



Family
Connections
Centers



annual report
2024



Contents

- Letter from Our Executive Director** 1
- Our Community** 3
- Programs** 5
- Impact** 7
- Rudis' Story** 9
- The Portola Children & Family Garden** 11
- Financials** 13

Our Mission

Family Connections Centers provides community-driven, multilingual education and support programs to ensure children and families can thrive.

Board of Directors

- Chris Bunting**, Co-chair
- Reanna Tong**, Co-chair
- Roy Hom**, Treasurer
- Mark Snyder**, Secretary
- Robyn King**
- Ellen Garcia**
- Nikita Saini**
- Connor Skelly**

Photos courtesy of Maria Durana and Lisa Frare

Letter from Our Executive Director



Dear friends and partners,

For three decades, Family Connections Centers has been a cornerstone of community and support for children and families in southeast San Francisco.

Today, raising a family in our city is harder than ever. The cost of raising children in San Francisco is the highest of any city in the country. A single adult with a young child making minimum wage would have to work 144 hours a week to afford their basic needs.

In the Excelsior, Portola, and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods where our centers are based, nearly half of all children live below 300% of the federal poverty level. Barriers to early care, food security, and essential services make it increasingly difficult for families to thrive.

Every day, I see the impact Family Connections Centers has in tackling these urgent needs.

In the wake of the reduction of CalFresh benefits and rising prices, we expanded our food pantry program to assist more families facing food insecurity. We now distribute diapers at all of our centers, in addition to the vast array of case management services our dedicated staff provides. This team of skilled, multilingual case managers has doubled to help more families, especially recent immigrants, access housing, education, and employment resources.

Every year is momentous, but our 30th has been one of the most significant. After extensive planning and with funding from the SF Department of Early Childhood, we **opened our third family resource center in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood**. In August, we began family support services for the large number of children and families living there. It is such a joy to see how active these programs are and hear the community's excitement for more.

A favorite moment from last year was **the completion of the Portola Children and Family Garden**. This magical wonderland has become a vibrant part of our programming. From preschool composting lessons to succulent-planting workshops in support groups, the Garden has strengthened our holistic, hands-on learning, and deepened our understanding of and care for the environment.

We've begun implementing our **new Strategic Plan**, developed from hundreds of hours of feedback and engagement with families, staff, Board, community, and partners. It will guide our continued response to the needs of our community while enhancing our innovation and organizational strength.

I am in constant awe of our amazing staff, caring volunteers, and dedicated partners who step up again and again to respond to our community's needs and grow our efforts and outcomes. If you have been to our centers, you know it is often a buzz with activity as new moms laugh with their babies at a Tummy Time playgroup, preschoolers sing and wiggle in a dance class, parent volunteers pack hundreds of bags of groceries, homework club children prototype designs for the 3-D printer, staff prepare cooking ingredients for a family fun night, and so much more.

As you read this Annual Report, I hope it serves as a testament to the impact we've made together. I know the coming year will be difficult and demanding, and there is no other community I'd rather be a part of to tackle and conquer these challenges. I am honored to continue this journey with you all and I remain deeply optimistic as we continue to build a connected, equitable community where children and families can access the education and resources they need to thrive.

With gratitude, Yensing Sihapanya

Our Community

97%
low-income
households

84%
of adults
born outside
the U.S.

109
pregnant
moms
served

171
volunteers

2,259
individuals
served

11
languages
spoken by
participants
and staff

77%
of adults are
English Language
Learners

98.5%
people
of color

"After I first came to support group, my mom passed away.

I didn't want to leave my house, but my husband encouraged me to come to the second meeting to get my mind off things.

Even though I never told the others in the group what was going on, being there helped me so much.

It lifted me out of my sadness and depression and made me more confident in my ability to advocate for my children -- like my mom would have wanted."

-Elisa

Programs



Lemos Farm



Winter Wonderland



Bloom Shaboom

Our Education programs included facilitated child-caregiver playgroups, licensed preschools, and summer and afterschool programs for children in grades K-5.

Our Family Support programs empower parents/caregivers with education and resources to advocate for their needs and increase stability in their lives. These include case management, educational workshops on health and civil rights, support groups, prenatal classes, budgeting and financial wellness series, holiday and community celebrations, and parenting classes. All are free of charge.

We also provide basic needs assistance to alleviate stressors, distributing diapers, groceries, school supplies, holiday gifts, and more to members of our community.

