

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





EMPOWERING PARENTS ENRICHING COMMUNITIES

SITTERSFORSCHOLARS.ORG 769 CENTRE ST, BOSTON, MA 02130



Dear Sitters for Scholars Community,

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to every one of our dedicated volunteers, staff members, partner organization, grant funders, individual donors, and boosters!

Your unwavering commitment and generosity have allowed Sitters for Scholars to expand the trusted, free babysitting we provided to student parents in 2023. You've helped make a lasting impact on the lives of our families as they pursue their education and greater economic security for their families.

As we reflect on the achievements in 2023, we look forward to 2024, our 10th anniversary - a year to celebrate our successes and continue our growth.

I want to conclude by expressing my deepest respect and admiration for our student parents, the vast majority of whom are single mothers. Their hard work, determination and success make Sitters for Scholars enormously proud and determined to continue supporting them to achieve their dreams.



MAY VAUGHN *Executive Director*



JUDY COLEMAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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A DECADE OF DREAMS

WHO WE ARE

Sitters for Scholars (SFS) is a unique nonprofit, with a mission to support low-income student parents, predominantly single mothers, in their educational pursuits. Our goal is to foster economic empowerment among these families.

OUR COMMITTMENT

We offer free, reliable babysitting services to these dedicated students while they attend classes. This support is pivotal, enabling them to focus on obtaining crucial qualifications or degrees, all while knowing that their children are safe and nurtured in their own homes. We maintain a stringent selection process for both student parents and volunteers, ensuring a harmonious match. Our volunteers undergo comprehensive training, ensuring a high standard of care and safety.

OUR JOURNEY

Founded in 2014, Sitters for Scholars serves the Greater Boston community by focusing on helping low-income student parents, primarily single mothers, in achieving their educational goals. Recognizing the critical link between educational attainment and economic advancement, we address the challenge of lacking childcare, which often hinders these students' academic progress.

OUR IMPACT

In 2023, Sitters for Scholars proudly delivered more than 700 hours of childcare, directly benefiting 20 student parents. Additionally, we extended our services through group babysitting, significantly aiding numerous other student parents by ensuring their children received quality care while they attended essential training sessions and classes.

OUR MISSION IS SUPPORTED ...

...BY RESEARCH



The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that conducts and disseminates research to shape public policy and improve the lives and opportunities of women from diverse backgrounds.

KEY FINDINGS



First time enrolled students with children are nearly twice as likely to leave college before graduating than students who are not parents. And they often take longer to complete their degrees. IWPR also reports that women and people of color are disproportionately represented in cohorts of low-income student parents.

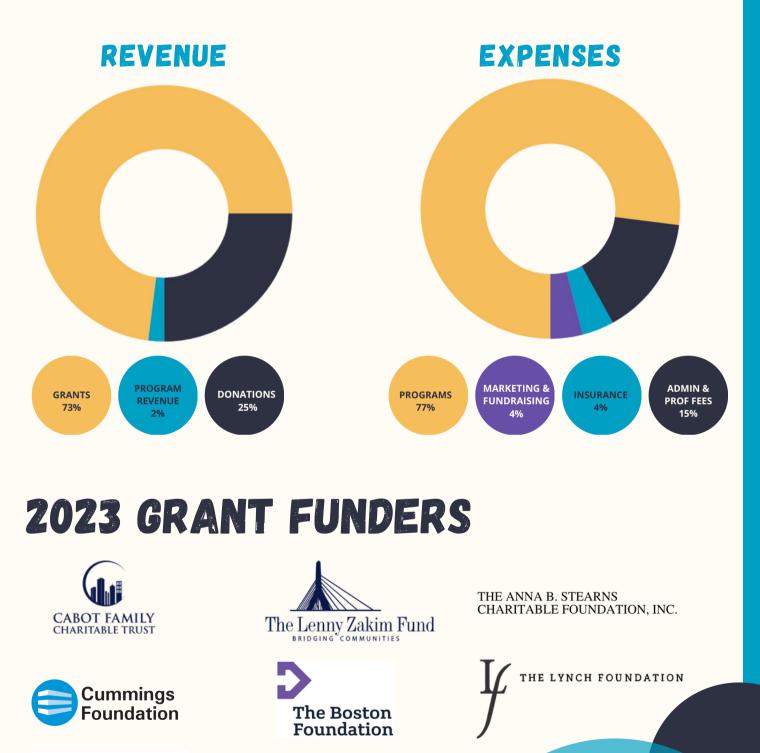


Just 13% of single mothers with a bachelor's degree live in poverty compared with 62% of single mothers with less than a high school diploma.





2023 FINANCIALS

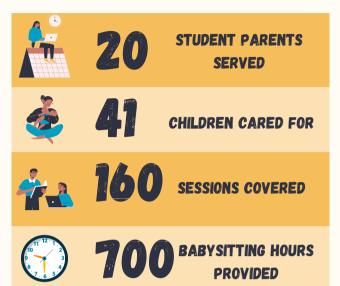




The Nash Foundation



IMPACT IN 2023



IN-HOME SITTING

Sitters for Scholars' core service is to provide free in-home babysitting while a student parent is in class or studying. This support is pivotal, enabling them to focus on obtaining crucial qualifications or degrees, all while knowing that their children are safe and nurtured in their own homes.

	22	STUDENT PARENTS SERVED
	26	CHILDREN CARED FOR
-	11	SESSIONS COVERED

GROUP SITTING IN PARTNER LOCATIONS

SFS provides group sitting to our partner organizations, who serve low-income student parents: Alray Scholars, Jeremiah Project, Found in Translation and Duet/Southern New Hampshire University.



CLIENTS SERVED

SFS targets those student parents who have the least resources to find, vet, and afford babysitting. Our student parents are the most at risk of dropping out of school.

PARENT STUDENT REFLECTIONS

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"Gabe has autism, but it was never an issue for any of his sitters. The organization is well-run, and the sitters were incredibly professional and cared deeply about what they were doing. I didn't have to worry – I had peace of mind and that meant I could completely focus on my classes. Also, Gabe loved them and that made me happy too."

> **Wynne Johnson** 2020 Lesley University College Graduate



SFS played a huge role in my life. The free sitting for four hours coming to my house – it was amazing!

> **Bianca Levarity** 2022 Cambridge College Masters Graduate

"My kids really enjoyed the sitters. They were very respectful of my house rules and kept the kids on track with their routines and that was a huge relief for me. When I got home from class, everything was all set!"

> Cyndhia Vasquez 2020 Bunker Hill Community College Graduate

SITTER REFLECTIONS

gathering informa about consumers and preferences.

In many volunteer situations, you feel a degree of separation between what you're doing and the goal but with Sitters you can make a real, tangible difference for a family. It's a very simple idea – 4 hours of babysitting a week – but it makes a huge difference.

Isabella Whitehall

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Sitters for Scholars is such a unique organization with such a powerful impact on women's lives. These women are raising incredible kids, following their dreams, and making life better for their families. I am so impressed by the moms I have met.

Sara Trimble



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