

Conley  Outreach

COMMUNITY SERVICES

♥ Caring for the Heart of Community ♥

Annual Report

2024



Mission Statement

Conley Outreach Community Services is a 501 c (3) not-for-profit organization devoted to **“Caring for the Heart of Community”**. Our mission is to provide and coordinate community mental health and human service programs in rural Western Kane County by understanding community needs, creating systems of support, and collaborating with other community and faith-based partners.

We are humbly committed to:

- Caring for our communities and its residents
- Loving our neighbors unconditionally
- sharing life's burdens prayerfully and
- Trusting God's direction patiently.

We strive to work collaboratively with a diverse cross-section of community minded individuals and organizations to develop programs and services that meet the emerging needs of this rapidly growing area.

We seek to be:

- a catalyst for community development
- a hub for human services, and
- a place for nurturing the lives of individuals, families, and neighborhoods.



A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Conley Outreach,

Fiscal year 2024 has been a year of trying new things. We have continued to grow as an agency building services and adding new programming.

The Holiday Spirit Program has continued to be steadfast in the community. Despite continued difficult economic times the generosity of our donors has been unwavering and continues to touch our hearts. Kaneland families were able to participate, and 97 children benefited by being matched with donors who carefully selected from wish lists to provide a little bit of seasonal joy.

The focus of Fiscal Year 24 has continued to be the building of bereavement services. Grieving With Hope, General Grief Support and Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, Book Club have continued with ongoing momentum. In April 2024, we were able to bring back the Young Widows Group with a new name. "Life After Loss," and a new facilitator, Megan Pecoraro McCann. We have also started adding no cost community grief events. This has allowed us to serve those who may not want to attend a group but still want connection. Also of great importance, our Good Grief Day Camp continues to gain campers and teen helpers which has allowed the program to flourish.

Some other points to note, the Clothing Exchange has continued serving patrons each month with regularity. The monthly Community Meals Program is still going well with a strong participation from our local community churches. Thanks to our Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Urich and our partnering churches for making this happen.

As programming continues to grow and change, it has been a privilege to work with those who have accompanied us on the journey. The blessings of the many volunteers and professionals sharing their talents is how we have been able to embark on these new endeavors. I am so excited to see what next year will bring.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Long
Executive Director

"Meeting people where they are at in their grief"

This past year has brought a creative approach to meeting people where they are at with their grief. Conley Outreach has tried new ways to make a connection with those who need it most. Community Events have become a wonderful catalyst to getting people resources and building relationships.

In February 2024, we were excited to implement, Nourishing Your Heart: Cooking and Connecting After Loss, a partnership with Northwestern Medicine's Leishman Center. The class is offered quarterly and allows participants to learn about how grief affects their health, learn hands on easy healthy recipes, and connect with other who are grieving. In the fall of 2023, Jo Cessna of the Leishman Center approached our agency with her vision and we got to work. Jo felt that being in the kitchen could help those who are grieving connect with others, feel less lonely, and more comfortable sharing their feelings. After, multiple classes it is clear to see that she is on to something!

Additionally in April 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting a workshop that focused on processing grief through alternative ways. "Healing Your Grief: Nature Mandala & Sound Healing Meditation" was well attended which let us know we were on the right path.



Board of Directors and Staff

Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Sarah Conley | President |
| Robert Barnhart | Vice President |
| Kelly Le Croy | Secretary/Treasurer |
| Kris Conley | Member |
| Heide Greif | Member |
| Robin Urich | Member |
| Cheryl Hackbarth | Member |
| Tom Fink | Member |
| Ben Gulino | Member |



Staff

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jennifer L. Long | Executive Director |
| Jennifer Smith | Program Assistant/GA Case Manager |
| Lora Windsor, LCSW | Bereavement Support Group Facilitator |
| Angel Ianakiev, LCSW | Bereavement Support Group Facilitator |
| Megan Pecoraro-McCann | Bereavement Support Group Facilitator |
| Kim Wendling, B.S. | Financial Agent |

2024 Angel Awards

This past year we were pleased to present Cheryl Hackbarth with the Angel Award for her years of service to the Conley Outreach Board and her dedication to our annual "Cooking Up Comfort" Chili Cook-Off that benefits our Good Grief Day Camp. Cheryl has been instrumental in securing our location and adding the little extras to make the event special for all!

