

2017-2018

annual report



Hephzibah Children's Association



“The **greatness of a community** is most accurately measured by the **compassionate actions** of its members.”

CORETTA SCOTT KING

Dear Friend of Hephzibah,

Community is a powerful word, a powerful concept and a powerful force. When a compassionate community unites to support a common cause, all manner of things become possible—and lives are changed for the better.

For hundreds of local humanitarians in FY18, Hephzibah was that cause. We are enormously grateful to the benefactors, corporate partners, volunteers, staff members, foster parents and friends who were united in their efforts to help children thrive and families flourish throughout the fiscal year.

The support of this compassionate community came in many forms. As 51 neglected and abused children from all over the state of Illinois found **a safe haven and a place to heal at Hephzibah Home**, their arrivals were met with a flurry of goodwill from Oak Park-River Forest residents, businesses and organizations. The children were cared for from head to toe, with free haircuts from the **James Anthony Salon**; backpacks, school supplies and new outfits from the **Oak Park Women's Guild**; immunizations from the **Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic**; and footwear from **Lively Athletics**. During the school year, **Oak Park School District 97** worked closely with us to help the children continue their education, despite the disruptions in their lives. On school-day afternoons, our volunteer **Homework Helpers** were always on hand to offer gentle guidance when homework frustration set in. Volunteer **Technology Mentors** showed up every Saturday morning to teach the children about computers, coding and more. Sunday evenings were filled with the soul-satisfying aromas of homemade comfort food as local church and community groups arrived with steaming hot **Sunday Suppers**, served up with a side order of smiles.



Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director



1,430

Number of **benefactors, corporate partners and volunteers** who were united in their support for our mission

Tackling the Trauma

But the **journey from trauma to trust** involves more than a warm meal and a welcoming community. Because abused children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder at twice the rate of returning veterans, we coached our child care workers in best practices for **trauma-informed care**, conducted our **first trauma-informed training for group home volunteers** and trained our clinical supervisor and therapists in **trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy**. This unique, evidence-based intervention helped the children in our group homes develop healthier ways of coping with distressing



1,305

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

thoughts and feelings, so that they could begin to think about the future with a greater sense of hope and optimism.

Keeping Families Together

Because every child deserves to live in a safe and nurturing environment, we also offered a wide range of support and intervention services for families struggling with stressors such as poverty, unemployment, mental illness, homelessness and substance abuse. Our **Intact Family Services Program**—which works to stabilize families in crisis as an alternative to removing children from the home—served 123 families and 300 children in FY18, **the largest number**

of intact family cases in our agency's history. To accommodate this increased caseload, we hired an additional caseworker, as well as a consulting nurse to meet the needs of the growing number of families caring for children with complex medical issues. We received many expressions of gratitude from these families as they moved from crisis to stability, including the mom who reached out to say, **"You did whatever it took to keep our family together."**

Fostering Better Futures

In an ideal world, families would always stay together. But sometimes the best way to help a child is to find a safe and nurturing environment outside of the home. In FY18, 75 Hephzibah foster families opened their homes and their hearts to 116 foster children in need—the **largest number of children served in the history of our Foster Care Program.** To meet the needs of these children, we added two new caseworkers, a permanency specialist and a clinical advocate to our Foster Care team and worked overtime to support the foster families who were giving their all to make these vulnerable youngsters feel safe and loved. So it was especially heartening to hear the positive feedback from our foster kids. One confided that his foster family "keeps him safe and always makes sure his needs are met." But it was another child's simple declaration that stayed with us, because it went right to the heart of our mission: **"Hephzibah treats me like family."**

Forever Families and Other Happy Endings

Family, of course, is what Hephzibah is all about—whether we are helping traumatized children heal, stabilizing families in crisis, finding loving foster and adoptive families



75

Number of **Hephzibah foster families** that opened their homes and their hearts to children in need



for children in transition or providing enriching and affordable day care for more than 600 children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Overall, it has been an incredibly mission-driven year at Hephzibah Children's Association. We are thrilled to report that **we brought more families together in a single year than ever before** as we reunited seven children with their families of origin and helped nine foster families become "forever families" through **Hephzibah adoptions**.

There are so many more inspiring stories to share, from the mom and kids who had been sleeping in a park and are now in stable housing thanks to our Intact Family Services program to the mom whose vandalized car was towed, repaired and filled with holiday gifts by our Day Care Family Support Program and returned to the family in time for Christmas.

You'll find more inspiring stories in the pages of this report—all made possible by compassionate community members like you. Thank you for making the dream of a better future come true for the children and families we serve!

3,820

Number of hours logged by
our **dedicated volunteers**

Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director

Byron Taylor
Board President

Creating a Culture of Kindness

AS OUR WORLD BECOMES MORE DIVERSE, teaching our children about **kindness, empathy and inclusion is more important than ever before.**

Recent studies show that kindness is one of the most important predictors of satisfaction and stability in our relationships. It is so important that many colleges, including Harvard, are now emphasizing kindness on their admissions applications.

