

2018-2019

annual report



Hephzibah Children's Association



“In every conceivable manner, the **family** is a link to our past, a bridge to our future.”

ALEX HALEY

Journalist and author of *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*

family

Dear Friend of Hephzibah,

Across the nation, a new conversation is taking place in the child welfare community. As we work together to keep children safe and families strong, this conversation revolves around a key question: What would the child welfare system look like if we could better support families struggling with pressures such as poverty, mental illness, addiction, domestic violence or homelessness—*before* they fracture and children must be removed from the home?

As studies continue to document the lifelong consequences of separating children from their parents, their siblings, their communities and their cultures, the child welfare system in America has arrived at a watershed moment. The focus is shifting away from keeping children safe by placing them in substitute care to a more holistic model of child and family well-being.¹

In recent years, Hephzibah has been at the forefront of this effort. Our **Intact Family Services Program**, which works to **stabilize families in crisis as an alternative to removing children from the home**, served 147 families and 337 children in fiscal 2018–19—an increase of 444 percent since 2013. With the help of supports such as respite care, homemaker services, day care, funding for family necessities in times of critical need, parent-skills training and substance-abuse assessments and referrals, **97 percent of these families moved from crisis to greater stability.**

While we worked to keep families together, we also opened our doors to 47 children from all over the state who needed a safe haven and a place to heal. We assessed and stabilized 32 children in our **Diagnostic Treatment Center**—the only diagnostic shelter for neglected and abused children between the ages of 3 and 11 in Illinois. Fifteen severely traumatized children were transitioned to our Residence, where they received the longer-term therapeutic support they needed to make a successful return to family life.

We are thrilled to report that **100 percent of the children discharged from our Residence in FY19 were placed in less restrictive settings with biological or foster families**—a significant achievement



Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director



1,323

Number of **children served** by all Hephzibah Children's Association Programs

¹ *On the Pathway of Hope: 2019 Signature Report*, Casey Family Programs



100%

Percentage of children placed in less-restrictive settings with biological, foster or adoptive families after receiving the intensive therapeutic supports they needed to **heal at Hephzibah Home**.

that reflects the tremendous amount of healing that took place at Hephzibah Home last year, as well as the focused, dedicated work of our therapists, staff and, of course, the children! Sixty percent of the children discharged from the Residence were reunited with biological family members—the **highest percentage of family reunifications in Hephzibah’s history**. You’ll find out more about this hard-won victory—and the importance of preserving and protecting family bonds—on page four of this report.

As we celebrated these happy endings, we also celebrated the **highest number of permanencies in the history of our Foster Care Program**. In the simplest of terms, “permanency” means family—positive, healthy, nurturing relationships with loving adults who will be there to support

and sustain these children throughout their lives. Sixteen of our foster children were placed with families through adoption, one was placed with a legal guardian and one returned home. With 23,000 children aging out of foster care in the U.S. each year without families to support them as they transition into adulthood, these permanencies are good news indeed!

These forever families were the result of a **continuing investment in the therapeutic supports and services that our foster children and families need** to succeed. The debilitating effects of trauma are an undeniable fact of a foster child’s life—and the path to healing is a complex and multifaceted one. Trauma can affect a child’s brain, body, behavior and worldview—but it can also be treated. To strengthen our support for some of the most traumatized foster children in our care, we added a **clinical advocate** to our team. With this new clinical advocate on board, we were able to provide intensive therapeutic support and services, as well trauma training for new foster parents, to help these vulnerable children progress on their path to recovery.

Because helping children succeed also means helping them achieve their full potential, we launched a new **tutoring program** at our after-school Day Care sites and engaged rising sixth graders in an innovative **Transitioning to Middle School Program** to help them navigate the passage from childhood to adolescence and greater independence. You’ll find out more about these programs on pages six and seven of this report.

As we helped children thrive and families flourish in FY19, we were also planning for the future. In Fall 2018, we launched a **comprehensive strategic**



773

School-aged children who were nurtured and enriched in our **after-school and summer Day Care programs**



planning process with input from more than 75 stakeholders—including board and staff members and community leaders and partners. This process culminated in the development of *Family Matters*, a strategic plan that will guide our growth over the next four years as we enhance our programming to help children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds achieve their full potential and continue to deepen and expand our core mission of healing traumatized children and stabilizing families in crisis so that we can keep families together.

None of this would have been possible without the careful stewardship of our Board of Directors, the passion and commitment of our auxiliary boards, the dedicated staff members who carry out our mission day in and day out, the foster parents who open their homes and their hearts to children in need and the loyal support of our benefactors and volunteers. Thank you for keeping Hephzibah strong—so that we can continue to nurture and enrich children and strengthen families in the years to come.

4,008

Hours logged by our 193
Hephzibah volunteers

Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director

Kenna MacKinnon
Board President

healing

Going Home Again

FAMILY MATTERS. It's an irrefutable fact of human nature—and research shows that a lasting **separation from one's family can have lifelong consequences.**

