



2023-2024

# Annual Report



*helping children thrive  
and families flourish  
since 1897*



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9



## Dear Friends,

Since our agency was founded 127 years ago, Hephzibah has met the changing needs of children and families with **creativity, flexibility, and innovation**. This ability to respond to evolving community needs with agility and ingenuity was more important than ever in fiscal 2023–2024 as we helped children thrive and families flourish in a post-pandemic world.

At Hephzibah Home, we provided a **safe and nurturing haven** for young survivors of the most extreme cases of abuse and neglect in Illinois. To help these children heal from their traumatic pasts so that they can rise above their challenges and live productive, happy, and fulfilling lives, we introduced several new supports and services and expanded our comprehensive continuum of therapies.

Because severely traumatized children often struggle with self-regulation and are more likely to react intensely if triggered, we trained our staff in a de-escalation therapy called **Ukeru**. Backed by decades of neuroscientific research, this evidence-based intervention emphasizes **comfort rather than control** and uses reassuring words and body language to safely calm children in crisis. We're pleased to report that Ukeru—which aligns so closely with our core values of nurturing personal growth in creative ways while affirming the dignity of every individual—is giving the children at Hephzibah Home the additional validation and support they need to process their trauma and learn to love and trust again.

While our staff was being trained in Ukeru, two enterprising Hephzibah therapists were helping the children deal with another symptom of trauma: a hypersensitivity to stimuli that can lead to sensory overload.

With limited resources and a lot of creativity, they cleared out an underutilized room at Hephzibah Home and transformed it into a **tranquil oasis** where the children can relax, unwind, and learn mindfulness practices that will help them self-regulate more effectively throughout their lives. To find out more about our new **Mindfulness Room**, see *A Place to Unplug* on page 4.

When children grow up under conditions of constant threat, all of their internal resources are directed toward survival. With their brains and bodies in chronic stress-response mode, they have difficulty processing information, managing their emotions, and navigating transitions. To help the children at Hephzibah Home overcome these challenges, we created and filled a new **transition specialist** position during the fiscal year. This new staff member works with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and other referring agencies to identify the children who will benefit most from our programs and services; helps ease the children's transition into residential care; and provides parent coaching, family therapy, and other transition services to **ensure successful placements** as the children continue their healing journeys in



**Jason Patenaude**  
Chief Executive Officer



# 1,565

Number of **children** served by all Hephzibah programs



# 102

*Number of **foster children** who found safe and loving homes with Hephzibah foster families*

loving homes with relatives or foster families.

Because inclusion is another one of our core values, Hephzibah has worked for decades to **protect the rights of LGBTQ+ foster children**, provide affirming care, and place these children in welcoming and supportive foster and adoptive homes. During the fiscal year, we continued this tradition by enrolling in **All Children-All Families**, the only national program dedicated to LGBTQ+ inclusion in child welfare. We are proud to be a part of this certification program offered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and to give our employees the resources, technical assistance, and training they need to **ensure that every child we serve is welcomed, seen, celebrated, and supported.**

Our Family Based Services staff was also on the leading edge of change as they harnessed the power of emerging technologies to locate more **kinship caregivers** for the foster children we serve. Because children placed with relatives or trusted family friends have better outcomes and are more likely to report that they “always felt loved,” Hephzibah was the first child welfare agency in Illinois to implement a groundbreaking **family-finding and engagement software program**. This software streamlines every phase of the family-finding process—from identifying and reaching out to potential kin to creating family trees—to ensure that foster children can stay connected to their communities, their cultural traditions, and the people they know and love. To learn more about the need for this game-changing technology, see *Keeping Kids Connected to Kin* on page 6.

We were also finding creative ways to address the growing problem of **housing insecurity** for some of Illinois’ most fragile families. According to a 2023 report released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and Housing Action Illinois, there are 443,746 extremely low-income renter households in Illinois, but only 150,392 affordable rental properties available to house these families. Faced with yearslong waitlists at housing advocacy organizations, one of our **Intact Family Services** caseworkers teamed up with a Hephzibah intern to contact landlords directly, tell them about our mission, and compile a list of **affordable housing options** organized by criteria such as location, availability date, and property size. By building direct relationships with landlords, this dedicated team is keeping families out of shelters and off the streets, reducing housing costs to free up funds for other necessities such as food and transportation, and ensuring that children in families of all income levels have safe and stable homes where they can grow and thrive.

Here in Oak Park, our Day Care team was helping more than 800 children in grades K–5 catch up on their **social-emotional development** after the remote learning and restricted peer interactions of the pandemic. It was the right intervention at the right time, and—despite missing two key years of socialization during COVID—these children are now



# 238

*Number of **intact families** that received the support and services they needed to stay together*



thriving. To find out more about Hephzibah Day Care’s social-emotional learning program, check out *Ready for Life* on page 8.

We ended the year with a **leadership transition** and a fond farewell to Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets. During her seven-year tenure, Hephzibah expanded and enhanced many programs and services for Illinois children and families.

With **new leadership and a new vision**, we look forward to partnering with you as we continue to meet the changing needs of children and families with innovative programs and services in the months and years to come.

In the meantime, we hope you’ll take a moment to learn more about the **year’s highlights** in this annual report—and meet some of the caring volunteers and benefactors who made our mission possible.

