



 FRIENDS OF  
**CLUB 21**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 was a year of extraordinary momentum and meaningful growth for Friends of Club 21—truly a year that proved we are “Made for More.” Our signature production, *Christmas This Year*, reached new heights with four sold-out performances, record attendance, and an outpouring of community support. What began as a small vision continues to flourish as a powerful platform where individuals with Down syndrome are celebrated as artists, storytellers, and leaders—revealing that they are made of more talent, courage, and purpose than the world often expects.

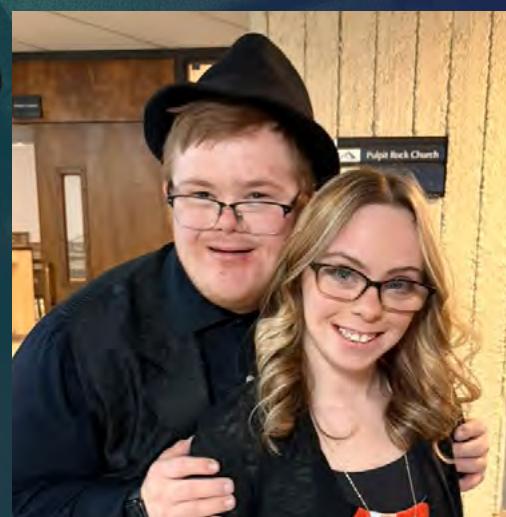
At the heart of our work, the Arts Academy expanded as a creative home where students grow in confidence, skill, and belonging through music, drama, dance, and visual arts. Each class and rehearsal became more than instruction—it became a place where identity is strengthened, friendships are formed, and voices are discovered, reminding us that our students are made of more than labels.

This year also marked an exciting step forward on a national level. New advocacy relationships, increased visibility, and our choir’s invitation to perform in Washington, DC affirmed that what is happening locally is resonating far beyond Colorado. These opportunities allowed our participants to represent the beauty of inclusion on a broader stage and help change how the world sees ability.

None of this would be possible without you. Your generosity, volunteerism, and belief in our mission fuel this movement. Together, we are building more than programs—we are building a future Made for More.



Jared Anderson



## OUR MISSION

Friends of Club 21 is a Colorado non-profit celebrating Down syndrome locally and around the world. We exist to see supported communities, social awareness and global generosity for families affected by Down syndrome.

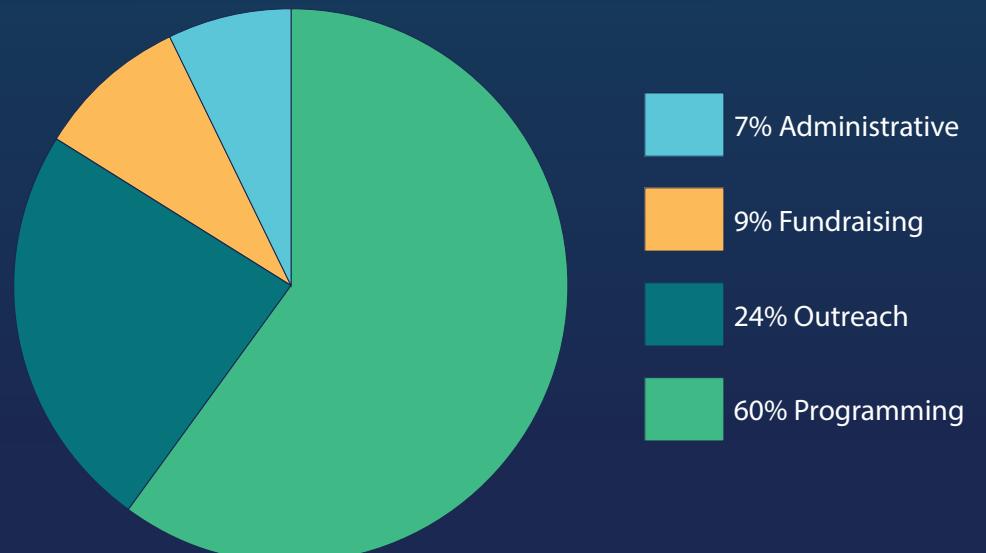
## OUR VISION

Our vision is that every individual with Down syndrome would flourish into his or her full potential and live an abundant life.

