

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

Isaiah 58:12

KOT KIDS ON
TRACK

COMMUNITY REPORT 2022/23

**There are no
hopeless kids,
only kids
without hope.**

A Word From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends of Kids On Track,

As this year comes to a close, I want to express my sincere thanks for your support. Since our start in 1992, we've been a grassroots organization supported by people like you who believe in reaching our highest-needs neighbours. I hope that as you read this year's Community Report, you can celebrate with us in recounting what the KOT team got up to over these past 12 months.

This year was one of refreshing, renewing, and refocusing. We welcomed new staff, launched an updated brand identity, rolled out six core values, and brought on new supporters to help further our mission. We are passionate about providing hope, direction, and ongoing support for kids, youth, and parents. When I think back on this year, it's clear to me that God is doing something new at KOT.

At KOT, we believe that true hope can be found in the Christian faith. We've seen firsthand how following Jesus can transform lives and bring hope to each and every one of us. Our faith is the central pillar of our mission and leads us to serve local kids, youth, and parents, regardless of their background and beliefs.

We're excited for 2024 and the opportunities it brings. I'm confident that with your help, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of local kids, youth, and parents.

Your generosity makes this possible. You are part of the KOT family. Thank you for your kindness, faithfulness, and prayers.

Thanks for choosing to take the time to read this report. I am exceptionally proud of what our team was able to accomplish in this last year, and I think you will be too.

With love and appreciation,

Josh Dewling
Executive Director



In 2023 we introduced

6 CORE VALUES

These inform what we do, why we do it, and how we do it.

Authentic Faith

We have **Authentic Faith**, serving as Christ would serve.

Cultivating Community

We are **Cultivating Community**, making room for connection and belonging.

People First

We put **People First** in our decisions and actions.

Generous Hearts

We share our resources, time, and talents with **Generous Hearts**.

Pursuing Excellence

We are **Pursuing Excellence**, always putting our best foot forward.

Responsible Stewardship

We look after all we have been given through **Responsible Stewardship**.

OUR MISSION

Kids On Track is a community-building organization that provides hope, direction, and ongoing support for children, youth, and their parents.

Since 1992, we have been working with underserved populations to address some of the most pressing social issues facing children and families today.

Educational, social, spiritual, and recreational elements are combined to deliver well-rounded programs. We cultivate relationships, encouraging participants in faith, character and leadership development, social skills, and a healthy lifestyle. We strive to support families experiencing limited opportunities due to various socioeconomic challenges.



OUR IMPACT

Upwards of

30000

kids, youth, and parents served

7

different programs

Over

2000

program days this year

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a bright orange jacket and a black backpack, is seen from the back, looking out over a lush green forest. The scene is captured in a soft, natural light, suggesting a peaceful outdoor setting. The boy's posture is contemplative as he gazes into the distance.

“When I look back and think of all the important roles KOT has held in my family’s story, I can’t help but wonder what differences might have been without this organization. And when I look forward, I am filled with excitement and expectancy with what this next season holds for the Kids On Track family.”

- Program Parent

KIDS PROGRAMS

We wouldn't be Kids On Track without our kids programs! Kids Summer Day Camps run for seven weeks in July and August, giving kids an opportunity to get active while making friends and connecting with caring mentors. School year Kids Clubs are a unique out-of-school-time program that pairs physical literacy with character education. Kids Clubs focus on building resiliency for kids coping with various life challenges.

Up to

80

kids per day for

8

weeks in July and August

7

different Kids Clubs over the school year

385

unique Kids Program participants

That's across all Kids Programs, all year round!





From Our Program Manager

We had a great time getting to know our kids last year and creating memories that we hope will last a lifetime. It's truly a blessing to witness the growth of Kids Clubs and Kids Summer Day Camps, welcoming both new participants and those returning from previous years. Our dedicated staff puts in great effort to ensure that every participant feels seen and heard.

Throughout the past year, we operated six Kids Club locations and organized eight weeks of Kids Summer Day Camps. Each program presented its unique set of challenges, but we're happy that both were incredibly successful. By the end of the year, we observed a **significant positive impact in the lives of our kids and their families.**

Not only did children have a wonderful time, but they also learned valuable lessons about biblical morals and values that they can take with them into their future.

