

PENNY LANE  
CENTERS  
*transforming lives*

# Building Hope

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# Executive Summary

## Mission & Values

We empower hopes and dreams. Our values are commitment, community and collaboration. We welcome all clients regardless of gender, race, age, religion, disability, marital status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.



## HISTORY

It began with a dream.

Ivelise Markovits (Ive; “E-vay”) founded Penny Lane in 1969. Upon graduating from high school in her native Puerto Rico, Ive (pictured, 1979) and her family moved to Southern California. In college, Ive was a feminist, socio-political activist and a peace marcher. Her sense of justice was already very strong. After graduating from college, Ive began her career as a placement officer for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. She was responsible for finding residential treatment facilities for female wards of the court. In a very short period of time, Ive became frustrated and disillusioned with the near void of adequate treatment facilities available to girls, especially those who were a bit more challenging than others. Ive’s personal values could not let her ignore this gross injustice. Thus began the dream.



Over the next few months, while still working for the Probation Department, Ive began to pull together the pieces that would go into developing a strong residential treatment program for teen aged girls. Despite enough hurdles, obstacles and challenges to discourage all but the most completely dedicated, Ive stood fast and prevailed. On December 15th, 1969, Penny Lane became a functioning reality.



The foundation’s nickname, Penny Lane, was taken from the upbeat, cheerful Beatles tune that celebrates the simple joys of life. What began as a group home for a handful of adolescent girls has grown into a multi-service organization that serves 3500 children, youth and families monthly and employs over 500 full time social service providers and support staff. Penny Lane’s Administration is located in North Hollywood. In our North Hills location we provide Transitional and Permanent Housing for former foster youth, Foster Care and Adoption Services, Family Preservation and Intensive Services as well as a Behavioral Health Services. Penny Lane has additional offices in Commerce and the Antelope Valley providing similar services.





**We're Penny Lane Centers.** Our dedicated staff work with clients, professionals, community partners and government agencies to transform the lives of thousands of children, youth and families each year. We offer a continuum of programs in a variety of locations throughout Los Angeles County. **We choose to lead with a heart centered culture,** to be innovative and to be open as this is at the core of who we are. We understand that kids, families, staff and community all basically want the same thing. Everyone desires the feeling of belonging and connection—a sense of purpose that is recognized and valued by others. We humbly welcome everyone to our circle and embrace, empower, and protect those in need.

## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read Penny Lane's Annual Report, especially amid the many challenges and uncertainties unfolding in our world. At a moment when attention is scarce and demands are great, the choice to stay engaged reflects something essential—that commitment still matters, that how we show up for one another defines who we are and most especially it's the way hope is built. Your willingness to pause, to bear witness, and to stay connected is not lost on us; it, in and of itself, is an act of care and share responsibility.

Over the last year, our work continued to be anchored in our core values of Collaboration, Community, and Commitment. These values not only shaped how we served, but how we led; especially as the communities we stand alongside were faced with heightened fear, instability, and direct threats to their safety and well-being. In those moments, more than we would like to remember, our values were not merely theoretical, they were our sole compass. Connection and relationship-building proved to be one of our greatest strengths. When systems felt fragile and the path forward uncertain, we listened deeply, collaborated across differences, and showed up consistently with care and kindness. It carried us through and allowed us to respond with agility and resolve. The value that guided my leadership this year was courage. The courage to lead with integrity, to confront hard realities without turning away and to remain steadfast in our purpose even when the work demanded more than what felt bearable. I witnessed that same courage reflected throughout Penny Lane and within our communities. Courage became the act of building hope even when it was most tested.

That shared courage did not remain abstract—it moved us forward in tangible, community-centered ways. Guided by our values and strengthened by deep relationships, Penny Lane continued to invest in prevention, early support, and places of belonging. This year, we were proud to open two new Child and Family Resources Centers; creating welcoming, community-based spaces designed to meet families where they are. Through these services, more than 5,000 families across Los Angeles County will be able to access vital supports, trusted resources, and a sense of belonging. The Child and Family Resources Centers are not only locations of support, but places where hope is rebuilt, one family, one relationship and one moment of trust at a time. This milestone reflects not only Penny Lane's organizational growth, but our enduring promise to remain present, responsive, and grounded in the needs of our communities.

But none of this work would be possible without the extraordinary dedication of the Penny Lane staff. Their strength, compassion, and dedication, so often offered behind the scenes and without expectation for recognition, is the foundation of everything we do. They show up each day with humility and heart, carrying our values forward in ways both seen and unseen. I am deeply grateful for the support and guidance of the Penny Lane Board of Directors, whose leadership and partnership continue to strengthen our values and purpose. To our partners, volunteers, donors, supporters, and community members. Your participation and belief in our work matter now more than ever. Progress is only made possible through trust, shared responsibility, and a collective conviction that dignity, safety, and a sense of belonging are not negotiable.

In love, light, and hope always,

*Wendy Carpenter*

Wendy Carpenter, Penny Lane Centers CEO





## THE NEED

Struggling individuals, youth and families striving for healthier, more productive, and happier lives in the communities we serve.

## THE GOAL

To transform the lives of those who come to us desiring a better life.