But being kind requires courage, self-awareness and compassion. Although we often view kindness and empathy as innate character

traits, many child development experts see these behaviors as interpersonal skills that must be modeled, cultivated and practiced on a daily basis.

Because diversity and inclusion are at the heart of Hephzibah's mission to help create a world where all children are celebrated and supported, our Day Care program launched a new initiative in FY18 to nurture the development of these important life skills in the elementary

Kindness as a teachable virtue: *A new Hephzibah Day Care initiative is giving schoolchildren the skills and support they need to create kinder, more inclusive communities.*



schoolers enrolled in our after-school Day Care and Summer Camp programs.

According to Day Care Director Amy O'Rourke, the initiative is a multifaceted one.

"This is not a new emphasis for our Day Care Program, but rather a renewed and more targeted focus on creating a **culture of kindness, mutual respect and connection**," she explains. "We see each of our after-school programs as small communities in which children have an opportunity to belong to and shape a group of multiage peers. Respect, safety, accountability and choice are the building blocks for these communities. With this new initiative, we hope to help children develop the skills and awareness they need to make their communities kinder and more inclusive."

To get the initiative up and running, our Day Care social worker conducted staff trainings on topics such as diversity, inclusion and conflict resolution and consulted with our child care workers on an ongoing basis to set expectations, develop incentives and provide encouragement and reinforcement. Along with their training, the child care workers were renamed **youth development specialists**—a job title designed to more accurately reflect their expanded role in helping the children develop the skills they need to practice kindness, empathy, compassion and inclusion in everyday life.

Overall, says O'Rourke, the results have been encouraging. "The children are already feeling more empowered to create positive change as they share their thoughts and experiences about kindness and inclusion," she reports. "Many have also been taking more responsibility for their actions and learning new social skills as we all work together to create a culture where everyone feels valued, respected, seen and heard."



In FY18, Hephzibah's nationally recognized Day Care Program offered a **nurturing, enriching and dynamic day care experience** for more than 600 Oak Park children in grades K-5.



Hephzibah Day Care by the Numbers

645

Children enrolled in Hephzibah after-school **Day Care** and **Summer Camp** programs

8

Hephzibah after-school **Day Care** sites

23

Day Care families stabilized with **Family Support Program** services such as crisis intervention, rental assistance, transportation assistance, respite services and resource referrals

26

Day Care families supported with **Day Care Social Work Services** ranging from case management to direct assistance with clothing, sporting equipment, school supplies and other personal needs

Fresh from the Farm

Connecting Foster Kids to Fresh, Wholesome Food and the Natural World

THE SUN WAS RISING over **Nature's Farm Camp** as 11-year-old Janelle bustled about the barnyard, feeding and watering the farm animals and collecting freshly laid eggs.

After breakfast, this Hephzibah foster child and her fellow farm campers tended to the gardens, learned a recipe and helped prep a dish for one of the day's meals. Nearly everything on their plates was harvested or foraged from the farm or sourced from other local farmers.

For a kid who spent her early years in a low-income urban setting—where fresh produce was scarce, eggs came in cartons and young bodies

were fueled with processed and packaged fare from grocery store shelves—the experience was a transformative one that changed her perception of food forever.

Tim Magner, the founder and director of Nature's Farm Camp—and the Good Samaritan

200

Number of **acres** for Hephzibah foster kids to **explore** at Nature's Farm Camp

Childhood unplugged: A Hephzibah foster child shares food and friendship with a baby goat at Nature's Farm Camp, a summer sleepaway experience on a working Illinois farm.



“My daughter had never seen food being grown before. Because she thought food only came from grocery stores, the experience of working in the farm camp garden and preparing and eating the food that she had just harvested was a powerful one.”

BETTY JOHNSON, *Hephzibah foster parent*



behind the generous scholarships that enabled six Hephzibah foster children to attend the five-day summer camp free of charge—wouldn't have it any other way.

“We started this camp because today's kids need nature. They spend less time outdoors and, too often, they're filling their bodies with things that can barely be defined as food,” explains Magner, whose mission to bring outdoor adventure and nutrient-rich food into children's lives grew out of his experiences in Chicago's food deserts, when he visited inner-city elementary schools as a children's book author and food educator. “We begin each week with high expectations. The kids help run the farm, and the chores are not easy. But, in the process of struggling, the kids learn how capable they are.

“Nature's Farm Camp is a mix of children from all over the Chicago area—and that's intentional,” Magner adds. “We offer

scholarships and financial aid whenever possible, and our scholarship campers consistently make the greatest gains in the areas of independence, responsibility and problem solving.”