We take pride in serving our community and **eagerly anticipate the exciting opportunities** this new year holds for our kids.

Jessica Campbell
Program Manager





YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth Summer Day Camps are offered in July and August, giving teens exciting social and recreational pursuits. During the school year, we offer weekly small groups and Monday Funday large group events. Youth also have the opportunity to participate in three different overnights: Jasper camping, Hike Like a Girl, and our annual ski trip. For youth looking to gain leadership development, we also offer our year-round Leader-in-Training Experience, commonly known as the LITE program.

40

LITEs enrolled

147

different youth
attended

22

Monday Fundays

Over

140

youth program
days



“Kids On Track is an amazing program! I wish I had known about it earlier. [KOT] is well organized and full of great leaders helping to make it an awesome opportunity for kids to learn, be social, meet new friends and have fun doing it all! Thank you KOT! Keep up the great work you do!”

- Program Parent



From Our Youth Coordinator

KOT Youth is a safe place to land for any youth looking for community. Youth can have fun, connect with mentors and peers, and make memories.

This year, we got to run amazing events like Nerf War and Water Balloon Battleship at Monday Funday which served an average of 20 youth each event. We saw many of those same teens enroll in our Youth Summer Day Camp. Monday through Thursday, we ran engaging events, intentionally **building relationships with youth** all summer. Youth Summer Day Camp gives youth the opportunity to get active, make new friends, and try new things. For some, the newest thing they got to try was camping! We took 30 youth on our annual Jasper camping trip where they got to experience sleeping in a tent, cooking outside, hiking, white water rafting, and canoeing.

In all of these programs, we've seen youth **create amazing memories** and **hear about Jesus**. We can't wait to see what God has in store for next year.

Naomi Rutagwena
Youth Coordinator





SMITH

elan.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Kids On Track hosts five Family Celebrations, providing families with the opportunity to celebrate special days with their community. Active Families gets families moving, promoting physical activity and trying new things. Family Camp is a new Kids On Track program that brings families together to build meaningful connections and experience life away from the busyness of the city. Finally, HomeBuilders helps kids build resiliency and tackle the big emotions of life's challenges.

2119

Family Celebration attendees

47

Family Camp attendees

276

Active Families registrations

11

Active Families events

We partnered with Adeara and Hope City Church to deliver HomeBuilders to

9

family members in need.





From Our Program Director

This past year provided strategic clarity for our programs. Our new Core Values have become a yardstick in evaluating how our programs measure up to what we truly want to accomplish. With this evaluation, creative and innovative ideas have taken shape for **new ways to reach our families**, show them God's love, and invite them to be a part of a loving community.

January brought the return of one of our flagship programs, HomeBuilders. This was a year of careful attention and editing of our in-house curriculum. We are excited that the newly branded HomeBuilders will soon be ready to launch with its very own website where churches and community groups will be able to access materials and training. **Our hope is that HomeBuilders will be offered in every area of our city**, helping families heal from the hurt of divorce, or bereavement. We are also anticipating the launch of a third HomeBuilders stream, Resilience, for children who need support in developing coping mechanisms for big emotions.

Kids On Track's multifaceted approach to our programs addresses not only the needs of children and youth, but also the crucial role of family dynamics in their overall well-being. We continue to **reach families** and **draw them into community**. Whether it is one of our five Family Celebrations, Active Families, Family Camp, or HomeBuilders, all families can **find connection and belonging** at Kids On Track.

