



2025-2026 Impact Report

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 BUILDING.

I am pleased to present to you your 2025-2026 Impact Report, which testifies to God's faithfulness to Elim. The theme for this year's Impact Report is **"We are Building"**, which is such an appropriate theme for Elim because, as a Christ-centered organization, we are deeply committed to building—**being built up in Christ and leveraging that to build into the lives of others.**

Elim's heartbeat is and always will be the remarkable ways that God uses Elim's amazing staff to build into the lives of the students and adult participants that God has called them to serve. The mutual love and dedication that emanate from that intersection is Elim's response to Matthew 22:37-39.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Notably, this past year has shown how God continues to bless the deliberate investments Elim is making in building our staff. **I am pleased to report that employee experience at Elim has remained steady at 68, and staff retention has climbed to 82%.** These markers of staff engagement are significant because of how they contribute to the ways our staff build into the lives of the students and adult participants in their care.

This Impact Report also testifies to God's faithfulness to Elim financially. As you can see in this report, Elim once again finished in a fiscally strong position in 2025-26. And I am also pleased to report that **because of your generosity, Elim successfully completed its \$5,225,000 Capital Campaign.** This is yet another testimony of how, by God's grace, Elim is building!

I pray that you are blessed and inspired by the vital role you play in making this Impact Report possible. It is a testimony to how Elim is intentional about living out its call to build into the lives of our students and adult participants in ways that honor and glorify God. **Thank you for helping to make building for eternity a present reality!**



Bill Lodewyk | President

OUR YEAR THROUGH THE SEASONS

Every season brings new and exciting opportunities for our students, adults, and staff to thrive. Here is a look back at some of the highlights that defined our year together!

SPRING

Spring is always the busiest time of year at Elim, with beloved school events like **Prom, Lip Sync Battle, Game Day**, and **Graduation**. Our **5K fundraiser** was the biggest and best yet, with over 660 people registered to race. During **Learning Day**, keynote speaker Shaquem Griffin encouraged staff with his powerful message of perseverance and resilience. Finally, before the school year ended, our **Adult Services Choir** came to our school campus and performed for the students before saying goodbye for the summer.



FALL

As the school year began, our community came together to enjoy the 29th **Annual Dutch Festival**, raising an incredible \$220,000 to support the students and adults we serve at Elim. Our **Alumni and Foundation board** gathered to discuss new ways to strengthen our mission. And across the campus, our students enjoyed **Fall activities**, like dressing up in costumes, while our adults expressed their creativity through collaborative art projects!



SUMMER

Our students and school staff enjoyed a well-deserved summer break before jumping into **ESY (Extended School Year)**, where students continued building the skills they developed throughout the school year. Throughout the summer, **HOPE Packs** were delivered by our adults to local students in need, providing school supplies to prepare them for a successful year ahead. In August, the Adult Services campuses celebrated through the **Annual Client Picnic**, enjoying a day filled with music, games, and community! To wrap up the summer, our HR team treated school staff to an **ice cream social**, welcoming in a brand-new school year.

WINTER

The **Christmas season** filled our campus with cheer as we celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through special chapel services and festive activities. **Santa visited both the School and Adult Services** and celebrated the reason for the season with all of us. Our HR team also thanked staff by having our very own **Pretzel Day**. As winter came to a close, students celebrated making it through **100 Days of School!**

CONNECT.♥

Read firsthand accounts from staff and family members on the connection the Elim Family fosters.

“Every penny you give goes straight to the students and adults, and I’ve seen it firsthand. I’m thankful to Elim for helping my daughter.”

—Elim Student Parent

“Adults with special needs, in my opinion, seem to get left behind at a certain point. When they are younger and throughout school age, the resources available are amazing. After a certain point, the resources get less and less. With Elim, they work hard to provide our adult community with the opportunities they need. Their passion and giving nature really set the standard.”

—Adult Services Family Member

“What I appreciate most about my team here at Elim is the teamwork and the support. You never feel like you’re by yourself or that there isn’t an answer to something you can’t figure out. You don’t have to know it all when you get here because you have a great team behind you to figure it out.”

—Elim Staff Member

“The world does not know how amazing our clients are and what their abilities are. They are making HOPE Packs from their heart.”

They are doing it because it is something purposeful for them to make a difference. That is what the HOPE Packs program is about—making a difference in the world.”

—Elim Staff Member

“Being referred to Elim and becoming a part of the Elim Family has been such a blessing for us. It’s a great place for my son to be—it’s where he needs to be.”