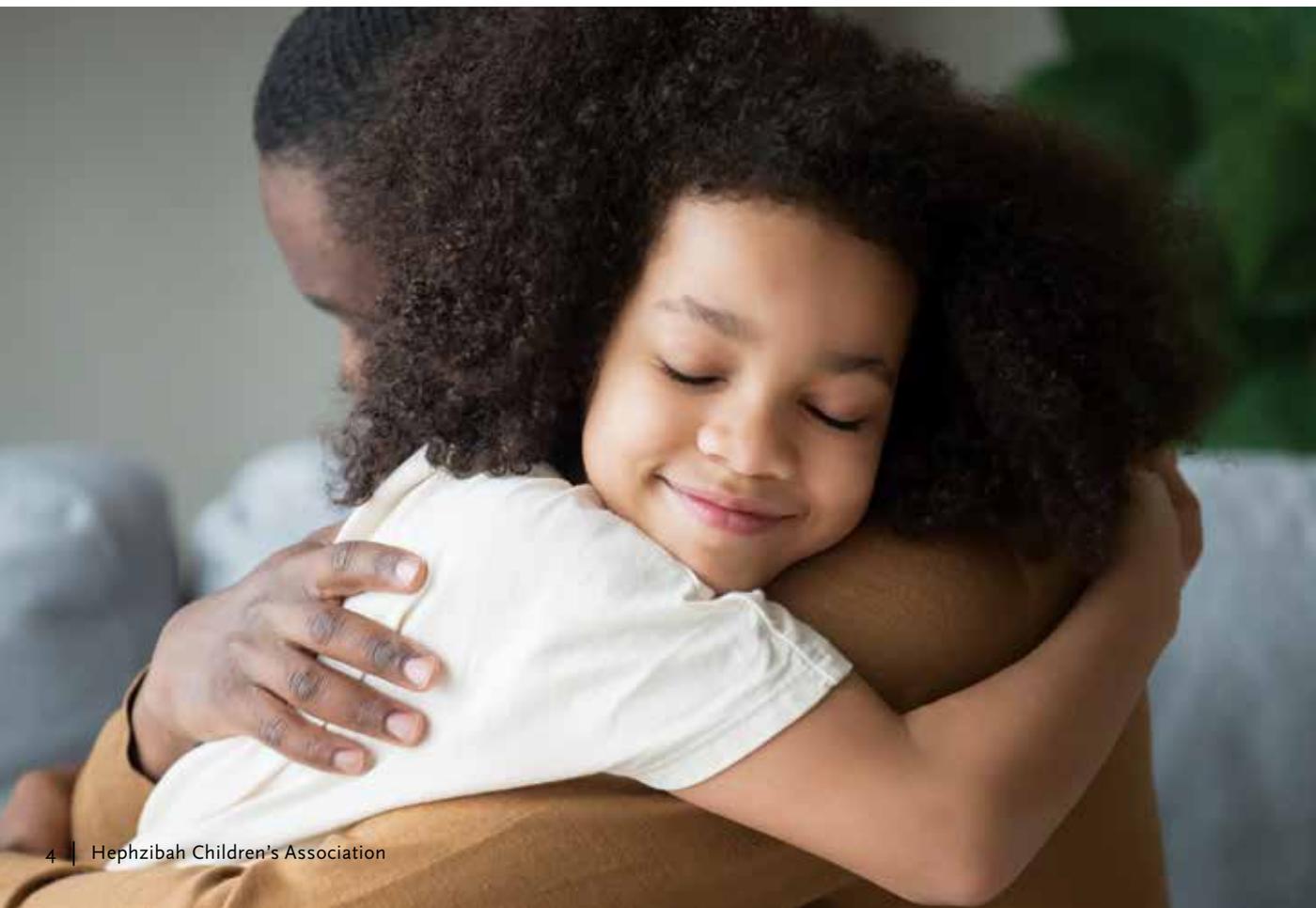
One study of the brain scans of elderly adults separated from their families at a young age showed structural changes that had persisted into adulthood.

“People are not isolated beings; they are part of familial and social networks,” noted the authors of a Casey Family Program Foundation report on the importance of

preserving and protecting family connections for children in foster care. “When those networks and connections are disrupted—as when children are taken away from their families—the impact is negative and it is cumulative for the child, the family and the community.”

The loss of one's biological family—however fragile or flawed it may be—is a wound that is

*Last year, 60 percent of the children discharged from our Residence were successfully reunited with their biological families—the **highest percentage of family reunifications in Hephzibah's history.***



“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, **you need one.**”

— JANE HOWARD, British novelist

slow to heal. Years after being separated from their families due to neglect or abuse, many children in substitute care still long to reconnect.

“It is very traumatizing for children to be removed from the only family that they have ever known, and the vast majority of these kids want to be back with their families,” states Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets. “Studies show that upwards of 90 percent of the children who age out of the child welfare system reunite with their biological families. Those bonds are real, and it is essential that we do everything we can to help children maintain those relationships.”

For all of these reasons, Hephzibah is committed to reuniting children in substitute care with their families after parents have demonstrated that they can provide a safe and nurturing environment.

In FY19, **60 percent of the children discharged from our Residence returned to their families of origin**—the highest percentage of family reunifications in Hephzibah history. This reunification rate reflects the hard work that takes place at Hephzibah every day to pave the way for successful reunifications.

“When children arrive at Hephzibah, we engage their families right from the start,” says Group Homes Director Jim Woywod. “We want parents to know that they are welcome here and that they are an important part of their child’s life.

“We don’t give up on parents when they stumble,” he adds. “If parents miss visits because



they can’t afford transportation, we provide bus passes. If they live far away, we pay for them to stay overnight at a local hotel. If they are struggling with addiction or domestic abuse, we connect them to the services they need to provide a safe and stable home for their children.”

With enough encouragement and the right supports, many parents are willing to do whatever it takes to bring their children home again. According to Woywod, there’s nothing more satisfying than seeing a family that was once broken become whole.

“The father of one child at Hephzibah worked really hard to regain custody of his son,” he recalls. “He did everything that we asked him to do—driving twice a week from McHenry County through driving rain, snowstorms and frigid temperatures for visits and family therapy sessions. He had a lot of hurdles to overcome, but he stayed motivated because we were committed to his success. **On the day that he left Hephzibah with his son, the father was enormously grateful, and his son was the happiest kid you could imagine—so happy to be going back home, where he belonged.**”

growth

The Journey to Independence

IT'S HARD TO BE A TWEEN. You're not a kid anymore, and you're eager to spread your wings, but the world is a big and intimidating place.

