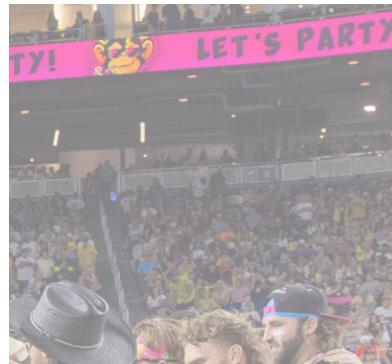


PEEL THE DIFFERENCE



COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2024



A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

2024 was the first full year with Bananas Foster. A season that led to the decision to commit to having a Bananas Foster Family (BFF) celebration at every single Banana Ball game, no matter the team. **This was the year we committed to be the nonprofit not just of the Savannah Bananas, but of Banana Ball.**

This year, we challenged our organization and tested out the 'split tour' and had two games occur at one time. This tour led to double the foster family celebrations, double the awareness, and double the impact! Speaking of impact, 2024 was the year we played at our first MLB Ballparks. In total, we played at 6 MLBs: Houston, Boston, Washington D.C., Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Miami.

Foster care is a topic that isn't talked about much in society and we are still trying to change that. Our vision is to create 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... a waitlist of foster families.

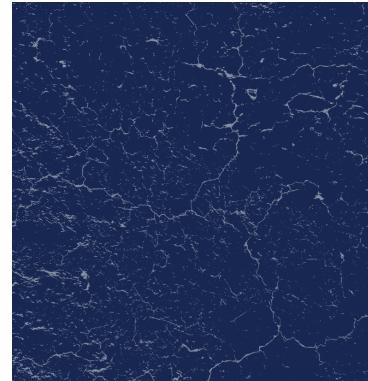
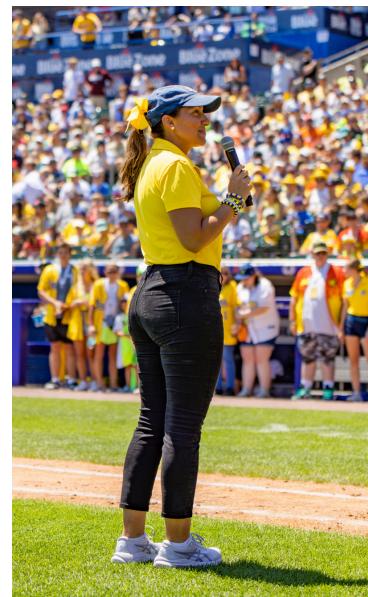
If we have a surplus of foster families, then the children who come into care will be placed with the right family for them to walk through trauma with. A family who can speak the same language as the children, who can bond over similar passions, who lives in the same city. These things seem simple,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

In 2024, we celebrated 93 foster families. At every game, we find more people inspired to get involved. We are proud to connect people with organizations to make a difference in the foster care community.

As we close the 2024 chapter, our mission remains the same – we will continue to celebrate people who are already doing amazing things in the foster care world, while educating and inspiring others to get involved.

Thank you for being a part of our story. We're grateful you're here. We know that together we can achieve big things.

Emily Cole
CEO - Board of Directors



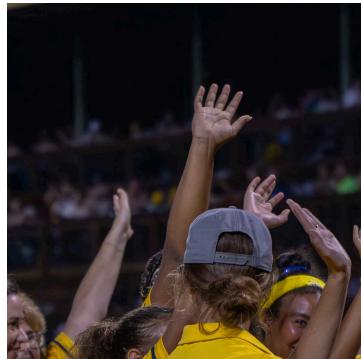
OUR MISSION

Since the start of Bananas Foster, our team has been focused on our mission... **celebrating** the foster care community while **educating** and **inspiring** others to get involved.

As the official nonprofit of Banana Ball, we are using our platform to raise awareness for the foster care community. In the United States, there are over 400,000 children and teens in foster care. There are many ways to get involved and not everyone has the ability to become a foster parent, but everyone has the ability to help those experiencing foster care.

“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

2024 was an incredible year for Bananas Foster. Our focus is set to continue supporting this community and build a waitlist for foster families.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Go Bananas for Game Day

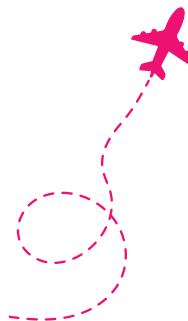
This program provides one foster family with the ultimate game day experience, which includes the VIB (Very Important Banana) experience, interactions with the team, and a behind-the-scenes look at our show; something very few get to experience! [Click Here](#) to view a video of our BFF Celebrations from the 2024 Banana Ball World Tour!