**Thank you** for your loyal support!

**1,664**

Number of **benefactors**  
who contributed more than  
\$2.7 million to support our mission

Jason Patenaude  
Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Ellis-Jackson  
Board President

# A Place to Unplug

“Almost **everything will work again if you unplug** it for a few minutes, including you.”

— Anne Lamott, *author*

REMEMBER THE “BEFORE TIMES”? Before the digital age, when kids spent summer afternoons lying in the grass and gazing up at the clouds? They called it “doing nothing,” but they were actually doing something very important: **regulating their sympathetic nervous systems** by taking a break from the sometimes overwhelming cognitive and sensory input that is an inescapable part of modern life.

Today, kids are taking in more information than ever before. Because their brains are still developing,

they’re more prone to sensory and cognitive overload than adults. This chronic overstimulation, according to neuroscientific studies, can literally shrink the brain—and it’s especially damaging for children suffering from complex trauma, like the young survivors of neglect and abuse at Hephzibah Home.

“Because trauma can affect a child’s ability to process, regulate, and respond to sensory information, our kids were frequently overstimulated,” notes Hephzibah art therapist Jenny Wise.

The children clearly needed a place to chill out—and some instruction in **mindfulness techniques** to enhance their emotional health and well-being. So, in late 2023, Wise and clinical coordinator Carlotta Abogado approached the leadership team at Hephzibah Home about repurposing an underutilized space on the first floor to create a **Mindfulness Room**.

“We already had a Gross-Motor Room in the building, which the children could use when they needed



# Hephzibah's new **Mindfulness Room** offers a place to relax, unwind, and reset—free from the stress, screens, and sensory overload of our 21st-century world.



## 26

Number of children who found a **safe haven and a place to heal** at Hephzibah Home

to run around and release some energy, so it made sense to create a place where they could do the opposite: curl up in a cozy chair, read, stretch, do yoga, or put on headphones and listen to music," says Wise.

"We saw the Mindfulness Room as the 'yin' to the 'yang' of the Gross-Motor Room," adds Abogado.

Once Wise and Abogado got the green light to move ahead with their idea, they cleared out the room, painted the walls a peaceful shade of blue, and installed a sensory light to promote relaxation. Then they purchased furniture that the children could sink into for some much-needed decompression sessions, including kid-sized recliners and a rotating chair upholstered in

irresistibly soft faux-fur fabric. Finally, they filled the room with yoga mats, blankets, pillows, battery-operated candles, noise-canceling headphones, art supplies, origami paper books, fidgets, and some additional items requested by the children.

By early April, the Mindfulness Room was a reality. Notably, there wasn't a screen in sight.

"We wanted it to be a tech-free space where the children could practice relaxation and centering techniques, get in touch with their physical and emotional needs, and be present in the moment," says Wise.

Since then, the room has become a **sanctuary—and a place for healing.**

"The children we serve at Hephzibah Home come from traumatic situations and carry that trauma in their bodies," notes Abogado. "Their sympathetic nervous systems are in overdrive, and it doesn't take much to trigger a fight-or-flight response. By creating this environment

that is quiet and calm—and teaching them how to ground themselves and practice evidence-based mindfulness techniques—we are giving them some agency over their state of being and helping them develop self-regulation skills that will help them thrive throughout their lives." ♥



# Keeping Kids Connected to Kin

“My whole life, I was just 58 miles and a couple of questions **away from family.**”

— **Sixto Cancel**, former foster child and founder of Think of Us, a nonprofit dedicated to transforming the foster care system

SIXTO CANCEL, BORN TO A drug-addicted, impoverished mother, was placed in foster care when he was 11 months old. In a 2021 *New York Times* guest essay with the heart-wrenching title, “I Will Never Forget That I Could Have Lived With People Who Loved Me,” he wrote, “I was told I was loved, that I was a part of a family, yet I would always find myself moved to a new placement, with all my stuff in a trash bag.”

At the age of 29, long after he’d

aged out of the foster care system, Cancel discovered that an aunt living less than an hour’s drive away would have taken him in and loved him. In his essay, he concluded, “My foster care placements failed not because I didn’t belong in a family, but because the system failed to identify kinship placements for me and lacked enough culturally competent community services to keep me in a home that had a chance at success.”

Cancel’s assertion is supported

by an in-depth review of more than 100 research studies, which revealed that children and youth placed within kinship networks had more stable placements, better mental and emotional outcomes, and more intact family relationships.

Currently, only about a third of all U.S. foster children are placed in kinship care, which includes relatives such as aunts, uncles, grandparents, siblings, and non-relative extended family members referred to as “fictive kin.”





Hephzibah is harnessing the power of **innovative family-finding technologies to place more foster children in “kinship care”** with relatives or trusted family friends—so they can stay connected to their communities, their cultural traditions, and the people they know and love.



**35%**

*Average percentage of **kinship placements in the U.S.** prior to the introduction of Binti’s family finding software; some promising Binti pilot programs have increased the kinship placement rate to 70% or more*

It’s not for lack of trying. In the past, family finding was a labor-intensive process that required months of research, outreach, interviews, and documentation. For decades, child welfare agencies did this manually. The process was burdensome for agencies with limited resources, and some families were so fractured that locating relatives or fictive kin was like finding a needle in a haystack.

