



FAMILIES FIRST

2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT



BUFFALO
PRENATAL
PERINATAL
NETWORK

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.



BPPN CEO LuAnne Brown MC - GBB 2024.

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bppn.org

Front Cover: Top Left - Jay Jay Rojas, wife Jennifer and daughter Jomati. Top Right - Mom La'Dia and daughter Da'ni. Bottom - Teja Carter and sons Riley, Noah and Eli.

Back Cover: Left - Teja Carter's sons - Riley, Noah and Eli. Right - Jay Jay Rojas and daughter Jomati.

Photo Credit: Patti Looney Photography
patricialooneyphotography.com

Letter to the Community

Family first means something different to everyone— two parents, one parent, or other caregivers, across all backgrounds. At its core, it's about emotional and financial security, a safe home, and hope for the future. Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network (BPPN) supports mothers and fathers who need help breaking cycles of hardship and building stronger families.

The work of BPPN changes daily as we deal with the realities of creating families through health, wellness, education, employment and most importantly, parenting. Here are just a few highlights of our mission.

- The Community Health Worker (CHW) Program was recognized by the American Public Health Association as the CHW Team of the year.
- Clients participated in the *Thinking Healthy* research study with the University of Rochester and Syracuse University, a home-based depression intervention.
- The Monarch Bridge project provided cash assistance for mom's pregnancy and after helping with financial security and improving economic stability.
- One of seven agencies that hosted listening sessions with the NYS Dept. of Health with moms about birth experiences.
- Partnered with D'Youville University as a training site for Community Health Workers (CHW)
- CABB (Community Advocates Breaking Barriers) Advisory Board member moms enrolled for workforce development training and internships.
- Observed Child Abuse Prevention Month included distribution of symbolic pinwheels, reading hours, a rally and neighborhood walk.
- Piloted production of an interactive educational video production *Implicit Bias*, featuring birth experiences of clients focused on this issue, deemed one of the causes of maternal morbidity and mortality. Actress/Producer Lisa Rafel writing the stories for live stage production. Partners include the OB/GYN Department at SUNYUB, Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Sisters of Charity Hospital and the nursing schools at SUNYUB and Niagara University.
- CABB members participated in the Starting Line Healthy Births Coalition, a joint effort facilitated by Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network, March of Dimes, United Way, Nurse Family Partnerships, Kaleida Health, and Catholic Health Systems. CABB members with breastfeeding experience helped develop a resource for local Baby Cafes, designing a breastfeeding campaign.
- Completed screening and case management for Medicaid women – pregnant/postpartum - providing housing and other supports through the NYS1115 Waiver Medicaid Redesign Project.
- In partnership with Child and Family Services. Healthy Families Kicked off the second support group for moms experiencing postpartum depression. A support group for our Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative clients will also be conducted.
- Held our first Alumni Picnic with over 100 attending, including former clients and their children. Food and games and inspirational testimonials recorded.

We're not just about solving immediate problems for Buffalo families, fixing things. We're about setting them up for future success and forming long-term personal and professional relationships to live and thrive.

To all those we encounter daily, we are committed to seeing you, putting your family first, today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Aimee Capelli

Aimee Capelli,
MBA, FACHE
Board Chair



LuAnne Brown

LuAnne Brown
CEO

GIVING FROM THE HEART

We empower women, fathers, and families in Western New York to improve their health and well-being through education, advocacy, and access to resources. There are several ways to help. Please visit bppn.org to select your commitment to our mission.

Emergency Pool Fund

Providing quick support for housing, furniture, rent, and utilities.

Fund Our Mission

Focused on our core mission.

In-kind Donations

New, gently used, and well-maintained donations.

Dr. Amol Lele Bequest Society

A charitable donation or bequest made in recognition of a respected and accomplished physician entrusted with the care of complex pregnancies.

Great Baby Beginnings

A powerful evening of community generosity, the signature event gathers sponsors, client families, and community members to recognize healthcare professionals who contribute to supporting families requiring assistance, raising money where families need it most.

Healthy Families Buffalo is designed to increase self-sufficiency while decreasing child abuse and neglect. The program matches parents with knowledgeable and caring workers who provide information and support during pregnancy and early childhood.

Meet La'Dia, a proud mom to her 6-year-old daughter, Da'ni.

Before connecting with us, La'Dia was juggling multiple jobs and navigating an unexpected pregnancy. Unsure where to turn, a friend strongly encouraged her to reach out to BPPN—and she's so glad she did.

With the guidance of Buffalo Healthy Families case managers, La'Dia has received guidance, resources, and education on infant and child development that became invaluable as she entered motherhood. She took everything she learned to heart, and today she sees the results every day in Da'ni, who is thriving and excelling in school.

