“Friends is more than support. It represents family.”

“I went to Friends because I wanted to figure out how to deal with my stuttering in the least painful way possible. Instead, Friends showed me how to wield my stuttering as a strength. Every year at Friends I hear strength and courage sound like a hundred different things, and I relearn that the best voices are not the ones that are untroubled but the ones that don't stop trying.”

Mary McLoughlin
What began in 1998 as a group of 30 people coming together in the hope of finding support, has grown into the largest support organization for young people who stutter in the country. Over the past 20 years, we have touched the lives of thousands of young people and their families. None of our success would be possible without the generosity and dedication of so many people.

Today Friends is going stronger than ever, continuing to work towards our founding mission: to instill a sense of empowerment, provide an environment where feelings of isolation disappear, and to grow confidence and self-esteem. Thank you for your help in achieving our goal to reach more children and families, and allow them to experience what other young people who stutter have learned through Friends: that they are not alone.

Lee Caggiano
Founder, Executive Director
Program Growth
2017-2018

**One-Day Conferences**
A full day of group activities, presentations, & panels.
Children, teens, siblings, parents, and speech-language pathologists attend workshops geared toward them.

**Annual Convention**
A 3-day immersive experience.
Abundant support and information.
Family oriented events, keynote speakers, and workshops for all.

### 2017

321 + 272 = 593
One-Day Conference Attendees
Annual Convention Attendees

### 2018*

487 + 250 = 737
One-Day Conference Attendees
Annual Convention Attendees

*Jan.-Sep. 2018
Program Growth

Annual Convention

2017

42 Scholarship Recipients

2018

65 Scholarship Recipients

From the moment of arrival at the Friends convention, it became very clear that our son was not alone and his feeling of being comfortable was through the roof. The focus was him. He knew it, and we knew it.

About scholarships: Friends sets aside funds for families who otherwise may not be able to attend the annual 3-day convention. This covers the cost of registration, 3-night hotel stay, and meals. Friends is dedicated to ensuring that every family is able to attend a convention regardless of financial status.
Friends has given our son a new sense of hope and a boost to his confidence. He met amazing people who have inspired him to do things that he would have never done before. Our family not only met a lot of courageous young people who stutter, but we also met other parents whose stories are very similar to ours: incredible people who are a wealth of information, who comforted us, and who understood exactly what we are going through.
Program Growth

One-Day Conferences

11 One-Day Conferences in 2018

- Philadelphia, PA
- Orange County, CA
- Raleigh, NC
- Kent, OH
- Perrysburg, OH
- Omaha, NE
- San Francisco, CA

Projected Locations for 2019

- Pittsburgh, PA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Raleigh, NC
- San Francisco, CA
- Indianapolis, IN
- Perrysburg, OH
- New Paltz, NY
- Seattle, WA
After participating in Friends events, children and teenagers shared that...

- They built strong relationships and a sense of community in a safe environment.
- Hearing and sharing personal stories increased self-acceptance and acceptance of others.
- Living with stuttering can be hard, but the convention helped normalize stuttering.
- Collaborative learning facilitated personal growth.
- Communicative & cognitive changes persisted beyond the convention.
Real-life changes witnessed at Friends

- Feeling more confident about introducing themselves to a new person
- Ordering food at a restaurant, without a parent or friend ordering for them
- Finding the strength to ask someone for a date without being stopped by fear of ridicule
- Running for student office while bravely and proudly telling their class that they stutter
- Learning that stuttering does not need to define the course of their lives
## Statement of Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue and Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions + grants</td>
<td>$52,468</td>
<td>$62,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$53,311</td>
<td>$57,127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>$7</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$105,833</td>
<td>$119,213</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$75,277</td>
<td>$88,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operational</td>
<td>$7,204</td>
<td>$11,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$5,761</td>
<td>$7,839</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$88,242</td>
<td>$108,386</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$17,591</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets - Beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>$43,109</td>
<td>$60,700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets - End of year</strong></td>
<td>$60,700</td>
<td>$71,527</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 2017 Allocation of Expenses

- Programs: 82%
- Operational: 11%
- Development: 7%
In 2019, we plan to reach more children and provide more continuous support by increasing the number of one day conferences, broadening locations of one-day conferences, and repeating our presence in certain cities. We will increase public awareness about stuttering and reach out to children who stutter in various school districts by developing and implementing a stuttering awareness program and anti-stigma program.
If you stutter, you have FRIENDS
www.friendswhostutter.org