

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

Blue Sky Bridge fosters safe communities,  
healing, and justice to end child abuse.







“We couldn’t operate with  
the same effectiveness to the  
community without you!”

Multidisciplinary Team Survey / Longmont

## Our Values

Kids first

Strive for excellence

Honor wellness

Healthy human interactions

All are welcome and included





Dear Friends of Blue Sky Bridge,

We just completed our busiest year yet in all three programs - more critical work to help keep children safe from child abuse, more support for children and their families when there was a concern, and more child abuse treatment in our safe and welcoming space. **Our core values keep us grounded and focused on our mission to end child abuse and to be here for every child and every family that needs our help.**

“Child abuse and neglect is the single most preventable cause of mental illness, the single most common cause of drug and alcohol abuse, and a significant contributor to leading causes of death such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and suicide.”

Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, “The Body Keeps the Score”

**Blue Sky Bridge provides a safe place for children to talk, to receive medical exams and get their questions answered, and to receive specific trauma-focused therapy.** Caregivers receive resources and support so they can turn around and support their children. Through our services, kids can move on from trauma to live full, beautiful, and productive lives.

To get ahead of this issue, our Prevention Education Team reached an unprecedented number of students, parents, educators, and school personnel. **We believe that education is our most powerful tool to prevent and disrupt the cycle of abuse.**

This was an important year for Blue Sky Bridge in Longmont. For 28 years we have served all of Boulder County, from Nederland to Lafayette, and Longmont to Jamestown. **About 40% of the children we serve are from Longmont, while our presence has not been as well known in this important Boulder County City.** We were thrilled to bring the Longmont community together in support of this work through our inaugural A Moveable Feast™ Longmont event.

Every day, children inspire us by choosing to speak up, and working through their trauma. **We pride ourselves in providing education, support, and a safe space for healing.** Our staff, partners, and volunteers work daily to support these children and families. Supporters, just like you, help make our work possible and ensure the continued success of child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment.

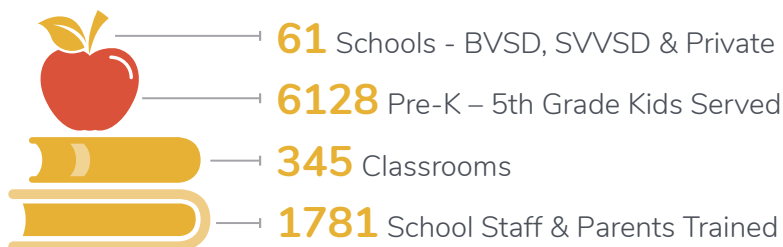
*With gratitude,*

Gina Maione Earles, Executive Director

Fiscal Year 2023: April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

# OUR IMPACT

## The 2022-23 school year

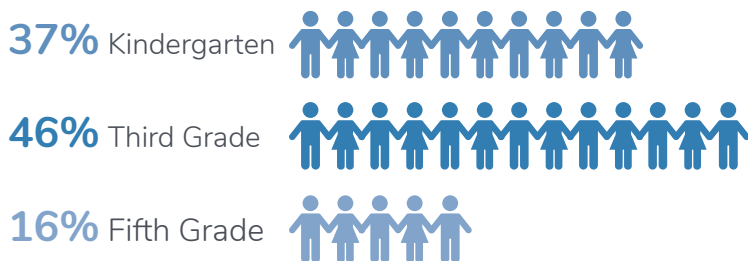


## PREVENTION EDUCATION

Blue Sky Bridge believes that education is a tool for preventing child abuse. Our school program utilizes a three-tiered holistic approach that includes a presentation with tips and resources for parents, training for school personnel, and developmentally age appropriate presentations for kindergarten, 3rd, and 5th grade students.

We believe it is the responsibility of adults to keep children safe and are committed to helping adults learn how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. We offer a range of trainings and outreach opportunities throughout the year to serve our partners and community members.

## Student breakdown by grade\*



\*1% represents other grades

## INTERVENTION

It used to be that a child would have to tell their story of abuse over and over to potentially more than a dozen school officials, police officers, doctors, attorneys, and social workers. Today, a child and their family is able to come to one place, our place.

By providing a centrally-located, child-focused facility and a coordinated response by all investigative agencies, we are proactive in our approach to helping families during child abuse investigations. We provide immediate intervention, forensic interviews, crisis intervention counseling, medical exams, family support, and follow-up services to child victims and non-offending family members.

## Intervention by the numbers

342 FORENSIC  
interviews conducted



298 CAREGIVERS  
received support



218 COMMUNITY CALLS  
were answered, and provided  
support and resources, by our  
intervention team



26 MEDICAL EXAMS  
conducted with BCH





“This place is a gift.  
It feels like a life vest in  
this sea of trauma”

Caregiver / Parent

## THERAPY

Early intervention of mental health services is crucial to the healing process and the long-term health of child victims of abuse. Treatment is designed to reduce negative emotional and behavioral responses and Post-Traumatic Stress symptoms after a traumatic incident. We offer two therapy modalities, Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), for children who have experienced a traumatic event.

We offer therapy in both English and Spanish, and clients can receive services in-person in our Boulder or Longmont offices as well as tele-mental health.



42 THERAPY CLIENTS

9 GRADUATIONS



## Meet Murray!

Having big shoes to fill after our previous facility dog, Marion, got promoted to a new job, Murray joined us in December 2022. He is a three-year-old standard poodle, and this is his first job. During his first few months here, **Murray has already worked 98 hours comforting and supporting clients.**

At Blue Sky Bridge, we pride ourselves on providing a safe and welcoming environment to our community. Murray's original trainer and handler from **Anchor Assistant Dogs believed he was destined to work with children.** He knows how to read a room and people's emotions.

