



Annual Report
2023-2024

Friends of Career Solutions

Friends of Career Solutions (FOCS) was created as a nonprofit in 2017 to increase the participation of young people in the CareerONE program. Career Solutions, as the implementing partner, successfully grew the program from 40 youth to 170 thanks to the support from FOCS and the community. The Immigrant Services also program flourished with help as businesses expanded their staff with talented new immigrants. Cultural divides were bridged, skilled employees were secured, and businesses thrived.

Innovative staff at Career Solutions introduced new programs to the partnership supported by FOCS, Career Solutions, and the community like Job Club, I-WE, open houses, and Discovery Days are flourishing. CentraCare has continued to assist CareerONE, in all aspects of the program, and we rely heavily on their input with the healthcare training initiative. PCI and MCI Carpet One have been long-time supporters and Thomas Ritsche's Central Minnesota Community Foundation grant supported the Construction and Manufacturing Track. The United Way of Central Minnesota has continued their support of the program. St. Cloud Technical and Community College has consistently found ways to further assist, educate, and support the needs of participants.

We are so grateful for these and the many other foundation, businesses and individuals who have chosen to support Friends of Career Solutions initiatives over the years. It's not only a good thing to do for the youth and the community but also means the community is banking on its future.

Tammy Biery

Friends of Career Solutions Board

Dave Borgert – Board Chair – Strategic Associates, LLC

Crystal Lahr – Treasurer – ATS, Inc.

Dominique Hollomon – Secretary – Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota

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Tammy Biery – Executive Director – Friends of Career Solutions, Career Solutions

Meet the Chair of Friends of Career Solutions' Board of Directors

David Borgert has been the board chair since the organization's formation in 2017 although he has been engaged with Career Solutions since 2008. Borgert has held numerous leadership positions in various governing local organizations and is an expert that we can count on. "Being part of this organization and seeing its success is a rewarding experience. We are helping to assure a brighter future for our communities by not only assisting businesses to recruit and retain employees but also by increasing the skills and workforce readiness of the future workforce."



Friends of Career Solutions/Career Solutions Partner Programs

CareerONE



The CareerONE Program has been running for 24 years, serving youth aged 14 to 17. It is funded by Career Solutions and nonprofit partner, Friends of Career Solutions, with community support. Thanks to the support, CareerONE has grown from 40 youth to 170. Teens prepare for the workforce and receive experience in the rigors and rewards of work. They earn college credits, have hands on experiences in a choice of healthcare, construction and manufacturing, early childhood education, public safety or delve into possibilities for their future. Math and reading challenges are addressed. Financial skills are learned and community service projects are tackled. In the summer of 2024 teens did cleanup projects at Lake George, worked on the grounds of CentraCare and tied blankets for Gillettes Children’s Hospital and Coborn’s Cancer Center. Friendships were made and skills were mastered.

Immigrant Services

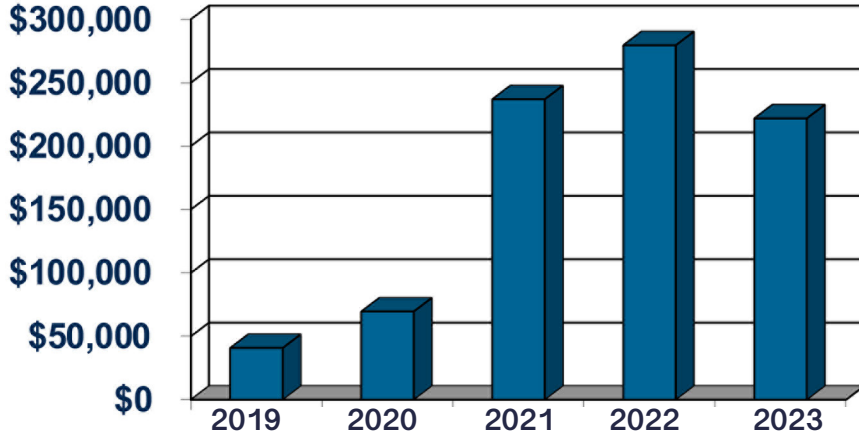
Immigrant Services was supported by the United Way of Central Minnesota. The program allowed bilingual Career Planners to travel to the Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization and Quarryview Education Center as well as at CareerForce to work with Immigrants navigating the employment processes. And to work with businesses who are updating policies and procedures as they hire immigrant employees. Seventy-four people participated in Immigrant Services at off-site locations. One hundred sixty-one individuals participated in Immigrant Services.

