



**MOTHERS TRUST
FOUNDATION**



Making a Difference: One Child at a Time

At Mothers Trust Foundation, our mission is to provide immediate assistance during times of crisis to children of low-income families living in Lake County, Illinois. Our goal is to provide hope, build confidence, and make a positive difference in a young person's life.

2025 Annual Report



A Message From Our Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At Mothers Trust Foundation (MTF), we are dedicated to making a difference one child at a time by providing immediate assistance to meet critical needs, including education expenses, enrichment and extracurricular opportunities, housing stability, medical costs, new clothing and shoes, and safe baby items for low-income children in Lake County, Illinois.

Children who grow up in poverty face many different hardships, both physical and emotional. The shame and embarrassment they suffer in public are often more painful than their many private struggles at home. Twenty-eight years ago, after a career in social work, the founder of Mothers Trust Foundation, Barbara Monsor, saw a need and developed a system that would protect and respect both donor and recipient.

Since our inception in 1998, MTF has served 61,000 children, totaling \$7.1 million. We partner with all Lake County schools, the Lake County Health Department, Lake County townships, and other service professionals who work with children and families and submit requests to us on their behalf. MTF responds to requests within 7 days, and if approved requests are funded within 48 hours. Whenever possible, we collaborate with other agencies and organizations to make the most of available benefits.

Assistance provided in 2025 increased by 44% over 2024, and we expect the need to continue to grow in 2026. Thanks to our generous donors, 475 volunteers, and 270 service partners, we were able to meet the growing need in 2025 and continue to say, "Yes, we can help."

We are proud of the impact we had in 2025 and look forward to the challenges ahead. We are grateful for your support. Together, we are making a difference one child at a time!

Warm regards,



Danielle Carter, Board President



Lisa Cervieri, Executive Director



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

6,314

Lake County children served

\$871,174

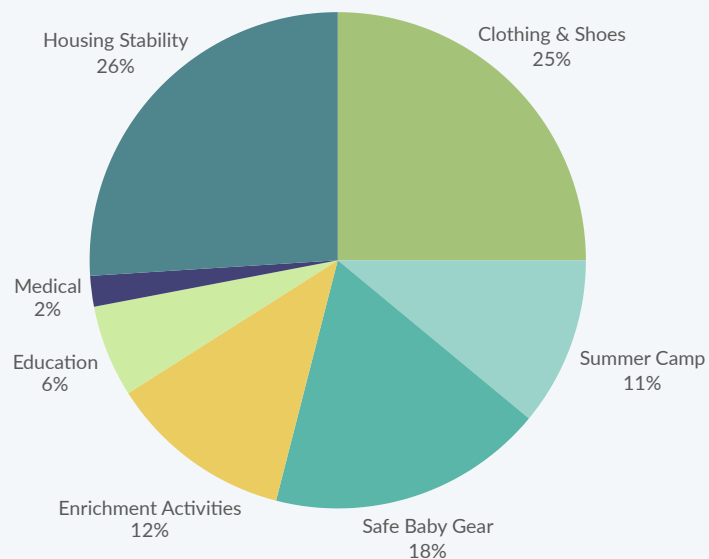
Service request grants distributed

Partnered with more than 270 service agencies
and schools throughout Lake County

Our Impact

- ☀️ 975 children received new clothing and shoes
- ☀️ 746 infants and toddlers now have cribs, car seats and other gear to keep them safe
- ☀️ 252 students received educational assistance
- ☀️ 909 children received funds to play a sport, rent a musical instrument or attend summer camp
- ☀️ 1,016 families received housing or utilities assistance
- ☀️ 71 children received medical and wellness assistance, including eye exams and glasses
- ☀️ In addition, a record 1,890 children and family members received warm winter coats and winter gear, and 455 students participated in the Prom Experience college-readiness program, extending our reach through community events

Service Grant Spending by Category



Since 1998 more than 61,000 children have been served with \$7.1MM in service requests granted.

