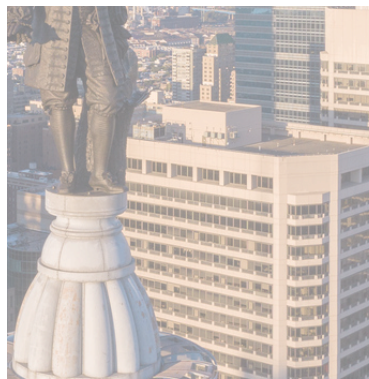




Program Report

FY24

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



UpliftPhilly.org

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Letter from Keri Salerno, Executive Director and Dorothy Flynn, Chair, Board of Directors

Dear Uplift Community,

This program report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (FY24) is presented with heartfelt gratitude. The successes outlined reflect the incredible efforts of staff, board members, interns, volunteers, community partners, and supporters who dedicate their time and resources to advancing Uplift's mission. Deep appreciation goes to the individuals, businesses, foundations, and government agencies whose generous investments ensure that Uplift's services remain free for all youth and caregivers in need. Above all, recognition is extended to the youth and caregivers who place their trust in Uplift, finding hope, healing, and connection along their grief journeys.

The need for grief support in Philadelphia remained critical this year, as loss and trauma continued to deeply impact communities across the city. Youth shared how deaths resulting from chronic conditions, substance use disorder, suicide, and homicide within their communities have profoundly shaped their lives. These losses are further intensified by systemic challenges, including racial and social injustice, poverty, and climate change, creating layers of complex trauma for Philadelphia's youth. Meanwhile, the demand for grief support continues to rise, with over 160 schools on the waitlist, representing nearly 1,600 youth awaiting care. These numbers underscore the urgent need for accessible and compassionate grief support to help children and families heal amidst ongoing loss and adversity.

Throughout FY24, the clinical team remained committed to addressing these challenges through Uplift's comprehensive suite of grief and mental health support services. These efforts were supported by the administrative team and board of directors, ensuring the continued delivery of free, high-quality grief support. To better understand program impact, a qualitative participant survey was introduced in 2022 with a detailed data analysis process. The most recent analysis, finalized in FY24 using data from the 2022-2023 program year, revealed that nearly 97% of youth responded "Yes" when asked, "Would you invite a friend who has had someone die to this grief group?" This response highlights the trust, safety, and support participants find in Uplift's grief services.

With the ongoing need for grief support in Philadelphia, efforts will center on innovation and expanding impact. Priorities for the coming year include strengthening existing programs, improving access to services, and creating new opportunities for healing. Through continued collaboration and support from the broader community, these efforts will reach those who need them most, working toward the goal of ensuring that no child in Philadelphia faces their grief alone.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Uplift community. As Uplift approaches its 25th anniversary in 2025, continued partnership in FY25 will play a vital role in bringing healing and hope to grieving children and caregivers for years to come.

With gratitude,



Dorothy Flynn
Chair, Board of Directors



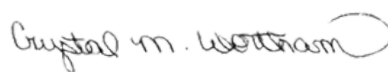
Jamar Johnson-Thompson
Vice Chair



Bikram Chadha
Secretary and Treasurer



Keri Salerno
Executive Director



Crystal Wortham
Clinical Director



Kevin McGuire
Development Director

Grief Groups

Uplift's therapeutic grief groups are for youth in grades K–12 and caregivers who are affected by a significant death(s) from any cause. This death can be of any significant person—a family, friend, loved one, and more—and can be from any amount of time ago.

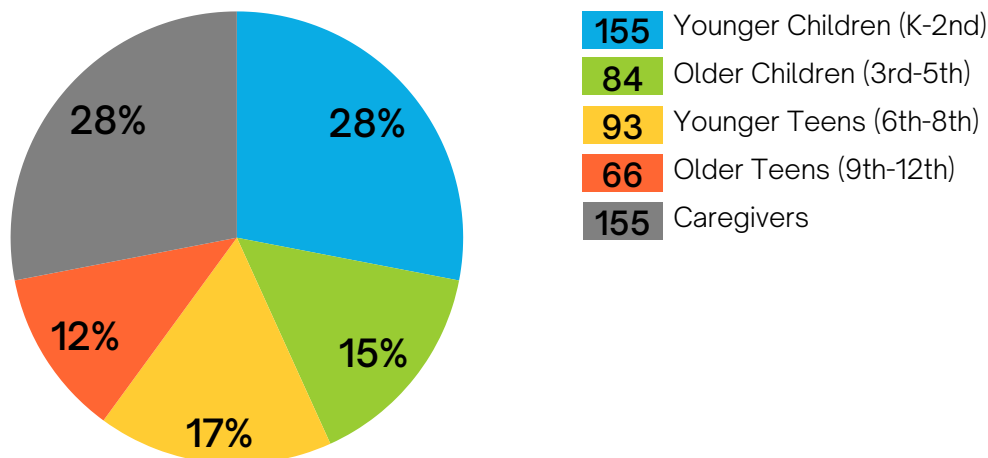
All groups are led by Uplift's team of Master's degree-level clinicians and facilitated with support from clinical interns and trained volunteers who provide trauma-responsive and healing-centered support. Groups allow youth and caregivers to express their grief through non-judgmental discussions, creative activities, grounding techniques, and other forms of therapeutic support. All grief services are free, regardless of immigration status, and do not require insurance.

