



**Annual Report and Update**  
**July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**  
(fiscal year 2023)



Helping parents help their babies, one family at a time.



## Our Vision

All families in the Monadnock Region receive the support needed for young children to attain optimal early development.

### ***From the director's desk***

FY23 has been a year of reorientation. The pandemic challenged so many of the ways in which we were delivering services and supporting families.

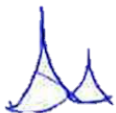
What Rise had known for 39 years all changed, as it did for many, making FY23 a year for merging the past with the here and now. We're seeing less resilience and a feeling of exhaustion after the previous two years of isolation, financial hardships, and having to balance so many expectations. The constant state of stress weighed heavily on many, both staff and the families we serve. Even though there seemed to be a sense that "things were back to normal" and people should be able to adjust back on a dime, we saw this was just not the case.

In FY23, Rise continued to serve an increased number of families through Early Supports and Services – 262 families received early intervention services. Since the pandemic started, the number of children needing more intensive service coordination and multiple services has tripled. Feeding issues, communication and social concerns, and motor delays are all much more common. These, especially in combination, require intensive and specialized services that focus on the individualized needs of the child and family. Our delivery of these services was critical, but often not billable to insurance. As families never pay for services received, this was an expensive year!

Child care at Rise has not been exempt from the local, statewide, and national challenges facing this critical service. Workforce and funding issues are the biggest challenges. Rise offers a fully inclusive child care program for young children. Our goal is to expand to be able to serve approximately 40 children; however, this is not possible until we can hire additional qualified staff. Quality is essential and the staff at Rise are known for providing the high levels of care. We aim to hire teachers with experience and education. Unfortunately, there's a national crisis with fewer youth entering the field to replace teachers who are retiring. Demanding work environments, low pay, and COVID have exacerbated caregiver burnout, with many child care professionals leaving the field. Rise child care is staying at our Washington Street location, for now, and remaining smaller, while statewide efforts are put into place to help child care programs raise quality standards and pay teachers higher wages, which should attract more individuals to the field and help retain current teachers.

Despite these challenges, we at Rise are working hard to find new paths forward to support children and families to the very best of our ability. I am so grateful to be a part of the Monadnock Region – filled with communities who are pulling together to meet the needs of the children and families who live here. Rise couldn't reorient and do its work without the support of individuals, businesses, and the community at large. It is thanks to you that we can support children and families.

Thank you!



## In Our Families' Words

For Jessica, Rise was there to help when she realized her daughter was not progressing towards developmental milestones as quickly as hoped, with both walking and speech delayed. In addition, her daughter had vision issues. Thanks to Rise, her daughter received physical and speech therapy, as well as support from a vision specialist. In August, her daughter turned 3 and so graduated from Rise. She will continue receiving special education support at preschool.

“Everyone from Rise was very warm and supportive,” Jessica says. Her daughter was very shy at first with the strangers arriving in her home but was soon at ease. “And the team approach to supporting her was so helpful.”

“My team at Rise really advocated for my daughter and the need for continuing special education services as she graduated from Rise. I was and am so grateful for their knowledge and support,” Jessica says. Jessica’s daughter is now meeting many of her developmental milestones.

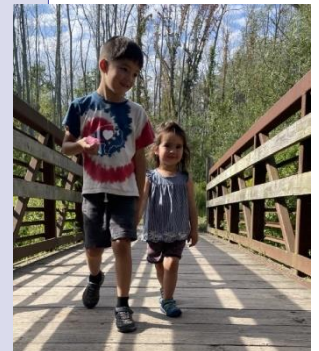


Greg and Jaclyn have two children, one who graduated from Rise’s child care program and one currently attending. When their son started at Rise in 2018, the child care staff quickly noticed he might need help with his speech and suggested screening for hearing impairment.

“As first-time parents, we were learning too and the child care program felt like it was designed to teach us what we needed to know as new parents. It was wonderful to have that support,” Jaclyn says.