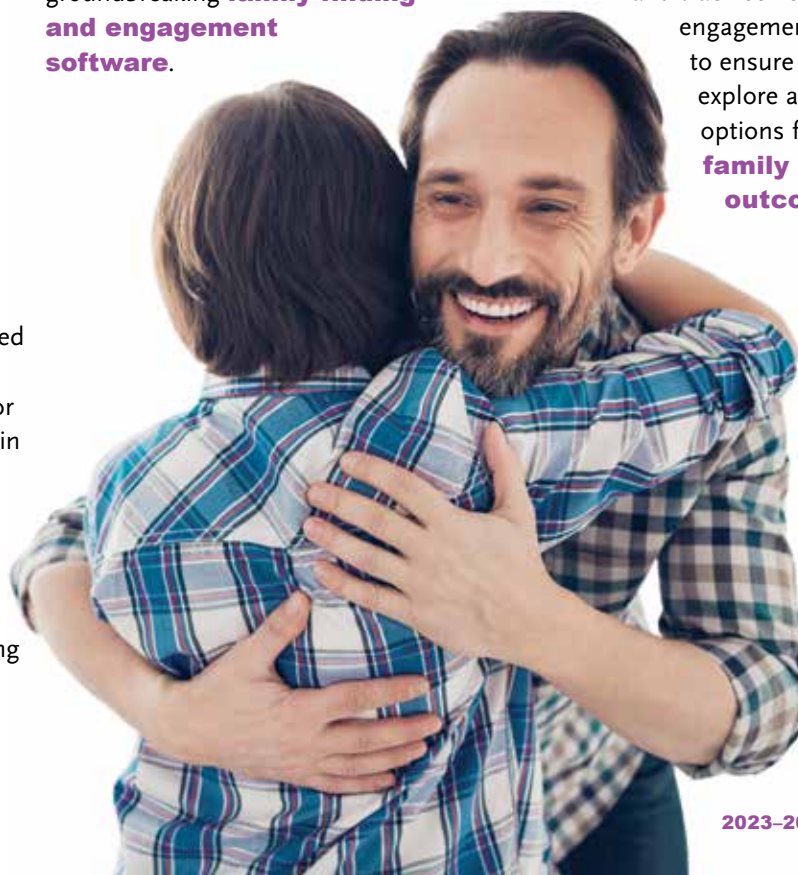
Director of Family Based Services Julie Dvorsky remembers one case in particular. “We were trying to find a kinship placement for a teenager, but we weren’t getting

anywhere. We paid an online search service and received 200 pages of phone numbers and addresses in no particular order. Two interns sifted through the results for more than a week, identified potential leads, placed over 50 calls, and finally located a relative who could take him.”

In late 2022, Hephzibah hired a dedicated family-finding specialist to expedite the process. But the real break came in 2023 when Binti—an award-winning company with a mission to transform child welfare through technology—introduced its groundbreaking **family finding and engagement software**.

Hephzibah was the first child welfare agency in Illinois to adopt this technology, thanks to a generous grant from the **John F. Smielke Foundation**. After five months of training and preparation, Dvorsky and her team conducted their first kinship searches in September 2024.

“This software is a game changer,” Dvorsky reports. “It streamlines every phase of the family-finding and engagement process, which will enable us to easily identify potential kin, map complex family relationships so we can create a family tree for each child, and track our outreach and engagement efforts to ensure that we explore all kinship options for **better family placement outcomes.**” ❤️



# Ready for Life

*My daughter is always her **best self** at Hephzibah.*

— A Hephzibah Day Care parent

IT'S NO SECRET THAT KIDS JUST DO BETTER when their social-emotional needs are met. In fact, hundreds of studies involving more than a million PreK–12 students worldwide have established that social-emotional learning programs have a positive impact on student well-being, academic performance, and life outcomes.

Nobody knows this better than Hephzibah Day Care Director Amy O'Rourke, whose background as a social worker informs much of her work with the children in Hephzibah's after-school and summer camp programs.

"We have always recognized that school-age children need a lot of social-emotional support as they learn how to navigate the world," says O'Rourke. "Over the years, our program has evolved from a traditional day care model with a focus on recreation to a **youth development program** with a strong emphasis on social-emotional growth and well-being."

In 2019, Hephzibah created a dedicated social services and training coordinator position. Currently funded by the **Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park**

**Township**, this position ensures that all Day Care staff members—from the supervisors to the youth development specialists who work directly with the children—have the skills and self-awareness they need to model respectful and appropriate behaviors, build nurturing relationships, and integrate social-emotional learning into everyday activities.

Then the pandemic hit, and life changed overnight. Remote learning became the new normal and restricted peer interactions stalled the children's social-



# Hephzibah Day Care's **social-emotional learning program** is fostering the interpersonal and life skills children need to succeed.



# 808

Number of school-age children who benefited from Hephzibah Day Care's social-emotional programming

emotional development. By the time these restrictions were lifted, the pandemic's babies, toddlers, and preschoolers had entered the school system—and they were struggling.

"Children in the Oak Park community, like children everywhere, had missed out on two key years of socialization during the pandemic," O'Rourke points out. "Our youth development specialists helped jump-start their social-emotional growth by giving them the extra time, space, and support they needed to work on skills such as being a good friend, advocating for themselves and others, and expressing their feelings in safe and appropriate ways."

