

Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2025



Our Mission

To provide children and families with services that inspire, empower, and heal.

Greetings!

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the people who make Tanager's mission possible. At the heart of our work are the youth and families we serve, the employees who dedicate themselves to this mission, and the supporters who stand beside us through donations, volunteerism, and board service. Each plays a vital role in shaping brighter futures.

In fiscal year 2025, our focus remained on people. We carefully listened to the voices of youth, families, and partners, continually assessing the needs of our community and exploring ways to respond with compassion and innovation. We also invested in the staff who bring expertise and dedication to their work each day. With your support, we continue to provide hope, healing, and empowerment, ensuring that every child and family has access to the care they need most.

Within this report, we invite you to see how Tanager is impacting lives, fostering meaningful connections, and making a lasting difference in our community. These pages reflect the collective strength of all who believe in our mission—youth and families building resilience, staff offering unwavering care, and supporters who make it all possible.

Thank you for standing with us, believing in Tanager, and helping us put people at the center of everything we do.



Okpara Rice



Todd Kerska

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Okpara Rice'.

Okpara Rice, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Kerska'.

Todd Kerska, Board President

Serving People

Mack

Mack, our much-loved facility dog, has a special way of making every day at Tanager a little brighter. Facility dogs are specially trained to work in places like schools, hospitals, and community organizations—not for just one person, but for everyone they meet.

Mack takes that role to heart, offering comfort, motivation, and plenty of tail wags to staff, residents, and visitors alike. He even celebrated his birthday recently with a pool party at Camp Tanager, and if you've seen his happy face trotting through our halls, you know just how much joy he brings to our community.



Did You Know?

The artwork on the front cover of this report was created by youth in Tanager's Expressive Arts program.

Day on the Hill

Tanager is committed to standing up for the children, teens, and families we serve, always seeking new ways to create positive change in the field of youth mental health. At this year's Day on the Hill, our team connected with numerous state legislators to share real stories and urgent needs from our community.

These conversations helped amplify the voices of those we serve. By building relationships at the Capitol, Tanager continues to ensure that the people at the heart of our mission are represented where decisions are made.



Good & Giving People

Gary and Susie Streit give with both heart and purpose. “We’ve been incredibly blessed,” Gary shared, “and we wanted to use the skills and opportunities we were given to make a difference.”

Their journey with Tanager began when Susie, guided by her belief that children’s mental health matters because “kids are our future,” learned about Expressive Arts at Tanager and began supporting the program. Seeing her passion, Gary joined in. His outlook was shaped by growing up on a farm, where neighbors always helped one another, believing that when you have time, resources, and connections, you should use them for good. Together they’ve been making an impact ever since.

Over the years, the Streits have worn many hats: donors, board members, committee members, volunteers, and seminar leaders. Their support has touched milestones like the Camp Tanager expansion, Expressive Arts, and the Estle Building Campaign. They encourage others to give with trust: “Don’t restrict your gift. Trust the organization’s leaders to know where the need is greatest or unmet.”

Their generosity extends beyond Tanager, giving them a broad view of how nonprofits can work together. They also believe boards are strongest when they reflect many perspectives, a vision that has helped Tanager grow stronger.

Early on, they looked up to longtime supporters like Jared and Carol Hills. Today, they inspire new generations themselves. Asked about their legacy, they responded with a smile: “We would just like to be known as good and giving people.” At Tanager, we know them as exactly that—and so much more.

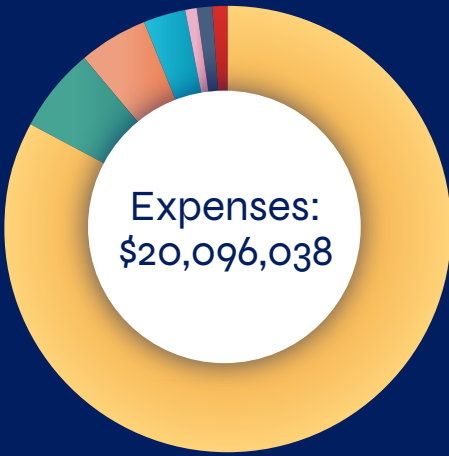


Pictured: Gary and Susie with their grandson

Financial Impact



To keep your donation information secure, we are choosing not to publish the names of our generous benefactors.