# 2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

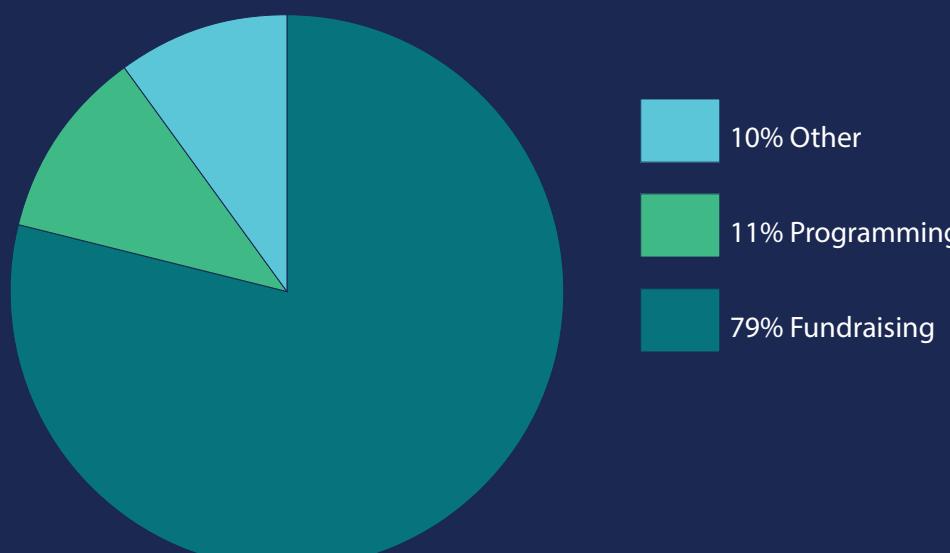
## Breakdown of Expenses

Total expenses: \$481,428



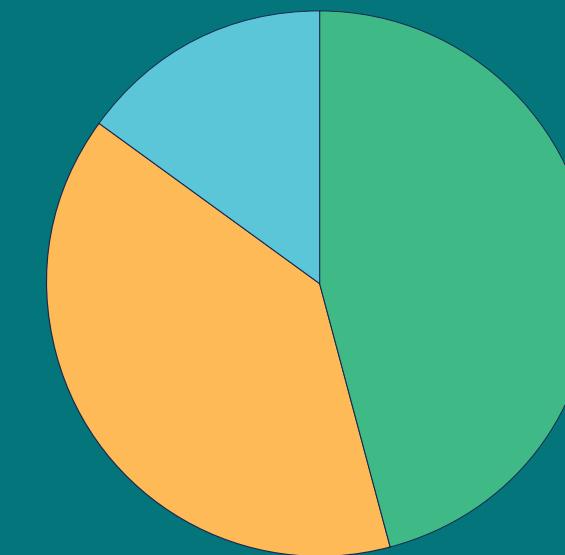
## Breakdown of Income

Total income: \$492,886



## Breakdown of Fundraising

Total income: \$389,380



## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- **485%** Growth in Monthly Donations
- **26** Corporate Sponsors
- **500%** Social Media Growth
- **3,000** *Christmas This Year* Tickets Sold
- **10** Choir Performances
- **70** Arts Academy Students
- **15** Arts Academy Classes Offered
- **35** Arts Academy Teachers & Assistants
- **125** Volunteers
- **1** Best in Show Award for our Float at the Monument 4th of July Parade

Friends of Club 21 is supported through a combination of program revenue and charitable giving. While we continue to strengthen sustainable funding models, our work is made possible through the generosity of donors, foundations, businesses, and community partners who believe in the flourishing of individuals with Down syndrome.



Friends of Club 21 takes seriously its obligation to steward resources with the utmost integrity. We are pleased to report Charity Navigator has awarded us its highest rating for financial health, accountability, and transparency, and we have also earned Candid's Gold Seal of Transparency.

# Made for More:

## Down Syndrome and Human Flourishing A Reflection for Community, Families, and Supporters

Down syndrome is often misunderstood. For decades, it has been described mainly in terms of limitations—what individuals may struggle with, what they may never do, or what support they may always need. While medical and developmental realities are real, this narrow focus misses a far greater truth.

### Individuals with Down syndrome are Made for More.

They are made for connection, creativity, contribution, leadership, and growth. Research, lived experience, and community practice consistently show that when individuals with Down syndrome are surrounded by supportive relationships and meaningful opportunities, they flourish. The role of families, organizations, and communities is not to lower expectations, but to build environments where potential can grow.