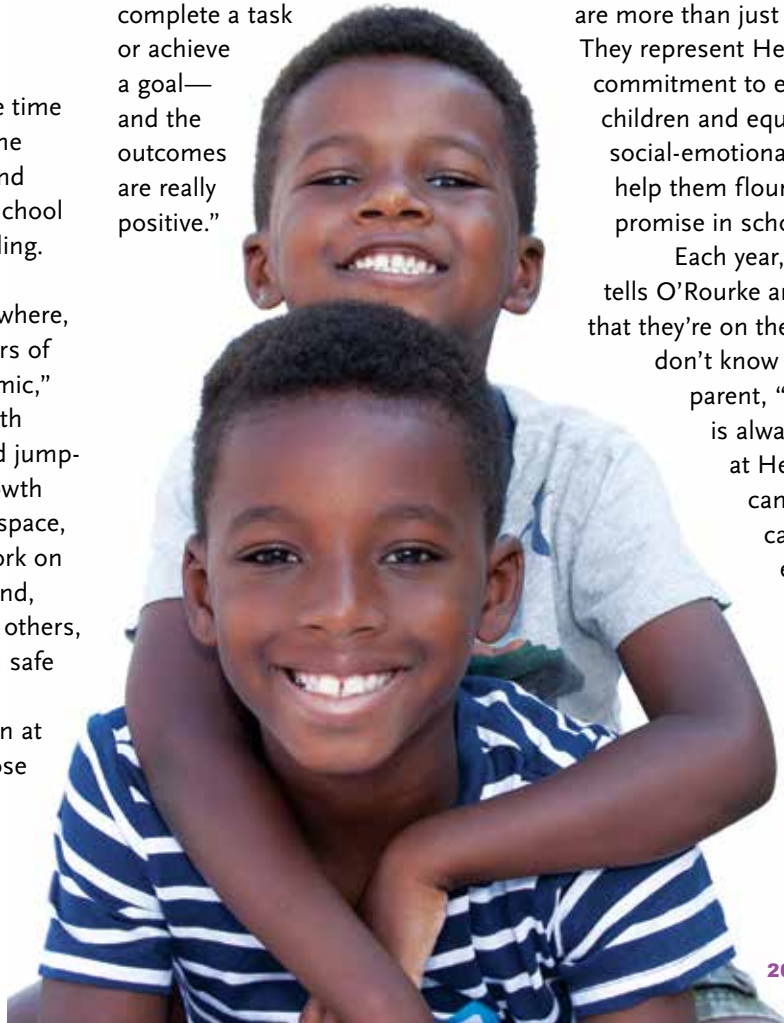
It was the right intervention at the right time—and, today, those same children are thriving.

"From the children's perspective, Hephzibah is a place to hang out with friends and have fun, but **social-emotional skill-building is integrated into everything we do,**" says O'Rourke. "If children are having a hard time, for example, we acknowledge and affirm their feelings first and then ask, 'Well, what are your options?' This approach helps foster a sense of self-efficacy—the belief that they can successfully complete a task or achieve a goal—and the outcomes are really positive."

According to O'Rourke, social-emotional learning also helps foster **a sense of belonging**. "We reinforce that feeling of belonging by making it clear that everyone is on the same team," she notes.

To help communicate this concept, O'Rourke relegated the old employee t-shirts printed with the word "STAFF" to the recycling bin and replaced them with more egalitarian garb. Kids and staff alike now sport t-shirts emblazoned with the words "**TEAM HEPHZIBAH.**" The t-shirts are more than just morale boosters. They represent Hephzibah's deep commitment to empowering the children and equipping them with social-emotional skills that will help them flourish and fulfill their promise in school and in life.

Each year, parent feedback tells O'Rourke and her team that they're on the right track. "I don't know why," noted one parent, "but my daughter is always her best self at Hephzibah summer camp. We tried other camps, but in this environment and with these people, she blossoms." ♥



# A Caring Community

“Volunteering is the ultimate expression of **community spirit**.”

— **Colin Powell**, American statesman, diplomat, army officer, and former U.S. Secretary of State

