

Losing a loved one to suicide is a different type of grief. Nobody should have to go on that journey alone.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



TO OUR FRIENDS



P.O. Box 901, Anoka, MN 55303-0901 • (612) 472-2557 • <https://wesawthelight.org/>

Dear Friends,

Our first two years at We Saw The Light were amazing. A positive impact has been made for our families because of people like you who have volunteered your time, talents, energies, input, and donations.

Everyone's journey is different. However, no matter where they are on that journey, we are proud and blessed that these families have allowed us to walk with them. Some may struggle to get out of bed, some may feel overwhelmed by the new family dynamic, and some may just need to know that they aren't alone. Our families are finding moments of light and hope through our ability to reach out to them individually.

We are honored to have accomplished the following in 2023, with your support:

- Our Facebook Private Group had 44 members.
- We sent monthly gifts to 24 families, consisting of a total of 77 individuals.
- We had 12 individuals/organizations on our Resources page.
- We did weekly/monthly reach-outs to 25 families.

Thank you for supporting us and our families.

Sincerely,

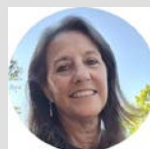
Codi, Kevin, Lisa and Jamie



Codi Leary Leitch
Founder/President



Kevin Bisek
Vice President



Lisa Burnside
Secretary/Treasurer



Jamie Mosley
Board Member

MISSION

To walk alongside families in Minnesota who are faced with losing a loved one to suicide.

BOARD MEMBERS

Codi Leary Leitch, Founder / President

Kevin Bisek, Vice President

Lisa Burnside, Secretary / Treasurer

Jamie Mosley, Board Member

ABOUT US

We have lost loved ones to suicide and have come together to help others who have recently lost someone through support and resources while working to end the stigma that surrounds suicide by giving families a safe place to express their feelings among others who truly understand.



"Our Son, Brother, Uncle, died by his own hand on 10/06/22 - the hardest day in our lives. When I met Codi and her husband at the Anoka Suicide Grief Group, I was devastated by our loss. We Saw The Light was there right when I needed them most and I will be eternally grateful for all that you have done for our family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

- Dee, Michael's Mom

FOUNDING STORY



I lost my husband, James to suicide on August 30, 2010. Though the first year is still a blur for me, I do remember the feelings of shame, fear, guilt, and extreme sadness that I didn't even know was possible. At the time of his passing, our children were 8, 4, and 1 years old. Not only was my entire life shattered, but I had to figure out a way to still be a mother to our three young children. I have never felt so alone in my entire life.

Over the years I have learned that many people find it difficult to help people after they lose a loved one to suicide because of the stigma that surrounds suicide. Though, I know in my heart that there is no wrong way in being there for someone and showing them

that they are not alone.

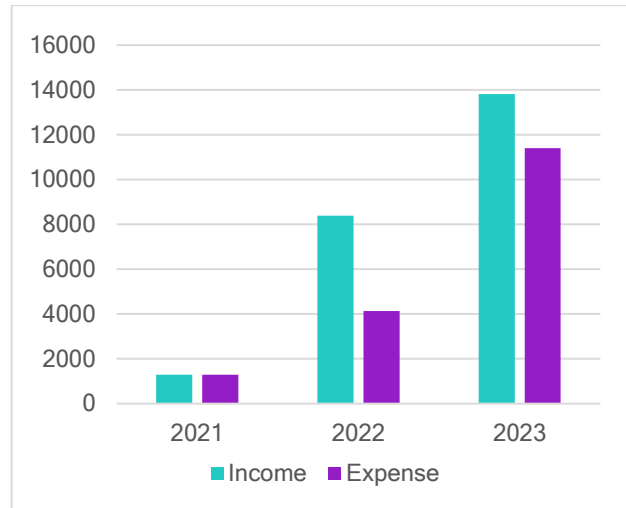
Losing James was by far the worst pain I have ever had to go through. The thought of everyone forgetting me and my children, the thought that everyone kept going about their days, the thought of nobody wanting to speak his name, the loneliness that led to complete isolation was definitely in close second to the pain I experienced when he left.