Our 2024 Angel Award for Business was presented to our friends at J&R Herra for their dedication to our Holiday Spirit Program each year and their all around commitment to serving the community. Their investment in our agency and the Kaneland Community has been outstanding.

Programs & Services

Grief Support

- Grieving with Hope – support group for adults grieving any type of death loss.
- Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow- adult support group for those further along in their journey, looking for socialization more than acute support. Operates as a book club and a bibliotherapy model.
- Life After Loss (Young Widows)- support group for adults under the age of 55 who have lost a partner or spouse to death loss.
- Good Grief Day Camp- Week long day program for children who have lost a parent or sibling, ages 6-12 years of age.
- Nourishing Your Heart (Cooking and Connecting After Loss)- Partnership with Northwest Medicine's Leishman Center that is offered quarterly at Kishwaukee Hospital. Each class focuses on how grief affects our health and well-being. Leishman Staff instruct a hands-on cooking class with easy healthy meals for when you don't feel like cooking.
- Community Events- Providing Free Community Events that educate and engage the bereaved in creative ways.

Community Services

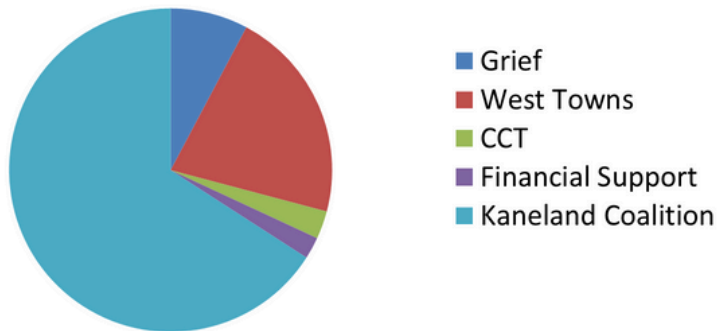
- Kaneland Coalition for Healthy Youth-- a local coalition of churches, non-profits, and schools working to promote awareness of the dangers of alcohol and drug use and encourage mental health.
- The Community Care Team – a network of adult natural helpers who receive specialized training in how to effectively listen, respond, and refer friends and neighbors for help and assist area residents through a variety of volunteer opportunities.
- Emergency Assistance Programs – limited, short-term financial assistance to local individuals through the Good Samaritan Fund, Holiday Spirit and Salvation Army Extension Services. Help is also available through the Clothing Exchange Clothing Closet.

West Towns Human Services

- Referral and Advocacy – free, confidential resource and referral service links area residents to over 85 health and human agencies in Kane, Kendall & DeKalb counties
- Two Local Offices – space available for area mental health providers to see clients close to home in Elburn and Sugar Grove
- West Towns Community Resource Team – group of 20 local agencies that meet monthly to discuss service needs in rural western Kane County.

Demographics

Clients by Program Type



In FY 2024, Conley Outreach touched over 2,911 lives in our community.

450 families were linked to over 85 health & human service providers through the West Towns Network. Over 1,503 requests for help were answered.

46 people received financial assistance from one or more of our benevolence funds; 97 children received toys through Holiday Spirit.

