



**Annual Report and Update**  
**July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**  
(fiscal year 2024)

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





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.

## *From the director's desk*

The annual report you are holding reflects the challenges we have faced in the past two years and the changes we have made to successfully adapt to the changing needs of families.

Our financials on page 6 reflect the situation that led to us to almost close our child care program in 2023. (Because it takes auditors several months to certify financials, these charts are always for the previous year.) It was a challenging year as we saw the need increasing in both early intervention and child care, faced staffing challenges, and we did not have the state and federal supports that were available in the previous three years. We tried many strategies throughout the year to adjust, but the negative financial impacts were too late to rectify within the year. The result was the financial loss you see. In FY24 we were able to adapt, however. I am so grateful to Rise's board and staff, who all contributed to our success at this critical time.

In FY24, we saw a 54% increase in the number of families served. A Medicaid rate increase for early intervention was initiated in January 2024, which helped lessen the gap between the services we provide and what we are reimbursed for, but really it just has allowed Rise to start to catch up to increased expenses due to inflation, hiring more staff to serve the increased number of families, and to ensure fair wages. Child care also received two statewide grants. Rise board and staff continue to move forward, adapting and adjusting to meet the current needs of families.

As we continue to do our best to meet the needs of families, we are grateful to our very supportive community. The conversations, collaborations, and direct supports we receive make a huge impact at every level. From someone volunteering to pull weeds to businesses supporting our fundraisers to our loyal donors, every interaction makes our agency shine brighter.

Shortly after the close of FY24, Rise became the sole provider of early intervention services in the Monadnock Region. We are projecting to serve closer to 500 families in FY25, double the amount since I joined Rise in 2018. Our growth and our successes are those of the communities we serve, all around the region. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alicia Deaver". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "A".

Alicia Deaver



# Two Families Share Their Stories

## More Words Than She Ever Expected

Rose is raising her two young granddaughters and has received help from Rise's Early Intervention program for both C. and J. Both have struggled with significant speech delays.

C. had no words at all, her grandmother says, until she turned 2. "Once she got into Rise, she picked right up," Rose says of her older granddaughter, now 4 and thriving in preschool. "Now she says words I never expected her to. Not bad words, just big ones!"

J., her younger granddaughter who is now 3 and recently graduated from the Rise program, has more than 100 words and speaks in full sentences, Rose continues proudly. J. loves to tell her grandmother stories about the books she now reads.

"Jess has been amazing," Rose says of the educator from Rise who worked with her grandchildren. "She worked really hard with the girls and she taught me a lot too. She taught me how to teach them. She made me make them use words to ask for things instead of letting them point, for example. We all learned so much from Jess."

"I learned so much that I needed to know from Jess and Rise. And sometimes I just needed to hear I was doing all right and I just had to keep going," she continues, acknowledging that raising children as a grandparent can be very challenging.

"Now my granddaughters have the chance to have a really good life. I know these two girls will really do something good with their lives!"



## Making Leaps and Strides

"She's a fireball! And she's my little ray of sunshine too," Misty says proudly of her two-year-old daughter Keziah. Keziah suffered a brain injury at birth, resulting in cerebral palsy and speech, motor, and eating challenges. Keziah began receiving Rise services a few months after she was born, beginning with occupational therapy, then adding speech and physical therapy.

"She has made leaps and strides," Misty continues, explaining that when Keziah was born the doctors told her to plan for moderate to severe disability, but now say her daughter has exceeded expectations in her development. She credits, in part, the support and education she has received working with Rise. "I think it is a team effort. Our faith and community, her specialists in Boston, her chiropractor and craniosacral therapist, our unique mommy-daughter relationship – and then there's Rise."

"At every visit, they show me new things to try with Keziah and things that I could continue. They are so good at working with us where we are at. If it is overwhelming to have too many things added to my plate, they will prioritize just one thing to try or continue," Misty says.

