

# BEYOND LIMITS



BUILDING

BRIGHTER



FUTURES



Empowering People. Building Futures.

## 2024 Annual Report

# EMPOWERING LIVES

## at School, Home, and Work

Our scope isn't limited to one aspect of life; it extends to every place where people live, learn, and grow. At Birch Family Services, we understand that true fulfillment comes from success in all areas of life, and that's why we're dedicated to being a constant presence wherever we're needed across the lifespan—whether at school, home, work, or in the community.



**2,000+**

Individuals supported every day.

**11**

Education Programs for students ages 3-21 across New York City.





Birch Locations



Education Program



Residential Program



Habilitation Program



Administrative Office

Manhattan



Bronx



Brooklyn



Queens



150

Individuals supported in  
our Residential Program.

62%

of New Frontier members  
employed or are  
actively receiving  
employment support.



**Matt Sturiale**  
President & CEO

### Dear Friends,

This past year, Birch Family Services has experienced remarkable growth, a testament to the profound difference we are making in the lives of those we support. We have conquered the challenges of supporting an expanding complex population, by adjusting and adapting our services using person-centered strategies, innovation, and compassion. This approach allows us to address diverse needs while expanding in new directions and constantly enhancing our current programs.

Fueled by our unwavering determination, we have harnessed the strength of collaboration to fortify our standing as a leading provider of services for children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities in New York City. United by our shared mission, we are dedicated to empowering individuals with autism and developmental disabilities to lead enriched and fulfilling lives.

As we reflect on the year, there is much to be proud of as we celebrate the positive impact we've had on the children, adolescents, adults, and families who rely on Birch every day.

Our students have thrived both in and out of our classrooms, thanks to our education team's excellence in delivering high-quality learning experiences across our schools. By creating customized environments that cater to each student's unique abilities, we've seen students like those mentioned in this report make incredible progress in their development.

Our community services team has ensured that each person we support can thrive at home, succeed in the workplace, and engage meaningfully in their communities. As we've expanded our programs, we've never lost sight of our core mission: transforming dreams into reality. Through this, we have inspired and equipped individuals to seize new opportunities, constantly fostering a culture of growth, self-reliance, and endless possibility.

Our New Frontier team has led efforts to elevate and expand our individualized employment services, tailoring support to align with each participant's unique ambitions and career aspirations. We've empowered young adults with autism and developmental disabilities to focus on their abilities and self-direct their own futures.

Our success wouldn't be possible without the compassion and cooperation of all our stakeholders. We are fortunate to have the support of our dedicated Board of Directors, tireless staff, families, corporate and government partners, donors, and volunteers, all of whom are instrumental in helping us chart new paths to success.

Our work remains integral to a broader social justice movement that fights for the civil rights of people with disabilities. Through our commitment to creating positive impact, we have transformed ourselves into changemakers and dedicated advocates, prepared to be a voice for those who seek our support and their families. By pushing beyond limits, we have learned and proven that anything is possible, for Birch Family Services and those we support. It is by joining together, as an organization and the broader community, that we can put our shared vision into action and continue to build brighter futures for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Matt Sturiale





**Kimberly Hernas**  
Board Chair

**Dear Friends,**

This past year, I have been both proud and honored to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors, contributing my expertise and leadership to support the organization's mission. Birch Family Services goes above and beyond in providing innovative, life-changing support for children, adolescents, and adults with autism and developmental disabilities across their lifetimes. Each year, this organization makes an astounding impact on thousands of individuals and families across New York City, empowered by its experienced leadership, dedicated Board of Directors, and expert staff. Birch leads the way as an organization with a steadfast community, constantly adapting to meet the ever-growing need for essential services.

Over the past year, I have had numerous opportunities to see our mission in action. The quality of Birch's person-centered support services, delivered daily by our remarkable staff, is truly inspiring. My deepest thanks go to the staff at Birch—the heart of our organization—whose dedication fuels our mission to go Beyond Limits in creating brighter futures. I also extend heartfelt gratitude to the individuals, self-advocates, and families who are a vital part of the Birch community. Your stories inspire and move us all.