"I am so grateful for all the help BPPN gave me," La'Dia shares. "They not only helped me with motherhood but gave me the confidence to be the best mom I can be." La'Dia's story is a testament to the power of support, education, and community—showing how one mom's resilience, paired with BPPN's resources, can create brighter futures for families.



Mom La'Dia and daughter Da'ni.

The Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative

empowers healthy father and male involvement for children and families while providing tools and resources to a better future for our children and our community – one father at a time.

Meet Jay Jay Rojas, hear firsthand his experience.

“So, I’m 32. I searched high and low for likeminded folks. At churches, Facebook groups, in the workplace. You don’t get that connection you get in this program. Tears are shed, and that’s as real as it gets, as raw as it gets. Hard conversations, I believe, are essential to growth and becoming a man. And men aren’t having those conversations these days at all. So, to have found that with the fatherhood initiative was priceless and It’s a free program.

I would say, every five years, a movement happens. What worked 20 years ago as parenting won’t work today. It may be shunned upon and, you know, same thing for men, the way men live. We gotta adjust and course correct. I think men are finally being put in the spotlight.

Being in this program, you witness it for yourself. It’s not manly to communicate. It has never been. There was a guy who came with his son, you know, a manly man. And in the first three classes he was mute. I’m like, okay. That’s cool. Towards the end, a whole different guy emerged, and I was like, man, I see him go from a caterpillar to a butterfly, it was the most beautiful thing I’ve seen.

A guy takes his form from what God had destined for him because he let the process happen instead of fighting it. I don’t think you’re ever grow in life if you care what people think about you. So let it out and just let life happen. Embrace the change and do what’s best for your family.

Honestly this might sound crazy to some people, but when my daughter cried or my son cries, it’s music to my ears. It’s chaos. It’s energy. It’s life.”



Jay Jay Rojas and daughter Jomati.

HIGHLIGHTS

1325

community men, woman,
and children engaged

70%

of those who attended
class graduated

1300

hours spent on
father engagement

Close to

150

referrals to the program

Over

4000

hours - empowerment
programming

PROJECTS

Workforce Development
Assistance Program

Community Wellness Initiative

ReCAST:
I Am the Change Program

Men’s Mental Health
Support Group

The Community Health Workers program goes into the community, finding high risk expecting mothers. It provides regular home visits during pregnancy to the babies' second birthday. The program makes sure the mom's health is taken care of and basic needs are met, disparities are addressed. It has also grown into a safe space where women and mothers empower each other through the Courageous Advocates Breaking Boundaries (CABB) program.

CABB moms show determination to change their circumstances, supporting and empowering each other, to amplify their voices, and to learn to be a resource in the community to effect positive change. Through fostering healthy relationships, skill building opportunities, training, internships and education, CABB promotes compassion and understanding, recognizing that creating change starts from within.

The reputation of the CABB as a community resource is growing, being featured in media coverage of important topics related to perinatal health including postpartum mood and anxiety disorders and hypertension. Work within the agency continues to better integrate the role of the CABB and the BPPN Board of Directors to assist with development and implementation of critical outreach programs. Workforce development, internships, life skills training and more are offered.



Moving forward, efforts will continue to focus on fostering and strengthening partnerships, co-creating learning opportunities, planning and executing agency, and community systems change to mobilize and illuminate the capacity of pregnant and parenting individuals in minoritized communities to improve health outcomes. We believe that this change starts with investing in CABB members so that they can harness theirpower to help others in their communities.

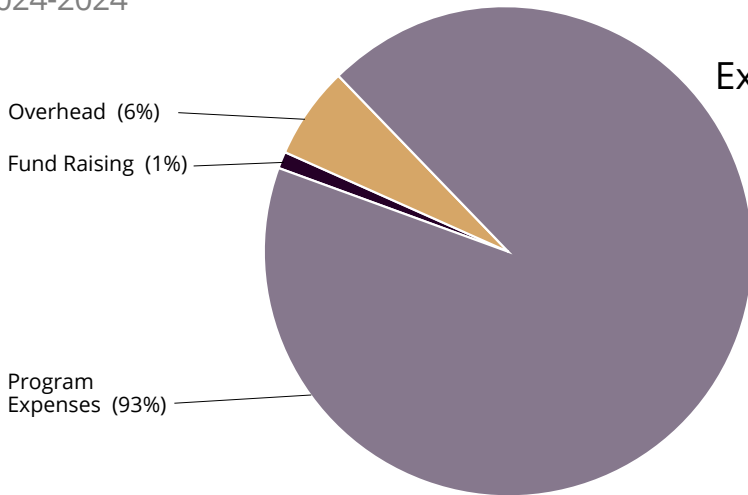
Top: CABB members - blood pressure training Bottom Left: CABB members participating in workforce development training. Bottom Right: CABB visit and tour - SUNYUB School of Dental Medicine



