

Love Stanislaus County



2024/2025

IMPACT REPORT

Love Stanislaus County,

What an amazing year we've had.

This year was another one to celebrate!

So many of you continue to join us year after year in this incredible work. Whether you volunteered your time, financially donated, or helped us share about our vision to love on the people in our communities, your contributions have made a lasting impact.

We are deeply inspired by the regular, everyday people all throughout our county who are committed to showing up and doing something to help those around them. It's easy to look around and complain about all that needs to be changed, but the real heroes are the people who get to work. Who step up to help when there's a need. The ones who see people and love them well.

Inside this annual report, you'll find just a glimpse of the many inspiring moments made possible by people like you. Thank you for joining us in our mission to love our communities. We simply could not do this without people like you.



Jeff Pishney
CEO & Founder



OUR TEAM



Jeff Pishney
CEO & Founder



Crystal McKiernan
Director of Programs



Jill Sasser
Love Our Kids
Director



Gaby Hernandez
Love Our Neighbors
Director



David Collins
Love Our Schools
Director



Kim Allen
Community
Engagement Specialist



Bonnie Crabtree
Bookkeeper

Brandy Meyer... Love Ceres
Judy Kindle... Love Denair
Kevin Oliver... Love Empire
Michelle Bernal... Love Keyes
Kim Allen... Love Modesto
Michael Campos... Love Newman
Lisa Kjeldgaard... Love Oakdale

Kendra Mora... Love Patterson
Sammi Martinez... Love Riverbank
Patrice Hoffman... Love Salida
Lindsay Plett... Love Turlock
Jessica Caudle... Love Valley Home
Mandy Wilson... Love Waterford
Lupita Villanueva... Love Westley

OUR BOARD

Craig Orona
Steven Litt
Jennifer Hidalgo
Pat Nagle
Kristopher Helton
Kion Kashefi
Jeff Pishney

OUR ADVISORY BOARD

Joanna Esparza
Fallon Ferris
Veronica Hernandez
Catrice Prince Claxton
Megan Lowery
Stephanie Navarro
Brittany Thayer
Felicia Lopez

CITY-WIDE VOLUNTEER DAYS

**TOGETHER we made an incredible impact at our
city wide volunteer days in April!**

**14 Cities. 7,000+ Volunteers. 270 projects. 28,929 volunteer hours.
\$1,006,439 donated in community service*.**

(*independentsector.org)

You cleaned parks and handed out flowers to seniors.

You beautified schools and wrote thank you notes to veterans.

You donated pet food for local animal shelters and new pajamas and bedding for children in foster care.

You painted rocks with messages of hope and sewed rice packs to help ease the pain for those fighting cancer.

You picked up trash in your neighborhoods and played bingo and sang karaoke with those living in care homes.

You washed windows and potted plants for teachers.

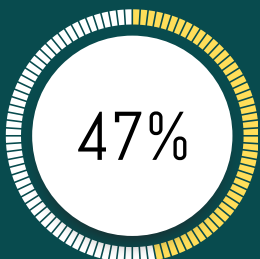
You made compassion bags for survivors of human trafficking and made teddy bears for children experiencing trauma.

You painted benches and cleaned waterways.

You made blankets for those in hospice and assembled hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness.

You washed emergency vehicles and planted community gardens.

**Of the 270 projects,
127 (or 47%) of those
were in low and
moderate income level
areas.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Over the past 17 years, 67,117 volunteers in Modesto alone have contributed 316,792 hours of service, an investment valued at more than \$10 million in community service.





"One of my favorite things was seeing several moms carrying their newborns while they volunteered. It was humbling to see how, even in the busiest and most tender seasons of life, they still chose to show up and serve others. It was a beautiful reminder that every act of kindness, no matter how small or how busy we are, makes a difference."

Mandy Wilson
Love Waterford City Leader



"The Love Keyes 2025 has been the most successful Love Keyes event to date, thanks to the tireless efforts and dedication of both leaders and community volunteers alike. It was truly inspiring to witness our community unite with shared enthusiasm and vision, striving to create a better and more beautiful community."