## HOW WE DO IT

- Using a heart centered, strengths based, blame free culture.
- Approaching each person as an individual who is unique and special to determine which of our array of services can best impact their lives in a positive way.
- Meeting with and working with each person who comes to us where they are most comfortable.
- By stressing every ONE matters

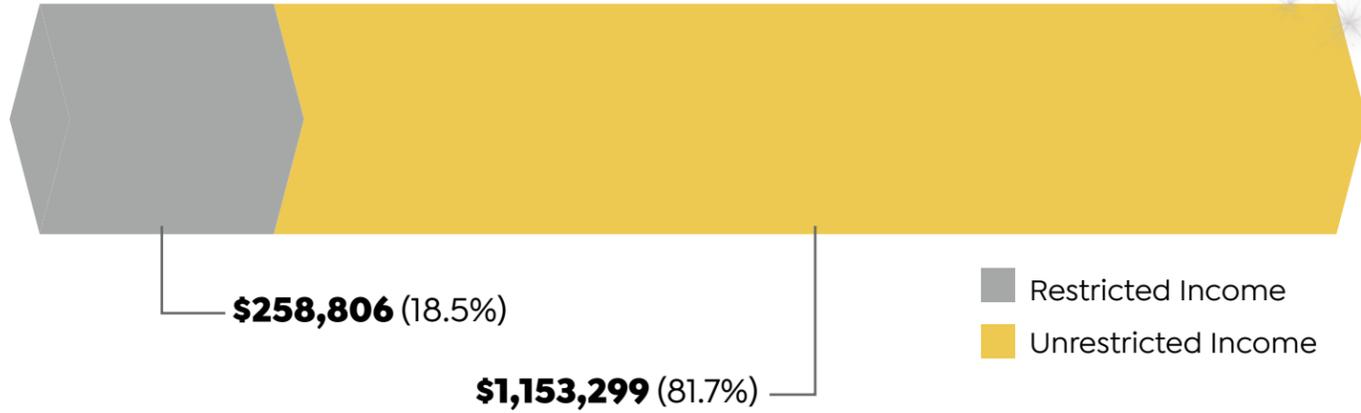


## Financial Overview

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION\*

INCOME:  
**\$66,628,431**

FUNDRAISING INCOME:  
**\$1,412,105**



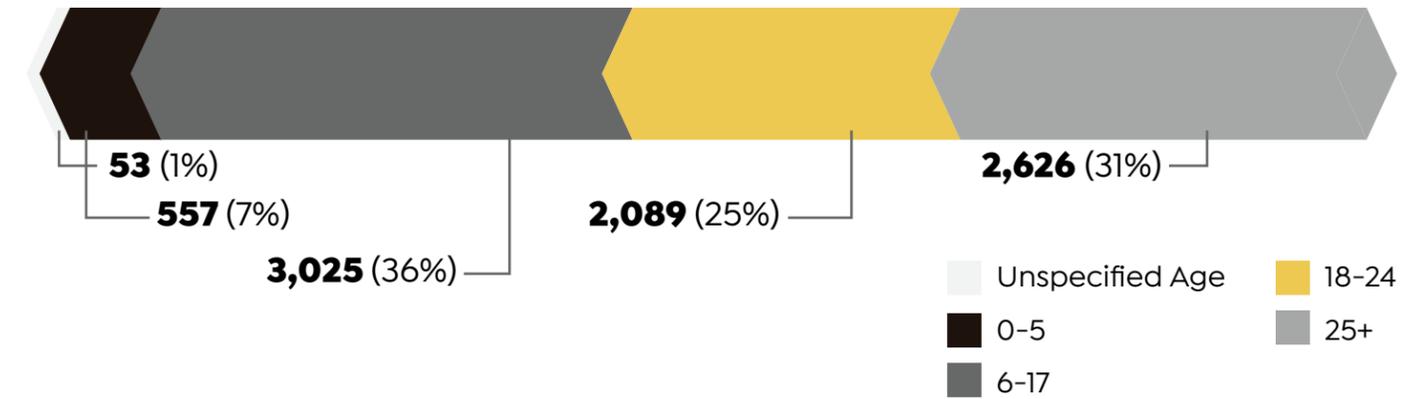
**98 cents of every dollar** that comes in goes directly to helping change and improve the lives of children, families, and individuals in our care.

