



2023 Annual Report



25,000+

children, adults, and families supported

10,000+

program participants

2,000+

employees

138

sites

101

programs

Helping children, adults, and families thrive!

mission

Driven by the belief that each of us can thrive when life has hope and opportunity, Rising Ground provides caring support and proven paths to positive change, helping children, adults, and families rise above adversity.

vision

Rising Ground envisions a future for New York where every child has an equal opportunity to succeed; where vulnerable individuals and families have the resources and support they need; where people with disabilities can access opportunity and fully participate in their communities; and where all are supported as they navigate life's challenges and positively direct their lives.

values

Rooted in an unshakeable belief in every individual's ability to change and grow, we value accountability, connection, tenacity, and service as we help children, adults, and families pursue their dreams and goals.

TRANSFORMING
LIVES

From Our Leaders

Your support remains vital to creating positive paths forward for New Yorkers!

The adage “there is nothing so constant as change” is particularly apt when looking back at Rising Ground’s 2023. Change was evident in all areas of our work, from new and expanded programs, a growing staff, leaving our historic Yonkers campus, opening new offices, and in our fiscal growth. The latter is measured most demonstrably by our expectation to deliver \$187 million in services by fiscal year ending June 2024. By budget alone we have grown 34% from the previous year.

With 101 programs at 138 sites, Rising Ground now supports many more children, adults, and families in New York and lower Westchester. Our workforce has grown to over 2,000 employees delivering our life-affirming and mission-driven work. We are now more connected than ever to the people we support and their communities, many of whom are some of our city’s most marginalized neighbors — poor people, people of color, individuals with mental health challenges and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, survivors of intimate partner violence, new immigrants, and more.

This transformational growth was driven in part by Sheltering Arms’ decision early in 2023 to suspend its operations after nearly two centuries of serving New Yorkers. Fortunately, the bulk of the programs and employees found new homes with Rising Ground. In addition, New York City asked Rising Ground to assume operations of several programs supporting runaway and homeless youth from another organization, CORE, as the city discontinued their contracts, further extending our reach and impact throughout the city.

By sharing our stories, our knowledge, and our experience, and by remaining adamantly committed to our mission — believing that each of us can thrive when life has hope and opportunity — Rising Ground’s constructive impact has never been greater.

Such growth and impact can only happen with unfailing support and generosity from our donors. We invite you to continue to help us deliver caring support to more New Yorkers than ever by being a strong advocate for positive systemic change, and as a tireless champion of Rising Ground today, tomorrow, and beyond.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Mucatel'.

Alan Mucatel
Chief Executive Officer



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Del Percio'.

Matt Del Percio
Board President

Thank you!

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Runaway & Homeless Youth Services

Rising Ground's expanded Runaway & Homeless Youth Services offer much-needed respite and support for youth who are unhoused, facing challenges at home, and/or need a refuge. Many have experienced violence, abuse, instability, or a lack of safety or acceptance from adults or others in their lives. In 2023, in part due to taking over contracts from two other organizations, Sheltering Arms and CORE, Rising Ground became the largest provider of Transitional Independent Living (TIL) services for runaway and homeless youth in New York City. We now have 10 Rising Ground residences providing 168 beds for youth ages 16 to 20, and 15 beds for young adults ages 21 to 24.

In addition to the TILs, our array of supports and services now include drop-in centers and a crisis shelter, which offer a safe haven and opportunities for young people seeking to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope. At our two drop-in centers for runaway and homeless youth in Queens – including a 24/7 center in Jamaica – some 3,400 youth each year come for meals, showers, computer and internet access, and assistance with housing, counseling, and other supports. All our runaway and homeless youth facilities foster a caring sense of community, helping youth to access community resources, find education and work opportunities, and to connect to other programs and services within Rising Ground so that they may find positive pathways forward.

Rapid Re-housing

In 2023, Rising Ground became a provider of short-term rental assistance and supportive services through a federal Rapid Re-housing program. Importantly, this program is offered without preconditions such as employment, income, criminal history, or sobriety. The primary objective of Rapid Re-housing is to swiftly secure stable housing, bolster self-sufficiency, and ensure that formerly homeless young adults remain housed. Currently Rising Ground supports 103 people.



