

# BIENNIAL REPORT

2021-2022



**THE BAKER CENTER**  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Improving care. Changing lives.

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*\*Listings as of January 2023*

# Our Mission

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The Baker Center for Children and Families (also known as Judge Baker Children's Center), promotes the best possible mental health of children and families through the integration of research, intervention, training, and policy.



## Research

Through research we identify best practices.



## Training

Through training we disseminate skills in research and quality care.



## Intervention

Through intervention we bring those practices to children and families of diverse communities.



## Policy

Through policy development, we use scientific knowledge to expand public awareness and inform public policy.



# Letter From the President

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As we look back over the past two years, we reflect on the great changes our organization has experienced and the many accomplishments we've achieved during these challenging times. Many who have been with the organization for years were first introduced to us as The Judge Baker Children's Center. This year, we rechristened ourselves as The Baker Center for Children and Families. Our new vision places emphasis on a commitment to the services and values that have aided us in supporting families for over 100 years, while also bringing us into the future.

With this change in vision came a new look and feel to the organization. A new logo displaying our helping hands, fresh and exciting colors, and a new website chock full of family resources were just a few of the pieces that came alongside our rebrand.

Under our new identity, our direct service programs have flourished. The Center for Effective Therapy, our outpatient mental health clinic with locations in Boston and Waltham, served a record number of families both in-person and via telehealth options. Assessment services particularly have become a much-needed option for families during this time, and our expert clinical staff have been instrumental in getting them the answers they need alongside the treatment they need.

The Manville School, our K-10 special education school, has seen great strides as well with new leadership upholding the legacy of former Director, Jim Prince, and former principal, Hanna Savransky, who both retired this year after decades of service. Camp Baker, our summer camp for kids with ADHD at Hale Reservation, saw a record number of campers attend this past summer with over 90% of families reporting a noticeable change in their child's behavior.

Our Next Step: College Success & Independent Living program has seen much success recently as well with over 25 graduates, more than 70% of which went on to pursue higher education. Our Evidence-Based Policy Institute has been hard at work producing comprehensive reports which tackle critical issues such as COVID-19, school-based behavioral health, and issues facing LGBTQ+ youth.

Our Professional Training Program and Quality Care Initiative have both reached new heights in their shared goals of improving the quality of children's mental health care. Both programs have trained hundreds of professionals on the use of evidence-based treatments these past few years, even expanding their reach internationally.

And finally, The Massachusetts Child Abuse Emergency Line has been a vital resource for families during and after the pandemic. The Line received nearly 70,000 crisis calls over the past few years alone, and our expert staff was there to support families every step of the way.

As families adjust to the "new normal" in a post-COVID world, The Baker Center is poised to continue to be the helping hand they rely on for answers, support, and resources. The shockwaves the pandemic caused are still being felt across the world and children's mental health has never been more important. We will be here to help. If you need any support during this time, please know that we stand ready as a resource. We're here for you and you never need to worry alone.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert P. Franks Ph.D." in a cursive script.

**Dr. Robert P. Franks**  
President and CEO

# Letter From the Board Chair

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During my time as a trustee on The Baker Center's Board, I've witnessed firsthand a compassionate and dedicated staff poised to meet the mental health challenges of children and families both before, during, and after the pandemic. As I made my transition from trustee to Board Chair earlier this year, that same care and tireless devotion to The Baker Center's core values became even more apparent.

When previous Board Chair, Richard P. Breed, III, passed the torch onto me, I knew I was inheriting a long legacy of passion for children's mental health. Rick's contributions to the organization have been so impactful, and you can see that in the lives of the families the organization has supported these past two years. Under his leadership, the reach of the Center expanded to new and great heights, increasing access to life-changing services in many different areas of need. From special education to summer camps to outpatient clinics and more, the Board of Trustees

and talented staff at The Baker Center are dedicated to discovering new ways to uplift families. As the new Board Chair, I aim to continue to uphold this legacy so that no child is left unheard.

I want to celebrate all we have accomplished these past few and look toward the bright future of The Baker Center. We've hit new milestones, supported families in new ways, and made a difference like never before. As I begin my own legacy, my goal is to push us even further in the years to come. Thank you for your support. Without you, none of this would be possible.



**John Serafini**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees



# Program Summaries

We provide a range of comprehensive services and supports to children, families, and providers to improve and sustain the quality of mental health care. Our programs help support a continuum of care that works at the policy, systems, and practice levels to promote healthy development in children. Our key programs are briefly described below.

To learn more, visit [bakercenter.org](http://bakercenter.org)

## Camp Baker

A fun, therapeutic camp for children ages 6–12 with ADHD based at Hale Reservation in Westwood, MA.

## Center for Effective Therapy (CET)

An outpatient treatment center with locations in Boston and Waltham. CET helps children and families struggling with a variety of conditions such as anxiety, depression, disruptive behavior, and trauma using only clinically proven treatments.

## Evidence-Based Policy Institute

A program which advocates for progressive mental health policy by exploring pressing issues impacting children’s development and mental health.

## Manville School

A K-10 therapeutic special education school providing support for students who experience emotional, neurological, and/or learning difficulties that have impacted their ability to succeed in previous school settings.