After having tubes placed in his ears and receiving support from one of Rise’s speech and language specialists, their son made rapid strides. During Covid, he developed a stutter, so his plan was adapted to address this as well.

“We have two very different kids with very different needs. Both thrived in Rise’s child care, which we are so grateful for,” she says.



In 2014, Tiffany and her family were facing a huge and heartbreaking challenge. Her infant son had a terminal genetic illness that caused him to progressively lose muscle function.

Becky, their Rise physical therapist, supported the family through this difficult time. She helped little Bruin move and use his muscles as much as possible. Tiffany says Becky managed to make these exercises fun, even as she provided emotional support for Tiffany and her husband. They are, she says now, wonderful memories of the son she lost too soon.

She is also very grateful that Rise does not bill families for services provided, instead relying on insurance reimbursement and fundraising to cover costs. “It was so important. You didn’t have to worry about your ability to pay, you just got to say ‘yes,’” she says.

One of Tiffany’s happiest memories is of a purple pom pom Becky brought for Bruin to play with. At this point, he only had the use of his hands and he loved to play with the pom pom, enjoying the crinkling noises it made. She still smiles to think of it. Bruin lived for seven months.



## Families Served in FY23

### Total # of Children Served in ESS: 262

Keene, Chesterfield, Gilsum, Marlborough, Spofford, & Surry: **85**

Alstead, Marlow, Nelson, Stoddard & Walpole: **16**

Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Frankestown, Greenfield, Greenville, Hancock, Harrisville, Jaffrey, New Ipswich, Peterborough, Rindge & Temple: **99**

Ashuelot, Hinsdale, Richmond, Swanzey, Troy & Winchester: **62**

### Total # of Children Served in Child Care: 21

**Playgroups:** Playgroups resumed in FY23 for children enrolled in ESS and were offered in Keene, Peterborough, Jaffrey, and Winchester. Playgroups focused on communication, social/emotional, and play skills.

**# of sessions: 33**

**# of children/families participating: 48**

**Parent Groups:** Rise offered parent groups in conjunction with community partners.

**# of sessions: 7**

**# of families participating: 12**

### What families said about services:

☀️ "Rise has been a true blessing for my son and I. Appreciate them immensely."

☀️ "Our daughter was diagnosed with a condition that will change the way she learns, interacts with peers, and interacts with the outside world. Rise has been unbelievably supportive in supporting her and our family. They are preparing us for her needs as she grows and starts school."

☀️ "Our services through Rise have been the most helpful above everyone else to help my child and family succeed. I'll forever be thankful for them and the services they provide and the amazing resources they offer."

### What families said about playgroups:

☀️ "We look forward to it each month."

☀️ "We've done similar groups, but he's never been as engaged as with this one."

### What families said about parent groups:

☀️ "I have appreciated the professional feedback and support."

☀️ "I look forward to coming to this; I am going to attend the sessions in Keene and Peterborough."





## Our Mission

To support families with young children who experience or are at risk for developmental delays or disabilities and to be a resource and advocate for inclusive early childhood systems throughout the Monadnock Region.

