



WE LIVES

- IMPACT REPORT -

2023

LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL







Helping families in local communities receive much needed resources.

Love All, Serve All

Jordan and Samantha Boyce Founders

When we first decided to create an organization that could help families in need throughout Rhode Island and beyond, we knew it would take the help of many partners, volunteers, and generous donors. In our 7th year, we have seen an abundance of all three from incredible people who care about their communities and neighbors. Thank you!

As times have become harder for many families due to increased inflation, We Heart Lives was able to fill the gap in a greater way this year with supplying groceries, baby supplies, winter coats, back to school supplies, Christmas toys, and help bring families together in more ways.

We Heart Lives hosted 7 more baby showers where hundreds of women received stocked diaper bags, playpens, and car seats to give their babies a good start in life.

We solidified a new partnership with Adoption RI's Siblings Forever program where siblings, adopted into different families, are reunited with one another at events designed for interaction and to build relationship.

When the need arises to remove a child from their home, oftentimes DCYF and Child Protection Services do not have resources at hand such as, baby supplies and duffle bags with clothes for older children. In 2023, we created a partnership to provide those items to help case workers have what they need and to help children with a smoother transition.



Our Family Visitation Program at the Cranston Prison grew from a few events a year to events every month at the Mens' Medium, Men's Minimum, and Women's facilities. This program facilitates activities for parents and children to interact together and build a stronger family bond.

Each of our community events where we provided bags of groceries, back to school supplies, coats, and Christmas toys saw a dramatic increase in people attending. We're very thankful to meet these needs because of your help!

Families nationally and internationally, faced challenges and we wanted to make an impact there as well. We donated to help victims of the Maui fires in August and donated to help families afflicted by the war in Israel in October so they could find shelter and have food and supplies for their families.

We are grateful that we have these opportunities to strengthen communities together. Thank you for coming alongside to help others in their times of need. 100% of all donations that We Heart Lives receives go directly to helping people in difficult circumstances. We look forward with great hope and expectation to helping more people in 2024!



