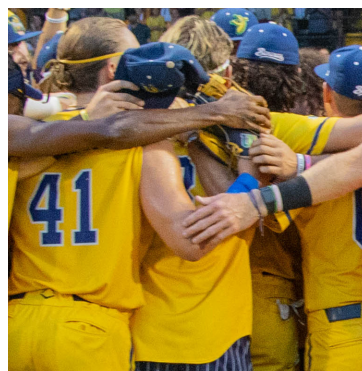
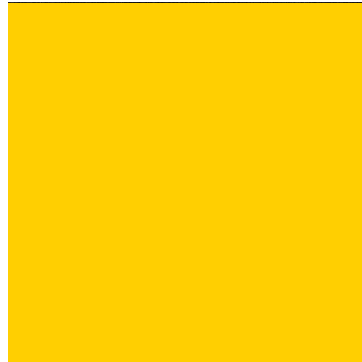


PEEL THE DIFFERENCE



COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2023

A look into the results of our programs and a recap on the memories that left a lasting impression. From our ripe achievements to the sweet taste of celebrations, this report follows the potassium positivity provided by **Bananas Foster.**



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

As we gear up for the 2024 season I am eager for each and every game because I am understanding, more every day, the power of what Bananas Foster can do for our country. Since the Savannah Bananas are a brand full of joy, we wanted to make sure that was our non-profits' main emotion.

We want to bring families together. Our vision is to create a waiting list of foster families. What it would mean if we had a surplus across the nation... a surplus of families who are waiting in the wings, patient if their services weren't needed immediately, but confidently showing up as soon as they were requested.

If we have a surplus of foster families, then the children who come into care will be placed with the right family for them to walk through trauma with. A family who can speak the same language as the children, who can bond over similar passions, who lives in the same city. These things seem simple but currently, are so far from how we children come into care because of the lack of foster families.

Celebrating **32** foster families and the byproduct of those celebrations was the highlight of 2023 for Bananas Foster.

We launched in June, halfway through the 2023 Banana Ball World Tour, and used the remainder of the year to highlight families with incredible stories on the field during a scheduled pause in the game action. We, of course, learned from every situation and got feedback from every crowd. After every game we'd see a spike on our website and social media from folks who had been in attendance asking "How do I get involved?" It became clear that we would use our platform to be connectors, which had been the goal from the beginning.

People reached out and wanted to know where they could donate goods or money, where they could serve current foster children or foster families, where they could volunteer.

I'm proud and a little surprised honestly about this number but...59 families reached out with the pinnacle of questions - "How do we become a foster family?"

Now as we plan for 2024 we know that these celebrations will impact our crowds. How many folks will hear about foster care for the first time? How many will hear it for the ninth time - this time being the one that inspires them to reach out and get involved.

Creating awareness and educating through our platform is what we will continue to focus on while celebrating the people who are already doing amazing things in the foster care world.

If you have a connection or a story or a family or a podcast or a newsletter that you want to share with us, please do. We're in that *can't-get-enough-information* stage of the beginning of a project and together, we can accomplish big things.



CEO - Board of Directors



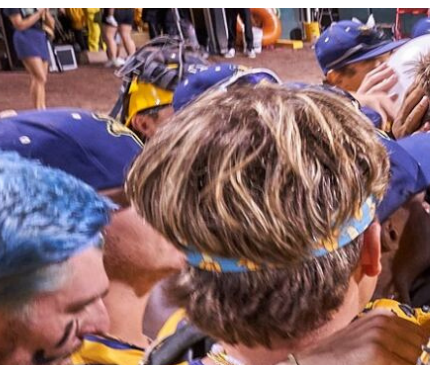
OUR MISSION

Bananas Foster is dedicated to **celebrating** the foster care community while **educating** and **inspiring** others to get involved. Our programs are all based on celebrating, educating and inspiring. We celebrate those doing amazing things in the foster care community in hopes to educate and inspire more people to make a difference in the foster care community.