Michelle Bernal
Love Keyes City Leader



LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

A Program of Love Stanislaus County

“

A participant said that she has lived here for some time and no neighbor had ever learned her name, until now. She felt relieved knowing there are people in this city she can count on.”

-Modesto Host

Watch This!



Love Our Neighbors seeks to equip and inspire people to host neighborhood gatherings with the goal of forming deeper connections and a sense of belonging among neighbors.

We do this by offering toolkits, ideas, and even mini grants to help people get started. In six months, 76 mini grants have been awarded.



Neighborhood Connections

Some of the creative neighborhood gatherings that are happening all throughout the county...

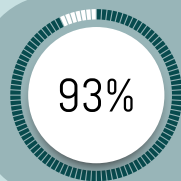
- ♥ Kids Clothing Swaps
- ♥ Mom's Groups
- ♥ Exercise Groups
- ♥ Park and Play Days
- ♥ Nerf and Nachos
- ♥ Dog Walking Groups
- ♥ Movie Night
- ♥ Book Clubs
- ♥ Block Parties
- ♥ Donuts and Coffee with Neighbors
- ♥ Tea Parties
- ♥ Cops, Pops and Low Riders Event

...and so much more!

What are people saying?



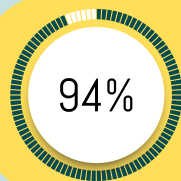
100% of participants reported feeling an increased sense of optimism toward their neighbors after participating.



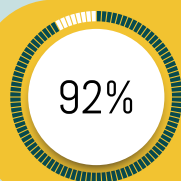
93% of participants said they believe there are people in their neighborhood they can trust, as a result of attending an event.



100% of participants agreed that community connection is important and helps reduce isolation and depression.



94% of participants agreed that if they needed help or support, they would have a neighbor who would be willing to help them.



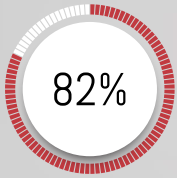
92% of participants said they would like more information on the family strengthening training.

LOVE OUR KIDS

A Program of Love Stanislaus County

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Partnering with Child Welfare, we received 663 requests for items this year.

