



Amara

2015 **Report to  
Our Community**

## Dear Friends,

“Presenting children we serve with a world of possibilities, love, and even a little magic—the spirit of childhood.”

-Megan Myers, artist

Just like the inspiration for our new community mural “A Journey of Love” (see page 6), your generosity has inspired us to reach even more children in foster care. Thank you!

The journey to a loving and committed family can be a long and treacherous one. Your support makes it possible for Amara to fulfill its urgent mission: to ensure that every child in foster care has the love and support of a committed family—as quickly as possible, and for as long as each child needs.

Because of you, **more families** gained the skills and knowledge to parent kids in foster care—whether for two months, two years or forever. And you gave **more kids** a safe place to stay when they were suddenly removed from their homes through our new Emergency Sanctuary.

You also strengthened collaborations with **more child welfare partners**—including the State and other nonprofits—to work toward long-term, systemic change that will benefit more kids and families in the future.

Finally, you added **more volunteers** to amplify Amara’s reach and impact in the community, and provided more workshops and coaching to support families throughout their entire fostering and adopting journeys.

Thank you for investing in the safety and well-being of children in foster care. You inspire us to preserve the magic of growing up and the journey of love for these kids, **our kids**.

With much gratitude,

**John Morse**  
Executive Director

**Leasa Mayer**  
Board President



## Amara

We work to ensure that every child in foster care has the love and support of a committed family—as quickly as possible, and for as long as each child needs.

### \* Fostering & Adopting

We find and provide high-quality training, services, and ongoing support for families on their journey to parent children in foster care. We prepare families for reunification or adoption, to ensure the smoothest transitions possible for children.

### \* Emergency Sanctuary

We offer a safe temporary home for children who have been removed from their families by Child Protective Services or law enforcement.

### \* Post-Adoption

We recognize that adoption is not a singular event, but rather a lifelong journey. We are designing specific programs to provide ongoing support and resources to Amara families and adoptees.

## Emergency Sanctuary

2015 marked the first full year of operation for *Grandese’s Place*, the Amara Emergency Sanctuary in Seattle. *Grandese’s Place* is a temporary home for children who have been removed from their parents due to abuse or neglect. In 2015, our team of volunteers and staff cared for 216 children. Because of the Sanctuary, these kids did not have to wait in police stations or social workers’ offices, stay in hotels or have multiple one-night stays in strange places during their first few days in foster care. They were able to have a medical examination, stay in their school, be with their brothers or sisters, eat home-cooked meals, have a clean change of clothes, and above all, just be a kid. While families and social workers have the time to explore the best long-term options for each child, Sanctuary staff and volunteers are available 24/7 to help children through this difficult time. We are opening a second Emergency Sanctuary in Pierce County in late 2016 and actively building a volunteer program to support it.

*In the words of **Ivy Lowe**, one of our dedicated volunteers who was inspired to volunteer with us after seeing a story about Grandese’s Place on KING 5:*

“I volunteer because I’ve been so blessed and feel we are called to pay it forward. The fullness one feels from sharing self and resources is immeasurable and long lasting. You have wonderful memories of small moments that represent giant steps. A child’s smile, a little hand reaching out to you, hearing laughter and knowing for that moment you’ve made a difference.”

*In the words of one of our **guests**,*  
“This is how my heart feels at the Sanctuary.”



Ivy Lowe



Drawing by a Sanctuary guest

## Our Generous Friends in 2015

Thank you to the following donors who have made multi-year gifts and pledges to Amara. Your support enables Amara to push further and harder than ever before in order to change the lives of our community’s most vulnerable kids.

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**Trevor** has brought Derek and Tatiana Hoshiko more joy and responsibility than they ever would have expected. With their wedding just weeks away, Derek and Tatiana had put referrals on hold. Then, they got a call from their Amara caseworker about Trevor, and decided they couldn't say no - this child needed them. By growing strong relationships with Trevor's extended birth family, including attending family events and spending holidays together, and keeping a child-centered approach, Derek and Tatiana stayed grounded through the possibility of reunification and adding a child to their busy lives.

*Derek and Tatiana adopted Trevor in August 2015.*

**“We gained a family. We didn't just adopt a child, we adopted a family. It's really cool. It's pretty magical.”**

**– Tatiana Hoshiko**

**Adam's** joyful ability to connect with others using just his brilliant smile is an inspiration to both his moms. Erin and Sara came to Amara with a specific interest in parenting a child with cognitive disabilities or medical needs. And when they saw Adam's referral, something caught their hearts. They met him on Mother's Day, and he moved in that month. Erin and Sara now count Adam's birth family and his previous foster parents as part of their own community.