“Poverty offers no escape. Ordinary problems like illness, accidents or job loss can devastate a family. Too often the consequence is eviction, health issues, school dropout, and child abuse and neglect. Mothers Trust Foundation provides low-income children with stability, safety and hope for a better future.”

-Barbara Monsor, Founder

“I want to thank your foundation for all your support. I was able to attend SkillsUSA with your help and got a silver medal! You all helped me ignite my potential. Thank you so much!”

-High School Student

Service Story: A 12-year-old girl living with her grandparents after her mother’s incarceration was selected for the lead role in her school musical. MTF covered the participation fee, allowing her to shine and explore her talent despite financial barriers.

“On behalf of Woodland Primary School, thank you for helping with the security deposit for a grandparent of three students. Your support secured housing and family stability.”

-At-Risk Parent Facilitator

Service Story: A mother and her two young sons, rebuilding after domestic violence, fell behind on rent while she attended counseling. MTF paid the overdue payments, keeping the family safely in their home during a critical time.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thank you to our dedicated community partners for supporting our mission.

Dress collection at Zengeler Cleaners and suits from Smith's Men's Store for the Pop Up Prom Experience

MTF Teen Board Coat Drive at Foss Park, Sponsored by Discover, Operation Warm, & Grand Foundation

Holiday gift wrapping at Audi & Porsche Exchange

City of Lake Forest
Think Local Holiday Pop Up Shop

Ongoing support from Upscale Rummage for families in need of household items

CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The Classroom Enrichment Grant Program provides educators with resources to strengthen classroom instruction and support student success. Launched in 2022 at Waukegan High School's Washington Campus (grades 11-12), the program allows teachers to apply for grants through MTF to enhance student learning.

Since its inception, MTF has awarded more than \$100,000 in educational resources, benefiting nearly every department at Waukegan High School.

In 2025, the program expanded to the Brookside Campus (grades 9-10). Six grants totaling approximately \$30,000 were awarded to fund resources, including Basic Life Support training kits, iPads, advanced art applications, childcare experience kits, a large TV monitor, and wireless headsets with microphones.



OUTREACH & FUNDRAISING EVENTS

MTF is grateful for our 475 volunteers who devote their time and talents to carry out our mission.



Pop Up Prom Experience

A partnership between MTF, Zengeler Cleaners, University Center of Lake County & College of Lake County

Over 455 students received prom attire & accessories, and participated in college visit day.

The holiday season kicked off on November 8, 2025, with our annual fundraising event, "A Seasonal Soiree." Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we raised over \$350K to further the mission of Mothers Trust Foundation.


Coat &
Boot Drive

2025 STATS

1,890 COATS
DISTRIBUTED



PARTNERED
WITH
29 SERVICE
PROVIDERS

49 VOLUNTEERS



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue and expenses for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

REVENUE SOURCE	REVENUE	% OF REVENUE
Corporate & Family Foundations	\$502,979	38%
Individual Contributions	\$209,357	16%
Community Organizations	\$83,895	6%
Fundraising Events	\$366,624	28%
Government	\$30,250	2%
Other*	\$131,965	10%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,325,070	100%

*3% Churches, 7% Interest & Dividends

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN	EXPENSE	% OF EXPENSES
Service Grants Program	\$1,158,270	83%
Development	\$63,671	5%
Fundraising	\$117,714	7%
Administrative	\$66,471	5%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,406,126	100%

Thank you for all you do to help meet the needs of families in our community.
- School Social Worker



MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP

STAFF

Lisa Cervieri
Executive Director

Jeanette Lincoln
Service Manager

Erin Kreuz
Director of Development

Christine Goshgarian
Office Manager & Events Coordinator

Juli Hallas
Development Manager

Tom Miller
Bookkeeper

VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Nancy Boshes

Lou Gantz

Suzi Gantz

Adrienne Isquith

Meta Levin

Rommy Lopat

Laura Obenauf

Susan Perlman

Carol Rosenfeldt

Matt Tabar

Heather Japuntich

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