Passage of Hope

Our Immigration Services remained critical and in demand in 2023. A significant part of our overall growth, our Passage of Hope (Camino de Esperanza) program supporting unaccompanied migrant children doubled in capacity so that we now can house and care for up to 360 youth on any given day. The children stay with us while awaiting placement with caring adult sponsors, most commonly close relatives. These young people have made long treacherous journeys after fleeing tragically difficult and, at times, deeply traumatic conditions in their home countries. They primarily come from Central America but include other regions as well, with most recent increases of arrivals from West Africa. While with Rising Ground, we assess their physical health and arrange for medical care, start them on the process of learning English, help them to get acclimated to their new surroundings, and assure that they remain in contact with family and with legal representation to address their immigration issues.



Above: *Mas alla de una mirada (Beyond a glance)* painted by Valentina from Colombia and inspired by learning about Frida Kahlo during a visit to The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The flowers represent Valentina's descendants and the roots she left behind in her home country.

Mental Health Services

In 2023 we introduced community-based mental health services, allowing Rising Ground to grow its community-oriented focus by operating a New York State-licensed out-patient mental health clinic in Queens and a satellite clinic in Far Rockaway. The clinics provide assessments and screenings to identify mental health and wellness needs for community members, individual and group counseling, medication management, and coordination of care services. While particularly focused on supporting low-income individuals and families who have Medicaid, we can also assist any community member with commercial insurance. We serve approximately 500 individuals.

In addition to the clinics, our newly launched Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS) support children and families that are experiencing mental health challenges. Services are flexible and go beyond more traditional therapy and can be provided in the home or in the community, meeting the client where they live. Services include peer supports, counseling, skills building, traditional therapy, and other treatment supports. One hundred and ninety-two children are currently supported by Rising Ground's CFTSS program.





Family Foster Care

In 2023, Rising Ground was selected by New York City to support 400 children and families, exceeding the number of families we have supported in the past. This contract significantly increases our footprint in Manhattan while maintaining our presence in Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Founded as an orphanage 193 years ago, Rising Ground's history of child welfare work is rich and evolving. Most recently we began engaging parent advocates – adults with lived experience in the foster care system – to support parents whose children are in our care. We have also continued our unique efforts to embed concepts of co-parenting into our work. We are especially focused on elevating the bond between parent and child(ren) while they are in care with the assistance of the foster parents. In addition, we intensified our use of coaches to assist older youth in successfully transitioning to adulthood. Eighty-eight percent of high school-age foster children in our care graduated, and 86% of them enrolled in post-secondary education. In 2022 we had 21 students in college with another 12 entering in fall 2023. Over the past three years, we have averaged about 87% of students graduating from high school.

Also notable in 2023 was that we took over operating one of the few Youth Reception Centers in New York City. Rising Ground now manages two facilities that provide a short-term safe home to either very young children, or older youth presenting with particular challenges, who have been removed from their families by Child Protective Services and, for whom, there is not an immediately available foster home. We also increased our Preventive Services which assist families who are at risk for the removal of a child and placement in foster care through an expansion into Queens. Our Preventive Services programs now have the capacity to support 850 families in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan.

Over the past two fiscal years, Rising Ground Family Foster Care outcomes of note included:

- 78 additional foster care homes were trained in the *Co-Parenting* intervention.
- 102 children exiting foster care placements in less than a year, reducing the trauma experienced by both child and parent. During three out of the last four fiscal years we have achieved goals toward speedier reunification of child and parent.
- An increase in the number of foster homes that support only a single child by 12% over the past two years (excluding sibling groups).





Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP)

Since 1999, RAPP has embedded clinicians in New York City public middle and high schools to provide individual therapy, group support, and school and community-wide training in response to varying forms of abusive behaviors including bullying, gender-based violence, and teen dating abuse. In 2023, the RAPP program was in 44 schools in 17 locations and Early RAPP was in 66 middle schools.

In August 2023, RAPP's annual summer peer leadership program held its 10th annual conference. Each year, students from RAPP middle and high schools can participate in a paid, intensive youth leadership program. The Peer Leaders learn about intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, and how social issues impact the experience of survivorship. Each RAPP summer program culminates in the conference with the Peer Leaders presenting workshops on a variety of topics. In 2023 these included the impact of teen dating abuse on mental health, surviving racism and toxic masculinity, immigrant life in the United States, environmental justice, and social media's impact on mental health.

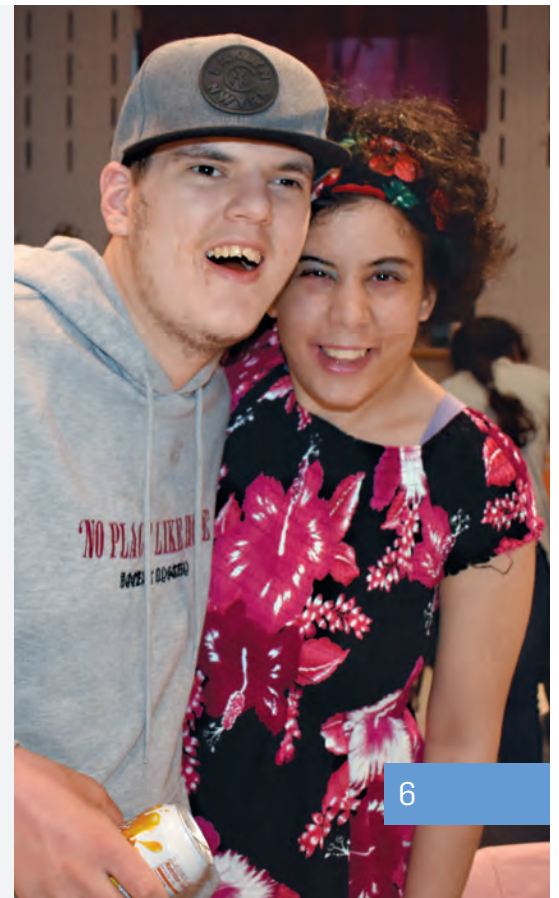
For both RAPP and Early RAPP, a vital tenet of the work with youth is the recognition that students are experts in their own lives. The young people participating are not only provided with the forum and tools to speak openly without judgment, but they are also encouraged to continue these conversations at home, in school, and in their communities.



Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Rising Ground's Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Services, including residential, day, and community-based programs, are designed to address the varying needs of the individuals we support, providing them with safe, enriching, and appropriate opportunities to participate in the world around them, and to lead full and meaningful lives. Our Community Residences are homes where each resident is safe and supported as they bond with others in their home and acquire the skills that will allow them the greatest level of independence. It is a close family atmosphere. Residents also have opportunities to engage with the larger community.

In 2023 Rising Ground assumed responsibility for three additional residences so that there are now 159 individuals living in 29 Rising Ground residences in the Bronx, Manhattan, Yonkers, and Queens. Services include 24-hour support, assistance with household chores, life-skills and transportation training, clinical support, and recreational and social activities.





Above: Photo by Casel Captures.

Community Programs

In 2023, Rising Ground's **Community Education & Healthcare Navigation program** supported 305 individuals through connections to critical resources such as primary healthcare providers, health insurance, housing, food, legal services, CPR/First Aid Training, employment, and mental healthcare services. Additionally, Rising Ground assumed the role of "backbone organization" for the **Jamaica Community Partnership** which works with community partners and providers to ensure that every person – children, young adults, and families – in the Jamaica, Queens area have equitable access to resources and opportunities that place them on a path to an improved quality of life. In the Bronx, among its many efforts throughout the year to support families, our **Soundview Family Resource Center** held its annual Backpack & School Supplies Giveaway that was attended by 201 caregivers and 401 children. In November, the center partnered with Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Bronx to distribute Thanksgiving turkeys and food bags to over 200 families.





L-R: President of the Board of Directors, Matt Del Percio; board members David Theobald, Matthew Porter, Bob Schanz, and Joyce R. Coppin-Mondesire; RAPP Supervisor Bria Saunders and RAPP student Sianna; board member Brigette R. McLeod-Williams; board Vice President Allen Waxman; board members Duncan James Turnbull, Dorothy Mehta, Susan S. Benedict; and Rising Ground CEO Alan Mucatel. Photo by Ben Asen Photography.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



FY 2023

For the fiscal year ending **June 30, 2023.**

Public funding sources include the New York City Administration for Children's Services, New York City Department of Education, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, New York City Human Resources Administration, New York City Department of Probation, New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, New York City Council, New York State Office of Children and Family Services, New York State Education Department, New York City Mayor's Office to End Gender Based Violence, New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, New York State Office of Victim Services, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Head Start and Office of Refugee Resettlement, Medicaid, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Westchester County Department of Social Services, and local school districts of Nassau, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange counties.

Rising Ground is funded through public sources, as well as through the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations.

