



# Elim

We Are Advancing.



## ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES EQUIPS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO PURSUE THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.

- MISSION** Elim equips people with disabilities to pursue their God-given potential by offering person-centered services and partnering with their communities.
- VISION** People with disabilities thriving in their communities.
- CORE VALUES** We are Christ-centered.  
We all have value and purpose.  
We are a learning and sharing community.



## WE ARE ADVANCING.

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."*

-2 Corinthians 4:7

The theme for this year's Impact Report is "We are Advancing." There is so much to thank God for as we reflect on 2023-24 at Elim!

In 2 Corinthians 4:7, Paul reminds us that we have this treasure (the light of God's glory) in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. This is Elim. The treasure in jars of clay that you will read about in the testimonies of Dominic, Nick, and Amy reflects God's all-encompassing power, and as that happens, Elim advances.

**Elim's heartbeat is and always will be the love and care that exists between Elim's staff, the students, and adult participants.** The truth is that Elim could not be what it is without the amazing staff that serves so faithfully every day. Their love and dedication are particularly noteworthy as the needs of those we serve continue to increase. God continues to bless the investments Elim makes in staff, and I am pleased to report that **staff retention rates have improved to 80%**, a 15-percentage point increase over the past four years! This improvement allows Elim to advance by **enrolling more students from our waiting list.** God is good!

This Impact Report also testifies to God's faithfulness to Elim financially. As you can see in this report, revenue and expense lines were both favorable to budget in 2023-24. These are gifts from God that we are careful to steward well so that Elim continues to advance.

I pray that you are blessed and inspired by this Impact Report. It is a testimony to how **Elim is advancing because God is being glorified through the fantastic work of our staff and the faithful partnership of so many.**

Thank you!

Bill Lodewyk | President

# Elim Christian Services: Our Year in Review 2023-2024



## JULY 2023

Elim's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee held a "Taste of Elim" event—celebrating a diverse range of foods from the different cultures of our staff to share with everyone!



## AUGUST 2023

Our Adult Services enjoyed a beautiful day of games, music, and dancing at their Annual Picnic!



## SEPTEMBER 2023

The 27th Annual Dutch Festival brought over 6,000 people to Elim—raising almost \$250,000 in one day!



## OCTOBER 2023

Our adults at Elim had some fun celebrating Fall with a costume party and carnival games!

## FEBRUARY 2024

Some of our school staff members celebrated "100 days of School" with their classes!



## JANUARY 2024

Elim Leadership went through a Clifton Strengths Workshop together, learning how their individual strengths can positively affect Elim!



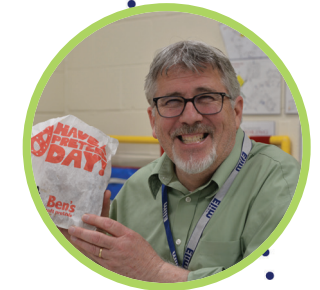
## NOVEMBER 2023

We met our \$20,000 Donor Match on Giving Tuesday, raising over \$40,000 in two weeks!



## MARCH 2024

Elim adults came together at our Orland Park campus for Praise & Worship!



## APRIL 2024

Staff at Elim celebrated National Pretzel Day!



## MAY 2024

May brought many amazing events to Elim! Students participated in our fun-filled Game Day, staff headed to Brookfield Zoo for Learning Day, and the whole community came out for the 14th Annual Elim Eagles' Wings 5K!



## DECEMBER 2023

Students and school staff gathered for an afternoon of singing and dancing to Christmas carols!



## JUNE 2024

HOPE Packs is in full swing—our adults worked hard to assemble over 10,245 School Kits!

# CONNECT.

If you ever have the pleasure of meeting Dominic, **you will find him to be an easy-going, laid-back, and affectionate boy** who is always happy to be with his family, and ready to dance around his classroom to the Jackson 5 hit song “ABC.” Going on road trips, hanging out with his three older siblings, and being read to are among his favorite things—and after spending five years and counting at Elim, his family is excited to **see how he will continue to thrive.**

In 2019, Dominic’s family needed to leave the therapy center he had been attending for several years and needed to find a suitable replacement that would fit his needs.

**“We found Elim because we were at the right place at the right time and spoke to the right people,”** his mother, Monica, explained.