As we look to the future, I am committed to advancing Birch's growth and evolution, working closely with the Board, our leadership team, families, and other partners to expand Birch's reach and impact. We are determined to ensure that all individuals we support are empowered to explore new possibilities and reach beyond the limits of what was once thought to be possible. Thank you for joining with us and helping to make a difference in the lives of those who seek our assistance.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kim Hernas

# SHAPING TOMORROW

## Our Education Program

Delivering a vibrant and exceptional educational experience is at the heart of what Birch does, we ensure every student can excel and embrace every possibility to thrive and build the foundations of a bright future.

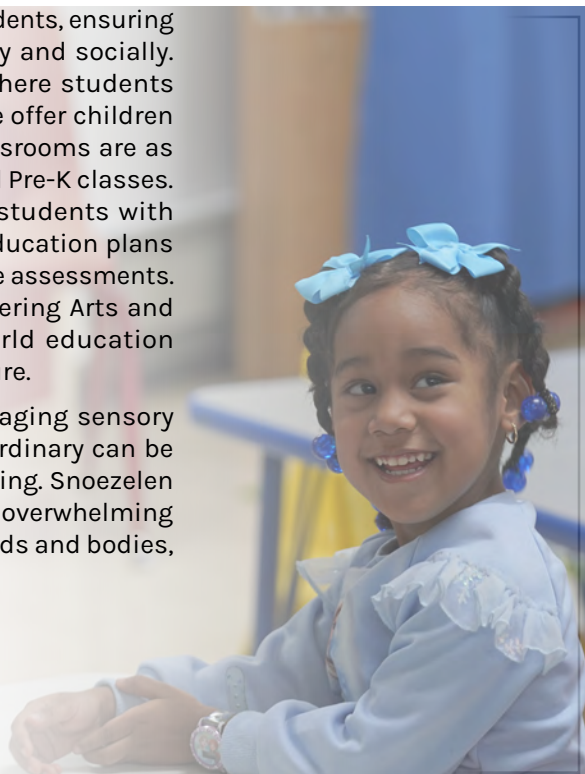


### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Birch's educational programs are designed to meet the needs of students, ensuring that they receive the support they need to succeed academically and socially. We create engaging person-centered learning environments where students can develop the skills and confidence to achieve their dreams. We offer children the chance to learn in the least restrictive environment. Our classrooms are as small as 6 students and as large as 15-18 students in our Universal Pre-K classes. Understanding the unique and sometimes complex needs of students with autism and developmental disabilities, we craft individualized education plans tailored to each student's specific abilities based on comprehensive assessments. Our curriculum infuses principles of Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), person-centered learning, and real-world education experiences that focus on home, school, and pathways to the future.

For students with autism and developmental disabilities, managing sensory responses is a priority. Everyday stimuli that others might find ordinary can be overwhelming, leading to anxiety, frustration, and difficulty focusing. Snoezelen rooms, included in each of our schools, offer a refuge from these overwhelming sensations, giving students the space they need to calm their minds and bodies, so they can return to the classroom ready to learn.

- Pre-School Special Education (4410)
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) for 3- and 4-year-olds





## 4410 Enhancement

With the 4410 Enhancement Contract, our preschools used the digital version of the Creative Curriculum, which provided additional resources for planning and instruction. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant we were able to offer extracurricular enhancements that encourage understanding, learning, and physical activity for children such as using musical instruments, incorporating art activities, creating engaging and fun science lessons, using physical education and development activities, providing interaction with animals, and exploration of the dramatic arts.

## SCHOOL-AGE SPECIAL EDUCATION (853)

Operating at three New York State-approved, non-public schools in Manhattan and Queens, our 853-designated School-Age programs offer an enriching and individualized educational experience. Our curriculum goes beyond traditional academics, incorporating literacy, mathematics, art, technology, communication, and life skills into creative and engaging activities. This comprehensive approach ensures that students are not only learning but also developing the practical skills they need to navigate daily life.

When 18-year-old Jhon D. first arrived at Birch, he needed a change. His previous school couldn't provide the specialized support he required. But with Birch's integrated home and school support, everything turned around, allowing him to succeed.

Before Birch, Jhon often came home upset and withdrawn, struggling to communicate his needs and even unable to eat meals with his family. His loved ones saw he wasn't receiving the help he needed to develop crucial life skills for thriving at school or home.