## Massachusetts Child Abuse Emergency Line

A statewide, after-hours emergency response system designed to ensure the safety and protection of children across the Commonwealth. The Baker Center operates the Child Abuse Emergency Line for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF).

## Next Step: College Success & Independent Living

A college preparation program for teens with social language and anxiety challenges who are serious about pursuing higher education.

## Professional Training

A nationally recognized institution providing training that has developed leaders in the field of mental health and special education for decades.

## Quality Care Initiative

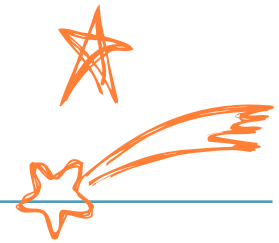
A program working to create lasting improvements in the quality of children’s mental health care. Our expert staff works to ensure that all children and families have access to the highest quality care.

## New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors

A consortium of child welfare agency leaders and staff from the six New England states, who work together to develop and implement policies that promote competent child welfare practices.



# Success Story – Meet Mia\*



Mia came to The Baker Center as a three-year-old when her parents were concerned about her development and concerning behaviors. Some children are shy and wary of strangers, but Mia could not talk to anyone but her parents. She even relied on her little brother to help her communicate. Mia’s parents were very worried about her, but many of their close family and friends told them that Mia was just being a shy toddler going through a phase.

But Mia’s inability to speak to others was more than just a “shy phase”. Her difficulties persisted and worsened over time. Mia’s anxiety would lead her to shut down and not vocalize her thoughts or feelings. “She was anxious about being with her friends and our family. She was even afraid to go outside,” said Mia’s mother, Annie. “It was heartbreaking to see her struggle.”

Mia’s pediatrician recommended that her parents contact the Center for Effective Therapy at The Baker Center to get Mia evaluated and the help she needed. Mia was diagnosed with selective mutism, a condition that is usually tied to deep anxiety and fear of embarrassment. As part of her treatment, Mia met weekly with Dr. Sarah Tannenbaum. “Right from the start, Dr. Sarah knew how to make Mia feel comfortable,” said Annie. “She also had this special ability to make Mia laugh and smile. We looked forward to seeing her every week.”

Mia and her parents participated in a special evidence-based treatment offered at the Baker Center called Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). PCIT allows parents to interact directly with their child while receiving instruction and guidance from a trained therapist in real-time. Parents learn strategies and skills to support their child and address the concerning behaviors. “We learned great tools, including how to use play and gentle

coaching to help Mia whenever her anxiety is taking over,” shared Mia’s dad, James.

After a period of successful treatment, Mia was able to get back on track and cope with her anxiety. “Mia is once again a happy child. She now shows confidence, has overcome her crippling shyness and is passionate about hip-hop dancing,” shared Annie. “To our delight, she recently performed in two dance recitals in front of large audiences.”

Mia and her family are grateful to Dr. Sarah and The Baker Center for giving Mia her voice to speak and the confidence to succeed. Mia has found the strength to know she can accomplish anything she puts her mind to.

The future of children struggling with mental health challenges is in our hands. With your support, we can continue to help families like Mia’s overcome obstacles and reach healthy outcomes. Our evidence-based practices and programs yield meaningful results that help children get back on track and provide parents with the support they need.

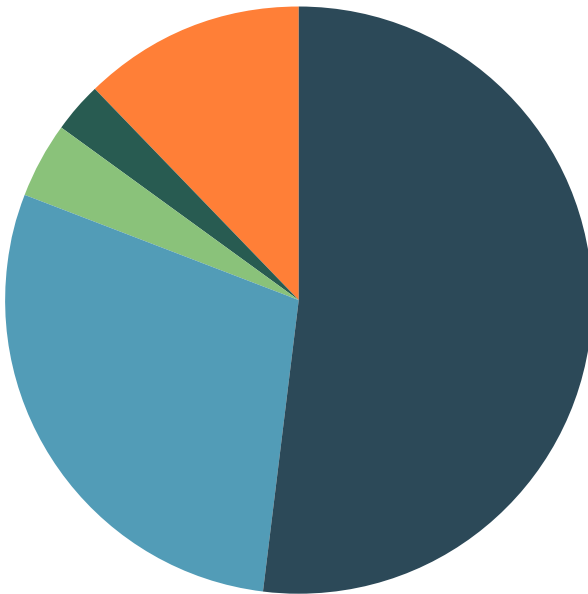
*\*Names have been changed for privacy*



# 2022 Financials at a Glance

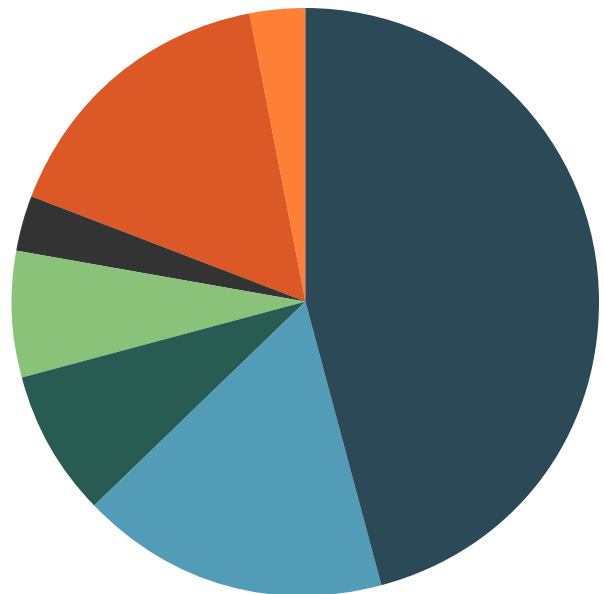
We continue to invest in the future of The Baker Center, building the capacity to support ongoing growth and new areas of work.