I speak of James often and see him every day inside my children. I have always said that he saw darkness, but we saw the light. When I say "we," I don't mean just my kids and I, I mean his entire family, all his friends, everyone who met James saw the light inside of him. It still hurts so much today to know that he was never able to see it. When I decided to start this new journey of walking alongside families that lose a loved one to suicide, the name came easy. There is a light within everybody and sometimes we just need someone to see it.

FINANCIAL REPORT

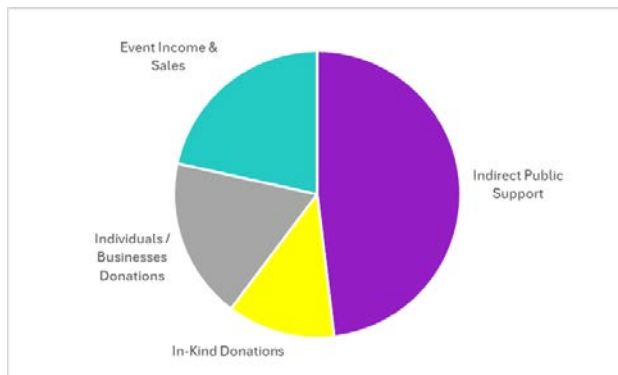
INCOME AND EXPENSES 2021, 2022, 2023

WSTL began operations November 19, 2021. The first year consisted of creating the business, getting a website, and walking alongside one family. In 2022, we started walking alongside more families, fundraising, and making connections. We made more connections and were getting known in 2023. We had our first motorcycle run fundraiser. We've done our best to keep costs down and quality up.



2023 INCOME AND EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

TOTAL INCOME: \$13,811



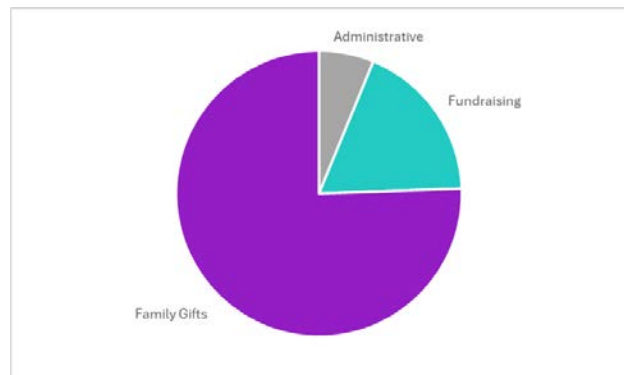
Indirect Public Support \$6,645

In-Kind Donations \$1,681

Individuals/Businesses Donations \$2,509

Event Income & Sales \$2,976

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$11,400



Administrative \$709 (6%)

Fundraising \$2,078 (18%)

Family Gifts \$8,613 (76%)

LIST OF DONORS

INDIVIDUALS

Emil & Lois Anderson

Anonymous

Bruce & Lisa Burnside

Mike & Erica Fellner

Donald Kofoot

Laura Lattrez

Kirk & Codi Leary Leitch

Tina Messerschmidt

Theresa Mitchell

DeAdra Phillips

Dorothy Radermacher

Edie Schaffhausen

Karen Sivanich

Bonnie Sullivan

Shawn Sullivan

Hector Zubiato

Participants of the 2023 motorcycle run

CORPORATIONS, BUSINESSES, AND INDIRECT PUBLIC SUPPORT

Conscious Healing Counseling Inc.

Facebook Meta Foundation

GiveMN

New Brighton Lions Club

PayPal Giving Fund

Wayne's Automotive

IN-KIND SUPPORT (including cards and handmade items)

Linette Carlson

Magdaline DeSousa

LaKeesha Furman

Eddie Gustafson

Michele Sullivan

Sherri Wagner

Girl Scout Troop #3019

Kimmy T

Lily Leary

Overvold Family

Ramsey Kids



Our generous supporters help our families see the light within themselves as we walk alongside them on their journeys. Suicide leaves behind many survivors that deserve to see the light. With your continued support, we can make a difference in their lives.



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We Saw The Light is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
We do not provide mental health services.

Silver
Transparency
2023

Candid.