"He had stopped socializing, and he was not as independent as we were trying to get him to," said Jhon's sister Kiara.

His family enrolled him in Birch Family Services' Phyllis L. Susser School for Exceptional Children, and he also became a resident of our Children's Residential Program (CRP). Through his work with teachers and staff at the CRP, he has since made significant strides in improving his life skills and expanding his knowledge.

This shift has been nothing short of remarkable for Jhon, not only in his ability to communicate but also in how he engages with those around him including the other students at Susser.

"At school, he is now able to build relationships and make friends," said Kiara. "When John is at Susser, he gets all the supports he needs."

The staff at the Susser school and the CRP worked as a cohesive team to develop person-centered plans catered to Jhon's unique challenges and goals. His sister was able to witness this firsthand when it became clear to staff at both locations that he no longer needed one-to-one supervision on the bus ride to school.

"One of the things that I love about the staff is that their dedication is one hundred percent. They put his needs first," Kiara said. "Staff join together as a team to develop the best plan and strategy, and that is pretty amazing."

For Jhon's family, they are hopeful for a future where John continues to grow and work toward a fulfilling life.

"We're hoping that Jhon will be more independent," said Kiara. "He will always need support, but with guided help we know he can thrive in the community."



*Jhon is happier, more present, and able to engage more. He has grown tremendously and has changed for the good. At school, he is now able to build relationships and make friends."*

*- Kiara, Birch Family Member*

Building Brighter Futures, Together

Our mission extends beyond the classroom—we strive to provide the best tools for families to become strong advocates for their children. Families are the backbone of our students' lives, providing the love, care, and support that are critical to their development. We work together with families, ensuring they have the resources, knowledge, and confidence to advocate effectively for their children.

Parents like Isaac and Roshelle, who were uncertain about the future when their son, Adejuwon, was diagnosed with autism. At his previous school, Adejuwon's unique needs were not being met in a large, non-specialized classroom setting. However, after discovering Birch Family Services and touring the Springfield Gardens Education Center, they found a place where Adejuwon could thrive, and they could feel comfortable knowing he was in compassionate and capable hands.

“His progress has been remarkable—everyone is in awe,” said Isaac. “We’ve seen how far he’s come and how much more he will achieve.”

This past school year, Adejuwon's development was so significant that he was reevaluated and placed in a larger classroom, where he could experience greater independence and interaction with his peers.

“As a mom, it’s wonderful to see him engaging more,” shared Roshelle. “At Birch, we’ve found everything we wished for.”

Isaac and Roshelle credit the dedicated staff at Springfield Gardens for nurturing Adejuwon's potential and helping him flourish. While Adejuwon is still on his journey at Birch, with many milestones ahead of him, his future is exceptionally bright.



Isaac, Adejuwon, and Roshelle at Springfield Gardens





## The Power of Family Partnership

Working with parents is a key component of our strategy for student success. We aim to foster parent-child relationships and equip families with the essential tools they need to support and engage their children beyond the classroom. This mission is guided by our unique approach, which is built upon three core pillars:

- Relational trust
- Mutual respect
- Cultural responsiveness

## Creating Collaboration

Our Parent Advisory Committee provides parents a direct voice in their children's education and a platform to obtain and share critical information, learn advocacy strategies, and actively participate in school events and activities. Parents involved in the Parent Advisory Committee are more than just observers—they are active contributors to the educational process.

Beyond school-specific activities, Birch Family Services offers numerous opportunities for parents to engage in agency-wide initiatives and events. We also offer parent training, parent informational sessions, and support groups for further assistance. These events are designed to deepen the connection between families and the larger Birch community, providing additional avenues for involvement, support, and shared experiences.





# EXPANDING IMPACT

# EMPOWERING POTENTIAL

## Our Community Services Program

Home is where independence begins, and our Community Services Division is committed to helping individuals develop the skills and confidence needed to manage their daily lives. Through personalized support and training, we assist individuals in mastering essential life skills—such as cooking, budgeting, and personal care—so they can live as independently as possible.



