

# SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Helping Families Help Themselves Since 1897



2024

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IMPACT  
REPORT

Featuring  
Miriam\*



# ABOUT US

Santa Maria Community Services concluded its 126th year of operation in Cincinnati by successfully serving nearly 3,000 individuals and families. We strengthen families in the Greater Price Hill area by removing barriers and helping them attain their educational, financial, and health goals. Some of the results of walking alongside the families we serve include:

- Parents being empowered to help their children get ready for kindergarten.
- Youth learning violence prevention and social skills from caring, supportive adults.
- Young adults gaining work experience and financial literacy skills for life.
- Families maintaining their housing and avoiding eviction.
- Immigrants gaining proficiency in the English language.
- Families receiving tangible support in the form of food and wellness services.

Please read through this Impact Report for additional details about our work. We are deeply grateful to all our volunteers, donors, and funders who have made these results possible for the families we serve. Thank you for your partnership!

With gratitude,



Jorge Seda  
Board Chair

H.A. Musser, Jr.  
President & CEO

Jorge Seda  
Board Chair

## Mission

Santa Maria is a catalyst and advocate for Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial, and health goals.

## Vision

Our vision is for Greater Price Hill to be a vibrant, thriving, and self-sustaining community.

## Miriam: A Grandmother's Love and Strength in the Face of Adversity

For more than three decades, Miriam has opened her heart and home to children in need. It all started when her twelve-year-old son's friends had nowhere else to go and no food in their homes. Without hesitation, Miriam opened her home and her heart. What began as an act of kindness turned into a lifelong commitment to caring for children who needed stability and love.

Years later, Miriam's role as a caretaker grew even more challenging when her son's four children needed care due to their mothers' illnesses. Miriam stepped in again, raising the youngest two herself when the two oldest were adopted into other family homes.

Then, tragedy struck on what she fittingly describes as the worst day of her life. Miriam's daughter was killed in a devastating car accident, leaving behind six children. Heartbroken and grieving, Miriam did what she had always done: she put love first. She took in four of her daughter's children, bringing the total number of kids in her home to six.

"When you lose a child, you feel like it's the worst thing that could ever happen to you," says Miriam. "But having the child at all is a blessing. You just have to cherish them and understand your role for however long you have it. For whatever reason, He left me here to take care of these [grand]kids, so I'm going to do it."

While her love never faltered, the weight of responsibility was overwhelming. She was raising six children, each struggling with their own grief, trauma, and behavioral challenges like ADHD and Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

They began falling behind and acting out in school. On top of that, Miriam's own grief weighed heavily on her heart, and her health began to decline due to chronic pain and arthritis, making it difficult to drive and complete daily tasks. The emotional, physical, and financial burdens were immense, but Miriam was determined to keep going.



### Finding Support Through Santa Maria

Realizing she didn't have to do it alone, she turned to Santa Maria's Stable Families program for support. Miriam's Family Support Worker, DeAzia, stepped in to help. One of the first priorities was helping her grandchildren heal from the accumulating tragedies that they had been through, so DeAzia connected them with a therapist who understood their needs, giving them a safe space to process their trauma and work on their challenges.



## Miriam (continued)

With emotional support in place, the next step was making sure their home was a comfortable, organized, and functional space. DeAzia connected Miriam with resources to provide furniture, working with Habitat for Humanity to improve their living conditions and help them get organized. Because Miriam's arthritis makes driving unsafe, DeAzia also found a way to deliver essential household items, ensuring that Miriam had what she needed without the added stress of transportation.

Beyond the home, financial stability was another major concern. Santa Maria's Stable Families program helped cover utility bills, which in turn allowed Miriam to afford medications that her insurance did not cover while she and DeAzia worked together on improving the household budget. "I wouldn't trade [DeAzia] for the world. She always checks up on me and calls me. I can talk to her about stuff that I wouldn't want to talk to my friends or family about," Miriam says. "We talk about whatever is going on—recipes, how to manage the household, how the kids are doing—she's easy to talk to and has no judgment."



Miriam made the decision to homeschool the children in a virtual program to give them more stability and a better sense of structure. Now, with the family's basic needs starting to be met, the children are beginning to thrive in their homeschooling environment, focusing on their education without the weight of financial instability and with the added support of improved mental health. Miriam proudly reported that one of them even made the honor roll this semester!

### Looking Ahead

Today, Miriam is still the primary caretaker for five of her grandchildren, with one having moved into transitional youth housing. As she continues to support and guide them, her focus remains on ensuring they stay steady in school and develop the skills they need to enter adulthood with confidence.

But she's also setting an important goal for herself: prioritizing her own health. She knows that in order to continue being there for her grandchildren, she has to take care of herself, too.

