

2025

ANNUAL
REPORT



TO OUR FRIENDS



P.O. Box 901, Anoka, MN 55303-0901 • (612) 472-2557 • <https://wesawthelight.org/>

Dear Friends,

These four years at We Saw The Light were amazing. A positive impact has been made for our families because of people like you who have volunteered your time, talents, energies, input, and donations.

Everyone's journey is different. However, no matter where they are on that journey, we are proud and honored that these families have allowed us to walk with them. Our families are finding moments of light and hope through our ability to reach out to them individually.

We are honored to have accomplished the following in 2025, with your support:

- Our Facebook Private Group had 96 members.
- We sent monthly gifts to 54 families, consisting of a total of 167 individuals.
- We had 15 individuals/organizations on our Resources page.
- We did weekly or monthly reach-outs to 81 families.
- We completed our 1st Celebration of Hope event.
- We had 3,057.5 volunteer hours reported (event volunteers did not report nor did those holding fundraisers for us).

Thank you for supporting us and our families.

Sincerely,

Codi Leary Leitch, Founder & Executive Director
Lisa Burnside, President
Katrina Sten, Treasurer
Lisa Quinn Rubenstein, Secretary
Michael Fellner, Board Member

MISSION

To walk alongside families in Minnesota who are faced with losing a loved one to suicide.

TAG LINE

Finding light together after suicide.

BOARD MEMBERS

Codi Leary Leitch, Founder / Executive Director

Lisa Burnside, President

Katrina Sten, Treasurer (added 2025)

Lisa Quinn Rabenstein, Secretary (added 2026)

Michael Fellner, Board Member (added 2025)

ABOUT US

We have lost loved ones to suicide and have come together to help others who have recently lost someone through support and resources while working to end the stigma that surrounds suicide by giving families a safe place to express their feelings among others who truly understand.



“When I lost my 52-year-old son by suicide I was devastated. A friend told me about We Saw The Light and I asked my daughter-in-law if she would like me to submit her and their 3 children. The meaningful gifts and consoling notes sent each month are so comforting. I was so touched that I received gifts too! I can’t say enough or tell enough people how grateful I am to this organization.”

- Judy, Dean’s Mom

OUR FAMILIES

Sherri
Nick's Mom

"WSTL gave me hope in a dark world."

Codi Leary Leitch – Founder of WSTL
James' Wife

"I lost my husband, the father of our three young children, in 2010 to suicide. The journey I was on was not only scary, but lonely as well. The shame, blame, and unanswered questions surrounding suicide caused me to feel completely isolated with nowhere to turn. I was determined to ensure that nobody would ever have to feel so alone. That is what led me to create a safe, non-judgmental place for families to turn, and We Saw The Light was formed. Everyone has a light inside of them, sometimes we just need someone to see it."

Chris
Dave's Wife

"She said I would never be alone through this."

Tracy
Gavin's Aunt

"I am grateful for the kindness and to have a place where people understand this type of grief."

Dee
Michael's Mom

"We Saw The Light was there right when I needed them most."

Vanessa
Jack's Mom

"The work that We Saw The Light does is immeasurably important."

Sarah
Caleb's Mom

"Every month when the package arrives it feels like a warm hug."

Carla
Will's Mom

"They provided a safe place for me to express my feelings in a very nonjudgmental space."

Kathy
Beverly's Family

"My mom received monthly gifts that put a smile on her face and happy tears in her eyes."

Jennifer & Bill
Blake's Parents

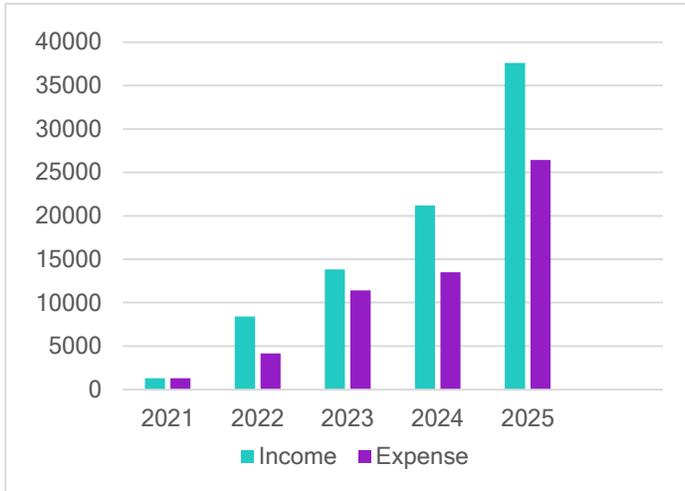
"To know someone was thinking about us was so helpful and the gifts were a bit of light in each dark month."

