

Raleigh's Place Annual Report

Living the Gospel by Loving the Fatherless.

2023

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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 has come and gone.

As I reflect on the year that it was, I am thankful to the Lord for His grace and provision. Last year was my first year serving as Executive Director of Raleigh's Place. The Lord has been preparing me for this my entire life. Yet there were times when my flesh felt completely unprepared and overwhelmed. Taking over a ministry is no small task. There are things required of the job that you simply do not learn in school or merely by observation. 2023 was a year of learning for me. The Lord was gracious and sustained the ministry by providing phenomenal supporters. As I say hello 2024, I am excited about continuing my personal growth as Executive Director.

This year is poised to be another huge year for the ministry. As you will see in the following report, our programs and services continue to grow as we seek to Live the Gospel by Loving the Fatherless in different ways. We are thrilled that the Lord has seen fit to bless our efforts by allowing us to serve so many foster children and families.

My hope and prayer for 2024 is that Raleigh's Place will continue to faithfully serve the foster care community in a way that glorifies God above all things. Some goals that I have for this year include adding new board members, planning and executing new fundraising events, and filling essential staff positions. Please join me in praying for these things.

The following report highlights some of our accomplishments in 2023. Let me be clear: we cannot do this without your support. God has blessed us with amazing folks who are true champions of our cause to Live the Gospel by Loving the Fatherless. As you read the following report, thank God for all that He has done and will continue to do.

Mike King, Executive Director

HISTORY & MISSION OF RALEIGH'S PLACE

Raleigh's Place was founded in 2004 after the death of Raleigh, Tim (co-founder) and Sharon King's (co-founder) oldest daughter. Raleigh became ill as a toddler. This illness led to many other debilitating issues: mental retardation, physical disabilities, and seizures. The Kings thought they would spend the rest of their lives caring for Raleigh and were prepared to do so. One fateful night, however, God demonstrated that He had a different plan for the Kings' lives. Raleigh died in her sleep after struggling with a seizure.

Devastated by this, the Kings did not know what to do. They sought counsel from friends, family, church members, and pastors. God eventually led them to a Bible verse that immediately gripped their heart: James 1:27 - "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (ESV) The Kings felt particularly called to care for orphans, thus the beginning of Raleigh's Place.

Raleigh's Place exists to live the Gospel by loving the Fatherless. We are a foster care ministry with the desire to impact the lives of foster children and families with the love of Christ. We serve Chilton and surrounding counties as we support foster homes, host a free summer camp, provide clothing and other resources, train foster parents, and equip teenage foster youth for life after care.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY



In 2021 we refocused our foster homes program to better serve the foster care community. We sought to connect with foster families in Chilton County to be Partner Homes. The idea was to provide a weekly food box, Foster Parent Night Outs, continued education, and simply provide assistance where needed. 2023 saw a huge growth in our Partner Homes. We began the year with 4 Partner Homes and ended with 13. By the end of 2023, we were providing food boxes for nearly 100 people every week. We look forward to seeing this aspect of our ministry grow in 2024 and beyond.



We were able to serve 111 incredible campers this summer at Camp 1:27. These campers were from all across the state of Alabama. They got to hear and experience the love of Christ this summer while also having one of the best weeks of their life. So many of our campers were returning campers, which encourages us greatly!

The camp theme this summer was “The Darkness and the Light.” Our campers have seen and experienced more darkness in this life than they should, so our focus was on revealing the Light to them. This Light, of course, was none other than the “Light of the world:” Jesus. It is our greatest hope and prayer that every single camper heard the gospel proclaimed faithfully and that the Holy Spirit will work in their lives to bring about saving faith.



Katie's Kloset continues to thrive as our thrift store ministry. The revenue generated by the store covers much of our overhead, which is a huge blessing. More importantly, we continue to provide foster children and families with free items due to our amazing donors. 73 children were served in 2023 by receiving free items from Katie's Kloset. Many of these children returned multiple times to shop throughout the year.

