

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters and Friends,

This summer, Governor Maura Healy declared a state of emergency in Massachusetts due to “rapid and unabating increases in the number of families...without the means to secure safe shelter.” Currently there are about 7,500 families with over 12,000 children in the Commonwealth's homeless shelter system - **more than double the number of families in shelter just one year ago**. And that's not all: thousands more families go uncounted living doubled-up, couch-surfing, or in campgrounds and cars. This crisis is driven by a confluence of factors including rising housing prices and jobs that do not pay a living wage – factors which make One Family's work more important than ever.

One Family was founded in 2000 with a mission to prevent homelessness and break the cycle of family poverty in Massachusetts. Our philosophy is that education and career access are the foundations of lasting housing stability. In other words, **families need stable income to afford stable housing**. Unfortunately, parents with low incomes face an onslaught of systemic barriers on the road to economic stability. This is where One Family comes in: empowering parents to access postsecondary education, advance their career paths, and build assets for lasting self-sufficiency.

In furtherance of this mission, **One Family engages in public policy advocacy and delivers three programs that help empower Massachusetts families** who are experiencing homelessness or poverty through holistic and individualized supports:

ONE FAMILY SCHOLARS

One Family Scholars provides one-on-one coaching, flexible scholarships, and technology to single parents in college, empowering them to persist to graduation and access improved employment and income opportunities, with **95% of program alumni now stably housed**.

CREDENTIAL TO CAREER COACHING

Credential to Career Coaching is an intensive 15-month program that helps unemployed and under-employed parents make a realistic plan to achieve their education and career goals, increase their income, and build assets for the future. Participants who secure new jobs through the program see an **average income increase of over \$21,000**.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Launched this year in partnership with Metro Housing|Boston, Family Self-Sufficiency is a voluntary five-year program that helps families with Section 8 housing vouchers in Greater Boston increase their earnings and build assets. This program has doubled One Family's reach, **going from serving approximately 250 families to over 500 families annually!**

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

In addition to these direct-service programs, One Family's public policy advocacy works to **dismantle the causes of family homelessness on a systemic scale**. This includes taking a leadership role in the Coalition to End Housing Discrimination, among many other initiatives detailed in this report.

We are proud to share our Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report with you now, which features highlights from our work and impact over the past year. We are inspired by the tenacity and determination of the parents we served this year – parents like One Family Scholar Belma, who shared:

"I know that all of the hard work I'm putting in today will be worth it when I graduate from college and can buy our first home, and my family can live comfortably without struggling ever again. One Family is helping put that dream closer in reach, and I'm so grateful to have them walking beside me on this journey."

None of this would be possible without the generosity and support of our donors, community partners, and friends. **Thank you all for your continued partnership in this work.**



With gratitude,

Valerie Paric
Executive Director

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MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

One Family works to prevent family homelessness and break the cycle of poverty in Massachusetts through *advocacy, education, and innovation*.

Through strengths-based coaching, One Family helps families experiencing homelessness and poverty to access higher education, enter stable careers, and build assets for lasting economic security.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Massachusetts has one of the highest rates of family homelessness in the nation, with over 22,000 parents and children in emergency shelter and overflow motels. Thousands more go uncounted, living in campgrounds, cars, or other unsuitable shelter, or doubled up with friends or family.

SUPPORT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

At One Family, we believe that education, career, finances, and housing are four essential and intertwined facets of economic stability. Our programs provide coaching at the intersection of these facets, empowering parents to achieve their goals and build assets for a brighter future.

HOUSING STABILITY

When a family can access and afford stable housing, it has lasting positive physical and emotional effects. And homeownership is one of the best ways to grow intergenerational wealth and break the cycle of poverty.