Family Services

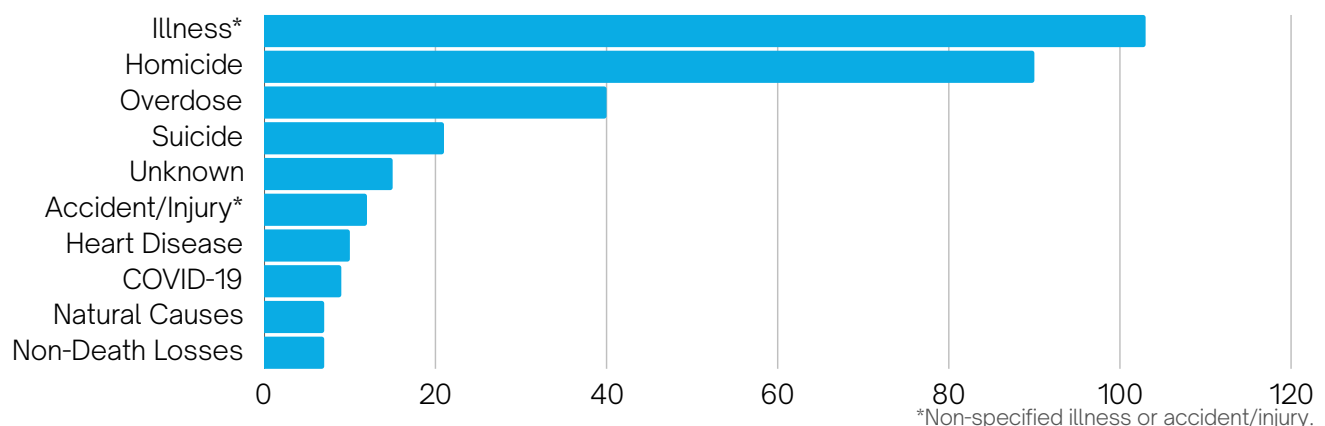
Family Services grief groups are open to families from throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. These ongoing groups run from September through May every year and take place in the evenings once a week for an hour. Family Services groups use two models: peer support, in which youth attend groups with developmental peers, and family support, in which youth attend groups with a caregiver or trusted adult and both share the group activities. Participants can attend as long as they need, cycle after cycle. Clinicians also provide care management for youth and caregivers in need.

276 youth and 155 caregivers attended Family Services groups in FY24.

Total Family Services Group Attendees, FY24



Most Commonly Reported Causes of Death: Family Services, FY24



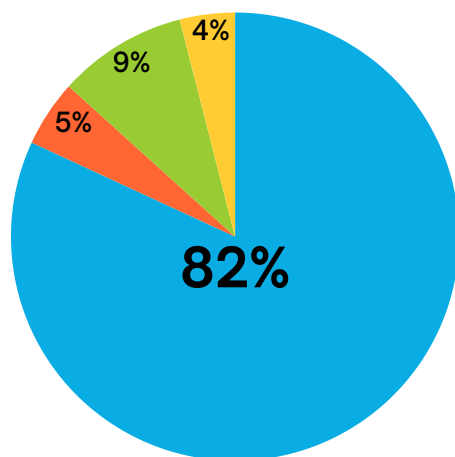
In-School Services

Uplift's In-School Services are grief peer support groups for youth in grades K-12. Partners include School District of Philadelphia-operated public schools, as well as charter, private, and religious schools. Participating students meet in-person during the school day for about one hour per week over a six-week period.

All In-School Grief Groups are facilitated by an Uplift Master's degree-level clinician. Grief groups are designed to be **trauma-responsive and healing-centered** and prioritize the agency, voice, and choice of attending youth.

726 youth at 92 schools attended a six-week In-School Grief Group in FY24, totaling **552 group sessions**.

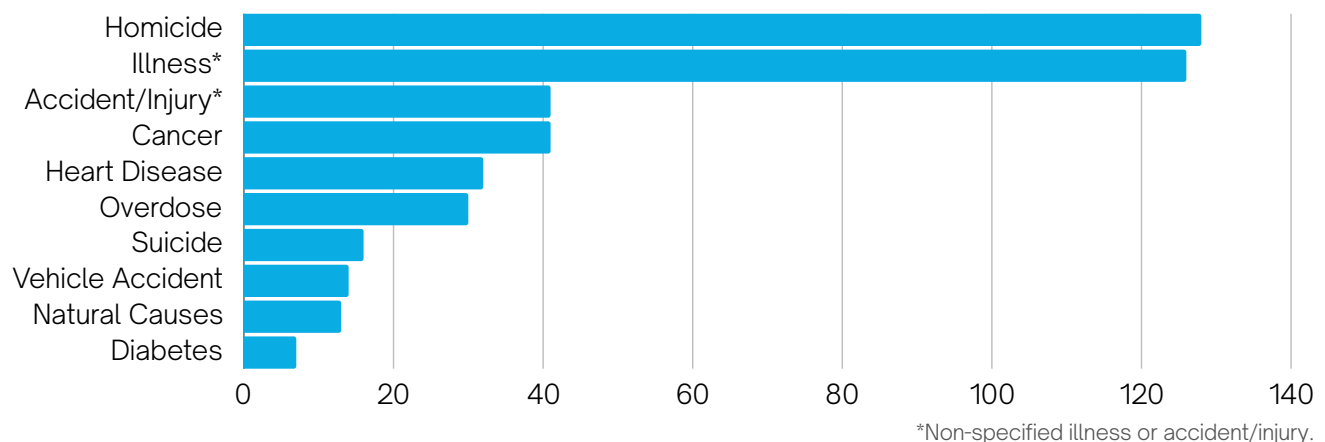
In-School Services Group Attendees, FY24



- **597 youth** attended general grief groups.
- **35 youth** attended Español (Spanish bilingual) groups, which were facilitated by a bilingual Uplift Clinician.
- **68 youth** attended grief groups at schools supported by the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, funded by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Healthier Together Initiative.
- **29 youth** attended Legacy Groups, memorial groups in which all participants share the same loss.



Most Commonly Reported Causes of Death: In-School Services, FY24



37% of youth attending In-School Grief Groups reported they were grieving **a death by homicide**. In FY24, homicide also ranked as the most commonly reported cause of death among students attending in-school groups.

Specialty Groups

Español

Uplift's Español grief groups allow Spanish-speaking and bilingual youth and caregivers to receive grief services in both peer support and family support settings. The Español curriculum was created by Uplift's Spanish-speaking clinicians, and adapts many of Uplift's activities to be culturally relevant and to align with the ways that Latin Americans understand and express grief.

