

Impact Report

FY 2026



wonder fund

“Childhood adversity is a story we think we know... The people who are smart and strong enough are able to rise above the past and triumph through the force of their own will and resilience. Or are they?”

- Dr. Nadine Burke Harris,
The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Trauma and Adversity

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Dear Friends

Letter from our Founder and CEO



As we complete the second year of Wonderfund's three-year strategic plan, I am proud to share that, thanks to your support, we have exceeded every goal we set for ourselves.

Whether through emergency essentials or enriching experiences, we work to meet the individualized needs and interests of children involved with DCF – from providing specialized hair care kits and school uniforms to helping a child attend summer camp, join a sports team, or take music lessons. As our partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families deepens, so does our understanding of how we can best support the unique needs of the children we serve.

What makes the Wonderfund unique is our ability to provide individualized support at scale. We serve more than 35,000 children across Massachusetts, yet we never view them as a single population. Each child has different experiences, lives in a different community, and has different needs. While

personalized support requires greater investment, we know it is worth it. Every child deserves to be seen, valued, and supported for who they are.

We are equally committed to being responsible stewards of your generosity, stretching every dollar as far as possible to maximize impact. As we look ahead to the next phase of our growth, we are excited to build on this momentum and continue evolving to meet the needs of children and youth across Massachusetts.

Thank you for making this work possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Lauren Baker".

Lauren Baker
Founder and CEO, Wonderfund

Our Mission

On any given day, there are

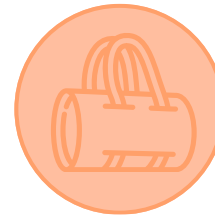
35,000

children and teens
engaged with the
Massachusetts Department
of Children and Families

Approximately 75%
remain with their families,
while 25% are in
foster care

The Wonderfund is a private nonprofit, 501(c)3 serving children engaged with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. We invest in children receiving services from DCF by providing emergency essentials and enrichment opportunities that help insulate them from the negative impacts of trauma.

Our Two Pillars of Support



Emergency Essentials

We stock every DCF office in Massachusetts with duffel bags, clothes, hygiene products, and more for youth in emergency situations.



Enriching Experiences

Enriching opportunities allow children to choose experiences that create moments of joy and have the potential to change their lives.

Emergency Essentials

68,562

Emergency essentials distributed in FY 2026



37,404

Apparel items



3,552

Duffle Bags



5,428

Backpacks



4,747

Hygiene Kits



3,888

Textured Hair Care Kits



9,078

Period Kits



2,238

Infant Items



2,227

Emergency Aid Gift Cards



Essentials That Fit

Jayden, age 6, received brand new uniform polos for school this fiscal year!

Our Emergency Essentials program continues to grow to meet the evolving needs of children and teens across Massachusetts. As the program expands, we're not only distributing more clothing, hygiene items, and other essentials; we're also broadening our inventory to better meet each child's unique needs, from extended sizing to seasonal clothing and specialty items.

Through our online distributor platform, we continued offering extended sizing and seasonal essentials while responding to emerging needs across the state. For the first time, DCF offices were also able to request school uniform polos. Last summer alone, we provided 1,535 polos, helping children begin the school year feeling confident, prepared, and dignified.

13%

increase in essentials distributed year over year



Community Partners



▶ Volunteers at our 4th Annual Period Party in March

Behind every backpack, textured hair care kit, period kit, and box of essentials is a volunteer making it possible. Volunteers are the backbone of our Emergency Essentials program, dedicating their time to help inventory donations, pack hygiene kits, and prepare pallets of essential items for delivery to DCF offices across Massachusetts. Their support ensures that children in crisis receive the items they need quickly, efficiently, and with care.

This year, hundreds of volunteers joined the Wonderfund to help distribute 68,562 essential items to children and teens across the Commonwealth. Whether joining us as individuals, corporate teams, or community groups, our volunteers make an extraordinary impact, proving that when a community comes together, every child can feel seen, supported, and cared for.



P/E Investments



Deloitte



The TJX Companies



CrossCountry Consulting



The Village Bank



Red Sox Foundation



Eastern Bank



Suffolk Construction



EY



Blue Cross Blue Shield



Rapid7



B-FLEXION

It Takes a Village

The Wonderfund is grateful to partner with several nonprofits, retailers, and businesses who generously provide goods for our Emergency Essentials program for free or at wholesale cost.



