



Impact Report **2023**

Our Mission

To build and strengthen kinship connections and inclusive support networks for families, young people, and children.

Our Vision

Young people and families have a sense of belonging, the essential resources, and relationships to thrive.



Through collaborative efforts, Kinnect aims to improve permanency outcomes, build networks of support, and create innovative strategies that align with a KinFirst culture mindset and approach.

Strategic Goals 2024-2027

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Deliver Effective Programs and Services	Cultivate Cross-Sector Partnerships	Influence System-Change	Ensure High-Performing Teams and Infrastructure	Secure Financial Health and Sustainability
Demonstrate Kinnect's KinFirst culture across all programs and services internally and externally.	Form inclusive strategic alliances with people and entities with similar missions and desired results that also position our organization as a thought leader.	Engage, support, and inform people, communities, organizations, and policymakers about necessary supports and resources.	Increase investments in optimization tools and systems.	Build and ensure a cash reserve.
Build and expand diverse community networks of support.	Strengthen relationships with partner leaders and sites to enhance coordinated planning, service delivery, and initiatives.	Build the organization's position as an advocacy and change influencer.	Engage talent in expanded and culturally diverse training, organizational care, and career enhancement opportunities.	Deepen engagement with Board members for funding development and connections.
Increase access to resources and financial supports for young people, kinship caregivers, and families.	Create a seamless internal referral and service delivery model that leverages external partnerships.	Strengthen outreach, messaging, and communications using data and storytelling.	Strengthen performance evaluation and monitoring processes with clear expectations aligned with our guiding principles.	Examine and evaluate return on investment for existing fundraising events and explore new opportunities.
Strengthen partnerships that lead to increased opportunities for training, coaching, and consulting services.		Develop the organization's Government Affairs strategy and structure.		Hire development staff to design and execute a development strategy and structure.
Engage individuals with lived expertise.		Identify, target, and engage key decision-makers in the child-and-family serving ecosystem.		Develop a fee-for-services practice.
				Establish successful engagement strategies with individual donors, private and public grant-makers, and businesses.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Financials	16 Employees	45 Employees	55 Employees	60 Employees	68 Employees
	20 Navigators and Specialists	41 Navigators and Specialists	64 Navigators and Specialists	72 Navigators and Specialists	74 Navigators and Specialists
Fundraising	\$162,832	\$103,012	\$115,261	\$155,410	\$137,095
Implementation of Programs and Services	\$1,269,767	\$1,420,249	\$2,905,621	\$4,233,958	\$4,163,904
Evaluation	\$325,432	\$1,281,983	\$1,381,896	\$1,218,961	\$1,106,690
Marketing and Communication	\$22,970	\$639,222	\$949,116	\$1,205,902	\$963,613
Training and Development	\$86,504	\$52,076	\$252,074	\$512,547	\$478,739

Kinnect's Commitment to Equity



Kinnect strives to be a catalyst for change, thought partner and leader in bridging the work of systems innovation and disruption, anti-racism, and transformation of how children and families are served and supported. We foster belonging by committing to effectively centering the voices of those who have been historically and are presently marginalized. As a learning organization, we pledge to ongoing and sustained work in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through collaboration with families, communities, and other stakeholders. Kinnect will be transparent and accountable in this endeavor.



KinnectU was launched in 2023 and is our training, consulting, and replication branch of Kinnect that leverages the expertise and experience of the entire organization.

Through training, Kinnect has reached

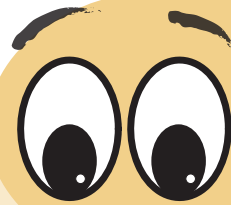
886 training participants
in 52 different learning sessions

New trainings launched!
View our course catalog
at www.kinnectu.org



Search, Engage, Explore, Kinnect

Se 13 in-person training sessions
eK 170 training participants



States and communities across the country are noticing Kinnect's kinship programs and strategies in Ohio!

Kinnect began collaborating with the state of California in 2023 around our KTF programming and training services, as part of their statewide effort to promote kinship care and fostering a KinFirst culture.

This partnership has now led to Kinnect delivering SEEK training sessions throughout California.

“What I love most about Kinnect trainings, is that it doesn't feel like trainings at all. Kinnect always brings new information supporting the research behind the importance of family connection and innovative ways this can be implemented in the work we do every day.”





Kinnect to Family (KTF) specialists work alongside traditional caseworkers to identify and engage kin who can care for children, and then create a support plan with them.



“Our specialist was really incredible... They treated us and welcomed us with open arms. They helped us and gave us the support or the direction we needed to make all this work.”

— Jessi, Caregiver

KTF Strategic Plan

Our KTF 3-Year Strategic Plan launched with priorities centering on program iterations & expansion and model

adaptations & cross-program integration strategies. The KTF team continued efforts to enhance the needed infrastructure at Kinnect to provide flexible implementation approaches to meet the needs of a variety of families, sites, and partner organizations.