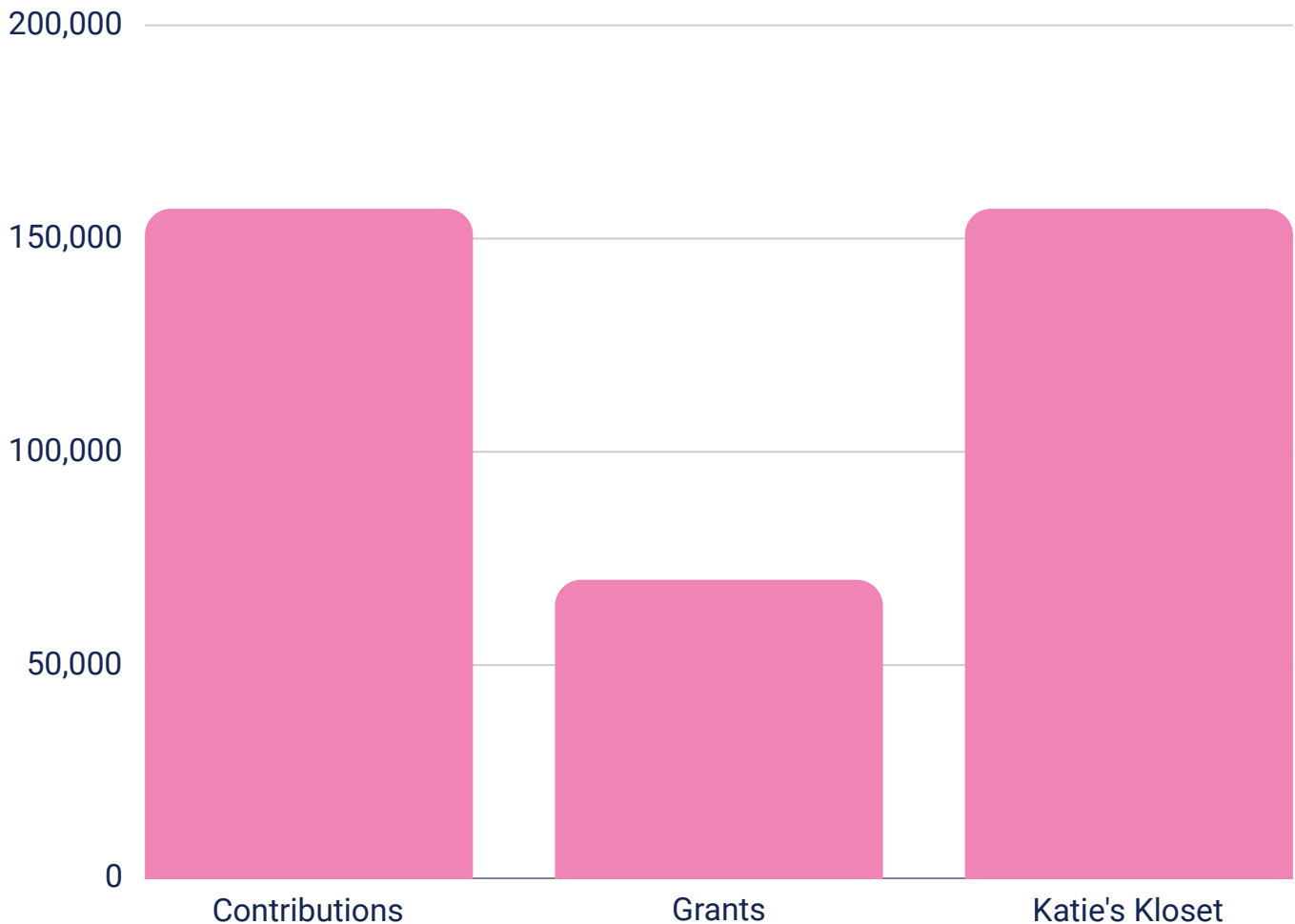


Through our partnerships with Chilton County Department of Human Resources and SPAN of Chilton County, we were able to continue to provide life skills training to foster youth. We provided this training for 42 young people in 2023. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we had a wildly successful end of year campaign to raise money for our Transitional Living Apartments which will serve young adults who have aged out of foster care.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