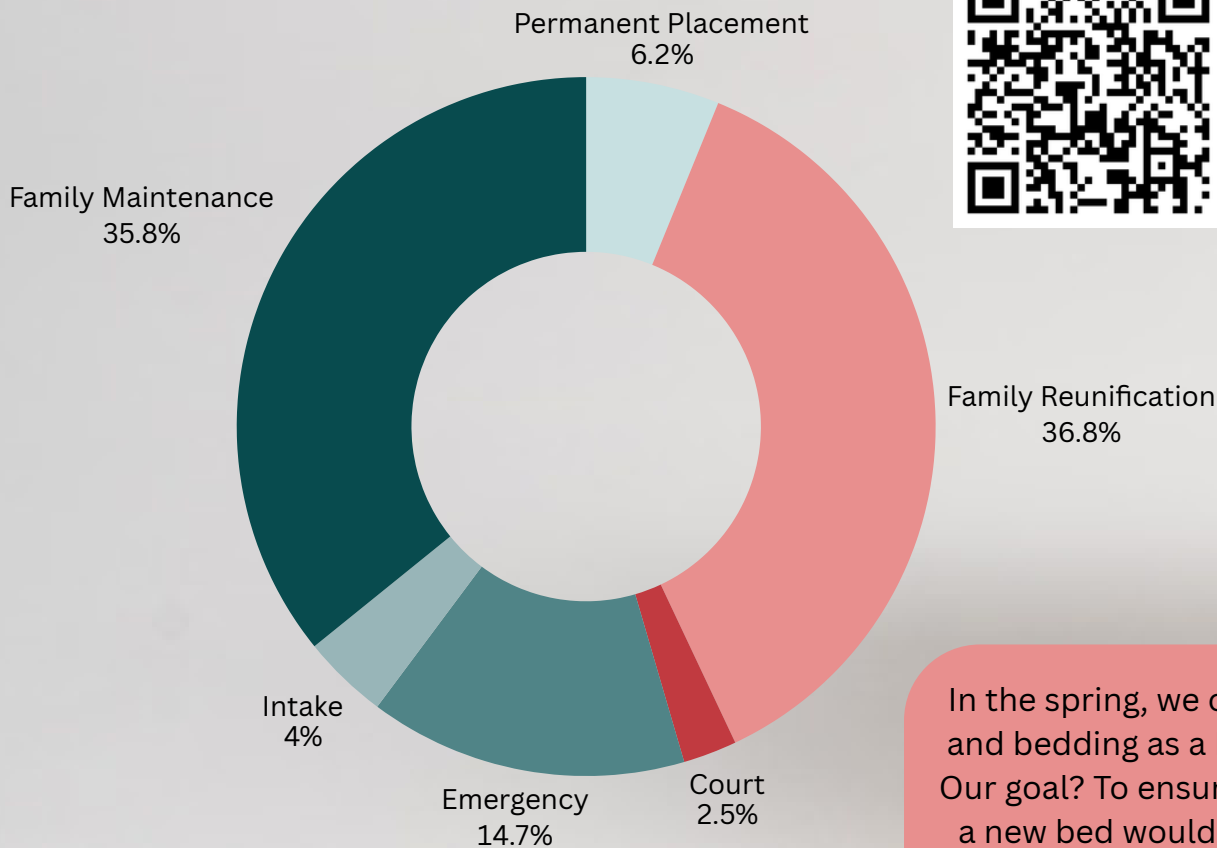


of these requests were successfully found and delivered. The remaining 17% of items not delivered were due to the family finding the item, family not responding, us being unable to locate that item or the case closing.

Common Requests

- Beds
- Dressers
- Toddler Beds
- Pack N Plays
- Bedding
- Pillows
- Cribs
- Couches
- High Chairs
- Strollers
- Shoes
- Clothes
- Diapers
- Kitchen Items
- Microwaves
- Kitchen Table and Chairs

Total Families Served: 81
JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025



Love Our Kids seeks to help meet the needs of children and families within the foster care system by making it simple and easy for the community to donate and get involved.

Currently there are 413 youth in foster care in Stanislaus County.
97 of these are non-minor adults (ages 18-20).

Full Item List



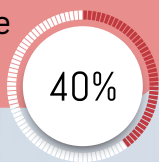
In the spring, we collected new pajamas and bedding as a Love Modesto project. Our goal? To ensure every child receiving a new bed would receive cozy bedding and new pajamas as well.

The community's response was amazing! 215 pairs of pjs, 22 twin comforters, and 50 crib sheets were collected that day!

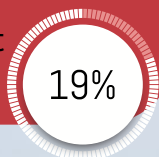
Recipient Locations:

Modesto: 46	Oakdale: 6	Denair: 2	
Turlock: 9	Ceres: 4	Hughson: 2	Empire: 1
Patterson: 7	Riverbank: 2	Newman: 1	Winton: 1

Of the 105 referrals received, 42 (or 40%) were for families living in low to moderate income areas.



19% of our referrals were for moms going through rehabilitation treatment



Every Child Matters



Every March we host Every Child Matters.

This important event gives the community the opportunity to hear from former foster youth and the professionals who work with them.

Whether you work in education, have interest in being a resource parent, or simply want to learn more about the foster care system, we hope you join us next year!



"Thank you so much, Jill! The mom called me last week and was soooooo grateful. I'm so glad you were able to help this family!"

-Stanislaus County Social Worker



"Thank you guys so, so much. We really appreciate all you do; not just for us but for all the families you guys help out. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"

-Recipient



Senior Portraits

Every year we partner with local photographers who generously give their time and talent to offer free portrait sessions to graduating seniors who are experiencing foster care.

Graduating high school is a milestone for any teen but even more so for those that have had to face all that comes with being in foster care. Helping these teens celebrate this accomplishment is such an inspiring thing.

COMFORT KIT DRIVE

In December we hosted our 8th Annual Comfort Kit Drive. At this event we assembled 1,134 Comfort Kits. The estimated value of these is \$85,050! In addition to this, we put together 80 hygiene kits.

We also collected various items that we were able to give families when needed through our referral program.