Special Dental Care Network

Maya, age 18, was able to pay for critical dental x-rays that couldn't be covered by insurance.

The Special Dental Care Network is a partnership between the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Wonderfund, Delta Dental, and top dental care providers across the Commonwealth. It helps DCF-engaged youth with severe, uncovered dental needs receive pro bono or donor-funded care to restore health, function, and confidence.

In FY26, the Special Dental Care Network provided critical dental care for **8 youth**, investing **\$6,010.25** in treatments that transformed smiles, relieved pain, and helped youth move forward with renewed confidence. Behind every procedure is a child who can smile, eat, speak, and thrive without the burden of untreated dental needs.

Thank You to Our Donors!



Emergency Essentials Heroes



Corporate Sponsor	DCF Area Office
Village Bank	Greater Waltham
Harbor One Bank	Brockton
Rockland Trust	Fall River
Red Sox Foundation	Greenfield
Greylock Federal Credit Union	Berkshire

This year, the Wonderfund launched Emergency Essentials Heroes, a new giving circle created to help ensure DCF area offices remain fully stocked with the essentials children need. Members make a year-long commitment to provide a DCF area office with the reliable support needed to respond whenever a child enters care.

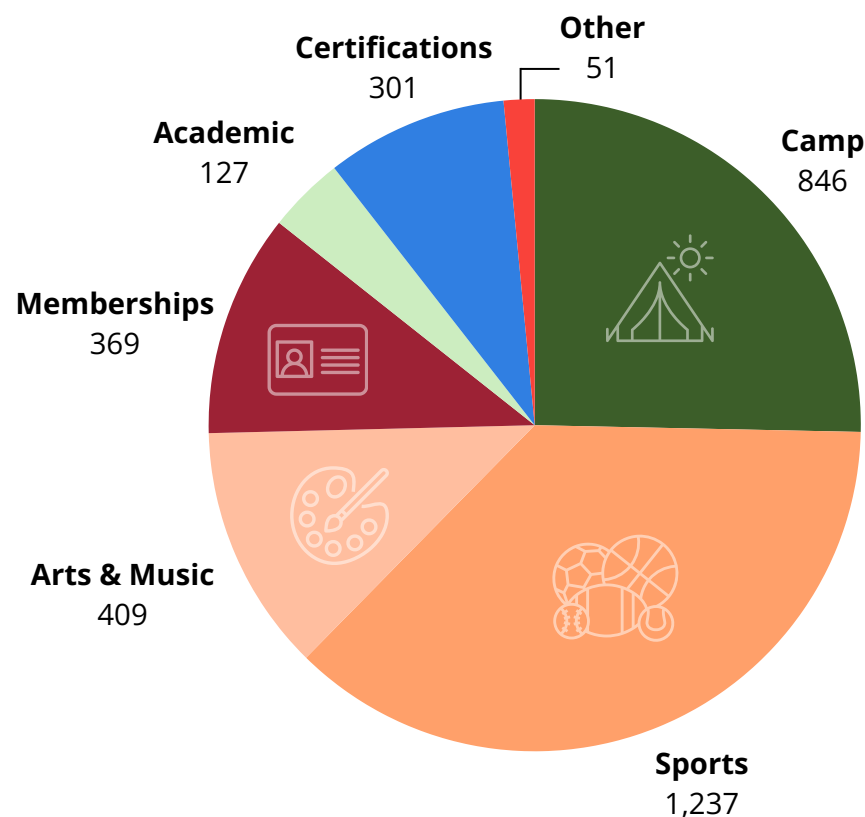
In its inaugural year, five donors joined as Emergency Essentials Heroes, contributing \$105,000.00 collectively to support DCF offices in their communities. Their generosity helped stock five DCF area offices with duffle bags, clothing, hygiene items, and other essentials, ensuring children receive what they need, exactly when they need it.

Enriching Experiences



3,340

Enrichment Grants requested in FY 2026



Enrichment Grant Program Continues to Grow!