—Elim Student Parent

ENGAGE.👥

Danny is finding new ways to engage, contribute, and grow.

Watching our students grow in their skills over the years of attending Elim is a blessing and a gift. **And when Danny transferred to Elim 10 years ago, his family’s life changed forever.**

When Danny arrived at Elim in 2016, his parents didn’t know what to expect. His previous school setting came with challenges his parents didn’t anticipate. **From a lack of communication regarding Danny’s education plan to a general feeling that they were not being heard, they knew they needed to make a change.**

Danny is nonverbal and was diagnosed with autism and intellectual disabilities. **His family knew he needed a school environment where his needs could be consistently met, giving him the best opportunity to grow** his skills and develop his communication abilities.

Now, he steps off the bus each morning with a smile. **His behaviors have decreased, and his confidence has grown.** He’s discovering new ways to communicate through his AAC device, which Elim staff and his parents work with him to use daily.

He’s building vocational experience by participating in Elim’s work and volunteer programs in Crossroads, where he is washing buses, working with Oasis Spa and Creations, and even selling their products at our annual Dutch Festival! **He’s not afraid to try new things and always loves to lend a hand.** Every night, Danny is the one cleaning off the dinner table and taking away everyone’s dishes!

“Danny is friendly, jovial, and brave. If I were to describe him in one word, it would be peace. He just has this calm around him, like he was sent from Heaven to me!”

—Erin, Danny’s Mom

Danny has come a long way since he became a student at Elim 10 years ago, but his family knows there is so much more for him to learn. Their biggest hope is that once he graduates from Elim, he can attend an adult services program where his vocational and workplace opportunities can grow, and that he can reach a point where he can confidently express his wants and needs.

Every communication breakthrough, every new job skill, and **every step toward greater independence is made possible through the generosity of our donors**—a community that believes in our students’ and adults’ God-given potential.

At Elim, we know every individual is uniquely gifted by God. Your support ensures that students and adults like Danny receive the opportunities they need to thrive. **Thank you for helping write the next chapter of Danny’s story and the journeys of so many others to come.** 🙏



THRIVE

Bryce waited for his chance. Now, he's thriving.

“We held out for you for 18 months!” shares Julia, Bryce’s mom.

After Bryce’s home school district determined they could no longer meet his needs, **he spent a year and a half at home, waiting for an opening at Elim.** One of his friends had recently transferred to our school, and his parents knew it was the place Bryce needed to be as well. So, they waited for 18 months, until the call finally came—Bryce was going to attend Elim.

Now, as he enters his sophomore year, Bryce has found his place where he is truly starting to thrive.

Before coming to Elim, Bryce had an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) device that was not being utilized, and his parents frequently left IEP meetings feeling defeated and unheard. Diagnosed with Trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome), he was nonverbal, and without the use of an AAC device, he could not communicate with his family.

“We did not believe that Bryce’s education was a priority,” Julia says. **“At Elim, though, we feel like we’re a part of a team, and we’re all working together towards Bryce’s success!”**

The partnership between Elim staff and Bryce’s family has made all of the difference.

“I am so, so happy and incredibly excited to say that Bryce’s verbal communication has exploded since being at Elim,” Julia excitedly shares. **“As a parent of a child who has never been able to tell you anything for years, and now he’s talking to you about things that happen during school...it’s amazing.”**

Not only does Bryce use his communication device to express himself, but he also uses it to learn new words, practice spelling, and even interact with their Alexa! **His communication skills have grown so much that his family no longer needs to use private, after-school speech therapy.**

As a loving and energetic teenager, Bryce has formed strong connections with Elim’s staff and his classmates. **He loves participating in drama and music and is even preparing to take the stage for Elim’s upcoming Lip Sync Battle!** **“He is a happier person, and we are a happier family,”** Julia says. **“And one of my favorite things now is that he has friends!”**

BRYCE

Bryce’s parents see possibilities for his future that, at one point, they couldn’t imagine.

“We see so much more potential in Bryce since he started attending Elim.” Looking back on the time it took to get to Elim, Julia says, **“This is where God wants Bryce to be. It wasn’t an easy journey, but we are so thankful we are here.”**

Because of you, our faithful supporters, more students and adults like Bryce can discover their voice and grow in their talents. **Your generosity allows families like Bryce’s to experience the life-changing impact Elim can offer.**

“Elim has made such a positive difference not only for Bryce, but for our family. For us, Elim has been a Godsend. Please support Elim so that other students and adults can be a part of this amazing community.”