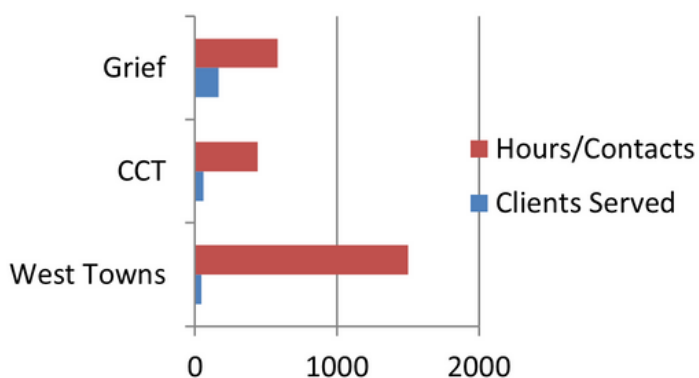
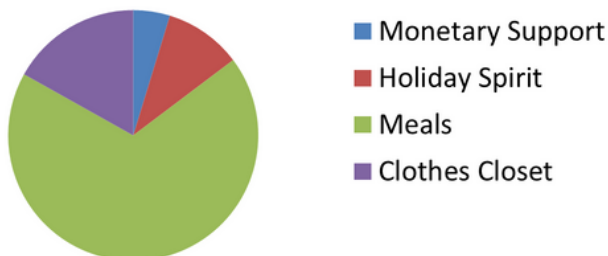
41 people received clothes from the Clothing Exchange Closet. 664 meals were provided by area churches for the Community Meals Program.

59 volunteers provided over 441 hours of community service through the Community Care Team.

Over 164 people received grief support through one of Conley Outreach's programs; over 580 hours of direct support were provided.

1390 students and community members received bracelets with Suicide Awareness Prevention's Text number on them through the Kaneland Coalition for Healthy Youth.

Financial Support



2024 Highlights

EVOLUTION OF GRIEF PROGRAMMING

Fiscal Year 24 has been a year of growth. In 2020, the pandemic put a hold on our grief services. The subsequent years have been devoted to implementing and growing our grief programming. This required creativity and viewing our past services with a new lens. We found that many people are looking for different options in the post pandemic world. It is important to note group is not for everyone. Although we were pleased to add our Life After Loss Young Widows Group back, the focus has been on how else can we reach the bereaved. The Executive Director has taken this time to become more immersed in this field and has been meeting with community members to help support their work with those experiencing loss.

Additionally, programs like “Healing Your Grief: Nature Mandala & Sound Healing Meditation” and “Nourishing Your Heart: Cooking and Connecting After Loss,” have helped us reach others that we may normally not have. This has allowed us to share information, make connections, and yes, even help some engage with a support group or therapy. Special thanks to Lora Windsor, LCSW, Certified Vibrational Sound Healer, Sandy LaBianco-Brown, and Leishman Center’s Jo Cessna, for sharing their professionalism and making this journey possible.



Finacial

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

ASSETS

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$82,042 | \$63,509 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | \$83,352 | \$65,387 |
| FIXED ASSETS | | |
| Equipment | 7,675 | 7,675 |
| Less – Accumulated Depreciation | 6,532 | 4,763 |
| TOTAL FIXED ASSETS | 1,143 | 2,912 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$84,495 | \$ 68,299 |

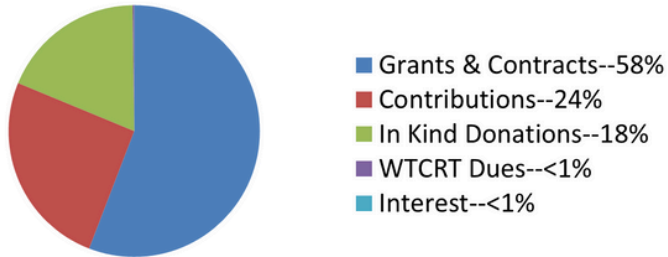
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accrued Liabilities | NONE | NONE |
| TOTAL LIABILITITES | NONE | NONE |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted | 51,428 | 47,242 |
| Temporarily Restricted | 33,067 | 21,057 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 84,495 | 68,299 |
| OTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$84,494 | \$68,299 |