## Giving the Gift of Belonging

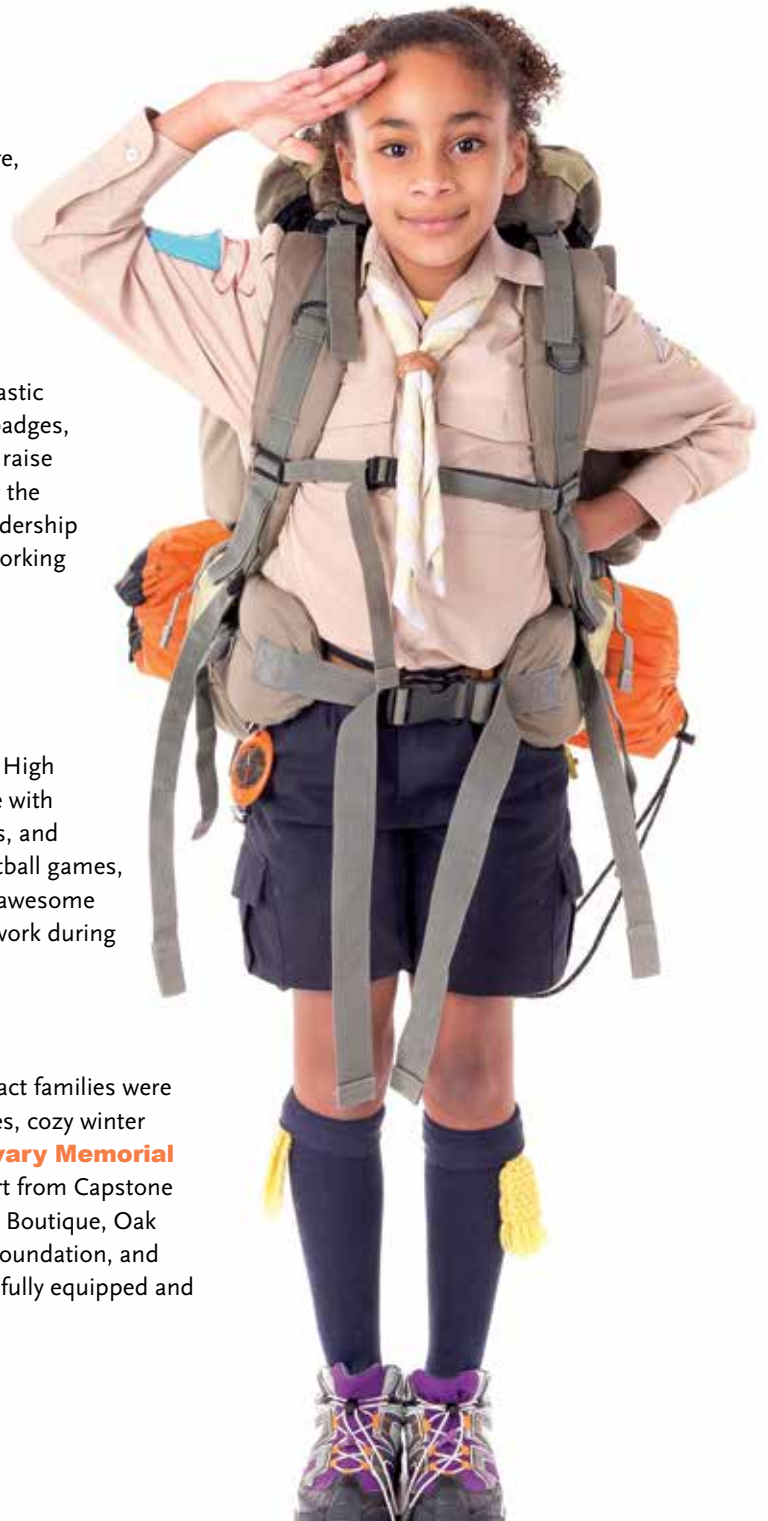
When families fracture and children are placed in substitute care, they miss out on some of the best parts of childhood, such as joining a scouting troop. Jackie Barlow, a former Hephzibah board member, didn't want that to happen to the girls at Hephzibah Home. So she introduced us to Irene Crea, the community relationship manager of the **Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana**, who formed Girl Scout Troop 409 just for them. Cheered on by four enthusiastic volunteer troop leaders, our Girl Scouts are now busy earning badges, rising to new challenges, and even selling Girl Scout cookies to raise funds for new adventures. Along the way, they're learning about the importance of kindness and community service, developing leadership and life skills, and enjoying the camaraderie that comes from working together to make the world a better place.

## The High School Happiness Squad

The **Huskie Helpers**, a student club at Oak Park River Forest High School, brightened the lives of the children at Hephzibah Home with year-round activities and outings, served as positive role models, and taught the children how to laugh and have fun again during football games, trips to the ice rink, movie nights, holiday activities, and a truly awesome pirate-themed celebration to reward the children for their hard work during the academic year.

## A Back-to-School Bonanza

In August 2023, more than 250 children from 125 foster and intact families were outfitted in style with sturdy backpacks, scads of school supplies, cozy winter coats, and more during our **Back-to-School Event at Calvary Memorial Church**. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers and support from Capstone Financial Advisors, Enchanted Backpack, J.A. Watts Inc., JAYNE Boutique, Oak Park Bank, The Peninsula Chicago Hotel, the Ticket to Dream Foundation, and hundreds of individual donors, our kids headed back to school fully equipped and ready to learn.





## Sustainable Shopping for Parents and the Planet

With tons of textiles ending up in landfills and family budgets stretched to the limit by inflation, local families chose a more sustainable shopping option last year: Hephzibah’s Fall and Spring **Kids Resale Events**. Thanks to the hardworking volunteers who spent 1,000+ hours sorting, tagging, and selling mountains of gently used clothes, toys, books, and games, we raised \$56,588 to support enriching and affordable day care for families of all income levels and our annual summer sibling camp for brothers and sisters living in different foster homes.

## Purple is for Healing

**Northwestern Medicine** is known for its world-class medical care, but this compassionate corporate partner also helped us heal the emotional wounds of the traumatized children at Hephzibah Home with a \$30,000 general operating grant. Northwestern Medicine employees gave generously of their time, serving a Sunday Supper to the children, sorting donated gifts for our foster kids, and decorating Hephzibah Home for the holidays. Whenever these kindhearted corporate volunteers show up in their familiar purple t-shirts, the children know they’re about to get a healthy dose of happiness, courtesy of Northwestern Medicine!

*Northwestern volunteers helped our kids heal with a healthy dose of happiness.*



*The Paramount Group “spookified” Hephzibah Home’s backyard and play area for Halloween.*

## Hephzibah’s Holiday Elves Strike Again!

What would we do without our holiday elves? The individuals, organizations, businesses, and corporations listed below—and many other friends and supporters—decorated Hephzibah Home inside and out for the holiday season, purchased and wrapped gifts, stuffed stockings, hosted holiday parties, and more. We are grateful to all of you for shining your light on children and families in need!