196

adults attend Elim’s Adult Services program

202

students are served on Elim’s campus

33,929

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

381

staff members directly support Elim’s mission

44

states represented by our donors

27%

of our employees have worked at Elim for 10 or more years

33%

of our dedicated employees are paraprofessionals

39%

of adult participants are over the age of 55

660

registrants ran, walked, and rolled in the 16th Annual Elim Eagles’ Wing 5K

60

different school districts send students to Elim for essential services

100%

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



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.



GET YOUR CHURCH, BUSINESS, AND SCHOOL INVOLVED

Get involved in a HOPE Packs campaign or explore other opportunities at www.elimcs.org/get-involved.



JOIN THE ELIM LEGACY SOCIETY

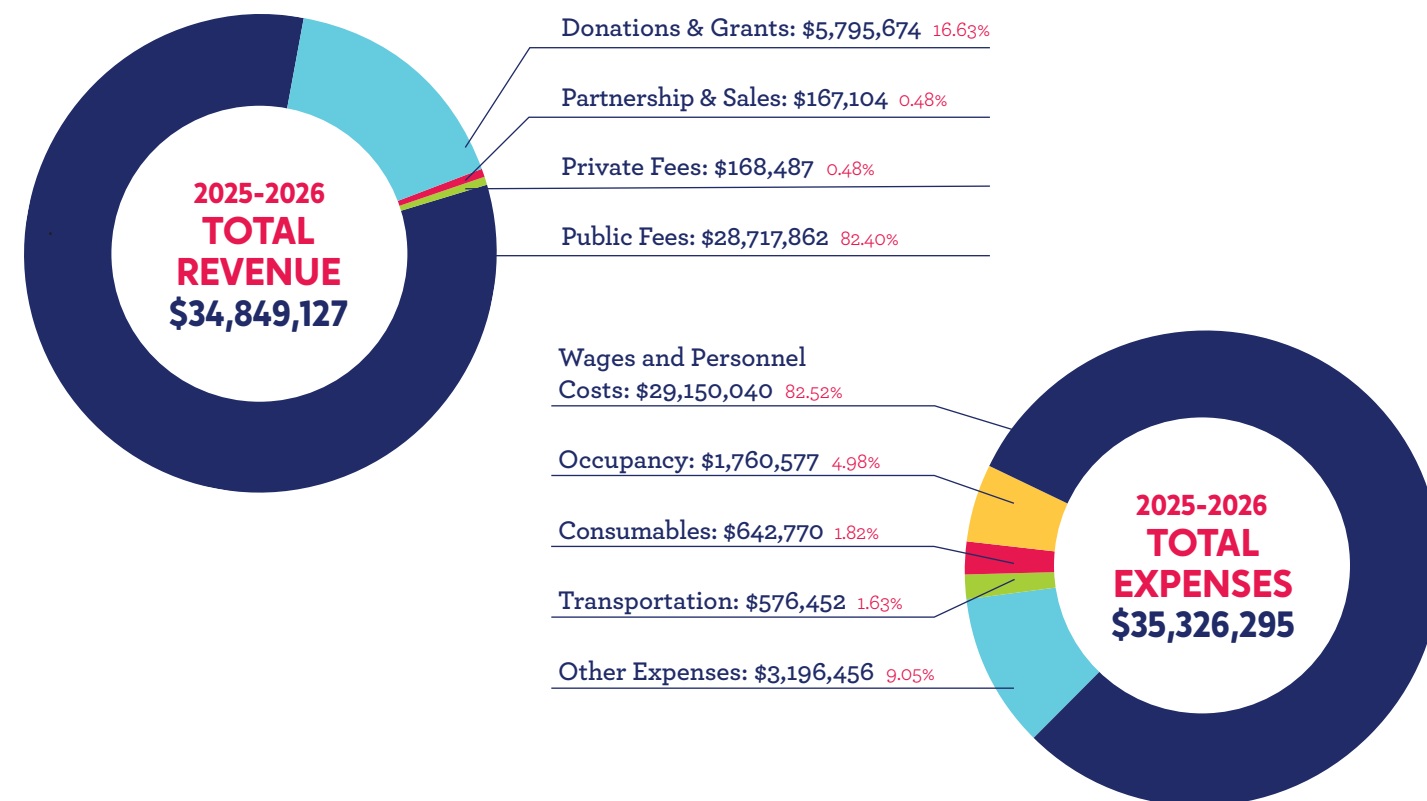
Elim Legacy supporters are individuals that have decided to leave a legacy at Elim by giving a planned gift or by naming Elim Christian Services as a beneficiary in their will. If you would like to join the Elim Legacy Society, please contact Joshua Beaton (708-293-6513) or you can contact Elim's partner 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
Thank you for your generosity in support of our mission!