In 2024, our organization celebrated **93 foster families.**

Collectively, these families have helped **1,784** children and teens in foster care.

Foster families were celebrated in **29** cities:

- Savannah, GA
- Tampa Bay, FL
- Peoria, AZ
- Jacksonville, FL
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Gwinnett, GA
- Durham, NC
- Albuquerque, NM
- Mesa, AZ
- Fresno, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Columbus, OH
- Nashville, TN
- Las Vegas, NV
- Indianapolis, IN
- Buffalo, NY
- Greensboro, NC
- Greenville, SC
- Louisville, KY
- Norfolk, VA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Des Moines, IO



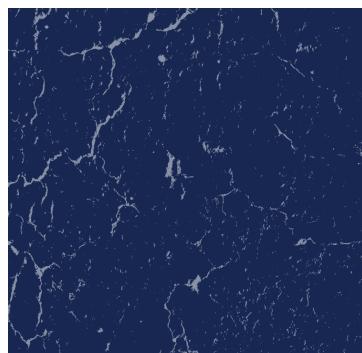
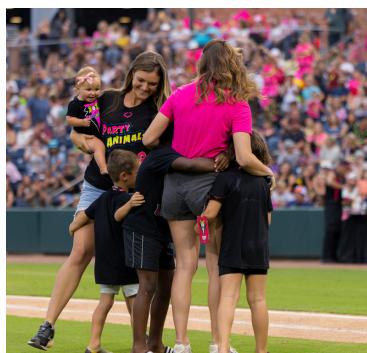
In 2024, Banana Ball took center stage at 6 MLB Stadiums:

MLB STADIUMS *Capacity

- Houston, TX - **41,000**
- Boston, MA - **38,000**
- Washington D.C. - **41,000**
- Cleveland, OH - **35,000**
- Philadelphia, PA - **43,000**
- Miami, FL - **37,000**

Number of in-person fans, who experienced our celebrations

1 MILLION



Fans who viewed the celebrations on the BTV YouTube

30 MILLION

PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS

Go Bananas for Game Day



Intentional. This is the word we've used a hundred times to describe our night. Every game, they take the time to share a foster family's story - because they know the need for more foster families. Walking into the stadium, it was immediate that we could tell EVERYONE understands the heaviness in fostering, knows how to CELEBRATE the good, and ENCOURAGE in the every day. Sharing a small snippet of our story has never ever been more fun than last Friday night. Every staff person and player was SO fun and made this the best experience that we will never forget. The back flips, dad jokes, princess twirls, all the dancing, and so on. They showed our kids how valued they are in their lives. My cheeks still hurt from all the laughter!

- The Etherington Family, Des Moines 2024

Our celebration with Bananas Foster was one of the first times I felt seen and celebrated as a foster parent. It is rare to be celebrated or even acknowledged outside the foster care world. Allowing children like ours, who have experienced trauma and have been dealt a tough hand in life, gives them the chance to just be kids and enjoy life to the fullest. We'll never forget the way you treated us in the dugout, on the field, and everywhere else in between. Thank you for giving us those memories!

- The Ford Family, Savannah 2023

I'm not sure I even have the describable words to write for this moment. Two lost and lonely siblings who experienced the greatest loss in their lives yet continued to do the right things in their own journeys. The ideal role models in our parental figures were nonexistent, so we were destined to create a life we never had. The sadness associated with foster care and multiple placements dull the senses of what family really is or means, but that does not mean that all hope and family are lost! It just means that maybe we have to work harder than most to reconcile our childhoods.

Which is why this game and this experience gave peace in a way that has never been. To think that two former foster youth siblings can succeed, build a bond, and celebrate our tragedy is nothing short of miraculous. This is love... this is brotherhood...this is a hole healed that statistically should never be.

March 16, 2024 will never be forgotten due to Bananas Foster, The Savannah Bananas, The Party Animals, and this entire organization for believing in us and giving our inner children this chance.

I'll always cherish this day.

