



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BUTTERFLYZ, LLC

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A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

As we reflect upon 2023 through the creation of this annual report, the words that come to mind are resilience and excitement. Our resilience has been demonstrated since 2020 as we worked through COVID and the subsequent “Great Resignation”. Butterflyz LLC additionally became accredited in 2021. The group homes began to thrive in 2022 after successful implementation of the policies and procedures that we implemented from the accreditation process. After Care services also gained momentum as the development of the program really expanded. The program flourished and grew in 2023 with more client participation. This led to sustainable outcomes for the program. Additionally, we are excited that our work on the organization’s new Strategic Plan began, with goals to build upon our strengths and improve our programs’ quality and the experiences of staff. Our agency was intentional about training and hiring a qualified candidate. Noteworthy accomplishments of this plan include the roll-out of a new logo and branding, and a contract to partner with the city of Milwaukee to offer new and exciting programming to youth in Milwaukee County. The accomplishments of 2023 have us excited for 2024 and beyond as we continue to strengthen our programs, accomplish our strategic goals, and expand our services. Our employees, board of advisors, clients, and the community have been integral to our success, and we rely on these partners as we continue this momentum into the future. The following is a snapshot of Butterflyz LLC’s accomplishments in 2023.

Larina Hightower

Larina Hightower
CEO & Founding Partner



OUR MISSION

Home Away from Home Living Center is a community-based, direct service organization that provides a safe, home environment for youth in need of alternative living. Our mission focuses on the individualized needs of our youth to prepare them for the transition from group home living to reunification with their family or independent living. In a nurturing environment, we address the emotional, physical, educational and spiritual needs of our youth through mentoring, tutoring, educational programming, individual counseling, cultural enrichment, life skills training, problem solving techniques, goal setting, recreational therapy and community service activities.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to empower, inspire, and provide female youth ages 12-17 with the necessary tools of life skill development, personal responsibility and accountability. We aim to rise above the ordinary by transforming young women into productive members of society.

OUR MODEL “THE BUTTERFLY PROGRAM”

The “Butterfly Program” is designed to safely integrate residents of Home Away From Home Living Center, into their family, school and community, while offering great opportunities for growth and independence.

OUR CORE VALUES

COMMUNITY

We are committed to conducting ourselves with civility toward each other, respecting and including diversity of each other, and striving to form a consensus while creating a shared vision and working to achieve common objectives. We will build our community by implementing effective communication, collaboration, an openness to new ideas.

COMPASSION

We are committed to acting with compassion toward our clients and one another through active and empathic listening. As we truly strive to understand one another, we will create a climate of caring for others.

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to excellence in all that we do and to continuously strive to provide a higher quality of service to clients, staff and all members of the community involved with Home Away from Home Living Center.

INTEGRITY

We are committed to integrity by applying our values ethically, with consistency and honesty. We will demonstrate responsibility and accountability in our work and relationships and create a climate of trust in each other as we exhibit the courage to do the “right” thing at all times.



Our History and Overview

Butterflyz LLC was founded in 2009, with an emphasis on youth who have special needs. Our mission and vision is to provide housing to youth in out of home care with a focus on employability skills and vocational training. With our community partnerships Butterflyz LLC focuses on providing experiences to youth to ensure their exposure to different careers and or college through volunteer and job shadowing opportunities.

In 2009 the organization was formed by Larina Hightower and Baboonie Tatum. At the time Larina and Baboonie worked in the Milwaukee Public School system as special education teachers they both taught youth who were involved in the foster care system. While working with the youth involved in the foster care system, the youth shared their grievances regarding the group homes they currently lived in. After listening to the youth Baboonie and Larina decided to be change agents and focused on opening a group home that focused on youth leaving care. Larina and Baboonie wanted to ensure that youth were exposed to vocational and employability skills training prior to aging out of the system. Then in January of 2019 Butterflyz LLC expanded their program by opening an emergency assessment center (Building Youth Assessment Center), that would serve male and female youth in out of home care that required emergency placement. In 2021 Butterflyz LLC became an accredited agency through the Council on Accreditation. The accreditation process has allowed our agency to put systems and policies in place that helped not only improve our program but also helps us track the data. Throughout the data collection process it allow us to see our strengths and weakness in order to improve our services.

With the success of our group home, our shelter care and our comprehensive programming we decided to expand our services further. Butterflyz LLC's most recent expansion includes the implementation of a series of community outreach programs in the following areas:

1. Milwaukee King Center Partnership
 2. Wellness Services
 3. Educational Supportive Services
 4. Advocacy Services
 5. Youth and Family After-care Services
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REMAINS AN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATION

2023 PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS SHORT-TERM PLACEMENT SERVICES

Program enhancements were made to the approach of short-term placements. In doing this, we created a new pathway in our service delivery model specifically for short term care. Short-term care is defined as a youth needing a short residential stay for either assessment, stabilization, or shelter services. All youth on this track received elevated case management that involved weekly assessments, stabilization services, and a crisis intervention plan.

AFTER CARE PROGRAM

The Butterflyz After Care Program were enhanced, and the program now offers resources for parents or guardians, educational support, and enhanced crisis prevention services. These enhancements improved placement stability for youth in the home & school after departing out of home care.