35 youth participated in in-school Español grief groups and **5 families** attended Family Services grief groups during FY24.



Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families

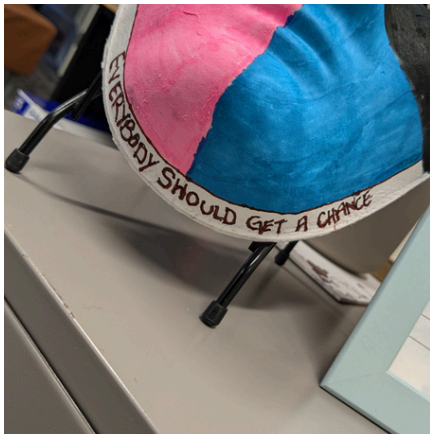
Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families (RPBF) is an evidence-based program that shares tools for caregivers to implement into their family routine in a supportive space with other grieving caregivers. Over a 10-week period, participants learn to meet the needs of children who are grieving while also dealing with their own feelings of grief.

RPBF is for any caregiver of a child/children who has recently experienced the death of another caregiver. Anyone who provided care to the grieving child is considered a caregiver, including parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles, family friends, and legal guardians.

RPBF was developed at Arizona State University's REACH Institute with support from the New York Life Foundation. Uplift is the only organization in Philadelphia offering this program to our community. Five of Uplift's clinicians are certified as leaders in RPBF, and two are certified group supervisors.

9 caregivers successfully completed the Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families program in FY24.





Grief Groups for Justice-Involved Youth

Uplift partners closely with the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center (PJJSC), the only secure youth detention center in Philadelphia, to provide therapeutic grief peer support groups with justice-involved youth during their stay at PJJSC.

134 youth attended Uplift grief groups held at PJJSC in FY24.

Because PJJSC is a transient setting, it is often not feasible for youth to complete a traditional five- or six-week grief group. **Uplift condenses its in-school grief group curriculum to two 3-hour groups**, so youth have the opportunity to close with the group before they are moved.

Healthier Together

Since 2021, Uplift has held grief groups in partnership with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Healthier Together initiative. Families who live in West and Southwest Philadelphia can access Growing Resilience in Teens (GRIT) in the evenings through a CHOP referral, along with in-school grief groups in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania's Netter Center for Community Partnerships' (Netter) University-Assisted Community Schools (UACS) programs.

Healthier Together groups are composed of youth 8-18 and their caregivers. Group participants receive support with both grief associated with death and grief associated with ambiguous losses, such as the incarceration of a parent or caregiver.

123 youth and 19 caregivers participated in a virtual GRIT group or attended a Netter-affiliated group in their school during FY24.

In the last four years, **1,348 people** received grief services through Healthier Together.

Training Services

Uplift provides education on grief and trauma to professionals in the City of Philadelphia and neighboring counties. By equipping professionals including teachers, counselors, social workers, and therapists, to better understand grief and trauma and to support grieving children.

During FY24, Uplift trained **1,008 professionals** at **43 professional development trainings**.

FY24 Training Sites



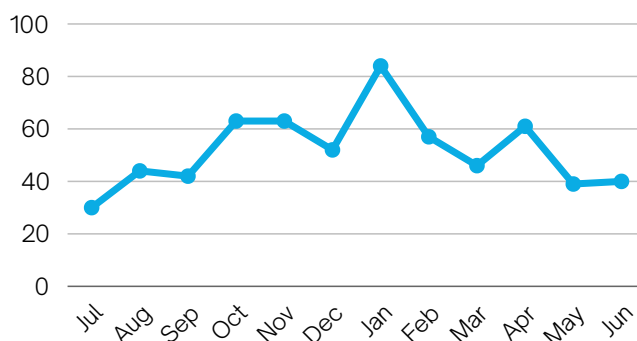
Philly HopeLine

Uplift's Philly HopeLine (1-833-PHL-HOPE) is a free and confidential helpline that is staffed by Uplift's Master's degree-level clinicians. The Philly HopeLine is open to all youth, caregivers, schools, and service providers in the Philadelphia region.

Callers to the Philly HopeLine can receive emotional or grief support, sign up for grief groups, join Uplift's waitlist for school grief groups, identify community resources, make a referral for a youth or family, or request a grief training. Interpretation services are available for more than 100 languages.

During FY24, the Philly HopeLine received **607 calls**.

Number of calls per month, FY24



First launched in 2020 as a way for youth and families to receive remote trauma-informed grief and emotional support during the COVID-19 lockdown, the Philly HopeLine is now a connection point for youth and caregivers to sign up for grief groups and connect with community resources, and for service providers to make referrals.

66% of calls made to Uplift's Philly HopeLine are from callers expressing **interest in joining a grief group**, and **55%** of calls result in a caregiver, youth, or family **enrolling in a grief group**. The remaining calls are inquiries about Uplift's programs, emotional support, and referral requests to other social services.

Strategic Plan 2024-27: Growth Without Compromise

In May 2024, Uplift Center for Grieving Children announced its 2024–2027 strategic plan, themed **Growth Without Compromise**. As Uplift looks toward continuing to support and strengthen emotionally resilient communities, it is poised for significant growth. There is a considerable need for professional grief services, and it is vital for Uplift to be more present and more pervasive in communities.

Uplift intends to expand in a managed, mission, and values-driven way. **Growth Without Compromise** means to hold fast to providing high-quality services, acting as a trusted partner, and being driven by core values. Uplift will proceed methodically and creatively, remaining responsive to the changing needs of youth and caregivers and retaining the attributes that make its services effective.

Below are the tenets central to Uplift’s strategic plan, which were developed collaboratively between Uplift’s staff and board of directors.