- The Doucet Family, Baton Rouge 2024



BANANAS FOSTER IMPACT

Our celebrations were in front of millions of fans in 2024. It's hard to know how many people we truly inspired to get involved fully, but we do know how many people reached out to us directly to be connected with organizations to get involved.

Below are the numbers of people who reached out to Bananas Foster directly to get involved in the foster care community:

498

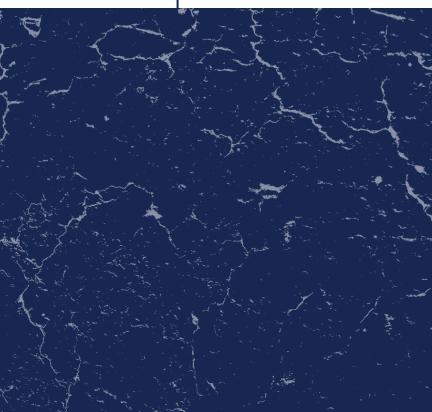
People who are interested in **Making A Difference** and learn more

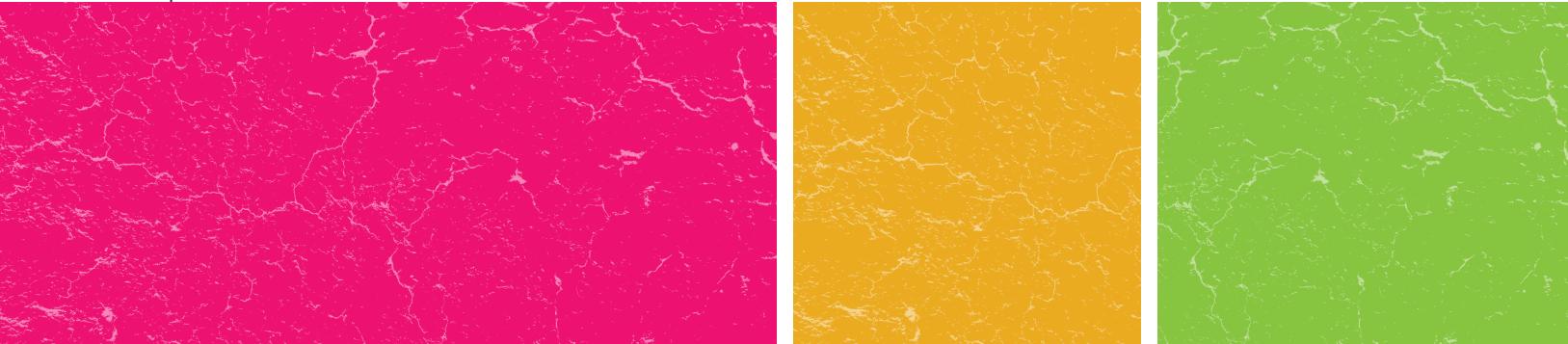
341

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

139

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





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Potassium CARE Baskets

To support those making a difference in the foster care community, we created the Potassium CARE Basket program. These baskets are designed to provide support based on their needs. For example, we know a family that said yes to an infant in their home. So, when our team put together their Potassium CARE Basket it was filled with diapers, age-appropriate clothing, and additional needs for the caretakers.



Potassium CARE Baskets are given to those making a difference and personalized based on their needs. Whether you are licensed for 20 years or 20 days, we send a basket to say 'Thank You' and to show our support.

In 2024, our team distributed **75** Potassium CARE Baskets.

Baskets include:

- Banana Jersey
- Emily Cole's book, Go Bananas!
- Support cards from our team
- Support information from local organizations
- Monetary Gift Card
- Potassium Packed Surprises

"I wanted to make sure to say thank you for the Bananas care package that you sent us. The kids love all of the goodies and the cards. And the [monetary] gift card was a blessing. The kids love to dress up in their Banana gear. Our foster son even insisted on wearing his Bananas hat with his Spiderman costume for Halloween!"

Thank you for all you and the rest of the Bananas Foster team do for the foster community.

FINANCIAL REPORT

*Please note revenue and expenses are calculated from January 1 - December 31, 2024.