Discovery Days

Businesses, educational institutions, and job seekers paired in specialty centered career discussions and hands-on experiences. Focused career paths include: commercial driving licensing, welding, healthcare/Certified Nursing Licensing and early childhood education. One hundred twenty-seven individuals participated in Discovery Days.

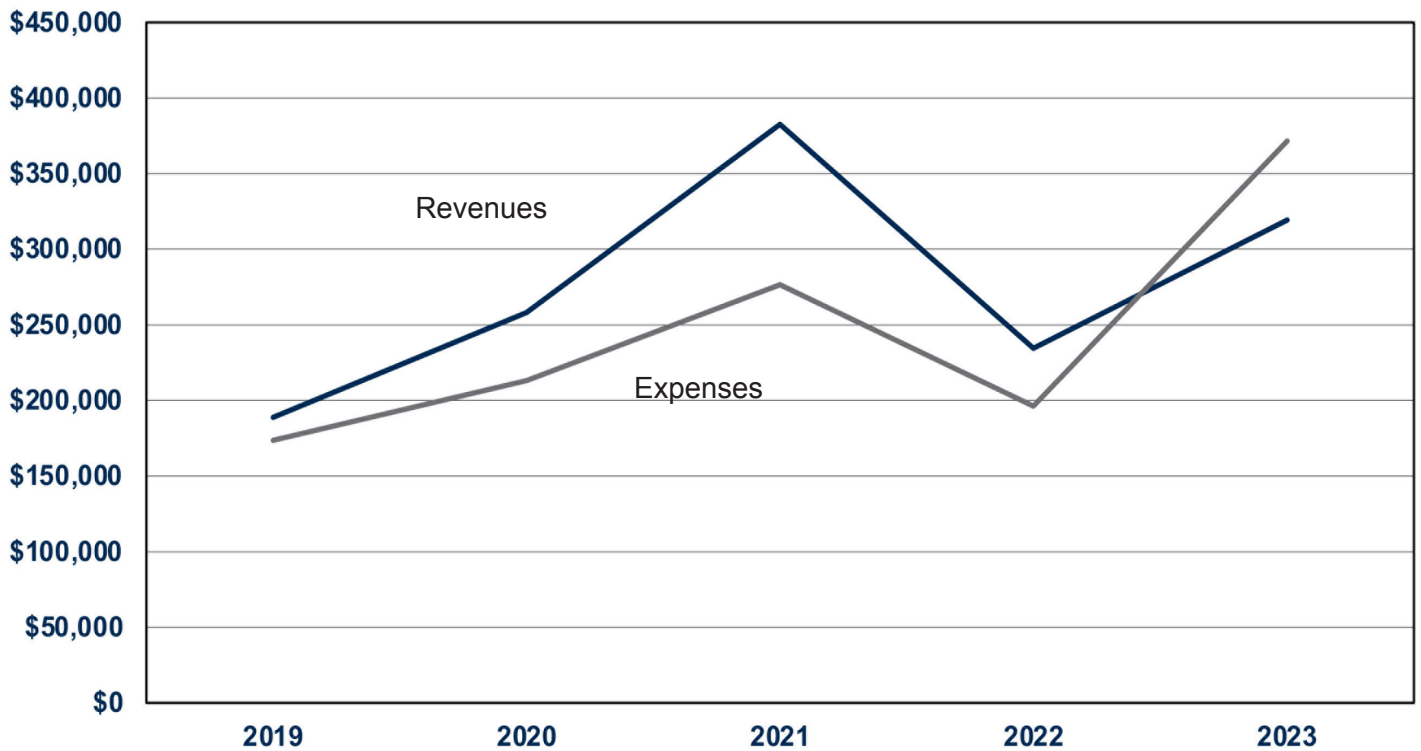
Financial Report

Cash and Cash Equivalents



Cash and cash equivalents totaled \$221,828 in 2023, \$279,496 in 2022, \$236,889 in 2021, \$69,493, in 2020, & \$40,774 in 2019.

Revenues and Expenses



CareerONE Sponsors



MORGAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION



United Way
of Central Minnesota



MCI



Donors

DeZURIK, Inc.
Blattner Company
Thomas Ritsche Foundation, CMCF
Falcon National Bank
Beth Schlangen

InKind Donors

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Immigrant Services Sponsor



United Way
of Central Minnesota

Discovery Days Sponsors

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Performance Foodservice
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