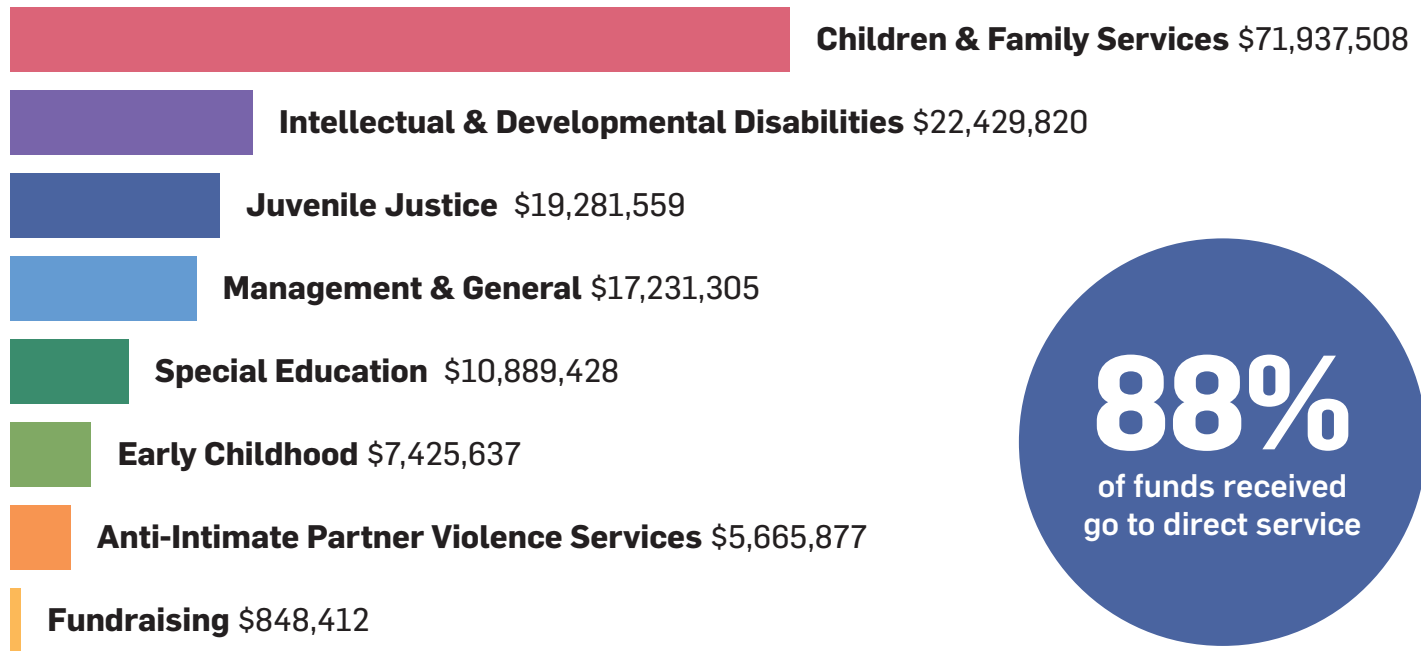
Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,842,948
Investments, at fair value, current portion	\$47,540,657
Accounts receivable	\$32,469,544
Other receivables	\$375,987
Prepaid expenses	\$777,686
Accrued investment interest receivable	\$54,930
Assets Limited as to Use	\$17,070,972
Other Assets – Net	\$36,028,636
Total Assets	\$139,161,636

Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities	\$73,246,110
Current Liabilities	\$52,713,697
Long-Term Liabilities	\$20,532,413
Net Assets	\$65,915,250
Unrestricted	\$63,554,154
Restricted	\$2,361,096
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$139,161,360

Operating Expenses



While a large portion of Rising Ground's funding comes from public contracts, individual, foundation, and corporate contributions are critical to ensuring we can provide the highest quality of support to help New York City area children, adults, and families overcome adversity.

Thank you for your support!

Learn more and donate at RisingGround.org/Donate

Revenue & Other Support

Program Services	\$149,821,310
Individual, Foundation & Corporate Contributions	\$2,268,519
Special Events	\$602,329
Direct Costs of Special Events	(\$170,573)
Investment Income	\$4,081,752
Sale of Yonkers campus	\$52,415,102
Forgiveness of Paycheck	
Protection Program loan	\$10,000,000
Other Income	\$1,269,023
In-Kind Contributions	\$23,662
Total Revenue	\$220,311,124

Operating Expenses

Program Services	\$137,629,829
Supporting Services	\$18,079,717
Management & General	\$17,231,305
Fundraising	\$848,412
Total Expenses	\$155,709,546

DONORS

FY 2023



Rising Ground is deeply grateful to all our supporters and partners!

We have made every effort to create an accurate report of donors for the period from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please bring this to our attention at Advancement@RisingGround.org.

\$100,000+

Arabella Advisors
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Special Thanks!

Thank you to our employees who took part in our Employee Giving Campaign!

Rising Ground employees contributed close to \$50,000 this year. Funds from this campaign support special initiatives in our programs, as well as assist persons in need during emergencies.

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