14 Pillows

12 Bath Towel Set

12 Cooking Utensil Sets

4 Laundry Baskets

16 Detergents

6 Cleaning Supply Sets

16 Twin Sheets

17 Twin Comforters



DID YOU KNOW?

In the past 8 years, Love Our Kids has given away 11,969 comfort kits to kids in foster care.

This amounts to over \$800,000 in donations from our community!

Watch This!



STORIES OF IMPACT

At the Comfort Kit Drive, a high school student came up to us to share that he had been in the foster care system. Seeing this many people come together to assemble Comfort Kits because they care about kids like him was so moving to this student. He had no idea this many people cared. He told us he would be back next year and to keep doing this amazing work.

Another woman who attended the Comfort Kit Drive shared how she had grown up and aged out of foster care in Southern California. She was so inspired to see all that we are doing here and wished she had received a comfort kit when she was younger. She had tears in her eyes when we told her how important it is to us that each comfort kit is unique and not mass produced because we want each child to feel seen and valued during such a difficult time. We shared how we also gather household items for youth exiting the program and she confirmed what a huge need this is as it can be so hard starting life as a young adult without a family. This woman said she will be coming to this event each year moving forward in order to give back to kids who are experiencing what she did.

“After the Christmas holidays, I was made aware of a 17-year-old male who did not receive any holiday gifts through our Agency. What a thrill it was to have backpacks and a duffle bag a teen boy would probably enjoy. I was able to deliver items to the bay area where the teen is placed and heard back from his aunt that he was so grateful for everything in the bags. The teen would be traveling to Texas to go visit a relative and was dancing around the house with his backpack and duffle bag saying how great he would look in the airport waiting for his plane to arrive. The bags were full of new personal hygiene products, socks, beanie, wallet, gift card, other gift items, and a handmade blanket to use on the plane. It touched my heart as I imagined this almost 6 foot tall 17-year-old dancing around with his blanket and how this gesture of kindness made this teen feel. As a social worker I work with children of all ages and backpacks, comfort bags, blankets, and other gifts you are giving our children are appreciated. It is exciting to look through each new shipment of goodies going to our children. Please know that you are making a difference, and you are all angels during the difficult times.

-Sue W. (Social Worker)”



LOVE OUR SCHOOLS

A Program of Love Stanislaus County

Love Our Schools is dedicated to building stronger, healthier school campuses for everyone by creating and nurturing strong, supportive bonds within the community. We meet with each school partner, identify needs, and then inspire churches, businesses, and community members to get involved. Love Our Schools began the year partnering with 8 schools. Headed into next year that number has increased to 12.



Students at PACE, with the help of a local artist, designed and created a mural for their mental health room.



Love Modesto project at Prescott Jr. High



“The art projects that PACE students have collaborated on with Love Stanislaus County and MoArt have been incredibly impactful. Students are sharpening their communication skills while completing tasks that better the group’s final product. These final products give the student a sense of ownership of their school and pride in their accomplishments.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Since Love Modesto began in 2018, 53 out of 58 schools (public, private, and charter) in Modesto have participated!





of our school partners are
Title 1 schools.

More than 70% of their
students qualify as coming
from “low income” families.



Love Our Schools
partnered with Love
Riverbank, One Church
and Cardozo PTC to host
a breakfast for
graduates.



Read Across
America Day
at La Rosa
Elementary



Donating supplies to
Come Back Kids, a program of
Stanislaus County Office
of Education



Food Distribution
Program
at Empire
Elementary

NEW WAREHOUSE

DID YOU KNOW?

We collect donated items all year round that are given to children in foster care. This year we went from a couple of small storage units to a large warehouse space. We now have plenty of space to store donations so they are ready to go when needed. Let us know if you have something to donate!



VAN WRAP



This year we had our van wrapped. We use this vehicle to deliver furniture items to families in need. If you see us driving by, be sure to wave!



Learn more about
Volunteer Central



VOLUNTEER CENTRAL

An app platform that helps people find volunteer opportunities year-round.

Since our soft launch in October 2024, we've had...