### EMPOWERING INDEPENDENT LIVING

#### Residential Services

Birch Family Services' Residential Services program is dedicated to facilitating independent living for children, adolescents, and adults who require comprehensive 24-hour care. Whether in our Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) or Individual Residential Alternatives (IRAs), we provide personalized support to help over 150 residents cultivate the essential life skills needed for maintaining their well-being, pursuing their dreams, and achieving their life goals on their journey towards further independence. We work with families and individuals to identify their unique milestones and aspirations, developing personalized plans using a person-centered approach that enables them to live as independently as possible.

#### Caring For Exceptional Youth at Home

Birch's Children's Residential Program (CRP) provides a supportive environment for youth aged 10-21. Designed to combine education with residential services, the CRP offers comprehensive, 24/7 support. This dual-support approach ensures that children and adolescents receive the care, education, and guidance necessary for their development. With close collaboration between our residential staff and the Phyllis L. Susser School for Exceptional Children, we ensure that our program's educational and residential aspects are fully integrated, providing a consistent and seamless experience.





### Creating Meaningful Opportunities Through Supported Housing

We are constantly evaluating new initiatives that can create meaningful change where individuals may thrive. Through the support of our government partners (New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development), Birch now offers individuals with autism and developmental disabilities who can live without 24-hour supervision the opportunity to live in their own apartment - a supportive environment suitable for their specific needs and customized staff support. Our first project, the Marion-Creston apartments in the Bronx, provides affordable apartments for up to 10 individuals. These individuals receive frequent comprehensive assistance from Birch to further their life skills, take care of their own home, and be part of their community. We recently broke ground on the Bronx Park South apartments, set to offer similar housing options for 16 individuals in the next year. This is just the beginning of our journey to expand our reach, and we remain focused on our mission to transform lives, one person, one family, and one community at a time.

For the first time in his life, Jonathan, a 31-year-old neurodiverse individual, turned the key to his own front door, stepping into a space that was entirely his. The apartment was spotless, had brand new appliances, and, for Jonathan, it was a dream come true.

"I'm happy," said Jonathan. "I feel wonderful to be able to be on my own and live in my own apartment."

Born in Guayana, Jonathan came to New York in 2006 with his family and, although he was close to them, he had dreams of being more independent and living on his own. Jonathan found his residence in Queens didn't provide the level of independence he wished for. Although he needed support in developing life skills, he knew he had the ability to live by himself.

When Jonathan began his search for a new apartment, he never thought it would be so difficult. He needed help to find a comfortable and affordable place to live that also offered the support to help him live independently. After connecting with Birch Family Services, Jonathan was selected for the Marion-Creston Apartments, part of Birch's new Supportive Housing Program in the Bronx. The program supports living opportunities for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities who do not require 24-hour support.

Birch staff assisted him with the logistics of moving into his new home and arranging the additional support he would receive including learning specific skills he identified he wanted to learn on his own.

"There are things that I don't know how to do, that are challenging to me like how to pay rent, how to pay bills, and how to live on my own," said Jonathan. "Birch helps teach me the skills that I need to learn, and I want to learn as much as I can."

Jonathan, who currently works at Mount Sinai as a part-time Housekeeper, has his eyes set on another goal—his road to further independence.

"I'd like to go to school to learn a trade and get my GED," he said.

Birch's support staff will be able to assist him in obtaining his GED and reaching this educational milestone.



### From Skills to Success: Building Independence with Our Habilitation Program

We strive to create an environment where individuals can learn and cultivate greater independence, growth, and connection within their communities. Through our home and community-based programs - specifically day and community habilitation, we facilitate the development of essential life skills, such as communication, socialization, self-care, and independent living skills, alongside establishing meaningful community relationships. Using individualized plans, tailored support, and targeted training to meet the unique needs and aspirations of each person we serve allows our Birch Family Services community members to thrive. We look forward to expanding initiatives in community based day and community habilitation beyond our work in Brooklyn and Queens.

# BREAKING BARRIERS

## BUILDING SUCCESS

Finding meaningful employment can be challenging for anyone, especially for adults on the spectrum or with other developmental disabilities. Given that individuals with disabilities face the highest unemployment rates, securing a job is a significant milestone that not only provides financial independence but also fosters a sense of purpose, inclusion, and self-worth.