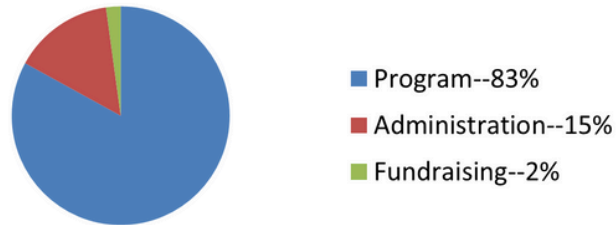
(Conley Outreach's Financial Records audited by Weiland and Company 2023, 2024)

Financial

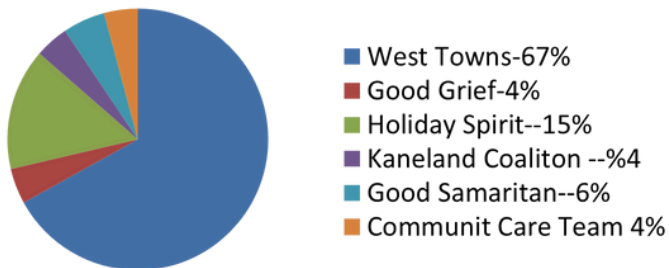
Total Income--\$147,726



Total Expenses--\$131,530



Program Expenses--\$109,138



Funders and Donors

Granting Agencies

INC Board, NFP

Founders (\$1,000+)

Accurate Color &

Compounding

Karen Blackwood

The Callaghan Family

Ben & CJ Conley

Elburn Chamber

Elburn Leo's Club Charity

Elburn Lion's Club Charity

Elevation Dance Company

J&R Herra

Kaneland Education ASSN.

Pamela Kautz

Midwest Groundcovers

Old National Bank -

Blackbaud

Judith & William Skeens

Wendy Williams Foundation

Benefactors (\$500-\$999)

John Shield's Fourth Gr

Steve & Leanne Gramley

Donors (\$250-\$499)

Karen Blackwood

Kara & Tom Butts

Kit Compton

Elburn Radiator

Kaneville UMC

Kaneland Harter Middle

School Staff

Stern/Algrim Family

RDR Enterprises

Contributors (\$100-\$249)

AFM Electric

Alice's Place

American Bank & Trust

American Legion Post #630

Andrea Bonk

James Berringer

Dave & Rita Campbell

Dr. Tom's Dentistry

Elburn American Legion Aux

Elburn Meat Market (Ream's)

Mary Fink

Nadine Flint

Good Call Plumbing

Grant Griffiths

Sue Hard

Kaneland FND & District

Sandra Lay Joseph A.

Judith Le Blanc

Ron Limbrick

Trisha Mills

Carol Molitor

Diane Morales

David & Jeri Ott

Janelle Ream

Rise N Dine

John Reece

Mike & Deborah Rooney

Susan Rous

Tom & Janet Runty

Dan Schleifer

The Schramer/Nicoll Family

Siwy Real Estate

Robin Urich

Wasco Dairy Queen

Partners (Up to \$99)

Diane Berquist

Jean Fabrizius

Glenn & Julian Fuchs

Janet Gramley

Kenneth & Mary Gustafson

The Konen Family

Ted McCannon

Dennis & Mary Niceley

Paisano's Pizza & Grill

Susan Parkhouse

Jaidy Toro Rodriguez

Lonna Schmidt

Chris Stoffa

Denise Strickland

Kay Swift

Emily & Sandra Weiss

Catherine Whiteside

George Zakosek

Donations in Memory

Joseph A. Batorson Jr.

Ralph E. Conley

William Woll-Creed

In Kind Donations

Terri Albright

Sandy LaBianca-Brown

Blue Sky Farm

CASI

Martin A. Cosentino

The Elburn Lions Club

Farm Friends, INC

Julia The Comfort Dog

Kuiper's Family Farm

Sugar Grove Methodist

Church

Sugar Grove Township

Lora Windsor, LCSW

Partner Churches

Kaneville United Methodist

Grace Orthodox

Presbyterian

Lord of Life

St. Gall Catholic Church

St. Kathrine Drexel

Sugar Grove United

Methodist Church

Village Bible Church