

WMPC In Action

Creating a community of belonging, resiliency, and hope where children and families flourish.

Facts in Foster Care

Kent County Children Leaving Care

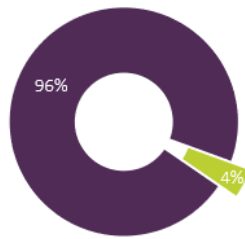


WMPC served 1,244 children between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018. 375 children exited foster care.

(Source: Mindshare Dashboard, retrieved 12/3/18)

Finances in Foster Care

WMPC Expenses October 2017 – September 2018



\$35,256,387

Spent on Foster Care Services

\$1,612,108

Spent on Administration

\$36,868,495

Total WMPC Expenses

Foster care expenses consist of expenditures supporting our General Foster Care, Enhanced Foster Care, Independent Living, Adoption, and other programs serving children and families in Kent County.

Administrative expenses cover WMPC's costs for personnel, office space, technology needs, and other general/administrative requirements necessary for overseeing the foster care services in Kent County.

Happier Than Happy!

WMPC believes that children belong with their families whenever safe and possible, and we are overjoyed that we were able to approve the utilization of [Enhanced Foster Care](#) by Catholic Charities West Michigan so they could support a grandmother who had been working towards adoption of her grandson.

Jimmy* had been in foster care since he was 5-years-old with his three siblings, and was placed in a residential setting at the age of 6 due to his aggressive and suicidal behaviors. He successfully completed an assessment center program and then spent another year in a residential program with his brother.

Marianne*, Jimmy's grandmother, attained licensure as a foster parent, and when Jimmy's parents' rights were terminated, signed an intent to adopt Jimmy. Marianne drove several hours to visit Jimmy every week and to participate in therapy and family team meetings with him. Enhanced Foster Care was provided during the transition period to help Marianne build the skills she needed to effectively parent Jimmy and respond to his trauma-related needs.

Jimmy was released from residential into his grandmother's home and when the adoption worker asked him how he feels about living with his grandmother, Jimmy asked her, "*What's happier than happy?*" He loves getting to know his father's side of the family and playing with his cousins.

Jimmy still visits his three siblings in their placements, including

another adoptive home that plans to keep the siblings in frequent contact with Jimmy for life. He loves spending time with his grandmother, being outside, and riding his bike. Nearly six months in, this family is close to their happily-ever-after; a finalized adoption for a child and his grandmother.

**Names have been changed to ensure confidentiality.*