### NEW FRONTIER

Every young adult deserves the chance to thrive in the career of their choice and utilize their unique abilities. As individuals transition from school into adulthood and begin looking toward finding employment or doing something meaningful, the path can often seem overwhelming. That’s where our New Frontier program comes in—unlocking a world of possibilities and guiding these individuals to learn and grow. Our vocational training programs are designed with a forward-thinking approach, focusing on both hard and soft skills such as creating resumes and developing strong communication and problem-solving. Going beyond just teaching skills, we create opportunities for young adults to apply what they’ve learned in real-world settings. Through internships, volunteer opportunities, and hands-on projects, participants gain invaluable experience that sets them apart in the job market.

New Frontier also creates opportunities for participants to connect with their peers, build friendships, and engage in social and recreational activities that enrich their lives through the Social Leisure Club. Through community events, volunteer opportunities, and group activities, participants develop a sense of belonging and build the social skills needed to navigate adult life. From wellness initiatives including fitness programs and nutritional guidance to mental health support and life skills workshops, individuals can obtain skills, not only for their careers, but in all aspects of their lives.





## Breaking Barriers

Birch Family Services was featured in a Fox 5 New York special for Autism Acceptance Month. The segment, "Autism: Love on the Spectrum," highlighted several remarkable individuals and provided a glimpse into a "Friendship and Dating" session for young people on the spectrum. Our program offers these workshops to help participants make meaningful connections, socialize, and build relationships. Through the news special, viewers gained insight into the personal lives of these individuals, learning about their dreams, challenges, and successes in finding love while on the autism spectrum.

## Community Supports and Engagement

Thanks to the advocacy and support of NYC Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, we received a grant funded through the NYC Council Speaker's Initiative. Birch's New Frontier team used the grant to focus on expanding community engagement. The program's efforts specifically worked in schools, helping families of children with developmental disabilities, especially those from low-income and underserved communities, learn about resources and support available to their relatives post-graduation. Through these efforts, New Frontier connected with over 30 families to help navigate services of New Frontier and other Care Coordinated Organizations (CCOs), developed eight work sites that can lead to employment for students with disabilities, and conducted vocational evaluations to help students learn more about careers that interested them. In addition, this initiative helped raise awareness of services provided by the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to over 10 schools and established a continuing relationship with five schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens.

The New Frontier program is more than just a steppingstone from education to employment; we're enabling program participants to build careers in environments where they can truly succeed. The program offers ongoing support and resources to help young adults find employment, retain their positions, and attain accomplishments in the workplace. We partner with their employers, providing consistent training and support to create mutual success.

A few of our community partnerships include:

- The Home Depot
- Trader Joe's
- Mt. Sinai
- H&M
- Fairway Market
- Selis Manor
- Materials for the Arts
- Duane Reade

## CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

### From Participation to Partnership

At the heart of the New Frontier program is a commitment to fostering acceptance and eliminating the obstacles faced by individuals with autism and developmental disabilities in the workplace. We work closely with corporate partners to create environments where every individual is valued and given the opportunity to succeed.

Our corporate partners play a vital role in supporting Birch by providing job placements, mentorship, and career development opportunities that align with the unique needs and aspirations of our participants. They also aid our programs through various volunteer initiatives such as the creation of sensory books for students in our schools and participating in our holiday toy drive and volunteer event. Together, we secured 750 toys for children in our schools along with coats and winter clothing items for residents in need. In early December we gathered over 50 volunteers to wrap these donated gifts, sort clothing, and write holiday cards to individuals. In April, dozens of volunteers from our partners gathered for our Autism Acceptance Month Volunteer Day to meet Birch staff, speak with some of the individuals we support, and help create and assemble sensory books to support students with autism and developmental disabilities in our schools. By creating unique experiences for our corporate partners, we provide opportunities to enhance the lives of the people we support.



Birch program member James M. speaks with Fox 5 about finding love on the spectrum.



*I'm grateful for all the support I'm getting from Birch Family Services. It's helping me grow and become more confident in myself.*

- Ajuwon N., New Frontier Member

# Our Advocacy

For nearly 50 years, Birch Family Services has been committed to amplifying the voices of individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. We lead the way in breaking down barriers and creating pathways that open a world of opportunities. At Birch, we recognize and celebrate the potential in each person, honoring their unique abilities, talents, and dreams. Through dedicated advocacy and compassionate support, we aim to provide comprehensive resources that empower our community to live fulfilling, vibrant lives.