2023 STATS



325

Moms Resourced



672

Volunteer Spots Filled



2,352

Hours Served



2,350

Bags of Food



1,730

Toys given



1,764

Backpacks Given



135

Siblings Reunited



51

Projects



21

Moms

120

Children

60

Dads

Reunited for in-person prison visits



68,143

Pounds of food distributed



120,000

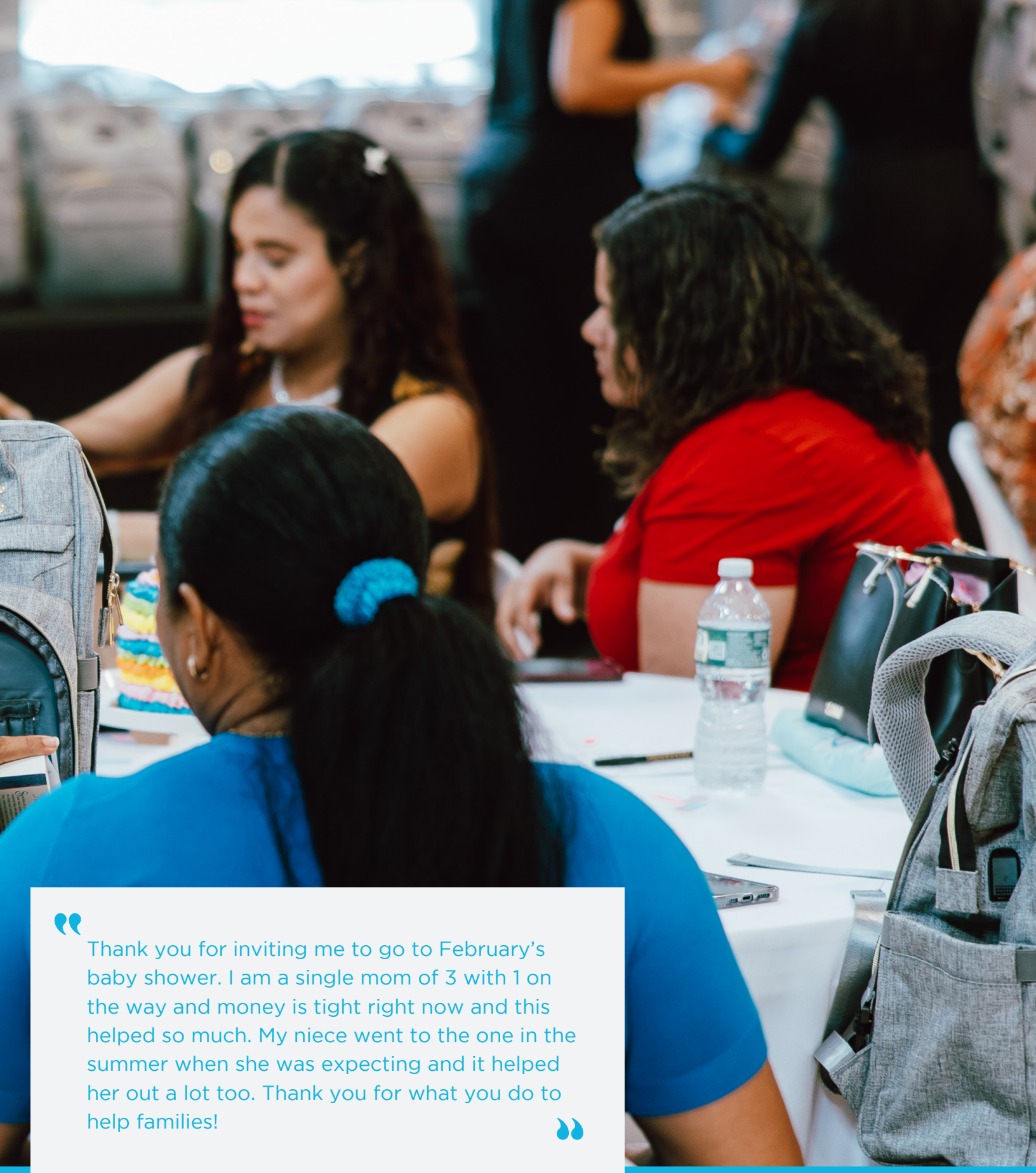
People impacted in 2023





Baby Showers





“

Thank you for inviting me to go to February's baby shower. I am a single mom of 3 with 1 on the way and money is tight right now and this helped so much. My niece went to the one in the summer when she was expecting and it helped her out a lot too. Thank you for what you do to help families!

”

Natalie





Baby Showers

We Heart Lives hosted 7 baby showers in 2023, including one in Massachusetts for the first time. Because of our donor's generosity, 325 women received much-needed baby essentials to give their babies the best start.

Each expectant mother receives a fully stocked diaper bag, playpen, car seat, sonogram gift certificate, and raffle prizes at our baby showers.

One of the best things about our We Heart Lives Baby Showers is the community expectant mothers find at the events, which host up to 50 women per event.



I wanted to take the time out to thank you for all that you do and all that your organization is doing and has to offer. The baby shower program is amazing for expecting moms that are having hard times.



Janeika

325 Women resourced in 2023

700 In 2 Years

All live at or below the poverty line and many have been victims of domestic abuse, abandoned, or don't have a permanent place to live. Women may come in anxious and in despair but leave feeling loved, cared for, resourced and with some new friends!





“Thank you so much for having me. I appreciate the gifts for my baby. We Heart Lives continue to go above and beyond. Again, thank you!”

SHANTELL

“I just wanted to thank you and your team for your generosity not only to me but to all the women who attended the baby shower. Bless you all and your organization.”

REYNA

“I wanted to thank you for all you do and everything I received attending the baby shower. I appreciate it beyond measures.”

MAKAYLA

“Thank you for doing this!! Wish I had this kind of genuine love and support when I had my baby 19 years ago at age 16... Mamas, you got this!”

AMY





Community Connections





“ Your Christmas Bash is always a wonderful event. Thank you for supporting our Carnevale, DelSesto, and Spaziano students and families! ”

Elizabeth Northup
Principal, Carnevale Elementary School



“ Thank you again for all you do to help our families! ”

Rossana Vallante
Support Services, Classical High School

Community Connections

Each year, we host three Bashes at local school communities where we resource families in need at celebrational events. We have food, music, inflatables, games, face painting, and popular characters like Spiderman and princesses.

In 2023, we were able to give a back to school outfit for each child along with a stocked back pack. It was amazing to see children choosing their first day of school clothes!

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas Bashes saw more families than ever come out to get holiday groceries and toys for their kids. Our caring donors made sure we had high quality toys to give away and they sure were a huge hit as kid's eyes lit up when picking out their own toys.

Santa + Mrs. Claus spent time with hundreds of little kids eager to share their Christmas wishes. Thanks for making the holiday so special for so many this year.





OUR PARTNERS:

**OPERATION
BLESSING**



FRANCHESCA'S
EVENTS & FLORALS

**United
Healthcare**

**AWAKENING
CHURCH**



The bear necessities for infants and kids.

ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC



Eddie Bauer

**FARM
FRESH RI**



THE PICERNE FAMILY FOUNDATION









Family Visitation Program

32

Events hosted for in-person prison visits, reuniting families.