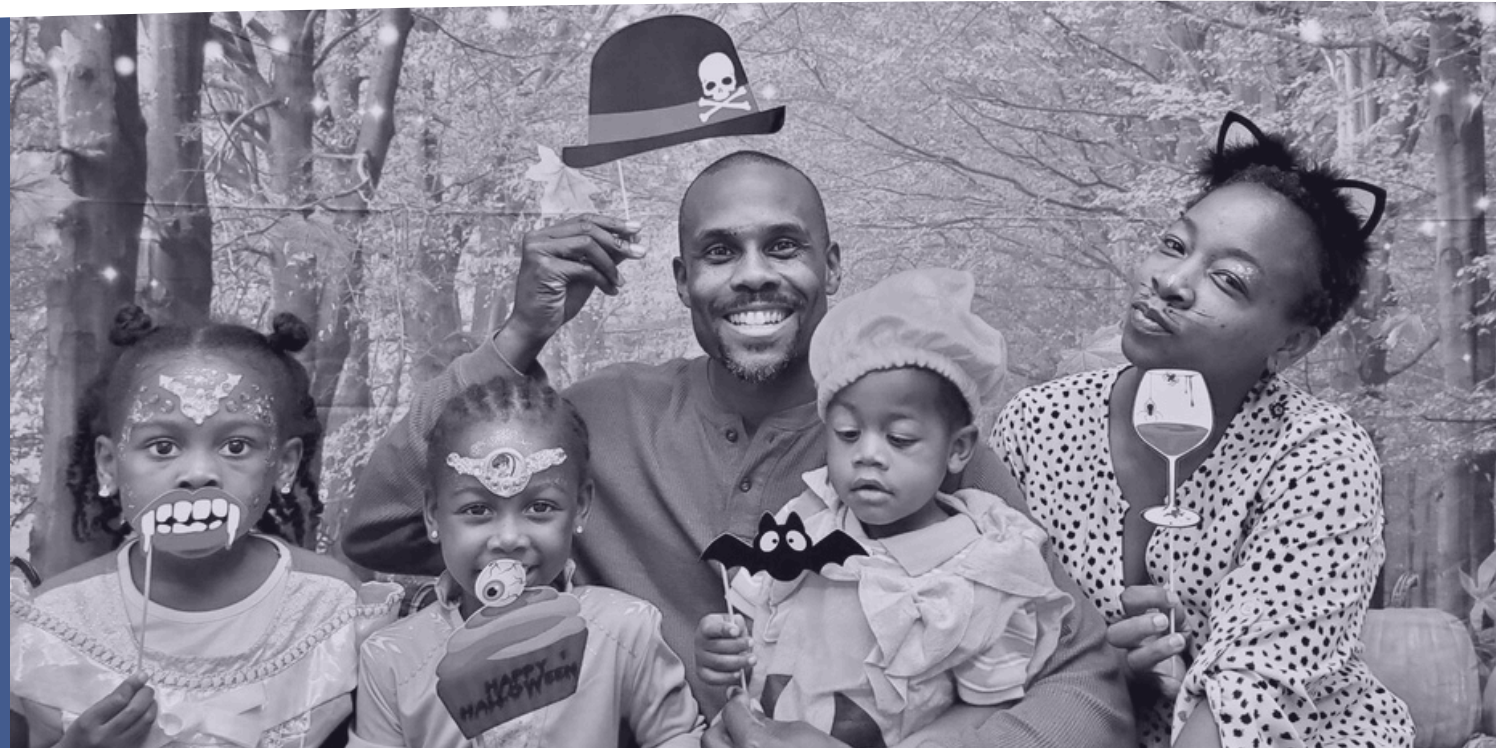


Balboa Carnival



Summer Camp Field Trip

Impact



We provided:

132,600 diapers

38,021 dosage hours for K-5th graders

2,855 bags of groceries

1,788 client case sessions

1,753 referrals to crucial social services

1,059 fellowship and internship hours

283 hours of support groups

30+ programs and services

400

students received new backpacks with school supplies and books

311

participants reported they strengthened their self-sufficiency and economic empowerment

100%

of preschoolers moved up in their developmental level scores

359

children received holiday gifts

"I am getting emotional about Kobe, my child. I have seen so much growth and change in him since he first started Pre-K classes here.

Kobe has learned so many skills from the teachers. I want my baby girl to come here when she is old enough."

-Kaye

98%

of case management clients successfully completed their plan

420

children and caregivers attended early childhood playgroups



Rudis' Story: A Place to Find Community



Rudis first encountered FCC by chance. He was walking past our Excelsior Center when a case manager, Javier, handed him a flyer for the Men's Group. At the time, Rudis was experiencing homelessness, couch surfing, and struggling with addiction. He had lost his job, gone through a painful divorce, and had no contact with his children. Instead of continuing to walk past, Rudis attended the support group that same day – a decision he says changed his life.

It's been two years, and he hasn't missed a group.

It's a place where he can be vulnerable, confront his struggles, and find community.

Rudis made a close friend through the group who introduced him to an affordable housing program. Javier helped him navigate the application process. In March, Rudis moved into his own apartment, giving him the foundation to focus on his recovery and well-being. He began outpatient addiction treatment and has maintained his sobriety.

Once his life stabilized, Rudis reached out to his children, now grown, after years without any contact. His commitment to reconnecting with his family led him to enroll in FCC's parenting course, not just for his own growth, but so he could support his daughter in raising her child.