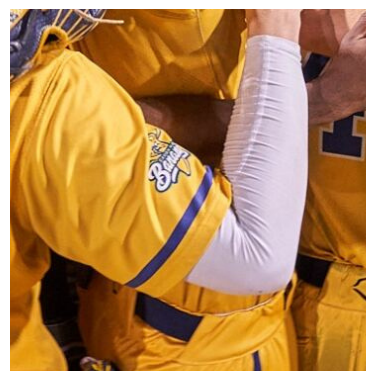
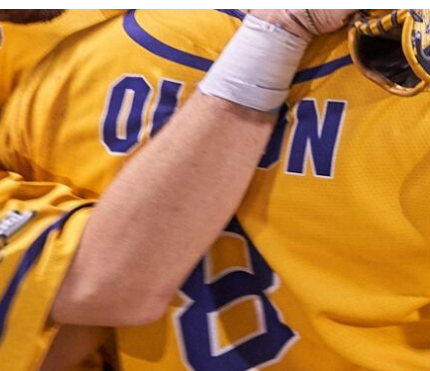
Bananas Foster was officially launched at our game in Savannah, Georgia on June 17, 2023. The information put together for this report are based from our launch through the end of the year. In just 6 short months of our existence, we are proud of what was accomplished and can't wait to continue to make a difference in years to come.

“One day we’ll have a waitlist of foster families so that every child, no matter their age, background, or circumstance, is matched with the right family for them when placed into foster care.” - Emily Cole

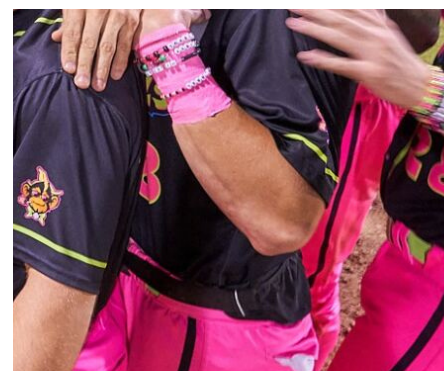
CELEBRATE



EDUCATE



INSPIRE



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Go Bananas for Game Day

This program provides one foster family with the ultimate game day experience, which includes the VIB (Very Important Banana) experience, interactions with the team, and a behind-the-scenes look at our show; something very few get to experience! [Click Here](#) to view a video of our 2023 Best of Celebrations from the 2023 Banana Ball World Tour.

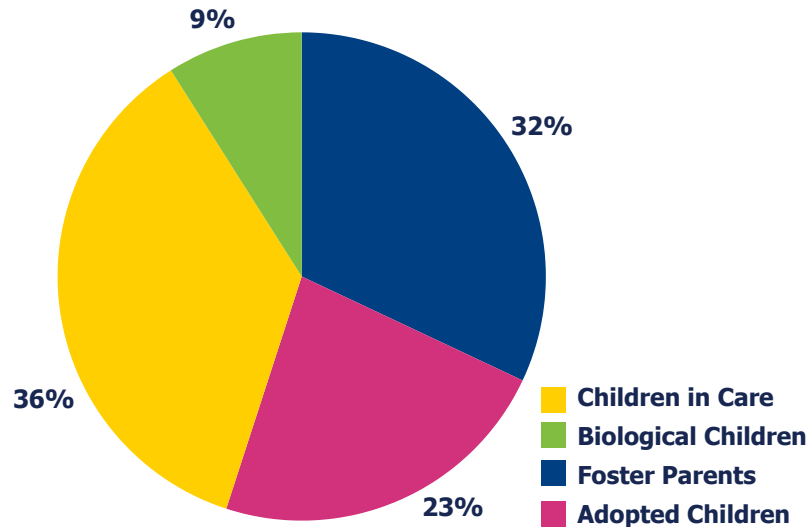
In 2023, our organization celebrated **32 foster families.**

Foster families were celebrated in 11 cities:

- Savannah, GA
- Indianapolis, IN
- Akron, OH
- Kannapolis, NC
- Durham, NC
- Fresno, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- Des Moines, IO
- Milwaukee, WI
- Syracuse, NY
- Cooperstown, NY



A Breakdown of Our Celebrated Families:



Number of in-person fans, who experienced our celebrations

200,000



Fans who viewed the celebrations on the BTV YouTube

1.5 MILLION

PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS

Go Bananas for Game Day



Thank you for inviting us to the game! Your organization poured so much joy and kindness into our hearts. We started this journey to be a support to children and families but could never imagine that we would receive support by so many angels along the way. We also hoped we would make a difference and teach the kiddos in our home. But at every turn we are learning from them and organizations like yours. We have learned one person can make a difference, and many hands make light work.