Personnel 83%
Supplies & Equipment 6%
Occupancy 5%
Professional Fees 3%
Other 1%
Professional Development 1%
Transportation 1%



Service Fees 87%
Donations 7%
Foundation 5%
Other Revenue Sources 1%

PREVENTION

Camp Manager

580 overnight campers
and 386 day campers
welcomed
497 free camperships
provided



Expressive Arts

360 outreach sessions
113 program offerings
at the Studio on 5th
9,261 youth
and 171 adults served



Freedom Schools

36 school-year scholars
and 61 summer scholars
were served
gap in reading scores
decreased by 33%



IECMHC

served 812 children
and 676 parents
provided 391 individual
case consultations



TREATMENT



of clients served by the
Mental Wellbeing Clinic
showed improvement in
self-harmful behaviors

20,159 sessions provided



of caregivers report
having a positive
experience with
Tanager BHIS

16,037 sessions provided



of clients report
improvement in stress
and internalizing
symptomology

96 clients served



130 clients served at
Summit House
(crisis stabilization)

* Treatment data for this report has been compiled from ASEBA and CAFAS assessments.

Lessons in Resilience

When our therapist first met Abby, a bright elementary student, teachers described feeling as though they were “walking on eggshells.” Friendly and well-liked, Abby sometimes became overwhelmed by small challenges like a tough assignment or change in routine. These moments often ended with her shutting down for the rest of the day, leaving classmates and teachers unsure of how to help.

Working closely with school staff and Abby’s mother, the therapist uncovered the root of her struggles: a heavy pressure to be perfect and deep fears of making mistakes. At such a young age, Abby carried an enormous weight of insecurity.

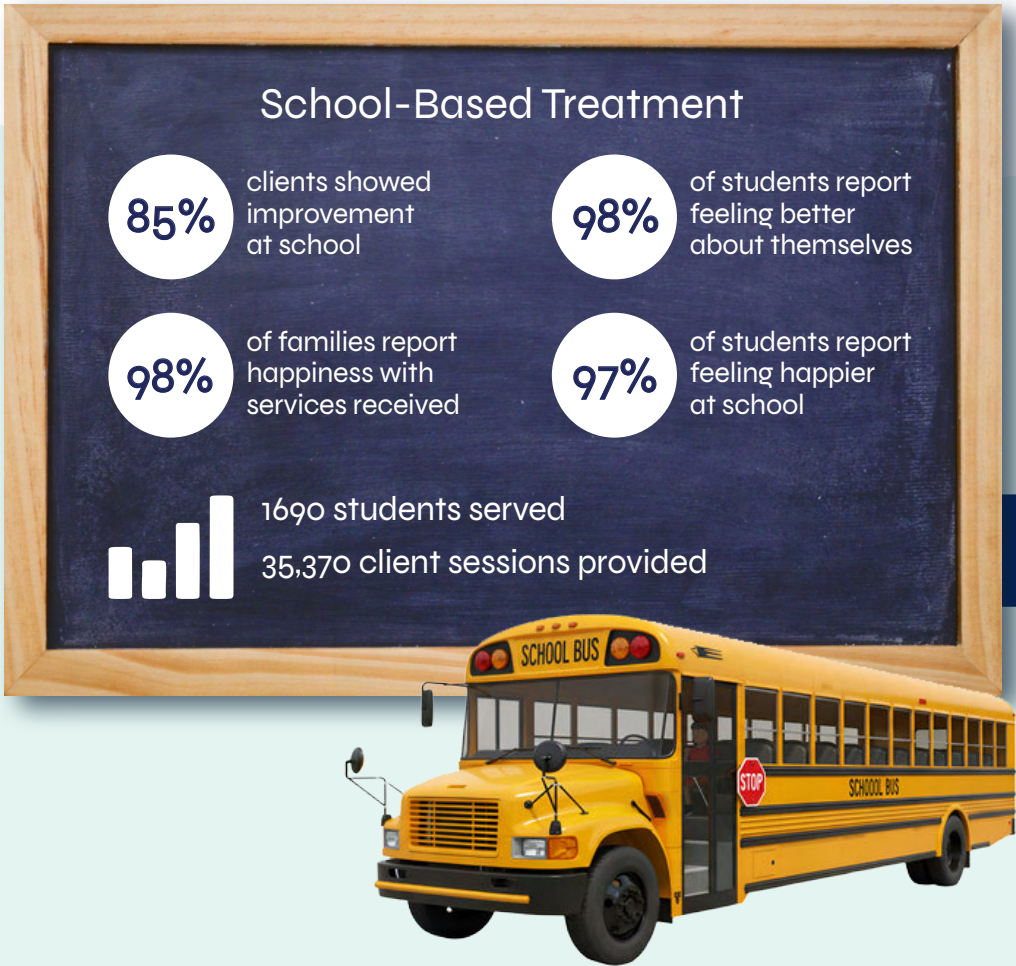
Through school-based therapy, Abby learned to identify her emotions, practice calming strategies, and find confidence in trying, even when things weren’t perfect. Over time, her spark returned. The same girl who once cried quietly at her desk was soon cracking jokes, joining in play, and embracing childhood again.