He's grown his confidence and now helps facilitate Men's Groups and volunteers at our family events.

Today, he is a part of his granddaughter's life, bringing both his granddaughter and daughter to FCC events and creating new family memories that once seemed out of reach.



"Family Connections changed my life."

The Portola Children & Family Garden



This year, we celebrated the grand opening of a beautiful garden at our Portola Center. The garden has created new opportunities for children and families to explore environmental science, food systems, and their health while fostering a deeper connection to the natural world.



Enormous thanks to the funders and partners of this project: SF Department of Early Childhood, Low Income Investment Fund, William G. Irwin Foundation, SF Children & Nature Collaborative, SF Recreation & Park, BASE Landscape Architecture, Scientific Art Studio, the Portola Neighborhood Association, Rebuilding Together SF, SheBuilds, California Native Plant Society, Presidio Trust, and Friends of the Urban Forest.

Many Hands Make Big Changes



2021: The space is cleared out and a door from our center to the back yard is built.



2023: Pre-K visits the construction daily to draw the changing space and ask the builders questions.



2023: Volunteers, families, and staff work together to build paths and play structures and plant grasses.

2024: The Garden In Action



Pre-K, led by our ECE Fellow, learned about local animal and insect habitats, planted California Poppies in the garden beds, harvested beets, and hosted a **Pre-K Farmer's Market** for their families and staff.

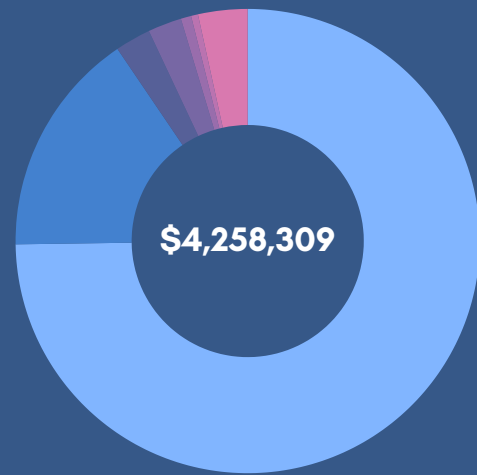
Expectant mothers joined us for a workshop series on **Prenatal Nutrition & Wellness**, taught by a registered dietician from San Francisco General Hospital, which offered pregnant moms tools and resources to care for themselves and their children.

In partnership with 18 Reasons, we hosted a **10-week cooking class** for parents and caregivers to learn kitchen techniques and recipes that use affordable, sustainable, and local ingredients.



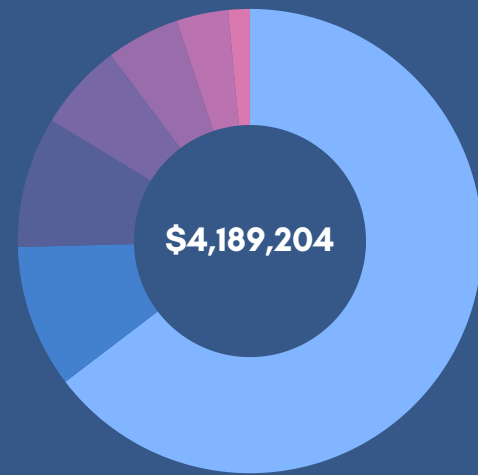
Financials

Revenue



- Government Grants: \$3,184,107
- Foundations and Corporate: \$670,349
- Program Fees: \$105,874
- Rental Income: \$100,023
- Contributions and Events: \$30,811
- Interest and Dividends: \$20,592
- Fiscal Fees and Miscellaneous: \$146,553

Expenses



- Wages and Benefits: \$2,740,937
- Professional Services: \$422,310
- Program Supplies: \$334,402
- Fiscal Projects: \$257,702
- Depreciation: \$217,310
- Occupancy: \$152,446
- Professional Development: \$64,097



Thank You to Our Funders!

Foundations and Corporate

- Ashbury Children's Foundation
- Avenue Greenlight
- Bella Vista Foundation
- Campbell Foundation
- Chronicle Books
- Excelsior Action Group
- Foss Family Foundation
- GGG Foundation
- Goodman Family Foundation
- Henry Mayo Newhall
- JPMorgan Chase (First Republic)

- Kaiser Permanente
- Leftwich Event Specialists
- Low Income Investment Fund
- Mimi and Peter Haas Fund
- Morris Stulsaft Foundation
- SF Public Health Foundation
- Silver Giving Foundation
- Sterling Bank
- Stocker Foundation
- Tahbazof Family Foundation

Public / Government

- SF Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
- SF Department of Early Childhood
- SF Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development
- SF Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- SF Office of the Treasurer
- SF Environment Department



**Family
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Centers**

fccenters.org 415.715.6746 @fccenters

Excelsior

5016 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112

Portola

2565 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134

Visitacion Valley

1099 Sunnydale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134