For the rising sixth graders graduating from Hephzibah Day Care in Summer 2019, our Transitioning to Middle School Program provided the antidote to typical tween worries about the future—along with some much-needed advice about how to navigate the middle-school years, opportunities to forge deeper friendships with their peers and some timely practice in the life skills they'd need as they

moved on from childhood to adolescence.

“We know that the leap from elementary to middle school is a big one—and that often includes going from after-school care to walking home alone and being at home by themselves,” says Day Care Director Amy O'Rourke. “We wanted to create a safe space for the children to ask questions, gain independence by learning

*Rising sixth graders in our **Transitioning to Middle School Program** spent the summer connecting with their peers, discussing tween concerns and working on life skills—including learning how to ride public transportation—as they prepared to graduate from Hephzibah Day Care and move on to middle school and greater independence.*



how to get around safely in the local community and connect with other children about to enter middle school.”

Friday afternoons throughout the

36

Number of **rising sixth graders enrolled** in our **Transitioning to Middle School Program** in **Summer 2019**

summer were set aside for team-building activities; a potluck dinner; a CTA ride to Portillos, a fast-food favorite in Forest Park; field

trips to the Harrison Arts District and other locations; and themed discussions about tween concerns such as bullying. The kids beefed up their problem-solving, teamwork and leadership skills by taking responsibility for all event planning and scheduling.

According to O’Rourke, the program was a big hit.

“We’ve had very positive feedback from both children and parents,” she reports. “The Transitioning to Middle School group is now something that the younger kids at Hephzibah Day Care look forward to as well.”

But—even as our Day Care staff prepared the fledgling middle schoolers to spread their wings and fly—they reassured the children that there would always be a place for them at Hephzibah.

“We made sure that every child in the program felt secure in the knowledge that they could come back any time to visit, grab a snack, hang out until their parents got home if they lost their house keys and even volunteer when they are old enough,” says O’Rourke. “We want them to know that we will always be there for them.”



SPARK tutor Erma Aumann and a young friend shared a laugh while working on a homework assignment.

A Helping Hand with Homework

HEPHZIBAH DAY CARE KIDS got a helping hand with their homework and literacy skills last year—thanks to a new tutoring program powered by local high school volunteers.

“The SPARK program grew out of our desire to provide a more structured program of academic and homework support for the children in our after-school day care program,” explains Day Care Director Amy O’Rourke. “We relied on general Day Care volunteers to meet this need until Summer 2018, when Oak Park River Forest High School seniors Racquel Hernandez and Dina Paul approached us to offer tutoring support.”

More than 20 other students from Oak Park River Forest High School and Trinity High School followed, and the student-led **SPARK Tutoring Program** was off to a running start.

“This is a wonderful partnership that has enabled us to provide a higher level of academic support for the children at our after-school Day Care sites,” says O’Rourke. “During the program’s pilot year, our volunteer SPARK tutors provided homework assistance, led reading groups and played academic games with the children.”

The children looked forward to seeing the tutors each week and the program quickly became a popular resource for many elementary school students.

Although our original SPARK coordinators have since left for college, current SPARK coordinators Rosemary McNulty and Ellen Taira are enthusiastically carrying on their legacy of academic support for Hephzibah’s kids.

“We’re committed to expanding SPARK’s impact in the coming year,” they report. “Our volunteer tutors love spending time with the children, and the program provides a valuable introduction to teaching and working with children for students who are still searching for their future life path.”

connection

Changing Lives, One Mentor at a Time

“WE ALL NEED human connection, but **foster children need it more than most**,” wrote former foster child Kay Ramsey in an August 2019 op-ed for the *Los Angeles Times*.

“I was born into foster care. A mentor would have made a big difference in my life. Mentorship isn’t a cure-all. But it can make a profound difference in the life of a child who will suddenly feel less alone.”

According to the nonprofit Foster Care to Success, too many foster children “may never feel stable or connected, lacking the family and

community ties that are so critical to young adults learning to make their own way in the world.”

Ramsey—now a PhD and a director for a nonprofit that provides social services for children and families—beat the odds with the help of a loving adoptive mom and academic and professional mentors who guided her in early adulthood.

But many foster children are not so fortunate.

For foster children who have been traumatized by neglect, abuse and the loss of their families and communities, a relationship with a consistent, caring mentor can make all the difference. Twenty-nine mentors served as trusted confidants for 31 Hephzibah foster children in FY19 to help them heal and learn to love again.



Every kid is **one caring adult** away from being a success story.

JOSH SHIPP, former foster child and youth advocate

A 2017 study by the Casey Family Program, Harvard Medical School and the University of Michigan found that former foster children are nearly twice as likely to experience PTSD as war veterans. Fifty percent never graduate from high school—and fewer than three percent earn a college degree. Many are at risk of homelessness, unemployment, addiction and run-ins with the law.

Recent studies confirm Ramsey's assertion that the support of a good mentor can be life-changing for children in foster care.

