



We see you.

Our Mission

Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network, Inc. (BPPN) empowers women, fathers, and families to take charge of bettering their family health and well being by providing education, support, advocacy, and connection to resources and services in Western New York. Our focus is on improving maternal and infant health outcomes for high need women and their families to help reduce racial and ethnic disparities and support and nurture parents. Proudly serving over 25 zip codes in high-risk, low-income neighborhoods throughout Erie County.



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Cover Photo: Kaison, 18 months old. Son of Airmaliz "Dora" Lierandez. See story, Page 3.

Patti Looney Photography, patricialooneyphotography.com

Letter to the Community

Black, White, Hispanic, Indigenous -- all families face challenges and no one situation is perfect, some needing help more than others. Putting families first is the essence of what we do. No other organization in Buffalo walks the neighborhoods, works in the homes, looks into the eyes of our moms and dads helping to reset, rethink and build hope for future generations.

Black and Hispanic women suffer the highest rates of infant mortality of all racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. – almost three times the rate of White women. And for the first time in two decades, the number of U.S. infants who died in their first year of life is on the rise, with experts considering infant mortality a key indicator of overall population health.

The financial burden to Western New York totals in the millions of dollars. March of Dimes estimates it costs approximately \$65,000 per preterm birth for medical care, maternal delivery costs, early intervention, special education, assistive devices, lost employment productivity and more. In 2023, BPPN worked with 143 mothers through our integrated program intervention, a community savings of more than \$7.5 million in financial burden to our local region.



Our report this year, like our new tagline – *We See You* – articulates what we do every day supporting, counseling, and connecting our families with our care teams, bringing together resources to help. Not just a band aid but a remedy for change.

Here are just some of our 2023 highlights.

- Partnered with Syracuse University and University of Rochester on new research utilizing “Thinking Healthy Program” for home-based mental health/depression intervention for staff and program families.
- Rebranded our Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) to Courageous Advocates Breaking Barriers (CABB), consisting of female program participants empowered to become ambassador advocates.
- Worked with D’Youville University to develop a new Community Health Worker (CHW) training curriculum for moms providing a pipeline for employment.
- Contracted with The John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital to engage clients at prenatal clinics and ensure compliance with initiation into prenatal care appointments.
- Pioneered work with housing lead prevention in collaboration with Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), the City of Buffalo and the Health Foundation of Western & Central New York.
- Partnered with United Way of Greater Buffalo & Erie County to launch a new breastfeeding grant to support the development and implementation of breastfeeding support groups.
- Added the Inside Out Dads program of the Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative training at the Erie County Holding Center and Alden Correctional Facility.
- Expanded focus on maternal health mortality during Black Maternal Health Week.
- Fatherhood Initiative hosted the 5th Annual Fatherhood Conference, Family Fishing Outings, Dads Do Hair Too and more.

It’s extremely difficult to break the cycle of economic and social adversity that exists in our communities. Together we can help create personal and professional pathways to live and thrive.

To all those we encounter daily, we are committed to see you, today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Aimee Capelli, MBA, FACHE
Board Chair



LuAnne Brown
CEO





Healthy Families Buffalo

Healthy Families helps to build self-sufficiency and confidence while decreasing child abuse and neglect as a family grows. Over five years, the program partners with parents and infants three months or older, providing inclusive support during pregnancy and early childhood. Since its inception, more than 4,900 families have been helped in the home and at no cost.

Successful Outcomes

100%
of team members accredited

Well baby visits were attended by
90%
of participants

95%
of participating infants and children will have a medical provider

100%
of participants screened for substance abuse and mental health issues

Increased father involvement by
41%



"I proudly embrace my role as a mother with BPPN becoming an integral part of my extended family. Amidst the responsibilities of caring for my children of various ages, I found myself desperately struggling. Healthy Families became my anchor, providing mental health support and connecting me with life-essential resources, from diapers to housing assistance. I'm thriving today."

- Deanna Gresko | *Healthy Families Graduating Mother*

Deanna's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of steadfast support and the resilience that blossoms through nurturing relationships, a testament to the power of community and compassionate care.

PHOTOS: 2024 Healthy Families Graduating Moms, Children and BPPN Team Members Deanna Gresko, son Aiden Sant, age 5 and BPPN Team Member Kim Manney

Community Health Workers

The Community Health Worker program sends team members out into the community to where a pregnant mom is trying to survive, building trust and treating them with respect. Care and support for most, can be out of reach for moms to be that are less fortunate. This program helps change lives.

Airmaliz “Dora” Lierandez was six months pregnant when she matched with Community Health Workers.