### RETHINKING DOWN SYNDROME

Modern research has moved away from viewing disability only as a medical problem. Instead, it recognizes that many challenges faced by people with Down syndrome

come from social barriers—low expectations, limited access, and exclusion—rather than from the diagnosis itself.

Studies show that individuals with Down syndrome often report high levels of happiness, strong family bonds, and positive self-identity, especially when they are included in community life. This invites an important shift in perspective: people with Down syndrome should not be defined by what they lack, but by who they are and what they can become.

### WHAT DOES “MADE FOR MORE” MEAN?

Being Made for More reflects the following core elements that shape long-term well-being for all people:

### BELONGING AND RELATIONSHIP

Belonging is foundational. Individuals with Down syndrome thrive when they are known, welcomed, and valued as active participants in community life. Inclusive environments foster emotional health, confidence, and authentic friendships.

### EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION

Communication is more than spoken words. Many individuals with Down syndrome flourish when given multiple ways to express themselves. Music, theater, visual art, movement, and storytelling provide powerful outlets for creativity, emotion, and identity, strengthening both confidence and social connection.

### PURPOSE AND CONTRIBUTION

Every person needs to know they matter. Meaningful contribution—through work, service, performance, or responsibility—builds independence, pride, and purpose. When individuals with Down syndrome are given opportunities to contribute, they grow as capable and valued members of their communities.

### AGENCY AND LEADERSHIP

Agency—the ability to make choices and influence one's environment—is a strong predictor of positive adult outcomes. When individuals with Down syndrome are invited to lead, perform,

and help shape programs, they grow in confidence while challenging outdated assumptions.

### LIFELONG GROWTH.

Growth does not stop in childhood. With sustained opportunities, individuals with Down syndrome continue learning and developing throughout adolescence and adulthood. Programs that support the whole person enable lifelong progress.

### TURNING VISION INTO PRACTICE

Friends of Club 21 designs its programs around the belief that individuals with Down syndrome are Made for More. Rather than offering isolated services, FOC21 builds an integrated ecosystem that supports individuals and families across seasons of life.

Arts-based programs provide powerful tools for

communication, creativity, confidence, and leadership. Community events and gatherings create spaces of belonging where relationships grow and families connect.

Family engagement and support strengthen the broader relational network that makes long-term flourishing possible. Each program is designed not just to meet a need, but to unlock potential.

### CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

The Made for More vision reaches beyond any single organization. It calls communities, schools, churches, and policymakers to rethink what inclusion truly means.

Inclusion is not simply being present—it is being valued, heard, and needed. When individuals with Down syndrome are seen creating art, performing on stage,

serving others, and shaping culture, public perception begins to shift. The story changes from limitation to possibility, from charity to partnership.

Down syndrome does not limit a person's worth or potential. Individuals with Down syndrome are made for belonging, expression, purpose, leadership, and lifelong growth.

When communities design programs that honor these truths, people flourish—not despite Down syndrome, but as whole and valuable members of the human family.

This is the heart of Made for More: seeing what is possible, building environments that support growth, and celebrating lives full of meaning, joy, and contribution.



# 2025 IMPACT THROUGH THE LENS OF MADE FOR MORE

The theme of *Christmas This Year 2025—Made for More* became far more than a message on stage; it became a defining lens through which we experienced the entire year. It affirmed a truth echoed by research, lived experience, and community practice: individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and those who walk alongside them are made of more capacity, more creativity, more courage, and more purpose than the world often expects.

Throughout 2025, every milestone—on stage, in community, and behind the scenes—reflected this deeper conviction. Friends of Club 21 exists to build environments where that “more” can be seen, nurtured, and celebrated.

**“TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING MORE THAN PROGRAMS—WE ARE BUILDING A FUTURE MADE FOR MORE.”**

## MADE FOR MORE Influence

### National and International Impact

In 2025, Friends of Club 21 stepped into broader national and international influence, extending its mission beyond local boundaries. The choir’s invitation to perform at the Susan B. Anthony Gala in Washington, DC marked a significant moment of national representation—elevating voices of inclusion on a prominent stage and affirming the power of artistic expression as advocacy.

At the same time, Friends of Club 21 offered encouragement and support to Club 21 in South Africa, reflecting a growing commitment to global connection. These moments underscored a powerful truth: this community is made for more than local impact. We are made for influence that crosses borders, shapes imagination, and invites others into a more inclusive vision of belonging.