29

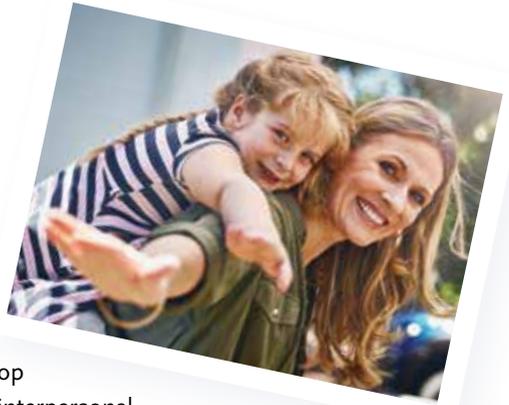
Number of Hephzibah mentors who served as trusted confidants for 31 foster children

lives are less likely to drop out of school or get into trouble with the law," states Hephzibah Director of Family Based Services Julie Dvorsky. "They're also more likely to build strong, stable relationships in adulthood."

But Dvorsky doesn't need a research study to drive this point home. She sees it every day in the foster children participating in Hephzibah's

Therapeutic and Volunteer Mentor Programs.

"Last year, we connected 31 foster children with caring adults who gave them the attention they craved while working on specific social-emotional goals," she notes. "These mentors provided a sympathetic ear when the children were struggling with feelings of grief and loss and helped them



develop their interpersonal and coping skills so that they can succeed in a family setting and lead happier, more fulfilling lives. Our mentoring program continues to be a much-requested and much-appreciated resource for foster parents and their children."

The mentors bonded with the children at car shows, art workshops, climbing gyms, zoos, museums and other recreational destinations. But what the children seemed to value most was the one-on-one connection with a trusted adult.

"I look forward to seeing my mentor, Sharon, because she comes to see me—just me and no one else," said one seven-year-old foster child. "I don't have to share her with anyone."

"Foster kids need all the healthy relationships with grownups that they can get," says a Hephzibah foster mom. "By giving these kids opportunities to form healthy relationships with mentors while they are in care, Hephzibah is giving them the gift of time with positive role models and helping them develop the life skills that will help them thrive in adulthood."

community

Kids Helping Kids in Memory of 9/11

EACH YEAR ON 9/11, the kids and families of Bonnie Brae in River Forest team up with local businesses

and organizations to turn a day of remembrance into a day of action—one glass of lemonade at a time. Their **LemonAid** fundraiser, which honors the victims and first responders of 9/11, was established in 2002 to commemorate the day in a positive way by raising funds for local nonprofits that serve children.

“Hephzibah was the very first recipient of the 9/11 LemonAid stand grant in 2002, and we are so grateful to be chosen once again as a LemonAid grant recipient,” says Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets. “Our 2019 grant will be used to

help mend broken family bonds by supporting **Camp HepSiBah**, a week-long summer camp for brothers and sisters living in different group, foster and adoptive homes.”



LemonAid, a 9/11 charity fundraiser, raised \$16,500 in 2019 to support *Camp HepSiBah*, a summer camp for brothers and sisters living in different group, foster and adoptive homes.





Award-winning volunteer and philanthropist

Claire Love with some young friends from Hephzibah Day Care

High School Humanist

FOUR YEARS AGO, CLAIRE LOVE was more than a wide-eyed freshman trying to find her way at Oak Park River Forest High School. She was a budding humanist looking for a way to help people in need. She found it through the **Huskie Helpers**, a service club for high school students with big hearts and a commitment to Hephzibah's kids.

Love threw herself wholeheartedly into her role as a Huskie Helper, coordinating movie nights and recreational outings for the children at Hephzibah Home, raising funds, collecting school supplies, organizing events and expanding the reach of her high school service club by recruiting scores of additional volunteers.

She was also adept at seeing a need and filling it. When she noticed that the African American boys living at Hephzibah Home needed positive African American male role models, she recruited members of her high school's wrestling and football teams to share friendship, mentoring and fun.

So it was no surprise to us when the college-bound senior received the 2019 Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation's **Excellence in Philanthropy Award for an Outstanding Young Person**—and then chose Hephzibah as the recipient of her \$1,000 award grant.

"It has been a joy to see children who were once shy and reserved blossom into strong, confident kids at Hephzibah," Love reflected at the award ceremony. "I am very sad to be leaving, but I will carry Hephzibah's mission and values with me for the rest of my life."

100+

Children whose lives have been enriched by Huskie Helper Claire Love

A Sweet Way to Pay it Forward

MICHELLE DURPETTI has a special place in her heart for Hephzibah's kids.

"I was adopted at birth and I was so blessed to find my way to two parents who love me and support me," explains Durpetti, who was raised in Oak Park. "Today, it is so important to me to pay that forward by lending my support to an organization that does wonderful things for children who are waiting to find their own families."

\$20,000

Amount raised from dessert sales at **Gene & Georgetti's** for Hephzibah's kids

Durpetti has found an undeniably sweet way to give back. Each November during National Adoption Month, she donates a portion of the proceeds from dessert sales at her family's Gene & Georgetti restaurants to Hephzibah Children's Association.

"We are so grateful to Michelle and the Gene & Georgetti family for their continued generosity," says Hephzibah Development Director Juliet Yera. "Over the past four years, they have raised awareness of our mission while raising **more than \$20,000 to help our children heal and find loving forever families** of their own."



Michelle Durpetti with her adoptive parents, **Marion and Tony Durpetti**

philanth

Believing makes all the difference...

ON MARCH 2, more than 350 believers in the boundless potential of every child joined us for a night of friendship and philanthropy at *Believe*, our **2019 Heart of Gold Ball**.

As guests dined, danced, bid on live and silent auction items and enjoyed panoramic views of the city in the Bridgeport Art Center's Skyline Loft, Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets honored some of our most dedicated volunteers and benefactors.

She presented the **2019 Heart of the Home Award** to our **Hephzibah Heartmates**, a committed group of long-term mentors who spent more than 800 hours last year serving as positive role models, friends and confidants for the children at Hephzibah Home.