*Erin and Sara adopted Adam in May 2015.*

**“I love watching the world through Adam's eyes. I'm in awe of how amazing he is, how much we learn from him.”**

**– Erin Flagstad**



Our sincere thanks to the many individuals, foundations, and corporations who supported Amara with a financial gift in 2015. With your generosity, we are making strides toward our vision of “A Home for Every Child.”

**\$50,000 and above**

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- Michael and Christian Carroll
- Margery Lovely Ceccarelli

## Meeting the need in Pierce County

We are building a stronger presence in Pierce County and the South Sound to meet urgent needs and provide services closer to the children and families we serve in this region.

## One Family One Team Partnership

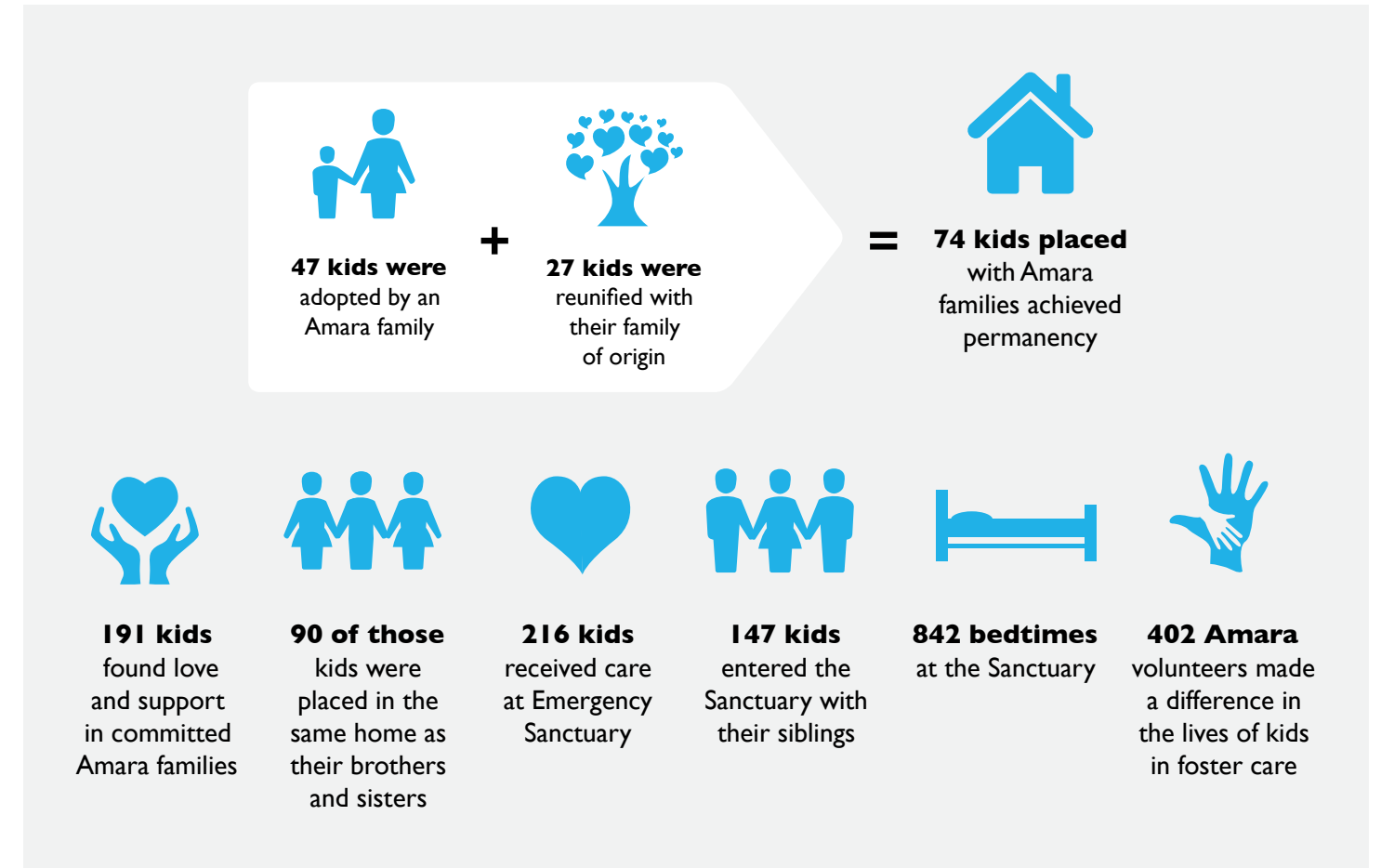
We are building on our work in the One Family One Team public/private partnership to improve outcomes for children and families in Washington State's child welfare system, which aims to ensure that children who come in contact with the courts achieve stability quickly and safely.