Another reason his family chose Elim was because of the Christian values that are held within the organization. **Since Elim knows and follows Jesus as their family does, Dominic’s parents knew it would be the best place to enroll their son.**

Since Dominic is nonverbal, he relies on different communication devices to interact with his family and staff at Elim. During quarantine, he relied on his PODD Communication Book during classroom instruction and family time. But now, he uses an iPad to practice his communication skills, and Monica has seen significant improvement in how he interacts with people around him.

**“Dominic is trying things he has never tried before,”** Monica shares. **“I am just so grateful to everyone at Elim.”**



Dominic, Elim Student

*“Dominic is trying things **HE HAS NEVER TRIED BEFORE.** I am just so grateful to everyone at Elim.”*

~ Monica, Dominic's mother

# ENGAGE.

**Walking into Amy Tracy’s classroom, you can feel positivity and love radiating all around.** As a second-year Special Education teacher, Amy has cemented her place as a dedicated teacher who accomplishes terrific things in her classroom.

Recently, one of her students, who is nonverbal, has been speaking more and more throughout the year. At the start of 2023, this student would only say “hello” or “goodbye.” One day, Amy and her classroom staff encouraged this student to say a paraprofessional’s first name—and the floodgates of words opened. **Within the year, this student is now more actively using his communication device and speaking in whole sentences.**

“It’s one of my favorite memories from teaching here,” Amy shares. “It reminds me that sometimes love really needs no words.”

Amy has always had a special connection with Elim. **At 13, she first came to Elim with her family while they toured the school for her brother,** who was enrolling as a student. Years later, while in high school, Amy aided in the same exact classroom that she teaches in now. Because of these experiences, she knew becoming a Special Education Teacher was her calling.

“I chose the right place to be,” Amy says while explaining how her fellow dedicated staff make her classroom run smoothly. **“I have the best staff in the whole world. I love being here and couldn’t ask for a better Elim family.”**



Amy, Elim Teacher

*“I have the best staff in the whole world. I love being here and **COULDN’T ASK FOR A BETTER ELIM FAMILY.**”*

~ Amy, Elim Teacher

# THRIVE



Nick, Elim Adult

Feeling proud and accomplished about your work is a blessing not everyone in the world gets to experience. **Knowing that the work you put in will positively affect another person's life is a feeling like no other**—and it is that feeling that Nick looks forward to every day at Elim.

Nick participates in working on HOPE Packs at Elim's Adult Services. Whether it is putting together School Kits for local students in the area or assembling Food Kits to go all over the world, **Nick loves being a part of something where he can directly give back to others.**

He found Elim in 1992, **attending our school program and then transitioning over to our Adult Services program** after graduation. Nick is no stranger to seeing the multitude of blessings that his fellow peers and HOPE Packs can bring to others.

**"Nick has an overabundance of passion and motivation,"** says Larry, Nick's father. "The fact that he gets to go to work every day and do something he feels is meaningful and productive is invaluable. It's priceless."

**In this past year, Nick and his peers have assembled over 88,000 food kits (beans) and over 10,000 School kits.**

"Hope is extended in all directions—from the product to the recipient to the product—it gives it double the value," Larry continues. "Hope is instilled on both ends."

*"The fact that he gets to go to work every day and **DO SOMETHING HE FEELS IS MEANINGFUL** and productive is invaluable. **IT'S PRICELESS.**"*

~ Larry, Nick's father

**99,498**

HOPE Packs sent to provide food, school supplies, and messages of HOPE

**190+**

adults served on Elim's Crestwood and Orland Park campuses

**60**

different school districts send students to Elim for essential services

**200+**

students are served on Elim's campus

**25%**

of Elim employees have been working at Elim for over 10 years

**90%**

of Elim's adults participate in events out in the community

**87%**

of students receive occupational therapy services

**100%**

of Elim's students and adults rely on the year-round, life-changing programming you help provide!