"I love that they will work with you wherever you want to go, whether it is the children's museum, playing outside, the park, wherever. One therapist and I have a plan, if the weather is good, to do therapy in our pool next chance we get! They are great at communicating and giving options that match our lifestyle. I'm just so grateful for the support and the teamwork and everyone's positive attitudes."

"I also love that they can point out her progress, as it is sometimes hard for me to see the forest for the trees. Everyone at Rise has been very encouraging, helpful, and resourceful in helping me understand," Misty continues. "They will send me research articles since they know I like that kind of thing, and one therapist even made me short videos to explain things because she knows I'm a visual person!"



# Rise for baby and family FY24 Supporters

## *Foundations and Nonprofits*

Alpha Chapter, NH Delta Kappa  
Gamma  
American Online Giving Foundation  
The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Bonterra Giving Days  
Cheshire Medical Center  
Cheshire Medical Center/D-H  
Primary Care Leadership  
Cogswell Benevolent Trust  
Colonial Performing Arts Center  
Edward Jones Charitable Gift Fund  
The Family Council of the  
Monadnock Region  
Fidelity Charitable  
Fraternal Order of Eagles #1413  
Freedom Reins  
Mascoma Bank Foundation  
Monadnock Developmental Svcs  
Monadnock United Way  
Montshire Museum of Science  
More Than a Thrift Store  
New England Patriots Foundation  
New Hampshire Charitable  
Foundation's Surry Mountain Fund  
Project Linus, Southwest NH  
Chapter  
Rotary Club of Keene and Elm City  
Rotary  
Schwab Charitable Foundation  
Silver Saints at Sturtevant Chapel  
Simple Generosity  
Pledgeling Foundation  
Squam Lakes Science Center  
Timken Company Charitable and  
Educational Fund  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Toyota Matching Gifts Program  
United Church of Christ  
United Church of Christ Women's  
Fellowship  
Zoo New England

## *Business Supporters*

Aaron's Specialty  
Achille Agway  
American House  
Athens Pizza  
B. Bakes  
Bellavance Beverage  
Belletetes

Bellows Falls Country Club  
Billies + Tilli  
Bob's Fuel Company  
Boston Red Sox  
Bretwood Golf Course  
C&S Wholesale Grocers  
Cabana Falls Winery  
Carlisle Wide Plank Floors  
CC&D's Kitchen Market  
Charles Riverboat Co.  
Chipotle  
The Common Man  
Concord Bingo Too, LLC  
Court Street Veterinary Hospital  
Douglas Company  
Edward Jones - David Therrien,  
Financial Advisor  
Electronic Imaging Materials, Inc.  
Expedia  
Fenton Family Dealerships  
Fire Dog Breads  
Fox Hill Pet Grooming  
Frazier & Son Furniture  
Granita Enoteca  
The Grazing Room at Colby Hill Inn  
Guyer & Sons Roofing  
Hamlin Insurance Agency  
Harrisville Designs  
Heather Ells Photography  
Homestead Thrift Shop, Inc.  
Jefferies  
Julie's Garden  
Keene Publishing Corporation  
Keene Racquet Club  
Liberty Mutual Group, Inc.  
Maple Hill Nursery & Greenhouses  
Mascoma Bank  
The Melanson Company  
Modestman Brewing  
Moe - Momentum Clothing  
Mon Ami Fine Jewelry  
Monadnock Oil and Vinegar Co.  
Noyes Volkswagen  
Papagallos Restaurant  
Pats Peak  
Pear Tree Studios  
Pinnacle Investments LLC  
Pinney Plumbing and Heating  
Prime Roast Coffee Co.  
The Pub Restaurant & Caterers  
Ragged Mountain Resort