\*amounts from 1/1/25-12/31/25

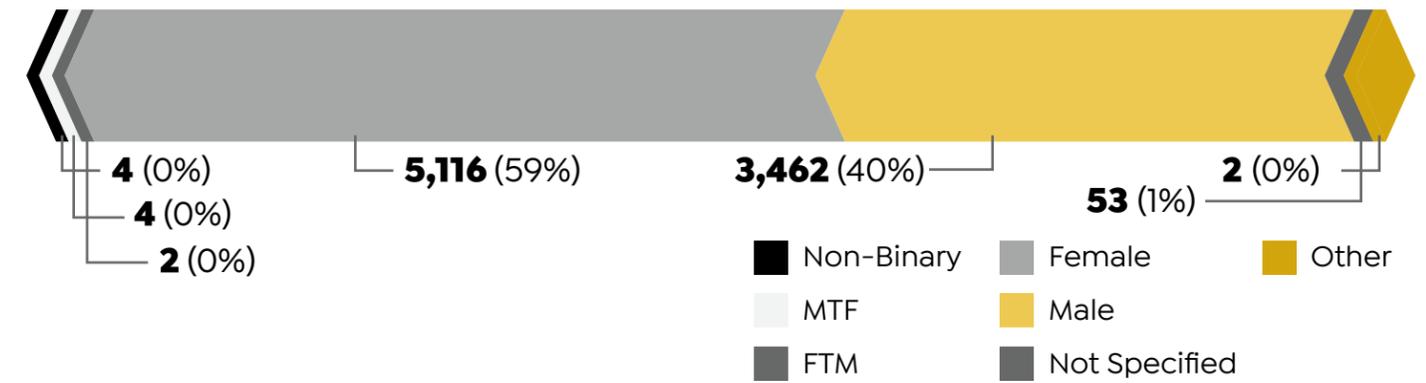


## THOSE WE SERVE

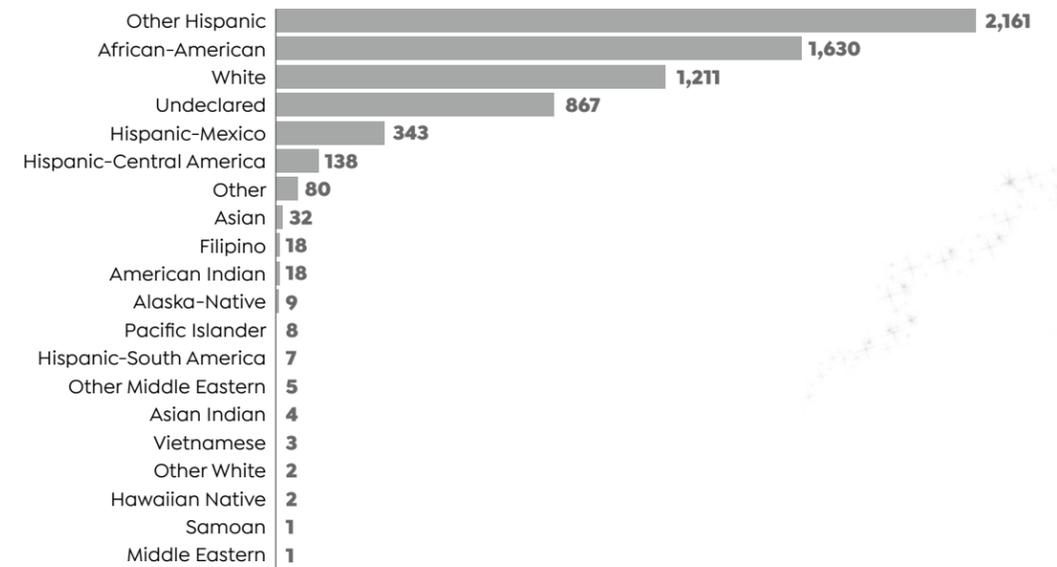
### AGE



### GENDER



### ETHNICITY





## Programs Overview

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

**Supported Employment:**

Supported Employment services can be accessed as part of our adult CalWORKs program in the Antelope Valley. The Supported Employment program helps CalWORKs participants interested in working to obtain and maintain jobs of their choosing.

**Employment Support Program (ESP):**

An immersive one-on-one educational program that serves Transitional Age Youth (ages 16-25) in the San Fernando Valley, who are receiving ongoing Department of Behavioral Health therapy services. ESP prepares and assists youth in gaining permanent, entry-level, or mid-level employment in their community through Education, Preparation and Guidance.

**Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR):**

UMCR is a collaborative program with the LAPD, serving the Devonshire and West Valley reporting districts. The team responds to non-violent 911 calls involving behavioral health crises, substance use, suicide threats, behavioral distress, conflict resolution, and welfare checks, providing social services support in place of traditional law enforcement intervention.

**Community & Family Resource Centers (CFRC):**

Community & Family Resource Centers are funded by the Department of Behavioral Health. Our centers provide a full array of strength based, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate prevention services that include: 1) case navigation; 2) referrals and linkages; 3) community capacity building; and 4) community outreach and engagement. Our goal is to work with all community members, including agency partners, who can help provide the support and services our communities need.

**Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention & Treatment (CAPIT):** *Starts February 2026*

Services are aimed at preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. The CAPIT program provides a range of child abuse and neglect prevention, intervention, and treatment services to at risk families. Services include case management, parenting support, and counseling.



## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### **TSY Mentorship Program:**

Penny Lane's Tailored Services to Youth (TSY) Program provides case management, mentorship, and collateral services for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults ages 2-25 who have a current or previous DCFS case. Currently this program is available in Service Areas 1 and 7, including the Antelope Valley, East LA, Commerce, Whittier, and surrounding areas.

### **Transition Age Youth Drop-in Center (TAY Center):**

The TAY Drop-In Center at Penny Lane Centers' Antelope Valley and Commerce Family Centers serves youth ages 16-25 experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The center offers a safe space with connections to housing, employment, education, healthcare, benefits assistance, mental health support, LGBTQ+ affirming services, and community resources to help young people build stability and independence.

### **Embracing Identities:**

Embracing Identities supports LGBTQ+ Transition Age Youth (TAY), ages 16-25, through affirming support groups, individualized case management, and skill-building workshops that promote stability and well-being. The program also advances community education through LGBTQ+ Toolkit Trainings for schools, providers, and community members, and offers classes for parents and caregivers to strengthen family acceptance and support for LGBTQ+ youth.



## IN HOME SERVICES

### **Adoption:**

Penny Lane's adoption program offers services to prospective adoptive parents including training, completion of a home study, matching certified adoptive families with available children, and facilitating the adoption finalization. The families are continuously supported throughout the adoptive process.

### **Foster Family Agency (FFA):**

Penny Lane's Foster Family Agency provides professional training and support for adults wanting to care for children and youth in foster care. The Foster Family program at Penny Lane Centers works to find safe loving families for children and youth, while offering both the child and the resource parent a wide array of social, therapeutic and supportive services.

### **Intensive Services Foster Care Behavioral Health (ISFC SEBN):**

Intensive Services Foster Care Behavioral Health Program is a placement for children/youth ages 6-21 who typically have behaviors that have led to multiple foster care placements, psychiatric hospitalization, or group home placements. These children/youth must have a family who will take the time to understand their special needs, and provide a loving, supportive environment for them to heal from the trauma they have experienced in their lives.

## Rowan's Success Story

### AN LGBTQ+ SUCCESS STORY

When Rowan first came to Penny Lane, they were not seeking services—they were seeking safety. As a young LGBTQ+ person who often felt unseen and unsafe, Rowan longed for a place where authenticity was affirmed. Through our LGBTQ+ outreach program, they found community and support. Today, Rowan sees Penny Lane as the place where their future began to take shape.

Watch their video [here](#).



did you know?

Nearly  
**40%**  
of all clients served were children and teens.

PLC served  
**1,950**  
Transition-Age Youth (18-24) in 2025 supporting behavioral health, housing, and life-skills development.

PLC served  
**420**  
children ages 0-5, strengthening families from the very start.

## HOUSING PROGRAMS

### **Transitional Housing Placement Program – NonMinor Dependents (THPP-NMD):**

The Penny Lane THPP-NMD program provides housing for foster youth who have chosen to stay in foster care past their 18th birthday. Former foster youth who participate in this housing program are expected to display a medium to high level of independence.

**Transitional Housing Program (THP):** Housing, for up to 3 years along with supportive services for young adults 18-24 who are currently homeless or at risk of being homeless.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** PSH offers a place where people experiencing chronic homelessness can finally find a safe, secure home, and begin to rebuild their lives. PSH isn't a temporary fix. It's a commitment to providing individuals with not just shelter, but a home for as long as they need it. Permanence underscores the belief in giving people the time and space to heal, grow, and thrive.

**Housing Supported Services Program (HSSP):** The Housing Supported Services Program is a specialized program that provides comprehensive and intensive field-based community behavioral health services designed to meet the unique needs of individuals in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

### **Rachel's Success Story**

A HOUSING SUCCESS STORY

Rachel arrived at Imagine Village after years of homelessness and uncertainty, hoping only for a chance. What she found was safety, dignity, and a community that believed in her.

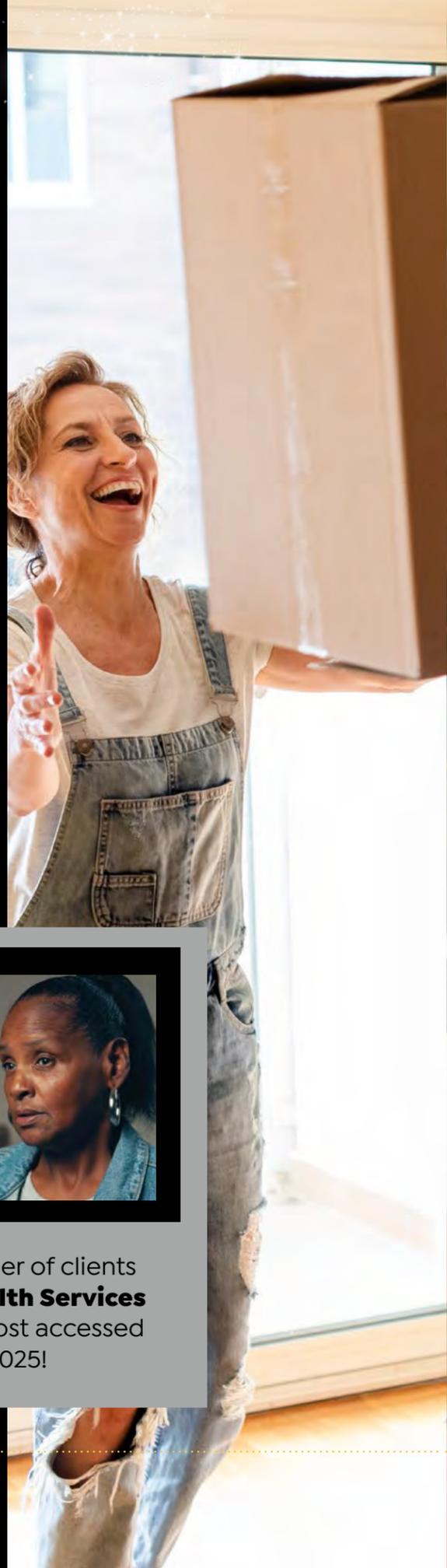
Watch her video [here](#).



fun fact

**4,277**

That's the number of clients **Behavioral Health Services** serviced; the most accessed service area in 2025!



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

### **Intensive Field Capable Clinical Services (IFCCS):**

The goal of IFCCS is to identify the children/youth and family's strengths and behavioral health needs for the purpose of preventing hospitalizations, decreasing involvement with the juvenile justice system and child protective services, and securing permanent placement.

### **Enhanced Care Management (ECM):**

Our ECM program, in partnership with L.A. Care, Health Net, and Anthem, is a voluntary benefit for Medi-Cal members who need extra support. Led by dedicated Care Managers and overseen by a Clinical Consultant, ECM offers personalized assistance beyond traditional healthcare. Members receive help with finding doctors, scheduling appointments, understanding medications, and accessing vital community resources like food, housing, and job counseling.

### **Outpatient Services:**

We provide a variety of behavioral health services, including individual, group and family therapy, as well as adjunctive services (Therapeutic Behavioral Services, Psychiatric (Medication Management), Psychological Evaluation, Case Management). Treatment services range from preventative care to intensive treatment modalities. We provide services in multiple settings (office, home, school, community) based on what the client and family needs are.

### **Adult & Child Full-Service Partnerships:**

FSP Services aim to help clients increase their ability to function at optimal levels, decrease homelessness and incarcerations, and reduce unnecessary medical and psychiatric urgent care and emergency room visits and hospitalizations. For those clients that are homeless, Adult FSP Services will help them transition from street to home by providing immediate and on-going assistance with securing and maintaining housing. Services are based on clients' individual needs and goals, with a commitment to do "whatever it takes" to help them progress toward recovery, health, and well-being.

## FAMILY SERVICES

### **Relative Support Services (RSS):**

Supports relatives and non-related extended family members to meet the needs of children placed in their care.

### **Relative Home Assessment Services (RHAS):**

The Relative Home Assessment Services (RHAS) program supports relative caregivers through the process of getting their homes approved by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The program assists families with preparing their homes to meet the required home safety standards. The RHAS program also supports families during their post-approval. These are families that are taking in children who are relatives of theirs as they are unable for whatever reason to remain with their parents.

### **Prevention and Aftercare (P&A):**

A partnership between Penny Lane and The Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) with the aim of helping families thrive and achieve bright futures. Our goal is to reduce child neglect and maltreatment by taking a holistic approach to each family's needs. Services provided include Case Navigation, Therapy, Parenting Classes, Family Workshops and Community Events. Currently this is available in SPA 1 in the Antelope Valley.

### **Family Preservation:**

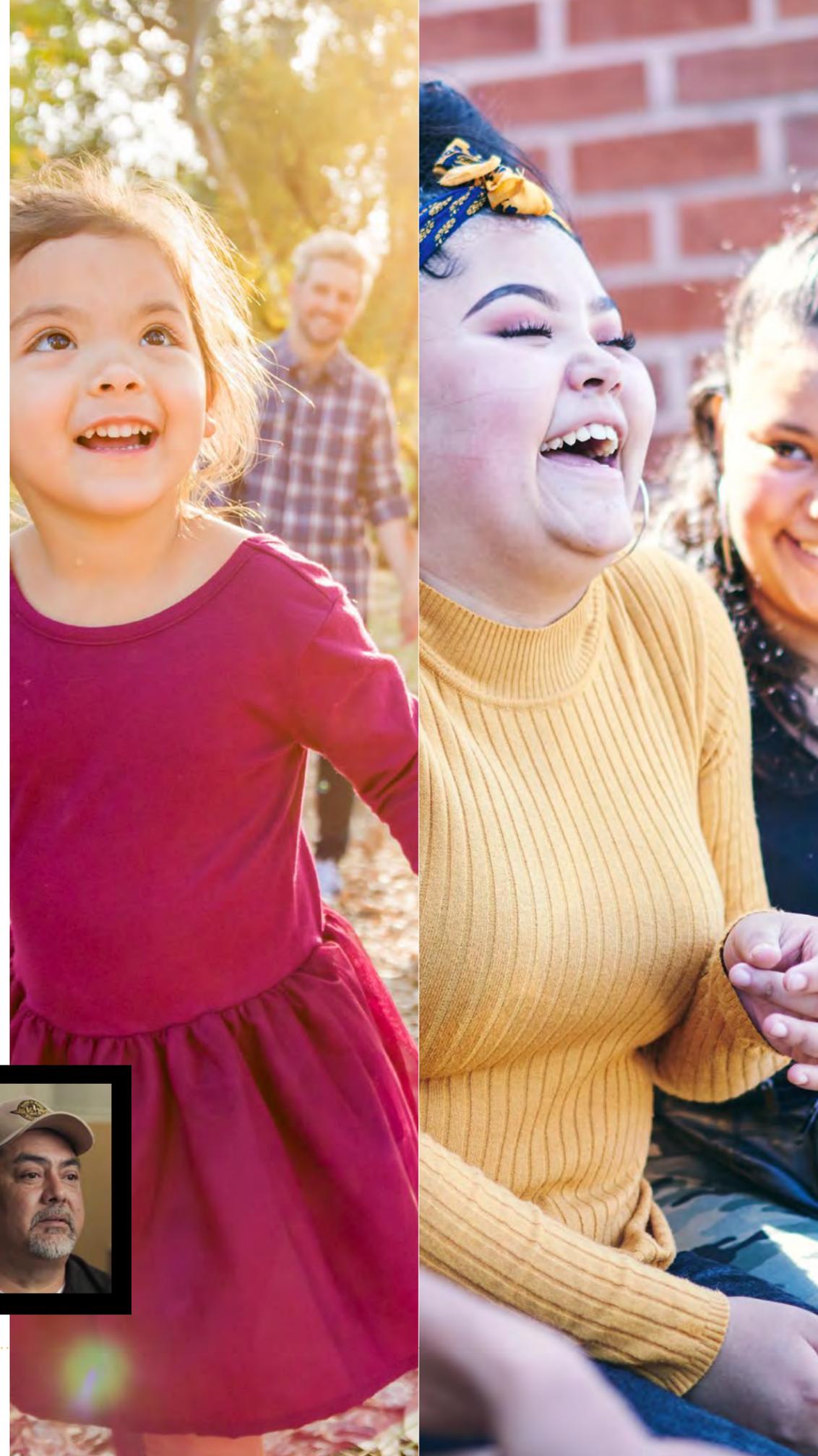
This program is designed to preserve and strengthen families who are involved with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) due to allegations of abuse or neglect. Families who receive Family Preservation services may have had prior challenges including domestic violence, substance abuse, behavioral health issues or others. The goal is to keep the family together and not have children taken from their homes.

## **Gil's Success Story**

### A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUCCESS STORY

After losing his 33-year-old son, Gil faced deep grief and unexpected financial strain. Gil shares how the connection he found at Penny Lane helped him begin a new chapter rooted in healing and hope.

Watch his video [here](#).



## SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

### **Substance Use Disorder (SUD):**

SUD was born out of an urgent need for services to aid those with substance use and addiction challenges. The SUD program provides Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient treatment, as well as Recovery Support Services.

## DEIB & SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB):**

Penny Lane is committed to advancing equity for all. Since our inception we have been an agency of action. We now find ourselves motivated more than ever to address the issues of racial and social justice for the underserved and marginalized communities. To that end we have taken great steps to share our DEIB vision with our staff, clients and the communities that we serve.

### **Marketing and Fund Development:**

Penny Lane Centers is there providing a helping hand to empower people and addressing the needs of the communities we serve. Each year we must raise a great deal of money to provide our clients with essentials to improve their quality of life and to fill in the gaps that government funding does not cover. Our Marketing and Fund Development department is active in promoting the agency and getting us these needed donations.

We encourage everyone to volunteer and/or donate.

For more information please see our website

[www.pennylane.org/donate](http://www.pennylane.org/donate).



## NEW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

**PENNY LANE CENTERS COMMUNITY AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (CFRC)** is a community-based prevention and early intervention program dedicated to strengthening individuals, children, and families by fostering connection, resilience, and hope. We have two locations, in supervisory district 3 and supervisory district 5.

Grounded in accessibility and cultural responsiveness, CFRC provides no-cost services in a welcoming, non-clinical setting where families feel seen, supported, and empowered. Through education, relationship-building, and strengths-based interventions, CFRC works to reduce risk factors while nurturing protective factors that help families envision and move toward a more stable and healthy future.