- ♥ American College of Surgeons
- ♥ Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
- ♥ The Blue Saints
- ♥ The Carbery Family
- ♥ The Fox Family
- ♥ Gene and Georgetti
- ♥ Harlem Irving Plaza
- ♥ InvenTrust Properties
- ♥ Jackson National Life Insurance Company
- ♥ KBC Advisors
- ♥ Kite Realty Group
- ♥ Northwestern Medicine
- ♥ Oak Park Fire Department
- ♥ The Paramount Group
- ♥ Peninsula Hotel Chicago
- ♥ Santa Claus
- ♥ Strategex
- ♥ The Hartschuh, Knaul, Read, Trainer, and Williams Families
- ♥ Whole Foods River Forest



**\$491,795**  
Amount raised at our  
**2024 Heart of  
Gold Ball**

## Partying with a Purpose

IN EARLY MARCH, more than 300 Hephzibah supporters joined us at Rockwell on the River for a night of cocktails, dining, dancing, live music, and more at our **2024 Heart of Gold Ball**. Although these folks love to party, they arrived with a deeper purpose: to help children and families in crisis rise above their challenges and achieve their full potential.

Thanks to the dedication of our **Heart of Gold committees and volunteers** and the generosity of our sponsors and guests, we raised nearly \$492,000, exceeding our fundraising goal by more than \$116,000. We are deeply grateful to our friends and supporters for making this extraordinary evening possible.

Each year at the Heart of Gold Ball, we take time out from the festivities to recognize individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations that have enhanced the lives of children and families. We presented our **2024 Heart of Gold Award** to **The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation**,

which provided record-level grants to Hephzibah and other Chicago-area social service agencies to promote access to



**Helping Hearts:** Hundreds of generous guests contributed \$275,775 to support our mission during the evening's Helping Hearts paddle raise.

meaningful life opportunities for disadvantaged children, including quality education and networks of support and healing.

We also honored Oak Park dad **Eric Friedman** with our **2024 Heart of the Home Award** for creating an after-school math tutoring program for Oak Park children and then turning it over to Hephzibah to ensure that every student in our community has access to engaging and affordable math enrichment. We applauded this outstanding citizen for his ingenuity and willingness to forego commercial gain in pursuit of educational equity and the greater good. ❤️

# Philanthropy

“There is **no power greater than a community** discovering what it cares about.”

— **Margaret Wheatley**, Peace Corps volunteer, organizational consultant, author, and activist



## Urban Ambassadors

It's been a busy year for our **Chicago Auxiliary Board!** These altruistic ambassadors for Hephzibah welcomed scores of young professionals to the Timber Lanes Bowling Alley on Chicago's North Side for their **Care & Spare** fundraiser, hosted a miniature golf benefit at the Big Mini Putt Club in Wicker Park, organized bingo benefits at Happy Camper's Old Town and Wrigleyville locations, and served up a "Do Good Sunday Brunch" at the Long Room in Ravenswood. Altogether, this ambitious crew raised over \$11,000 for Hephzibah while spreading the word about our mission to new audiences and neighborhoods.

## \$70,160

Total amount raised by our **Chicago, Oak Park, and Western Auxiliaries**



## Music for Healing

In February, 145 music lovers joined us at the Humo Smokehouse for the **Western Auxiliary Board's 2024 Rock 'N' Roll for Your Heart & Soul** benefit. Guests danced to live music, feasted on Mexican and American BBQ fare, and raised \$43,001 to support Camp HepSIBah, a summer camp experience that brings siblings living in different foster homes together to help mend broken family bonds.

**Rocking for our kids:** *Western Auxiliary Board President Tami Wanless and fellow musician Lance Billingsley rocked the crowd with a song during Hephzibah's 2024 Rock 'N' Roll for Your Heart & Soul fundraiser.*



## A Hephzibah Halloween

Nearly 150 ghouls, goblins, ghosts, and other fun-loving characters turned out to support Hephzibah at our **Oak Park Auxiliary Board's** second annual 1.5-mile **Hephzibah Halloween Fun Run/Walk**. Thanks to our generous sponsors and volunteers, this family-friendly October 2023 event raised more than \$9,800 to help children and families in need.





“ It’s when we start **working together** that the real healing takes place. ”

— **David Hume**, *Scottish philosopher, historian, economist, and essayist*



# thank you

for caring about our kids!

*Because all gifts—large and small—are essential to our mission, we list our benefactors in alphabetical order.*

2Feathers	Architectural Consulting Engineers	Marie Benson	Jelene Britten	Sara Caswell
Val Abatangelo	Deborah Arcilla	Bruce and Delores Benton	Brookfield Elks Lodge #1510	Mary Caywood
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*In Memory of Olivia Tinervia*  
Joseph Benko

*In Memory of Roxie VanVliet*  
C & J Gallery

*In Memory of Katie O'Brien Vogt*  
Mabel Burdett  
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*In Memory of Rose Virginia Williams to support of the Rose V. Williams Music Enrichment Fund*  
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Martha Williams

*In Memory of Elaine Yapelli*  
Kathleen Whitney

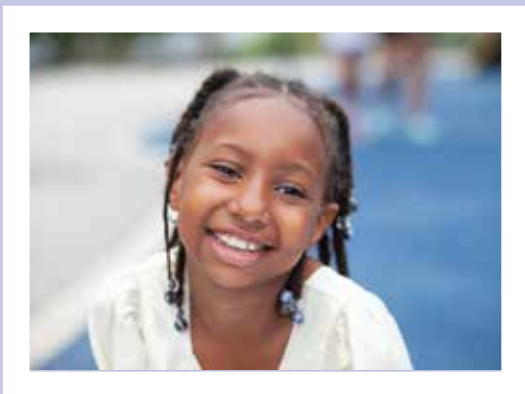
*In Memory of Donald Yara*  
Mary Anne Regilio

## In-Kind Gifts

Hephzibah would like to thank all of the individuals, businesses, and organizations that provided in-kind gifts in FY 2023–24. Your generosity, compassion, and commitment played a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission. Thank you for your support!