We are asked questions all the time. Why do we do it? We say we can't afford not to. How do we do it? We tell them we have to make it fun. They asked is it hard? We respond, it's not our lives that's hard, it's the kids lives that are. Would you do it again knowing what you know. We answer, yes in a heart beat. Because I still cry when I watch them sleep. Just thinking they might have not been here if we weren't here to help.

Bananas Foster, The Savannah Bananas, The Party Animals, and everyone a part of this organization helped us and so many families along the way. We will never be able to pay you all back for the hugs, high fives, handshakes, pictures, autographs, gifts, recognition, fun, smiles, laughs, and support. But from all of us in our family, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you!

- The Jones Family, Milwaukee 2023

Today was nothing short of a dream. I could never put into words what an experience the Savannah Bananas and the Party Animals pulled off for our family.

Even with a storm and no power at the stadium, we had the absolute best time. Each and every player, coach, and staff member knew our names and story. They made it a point to be so beyond intentional and genuinely just loved on the kids (and me!).

From private batting practices, incredible merch, behind the scenes tours, pitching contests, and of course, tik tok dance offs- I couldn't help but just step back and watch my kids' eyes light up. The power never was restored, and the game had to be rescheduled, but holy cow did we go home exhausted yet so very full.

I had no expectations beyond just tickets to a banana ball game. And yet as the kids all said in the car, "That might have been the coolest thing that has ever happened to us and one of the best days of our lives."

All I can say is kindness goes so far in life and joy is contagious. This team, their leaders, and the entire organization are the real deal and if you haven't checked them out yet, do it. I can promise you it will brighten your day!

We are so grateful for the memories made today that will forever be engrained in our hearts.

- The Michaels Family, Indianapolis 2023



INSPIRED TO GET INVOLVED

Of the thousands of fans we introduced to Bananas Foster, here are the ones ready to take the next step to making a difference in the foster care community.

307

People who are interested in **Making A Difference** and learn more

166

People who are interested in donating their time and become a **Volunteer**

59

People who are ready for next steps to **Becoming A Foster Family**



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Potassium CARE Baskets

To make an even greater impact and support foster families, we developed Potassium CARE Baskets. Created with essential needs, Bananas swag, and personalized items for each family member, these baskets are sure to bring joy and bunches of smiles!

60 people have been impacted by our Potassium CARE Baskets.
7 new foster families were provided baskets.

Baskets include:

- A Banana jersey, for each person
- Emily Cole's book, Go Bananas!
- Monetary Gift Card towards a department store for supplies
- Support cards from our team
- Support information from local organizations
- Potassium Packed Surprises



"I wanted to thank you for the amazing Potassium Care Basket we received! We accepted our first placement this year and became first-time parents as we don't have any biological children! We didn't even have age appropriate books and then remembered we had Go Bananas! Thank you for knowing we'd need it before we did! They came to our home with the clothes they were wearing and, again, we reached into our care package and used the gift card to help us get the essentials.

They came with a painful past and we are doing our best to guide them and love them through their ongoing trauma. They said they have never played any sports except in gym class and haven't seen any played on TV or in real life. The 9-year-old didn't know the difference between a football, soccer ball, or basketball, but he did know the baseball was the small one. They are experiencing 'firsts' every day and so are we!

Thank you again for the care package. It has meant so much to us. GO BANANAS!"