## Rise FY23 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

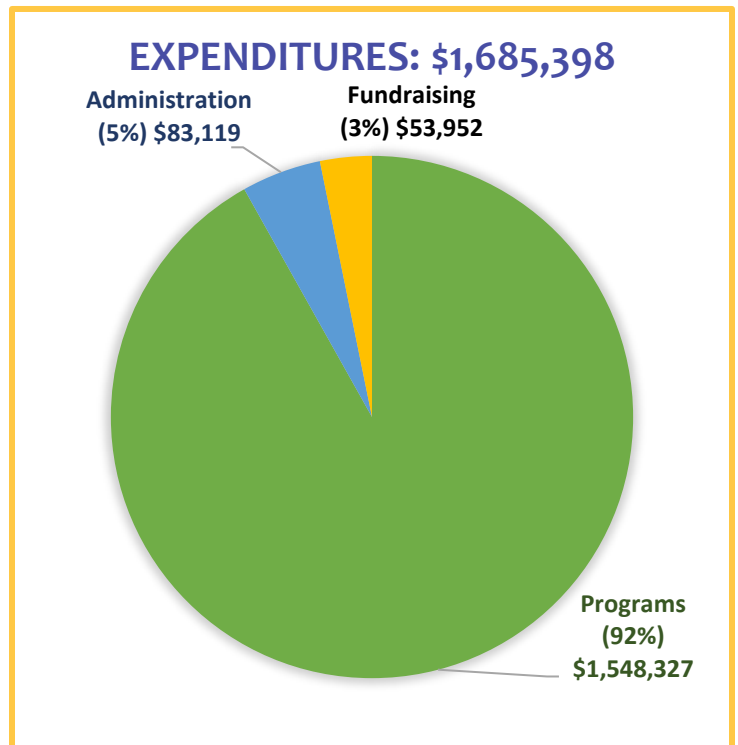
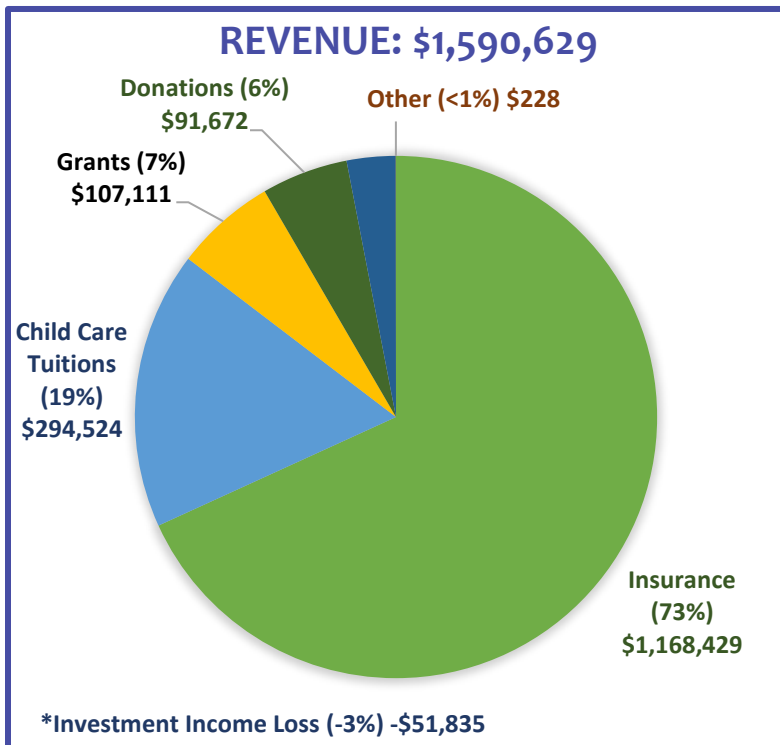
**President:** Lisa Steadman  
**Vice President:** Bari Thompson  
**Treasurer:** Antje Warren  
**Secretary:** Ashley Elliott

### Members-at-Large

Kimberly Allsopp     David Kochman  
Ashley Bertolami     Brian Lee  
Randall Carmel     Dawn Martin  
Candi Dionne     Jeanne Pride  
Ashley Guion     Barbara Tremblay

*“We have worked with Rise for the last year. Our ESS provider has gone above and beyond with all of her supports. She met our daughter where she was at and targeted all interventions around what made our daughter comfortable. She always followed up with notes and ideas on how we could continue to help at home. Our daughter is just about to age out of the program and it will be so hard to say goodbye to such an amazing program.” – Rise ESS Parent*

## FY22 Financial Summary\*



\*Summary based on most recent financial audit

# Rise for baby and family FY23 Supporters

## ***Foundations and Nonprofit Supporters***

100+ Women Who Care: Cheshire County  
AmazonSmile  
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation Inc.  
American Online Giving Foundation  
Cheshire Medical Center  
Fidelity Charitable  
Homestead Thrift Shop, Inc.  
Monadnock United Way  
Montshire Museum of Science  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Surry Mountain Fund  
NH Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Chapter  
Rotary Club of Keene  
Schwab Charitable Foundation  
Seacoast Science Center  
The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Timken Company Charitable and Educational Fund  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Christ