## EMPOWERING ADVOCATES AND DRIVING CHANGE

Every voice matters in the fight for equitable support and funding. Throughout the year, groups of dedicated Birch program members and staff traveled to Albany to advocate for crucial changes in the New York State budget. Their mission: to raise awareness and push for increased investment in services essential for those with developmental needs. The “Invest in Me!” campaign emphasized the urgent need for enhanced resources. Advocates united to call for vital investments in the nonprofit I/DD (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) service sector, a 3.2% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase and Direct Support Professional Wage Enhancement in the 2025 New York State Budget.



*It feels really good to be here."*

- Brian S., self-advocate participating in a rally in Albany.



Although the final New York State budget included a 2.84% COLA increase, it fell short of the investment needed to provide proper wage enhancements to staff who support New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Additional advocacy efforts included joining allies on the steps of City Hall to fight for funding for early childhood education. Our advocacy efforts reflect the broader commitment which is vital to Birch: ensuring the voices of individuals with autism and developmental disabilities are heard and that their needs are met. As we move forward, the continued advocacy and dedication of individuals and organizations will be crucial in shaping a future where everyone receives the support they need.

As we look to the future, Birch Family Services remains steadfast in our commitment to providing individuals with autism and developmental disabilities with access to quality education, community inclusion, and equitable opportunities in health, housing, and employment. Beyond delivering essential services, Birch engages with multiple advocacy and trade organizations working to shape policies that benefit our community. Birch will continue to empower its constituents to become advocates, encouraging self-advocates and families to make their voices heard at local and state levels, amplifying our collective impact.





# Our Partnerships



## Building a More Inclusive Future Together

By fostering partnerships with companies that prioritize diversity and inclusion, we're paving the way for a more equitable and dynamic workforce. Through these efforts, the New Frontier program is helping young adults broaden their professional skills and experience. In collaboration with companies like Alvarez and Marsal, Two Sigma, Insidesource, and Pfizer, we've hosted virtual mock interviews that provide members with practical experience and confidence in navigating the job market. Beyond interviews, our corporate collaborations have expanded into new areas—with volunteers actively participating in New Frontier's social outings, where they help program participants enhance their networking skills in real-world settings. Through these initiatives, we prepare individuals for employment while furthering inclusivity.

Concluding the second and final year as the Lloyds Bank North America Charity Partner, employees have actively engaged in volunteering at Birch programs, supporting fundraising events, and continuing work with the organization's mentorship program. In recognition of their dedication to our mission and their substantial support of our programs and the individuals we serve, Lloyds Bank North America was honored with our Corporate Vision Award at the annual Soirée.

## Young Professionals Board

The Young Professionals Board (YPB) has been an integral part of Birch Family Services for over two years, demonstrating remarkable growth in both its size and scope. The YPB has been actively engaged in volunteer opportunities and supporting Birch's major events. This fiscal year, the YPB hosted three of their own fundraising events: a paint night, game night happy hour, and rooftop social in an effort to engage the next generation of volunteers. The group continues to represent a diverse spectrum of professions, self-advocates, and individuals with personal ties to the community that Birch serves.



# Celebrating Milestones

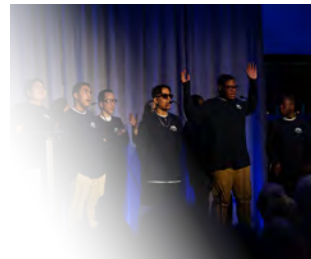
Our special events are more than just celebrations—they're milestones in our mission to support individuals in all of our programs and services. These events have not only raised critical funds but have also celebrated our community, the individuals we support, and the positive impact that is possible through our collective efforts.



## Birch Family Services Soirée

The 2023 Birch Family Services Soirée - "Shaping Brighter Futures" honored key partner Lloyds Bank North America, longtime board member Judith Kauffman Fullmer, and dedicated parent advocate Frank Alfano. The event recognized the invaluable support that has driven Birch's mission forward. A special highlight was the presentation of the Voices of Hope Award to Fox 5 NY and reporter Linda Schmidt for their impactful coverage, amplifying our message to a wider audience. The Susser Youth Choir also delighted attendees with a moving performance that embodied the night's hopeful theme.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity and enthusiasm of our attendees, the Soirée raised nearly \$300,000. These funds will go directly towards supporting our programs and initiatives. The 2023 Birch Family Services Soirée was not only a night of celebration but also a powerful reminder of the community's dedication to our cause.