Raymond James Charitable  
Raynor Dental & Spoonwood Dental  
Partners  
The Richards Group  
Richmond Community United  
Methodist Church  
Riverside Hotel  
Rock Voices, Inc.  
Rust & Company  
Santa's Village  
Savings Bank of Walpole  
Scott Hussey Photography  
Shadow and Soul Emporium  
& Tea Lounge  
Storyland  
Superior Plus Propane  
Swan Boats of Boston  
Target  
Tattersall Electric Co.  
TD Bank  
Ted's Shoe & Sport  
Thai Garden  
The Toadstool Bookshop  
Two Fruits and a Nut Farm Winery  
Vera Flora Farm  
W.S. Badger Company  
Welnak Dental PC  
Whitney Brothers  
Ye Goodie Shoppe  
Yolo Café

## *Individual Supporters*

Joan R. Ames  
Richard and Heather Ames  
Lynn Arnold  
Becky and Andrew Auger  
Lisa Bairam  
Caitlin Barbarita and Brian Wilson  
Rebecca Barrett  
Cecily Bastedo  
Judith Bath  
Dottie Bauer  
David and Kim Bergeron  
The Bertolami Family  
Tiffany Boyd  
Kim Brackett  
Sarah Bradshaw and Liam Smedley  
Tara and Curt Brewer  
Julia Brock  
Ty C. Brown  
Barbara A. Bryce, Psy. D.

## Rise for baby and family FY24 Supporters

### *Individual Supporters, continued*

Barrett Bullock  
Megan Burke Kidder  
Edward and Kathleen Kennedy  
Burke  
Suzanne and Larry Butcher  
Wendy Byrn  
Nathan Carbone  
Don and Heidi Carlisle  
Randall Carmel  
Ted and Wanda Chabott  
Vae Champagne  
Abhimanyu Chandel  
Michael and Kathy Chelstowski  
Chick and Pat Colony  
Evan Cormier  
Jillian Coulon  
David and Irene Davis  
Alicia and Will Deaver  
Mac and Susan Deaver  
Lee and Kate Dexter  
Karen Dillon  
Candi Dionne  
Susan Doyle  
Ray and Darlene Dunn  
David Dustin  
Ashley and Ben Elliott  
Toni Ellsworth and Eli Cinq-Mars  
Rachel Eschle  
Caroline and Tom Ewing  
Katherine Feist  
Justin and Jessica Fyffe  
Stephanie Gaiser  
Clare Gallagher  
Karen Gallo  
Deborah Ganley  
Doris Garland  
Alice Gentry  
Elaine and Roye Ginsberg  
Taro Gold  
Michael and Jennifer Gomarlo  
Eric Goodman and Lisa Profetto  
Carl and Karin Gravina  
Cathy and Jim Gray  
Robert and Kerry Grenier  
Mark and Kathy Gross  
Sherry and Rob Guardiano  
Ashley and Josh Guion  
Josh Hamlin  
Roger Hansen

Kelsey Harris  
Kelly Hatton  
Carter Hauke  
Dr. Charles H. Henry, DDS  
Jillian Hernon  
Eric and Dorothy Herr  
Carol Hines  
Nancy Hitchner  
Julius and Joanne Hof  
Joshua Houle  
John B. and Lynda Hunt  
James Hurley  
Lissa Hurley and Mike Zulauf  
Claudia Istel  
Carl and Ruth Jacobs  
Connie Joyce  
Carol Jue  
Cheryl and Jay Kahn  
Michael and Tricia Kapiloff  
Ashley Keegan  
Robert Kenden  
Anne Kenney  
Gerard and Jennifer Kiernan  
Anita Kintisch  
Gregory Kleiner  
Gerda Kochman  
Sandy and David Kochman  
Kristina Kokal  
Catherine Koning  
Bonnie Kraft  
Suzanne and Paul Krautmann  
Greg and Tina Kriebel  
Laurie LaBrecque  
Anna Lake  
Jack and Nicole Lamont  
Lyn and Elaine Landry  
Liz LaRose  
Barb Leatherman  
Karen and Richard LeDuc  
Brian T. Lee  
Amy and Doug Lehr  
Jill and Todd Lewis  
Kimberly Lippincott  
Cynthia MacKenzie  
Cheryl Marchetti  
Dawn Martin  
Sonja Martineau  
Misty Martinez-Bohannon and  
Andy Bohannon  
Joe and Mary Mastrocola