## ***Business Supporters***

Achille Agway  
Amer Electric  
Amoskeag Beverages  
Athens Pizza  
Bellavance Beverage  
Birch & Stone  
Bob's Fuel Company  
Boston Bruins  
Boston Celtics  
Boston Red Sox  
Branch and Blade Brewing Company  
Bretwood Golf Course  
Brewtopia  
C&S Wholesale Grocers  
Carlisle Wide Plank Floors  
CaTeam  
CC&D's Kitchen Market  
Chaos & Kindness  
Charles Riverboat Co.  
Dignity Design of Heshima Children's Center  
Douglas Company

Edward Jones – David Therrien, Financial Advisor  
Fenton Family Dealerships  
Fire Dog Breads  
Foxwoods Casino  
Frazier & Son Furniture  
Good Fortune Jewelry  
Granita Enoteca  
Granite Roots Brewing  
Green Wagon Farm  
Guerrilla Grill  
Hamlin Insurance Agency  
Harrisville Designs  
Henniker Brewing Company  
Julie's Garden  
Kathryn's Florist & Gifts  
Keene Publishing Corporation  
Law Offices of Randall Carmel  
Life is Sweet  
Lindt Chocolate Shop  
Mabel & Lou Boutique  
Machina Arts: Kitchen & ArtBar  
Maple Hill Nursery & Greenhouses  
Mascoma Bank  
McClure's Tree Service  
The Melanson Company  
Mia Capelli Salon  
Modestman Brewing  
Moe - Momentum Clothing  
Monadnock Food Co-op  
Mon Ami Fine Jewelry  
New England Patriots  
New England Revolution  
New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp  
NHTrust  
Northeast Wine Co.  
Noyes Volkswagen  
Papagallos Restaurant  
Pinney Plumbing and Heating  
Prime Roast Coffee Co.  
The Pub Restaurant & Caterers  
The Richards Group, The  
Rust & Company  
Salt & Lime  
Santa's Village  
Sap House Meadery  
Savings Bank of Walpole  
Scott Hussey Photography  
Season of Healing Massage & Maternal Wellness

Swan Boats of Boston  
Target  
Tattersall Electric Co.  
Timken Co.  
The Toadstool Bookshop  
Toy City  
Toyota Matching Gifts Program  
Twinkle Town  
Two Fruits and a Nut Farm Winery  
W.S. Badger Company  
West LA Beer Company  
Whitney Brothers  
Wicked Glass Art  
The Works  
Ye Goodie Shoppe  
The Yoga Space  
Yolo Café

## ***Individual Supporters***

Heather Amer  
Richard and Heather Ames  
Earl Anderson and Gareth Williams  
Gita Bafundi  
Lisa Bairam  
Caitlin Barbarita and Brian Wilson  
Rebecca Barrett  
K. Susanne Bates  
Lou-Anne Beauregard  
Doris Bell  
Tara Bemis  
The Bertolami Family  
Kathryn and Michael Blair  
Tara Brewer  
Lee Bruder  
Wendy Bryn  
Edward and Kathleen Kennedy Burke  
Sean and Emily Burke  
Suzanne and Larry Butcher  
Wendy Byrn  
Dave and Shirley Calhoun  
Esther Cantua  
Rye Capron  
Mike and Kathy Chelstowski  
Karen L. Coleman  
Briana Cravens  
Joseph and Donna Cunningham  
David and Irene Davis  
Alicia and Will Deaver  
Lee and Kate Dexter  
Karen Dillon  
Candi Dionne