Jodi Fyfe—another ardent believer in Hephzibah's kids—received Hephzibah's **2019 Heart of Gold Award** for her contributions of time and talent. From her childhood days as a Hephzibah Day Care kid to her current-day career as an entrepreneur and CEO of Paramount Events, Fyfe has always believed in herself and chased her dreams. Now she generously gives back to the organization that inspired her to dream as a child. Over the years, Fyfe has supported our mission with countless financial contributions, served on our Oak Park Auxiliary Board, hosted special events, schooled our foster teens in the art of cooking and running a business and even arranged a trip to Disney World for 14 of our Hephzibah Home residents.

\$291,500

Amount raised at *Believe*, our **2018 Heart of Gold Ball**

Thanks to the creativity and dedication of our **Heart of Gold Co-Chairs Maria Garvy and Cam Niederman and their committee members**—and the generosity of our sponsors and guests—this inspiring evening raised \$291,500 to help children achieve their full potential. Thank you all for supporting our mission—and for believing in Hephzibah's kids!



copy



Rocking and running for Hephzibah

Our **Western Auxiliary Board** was feeling the love on Valentine's Day Weekend 2019 as 150 guests rocked past midnight at **Rock 'n Roll for Your Heart & Soul**. The popular event—which included live performances by three rock bands, a silent

auction, liquid libations and a late-night BBQ buffet—raised \$35,000 to fund backpacks and activities for

Hephzibah sibling campers. On Memorial Day, our energetic Westies hit the ground running once again for their 19th annual **Hoof It for Hephzibah Run/Walk and Kids' Race**. More than 500 walkers and runners, ranging from toddlers to elite athletes, hoofed it to the finish line to raise more than \$27,000 for Hephzibah programs.

\$101,685

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



Swanky Samaritans

More than 140 young professionals kicked off the holiday season in style at our second annual **Swanksgiving** fundraiser. Guests gathered at The Lakewood—Paramount Event's venue in Chicago's West Loop—for an evening of urban elegance replete with wine and beer tasting, pomegranate champagne cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, charcuterie tables, a wine toss, raffle items, live entertainment and a rousing round of Fund-a-Need Bingo. Co-hosted by our **Chicago Auxiliary Board** and **Paramount Events**, the November 2018 event raised \$15,550 for Hephzibah's kids.



Art After Dark

It was a dark and stormy night, but more than 60 stalwart culture lovers braved the wind and rain to support the **Oak Park Auxiliary Board's** second annual **Oak Park After Dark** benefit at the Oak Park River Forest Museum. Guests at the October event—which featured the work of local visual artist Tia Etu (above, far right)—enjoyed signature cocktails, savory offerings from Scratch Kitchen and a performance by the Evanston-based bluegrass band Emory Gap. This unique event, which showcases the visual and performing arts at a different local venue each year, raised more than \$8,000 to support Hephzibah's mission.



“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then **there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”**

FRED ROGERS, *minister and host of the public television children’s show, Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*

thank you

for being a hero!

Gifts

\$100,000 and above

Anonymous

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous
NOW Health Group, Inc.

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Kathy and Vincent Ambrosino
Anonymous
Paul and Sherry Carbery
Chicago White Sox Charities
Maria Garvy
The Lavin Bernick Huber
Charitable Fund of the
Chicago Community Trust
McDonald's Corporation
Oak Park River Forest Community
Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Anonymous
Celeste and James Boler
Chicago Association of Realtors
Foundation
CIBC
Lisa and Shaun Emerson
Gail Anita Flagler Foundation
Marvin and Kaye Lichtman
Foundation
Northern Trust Company
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\$5,000 to \$9,999

Gilmary and Paul Andrews
Anna Kushel Marshall Trust
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The Good Heart, Work Smart
Foundation
Kathleen and Michael Haupers
Helen Brach Foundation
Ken and Patty Hunt
Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat
Fund of the Oak Park River
Forest Community Foundation
Ken Johnson and Amy Stearns
Kathy and Lou McKeever
Joshua and Meghann Moses
Noreen Marie McCann Trust
Owens Foundation
Perl Mortgage
Jesse Rosas and
Merry Beth Sheets
Bryon and Susan Stanislaw
Sylvia Ziontz Foundation
Byron and Parle Taylor
Cindy and Scott Tinervia

Diane and Justin Ullman
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Catherine Adduci
Allstate Foundation
Alex Anderson and Anne Hennessy
Anonymous
Julio Argueta
Aria Technologies, Inc.
Brightly and Mack Babcock
Baird & Warner Good Will Network
Bank of America Charitable
Foundation
John and Vivien Barkidjija
Jacqueline Barlow
Barbara Best
Rachael and Ryan Blackburn
Barbara Blair
Bob's Discount Furniture
Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Brottschul Potts LLC
Linda and Terry Brown
Mary Anne and Max Brown
Brian Byrne and Mary Jane Joyce
Iole Cappiello
Capstone Financial Advisors
Careful Peach Boutique
Kristin Carlson-Vogel and
Shawn Vogen
Christopher and Emily Carroll
Jim Christofferson and
Christina Ewing
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
Community Bank of Oak Park
River Forest
Kevin and Linda Conway
Christopher and Patricia Coogan
Loretta and Robert Cooney
Carrie and Matt Cotter
Raima and Timothy Cunningham
Amy and Timothy Davis
Amy and Bill Deitch
Kathy and Michael Deitch
Christine DiFrancesco
Audra Disser
Doing Good, LLC
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Corey and Maha Engesser
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Daniel and Therese Farley
John C. Filosa and Cathaleen Roach
First United Methodist Church
of Oak Park
Brian Flynn
Forest Park National Bank
Wendy Foster
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Gene & Georgetti's
Cindy and John Glavin
Cynthia and Norman Goldring
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Jennifer Ellis-Jackson
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Lamar and Lisa Johnson
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Keffner Financial Planning
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Brenda and David Knapp
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Commodore Barry Post #1118
William Knittle and Alma Lizcano
Steve Kohn
Elizabeth J. Kovacs
Lisa Marie Kozak
Bernardo Lacayo
The Larson Family
Sherrill and Vince Laurenzo
John and Steffani LeFevour
Lively Athletics
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Loyola Medical Center
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Cam and Jerry Niederman
Dave and Lynde O'Brien
Kevin O'Keefe
Julie Olenn
Patricia K. O'Shea and
Frank V. Tannura
Wendy Owen and Gregory Wolski
Denise and Mark Pacioni
Harold and Mary Pelzer
Floyd Perkins
Lisa and Peter Perkins
Diane and Perry Pero
Laura and Shelley Petrie
Brian and Martha Polumsky
Maggie Quinn
Carol and Pravin Rao
Rikki Ray
RCM Alternatives
Susan Reich
Retail Properties of America