## Local Impact

### Aiden's Story: Finding His Voice Through Art

At 17, Aiden Listak has tried many activities—baseball, soccer, skiing, snowboarding—but nothing ever captured his heart like art. From a young age, he gravitated toward color, paper, and markers. He loves bold hues, clean lines, and the feel of a fresh-tipped Crayola marker. Precision matters to him. So does expression.

Today, Aiden attends a local high school, where his creativity shines in ceramics. After school, the family dining room becomes his studio. With music in his earbuds, he fills journal after journal with abstract geometric designs layered with vibrant color. When he was younger, he loved drawing rainbows—always in full spectrum. That joy has never faded.

At Friends of Club 21, we believe one of the most powerful ways to connect is through the arts. Across cultures and histories, the arts have become a universal language—one that fosters empathy, understanding, and belonging. For Aiden, Arts Academy is where that language comes alive. It gives him a way to express his perspective, his joy, and his story.

Arts Academy didn't just give Aiden a class.

It gave him a voice.



**“ARTS ACADEMY DIDN’T JUST GIVE AIDEN A CLASS. IT GAVE HIM A VOICE ... IT GIVES HIM A WAY TO EXPRESS HIS PERSPECTIVE, HIS JOY, AND HIS STORY.”**



## MADE FOR MORE *In Action*

The Arts Academy continued to flourish as the creative heartbeat of Friends of Club 21, serving children, teens, and adults through music, drama, dance, and visual arts. These programs provide more than instruction—they offer vital pathways for communication, confidence, leadership, and self-expression.

This creative momentum culminated in the largest *Christmas This Year* production in organizational history, featuring four sold-out performances and supported by more than one hundred volunteers. Each performance celebrated not only talent, but purpose and contribution.

Creative visibility extended beyond the stage as Friends of Club 21 earned the grand prize for Best Overall Entry at the Monument 4th of July parade. These moments reminded our community that our performers are made of more than talent alone—they are made of resilience, joy, leadership, and the courage to be fully seen.



**“... PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME SHOULD NOT BE DEFINED BY WHAT THEY LACK, BUT BY WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY CAN BECOME.”**



## MADE FOR MORE *Belonging*

### Social Connection & Community Life

Belonging is foundational to human flourishing. Through year-round gatherings, Friends of Club 21 intentionally created spaces where friendship, independence, and relational growth could take root.

These shared experiences—marked by laughter, conversation, and mutual support—reinforced that true community is not built solely through structured programs, but through consistent presence and meaningful relationships. Participants were reminded, week after week, that they are made of more than labels or diagnoses—they are made for belonging.

**“INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOSTER EMOTIONAL HEALTH, CONFIDENCE, AND AUTHENTIC FRIENDSHIPS.”**

# MADE FOR MORE *Growth*

## Organizational Expansion & Sustainability

Behind the scenes, Friends of Club 21 experienced significant organizational growth in 2025. Strengthened governance, staff development, volunteer leadership, and financial momentum positioned the organization for long-term sustainability.

This growth was also visible in the life of the community. Club Night—our annual night of celebration and primary fundraiser—saw a record turnout, reflecting deepening community engagement and growing support for our mission. The evening featured an outstanding art exhibit, highlighting the creativity, confidence, and talent of our artists.

Growth in recurring donors and expanded partnerships reflected increasing trust in the mission and its impact. Preparations for expansion into Medicaid-supported services marked a critical step toward broader access and long-term stability. This work reflects a commitment to being made for more than short-term success—built on infrastructure, foresight, and systems designed to support individuals and families for years to come.



**“THE ROLE OF FAMILIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES IS NOT TO LOWER EXPECTATIONS, BUT TO BUILD ENVIRONMENTS WHERE POTENTIAL CAN GROW.”**

**“HER LIFE  
OF FAITH,  
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**MADE FOR MORE** *Love*

Community Legacy & Heart

The dedication of *Christmas This Year* to the memory of June Gordon captured the deepest meaning of Made for More. Her life of faith, mentorship, and unconditional love continues to shape the heart of Friends of Club 21.

Her legacy reminds us that this organization is ultimately made of more than programs, performances, or plans. It is made of people—those who give generously, serve faithfully, and love without limits. That love is the foundation upon which every expression of impact is built.



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