James 1:27

FINANCIAL REPORT: REVENUE

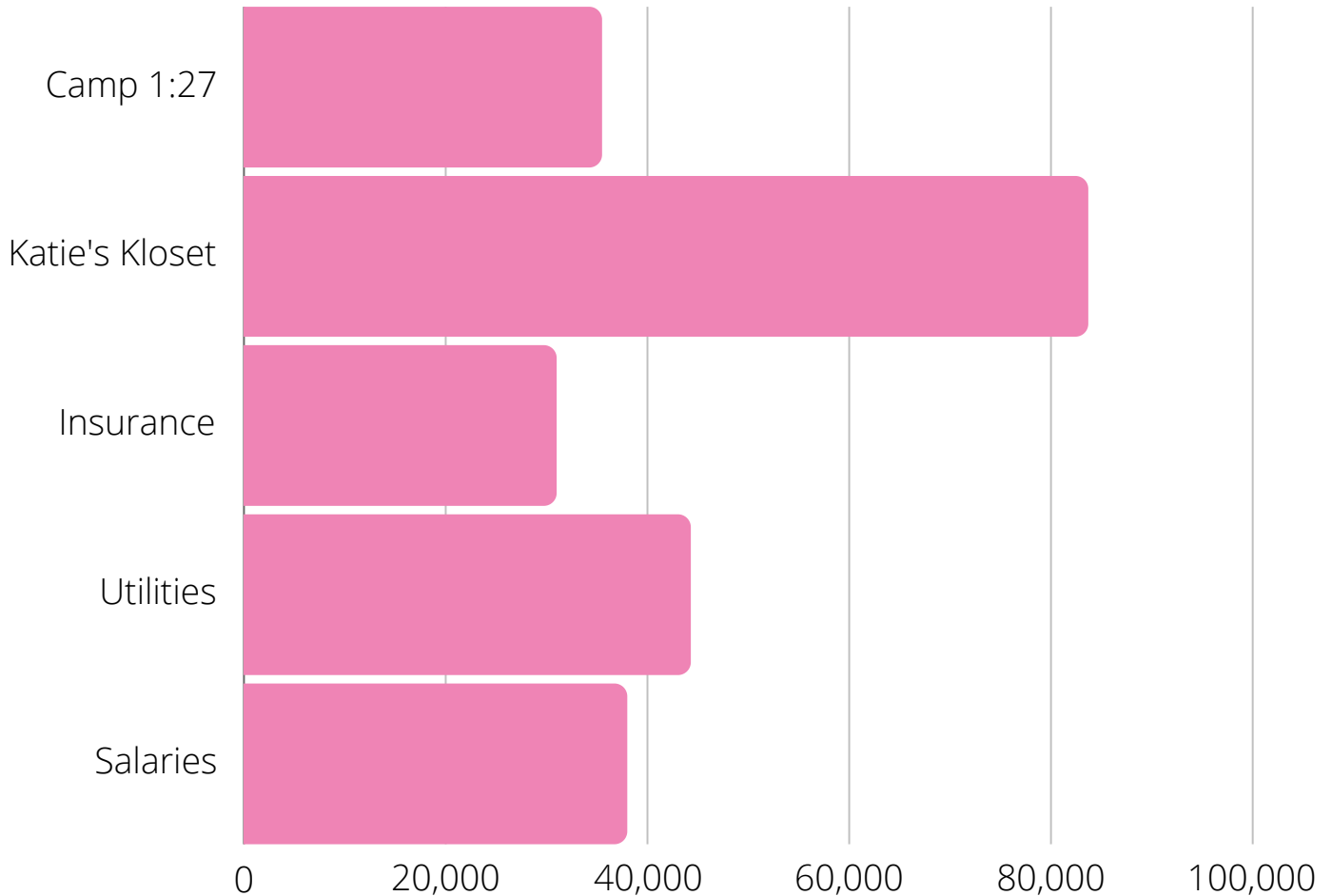


The Lord really blessed us with amazing supporters in 2023. The generosity received from individuals, businesses, churches, and grant foundations was exceptional. Katie's Kloset was high performing too. We could not be more thankful to everyone who gave generously. Together we are able to Live the Gospel by Loving the Fatherless.

One of our big goals for 2023 was to raise enough money to complete our Transitional Living Apartments. God has provided every penny.

"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen." - Romans 11:36

FINANCIAL REPORT: EXPENSES



Our biggest expenses from 2023 can be seen in the graph above. The largest expense was overhead costs for Katie's Kloset especially in terms of payroll costs for our thrift store staff. Insurance and utility costs seem to have risen over the last year to create a nice chunk of our expenses.

GIVING THANKS & LOOKING FORWARD

As we move into 2024, we expect the Lord to continue to do amazing things here at Raleigh's Place. We are so excited to see what He will accomplish through our efforts this year. Our hope is that you will join us in our efforts.

The Transitional Living Apartments are something we are thrilled about getting completed and opened. After three years, the Lord has provided a general contractor to take on the project while also providing the funding necessary to complete the renovations without having to borrow a penny. Upon completion we will be able to provide housing to eight residents who will have a safe place to live for up to two years as they prepare to transition successfully into adulthood. There will be so many ways for you to partner with us to ensure these young adults are taken care of.

We anticipate our Partner Homes to continue to grow. As they do, we hope to add more components to our provided services. One focus we will have is establishing some kind of continued education for foster parents in our community. We want to see foster parents learn how to be the best parents they can be.

Camp 1:27 will celebrate thirteen years of ministry this summer. We look forward to

servicing our campers once again as we seek to share the Gospel with them and provide one of the best weeks of their life. As we prepare for this summer, we could use your help! We are looking to fill our Camp Director position as well as our other Camp Staff roles. A good candidate is someone with a heart for serving God with a special love for foster children. More information about these positions can be found on our website.

Katie's Kloset has continued to hum along since we opened in 2020. A goal we have for this ministry is to really promote and get the word out to foster families that we exist. We have foster parents come in often who are shocked that we provide items at no cost and disappointed that they have not heard about this sooner. We certainly want to fix that!

The Workmanship Initiative will change dramatically this year with the opening of our Transitional Living Apartments. We will continue our partnership with Chilton County DHR and SPAN while also providing training to our future residents.

Lastly, we want to THANK YOU for your generous support. You are a blessing to us by praying, serving, and giving towards our cause to Live the Gospel by Loving the Fatherless. We thank God for you!