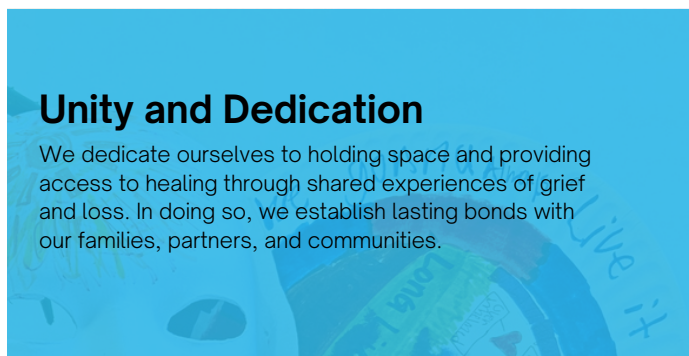
Love and Compassion

To best serve and support youth, caregivers, and communities, love and compassion is at the center of all we do.



Unity and Dedication

We dedicate ourselves to holding space and providing access to healing through shared experiences of grief and loss. In doing so, we establish lasting bonds with our families, partners, and communities.



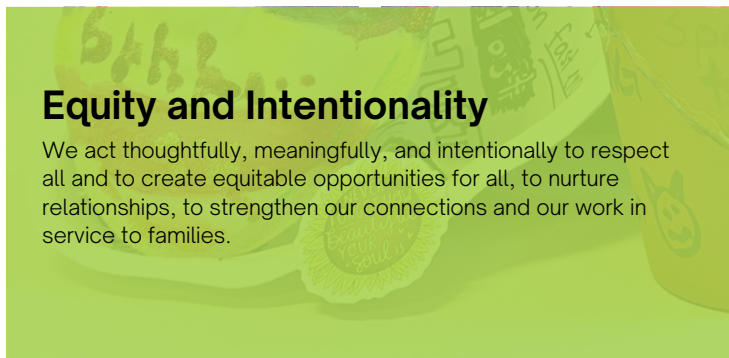
Inclusive and Essential

We strive to foster an atmosphere that is tailored to the needs of our communities, honoring the unique histories, cultures, identities, and systems of marginalization. We start by doing this essential work internally to achieve the cocreation of healing spaces where all are heard and valued.



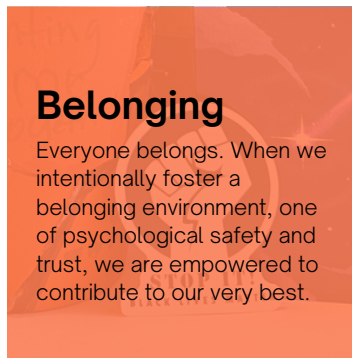
Equity and Intentionality

We act thoughtfully, meaningfully, and intentionally to respect all and to create equitable opportunities for all, to nurture relationships, to strengthen our connections and our work in service to families.



Belonging

Everyone belongs. When we intentionally foster a belonging environment, one of psychological safety and trust, we are empowered to contribute to our very best.



Strategic Plan Goals



Responsive Grief Services

- **Make Uplift's grief services easier for all to access.**
 - Relocate Uplift's office and provide more equitable access to grief services.
 - Forge new strategic partnerships.
 - Enhance Uplift's tools as an accessible and responsive resource.
- **Meet grieving people where they are through cultural awareness and outreach.**
 - Deepen community-based relationships.
 - Support clinicians and other staff with continued training.
 - Recruit staff with lived experiences that reflect those of the youth and caregivers Uplift serves.
- **Include perspectives of Uplift's participants while designing and carrying out programs.**
 - Create opportunities for youth to give insights on Uplift's program development and impact assessment.
 - Establish ways for youth and caregivers to remain in community after they complete grief services.



Shared Understanding & Collective Action

- **Educate the public about the value of professional grief services.**
 - Raise awareness of grief, trauma, and systemic issues.
 - Host convenings and opportunities that facilitate networking and collaboration.
- **Build Uplift's capacity for thought leadership around understanding and supporting youth who are grieving.**
 - Invest in opportunities for staff to advance knowledge in the field.
 - Co-develop evidence-based practices with community partners.
- **Motivate others to act in support of youth who are grieving.**
 - Define "grief" and "loss" as intersectional and inclusive of ambiguous losses.
 - Destigmatize grief and loss through public education campaigns.
 - Provide information about unmanaged grief and loss.



A Culture of Mutual Accountability

- **Sustain a supportive, collaborative, and flexible workplace.**
 - Advance equity in the workplace and create opportunities for staff professional development.
 - Enhance Uplift's systems, technology, and infrastructure.
 - Engage staff, board, and supporters in community-building activities.
- **Enhance the board's capacity to ensure current and future organizational health.**
 - Develop a strategic, multi-year perspective that anticipates leadership succession.
 - Provide new and current board members with tools to position Uplift for growth in capacity, profile, and resources.
- **Diversify and increase resources to fuel managed organizational growth.**
 - Conduct values-driven financial modeling.
 - Encourage a wide spectrum of donors and a broader base of support.
 - Monitor goals for long-term organizational stability.

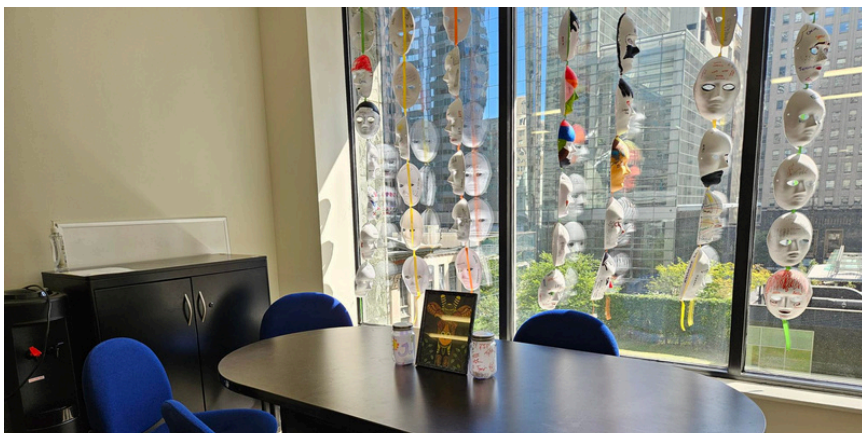
Uplift's Office Move

As part of our strategic plan to increase the accessibility of grief services, Uplift moved in August from the Falls Center Live Work Complex in Philadelphia's East Falls neighborhood to the Sterling Commercial Center in Logan Square. Located at the intersection of 18th St and John F. Kennedy Boulevard near Philadelphia's City Hall, Uplift's new office can be reached by visitors traveling on the Market Frankford Line, the Broad Street Line, all SEPTA trolleys and Regional Rail trains, several SEPTA bus lines, PATCO, and NJ Transit. This central location is also close to Route 76, 676, and I-95 for visitors traveling by car, along with Broad Street and Market Street.