**33%**

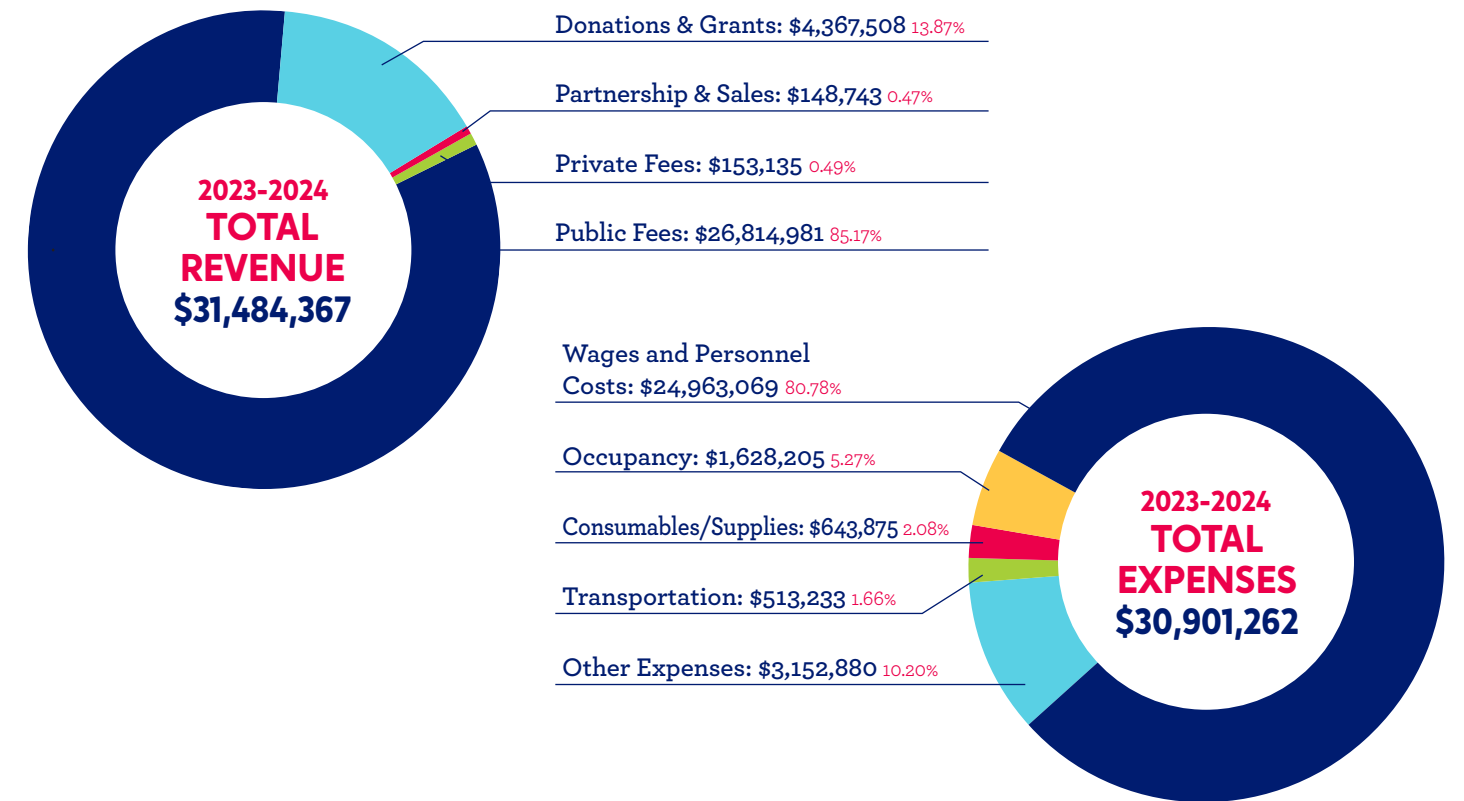
of our staff members are school paraprofessionals!