## Oliver Portal

We are pioneering the creation of a Washington State foster family online portal Oliver, designed by University of Washington's Partners for Our Children, to improve the foster family licensing experience. This is the first-of-its-kind collaboration between private child placement agencies to attract more families, streamline the foster licensing process, and ultimately serve more children in foster care.



"A Journey of Love" mural with artist Megan Myers



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# 2015 Financial Review

## Assets

Cash & equivalents	\$ 435,504
Accounts receivable	\$ 796,544
Prepaid and other	\$ 170,746
Pledges receivable, long-term	\$ 1,476,133
Fixed assets	\$ 6,416,153
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,295,080</b>

## Liabilities

Current liabilities	\$ 495,655
Long-term liabilities	\$ 5,248,782
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 5,744,437</b>

## Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 1,246,038
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 2,304,605
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,550,643</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,295,080</b>
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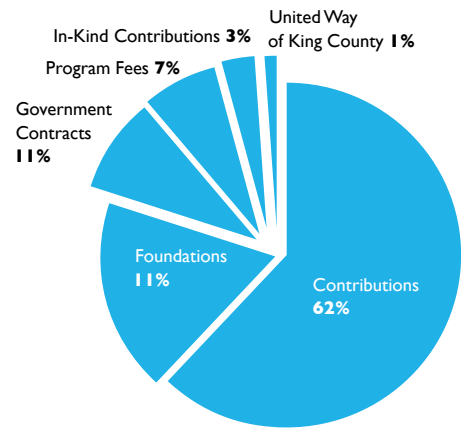
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Amy Quackenbush  
Brian Quint  
Carl L. Rabun, Jr.  
Trey Rabun  
Roger and Kathy Rahlfs  
Rob Raile  
Dawn Rains  
The Rauch Family  
Lillian Rehrmann  
Thelma Reilly  
Jordan Reimer  
Megan Reynolds  
Jeff Richards  
Katherine Richards  
Lauren Richins  
Ronald and Monica Riva  
Matthew Roberts  
Patrick Robert  
Jerry J. Robinson  
Jon Rodriguez  
Cheryl and Paul Roe  
Lori and John Roeller  
Margie Roe  
Linda Williams Rorem and Rich Rorem  
Rose Hill Investment Group  
Asika Rosebrough

Lindsey Rose  
Sarah Rosencrans  
Kathy Rossol  
Edith and Eric Rothenberg  
Debbie Rough-Mack  
Dr. Leon Rowland  
Harvey Rubinstein and Sharon Hammel  
Amy and Matt Rudolf  
Mark Ruffo and Jared Baeten  
Michael and Lori Russell  
Andrew Sachs  
Jerry Sale  
Nicole P. Salisbury  
Allen J. Salmieri  
Ingrid Salmon  
Kathleen Sanders  
Chris Sandman  
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Tyrone Sheffey  
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Emily Sigler and Chris Gonzalez  
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Keith and Hillary Slawson  
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Marti Smithsund  
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David Smukowski and Patricia Helberg  
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Sound Oil  
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Eileen Stallman  
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Kathleen and Jeff Stickney  
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Shirley Strachan  
Sarah Stachowiak

Jenn Strutzel  
Kimberly Superneau  
Michi Suzuki and Jeanine Burke  
Katrina and Kevin Tabari  
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Josh and Sarah Viles  
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Lindsay Wagner  
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Giselle Zapata-Garcia  
David Zapolsky and Lynn Hubbard  
Dom Ziccardi