According to an American Counseling Association member, “research shows these animals [dogs] can help to reduce stress, anxiety and depression on a chemical level.” For example, snuggling up with a pet or petting a dog can relieve tension, boost serotonin and oxytocin release, and even reduce blood pressure.

During a therapy session, Murray provides not only physical but psychological comfort to all those involved. **Murray's favorite thing to do is rest his head on your feet or cuddle up next to the children during sessions** with Robin. Not only does his presence benefit the children, but he also helps support Robin and the rest of the therapy staff by helping establish and hold that safe space. He is a grounding entity for complex topics.

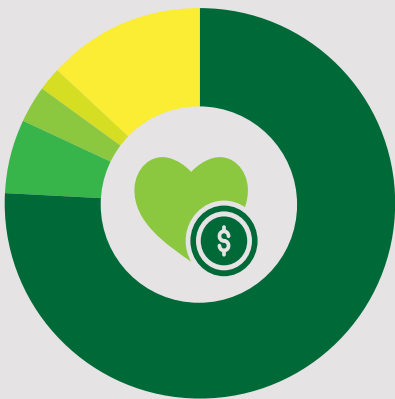
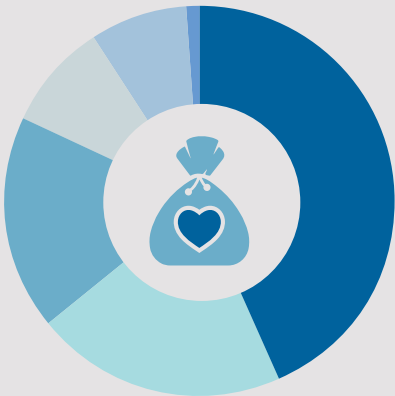
He likes tugging and chewing on ropes and balls or looking out the window waiting for his next job. The children of Blue Sky Bridge love to greet Murray at the door and are always excited to see his new hairstyle after trips to the groomers.

We are so lucky to have Licensed Therapist Robin Friesen-Holwell and Murray at Blue Sky Bridge.



# FINANCIALS

## Operating Income



## Operating Expenses



## Income Statement

	FY22	FY23
Operating Income	\$1,582,911	\$1,806,059
Operating Expense	\$1,559,769	\$1,796,543
Net Operating Income	\$23,142	\$9,516

## Statement of Financial Position

	3/31/23
Current Assets	\$548,909
Fixed Assets, net	\$1,745,759
Other Assets	\$554,047
Total Assets	\$2,848,715
Current Liabilities	\$73,959
Long Term Liabilities	\$13,738
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,469,349
Restricticted Net Assets	\$291,669
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,848,715



A Moveable Feast™ | June 3, 2023 | Boulder





# OUR SIGNATURE EVENTS

A Moveable Feast™ is a progressive dinner benefiting Blue Sky Bridge where guests begin their evening at an appetizer reception, at a private residence, socializing and enjoying savory bites. Then guests head to various homes across Boulder County, where dinner hosts create a unique dining experience in an intimate setting. We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated supporters, generous sponsors, and the gracious hosts of both our dinner and appetizer gatherings. For more info, visit [blueskybridge.org](https://blueskybridge.org).



A Moveable Feast™ | June 4, 2022 | Boulder



A Moveable Feast™  
September 9, 2023 | Longmont



## A Moveable Feast™ XXIII Sponsors Saturday, June 4, 2022

### Gold Palate \$10,000+

Nancy & Michael Berman  
Annette & Tom Kissinger  
Sherial & Greg Starr

### Joy of Cooking \$5,000+

Terri A. Benjamin Family Fund  
Judy Toran Cousin & Andrew Cousin  
Tess Roering & Nathan Dopp  
Stapp Interstate Toyota  
The Mary & Tim Wolf Family Foundation

### Boulder Gourmet \$3,000+

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Amy & Steve Carpenter  
Susan Coit  
Nancy & Jerry Krause  
Melton Design Build  
Joanne O'Shell & Neal Feagans

### Epicurean \$1,500+

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Mosaic Architects and Interiors  
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Terri Taydus – WK Real Estate  
Tebo Properties  
Christine & Doug Werking  
Wong Orthodontics

### In-kind Contributors

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Hazel's Beverage World  
Jocelyn Kelso – Inspired Design  
Lisa Doane Photography  
Strategic Solutions Marketing & Events  
Upslope Brewing Co.  
Tom Tompkins  
Wood's High Mountain Distillery



Artwork by 3rd grade students

## Our Staff\*

Gina Maione Earles,  
Executive Director

Susana Avelar  
Allison Breed  
Lauren Brillante  
Tava Bystrom  
Gretchen Fair  
Robin Friesen-Holwell  
Raine Garcia  
Martha Hawkinson  
Anne Hedlund  
Tanja Leonard  
Lucia Martinez Diaz  
Maryssa O'Dell  
Marce Olsen  
Bella Parker  
Melissa Santorelli  
Jennifer Shriver  
Jeff Stewart  
Trish Wood

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Matt Buchanan, Treasurer  
Sabra Willner, Secretary  
Beth Armstrong  
Nadya Davis  
Alex Cherubin  
Cody Clark  
Michelle Gallop  
David Mandell  
Alice Messinger  
Sherial Starr

\*Rosters as of 3/31/23



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blueskybridge.org



**"I like the no go tell plan  
about saying no then go tell  
a parent."**

3rd grade student