Miriam's story is one of strength, sacrifice, and boundless love. Though life has tested her time and time again, she has met every challenge with resilience. And with the support of Santa Maria's Stable Families program, she won't have to face them alone anymore.

\*Disclaimer: To protect the privacy of our clients, the images used (including the cover photo) are stock photos courtesy of Canva and do not depict actual Santa Maria Community Services program participants.

# FAMILIES SERVED

During 2024, Santa Maria served 2,913 individuals through a wide variety of programs and services.

## Early Childhood

24 graduating children in the Every Child Succeeds program are on target with their social and emotional development.



108 preschool children enrolled for 6 months or more in our Promoting Our Preschoolers program had increased language development.

## Workforce Development

80 individuals had employment barriers removed through the Workforce Development program.



277 individuals received employment coaching through the Workforce Development program.

## Stable Families

153 households enrolled in the Stable Families program have had one or more barriers to stable housing and risk factors removed.



113 households maintained housing stability for at least 12 months.

## Supportive Services & Wellness

262 families attended at least one of our community health events.



1,943 individuals received supportive services including notary services, benefit application assistance, food and produce distribution, and medical referrals.

## Youth

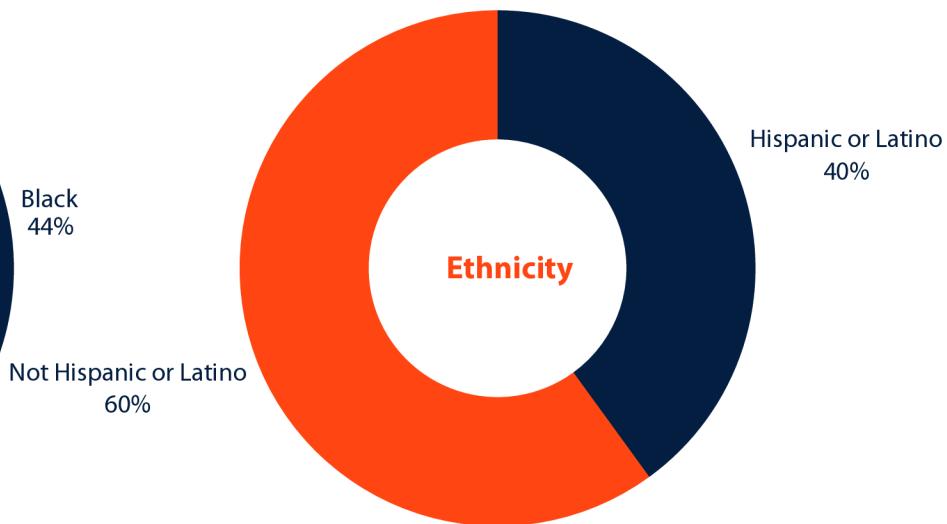
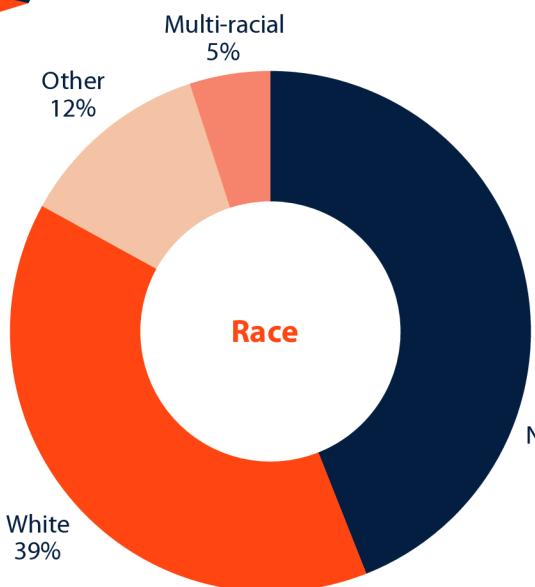
130 at-risk youth who attend after school programming at Joe Williams Family Center have an increased feeling of safety in the community.



112 at-risk youth who attend after school programming at Joe Williams Family Center felt more equipped with emotional regulation skills.