The Wonderfund's Enrichment Grant Program funds activities that empower children and teens involved with MA DCF to explore their interests, build confidence, and experience the opportunities every child deserves. Research shows that repeated positive childhood experiences have a mitigating effect for children who have experienced trauma. Additionally, giving them the opportunity to choose their activity for themselves gives them agency which their situation in life often takes away.

This year, we deepened our partnership with DCF and expanded access to enrichment opportunities across the Commonwealth; helping more children build confidence, discover their potential, and experience positive moments that can shape their lives.

50%

increase in enrichment requests year over year



Powered by

Adage

Capital Management

Matching Grant Program

This remarkable program growth was made possible in part by the generous support of Adage Capital Management, who matched nearly \$200,000 in enrichment grant spending during FY26. Their partnership has been instrumental in expanding opportunities for the youth we serve, and we are deeply grateful for their continued commitment.

You Helped Youth Say “Yes” to Enrichment



Building Confidence, One Belt at a Time

▶ Abbie, age 9, started karate lessons last winter.

Abbie is a shy child who often struggles with anxiety, making it difficult to try new things and feel comfortable in unfamiliar settings. Thanks to the Wonderfund's Enrichment Grant Program, she was able to enroll in karate, where she found a supportive environment that encouraged her to grow at her own pace.

Week by week, she built confidence, discipline, and resilience as she learned new techniques and worked toward earning her next belt. Each accomplishment, no matter how small, helped Abbie believe in herself a little more. The confidence she gained in karate lessons is empowering her far beyond the dojo.



A Future Takes Flight

▶ Anthony, age 11, attended STEM camp last summer.

After a difficult school year, Anthony found renewed confidence through a drone camp made possible by the Wonderfund's Enrichment Grant Program. He chose the activity himself, and it quickly became clear how much the experience resonated with him. Through hands-on exploration of drones, engineering, and technology, Anthony was able to pursue an interest that genuinely excited him. A visit from a local police team made the experience even more meaningful, giving him the chance to see how the technology he was learning about could be used in the real world. The camp helped Anthony build confidence, discover his strengths, and feel excited about learning.

His foster parent wrote to us, “I just wanted to thank you all again for your assistance in providing normal childhood activities to our foster son. . . These STEM and science camps are really expensive - much more than the average day camp - and so we are very grateful for your assistance. Participating in these camps that he had real interest in were encouraging and confidence-building for him.”



Celebrating 100 Access Card Partners

▶ Boston Children's Museum

This fiscal year, the Wonderfund celebrated an exciting milestone as the Access Card Program surpassed **100 partner organizations** across Massachusetts.

Since launching in 2020, the program has helped make museums, zoos, aquariums, cultural attractions, and family destinations more accessible for DCF foster families through the generosity of our partners, who offer free or discounted admission to Access Card holders. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to ensuring more children and families can explore, learn, and create lasting memories together.

102

Access Card
partners

9,252

Access Card uses in fiscal
year 2026

Explore full list of partners at
wonderfundma.org/access-card

30,810

children and teens received holiday gifts meant just for them



16,150 children had their unique wish lists fulfilled, thanks to **2,424** donors from the Berkshires to the Cape and up to the Merrimack Valley.

5,462 teens received gift cards so they could get exactly what they wanted, thanks to our generous Teen Gift Card Fund donors!



More than **40 community toy drives** and hundreds of Amazon wishlist donors collected more than **23,800** gifts for DCF offices, so social workers and parents could "shop" for kids and teens.

All together, our incredible donors contributed nearly 80,000 gifts this holiday season!



Room in Your Heart

The Lenox Hotel's annual Room in Your Heart Kick Off party raised a record **\$309,710** for our holiday gift drive and collected hundreds of gifts!



Power an Office

In addition to all of the generously donated gifts, it costs approximately \$10,000 to cover the remaining costs for one DCF office during the holiday season. This includes things like UHaul deliveries,

storage units, gift cards for teens, and fulfilling wish lists for kids who enter care right up to the holidays. For the first time this year, donors could fully Power an Office with a commitment of \$10,000.

Thank you to our generous donors: Lauren and Patrick Dukes (Burlington/Cambridge Office), Bob and Mickey Atchinson (Greater Waltham Office), John Cook and UBS (Haverhill Office), Charlie Baker (Holyoke Office), and Karyn Polito (Worcester West Office).