Erica
Monte's Mom

"I was dumbfounded, for who in their right mind would willingly step into someone's life at a time such as this?"

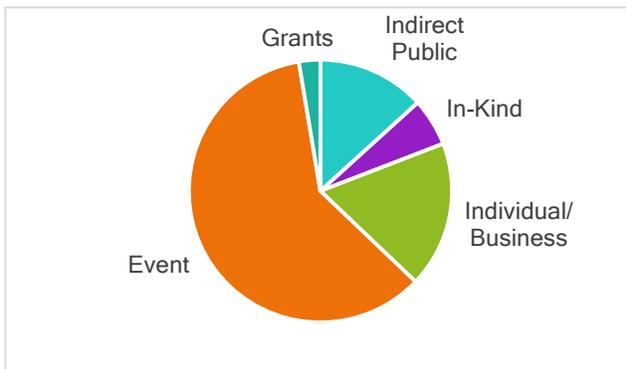
FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENSES 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025



2025 INCOME AND EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

TOTAL INCOME: \$37,590



Indirect Public Support \$4,987

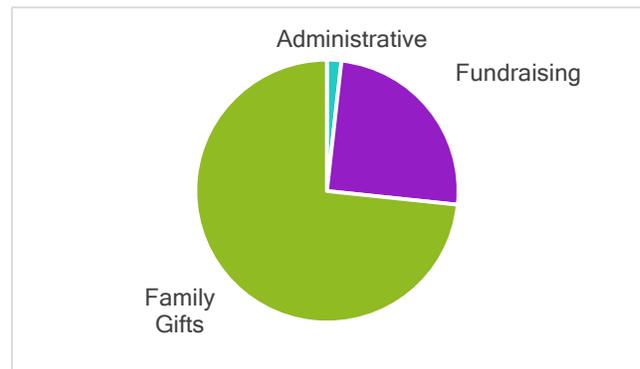
In-Kind Donations \$2,201

Individuals/Businesses Donations \$6,766

Event Income & Sales \$22,636

Grants \$1,000

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$26,424



Administrative \$471 (2%)

Fundraising \$6,570 (25%)

Family Gifts \$19,383 (73%)

LIST OF DONORS

INDIVIDUALS

113 Identified individual donors plus many anonymous donors
200 individual tickets purchased for the 2025 Celebration of Hope Event

CORPORATIONS, BUSINESSES, AND INDIRECT PUBLIC SUPPORT

American Online Giving Foundation	Minnesota Vikings
Aspen Woods & Company	Mental Wellness Campaign of Anoka County
Benevity	North & Found Creations
Brightwood Hills Golf Course	Our Farm Fresh
Connexus Energy Foundation	PayPal Giving Fund
Culvers	PetSmart
Edward Jones Charitable Gift Fund	Scheels
Fidelity Charitable	SMART
Forest Lake American Legion	St. Francis American Legion
GoodCoin Giving Fund	Tommy's Car Wash
Gretar Investments LLC	Waylon James foundation
Laudeda Enterprises LLC	Wild Mountain

FACEBOOK AND OTHER OUTSIDE FUNDRAISERS

16 Facebook Birthday Fundraisers in 2025 for a total of \$2,685
Various Fundraisers of clothing, coffee, merchandise, cookies, and Jagger Bombs

IN-KIND SUPPORT (including cards and handmade items)

Provided by many individuals and organizations





Our generous supporters help our families see the light within themselves as we walk alongside them on their journeys. Suicide leaves behind many survivors that deserve to see the light. With your continued support, we can make a difference in their lives.



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We Saw The Light is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
We do not provide mental health services.

Gold
Transparency
2025

Candid.