Helen Mattson  
Bonnie McAlpine  
John and Marianne McGauley  
Heather McKernan  
John and Margaret McMahon  
Allen Mendelson  
Ed and Susan Metsack  
Lisa Migneault  
Gwen and Chris Mitchell  
Robert and Kim Mitchell  
Donna and Geoffrey Molina  
Barbara Morressy  
Alexander and Clarissa Murch  
Mr. and Mrs. Erik Murphy  
David and Marie Navikas  
Catherine Nelson  
Jeffrey and Susan Newcomer  
Lauren and Chris Niewiadomski  
Kate O'Dell  
Cathy O'Donnell  
Deborah O'Meara  
Terri O'Rorke  
Matthew and Joanna Paige  
Matt Palmer  
Tim and Carolyn Patch  
Pat and Doug Payne  
Dawn Pieper  
Chris and Michelle Pong  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Powers  
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt  
Bill and Sheryl Prescott  
Mark and Jeanne Pride  
Erika Radich  
Michael Remy  
Christie and Bryant Robertson  
Susan and David Romano  
Ryan and Amy Royce  
JC and Josephine Russell  
The Schiarelli Family  
Shannon Schrock  
Carol Schroeder  
Michael Schuman  
Susan Silver  
Lynn and Art Simington  
Louise Slayton  
Heather and Peter Smith

**Thank you all  
for your support!**

## Rise for baby and family FY24 Supporters

### *Individual Supporters, continued*

David and Jane Stabler  
The Steadman Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stoudt  
Erin Stump  
Margaret Swindell  
Gregg and Julie Tewksbury  
David and Lisa Therrien  
Wayne Edward and Persis  
Whitcomb Thomas  
Bari and James Thompson  
Kathy Torrey  
Andrew Tremblay

Barbara and Anthony Tremblay  
Jacqueline Tremblay  
Ms. Gill Truslow  
Penny Vaine  
M.B. Van Valkenburgh  
Hugh and Alison VanBrocklin  
Antje and David Warren  
James and Maureen Watson  
Tom Westheimer  
Kathryne Wichland  
Kathy and Donald Wilson  
Pam Wilson  
Mary-Anne Wisell

Griselda Witkowski  
Kim and Tim Wolfe  
John and Gail Wrigley  
Carol Wurschmidt  
Monica Zulauf

### *Volunteers*

Becky Barrett  
Jack Lamont  
Nicole Lamont  
Ruby Trippodi  
Alison VanBrocklin

**Thank you all for your support!**



“I always knew I could reach out with questions, to anyone from the executive director to my child’s early intervention provider to her child care teacher, and I always got answers. Rise is just so supportive of the family as a whole.”