Kristy Chaisson
Program Director



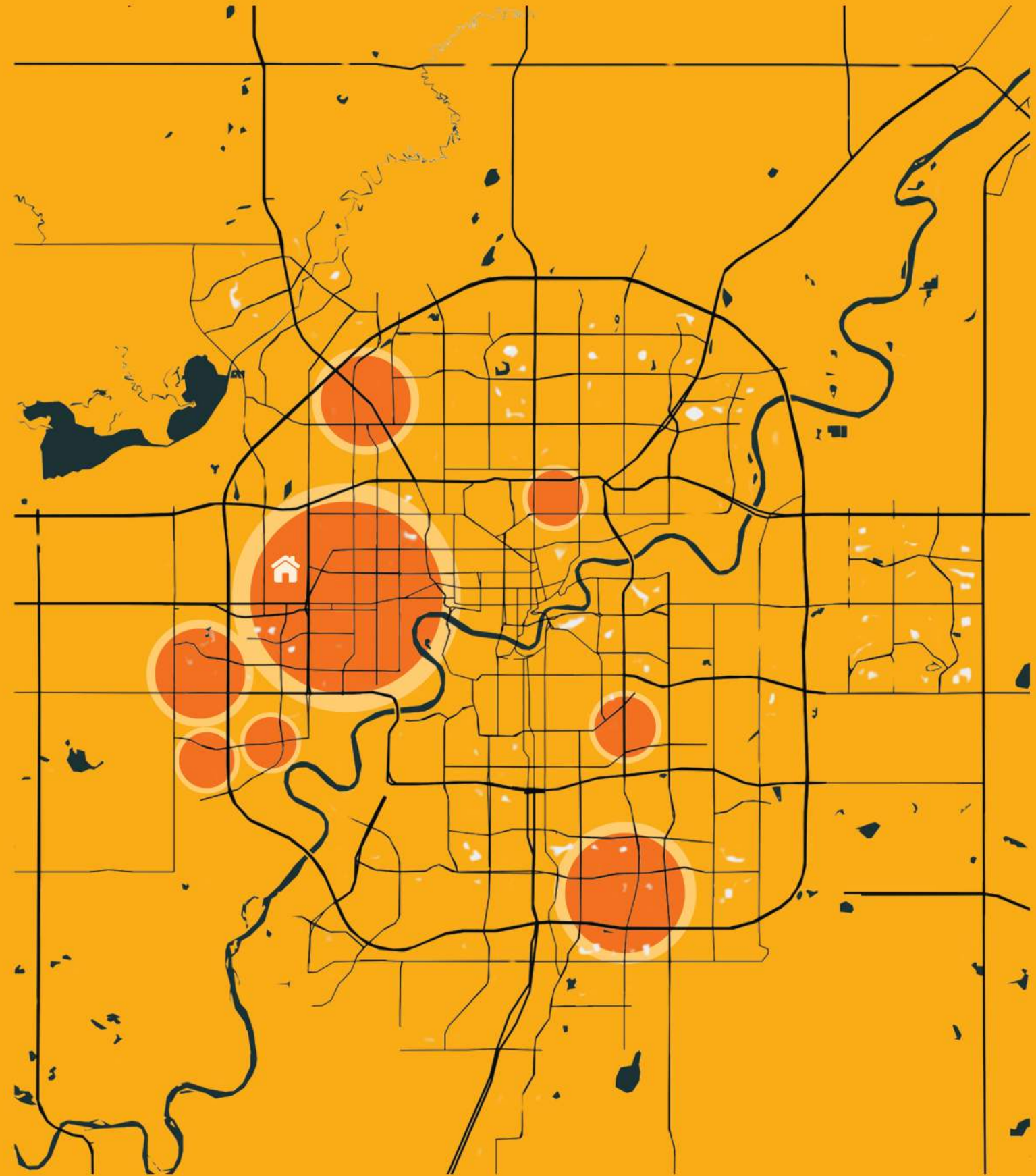


Area of IMPACT

Although Kids On Track is based primarily in West Edmonton, our impact extends throughout the city. More families are discovering Kids On Track, learning about what we do, and becoming part of the *KOT Family*.

Kids On Track's impact would not be as significant without strategic partnerships with businesses, churches, and other community groups. Together, we work towards making a difference in the lives of kids, youth, and families across the city of Edmonton, creating a ripple effect of hope in our community.

Kids On Track extends a big thank you to the families, donors, and partners that have allowed us to continue our work for over 30 years. We look forward to serving more families from across the Edmonton region in 2024.



Map Credit: Mark Klassen

MEET THE TEAM

The KOT team includes many more than the eight people you see here. Throughout the year, upwards of 30 different staff members make their way through our Kids, Youth, and Family programs.

It takes an army of skilled, passionate, character-filled individuals to reach our community.