CFRC serves children, youth, adults, and families experiencing a range of stressors including trauma, parenting challenges, social isolation, economic hardship, and barriers to accessing behavioral health supports. Programs provide group workshops, psychoeducation, parenting education and support, resource navigation and referrals, case management, and large-scale community events. Each service is designed not only to provide practical tools, but also to instill hope by reinforcing families' existing strengths, validating their experiences, and increasing their sense of belonging and possibility.

CFRC services are delivered in collaboration with trusted community partners to promote coordinated care and address social determinants of health. By offering early, relationship-centered support and creating spaces where hope can be restored and sustained, CFRC aims to prevent the escalation of behavioral health concerns and empower families to thrive. Wondering how to help? We are always looking for community partners to help us meet the needs of our communities and we welcome any all donations.



# Community & Family Resource Center

Available at  
**Antelope Valley & North Hills Family Centers**

The Penny Lane Child & Family Resource Center (CFRC) is a community-based hub designed to provide families and youth across Los Angeles County with accessible resources, supportive services, and opportunities for connection. The CFRC promotes family stability and wellness by offering case management, parenting education, mental health support, and community engagement activities tailored to meet the diverse needs of local residents. The center is committed to being a welcoming, trauma-informed space where individuals can find guidance, resources, and encouragement as they navigate life's challenges.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

[CFRC@pennylane.org](mailto:CFRC@pennylane.org)

**833-475-2457**



## Abbey Road

Seeing the need in 2009 to build and create new housing for those in need Penny Lane formed Abbey Road as a subsidiary company. Abbey Road has its own Board of Directors which are approved by the Penny Lane Board of Directors. The day to day operations of Abbey Road are led by Maura Johnson, Director of Housing who reports directly to the CEO and CFO of Penny Lane.

### MISSION & VALUES

Abbey Road is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2009 as a supporting entity of Penny Lane Centers, a California nonprofit corporation. Abbey Road's mission is to expand, develop, and preserve supportive housing opportunities for low-income and homeless youth, families, and veterans. In essence, Abbey Road is responsible for constructing the physical housing buildings.

**Abbey  
Road**

## HIGHLIGHTS

Abbey Road oversees a comprehensive portfolio of 830 units, including Transitional, Permanent, and those under construction and in predevelopment. This diverse range underscores our commitment to providing varied housing options to address community needs. We maintain a close collaboration with Penny Lane Centers, which provides supportive services for all housing units in our portfolio, aligning our missions and leveraging shared personnel for seamless integration. This partnership brings over 50 years of combined experience in serving foster children, former foster youth, and high-risk families in Los Angeles County.

### TRANSITIONAL

15260 Rayen	6
15258 Gresham	6
15256 Acre	6
15257 Acre and 15259 Gresham	8

### PERMANENT

Columbus Perm	6
Cedar Ridge	110
Mid Celis	20
Moonlight Villas	27
Imagine Village	75
Metamorphosis on Foothill	48
Sun Commons	103
Imagine Village II	80

### PREDEVELOPMENT

The Starr	57
Downey	60
Norwalk	90

### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Rigby	64
The Main	64



In 2025, we housed around

**1,079**

residents in our permanent housing developments!

**16.7%**

are recently housed in our new development at Imagine Village III!

Out of 469 developed units,

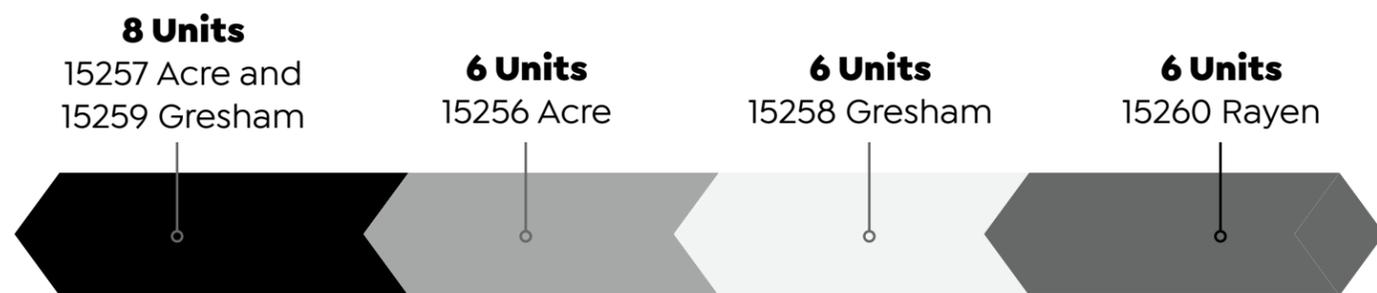
**58%**

are families with at least one child in the home.

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ANALYSIS

Our Transitional Housing program has been a cornerstone of our commitment to providing short-term support for individuals in transition. We currently manage a total of 26 units across four properties, each designed to offer a safe and supportive environment.

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: 26 UNITS



## IMAGINE VILLAGE II OPEN HOUSE

Imagine Village II is an 80-unit large-family affordable and supportive housing community serving low-income individuals and families, including those who have experienced homelessness. Penny Lane Centers serves as the onsite service provider, delivering intensive case management and supportive services tailored to residents' needs to promote stability, safety, and long-term self-sufficiency.

