away from everything we had ever known. With no credit or rental history, finding housing felt impossible, and even after securing a home, we struggled to keep up with rent. Cherish Families stepped in with resources that helped us stay housed and gave us experiences we had never known before, our first Christmas, books and sewing kits for my children, even a fishing trip. Their support was both practical and culturally sensitive, helping my kids adjust to life outside the religion in ways that felt safe and familiar.

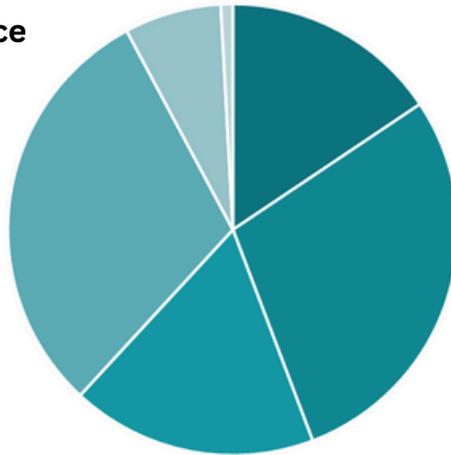
Years later, when I went through a divorce and needed housing again, Cherish Families walked with me through every step, offering both advocacy and emotional support. Therapy and guidance helped me heal, and today I work for Cherish Families. The chance to now support others on similar journeys is very meaningful, and I will always be grateful for the foundation they gave me.” - Allene

Operations Source & Use

In 2024, 88% of our expenses were dedicated directly to program services, a testament to our commitment to efficient and impactful operations.

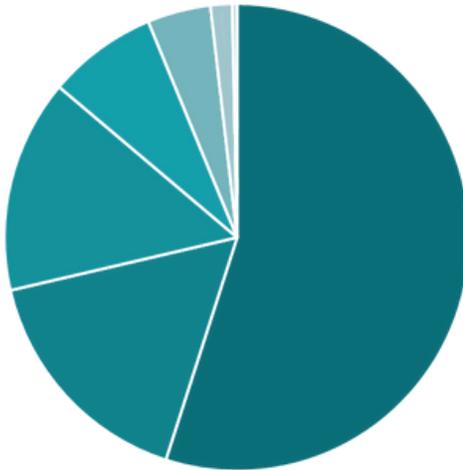
Total 2024 FY Budget: \$5,028,899.17

Funds Source



- Federal Grants \$785,011 16%
- In-kind donations \$1,439,164 29%
- Corporate Grants \$887,722 18%
- State Grants \$1,523,244 30%
- Private Donations \$350,255 7%
- Billed Services \$43,503 1%

Funds Use



- Direct Client Services* \$2,578,366 55.0%
- Capital Purchase: Service Center \$770,080 16.4%
- Low Income Housing Project \$692,974 14.8%
- Administrative & Overhead \$357,799 7.6%
- Program Supervision \$206,245 4.4%
- Awareness/Outreach \$70,436 1.5%
- Fundraising \$15,759 0.3%

*Including victim services, peer support, case management, housing, legal assistance, mental health services, food, etc.

“Cherish Families is making a real, immediate difference for people who’ve been downtrodden and pushed back for generations. This is grassroots work that changes lives today, not years from now.”

As a legislator, I’ve seen firsthand how effectively they partner with the state to address critical issues, such as mental health and victims’ rights. It’s money well spent, and I’m proud to support an organization that truly helps people find safety, stability, and a future.”

-Senator Don L. Ipson, Utah State Senate

AWARDS, HONORS

Our work is recognized with numerous awards. We have built a stellar reputation and a vast network of collaborating partners in government, healthcare, and education. State and local governments recognize us as population experts. Our leaders are sought-after speakers and trainers on the unique dynamics of these communities. We continue to receive accolades and awards for our contributions to the community, including:



- American Society for Public Administration Distinguished Service award
- UZONA Chamber of Commerce Best Supporting Organization for service to the Hildale/Colorado City community
- Hildale City Council Community Appreciation Award
- Emmy nomination for branded video
- Brad Stapley Memorial Community Partner Award
- Washington County Community Coordinated Response Team Innovative Provider Award
- AZ Governor's Volunteer of the Year Award
- Utah Nonprofits Association Certificate in Program Evaluation
- Recognition from Senator Sinema
- Element Award from the St George Chamber of Commerce
- Utah Tech University Distinguished Friend award
- Citation of Excellence from Congressman Gosar



A DECADE OF GRATITUDE

Cherish Families exists because people like you continue to stand with us. Whether through time, resources, or encouragement, your support has built a foundation of safety and opportunity for families who once felt they had none. For that, we are deeply grateful.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. The future is unwritten, but together, we have already proven how powerful it can be.

2024 DONORS

\$50,000+

Alliance for the Social
Determinants of Health
Intermountain Community
Care Foundation

Kailee Brynne Family
Charitable Fund
Don Watkins

\$10,000- \$25,000

Anonymous
Intermountain Healthcare

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition
Dorothy Zitting

\$1,000 - \$9,999

A.R.T.S. Inc.
Mary Bold
Arnold Boss
Barbara Boss
Competitive Excavation

Monte Holm
Intermountain Health
Employees
Craig Kelsch
Kirkland and Ellis LLP
Dimon Mcferson

Heidi Monson
Peter Ott
Rights and Religious Forum
Rush Plumbing
Southern Utah Bar Association
The United Way

\$100 - \$999

Rick Atkin
Tani Barlow
Jeff Barlow
Kerry Burt
Karen & Neil Cole
Pat Dalpiaz
Alina Darger

Joseph Darger
Olivier Esmiol
Martha Evans
Jayson Gray
Raphelle Guy
Doug Hamilton
Dannielle Larkin

Pat Merkley
Dee & Greg Murray
Dana Naylor
Paypal Giving Fund
Shepherd Of The Hills
United Women in Faith
Leanne Worwood
Emily Wheatley

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OUR MISSION

We connect individuals and families, primarily those from polygamous cultures, with tools and resources for generational success.



OUR PROMISE

Cherish Families stands as a beacon of hope, serving as the essential bridge for individuals and families from polygamous backgrounds who may be fleeing abusive situations. When they take the courageous step to leave, we offer a lifeline to guide them through the journey.