**388**

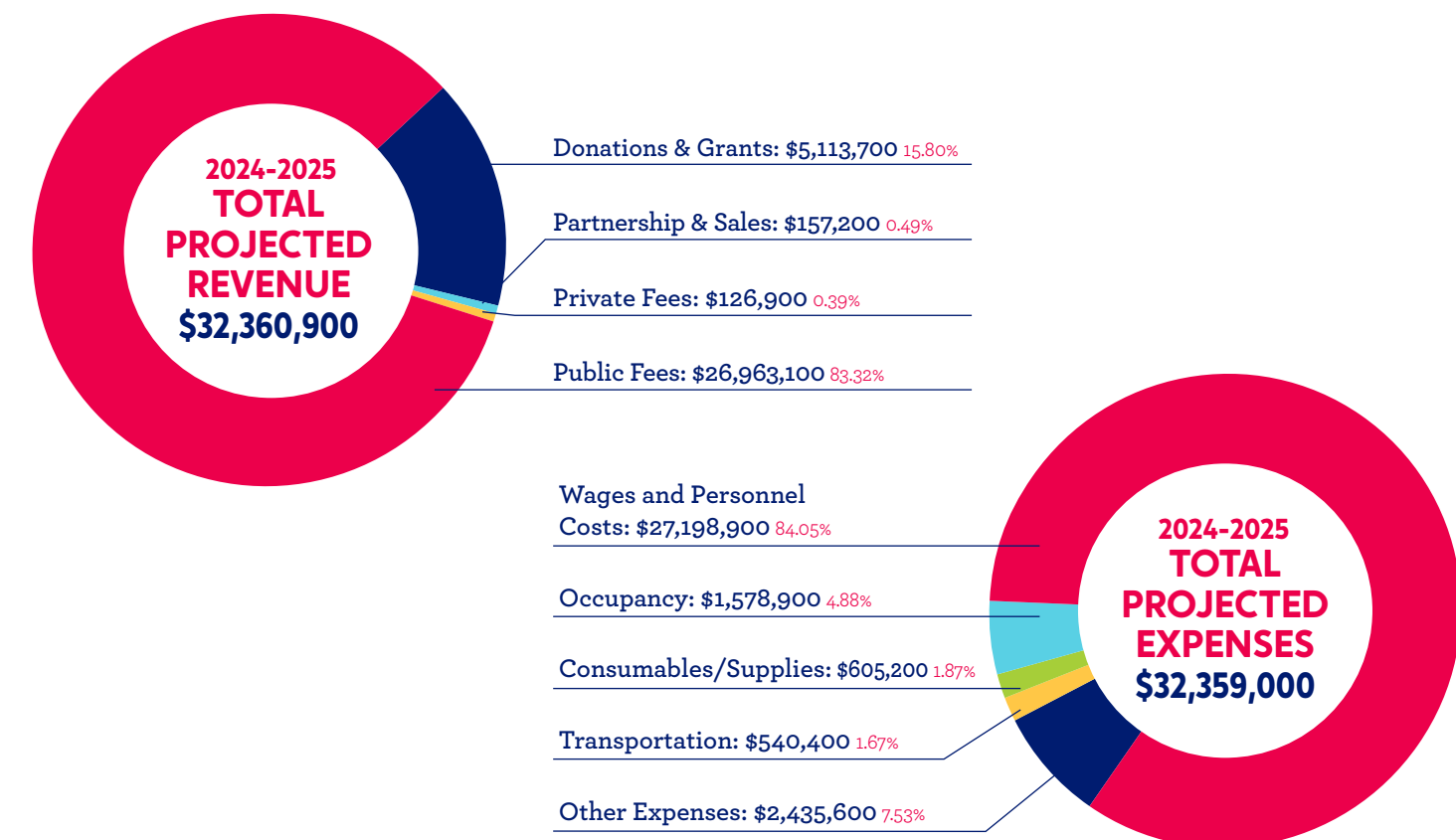
staff members directly support Elim's mission



## OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023-2024



## OUR FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS 2024-2025



CONNECT ENGAGE THRIVE

# WE ARE Elim

**Thank you for your partnership in Elim's mission!**

Because of you, children and adults with disabilities at Elim, in your community, and worldwide are being equipped to reach their full potential. Here are other ways to get involved in this life-changing work:

**VOLUNTEER**

Join us for a one-day event or for a weekly opportunity and experience Elim and its mission in a whole new way! Learn more at [www.elimcs.org/volunteer](http://www.elimcs.org/volunteer).

**GET YOUR CHURCH, BUSINESS, AND SCHOOL INVOLVED**

Get involved in a HOPE Packs campaign or explore other opportunities at [www.elimcs.org/get-involved](http://www.elimcs.org/get-involved).

**JOIN THE ELIM LEGACY SOCIETY**

Elim Legacy supporters are individuals that have decided to leave a legacy at Elim by giving a planned gift or by naming Elim Christian Services as a beneficiary in their will. If you would like to join the Elim Legacy Society, please contact Brian Page (708-293-6513) or you can contact Elim's partner agency, the Barnabas Foundation (toll free at 888-448-3040). The Barnabas Foundation can help you plan your gifts for maximum impact.

To find a list of all gifts made in honor or memoriam, visit: [elimcs.org/AnnualReport](http://elimcs.org/AnnualReport)  
Thank you for your generosity in support of our mission!

**Connect. Engage.**

**Thrive.**



# TOGETHER, WE ARE ADVANCING.

Your partnership is crucial to Elim's mission. Thank you for your kindness and generosity! Please give today at [elimcs.org/donate](https://elimcs.org/donate)



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