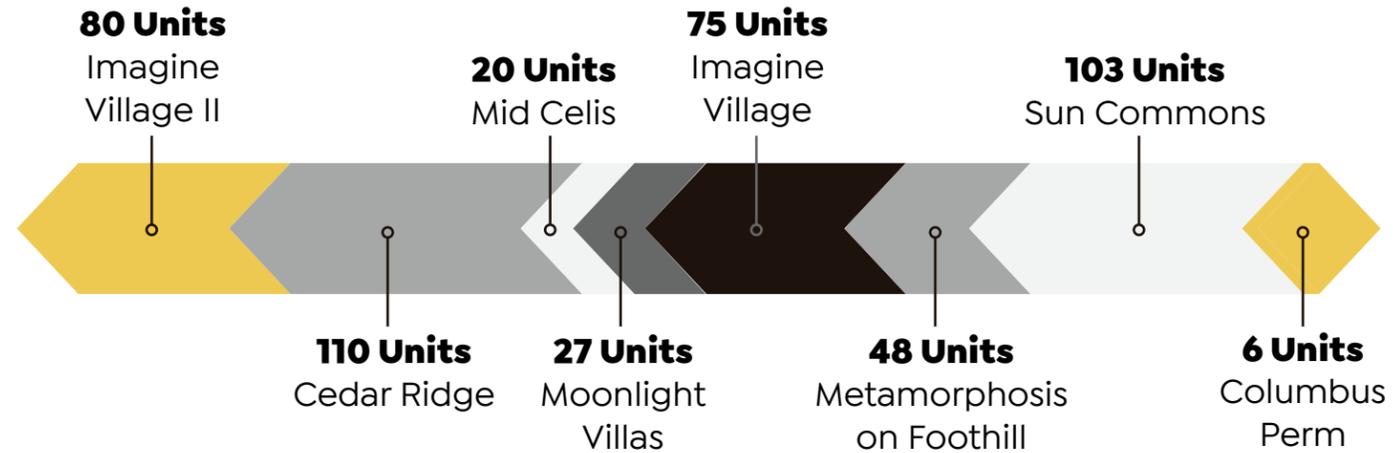
Watch the video [here](#).



## PERMANENT HOUSING ANALYSIS

Our Permanent Housing initiative continues to thrive with a total of 469 units distributed across several properties, including Columbus Perm, Cedar Ridge, Imagine Village, Metamorphosis on Foothill, Sun Commons, and more. We are excited to announce that later this year, we will be opening The Rigby, adding 64 units for individuals and families and in mid 2028 we will be opening The Main, adding another 64 units for individuals and families. This expansion reflects our commitment to meeting the increasing demand for stable and lasting housing solutions in our community.

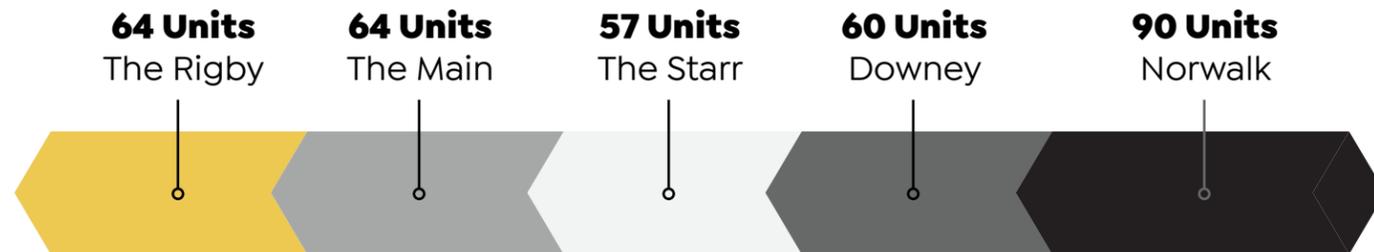
### PERMANENT HOUSING: 469 UNITS



## CONSTRUCTION & PREDEVELOPMENT PHASE ANALYSIS

Looking towards the future, we are excited about the construction and predevelopment phase that includes 335 units across four properties: The Rigby and The Main (currently under construction) and The Starr, Norwalk, and Downey (in predevelopment). These units represent our proactive stance in expanding our housing capacity to meet the evolving needs of the community. This forward-thinking approach aligns with our mission to create safe, affordable housing for children, adults, and families—offering sustainable and enduring solutions to housing challenges within our community.

### CONSTRUCTION & PREDEVELOPMENT PHASE: 335 UNITS



**Penny Lane Conferences**



## EDGY CONFERENCE

### QUEER HORIZONS AND THE POWER OF SHOWING UP

Those words opened our day at the 15th Annual EDGY Conference – Queer Horizons: Helping LGBTQ+ Youth Navigate Behavioral Health, Community, and Identity, and they carried us through every keynote, workshop, conversation, and shared moment. At a time when so many LGBTQ+ youth are facing unprecedented attacks on their identities, EDGY 2025 became a refuge—an unapologetically affirming space where love, connection, and action reigned.

We gathered on June 18th at The California Endowment with over 300 service providers, parents, educators, students, and advocates. What unfolded was more than a conference—it was a collective promise. A promise to do better. To show up. To fight for brighter, safer horizons for the LGBTQ+ youth we serve. From the moment our attendees walked through the doors, the energy was undeniable. Laughter mingled with purpose, and the ballroom buzzed with hope, heart, and commitment.

Our keynote speakers built upon one another with breathtaking synergy—each one amplifying the voices before them, digging deeper, and urging us to confront the realities LGBTQ+ youth face. We heard about trauma and resilience, family and chosen love, systemic challenges, and what it means to truly create affirming spaces. These weren't just speeches—they were calls to action. We were reminded that being an ally is not about perfection, but about presence, progress, and the courage to use our power for good.

In the breakout rooms, our workshops took things even further. Attendees engaged in critical conversations around gender-affirming therapy, supporting trans youth, navigating non-affirming environments, and building equity in practice. These sessions gave us tools to return to our roles with more insight, compassion, and strategy. Because this work—our work—isn't theoretical. It's urgent. And our youth are depending on us to get it right.

One of the most inspiring parts of the day was our Resource Fair, which featured over 30 organizations offering direct services, materials, and connections across LA County. From legal advocacy and housing support to behavioral health and mentoring programs, the fair was a vibrant celebration of community power. We're incredibly grateful to every organization that participated and brought their resources to life—it was more than an info fair; it was a love letter to our youth, saying: We see you. We've got you.

This unforgettable day wouldn't have happened without our incredible community of supporters. Huge thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Logix Federal Credit Union, for standing with us. Thank you to The California Endowment for hosting us in such a beautiful and welcoming space. Our deepest appreciation to every volunteer, presenter, and staff member who poured their heart into making this day seamless and special. And most importantly, thank you to every single attendee—your presence created the affirming, joy-filled, justice-driven space we needed.