For a full list of FY 2023–24 in-kind donors, please view our online annual report at [hephzibahhome.org](http://hephzibahhome.org).

To err is human, to forgive, divine... Have we erred? Please contact Barbara Krause in the Development Office at 708.649.7160. We sincerely regret any errors or omissions.



Most of the children pictured in this report are stock images or children enrolled in Hephzibah's Day Care Program whose parents/guardians have given permission to use their images. To ensure the safety and protect the privacy of the children living at Hephzibah Home or in Hephzibah foster homes, we have not featured any photos showing their faces.



“ The future depends on  
**what we do** in the present. ”

— Mahatma Gandhi



# roots & wings

**“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give to our children.  
One of these is roots—the other, wings.”**

HODDING CARTER

*Hephzibah Children’s Association thanks the members of our Roots and Wings Society  
for their generous contributions of \$1,000 or more within the past two fiscal years.*

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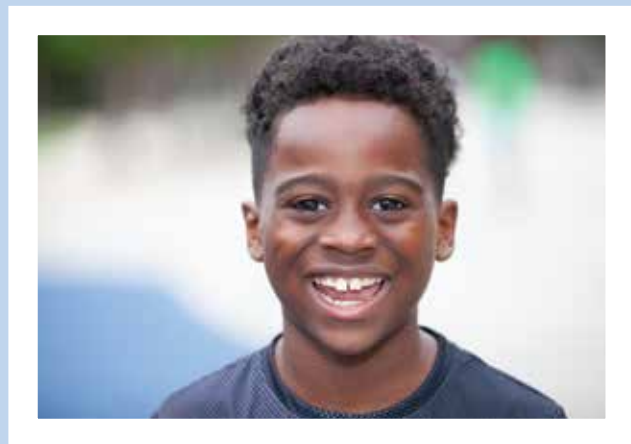
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For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024\*

# Financial Statement

## Revenues

Individual, Corporate, and Foundation Contributions and Grants	\$ 2,960,533
Fees and Grants:	
State Government Agencies	\$ 9,089,903
Local Government Agencies	\$ 96,985
Other Revenue:	
Program Service Fees and Grants	\$ 2,072,498
Investment and Other Income**	\$ 166,844
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 14,386,763</b>

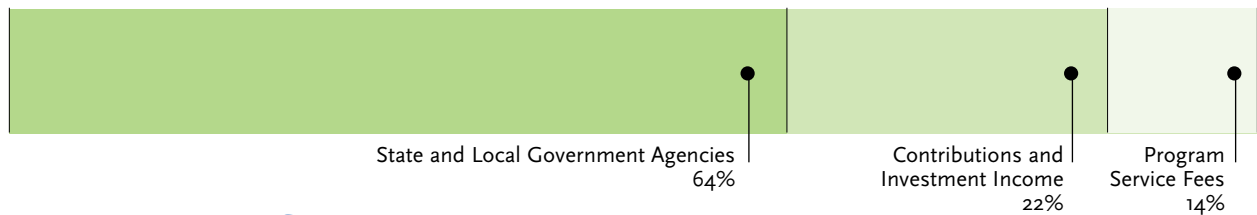
## Expenses

Programs	\$ 10,922,974
Administration	\$ 2,036,076
Fundraising and Development	\$ 878,345
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 13,837,395</b>
Increase in Net Assets Due to Operations**	\$ 549,368
Total Decrease in Net Assets	\$ 991,396
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 11,673,962

\* Unaudited financial statements

\*\* Excludes unrealized gains on investments and change in beneficial interests of \$442,028.

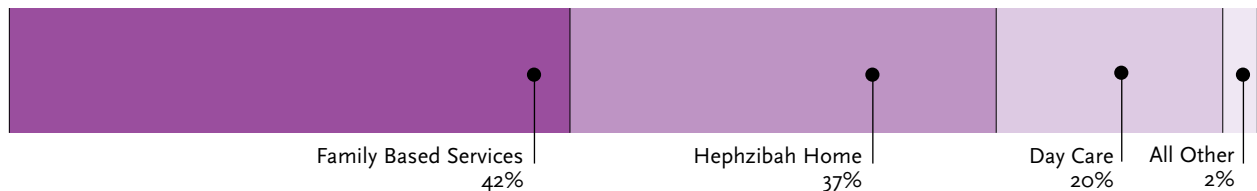
### Sources of Funding



### Distribution of Revenues



### Distribution of Revenues Allocated to Programs





## Grants Awarded

ADJLM Foundation  
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation  
Anonymous  
Byline Bank  
Chicago White Sox Community Fund,  
a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation  
The Christopher Family Foundation  
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation  
Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township  
Constellation Community Champions  
Dunsire Family Foundation, Inc.  
EA Foundation  
Ecolab Foundation  
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities  
Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation  
Harry F. Chaddick & Elaine Chaddick Foundation, Inc.  
Hazard Family Foundation  
Helen Brach Foundation  
T. Kendall Hunt Family Foundation  
Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat Fund of the Oak Park River Forest  
Community Foundation  
Jackson National Life Insurance Company  
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Robert R. and Janice L. Capen Foundation, Inc.  
Sidley Austin Foundation  
Ticket to Dream Foundation  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant  
The Ward Foundation  
Westlake Health Foundation