Top: Uplift's team holds its first all-staff meeting in the new office. Back row, from left: CJ Roseberry, Crystal Wortham, Keri Salerno, Darcie Rudolf, Samantha Anthony, Lamya Broussard, and Dave Pannepacker. Front row, from left: Katherine Streit, Yaa Allen, Chabeli Angeline Noval, Sam Middleton, and Katherine DiPierro.

Bottom: Elements from Uplift's new office at 1819 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, including one of two in-suite conference rooms and grief group supplies.



Youth Advisory Board

Samorae Bates-Sam

William B. Saul High School

Janiyah Brown

Mastery Charter Schools, Pickett Campus

Brian Gagne

William B. Saul High School

Vanessa Helms

George Washington High School

Devon Jones

Upper Dublin High School

Diamond Saunders

Mastery Charter Schools, Pickett Campus

Ahmya Tolbert-Wilson

High Roads School of Philadelphia

Najae Bennett

Simon Gratz High School

Rahsana Brown

Mastery Charter Schools, Pickett Campus

Ayanah Harley

Central High School

Cecelia Henderson

Lankenau Environmental Science Magnet School

Honesty Kearse

Simon Gratz High School

Derrick Smith

High Roads School of Philadelphia

The Youth Advisory Board is led by young people who are current or former grief group participants. They provide feedback and insights on the needs of Philadelphia's youth in order for Uplift to best meet their needs.

Friends of Uplift

Meghan Welch¹

Chair, FY24

Emet Bergman, LCSW³**Meg Gladieux³****Madelyn Jenkins³****Marta Lawler³****Larry Lewis****Dave Pannepacker³****Michelle Johnson²**

Chair, FY25

Shonda Brinson³**Kerra Henkin³****Peter Kuenne****Annabel Lewis³****Bill Lucas****Brian Sumner**

Friends of Uplift is Uplift's fundraising volunteer organization. Members share Uplift's mission and programs with their families, friends, and colleagues, and support fundraising as donors and volunteers.

Originally founded as the Young Professionals Board, Friends of Uplift changed its name in FY25 to encourage membership across all ages, professional backgrounds, and levels of work experience.

¹ Left Friends of Uplift in FY24.

² Became Chair in FY25.

³ Joined Friends of Uplift in FY25.

Uplift In Communities

Media Appearances

In FY24, Uplift's clinicians, executive leadership, and program participants participated in three stories which centered on Uplift's mission and programs.



The Carver Times

The Gun Violence Crisis in Philadelphia and The Organizations That Are Contributing to Fix It

By Anya Carter & Deasy Huynh

Published November 20, 2023

Katherine Streit, MSW, LCSW, M.S. Ed interviewed with student journalists at George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science's newspaper. The article covers Uplift's grief groups as one of the free resources available to youth affected by a homicide death.

[Read More](#)

East Falls center gives children a place to process loss collectively

By Constance Garcia-Barrio

Published January 1, 2024

Keri Salerno, Crystal Wortham, MSW, LCSW, and Tasha Sammons (an Uplift caregiver) spoke with Constance Garcia-Barrio about Uplift's programs. The article centers Tasha and her son S'vante's experiences as program participants, and also covers the services Uplift offers beyond grief groups.

[Read More](#)

MIGHTY WRITERS

The Mighty Writers Podcast with Maureen Boland: Talking About Grief with Counselor Samantha Anthony

By Maureen Boland

Published March 7, 2024

Samantha Anthony, MS, LPC spoke with Maureen Boland, Senior Writer for the nonprofit Mighty Writers. In this interview, they discuss how grief presents itself in young people, Uplift's work with students at the Juvenile Justice Center, and what it means to say that grief is a social justice issue.

[Read More](#)

Speaking Engagements

Uplift's clinicians share their expertise with professionals, volunteers, and youth bereavement advocates as panelists and presenters at speaking engagements. In FY24, clinicians presented to **over 2,000 attendees** at conferences, seminars, and online webinars.



Grief Talks: Supporting Children Who Are Grieving Homicide Deaths

September 6, 2023

Samantha Anthony, MS, LPC offered tools, language, and interventions, that can be used to support youth grieving a homicide death, and explored how homicide-related grief may present in and impact youth.

[Watch the Webinar](#)



NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION

New York Life Foundation 2023 Annual Day of Learning

November 1, 2023

Lamya Broussard, LCSW, MSS, MLSP joined a national panel of grief professionals to discuss what it takes to create and maintain grief support partnerships with schools, what resources are available, and the value of these crucial relationships.

[Watch the Webinar](#)



Eluna Community Conversation: Grief Through the Lens of LGBTQ+ Youth & Communities

September 21, 2023

CJ Roseberry, MSW joined members of LGBTQ+ youth-serving organizations to discuss the unique barriers that LGBTQ+ youth and communities face when seeking grief support, along with actionable steps organizations can take toward building brave, affirming spaces.

[Watch the Webinar](#)



2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief

June 17-19, 2024

Samantha Anthony, MS, LPC, Darcie Rudolf, MA, LPC, NCC, and Kristan Vaughn, MHS attended and presented at the National Alliance for Children's Grief's 27th annual symposium in Denver, Colorado.