## Income



- 52% Tuition
- 29% Contract Income
- 4% Federal Research & Foundation Grants
- 3% Contributions, Trusts, Bequests, & Special Events
- 12% Other

## Expenses



### PROGRAM SERVICES

- 46% School-Based Programs
- 17% Community-Based Programs
- 8% Outpatient Clinical Services
- 7% Research & Training Programs
- 3% Commissioner's Association

### SUPPORTING SERVICES

- 16% Administrative & General
- 3% Fundraising



# Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022

Income	FY 2022	Income	FY 2021
Tuition	\$12,084,393	Tuition	\$10,969,327
Contract Income	\$6,694,047	Contract Income	\$6,579,221
Federal Research & Foundation Grants	\$883,795	Employee Retention Tax Credit	\$2,674,289
Spending Policy Transfer	\$840,827	Contributions, Trusts, Bequests & Special Events	\$1,203,217
Outpatient Clinical Service Fees	\$838,685	Federal Research & Foundation Grants	\$850,236
Contributions, Trusts, Bequests & Special Events	\$673,569	Outpatient Clinical Service Fees	\$573,931
Other	\$760,431	Other	\$288,161
Employee Retention Tax Credit	\$540,379	Spending Policy Transfer	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$23,316,126</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$23,138,382</b>

Expenses	FY 2022	Expenses	FY 2021
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>		<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	
School-Based Programs	\$11,835,208	School-Based Programs	\$10,484,028
Community-Based Programs	\$4,408,102	Community-Based Programs	\$3,997,984
Outpatient Clinical Services	\$2,014,015	Research & Training Programs	\$1,637,205
Research & Training Programs	\$1,711,847	Outpatient Clinical Services	\$1,518,705
Commissioner's Association	\$646,343	Commissioner's Association	\$668,702
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$20,615,515</b>	<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$18,306,624</b>
<b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>		<b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>	
Administrative & General	\$4,201,004	Administrative & General	\$2,919,323
Fundraising	\$850,490	Fundraising	\$563,186
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$5,051,494</b>	<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$3,482,509</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$25,667,009</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$21,789,133</b>
Change in Net Assets From Operations	\$(2,350,883)	Change in Net Assets From Operations	\$1,349,249

Non-Operating Income (Expense)	FY 2022	FY 2021
Gain on extinguishment of Paycheck Protection Program Loan	\$0	\$1,892,000
Utilization of Board Approved Spending Rule	\$(840,827)	\$0
Investment & Interest Income, net of investment expenses	\$184,569	\$97,783
Net Unrealized Gains/(Losses) on Investments	\$(1,368,738)	\$1,348,375
Net Realized Gains/(Losses) on Investments	\$126,009	\$442,847
<b>Total Non-Operating Income (Expense)</b>	<b>\$(1,898,987)</b>	<b>\$3,781,005</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$(4,249,870)	\$5,130,254
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$31,882,408	\$26,850,625
Net Assets at End of Year	\$27,632,538	\$31,980,879

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# The Baker Center: A History of Excellence

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Founded in 1917, The Baker Center for Children and Families is a Harvard Medical School affiliate with proven leadership in children's mental health. We have a long history of excellence resulting from the integration of research, training, and direct service. The Baker Center is committed to enhancing the quality of mental health care for children and families through the dissemination, implementation, and provision of evidence-based practices.

- The Baker Center has provided mental health services, training, and consultation to the greater Boston area for over a century.
- We have developed expertise in the most cutting-edge, effective evidence based mental health treatments for children.
- Our **Quality Care Initiative** works to create lasting improvements in the quality of mental health care and other services for all children and families, by working collaboratively to help ensure that all children and families have access to the highest quality care.
- We provide evidence-based direct services for anxiety, depression, trauma and/or behavior problems through the **Center for Effective Therapy**.
- We provide services for ADHD and related behaviors through **Camp Baker**, our summer camp based at Hale Reservation in Westwood.
- Our **Manville School** is a nationally recognized educational institution that provides best practices curriculum and instruction to children with developmental and mental health needs.
- The **Next Step: College Success & Independent Living** Program fosters skills for independent living in a college environment for students with social communication deficits.
- We have a significant research portfolio, funded by federal and state agencies and private foundations, focused on child mental health treatment and prevention strategies.
- We provide training and ongoing consultation in evidence-based mental health treatments.





**THE BAKER CENTER**  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**The Baker Center for Children & Families**

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