## Hephzibah helps children thrive and families flourish

through a continuum of community-based programs that include residential services for neglected and abused children at Hephzibah Home, foster care and adoption services, comprehensive services for children and families in crisis, and after-school and summer camp services on a sliding scale for families of all income levels.

### Accreditation

Hephzibah is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

### Licensing

Hephzibah is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services as a Child Welfare Agency, Group Home, and Child Care Institution.

### Funding

Hephzibah receives Illinois state funding from the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Human Services, and the State Board of Education. Local funding is received from the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park School District 97, and Oak Park Township. Funding is also received from multiple foundations, corporations, and our own fundraising activities.



# The People Behind Hephzibah

July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

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*Immediate Past President*

Donna Rolf  
*Vice President*

Lisa Azu-Popow  
*Treasurer*

Amy Muran Felton  
*Secretary*

Greg Flinn \*

John Ide

Jennifer Ierardi \*

Alex Leibowitz

Kenna MacKinnon

John McConville

Lynde O'Brien

Marcia Preston

Rondell Richardson

Pete Senechalle

Byron Taylor

Farah Usmani \*

Craig Williams

Jon Yates

Amanda Montgomery  
*Ex-Officio Member*

## Hephzibah Children's Trust

Byron Taylor  
*President*

Jackie Barlow

Lisa Emerson

Gail Hague

John Ide

Kenna MacKinnon

Nancy Quinn  
Eric Sorensen  
Maureen Stratton  
Mark Trinka  
Tom Yates

## Chicago Auxiliary

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Courtney Valderrama  
*Hospitality Chair*

Sophie Marwil  
*Social Chair*

Diana Sanborn  
*Membership Chair*

Meagan Schade  
*Communications Chair*

Elena Bernstein  
Kyle Blankenship  
Sarah Gascoigne  
Paul Kitti  
Christopher Lingner  
Kristin Morrison  
Lorraine Sullivan

## Oak Park Auxiliary

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*President and Membership Chair*

Amy Moriarta  
*Secretary*

Jean Powell  
*Treasurer*

Elizabeth Cannon  
*Marketing and Publicity*

Vesa Baraku  
Jae Billingsley  
Hillary Davis  
Patrice Dziire  
Loren Hypes  
Michele Mazur  
Madeleine Milan  
Brittani Provost  
Anne Stapleton  
Amy Unell  
Sloan Watson  
David Wick

## Western Auxiliary

Tami Wanless  
*President*

Marci Grenda  
*Vice President*

April Mittlestaedt  
*Secretary*

Kim Stoltz  
*Treasurer*

Alicia Skodol  
*Children's Services*

Megan Scheck  
*Hospitality and Social Chair*

Julie Boczkowski  
*Membership Chair*

Laura McLaughlin  
*Marketing/Publicity and Western Junior Auxiliary Board Liaison*

Michelle Choi  
*Western Junior Auxiliary Board Liaison*

Lisa Amoroso  
Stephanie Clark  
Lisa Diomede

Megan Feinberg  
Carla Franza  
Cindy Glavin  
Lindsey Griffin  
Tina Hutchinson  
Nicola Kern  
Rachelle Kienlen  
Andra Knapp  
Penny Latta  
Laura Lopez  
Jane Mitchell  
Stephanie Qualio  
Kimberly Schwegel  
Anne Weber  
Tanja Williamson

## Western Junior Auxiliary Board

Johnny Duckworth  
*Co-President*

Breccan Scheck  
*Co-President*

Will Latta  
*Co-Vice President*

Audrey Sawyer  
*Co-Vice President*

Kara Potts  
*Secretary-Vice President*

Jack Boczkowski  
*Treasurer*

Sawyer Church  
*Publicity*

Kate Boczkowski  
Kristen Choi

Ryan Choi

Scarlett Cronan

Joey Griffin

Kate Griffin

Bryce Huff

Dax Keller  
Kailyn McLaughlin  
Paige Mitchell  
Evan Puccini  
Kristy Rinaldo  
Ella Sawyer  
Tierney Scheck  
Chloe Wanless  
Chris Weber  
Daniel Weinberg

## Executive Leadership Team

Jason Patenaude \*\*  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Merry Beth Sheets \*\*\*  
*Executive Director*

Michelle Anderson  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Nancy Dorfman Schwartz  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Julie Dvorsky  
*Director of Family Based Services*

Mary Jane Joyce  
*Director of Human Resources*

Amy O'Rourke  
*Director of Day Care*

James Woywod  
*Director of Residential Services*

Juliet Yera  
*Director of Development and Communications*

\* Since May 2024

\*\* Since June 24, 2024

\*\*\* Until May 17, 2024



**THANK YOU** for  
helping children thrive  
and families flourish with  
your generous support!



*helping children thrive  
and families flourish  
since 1897*

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