## Golf Classic

The Birch Family Services Third Annual Golf Classic was more than just a day on the greens; it served as a pivotal platform for advancing our mission and strengthening community ties. The day's competitive spirit seamlessly carried into an evening reception, where guests united in shared purpose and engaged with Birch Family Services staff and leadership. A powerful highlight of the evening was when Ajuwon Newton, a dedicated Birch program participant, shared his inspiring journey—charting his growth from classroom learning to significant milestones in the New Frontier employment program. His impactful story resonated deeply with attendees.

Thanks to the generous support of corporate partners, board members, vendors, and volunteers, the event successfully raised over \$110,000 to directly support Birch's programs. The success of the Golf Classic underscored our community's strong commitment and the shared purpose that drives our progress.



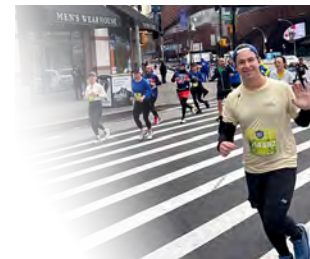
## 5K Forward

The 5K Forward: Fast Track to Empowerment unites the entire Birch community. This annual gathering brings together the individuals we support, their families, Birch staff, Board members, volunteers, corporations, and community partners in a celebration of inclusivity and empowerment. In 2023, the race kicked off our new fiscal year, once again in Central Park, drawing over 300 registrants. The energy and enthusiasm of participants underscored the strength of our community and the positive impact we can achieve as one. The event met our fundraising goal and raised \$127,000. We look forward to the continued growth of this event as we gain momentum in our advocacy efforts for people with autism and developmental disabilities.



## New York City Half

Birch Family Services proudly participated in the prestigious United Airlines New York City Half, marking our debut as an official charity partner. The event offered a unique platform to increase awareness and fundraise, with five dedicated runners raising over \$13,000 to support Birch's mission. Their commitment not only generated crucial funds but also connected Birch to a global audience, amplifying our cause and our community's collective impact.



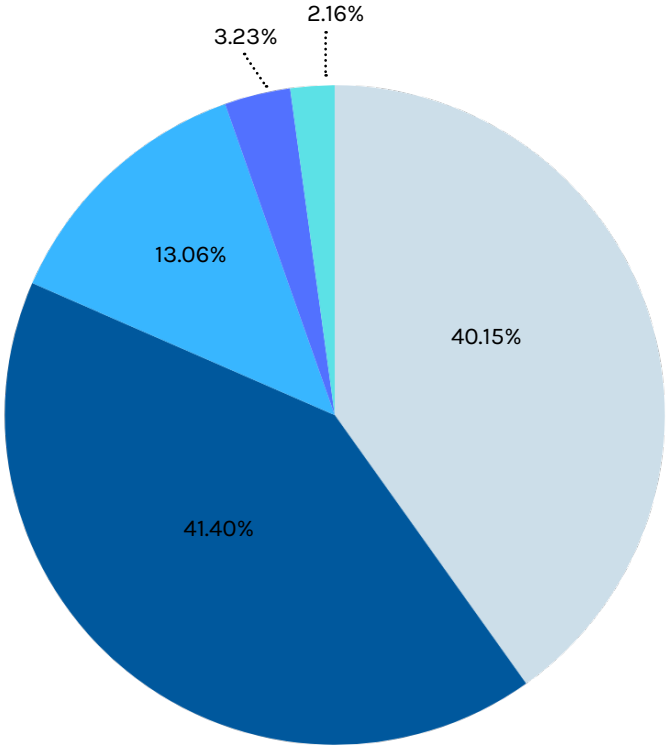
# Our Financials

Birch Family Services empowers individuals with autism and developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. Birch’s leadership remains committed to responsible financial stewardship and strives to ensure fiscal sustainability and quality in the services we provide.