Jenny and Paul Rieger
Nate and Sarah Roberts
Carolyn J. Roche
Donna Rolf
John Roop
Donald and Karen Rosenwinkel
RTS Packaging
Deborah and Randy Ruff
Rush Oak Park Hospital
Kate and Michael Scheck
Patricia and William Schmalz
Donna and Ralph Schuler
Schulz-Brundage, Inc.
Kevin and Theresa Shea
Jill and Kenneth Shiner
Michael and Renee Sichlau
Sidley Austin Foundation
Cheryl Silvestri
Simplified Search, Inc.
Katie and Michael Skoglund
Jeff and Kristen Smith
Rick Smith
Virginia Sonnenschein
Eric and Lisa Sorensen
Mary Spyropoulos and
Jeffrey Stocker
The Sweet Water Foundation
Sysco Food Service
Ticket To Dream Foundation
Lance and Mary Tortorici
Daniel and Robin Towner
Kevin and Martha Toy
Cindy Traczyk
Diane and William Trimble
Thomas Turk
Union Pacific Corporation
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
University Of Chicago
Medical Center
US Bank
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Jen and Josh Weaver
West Cook YMCA
John Wilkerson
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roots & wings

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

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 Luke McLeese
 Medinah Country Club
 Meraki Room
 Garron Segal and Sean Merle
 Lily Messih
 Midwest Equity Mortgage
 Anthony and Dietra Millard
 Marja Mills
 Cindy and Duschan Milojevic
 Miracle Revival Cathedral
 MM Frame Company
 Mommy Posse Oak Park
 Owen Montana
 Montclare Elmwood Park
 Lion's Club
 Maria Montes De Oca
 Kahe Moody
 William Knittle and Alma Lizcano
 Kathleen Kochendorfer
 Christina Kolski
 Komarek School
 Elizabeth Koppula
 Folkert and Kristi Kosten
 Jen Kovar
 Amy Krefman
 John Krenzer
 Michele Kruegel
 Amy Kurtz
 La Sardine
 Alan Landay and
 Debra Zimble-Landay
 Greta and Jeff Landis
 Patty Langridge
 LaNotte Ristorante Italiano
 Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants
 Lexus Naperville
 Esteban and Karla Linarez
 Lincoln School
 Kelly Littlejohn
 Julie Lloyd
 James Loiacono
 Christina Loranz
 Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
 Loyola Center for Health & Fitness
 Maureen Lucenti
 Lynfred Winery
 Lyric Opera of Chicago
 Shar Mac
 Madison Street Shoes
 Aaja Magee
 Main Street Pub
 Cheryl Mairson
 Maize + Mash

Mary Claire Malloy
 Malone Solutions
 Maureen Manger
 Mann School
 Marcel's
 Carol Marino
 Eleni Marsh
 Jon Mason and Renee Porter
 Nena Mass
 Anne and Michael Mastropietro
 Maya del Sol Restaurant
 Michele and Scot Mazur
 McAdam Landscaping, Inc.
 Alexandria McCague
 Jessica McChesney
 Laura McCollough
 Lindsay McIntyre
 Luke McLeese
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 Maize + Mash



Peninsula Chicago Hotel
 Shannon Penoff
 Pete's Fresh Market
 Photography by Ebert
 Jasmine Pierce
 Kimberly Plaxton-Drobot
 Pleasant Home Foundation
 Deb and Steven Poe
 Michelle Poff
 Richard and Sigrid Polanek
 April Poppei-Dear
 Rachel Poretsky
 Pow! Gym
 Carr and Marcia Preston
 Dolores and Robert Proko
 PRP Wines International
 Ashley Prudence
 Laura Pulido
 Pumpkin Moon
 Pure Hockey & Puck Star Hockey
 Stephanie Qualio
 Shelly Quiles
 Quincy Street Distillery
 Radio Flyer
 Kristin Rakshys
 The Read Family
 Lisa Reed
 Reeg Plumbing
 Wendy Reitz
 Jenny and Paul Rieger
 Lynn and Kurt Reissenweber
 Samantha Rekas
 Remax City
 Rise Fitness + RISE
 Jen Risley
 Liz Ritzenhaler
 LaTosha Rivers
 Nate and Sarah Roberts
 Kris Robinson
 Cynthia and Mark Robinson