*–a former Rise parent*

## Families Served in FY24

**Total # of Children Served in Early Intervention: 410**

Eastern Monadnock Region: 32%

Western Monadnock Region: 68%

**Total # of Children Served in Child Care: 26**

**56%**

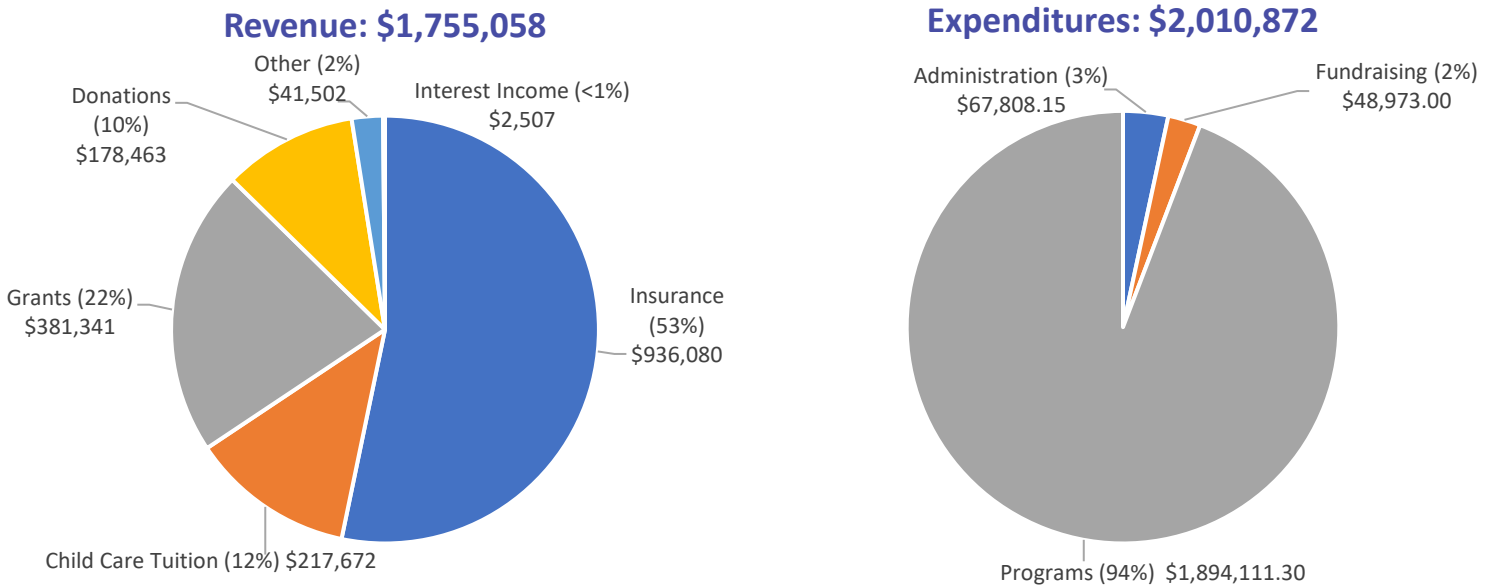
increase in the  
number of families  
served over last year!

“Ask all the questions! No question is silly, so don’t be afraid to ask. The staff at Rise will definitely be there for you and help you every step of the way.”

*–a Rise parent’s advice to other new parents*

# FY23 Financial Summary

Summary based on most recent financial audit



## FY23 Challenges Overcome

FY23's financials were very bleak. (Because it takes auditors several months to certify financials, these charts are always for the previous year.) This was the first year since March 2020 where no state or federal financial support was available for early intervention or child care programs. In our early intervention program, we started receiving many more referrals. In addition, significantly more of the children referred to Rise presented with complex needs, requiring support from multiple specialists. As a result, we hired more staff, a necessity to meet the needs of the families we serve.

While FY23 was very challenging financially, thanks to the Employee Retention Credit and other state and federal grants, our total losses for FY20-FY23 overall were only \$40,000. While significant, Rise remains stable and will continue helping families for another 43+ years!

## Rise FY24 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

**President:** Ashley Elliott  
**Vice President:** Bari Thompson  
**Treasurer:** Antje Warren  
**Secretary:** Kimberly Allsopp

### Members-at-Large

Randall Carmel  
 Candi Dionne  
 Ashley Guion  
 Kelsey Harris  
 David Kochman  
 Brian Lee  
 Dawn Martin  
 Jeanne Pride  
 Lisa Steadman  
 Barbara Tremblay  
 Pam Wilson



## 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)

**Social Media:**

[facebook.com/riseforbabyandfamily](https://facebook.com/riseforbabyandfamily)

[instagram.com/rise4babyfamily](https://instagram.com/rise4babyfamily)

[linkedin.com/company/rise-for-baby-and-family](https://linkedin.com/company/rise-for-baby-and-family)



*"I'm just so thankful we got early intervention services from Rise for my son. I worry about what the effects would have been if we hadn't gotten started with services as quickly as we did. Thanks to Rise he is now on track developmentally."*

*—a former Rise parent*