Samantha and Kristan participated in the conference poster session, presenting "Waiting For Death: Grieving Youth in the Justice System and their Perspectives on Death," co-authored with Michelle Gonzalez, MSW. Samantha and Darcie gave a slideshow presentation during the conference titled "How Do I Know My Program Works? Ethical & Sustainable Qualitative Analysis of Youth Self-Report Data," which was co-authored with Michelle Gonzalez and Katherine Streit, MSW, LCSW, M.S. Ed.

Community Outreach

Tabling events are held throughout Philadelphia and encourage caregivers, youth, and community partners to learn more about Uplift's programs and services. These events often occur with partner organizations including the School District of Philadelphia, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, Mastery Schools, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

During FY24, Uplift's clinical team met with thousands of youth, families, and representatives from like-minded organizations at **32 community outreach events** around Philadelphia.

FY24 Community Outreach Partners



Academy at Palumbo
Andrew Hamilton School
Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha
Benjamin Franklin High School
Boys' Latin School
Brady United and CeaseFirePA
Children's Crisis Treatment Center
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Congreso de Latinos Unidos
CORA Services
Esperanza Academy Charter School
George Washington Carver High School
KIPP West Philadelphia Elementary Academy
Mastery Schools Mann Campus
Moms Bonded By Grief
Multicultural Academy Charter School
Netter Center
Northern Children's Services
Northwest Victim Services
Northwood Academy Charter School
Philadelphia 76ers
Philadelphia Eagles Charitable Foundation
Roosevelt Elementary School
Sayre High School
School District of Philadelphia
Treehouse Books
Wagner Middle School

Highlights from community outreach events in FY24: Darcie Rudolf attends the Northern Community Resource Fair, youth make touchstones during the School District of Philadelphia's Family Resource Fair, and Kevin McGuire and Nicole Daly attend CHOP's Community Health Partnership Clinic.

Staff Directory

Yaa Allen, MA, E-RYT, SEP²

Senior Uplift Clinician

Lamya Broussard, LCSW, MSS, MLSP

Senior Uplift Clinician

Dominique Downes, MHRM³

Human Resources Manager

Kevin McGuire¹

Director of Development

Roberto Mejía, MSW³

Bilingual Uplift Clinician

Sam Middleton, MS

Senior Uplift Clinician

Dave Pannepacker⁴

Office Manager

CJ Roseberry, MSW

Family Care Clinical Coordinator

Darcie Rudolf, MA, LPC, NCC

Family Care Access Coordinator

Katherine Streit, MSW, LCSW, M.S. Ed.

Associate Director of School Services
& Professional Trainings

Crystal Wortham, MSW, LCSW

Director of Clinical & Education Services

Samantha Anthony, MS, LPC

Senior Uplift Clinician

Katherine DiPierro

Development & Communications Associate

Michelle Gonzalez, MS⁴

Senior Uplift Clinician

Tiffana Mclean, MSW³

Healthy Families Clinical Coordinator

Teresa Méndez-Quigley, MSW

Associate Director of Family Services
& Innovative Practices

Chabeli Angeline Noval, MSW, LSW

Senior Uplift Clinician

Sherrie Rucker, MSW³

Uplift Clinician

Keri Salerno, MGA

Executive Director

Kristan Vaughn, MHS³

Uplift Clinician

¹ Hired in November 2023.

² Received title promotion in FY24.

³ Left Uplift in FY24.

⁴ Left Uplift in FY25.

Interns and Volunteers

Clinical Interns

Madelin Aspelmeier

Master's of Social Work candidate
(graduation May 2024), Temple University

Nicole Daly

Master's of Social Service candidate
(graduation May 2025), Bryn Mawr College

Samantha Jardin

Bachelor's of Social Work candidate
(graduation May 2024), La Salle University

Annabel Lewis

Master's of Social Work candidate
(graduation May 2024), University of Pennsylvania

Maggie Mohen

Master's of Clinical & Counseling Psychology
candidate (graduation May 2024),
Chestnut Hill College

Uplift Grief Group Volunteers

Marissa Abel

Logan Fosu

Mark Andrew Leeper

Katherine Mendez

Brian Myers

Chen "Roxie" Peng

Francesco Salamone

Dan Stein

Ellie Wood

Trecina Bowen

Leslie Glatz

Tara McDonnell

Kamille Mosqueda

Iris Ogando

Spencer Rose

Paulina Guerra Schleske

Emily Sullivan

Drexel University College of Medicine Health Advocacy Practicum (HAP) Students

Suchita Anigol

Jessica Kuo

Vicky Shih

Sanjiv Harikumar

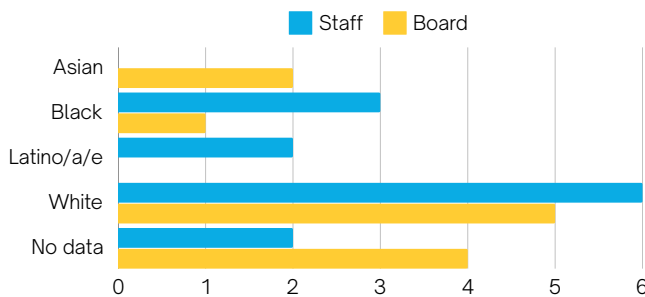
Jessica Lu

Staff and Board Demographics

Beginning in 2024, Uplift began collecting voluntary demographics from its staff and board members. 84% of staff and 75% of board members participated in the inaugural demographics survey.