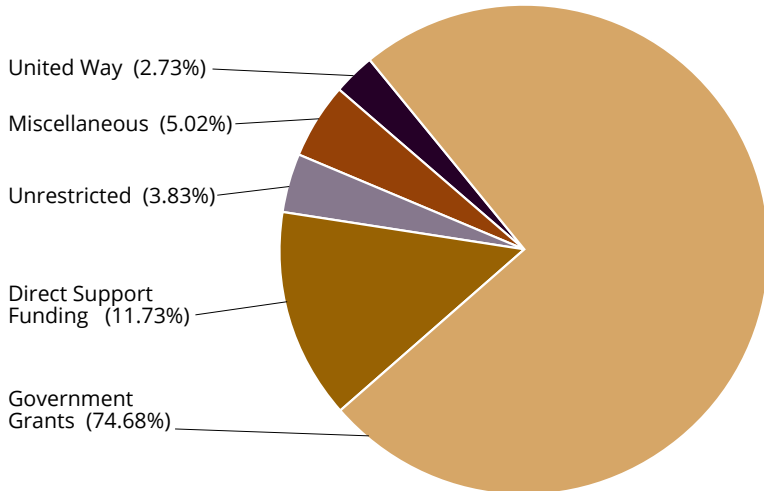
Financial Overview

2024-2024

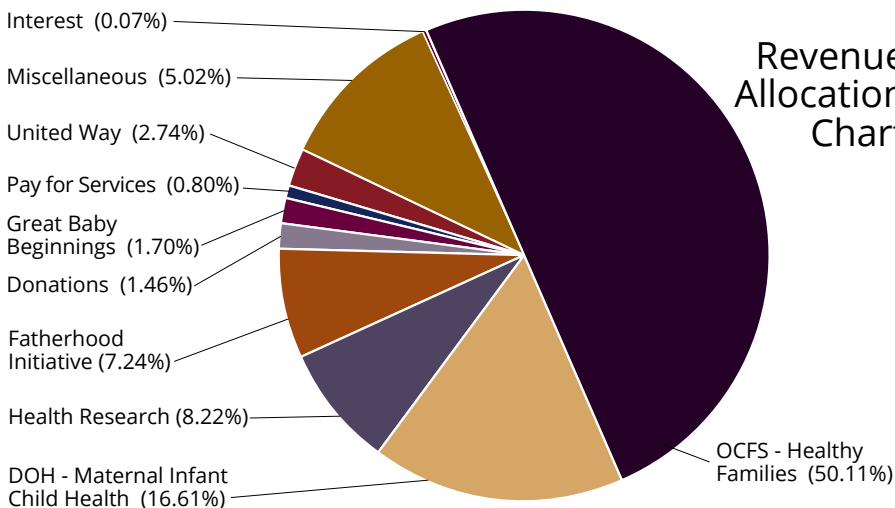
Annual Expenses



Funding Sources



Revenue Allocation Chart



Program Partners

- Allentown Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine
- 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

Program Funders

- 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



2024 GREAT BABY BEGINNING SPONSORS

Platinum

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

Gold

Blount Consulting Solutions
Independent Health Foundation

Silver

Buffalo Backflow Inc.
Buffalo Neonatology Associates, PC
D.C. #4 International Painters Union & Patch Foundation
D'Youville University

Horizon Health Services
Imgram Micro
Lumsden McCormick LLP
New York State Laborers Health & Safety Trust Fund - LiUNA
Rich's
SPB Consulting
Schröder Joseph & Associates LLP
Xtreme Discount Mattress

Bronze

Alternative Information Systems (AIS)
All Good
Bank on Buffalo
Buffalo Pediatric Society
Cornerstone Community Federal Credit Union

Evans Bank
Freed Maxick
GLIN IPA
Hoffman Hanafin
Key Bank
Level Financial Advisors
Mead Johnson Nutrition
ONY Biotech
Run City at Ellicott Square Fitness
Univera Healthcare

Community

Laborers' Local 210 Union
Positive Direction and Associates, Inc.
Wayfinder Moving Services

2024 Champions in Maternal and Family Health

Each year, we proudly recognize individuals and organizations that demonstrate excellence in caregiving. In 2024, we honored:



Dr. Martin Caliendo
Board Certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Oishei Children's Hospital



Dr. Lauren Davidson
Board Certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Catholic Health

St. Gianna Molla
Pregnancy Outreach Center



**BUFFALO
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We see you.

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