A Transformative Investment



This June, the Wonderfund was honored to receive a \$1 million grant over 10 years from Cummings Foundation! This is a transformative investment in our mission and the children we serve.

Their long-term support will help us sustain and expand our programs, providing more emergency essentials and enriching experiences to children and teens engaged with the

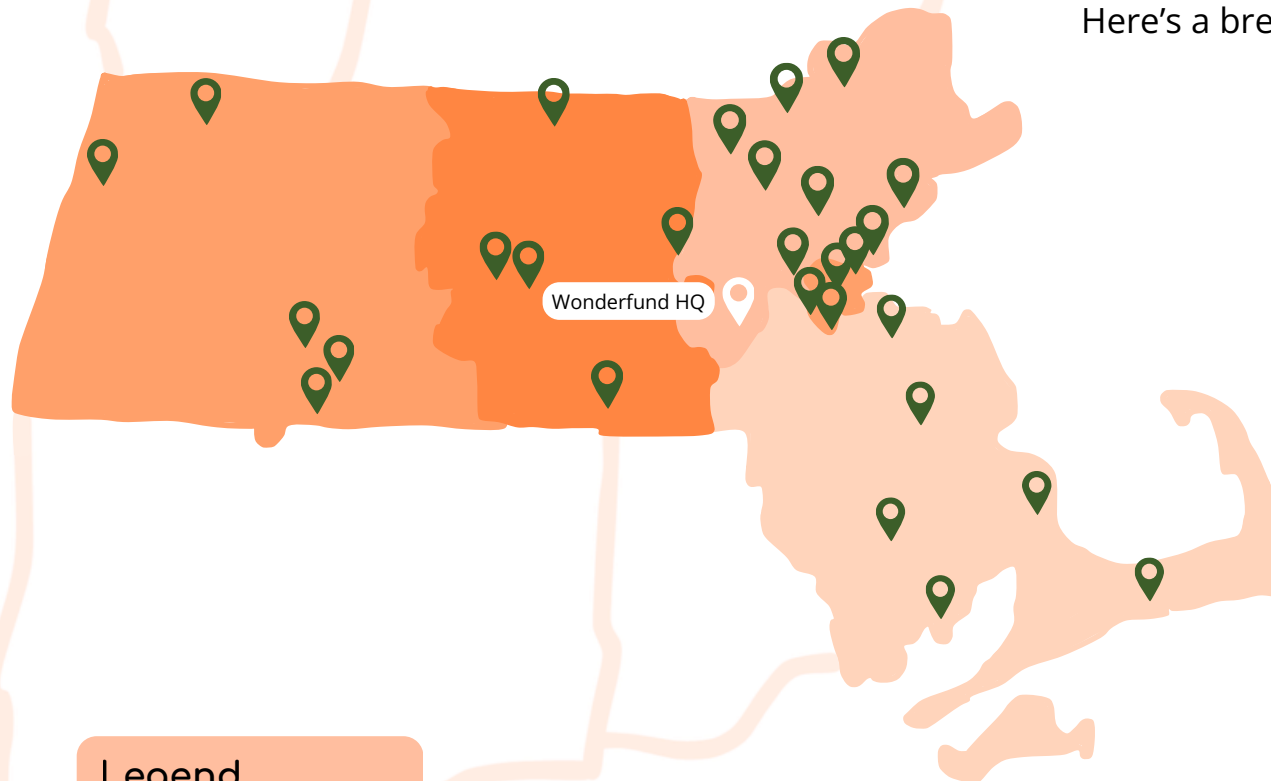
Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. It will also give us greater stability to plan for the future and respond to evolving needs across the Commonwealth.

We are deeply grateful to Cummings Foundation for believing in our mission and investing in the future of Massachusetts' children.

Spending by Region

You make it possible for the Wonderfund to serve all 29 DCF Area Offices across Massachusetts. From the Berkshires to the Cape, your support makes a difference for youth in every town and city in the Commonwealth.