20
Organizations
Joined

1630
App
Downloads

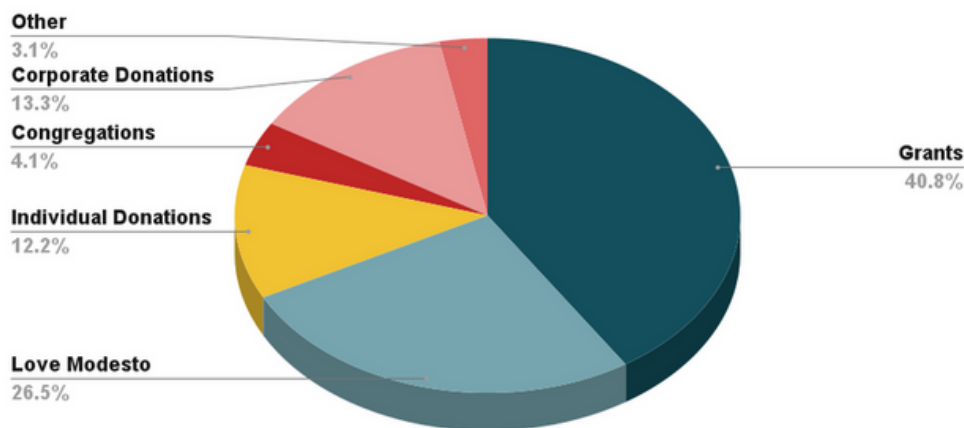
181
Project
Signups



VOLUNTEER CENTRAL
A Platform of Love Stanislaus County

FINANCIALS

INCOME



Grants	\$276,332	40%
Love Modesto Sponsors	\$178,405	26%
Corporate Donations	\$89,543	13%
Individual Donations	\$81,100	12%
Other	\$32,251	5%
Congregations	\$27,902	4%

\$685,533

Have you considered becoming a monthly or annual donor?

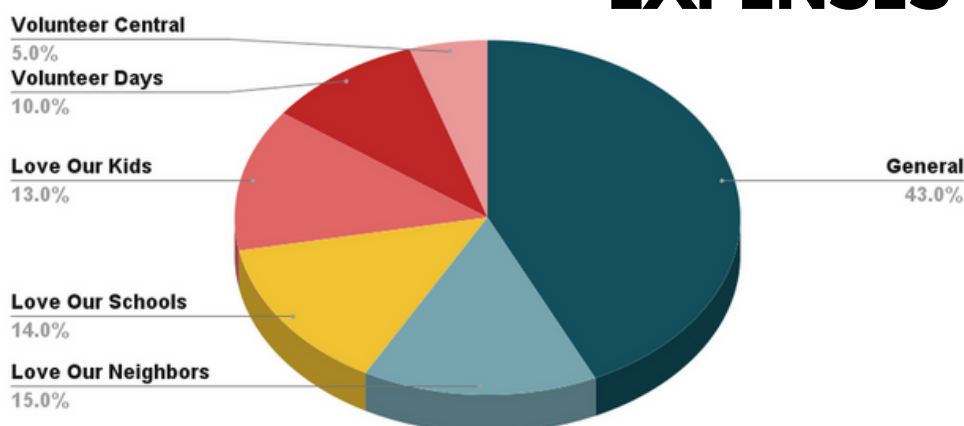
Every donation can make a difference! Here are some examples of how your donation can help:

- \$200 can provide a bed
- \$100 can provide a dresser, stroller, or crib
- \$50 can provide new bedding for a child in need
- \$40 can sponsor a Chalk the Walk event at a school site
- \$40 can provide a portrait session for a high school graduate in foster care
- \$20 can provide new shoes or a silverware set

No gift is too small. Consider giving today!



EXPENSES



General	\$284,621	43%
Love Our Neighbors	\$98,585	15%
Love Our Schools	\$95,748	14%
Love Our Kids	\$83,776	13%
Volunteer Days	\$66,950	10%
Volunteer Central	\$38,439	5%

\$668,119



Stanislaus County, Thank you.

We are so proud of you.

For all the volunteers, project leaders,
sponsors, congregations, businesses, and
community members who have come
alongside us in this work over last year,
we just want to say
THANK YOU.

Thank you for inspiring others.

For not being afraid to step up and help.

For loving your community.

Let's keep the love going.



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