Rodan + Fields
 Laura Rodnitzky
 Dory Rodriguez
 Roosevelt Middle School
 Amy Rosenthal
 Julie Roth
 Peggy Ruckauf
 Cathy Ruggeri
 Rush University Medical Center
 Jennifer Russell
 Jane and Kevin Saedi
 The Samko Family
 Sanders Fine Portraits
 Kelly Sandor
 Sanem's Women's Boutique
 Sat Nam Yoga Chicago
 SavWay Fine Wine and Spirits
 Dennis Koutsoures and Swati Saxena
 David Schiavone
 School Of Expressive Arts and Learning (S.E.A.L.)
 School of Rock – Glen Ellyn
 School of Rock – Oak Park
 Terra Schultz
 Schulz-Brundage, Inc.
 James and Paula Schumacker
 James Scott and Alison Tunnicliff-Scott
 Sculpturewerks LLC
 Second Bridge
 Security Partners International, Inc.
 Anna Semprevivo
 Seven Generations Ahead
 Shaker Family Foundation
 Shaker Recruitment Advertising & Communications
 Alejandro Sifuentes
 Simply Candles by Kassie
 Sophia Singh

Alicia and Ted Skodol
 Katie and Michael Skoglund
 Sloan Valve Company
 Ann Sobczak
 Somerset Restaurant
 Donna Sorensen
 Soul Cycle Loop
 Southwest Airlines
 Charitable Giving
 Erin Sowers
 Spa O
 Split-Rail New Americana Restaurant
 St. Anne Guild of St. Paul of the Cross
 St. Giles Girl Scout Troop 41212
 St. Petronelle Grace Of Motherhood
 Kelley Staley
 Jill Stanchfield
 Sue K. Stark
 Alyssa Stark
 Starr Companies
 State Farm
 Ken Johnson and Amy Stearns
 Judith and Robert Steed
 Anthony and Paula Stephens
 Steve and Kate's Camp STG
 Dawn and Richard Stieber
 Donna Stoll
 Kimberly Stoltz
 Stout & Cellar
 Katie Strain
 Jenni Strobel
 Mairin Styck-Knebel
 Sugarcup Trading
 Suite Home Chicago
 Jeremy and Katie Survanco
 Swift and Sons

Systech Information Services, Inc.
 Target – Oak Park
 Target – Willowbrook
 Rachel Tesch
 The Dailey Method
 The East Bank Club
 The Heritage
 The James Hotel
 The Joy Bar
 The Morton Arboretum
 The Muslim Leadership Academy of the Islamic Foundation
 The Religious School of Oak Park Temple
 The Skincare Company
 The United Center
 The Village Links Golf Course
 THERMFLO
 Frank Thomas
 Julie Thomas
 Shalena Thomas
 Justin Thomas
 Preston and Sarah Tims
 Donn and Pam Todd
 Pawel Topolewicz
 John Torres
 The Trainer Family
 Jennifer Trauf-Todaro
 Trinity High School
 Catherine and Patrick Troy
 Mihoko Tsuge
 Alice and John Tulley
 Two Story Farmhouse
 UGG
 Claire Ulman
 University of Chicago
 Graham School
 Susana Vasquez
 Asher Vass
 Vienna Beef

Olga Vydra
 Alison Walker
 Nikita Walker
 Alex and Tami Wanless
 Ida Waterstrat and Robert Ho
 Jen and Josh Weaver
 Tracy Webb
 Anne Weber
 Alison and Kevin Welch
 Madeleine and Michael Weldon-Linne
 Diane Wendt Uher
 Deborah Wess
 West Cook YMCA
 West Suburban Internal Medicine
 Residency Program
 Maureen Whelan
 Kim and Mike Williams
 Wines For Humanity
 Felicia Winiecki
 Kathy and Michael Wolthusen
 Wonder Works
 Lori Yagoda
 Jon and Trine Yates
 Juliet and Rocky Yera
 Your Children's Bookshelf
 Youth Crossroads
 Vanessa Zahora
 Zanies Comedy Nite Club
 Jeff and Laura Zawacki
 Caitlin Zinsser

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.



Financial Statement

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019

Revenues

Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributions and Grants	\$ 1,845,809
Fees and Grants:	
State Government Agencies	\$ 6,904,305
Local Government Agencies	\$ 152,201
Other Revenue:	
Program Service Fees and Grants	\$ 1,702,650
Investment and Other Income*	\$ 256,600
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 10,861,565

Expenses

Programs	\$ 8,142,659
Administration	\$ 1,093,333
Fundraising and Development	\$ 660,615
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,896,607
Increase in Net Assets due to operations*	\$ 964,958
Total Increase in Net Assets	\$ 1,097,387
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 9,355,571

* Excludes unrealized gain on investments and change in beneficial interests of \$132,429.

Grants Awarded FY19

Allstate Foundation
 Baird & Warner Good Will Network
 Chicago Association of Realtors Foundation
 Chicago White Sox Community Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund
 Christopher L. and M. Susan Gust Foundation
 Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
 CME Group Community Foundation
 Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
 Ecolab Foundation
 Future Philanthropist Program of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
 Gail Anita Flagler Foundation
 George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
 Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation
 Harry F. Chaddick & Elaine Chaddick Foundation, Inc.
 Helen Brach Foundation
 Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat Fund of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
 Lavin Bernick Huber Charitable Fund of the Chicago Community Trust
 LJ Foundation
 Locasto Family Foundation
 Marvin and Kaye Lichtman Foundation
 Mary Lou Downs Foundation
 McDonald's Corporation
 Monarch Awards Foundation, Inc.
 Northern Trust Company
 Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
 Owens Foundation
 Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
 Sidley Austin Foundation
 Sweet Water Foundation
 Sylvia Ziontz Foundation
 Ticket To Dream Foundation
 United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
 UPS Foundation
 Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant
 The Ward Foundation
 Wells Fargo Foundation