“Today at 21, my life has changed dramatically. I’ve worked my way to becoming a Courageous Advocates Breaking Barriers (CABB) member, engaged with mental health advocates, mastered public speaking and self-defense training, completed a CHW program through D’Youville University and working a paid internship with BPPN. To every person I see, I brag about my new life for me and my son.”

- Airmaliz “Dora” Lierandez

PHOTOS: Dora and Kaison | Dora and Community Health Worker Candice Williams



Successful Outcomes



One out of two mothers enter/reenter employment



Four out of five mothers resume school

94%

people served are Black

20%

of team members were once program participants

100%

of mothers are provided with family planning/contraceptive training



Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative

The Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative was conceived to empower healthy father and male involvement for children and families while providing tools and resources for better futures. Programs include Caring Dads, Mentoring Fathers Project, Financial Peace University and Nurturing Fathers, and nationally recognized Inside Out Dads. From neighborhood community centers and high schools to incarceration facilities, training covers education, finances, social connections, mental health counseling and more.

"My journey has taken me from graduating from a Nurturing Fathers class to becoming a program facilitator and an advisor to program manager. Similarly, my growth as a father has been ongoing. These fathers show up for information, camaraderie, support, and encouragement. I am rewarded by being able to serve those men and families in the community who need a hand up."

- Terry Seay | Program Director, Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative

Successful Outcomes

800

men enrolled in various program initiatives

1700

hours of fatherhood education were provided this year

Referrals generated by word of mouth

299

70%

of enrollees graduate from the program

ESTABLISHED

*Reimagine:
I Am the Change –
Barbershop Talks*



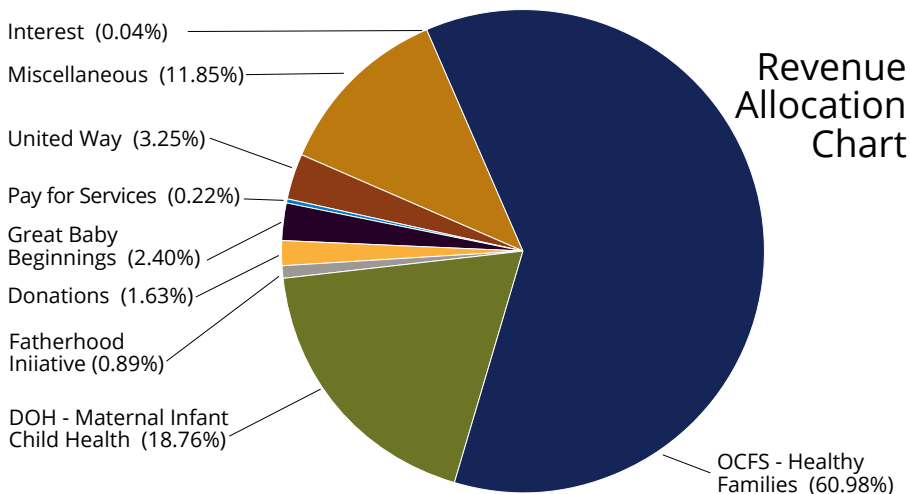
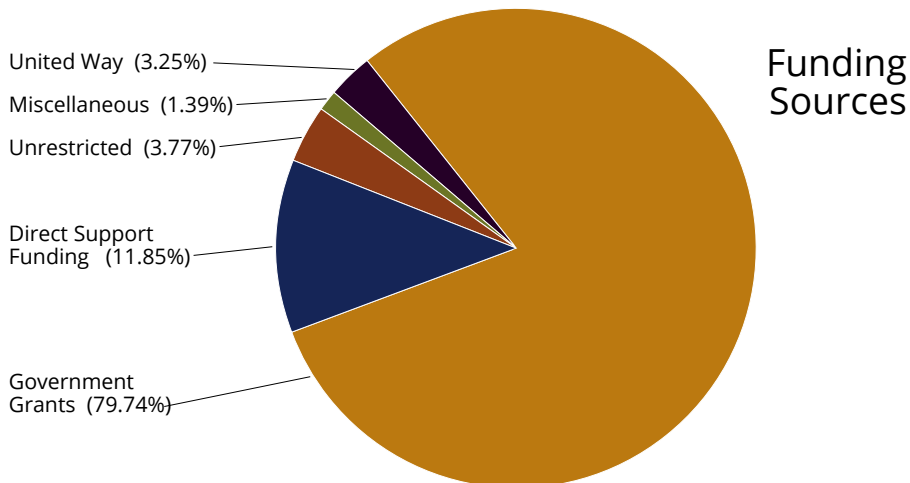
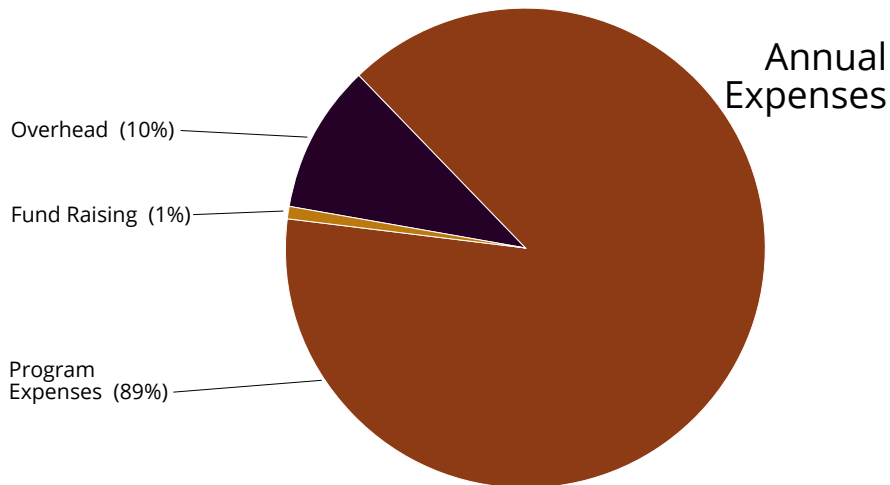
"On a scale of 1-10, I give the class a 10. I highly recommend it because if you are having problems being a father, it can redirect you to the things you need like communicating with your kids better, and seeing things you did not see before."