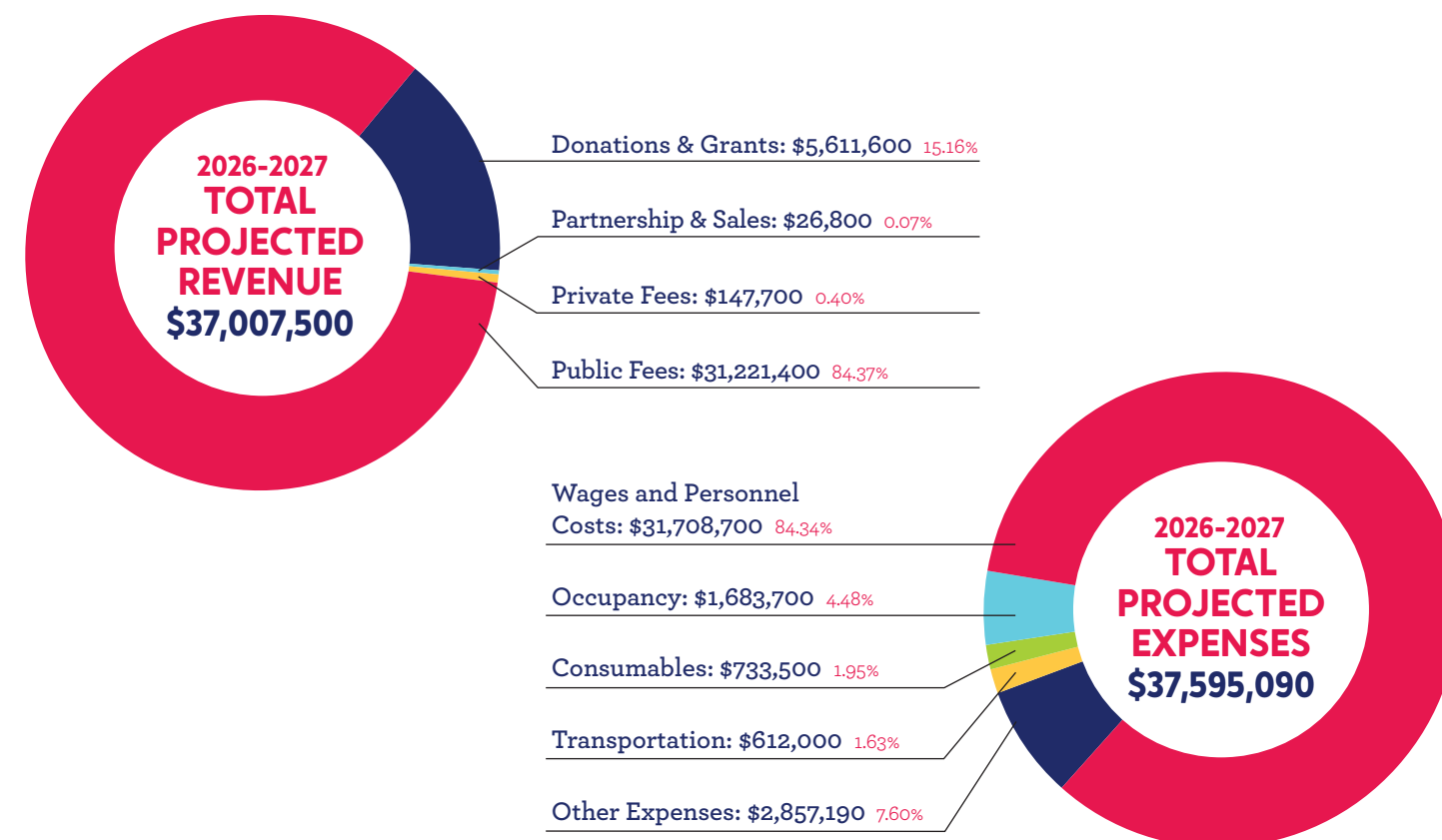
Connect. Engage.

Thrive.

OUR FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025-2026



OUR FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS 2026-2027



*Other expenses include debt service of \$637 thousand and \$618 thousand for FY26 and projected FY27, respectively.



TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING.

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



13020 S Central Avenue | Crestwood, IL 60418
708.389.0555 | elimcs.org