FY19 Fundraising Highlights

- ♥ A \$45,000 grant from the **Paul M. Angell Foundation** supported our programs to help children heal from the trauma of neglect and abuse.
- ♥ The first payment on an **anonymous, five-year pledge** of \$500,000 funded the transformation of the outdated bathrooms in our Diagnostic Treatment Center into bright and colorful spaces with new fixtures and a more homelike feel. Future payments on the pledge will help fund other capital enhancements at Hephzibah Home.
- ♥ A \$20,000 grant from **Chicago White Sox Charities** helped fund the services of a full-time clinical advocate, who provided the intensive therapeutic supports needed to help severely traumatized children transition successfully from our Diagnostic Treatment Center and Residence into loving foster homes.
- ♥ A \$15,000 grant from the **Wells Fargo Foundation** helped brothers and sisters living in different group, foster and adoptive homes reconnect and mend broken family bonds at our summer sibling camp.



Hephzibah helps children thrive and families flourish

through a continuum of community-based programs that include short-term and long-term group homes for neglected and abused children, foster care and adoption services, comprehensive services for children and families in crisis, Head Start/Early Head Start programs and after-school day care services on a sliding scale for families of all income levels.

Hephzibah is accredited by the National Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services, Inc. in New York and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Licensing

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

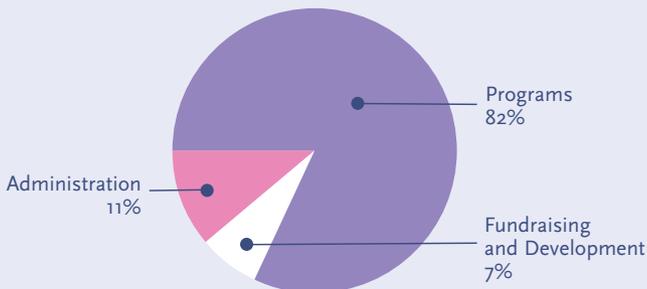
Funding

Hephzibah receives state funding from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, 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, Oak Park Township and River Forest Township. Head Start funding is received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through Children's Home + Aid. Funding is also received from United Way and our own fundraising activities.

Sources of Funding



Distribution of Revenues



Distribution of Revenues Allocated to Programs



The People Behind Hephzibah

July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019

Board of Directors

Byron Taylor
President

Kenna MacKinnon
President-Elect

Lisa Emerson
Vice President

John Ide
Treasurer

Jennifer Ellis-Jackson
Secretary

Jackie Barlow
Terry Brown
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John McConville, M.D.
Lynde O'Brien
Marcia Preston
Donna Rolf
Eric Sorensen
Cheryl ter Horst
Craig Williams
Audrey Williams-Lee

Hephzibah Children's Trust

Eric Sorensen
President

Mark Trinka
Immediate Past President

Nancy Quinn
Vice President

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Treasurer

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Kenna MacKinnon
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Rachel Chocron
Leslie January
Pamela Kallantzes
Maxwell Kelly
Steve Kohn
Justin Kopale
Luke McLeese
LaTosha Rivers
Alexandria Tonigan
Andrew Tonino
Brian Tonino
Courtney Valderrama

Oak Park Auxiliary

Michele Mazur
President

Natalie Noonan
Past President

Dannyl Kafer
Vice President

Lauren Dain
Treasurer

Madeleine Milan
Secretary

Beth Cannon
Membership Coordinator

Heidi Smith
Communications Coordinator

Heather Claxton
Chiara Fabbian
Jana Frank
Sarah Roberts
Shalena Thomas
Cynthia Weber
David Wick

Western Auxiliary

Laura McLaughlin
President

Penny Latta
Co-Vice President

Diane Ullman
Co-Vice President

Kim Stoltz
Treasurer

Stephanie Qualio
Secretary

Maha Engesser
Membership Coordinator

Giana Sitzes
Publicity/Communications Coordinator

Michelle VanHorn
Children's Interactions

Maureen Burk
Children's Interactions

Alicia Skodol
Children's Services

Megan Scheck
Hospitality

Kathryn Anderson
Katie Bare*
Sandra Borgman
Krista Chase*
Michelle Choi
Linda Christiansen
Stephanie Clark*

Lisa Diomede
Kathy Duckworth
Samantha Dufresne*
Jen Eldersveld*
Megan Feinberg

Carla Franz
Gretchen Freund
Sue Furman
Cindy Glavin
Lindsey Griffin
Tina Hutchinson

Laura King
Andrea Knapp
Kristin O'Neill
Jessica Payne
Terri Persino
Emily Pratt
Wendy Reitz

Jenny Rieger
Katie Riesmeyer
Becky Roscich
Jennifer Schoenherr*
Anna Semprevio
Katie Steinberg
Alissa Timpone

Tami Wanless
Anne Weber
Tanja Williamson
Terri Wood*
Andrea Yob
Subeena Zubairi

*sustaining members

Executive Leadership Team

Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director

Shaun Lane
Chief Operating Officer

Julie Dvorsky
Director of Family Based Services

Mary Jane Joyce
Director of Human Resources

Amy O'Rourke
Director of Day Care Services

Mary Tortorici
Director of Finance

James Woywod
Director of Group Homes

Juliet Yera
Director of Development



Thank you for
helping children thrive and
families flourish with your
generous support!



Hephzibah

*Helping children thrive
and families flourish
since 1897*

946 North Boulevard Oak Park IL 60301
708.649.7100 Fax 708.649.7102

1144 Lake Street Oak Park IL 60301
708.649.7140 Fax 708.649.7194

www.hephzibahhome.org



group homes • foster care • family services • day care