- Terrence Evans

PHOTOS: Terry Seay (upper left), Terrence Evans and son Tavan, age 5 (above)

Financial Overview

2022-2023



Program Partners

- Allentown Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine
- Belmont Housing
- Catholic Charities WIC
- Catholic Health/Sisters of Charity Hospital
- Erie County Department of Health
- Erie County Office of Mental Health
- Family Justice Center
- Harvest House
- Haven House
- Independent Health Foundation
- Jericho Road
- John R. Oishei Children's Hospital
- Kaleida Health Family Planning Center
- March of Dimes
- St. Gianna Pregnancy Outreach Center

Proudly Funded By

- Aerie Foundation
- Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
- Erie County Department of Social Services
- Erie County Sheriff's Department
- FANA - Foundation for the Assistance of Abandoned Children
- Five Star Bank
- Florida International University - FIU
- Center for Children and Families of WNY
- Garman Foundation
- James H. Cummings Foundation
- Key Bank
- M&T Bank
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
- WNY Highmark Blue Fund

Philanthropic Support

At BPPN, we feel that financial and in-kind support is earned, not expected. We welcome the opportunity for you to get to know us, our mission, our team members, our families, the work we do and what it means to the community we call home. Our success is your success.

Please think about BPPN as part of your giving plans through the *Dr. Amol Lele Bequest Society* or fundraising events. We look forward to meeting with individuals, public and private foundations and corporations to talk about our charitable needs, building lasting partnerships. Please visit our website at bppn.org to learn more about giving opportunities.

20th Annual Great Baby Beginnings

Great Baby Beginnings, our annual premier fundraising event, raises funds to fill in the gaps where families need it most through the Baby Café, Cribs for Kids, CABB, housing and more. Each year we recognize excellence in care giving. The 2023 Honorees included Catholic Health Nurse Family Partnership, Mary K. Comotis, United Way of Buffalo & Erie County and Caroline Novotny-Schulefand, MS, BSN RN, John R. Oishei Children's Hospital.



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2023 Great Baby Beginning Sponsors

Platinum

Aquino Family Foundation
Blount Consulting Solutions
Catholic Health
John R. Oishei Children's Hospital
Highmark of Western New York

Gold

Independent Health
Rich's

Silver

Buffalo Blackflow Inc.
D'Youville University
Xtreme Discount Mattress
Great Lakes Integrated Network
Horizon Health Services
Lumsden McCormick LLP
M&T Bank
Neighborhood Health Center
New York State Laborers Health & Safety Trust Fund - LiUNA
SPB Consulting
Schröder Joseph & Associates LLP

Bronze

Allentown Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine
Buffalo Pediatric Society
UPD Dental Associates
Evans Bank
Freed Maxick
Hoffman Hanafin
Key Bank
Level Financial Advisors
Mead Johnson Nutrition
Onybiotech
Painters and Allied Trades International Union D.C. #4
Positive Direction and Associates, Inc.
Sage Therapeutics / Biogen

Community

Run City at Ellicott Square Fitness