Foster Family and Recipient of a Potassium CARE Basket

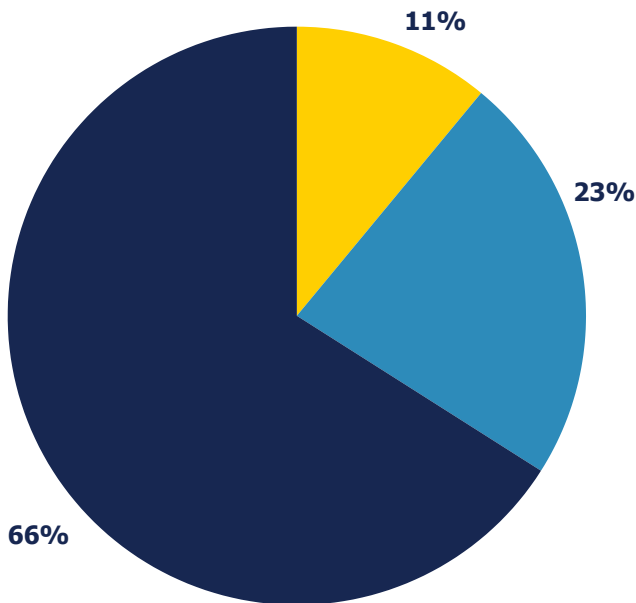
FINANCIAL REPORT

Our programs would not be possible without the financial support of our donors. In 2023, we were thrilled to be the beneficiary of a number of fundraisers, including [Bret Helton Gets A Haircut](#). Party Animal Pitcher Bret Helton raised money to cut and donate his hair. This fundraiser contributed about \$22,000 for the foster care community.

See below the information of our year-end revenue and expenses.

REVENUE

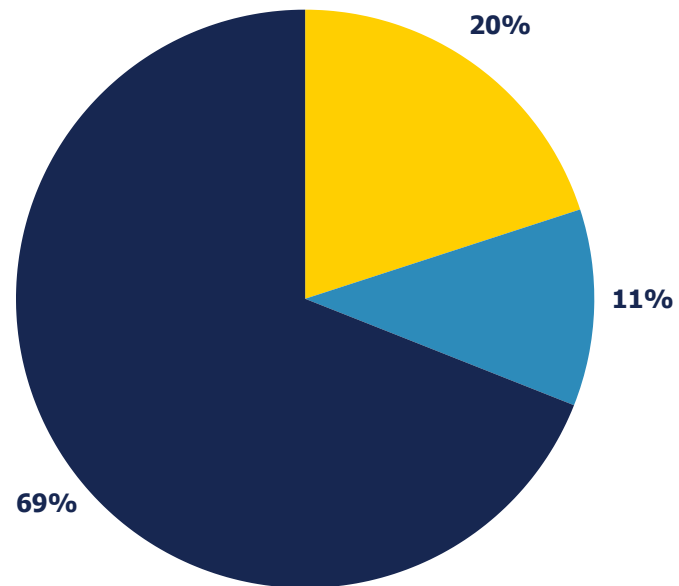
TOTAL REVENUE: \$112,442.08



- In-Kind Donations
- Organizational
- Individual Donations

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$23,133.29

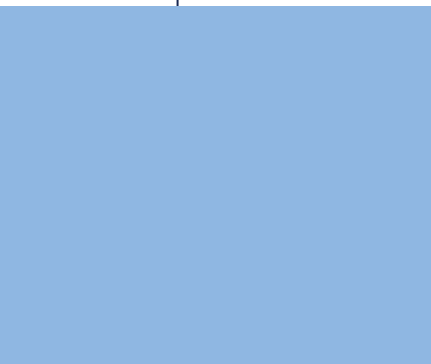


- Fundraising
- General & Administrative
- Programs

End of Year Assets: **\$89,308.79**

**Please note revenue and expenses are calculated from June 17 - December 31, 2023.*








THANK YOU!

The impact of Bananas Foster is because of YOU. We are so grateful for all the support we receive in 2023 for our organization. Thank you for allowing us to make a difference for the foster care community.

As Jesse Cole says, *“This is only the first inning and we are just getting started.”*

-  (912) 712-2482
-  2934 Bee Road, Savannah, GA 31404
-  www.bananasfoster.org