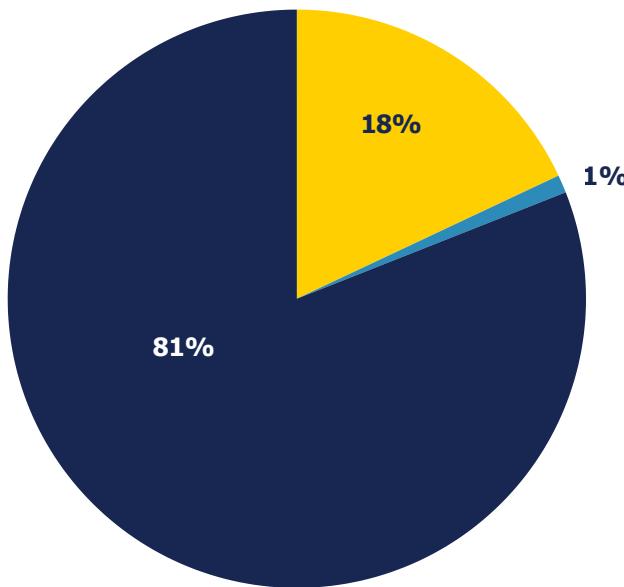
Our programs would not be possible without the financial support of our donors. This year, two players got involved with the organization: **Garrett Delano** & **Andy Archer**. Delano auctioned off his custom cleats after every game, and Archer donated his jersey proceeds to Bananas Foster.

In 2024, we tested and launched a 5050 Partnership with the stadiums we travel to. This partnership benefits the programs of Bananas Foster and the stadium's nonprofit organization, while adding the opportunity for fans to walk away a winner!