## Rise for baby and family FY23 Supporters

### *Individual Supporters, continued*

Brian Donovan  
Ashley and Ben Elliott  
Mia and Brandon Elliott  
Toni Ellsworth and Eli Cinq-Mars  
Caroline and Tom Ewing  
Wink Faulkner and Linda Heimerdinger  
Gay Foster  
Marcia French  
Tiffany French  
Justin and Jessica Fyffe  
Stephanie Gaiser  
Melissa Gallagher  
Kayla Goodnow  
Steve Greensphan  
Robert and Kerry Grenier  
Sherry and Rob Guardiano  
Ashley and Josh Guion  
Nancy and Roger Hansen  
Carter Hauke  
Karen and Richard Hayman  
Peter and Tricia Heed  
Roberta Heinonen  
Bill and Mary Hildreth  
Carol Hines  
Nancy Hitchner  
Rock and Patricia Houstoun  
Paul and Barbara Hudgik  
John B. and Lynda Hunt  
James and Emily Hurley  
The Ingbretsen Family  
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Michael and Lynn Jablonski  
Eric and Karen Johnson  
Connie Joyce  
Carol Jue  
Judith and Rich Kalich  
Michael and Tricia Kapiloff  
Risa and Doug Keene  
Molissia Kelly  
Heather Kemper  
Anne Kenney  
Robert Knowles  
Karen Knowlton  
Sandy and David Kochman  
Greg and Tina Kriebel  
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Anna Lake  
Jack and Nicole Lamont  
Lyn and Elaine Landry

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Lafe Low  
Mr. and Mrs. Charlton MacVeagh, Jr.  
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Sonja Martineau  
Helen Mattson  
Bonnie McAlpine  
Craig and Sylvia McBeth  
Greg and Sue McConahey  
Lindell McDougall  
John and Marianne McGauley  
Heather McKernan  
John and Margaret McMahan  
Kathleen Ann McVey and Peter Gale  
Jeff Miller and Carol MacKinnon  
Rebecca Miller  
Gwen Mitchell  
Alan and Helene Mogridge  
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Molina  
Eliza Murphy  
John Murphy  
Mr. and Mrs. Erik Murphy  
Margaret Nelson  
Lauren and Chris Niewiadomski  
Amy and Rob Noyes  
Deborah O'Meara  
Terri O'Rorke  
Matthew and Joanna Paige  
Pat and Doug Payne  
Gail Peters  
Susan Peters and Steven Levene  
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt  
Mark and Jeanne Pride  
Marilyn Reardon  
Dakota Regeimbal  
Christie and Bryant Robertson  
Stacy Roe  
Kristy Rose  
Kris Rossi  
Ryan and Amy Royce  
Alan and Kim Rumrill  
JC and Josephine Russell  
Lynne Rust  
Michael Schuman  
Jane and Gary Shapiro  
Susan Silver

Lynn and Art Simington  
Jennifer Skelton  
Heather and Peter Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smith  
Tiffany and Craig Smith  
Bryan Smolarz  
The Steadman Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stoudt  
Heather Sykes  
Cameron Tease  
David and Lisa Therrien  
Michael Therrien  
Bari and James Thompson  
Nancy Thompson  
Kathy Torrey  
Andrew and Suzanne Tremblay  
Anthony and Barbara Tremblay  
Tom Tremblay  
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Penny Vaine  
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Carolyn Vose  
Antje and David Warren  
Tom and Sue Weller  
Kathryne Wichland  
Kathy and Donald Wilson  
Mary-Anne Wisell  
Griselda Witkowski  
Maureen Wixon  
Sonya Wolsey-Paige  
John and Gail Wrigley  
Carol Wurschmidt  
Monica Zulauf

### *Volunteers*

Becky Barrett  
Jack Lamont  
Nicole Lamont  
Alison VanBrocklin

***Thank you  
for your generous  
support!***



147 Washington Street  
Keene, NH 03431



## We'd love to hear from you!

**Call:** 603-357-1395

**E-mail:** [info@riseforbabyandfamily.org](mailto:info@riseforbabyandfamily.org)

**Web:** [www.riseforbabyandfamily.org](http://www.riseforbabyandfamily.org)

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*“Thank you for all you've done to help our child grow and thrive!”*

– Rise ESS family