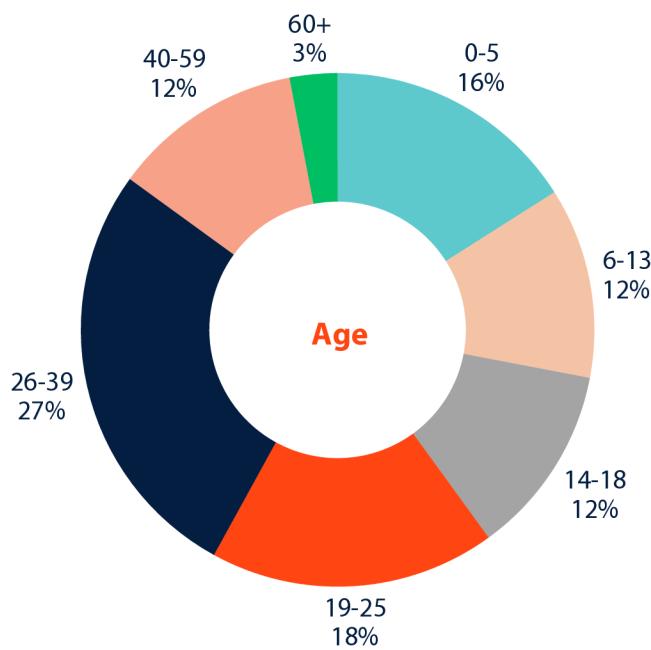
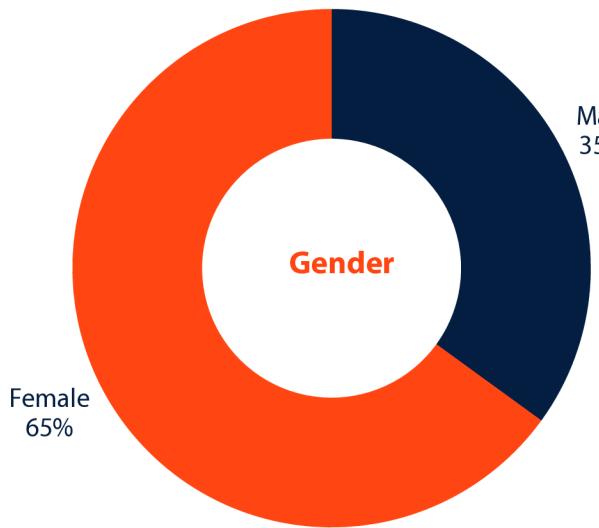
# INDIVIDUALS SERVED \*



93% of participants had an income below the Federal Poverty Level.

## Barriers include lack of:

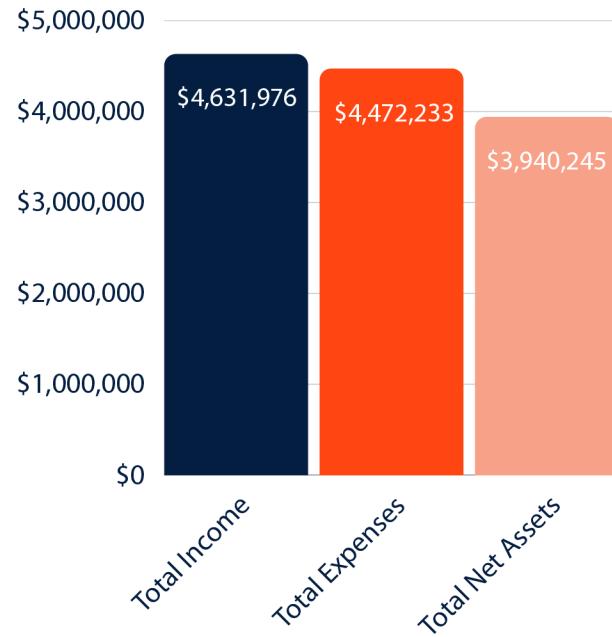
- Education
- Transportation
- Safe & Affordable Housing
- Health Insurance



# 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is an overview of Santa Maria's unaudited operating income and expenses from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Total Income	\$4,631,976
Program Expenses	\$3,388,897
Fundraising Expenses	\$408,135
Admin Expenses	\$675,202
Total Agency Expenses	\$4,472,233
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$7,000
Board Restricted Assets	\$572,969
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$1,573,322
Operating/Other Assets	\$1,786,955
Total Net Assets	\$3,940,245



## WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY SAYING?

What are some of our program participants and community members saying about Santa Maria? Read below for some of our 2024 Google Reviews!



“Santa Maria is a great nonprofit. When it comes to helping the community they help set the standard.”



“The staff is very kind and helpful. They'll help with diapers and other things! Job resources, Christmas, etc.”



“They are very helpful and busy at times but when you need assistance with anything they are there to help they have help me whenever I need help I'm glad to give 5 stars, thank you all.”



# THANK YOU, 2024 SUPPORTERS!

We are deeply grateful for the incredible support we received in 2024. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to expand our programs and reach more families and individuals in need. A special thank you to our One Building Thriving Families capital campaign donors. Your support is building a stronger future, and we look forward to recognizing you in our 2025 Annual Report.



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