ONE FAMILY INITIATIVES

ONE FAMILY SCHOLARS

- Scholarships and coaching for single parents with low incomes in college

CREDENTIAL TO CAREER COACHING

- Education and career coaching for un- and under-employed parents

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- Education, career, & financial coaching for families with housing vouchers

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

- Preventing family homelessness and poverty on a systemic scale

REACHING STABILITY

Across One Family's three programs (*One Family Scholars*, *Credential to Career Coaching*, and *Family Self-Sufficiency*) we help empower parents to earn credentials, access great careers, and build assets for lasting housing stability and economic independence.

561 FAMILIES SERVED IN FY23

With the launch of our new Family Self-Sufficiency program, One Family roughly doubled our reach across Massachusetts.



75% COLLEGE GRADUATION

75% of One Family Scholars graduate college, compared to 54% of all undergrads nationwide, and 8% of single parents.



72% WORKING OR ENROLLED

in a credential by the end of the Credential to Career program - a huge step towards economic security.



\$21,312 INCOME INCREASE

Parents who secured new jobs through the Credential to Career program saw an average income increase of \$21,312.



95% NOW STABLY HOUSED

according to a recent survey of One Family Scholars program alumni.



STORIES OF IMPACT

MEIQI

My name is Meiqi, and I am an educator, a single mom, and a current One Family Scholar. **Life took an unexpected turn when I found myself divorced when my daughter was just 4 months old.** Those early moments of

motherhood, which should have been filled with joy, were clouded by a storm of abuse from her father – both physical and emotional. It was a tough period that left me in a whirlwind of emotions, not knowing how to protect my child and myself. With a heart full of courage, I took the leap and chose a new path for us. Walking away from that toxic environment was a mix of fear and hope. I knew it was the only way to ensure a safe space for my daughter to flourish.

Since then, life became a constant struggle of not having enough – not enough food, not enough secure housing. **Working tirelessly became a way of life, all in the name of providing a better tomorrow for my little one.** Through these moments, I came to truly understand what it means to be a single mother facing hardships head-on. It's not just about bills and groceries; it's about the courage it takes to keep moving forward, the strength to smile despite it all, and the fierce love that pushes me to create a brighter world for my daughter. This desire to build a better life for my family led me to join the One Family Scholars program.

I have known I was meant to be an educator since I first set foot in the classroom, but I also knew a college degree would be an essential step on that career path. **The One Family Scholars program helped put that degree within reach.** As a Scholar, I received scholarship funds and monthly coaching to ensure I had everything I needed to persist in my early childhood education degree. With this support, I graduated with my associate degree from Bunker Hill Community College this past spring, and I am now continuing as a One Family Scholar for my bachelor's degree at UMass Boston! My goal is to continue my education into graduate school, and ultimately become a school administrator serving young children.

My journey is a testament to the challenges that single mothers like me silently face. And it's this very journey, filled with its ups and downs, that fuels my determination to stand up and advocate for all those who walk a similar path – which brought me to join One Family's Advocacy Team. Through the Advocacy Team, I want to be a voice for those who silently battle the odds. I want to lend a hand to lift others, just as I've been lifted. I want to turn my experiences into a force for change, making sure that single mothers never feel alone or unheard. **Because every mother, regardless of her journey, deserves a chance to thrive.**



MAXIMINA

My name is Maximina and I'm currently employed at Springfield Housing Authority, where I worked as a clerk for four years before being promoted to Assistant Property Manager. I have two sons, now young men, that I am very proud of! My eldest is in the Navy and my youngest is completing his junior year in high school and is a talented basketball player. **My sons give me strength and motivation to move forward with my academic and professional goals,** which is part of what brought me to One Family's Credential to Career program.

I first heard about the Credential to Career program (C2C) in early 2022. It sounded like a program that would **support me in my goals of going back to school and working on my professional development.** While I was enrolled in C2C, the Assistant Property Manager role became available at my work, and I decided to go for it. This was a big decision because it would mean supervising an entire team, which I had never done before, but I took the opportunity to challenge myself, and my One Family coach supported me the whole way.