MERGER TO ELECTRONIC DATABASE

Butterflyz LLC merged over to an electronic client database and tracking system. Through this merger process, we were able to build an agency specific site that is set to manage records while capturing, tracking, and reporting on specific data. In addition, the system now allows the agency to have longitudinal reporting and comparison of performance with outcomes over time.





213 Youth Served

100% of staff participate in the Child Sex Trafficking to better serve this population of youth

**93% of youth participants who engaged in our job shadowing and employability skills training
have a better idea of what they want to do post school**

90% of youth increased school attendance with our educational support services

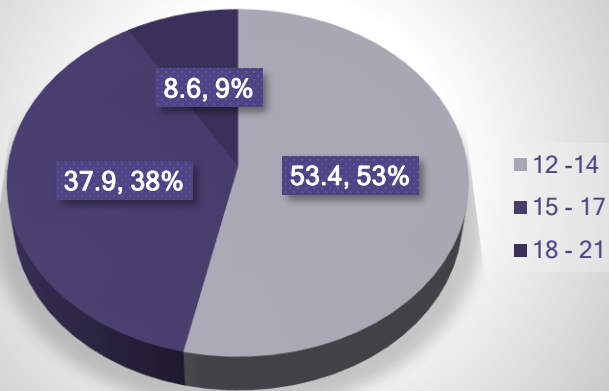
94% of youth participants report feeling more hopeful about their future after their stay at Butterflyz



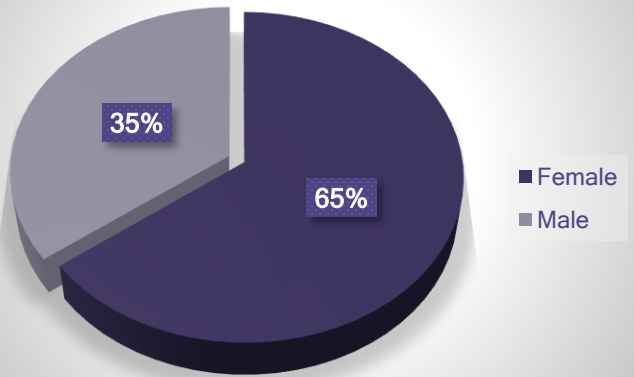


OUR DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

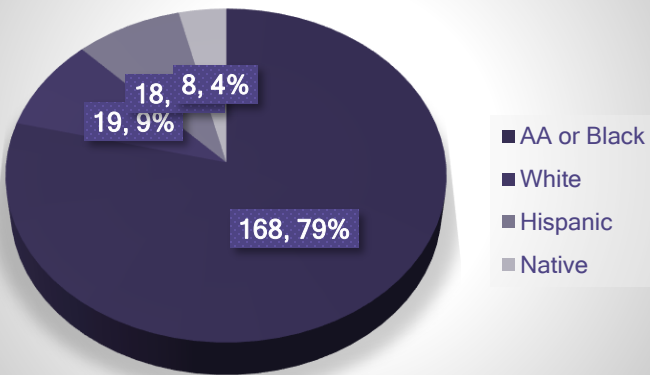
BY AGE



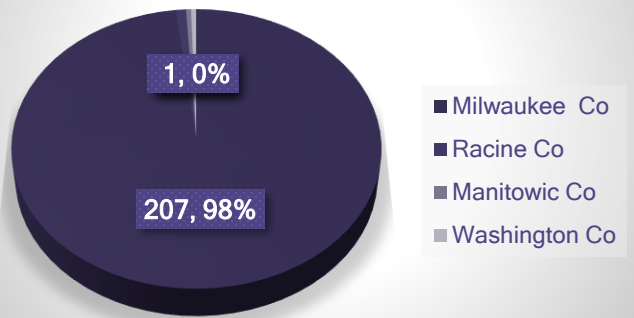
BY GENDER



BY RACE



BY REFERRING COUNTY





OUR BOARD

<p>Melody Joiner</p> <p>Outreach Community Health Center</p> <p>Board President</p>	<p>Sue Gadacz, MA</p> <p>HRSA, Chief Operating Officer</p> <p>Board Member At Large</p>
<p>NeBritt Herring</p> <p>Milwaukee Public School District</p> <p>Board Vice President</p>	<p>Deshell Parker, MA</p> <p>DHHS</p> <p>Board Member At Large</p>
<p>Larika Johnson</p> <p>Aurora Medical</p> <p>Recording Secretary</p>	<p>Christian Webb</p> <p>Former Resident of Butterflyz LLC</p> <p>Board Member At Large</p>
<p>Larina Hightower</p> <p>CFO, Butterflyz LLC</p>	<p>Baboonie Tatum</p> <p>CEO Butterflyz LLC</p>

Our Locations

Butterflyz LLC dba Home Away from Home
(Building Youth Assessment Center)
3628 W. Wright Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210

Butterflyz Partnership Program
Milwaukee King Center
1531 W. W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53205

Butterflyz Administrative Office
8003 W. Congress Street #4
Milwaukee, WI 53218