## REVENUE

\$89,567,254

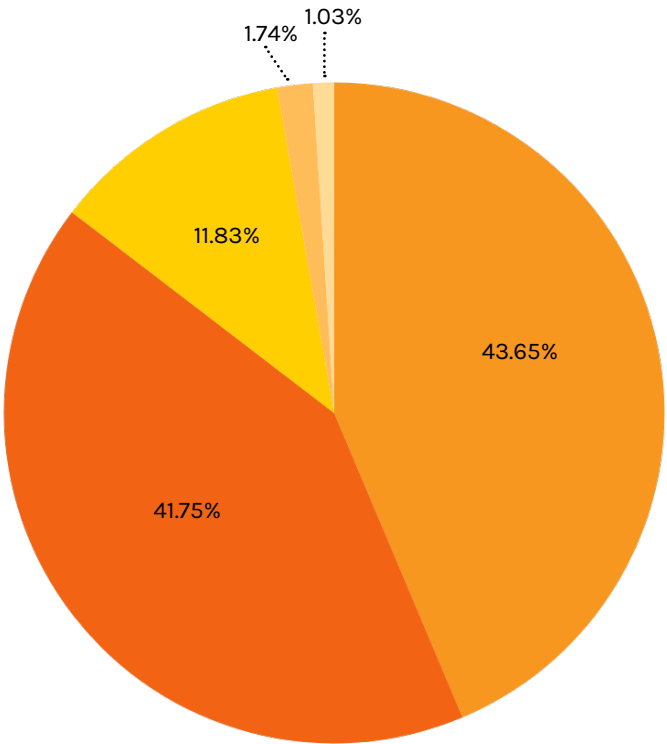
- \$37,079,974: Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Community Services
- \$35,962,858: NY State Education Department/ NYC Department of Education
- \$11,693,384: Federal, NY State, and NYC Grants
- \$2,896,528: Private Revenue
- \$1,934,510: Non-Programmatic Revenue



## PROGRAM/SUPPORTING EXPENSES

\$88,274,092

- \$38,525,787: Education Services
- \$36,853,803: Community Services
- \$10,446,208: Management and General
- \$1,535,221: Other Programs
- \$913,073: Fundraising and Special Events





# Our Donors

## \$25,000-\$74,999

Judge Brian Cogan and Ms. Robin Keller  
Pfizer Inc.  
TD Charitable Foundation

## \$15,000-\$24,999

Graham Company  
Lamb Insurance Services  
Lekaj & Jubaj  
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Rawitt  
The May Ellen and Gerald Ritter Foundation  
Matthew Sturiale  
TGI Office Automation  
George and Anitha Varughese

## \$5,000-\$14,999

Baker Tilly US, LLP  
Dan Brecher and Ms. Laurie Treinkman  
James and Deborah Breznay  
Driscoll Foods  
Judith Kauffman Fullmer and Robert Fullmer  
Jackie and Alan Goldberg  
Kimberly and Carl Hernas  
The Hyde and Watson Foundation  
Huntington Village Animal Hospital  
JPMorgan Chase Foundation  
Lloyds Banking Group  
Jonathan Mann  
Susan Miller  
Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP  
Northfield Bank Foundation  
The Omer Foundation  
Paycom  
Sidley Austin LLP  
Keith Tamayo and Denise Zeichner-Tamayo  
TemPositions Health Care, Inc.  
Sharon and Jerry Thornton  
Vassalotti Associates Architects, LLP  
Vincent J. DiCalogero, CPAs LLC  
Susan West  
United Staffing Solutions  
Corin R. Swift, Esq.

## \$500-\$4,999

Aaron Judge ALL RISE Foundation  
Aetna  
AFD Inc  
All-American Brother's Pest Control  
Barclay Damon  
Deniz Altan  
Timucin Altan  
Apple Bank

Armstrong Communication Systems, Inc.  
Amanda Ayoub  
Justin and Sloane Bachman  
The Beacon Group  
Berger-Gross Charity Fund  
Bobby Bakshi  
Stephen Blum  
Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation  
Briscoe Protective Systems Inc.  
Calvary Hospital  
Capalino  
Brian Celardo  
Charles and Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation, Inc.  
Tina Cheng  
Margaret Chiara  
Christina Chianese  
Mr. Jan Childress and Dr. Martha Edwards  
Citizens Bank Foundation  
Michelle Clayman  
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