Josh Dewling
Executive Director



Kristy Chaisson
Program Director



Naomi Rutagwena
Youth Coordinator



Amelia Saison
Marketing Assistant



Jessica Campbell
Program Manager



Aaron Steenhof
Operations Manager



Stephie Teta
Assistant Program Coordinator



Musse Dese
Assistant Program Coordinator

OUR BOARD



Linda Roussel
President



Noella Lee Pong
Vice President



Stephanie Pearson
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Kendra Thompson
Secretary



Mathew Omina
Director



Macha Abdallah
Director

2022/23

President Update

As I think back on our 2023 year at Kids On Track, I am reminded of the adage, “just pick up where you left off.” Many thought that we could go back to the the way things were pre-pandemic. However, this was not the case. During the pandemic, some programs were dropped or modified and new ways to deliver programs were developed. Of greater importance, the community had changed and the needs of the families we served had changed as well.

All of this triggered a revisiting of who we are as a faith-based, community serving organization. As a board we evaluated our vision and mission statements and added a statement of Core Values to these foundational documents. These Core Values delineate the “how” of what KOT does, which is crucial in reflecting Jesus in everything we do.

Many businesses and individuals were still trying to get on their feet in 2023. We rejoice that we made it through the post-COVID recovery year with only a small deficit! Thank you to the faithful donors who gave so generously to make it happen!

We welcomed Macha Abdallah as a new Director to the board in March 2023. She currently works as a senior manager in community support services for adults with developmental disabilities and is passionate about serving marginalized communities. As a 2nd generation Canadian from a Rwandan background, she understands first-hand the challenges facing many of the families KOT serves.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Stefanie Varze for her 10 years of service to the board as both a Director and Secretary. Her unwavering dedication and commitment to the organization have been invaluable to our success. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

As we launch into 2024, I am reminded of the scripture from Romans 10:14-15 MSG:

“But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That’s why Scripture exclaims, A sight to take your breath away! Grand processions of people, telling all the good things of God!”

I can’t wait to hear the stories of good things to come!

Linda Roussel
Board President





To Our Volunteers

We are grateful for your dedication and generosity in supporting our work at Kids On Track. You are the backbone of our organization, and we could not do what we do without you.

Your time, skills, and compassion make a difference in the lives of the kids, youth, and parents we serve. You help them overcome challenges, discover new opportunities, and achieve their full potential. You are mentors, friends, and role models for many of our families.

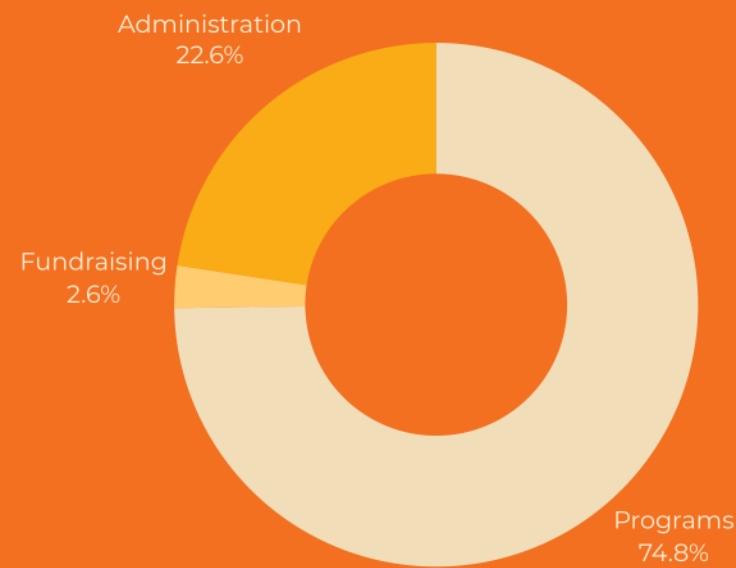
We appreciate every hour you spend with us, whether it's office work, mentoring, preparing snacks, fundraising, or organizing events. You always bring a smile, a positive attitude, and a willingness to help. You inspire us with your enthusiasm, creativity, and kindness.

Thank you for being part of our Kids On Track family. You are a valued member of our team. We can't wait to serve with you in the future, and we hope you enjoy the rewards of volunteering as much as we do.

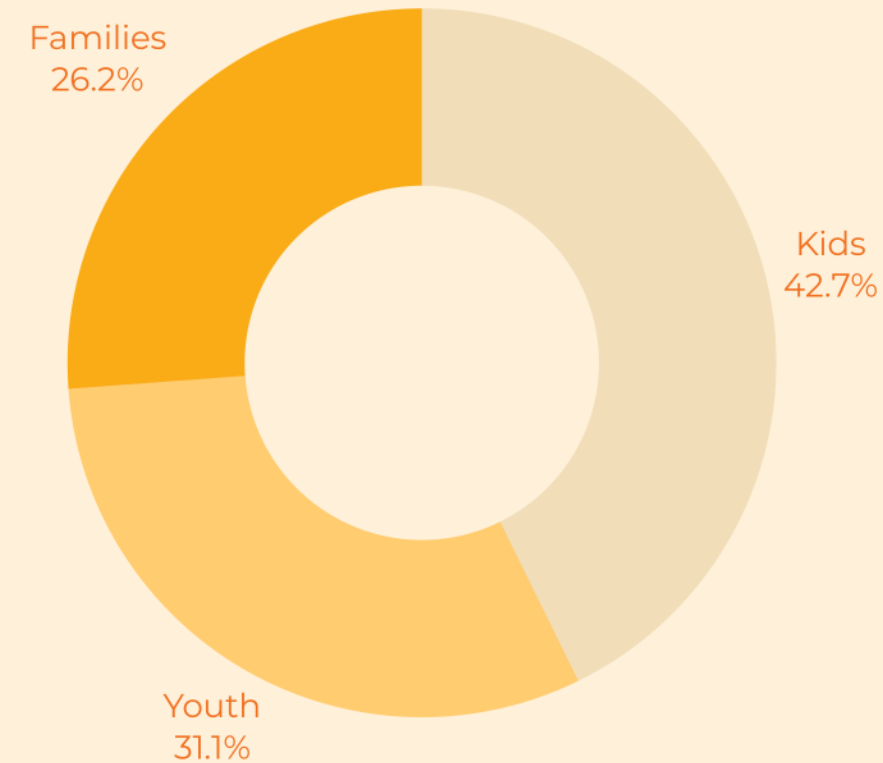
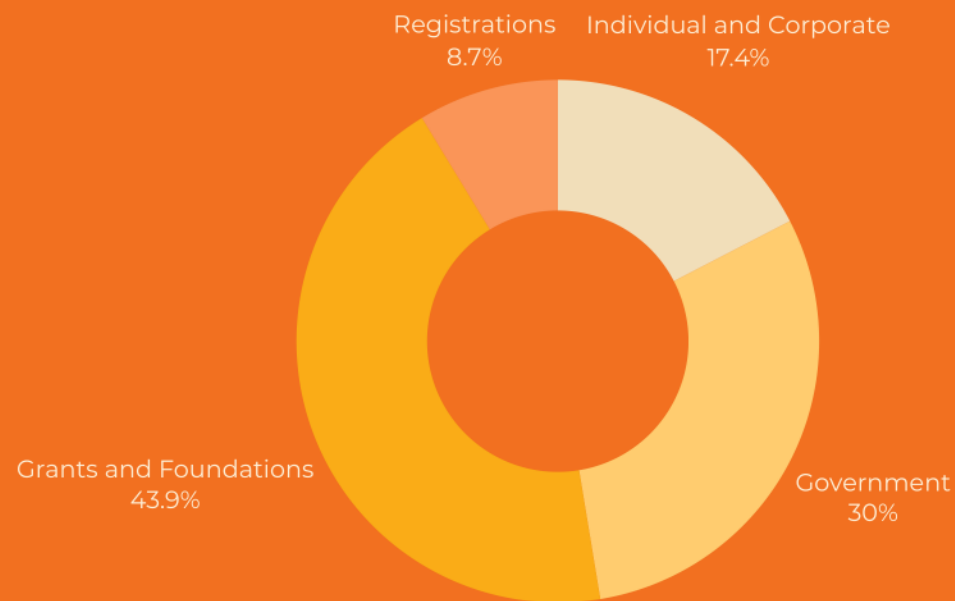
Sincerely,
The Kids On Track Team

FINANCIALS

Expenses



Revenues



Here's a breakdown of where program funds are allocated based on our three program pillars.

To Our Supporters

On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and families at Kids On Track, we want to offer a very sincere thank you for trusting us to create a meaningful impact in our city. Your generosity has a profound impact on the lives of children, youth, and families in our community. Thanks to your dedication, we've been able to provide essential programs and services that cultivate hope, direction, and ongoing support. We can't wait for this next year at Kids On Track.