In the C2C program, **I worked with my coach to write a professional resume, practice interviewing, and build my confidence.** The workshops and coaching sessions really helped me grow different areas of my academic and professional development, and my coach even took extra time out of her schedule to meet with me during my job application process. I went into the interviews feeling confident and prepared to answer any questions that were asked.

I was already so proud of myself for taking on this challenge and going through the interview process, but I was even more proud when my manager and other staff came up to me after the interview and congratulated me for how prepared and professional I was. **When the hiring team informed me that I got the job, I cried!** **Getting this new role increased my income by over 40%,** which was huge for my family. I was excited and overwhelmed and I immediately called my coach and we had a great conversation where she told me that she was proud of me and to go celebrate this weekend, which I did!

In 5 to 10 years, I see myself finally completing my college degree. During C2C, I really explored how my skills, interests, and professional experiences align, and realized I want to go back to school for Business Administration. I also see myself purchasing a home to continue building memories with my sons! I am beyond grateful for the opportunities given to me through the C2C program, to have built a community with the other parents in the program, and for my coach who helped me become so much more professionally confident. **I know that I always have the One Family team on my side!**



ADVOCACY

One Family pairs direct-service work with public policy advocacy, preventing homelessness on both individual and systemic scales. Highlights from the year include:



HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Co-leading efforts to pass legislation targeting the rampant discrimination against People of Color and people with housing vouchers in Massachusetts.



ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

Working in coalition to eliminate hunger on college campuses, increase need-based financial aid, and provide affordable childcare to student-parents.



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Advocating in coalition for increased investment in rent assistance programs (like RAFT), eviction prevention through free legal aid, and the sealing of old eviction records.



TAX CREDITS FOR FAMILIES

Working as part of the Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child & Family Tax Credit, putting more money into working families' pockets.



THE CLIFF EFFECT

Advocating for elimination of the "Cliff Effect" - a phenomenon where a small increase in income results in a large and destabilizing decrease in public benefits.



Senior Coach Erika Del Rosario with One Family's Senate "champion" Senator Jamie Eldridge.

ONE FAMILY'S ADVOCACY TEAM

One Family's advocacy efforts are informed and advanced by One Family's Advocacy Team - a group of 20 current and former One Family program participants who volunteer to share their lived experiences to support policies that will prevent family homelessness and support parents on their journeys to self-sufficiency.

Advocacy Team Members provide virtual and in-person legislative testimony, attend State House meetings, participate on panels and round tables, and more. They also help craft One Family's advocacy agenda, which is refreshed with each legislative cycle. Their time and efforts are cornerstones of One Family's advocacy successes.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

Fiscal Year End June 30, 2023

OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Grants and Contributions	\$1,102,887
Government Funding	\$1,370,731
Special Events	\$164,870
Investment Income	\$47,914

Total operating support and revenues **\$2,686,402**

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	\$2,401,775
Fundraising	\$210,121
General and Administrative	\$110,171

Total operating expenses **\$2,722,067**

Net Assets **\$2,424,758**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

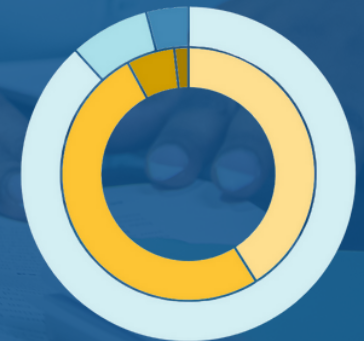
Fiscal Year End June 30, 2023

OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUES

- Grants / Contributions (41%)
- Government Funding (51%)
- Special Events (6%)
- Investments (2%)

OPERATING EXPENSES

- Programs (88%)
- Fundraising (8%)
- General / Administrative (4%)



THANK YOU

TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

\$100,000+

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The Paul & Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation
MA Department of Higher Education
MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities
MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

\$20,000+

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Jenzabar Foundation | All Girls Allowed
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation
Sincere Foundation

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Suffolk Cares Charitable Foundation

\$2,500+

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\$1,000+

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