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

REVENUE

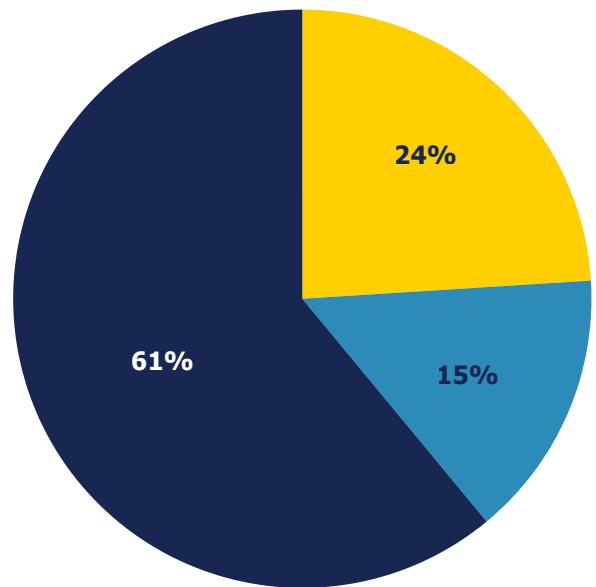
TOTAL REVENUE: \$289,758.27



■ In-Kind Donations
■ Organizational
■ Individual Donations

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$196,132.03



■ Fundraising
■ General & Administrative
■ Programs

End of Year Assets: **\$93,626.24**

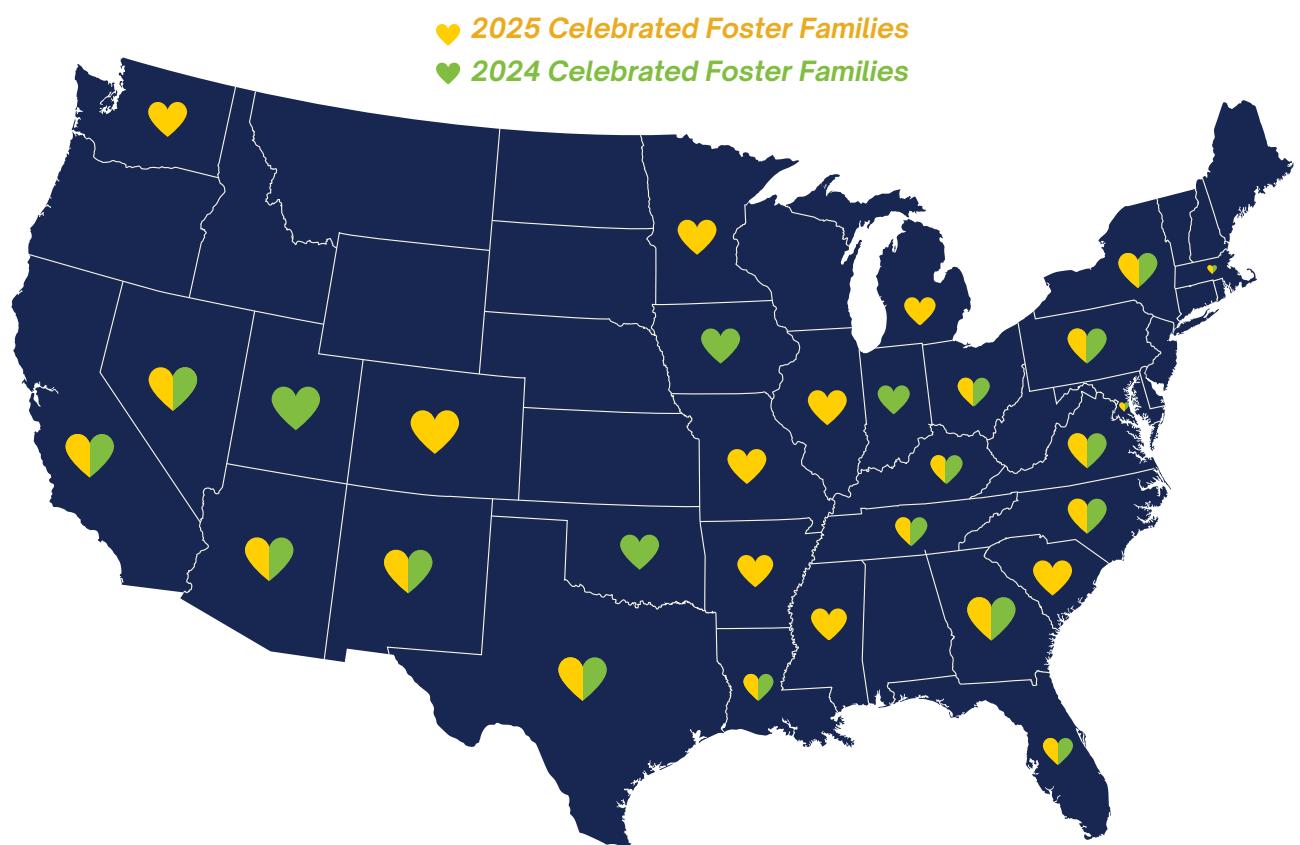
*End of Year Cash Balance - Bananas Foster maintained a healthy cash balance of \$180,916.48. This reflects our commitment to sound financial management and long-term sustainability.

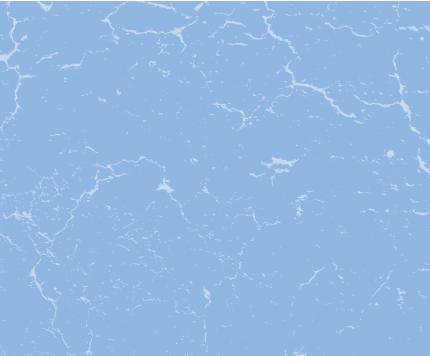
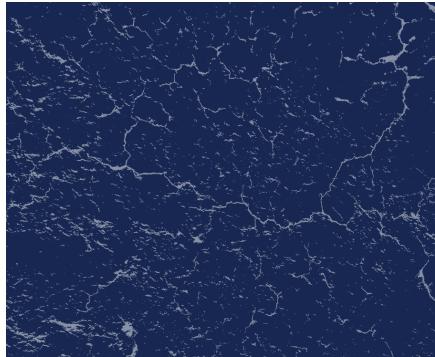


ON DECK: A LOOK AT 2025

As the Banana Ball League is growing, so is Bananas Foster. In 2023, we had the idea that we would just celebrate the foster care community in Savannah, which led us to travel to some cities, but not all. In 2024, we knew we could make a bigger impact, so we decided to travel and celebrate families at EVERY game on tour, no matter the team playing. Now and looking ahead... we have changed the game again. Bananas Foster is the official nonprofit of Banana Ball. Every game, every team, every city... Bananas Foster will be there to celebrate those making a difference in the foster care community while educating and inspiring others to get involved.

We're using our platform to change the narrative of foster care. Looking ahead, we turn the page to a new chapter and creating a bigger impact.





THANK YOU!

The impact of Bananas Foster is because of YOU. 2024 was a year to remember and the families we celebrated, the people we inspired, those who are advocating all play a part in the impact of our organization. Thank you for allowing us to make a difference for the foster care community.

A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

- Jackie Robinson



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www.bananasfoster.org