**Names have been changed in this impact story to protect the privacy of our clients.*



Alongside Abby, her younger sister also received support through Tanager’s school-based services. Knowing both girls were surrounded by trusted adults gave their mother peace of mind and renewed hope.



Abby’s mother shared this heartfelt message with our team:

“You don’t understand—that brought tears to my eyes. I have never had this much support for my girls, ever! I’m so lucky. The impact you make on my children—I promise I notice, and I share with others how amazing you are.”

Her words capture the heart of Tanager’s work: it’s about people—children being seen, families supported, and parents knowing they are not alone.



Strength in Story

At our May 2025 Resilience & Mental Wellbeing Summit, keynote speaker Imani McGee-Stafford shared her inspiring journey of perseverance and healing. A former WNBA player, lawyer, and mental health advocate, Imani encouraged attendees to embrace resilience, authenticity, and growth.

She reminded us that “life’s a journey, and I’m still journeying,” a message fostering hope, connection, and safe spaces for all. Her authenticity and openness inspired participants to carry forward important conversations around mental health and wellbeing.



Dedicated Board Members

Operating Board

Todd Kerska, President • Brandi Mueller, Vice President • Thom Pritz, Secretary • Molly Altorfer • Robert Becker • Laurie Dawley • Julie Estenson • Jane Glantz • Nikki Kettelkamp • Molly LaKose • Ali Limbert • Amber Mason Lusson • Lisa McGrath • Stacie Osako • Quinn Pettifer • Ben Rogers • Ryan Shenefelt • Ryan Shultz • Matthew Skogman • Susan Streit • Lisa Thirnbeck

Foundation Board

Dick Meisterling, President • Barrie Ernst, Vice President • Duane Jasper, Treasurer • Jane Glantz, Secretary • Kyle Boardman • Pat Deignan • Chad Fesler • Diana Ledford • Nancy Lynk • Lisa McGrath • Jim Novak • Jim Schmitt • Ryan Shenefelt • Duane Smith • Gary Streit • Lisa Thirnbeck • Fred Timko • Chris Wheeler

Associates Board

Justin Allendorf • Brandon Besong • Logan Dempsey • Chandler DeWees • JD Klopfenstein II • Jaime Mead • Blair Sadler • Sarah van Deest • Kyle Zimmerman

Save the Date:



Wreath Auction & Luncheon - December 13, 2025
Grill & Groove for Good - February 28, 2026
Tanager Golf Tournament - August 6, 2026