79

Parents participated in visits with their children.

82

Children visited their parents.

In 2023, We Heart Lives grew this program to sponsor a monthly Family Visitation at 3 Cranston Prison facilities: Men’s Medium, Men’s Minimum, and Women’s prisons. Our team creates fun, interactive crafts and games that facilitate parents and children connecting together each month.

On Mother’s Day, parents and children planted flower and herb seeds in biodegradable cups that, on a later date, they all planted together in a small garden outdoors. Moms could see the flowers planted with their children and cook meals for their kids with the herbs they planted together.

We hosted Christmas parties at each facility where children picked out their own toys from We Heart Lives, decorated cookies, and made holiday crafts with their parents. Also, in a joint partnership with Adoption RI, they received presents from their wish list that they thought their parents arranged for them.

Our goals for 2024 include upgrading the look of the visitation rooms to be more kid-friendly as well as provide some outdoor equipment parents can use together.





“ This monthly Family Visitation Program is so needed for moms and their kids and it truly is so important to building their bond. Having the parental interaction helps children in profound ways. There are so many sweet moments between the moms and their kids. One mom was so overwhelmed at seeing her son she started crying because she hadn't seen him in quite a while but because of this program she could spend time with him. ”

TeLisa Richardson,
RIDOC Parenting Coordinator



“ This Christmas myself and the other incarcerated moms were blessed with generous gifts for our children. I was devastated that I would be away from them for the first time at Christmas. We were able to watch our children open the gifts you provided at the Family Visitation program a few days before Christmas. It offered a sliver of normalcy. Thank you very much for all We Heart Lives did. You are truly appreciated and I am thankful. ”

Cara





Pallets to Partners

The cost of food, along with many other essential items, skyrocketed in 2023 and was in shorter supply than years past. Our Pallets to Partners program distributed 68,143 pounds of food to communities in most need. Shelf stable food items included rice, cereal, granola bars, and pasta. We also gave away 1,150 bags of groceries at our community events.







Many children in foster care are longing for a sense of security and positive change. You've given children the gift of life-changing opportunities and help children feel like they belong.



Darlene Allen

CEO and Executive Director, Adoption RI

Adoption RI

This year, We Heart Lives partnered with Adoption RI in their 'Siblings Forever' program which brings siblings, adopted into different families, together through fun and interactive events.

The intent of these events is to help siblings spend more time together to strengthen the sibling bond. From roller skating....by 'shopping' in a pop-up store set up for them filled with great items, 135 kids go to make childhood memories together in 2023.



Foster Friends

We Heart Lives launched its 'Foster Friends' program in 2023 in partnership with DCYF's Division of Family Services + Child Protection Services to provide children with care items they need as they enter into foster care. To make the transition easier, we provide stocked diaper bags, play pens, and car seats so foster families caring for babies have all they need.

We plan to expand in 2024 to offer duffel bags with clothing, hygiene items, and school supplies for older children. Many times when children need to enter foster care, they lack suitcases to put their belongings in and use trash bags. Our hope is to minimize trauma and help children to have their dignity when arriving at a new foster family's home.



As a former child protective investigator and current employee at the RI DCYF, I have seen first-hand what it looks like when a child is removed from the home and placed into foster care. Many times, they leave with only the clothes on their back. Sometimes, the foster families only have an hour notice before the child is placed with them due to the critical circumstances surrounding the removal. The immediacy of the need for these resources for children and foster families during those times is unimaginable for most. The resources donated to the Department through We Heart Lives' Foster Friends program go directly to the children and families in need, providing some stability and comfort during extremely traumatic times.



Stacey Barden
Programming Services Officer, Division of Performance Improvement



Global Impact



Be'Ad Chaim's Moses Program in Jerusalem, Israel has expanded to help supply more mothers with baby supplies for a full year. We Heart Lives increased its support to help meet the demand so moms have what they need.

We Heart Lives donated to FIRM when war broke out in Israel to immediately relocate hundreds of families, provide emergency food and water, and set up an emergency crisis command center to distribute 2,000+ meals a day.

The Maui wildfires in August rank amongst the deadliest in US history. We Heart Lives donated to help provide first aid kits, face masks, fuel, and generators to help the people effected by the devastation.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



#Love All, Serve All



MAKE AN IMPACT IN 2024

All that we do is made possible
by the generous donations from
people like you!



To partner with us, visit:
WEHEARTLIVES.ORG

WE❤️**LIVES**

We Heart Lives is a solution-driven 501 (c)(3) organization based in Rhode Island with a mission to resource and strengthen families, women and children through community events, as well as, to support organizations helping those in need around the world.