If you missed a moment (or want to relive it), don't worry—we've got you covered. Check out the EDGY 2025 Recap Video, browse our event photos below, and mark your calendar for EDGY 2026—we can't wait to see you again next June.

Until then, keep taking those steps forward. Even one conversation, one shift, one show of love can change the horizon for an LGBTQ+ young person. Thank you for being part of our journey.



Penny Lane Centers proudly presents the **16th Annual EDGY Conference: Together We Thrive.** This one-day event brings together professionals, educators, caregivers, youth, and allies to strengthen cultural competency and share best practices in supporting LGBTQ+ youth and families.

TogetherWeThrive centers the power of community in creating meaningful, lasting change. At a time of renewed social and political challenges, this year's theme calls for connection, compassion, and collective action to ensure queer youth are not only supported, but celebrated. Through expert-led workshops, panels, and interactive sessions, attendees will gain tools to build inclusive, affirming spaces where every young person can feel seen, empowered, and able to flourish.

[Click here to see a recap of Edgy 2025!](#)

## RISE UP CONFERENCE

### WHAT NOW – OUR VALUES IN ACTION

In September 2025, Penny Lane Centers hosted its fourth annual Rise Up conference, bringing together 225 participants for a day grounded in connection, courage, and building hope. Guided by our heart-centered culture, the conference created space for reflection, learning, and values-driven action in response to the complex challenges facing our communities.

The day opened with a Values Mapping exercise, inviting participants to reflect on the principles that guide how they show up for one another and those they serve. Keynote speaker Ronnette Ramos, Esq., Vice President of Operations at Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California, brought visibility to the often-overlooked AAPI immigration experience, elevating stories that are rarely heard and underscoring the importance of inclusive advocacy.

Workshops throughout the day explored leadership, healing, identity, and community collaboration—highlighting how one's values, compassion, resilience, and belonging can guide action even in difficult times.

The afternoon keynote by Mark Shihady, Principal Attorney of Root Law, offered practical

guidance on supporting individuals and families impacted by the immigration system. His insights emphasized preparedness, informed action, and the role organizations can play in protecting vulnerable communities.

The conference concluded with Beyond the Borders, an interactive exercise and reflective Stand If activity that fostered empathy, connection, and collective understanding. While Rise Up takes place once a year, its spirit lives on every day at Penny Lane Centers, where we continue to build welcoming spaces rooted in heart-centered principles—ensuring clients and staff feel empowered, know they belong, and experience the positive force of hope that calls us to do better together.



save the date



**RISE UP**  
The power of belonging

**11/4/26**  
**9AM-4PM**

Penny Lane Centers proudly presents **Rise Up 2026: The Power of Belonging**, a one-day conference dedicated to advancing awareness, dialogue, and action around racial and social justice through the lens of belonging.

In a time marked by polarization and exclusion, Rise Up affirms that belonging is both a human need and a shared responsibility. This conference brings together thought leaders, practitioners, advocates, and community members to explore how systems shape inclusion, dignity, and equity. Through honest dialogue, storytelling, and action-oriented learning, attendees will gain tools to confront barriers, strengthen accountability, and build communities where everyone truly belongs.

Click [here](#) to see a recap of Rise Up 2025!



**Thank  
You**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**President**  
Adrienne S. Khorasanee  
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**Chief Financial Officer**  
Bernie La Fianza, MBA



**Chief Programs Officer**  
Dr. Judith Sandino, Psy.D,  
LCSW

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

At the heart of the work done at Penny Lane Centers are the people who believe in the mission, vision and aspirations; and that is you. Our volunteers and donors are the quiet force behind every smile, every moment of relief, and every step forward taken by the children, youth, and families we serve. We are deeply grateful for the time, compassion, and generosity you share with us.

Our volunteers give more than hours; they give presence, care, and hope. Whether supporting programs, helping at events, mentoring youth, or simply showing up when our families need it most, your commitment creates meaningful and lasting change. To our donors, your generosity fuels our mission and allows us to respond to real needs with dignity, intention, and compassion. Because of you, we can keep our programs strong, address critical gaps, and continue providing vital services to those who rely on us.

Because of you, we have been able to provide backpacks for children returning to school, create a joyful summer day at the park for our families, and host beautiful holiday celebrations where children and caregivers received toys and gifts that brought smiles to their faces and joy to their hearts. Your support has also made it possible to offer financial literacy workshops that help our clients build confidence and stability as well provide transformational vouchers when immediate needs arose, distribute food to families experiencing food insecurity, meeting them with care where and when it mattered most.

Your support is not just appreciated. It is essential. Every contribution and every act of service directly impacts lives across our community. Together, we are helping families stay connected, empowering young people to move forward with confidence, strengthening families, creating opportunities for healing and growth, and reminding children and caregivers alike that they are not alone and that someone truly cares.

**Thank you for standing with us, believing in our mission, and helping transform lives every day. We truly could not do this work without you.**

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**We are deeply grateful to every individual and organization that supports our mission. If we have unintentionally missed your name or listed it incorrectly, please forgive the oversight and know how truly thankful we are for your generosity.**

## BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of the meaningful progress Penny Lane Centers has made in advancing equity, strengthening connection, and supporting healing across our communities. In moments of challenge and change, we leaned into our heart-centered values, choosing compassion, courage, and collaboration as the foundation for our work. Together, we did more than respond to need; we helped build hope, created spaces where individuals and families could feel seen, supported, and empowered to move forward.

None of this work happens in isolation. We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, whose commitment and care show up every day in service of our mission; to our community partners, who walk alongside us in shared purpose; to our volunteers, whose time and passion amplify our impact; and to our donors, whose generosity makes this work possible. Because of you, hope is not just an idea—it is something we actively create together. As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude, optimism, and a continued commitment to building a more just, connected, and hopeful future for all.

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