Here's a breakdown of our FY26 spending by region:



Boston
\$1.0 M

Central
\$1.2 M

Northern
\$1.3 M

Southern
\$1.4 M

Western
\$1.2 M

Wonderfund HQ (G&A)
\$1.0 M

Legend

- One of the 29 DCF Area Offices in Massachusetts
- Wonderfund HQ in Newton, MA

FY 2026 Revenue

Total Revenue
\$9.8 M

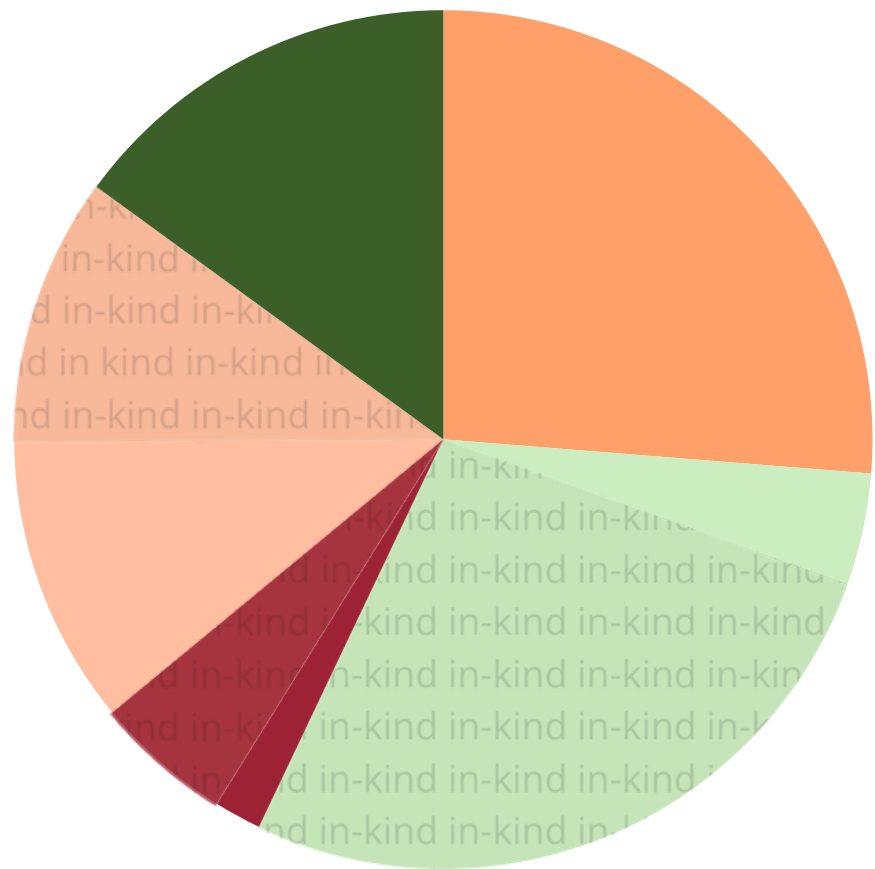
Net Contribution Revenue
\$8.2 M

Non-Operational Investment Income
\$1.6 M

In-kind donations—including holiday gifts, emergency essentials, Access Card partnerships and wholesale discounts—played a vital role in advancing our mission this year, allowing us to stretch every dollar further. Thanks to \$3M in in-kind donations, we were able to direct 43% more impact toward our mission than our cash budget alone would have allowed, meaning that for every dollar of cash we spent, donated goods and services added roughly 76 cents more toward our mission.

NOTE: These financials are unaudited, for the year ending June 30, 2026, for the Wonderfund's operations.

FY 2026 Expenses



Holiday	\$2.2 M
Cash	\$300 K
In-Kind	\$1.9 M
Enrichment Grants	\$1.9 M
Cash	\$1.9 M
In-Kind	\$0
Emergency Essentials	\$1.5 M
Cash	\$723 K
In-Kind	\$777 K
Other Enrichment	\$500 K
Cash	\$130 K
In-Kind	\$370 K
G&A	\$1.0 M

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Wonderfund Board

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David Pete
Linda Spears



Supporting the future of youth in Massachusetts

We are grateful for the thousands of generous individuals, corporations, and foundations who made a gift to the Wonderfund this fiscal year.

Your support makes it possible for us to continue creating brighter futures for children and teens involved with the Massachusetts child welfare system.

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