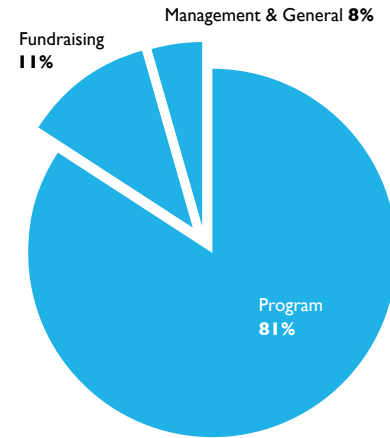
*We offer our sincere apology if we inadvertently omitted or misspelled any supporter's name. If this has happened, please contact us at 206.260.1700 so we can correct our records. Those who contributed after December 31, 2015 will be listed in next year's Report to our Community.*

## 2015 Revenue

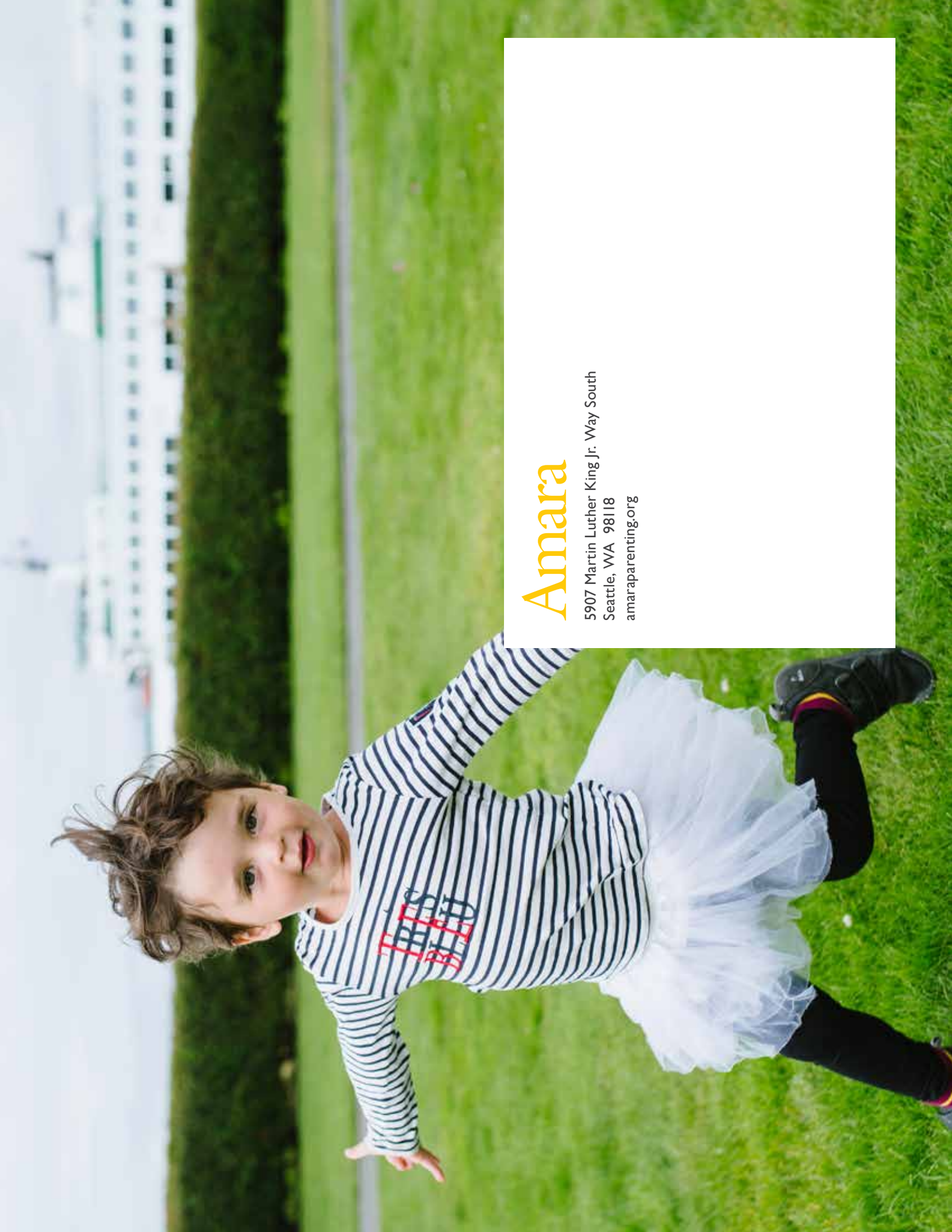


**Total Revenue: \$ 5,212,226**

## 2015 Expenses



**Total Expenses: \$ 3,129,784**



# Amara

5907 Martin Luther King Jr. Way South  
Seattle, WA 98118  
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