Congregate Care Reduction is a new strategy

As part of our newly initiated Congregate Care Reduction Pilot, Kinnect is excited to partner with Hamilton County and NewPath Child and Family Solutions to achieve the following goals:

- 1 Safely reduce length of stay for youth in group care settings, specifically for those overrepresented (Black, Latinx, LGBTQ+)
- 2 Increase placement with kin and increase permanence for youth placed in congregate care by supporting intentional step down to kinship
- 3 Provide training, coaching, and technical assistance to build/strengthen skills across partner sites and within Kinnect
- 4 Establish a teaming process that centers on youth and family engagement, voice, and strengths to expedite supported step down, after care services to ensure relationships and increase permanency

2,750

KTF youth served over time

The latest data indicates that, on average, each family served by KTF has identified over

100 KIN





OhioKAN is a statewide Kinship and Adoption Navigator Program. Families can connect one-on-one with a navigator by phone, email, or text. Kinnect sought out the opportunity to design and implement OhioKAN to support families like the ones we were already serving through Kinnect to Family.

6,283

Family inquiries across phone and web

2,173

Family screened in



OhioKAN has directly served more than

7,107

families with more than

28,000+

family members

Grandparents represent 51% of the families serviced by OhioKAN and we are excited to also serve aunts, uncles, cousins and families created by adoption.

IMPACT

An evaluation including more than 1,700 families found that caregivers who received the OhioKAN intervention (compared to information and referral only) had higher levels of (a) satisfaction with programs and services, (b) access to services, and (c) adult well-being (parenting practices) three months after their initial engagement with OhioKAN, as well as higher levels of (d) adult well-being (economic and housing stability, and family functioning) at a six-month follow-up.





Youth-Centered PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

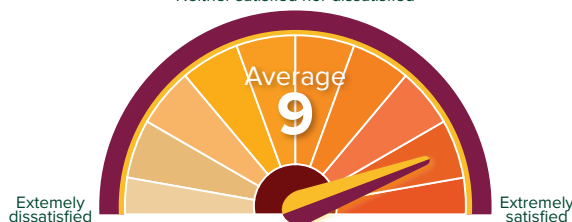
Youth Centered Permanency Roundtables put youth at the center of a series of important meetings with the goal of leaving foster care for a permanent home.

YCPRT is part of Kinnect's mission to develop partnerships that transform beliefs, values, and actions to achieve permanency for all children in the foster care system in the shortest time possible.

In 2022, Kinnect launched a new Statewide Facilitator model through which certain counties can work with a Kinnect facilitator who plans and executes the meetings. The Statewide Facilitator model allows smaller counties to participate in this innovation without hiring additional staff, which is especially important during the current workforce crisis.

Youth reported high satisfaction with the YCPRT meetings.

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied



Youth felt like they could talk about things that are important to them at YCPRT.

Some of the time



Youth perspectives on YCPRTs:



“Instead of the adult deciding what I would need or want, it’s me who’s deciding”

YCPRTs make an impact by...

- » Helping youth get the lifelong support they need
- » Building the size and strength of a network of adults who provide youth with loving, supportive and stable relationships

EXPANDED REACH

In 2023, YNN expanded services for young people to include those up to 23

YNN recently incorporated texting as a primary contact method for youth and young adults, alongside phone calls and the website contact form. By prioritizing texting, YNN was able to eliminate another obstacle for young people seeking vital resources.



YNN believes in youth. YNN partners with navigator sites to support youth in their communities. The Young Adult Advisory Council, which includes young people with lived experience in the child welfare system, has been integral in designing the program.

SUCCESS STORY

Alex, one of the YNN navs, worked with a young person who needed furniture for their first apartment. They struggled with finding a good price on furniture and needed to be connected to a place that would deliver and build the furniture in house. Alex suggested flexible funding. Overall, this was exciting because it was the first time YNN approved a flex fund request, and we were able to successfully support a young person in need.

The Youth Navigator Network can provide 1 on 1 support to talk directly with youth about challenges they may be facing in the following areas:

FOOD & SHELTER

HEALTH & WELLBEING

HOUSING ACCESS

FAMILY & RELATIONS

JOB & CAREER COUNSELING

LEGAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

COMPLETING FORMS & VOUCHERS

SCHOOL & EDUCATION

PARENTING & CHILDCARE COACHING





Key Staff

Shannon Deinhart
Executive Director & Co-Founder
Kinnect

Kristi Burre
Director of Strategy
Kinnect

Stephanie Beale
Program Director
KTF and YCPRT

Julia Donovan
Program Director
OhioKAN and YNN

Board of Directors

Grant Keating
President
Partner, Dworken & Bernstein

Kimberly Bell
Vice President
Director of Compliance, Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Megan Fellingner
Treasurer
President & CEO, Morrison Products, Inc.

Susan Hughes
Secretary
Vice President, Health and Welfare Committee, Fidelity Investments

David Boone, Jr.
Founder and CEO, JoinThru

Jonathon Henry
Social Worker, Veterans Administration

Amy Kilbane
Senior Communications Manager, Key Bank

Arlene Towarnicke
Director, RSM US LLP Valuation Services

Dr. Nancy Rolock
Henry L. Zucker Professor in Social Work Practice, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences

Denise Coats
Human Resources, YWCA of Greater Cleveland

Ron Pollock
Senior Vice President, Operations, Vox Mobile

Support Our Mission

All children deserve to remain connected to their culture, community, and kin.

Follow us:



www.kinnect.org
216.692.1161



Support
our work:



Subscribe to our
monthly newsletter:

