

## OUR STORY

We are dedicated to breaking the cycle of generational poverty. We effect transformational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with highly trained Professional Mentors.

Friends of the Children - Western Montana (Friends - Western) and Friends of the Children - Eastern Montana (Friends - Eastern) are separate, independent, and autonomous entities licensed by Friends of the Children - National to exclusively deliver the Friends model in our defined Montana service areas.

## DOUBLING OUR IMPACT IN MONTANA

### FRIENDS - WESTERN EST 2021

- With programs in Missoula and on the Flathead Reservation, Friends-Western Montana will serve 64 families and 250+ individuals in 2024.
- We partner with more than 15 organizations across the human services continuum to maximize the growth potential for our families.
- The Flathead Reservation program was established in partnership with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, is Indigenous-led, and provides culturally responsive programming to tribal youth.
- Our 2Gen program prioritizes whole family services that create community, checks in regularly with caregivers, and connects families to trauma-informed services.

### FRIENDS - EASTERN EST 2022

- Launched in partnership with youth behavioral and mental health providers to address suicide prevention, domestic violence, and substance abuse.
- Part of the foster care prevention and intervention continuum in Yellowstone County by serving youth in foster care who are statistically at highest risk.
- Provides culturally responsive programming to best serve Indigenous youth both on and off Reservations.
- Launching dedicated family engagement services in 2024.
- Expansion interest from several communities including Bozeman, Crow, and Hardin. Conducting feasibility studies for strategic, sustainable chapter growth.

**My daughter absolutely loves her Friend, Kinley, who also helps me with parenting skills, connecting me to job opportunities, and supporting my sobriety.**  
– Katrina, Caregiver



# THE FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN MODEL

Research has shown that the most important factor for building resiliency in children who face the greatest challenges in life is a long-term, consistent relationship with a caring adult.

- We invite youth and caregivers to join us.
- We hire and train full-time, paid, professional mentors.
- We commit for the long-term.
- Our work is relationship-based, individualized, and intentional.
- We work with youth and caregivers in the community, at-home, and at-school.
- We evaluate, measure, and improve.

## \$1 = \$7

For every \$1 invested in Friends of the Children, the community benefits over \$7 in saved social costs. Helping one child saves the community nearly \$ 1 million.

## OUR WORK IN FOSTER CARE

The Friends of the Children model is increasingly being sought out by communities and foster care systems across the country as a foster care prevention and intervention strategy. For 30 years, our model has been breaking cycles of poverty and getting results for youth in care. Of youth who have experienced foster care:



**92% enroll in post-secondary education, serve our country or enter the workforce.**



**83% graduate high school**



**93% avoid juvenile justice**



**98% avoid early parenting**

Compared to youth who experienced foster care without a Friend:  
55%                      74%                      74%

*We envision a day when every 4–6-year-old in Montana who is at imminent risk of, or who is experiencing foster care, has a Friend. With the accelerated expansion of the Friends of the Children model, we believe that by 2030, we can reduce the number of 5-year-olds entering foster care by 10% in the communities we serve.*

## TWO-GENERATION IMPACT (“2GEN”)

Recognizing the power of our model to empower youth, Friends of the Children is now implementing a two-generation (2Gen) approach to meet the needs of both youth and caregivers. In addition to providing a one-on-one salaried, professional mentor (a Friend) to individual children, our 2Gen approach supports parents and caregivers by:



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