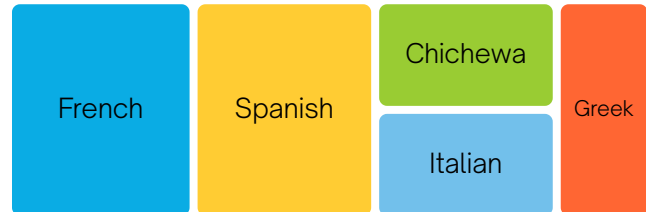
Self-Identity Metrics

Race and Ethnicity

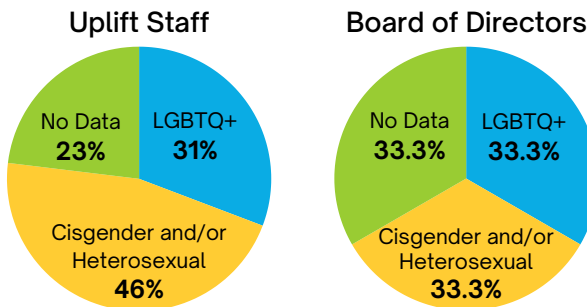


Languages Spoken

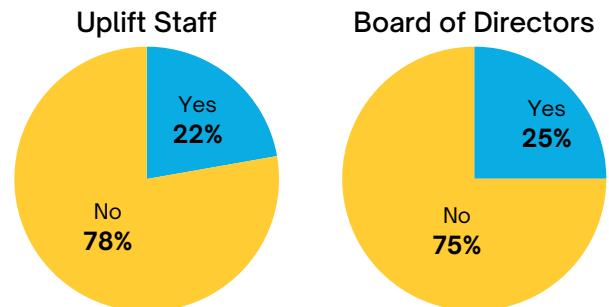
22% of surveyed staff and board members reported speaking a language other than English



Gender and Sexuality



Disability Status



Connection to Uplift's Mission

69% of staff and 50% of board **grieved the death of someone important to them** by the time they turned 25.

Connection to the City

100% of staff and 50% of board **have ties to Philadelphia** and were either born in Philadelphia, grew up in the city, or are current residents.

Board of Directors

Board Leadership

Dorothy Flynn

Board Chair

Retired

Jamar Johnson-Thompson

Board Vice-Chair

Kraft Heinz

Bikram Chadha, MBA

Secretary and Treasurer

Russell Investments

Board Members

Rob Cellucci⁵

Tactix Real Estate Advisors

Barbara J. Chance, Ph.D.

CHANCE Management Advisors, Inc.

R. Ryan Conner, MPA³

Tactix Real Estate Advisors

Abby DePrimo

Think Company

Kristine Grady Derewicz, JD⁴

Littler Mendelson P.C.

Duane Lacsamana⁷

WSFS Bank

Ashwin Korde

AAJI's Foods

Christopher Barrett Politan¹

Give, Get, Grow Philanthropic Advisory

Diamonique Robinson⁵

West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative

Eryn Santamoor, MPA⁶

Lauren Vidas²

Enact Strategies

Elliott Wilson, MBA, PMP

Flying Pig Consulting

Board Members Emeritus

Brigitte Addimando, MBA

RavenPoint Consulting

Steven Bohner

AmeriHealth Caritas

Kristine Grady Derewicz, JD⁴

Littler Mendelson P.C.

Steven Doherty, MBA

CBRE

David Lafferty

Wescott Financial Advisory Group

¹ Elected to board in October 2023.

² Elected to board in February 2024.

³ Left board in April 2024.

⁴ Became member emeritus in June 2024.

⁵ Elected to board in June 2024.

⁶ Left board in October 2024.

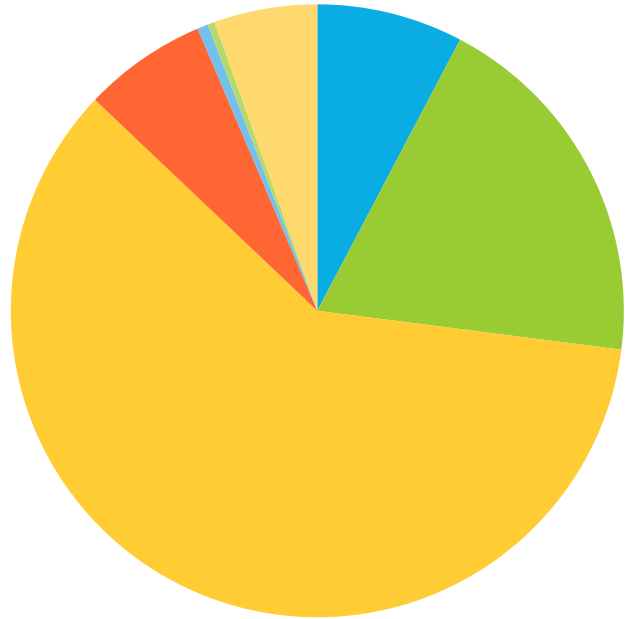
⁷ Left board in November 2024.

FY 24 Audited Financials

July 01, 2023 – June 30, 2024

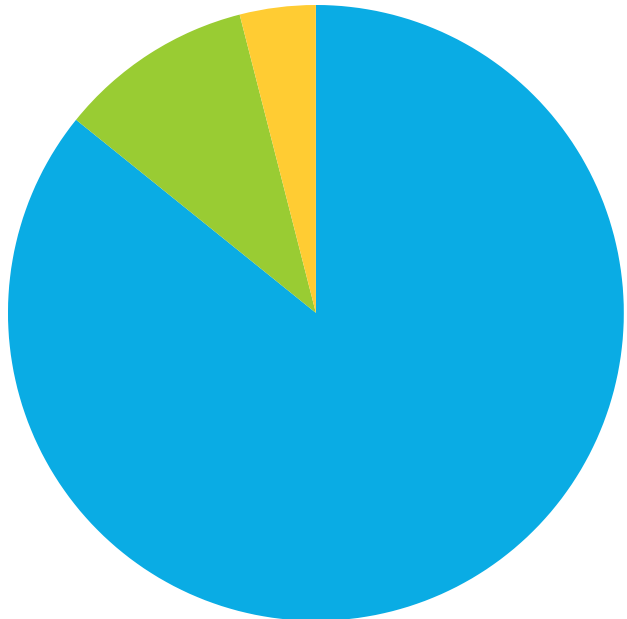
Revenue and Support

Foundations	7.7%
Individual & Corporations	19.3%
Government Grants	60.1%
Special Events	6.5%
Training & Consultation	0.6%
Net Investment Return	0.4%
Interest Income	5.4%



Expenses

Program Services	86%
Management & General Services	10%
Fundraising	4%



Financial information in Uplift's 2024 Program Report is based on audited data. For a full report, please contact Kevin McGuire, Director of Development, at kevinm@upliftphilly.org.

25 Years of Uplift

In 2025, Uplift Center for Grieving Children celebrates its **25th year** as a nonprofit. [Follow this timeline](#) to view highlights from Uplift's history.



Rob Sheesley, M.Div., Director of Family-Patient Relations and Pastoral Care at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, creates a new program for bereaved youth and families with **Janis L. Keyser, Ph.D.**, the Executive Director of UNITE, Inc., a prenatal and perinatal grief support nonprofit.

1995



Rob and Janis's program incorporates as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, **The Center for Grieving Children, Teens, and Families** (The Center). Groups take place at St. Christopher's Hospital in the Waldo Nelson Pavilion. During its first year as an independent nonprofit, The Center supports over 500 families.

2000



The Center expands grief support groups to its first satellite location outside of St. Christopher's Hospital, **St. Mary Medical Center** in Langhorne, PA. This pilot program serves teenagers in lower Bucks County and the Far Northeast.

2003



The **Calvary United Methodist Church** in Cedar Park partners with The Center as a satellite location for grief groups. The Center celebrates 10 years of offering grief services and grief education at St. Christopher's Hospital.

2006



The Center moves to **1139 East Luzerne St** in Juniata and establishes a satellite grief group at **Rodin Place** in Philadelphia's Fairmount neighborhood. The Center also works with the **Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia** to hold grief groups specifically for youth grieving a death by homicide.

2008



The Center moves to **3300 Henry Ave** in East Falls and changes its name to "The Center for Grieving Children." A new community satellite grief group begins at Tindley Temple UMC in Southwest Center City.

2012



Rob Sheesley departs as Executive Director and is succeeded by **Darcy Walker Krause, J.D., LSW, C.T.** The Center begins grief group partnerships with the **School District of Philadelphia** and the **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)**, and begins a satellite group site at the CHOP Karabots Pediatric Care Center in West Philadelphia.

2013



The Center provides free in-school grief groups to **199 youth at 25 schools** during its first year of Community-Based Programs. **144 additional families** attend grief groups in East Falls or at community partner sites around Philadelphia.

2014



The Center begins offering grief groups for **Spanish speakers** and establishes satellite groups at **Calvary Christian Church** in Oxford Circle. Between 2014 and 2015, the Center provides grief support to **1,481 youth and caregivers** and trains 252 professionals.

2015



The Center for Grieving Children changes its name to **Uplift Center for Grieving Children**. Uplift begins offering grief groups for justice-involved youth at the **Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center**. Uplift's grief group curriculum is purchased for the first time by the **Cambria-Somerset Victims Services** agency.

2018



Uplift begins to offer **LGBTQIA+ youth grief groups** and the **Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families** program. Two community satellite sites open: the **Lenfest Center** in Hunting Park and the **Church of the Holy Trinity** in Rittenhouse Square. Uplift joins the **Greater Philadelphia Grief Collaborative** with four childhood bereavement-focused nonprofits: **A Haven** (Exton), **The Center For Grief and Loss** (Skippack), **Peter's Place** (Radnor) and **Safe Harbor** (Willow Grove).

2019



Uplift pivots to remote grief services in response to COVID-19 lockdowns. These include the **Philly HopeLine**, a helpline offering on-demand grief and emotional services, **school and family grief groups held over Zoom**, and **Uplift At Home**, an online resource library with tip sheets and videos for youth and caregivers.

2020



Healthier Together

Uplift joins the **Healthier Together** initiative in partnership with CHOP and the University of Pennsylvania's Netter Center for Community Partnerships. Uplift offers both in-school grief groups at University-Assisted Community Schools and evening groups by CHOP referral.

2021



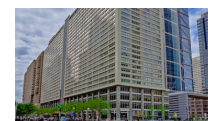
Darcy Walker Krause departs as Executive Director of Uplift. Uplift's grief curriculum is purchased by **Fayette County Public Schools** in Lexington, Kentucky.

2022



Keri Salerno, MGA is selected by Uplift's Board of Directors as its new Executive Director.

2023



Uplift moves offices from **3300 Henry Ave** to **1819 JFK Blvd** in Logan Square. Uplift's inaugural Youth Advisory Board forms, with 13 former program participants.

2024

Donor Recognition

Major Donors

Radiant Hearts

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

Shining Kindness

The Berstein Family Foundation

The Howard Family Gift Fund

An Uplifting Evening 2024

Hope Sponsor

Independence Blue Cross

Resilience Sponsors

Broadridge

Julianna Hike Fund

Thrive Sponsors

Little

Morgan Lewis

PFM Asset Management

Pennon

Tactix Real Estate Partners

Kristine Derewicz

Eryn Santamoor

Promise Sponsors

AAJ'S Foods

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Journey Sponsors

Darco Capital

PECO

WSFS Bank

Supporter Sponsor

JKRP Architects



Top photo: Uplift's team attends "An Uplifting Evening" at Vie by Cescaphe on May 2, 2024. Back row, from left: Darcie Rudolf, Kristan Vaughn, Lamya Broussard, and Katherine Streit. Middle row, from left: Teresa Méndez-Quigley, Katherine DiPierro, Keri Salerno, CJ Roseberry, Crystal Wortham, and Kevin McGuire. Front row, from left: Sherrie Rucker, Dave Pannepacker, Michelle Gonzalez, Chabeli Angeline Noval, and Samantha Anthony.

Bottom photo: Uplift's Board of Directors at An Uplifting Evening on May 2, 2024. Back row, from left: Jamar Johnson-Thompson, Lauren Vidas, Bikram Chadha, Kristine Grady Derewicz. Front row, from left: Eryn Santamoor, Christopher Barrett Politan, Elliott Wilson, Dorothy Flynn, Abby DePrimo, and Barbara Chance.



Thank You

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 @upliftcenter