After a week filled with farm chores and fueled by whole foods and fun, our Hephzibah farm campers grew to love life on the farm—despite some initially unsettling encounters with the barnyard animals. Janelle still talks about the gregarious gobbler that almost sent her hightailing it back to Chicago just minutes after her arrival.

“Janelle came face to face with one of our male turkeys as soon as she stepped out of her foster mom's car,” recalls

Magner with a chuckle, “and she immediately shrieked at the top of her lungs.”

But once Janelle—and the turkey—recovered from the shock of that high-decibel encounter, it didn't take long for this child of Chicago's concrete canyons to shake off the feeling of being out of her comfort zone and succumb to a sense of wonder.

“Her eyes lit up when she tried her first bean in the garden, and then her first carrot,” Magner reports. “She also learned to climb a tree.”

\$5,160

Amount awarded in **Nature's Farm Camp scholarships** for Hephzibah foster children in 2017 and 2018

Coding Kids

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF BUZZ LATELY about coding. Some people consider it to be a fundamental building block of 21st-century literacy. Others say it will make our citizens more employable and our nation more competitive in the global digital economy.

Yet, there aren't enough coders to go around. According to Code.org, there were 530,472 open computing jobs in the U.S. in 2016—and only 42,969 computer science graduates to fill them. All compelling arguments for teaching kids the basics of coding.

But if you ask the kids at Hephzibah Home about coding, they'll just grin and say it's a lot of fun. That's partly due to OSMO—an award-winning

51

Children participating in the **Technology Program** at Hephzibah Home

Cracking the code: *The children at Hephzibah Home are learning the basics of coding and improving their math, language and drawing skills, thanks to a dedicated group of technology mentors and the benefactors behind an irresistible electronic gaming device called OSMO.*



“Everybody should learn how to program a computer, because it **teaches you how to think.**”

STEVE JOBS

educational gaming accessory that can be paired with an iPad to introduce coding to children between the ages of five and twelve.

According to *WIRED* magazine, OSMO's "Awbie" coding game turns the abstract building blocks of computer programs into actual, real-world magnetic building blocks. Kids can snap the number blocks together with action blocks coded with commands such as "run" or "jump" to guide a tiny monster named Awbie around the iPad screen on his quest for more strawberries. The commands on the tiles are visually recognized by OSMO's camera and, when a child presses the PLAY button, OSMO runs the code compiled by the blocks. Think of it as LEGOs for coding.

The OSMO-equipped iPads—made possible by gifts from the **Terri Race Educational Technology Fund** and the **Sweet Water Foundation**—are a huge hit with the children participating in Hephzibah's **Technology Program**, which pairs volunteer technology mentors with Hephzibah Home residents for Saturday-morning technology sessions.

"The kids here have really taken to coding," says Sue Stark, a high school technology coordinator who has volunteered her time to teach technology to Hephzibah's kids for nearly seven years. "The children love the hands-on aspect of OSMO, and the coding games have sharpened their critical thinking, logic, sequencing and problem-solving skills. Because the coding can be done alone or in pairs, the children are also learning how to solve problems collaboratively—a skill that will help them succeed in school, at work and in life. We've since purchased additional OSMO games to help the children develop their math, language and art skills."



\$6,000

Amount donated by the **Terri Race Educational Technology Fund** and the **Sweet Water Foundation** in FY18 for OSMO-equipped iPads and other technology equipment

Prepping Foster Teens for Success

THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE for a teen or young adult transitioning from foster care can be a rocky one.

When the Annie E. Casey Foundation released its national report, *Fostering Youth Transitions*, in November 2018, a spokesperson for the foundation likened this transition to “falling off a cliff,” because foster teens often don’t have the skills or support they need to succeed.

The report paints a stark portrait of foster youth faring worse than their general-population peers across a variety of life measures as they

age out of the system and strike out on their own. Too many young people leaving foster care experience unemployment, homelessness, criminal justice system involvement and early parenthood at rates far higher than young adults transitioning from traditional family settings.

10

Hephzibah Youth
Advisory Board
members

Learning about careers in the culinary industry: In FY18, our Youth Advisory Board members visited **Eden, a West Loop restaurant** owned by longtime Hephzibah supporter and Paramount Events CEO **Jodi Fyfe**. The foster teens visited the restaurant and catering facility; enjoyed a personal tour of the on-site greenhouse where Executive Chef **Devon Quinn** (below center) grows vegetables year round; and worked with Eden’s pastry chef to develop a signature dessert, which was featured on Eden’s menu in March 2018. In a thank-you note to the Eden staff after the **Professional Development Day**, one grateful Youth Advisory Board member wrote: “To see you so passionate about your baking and cooking inspires me to be the best at what I love to do as well.”



In 2016, Hephzibah created its first **Youth Advisory Board** to help current and former foster youth beat these odds so that they can transition successfully to adulthood and thrive. Since its inception, more than 10 Hephzibah foster teens between the ages of 12 and 21 have

116

Foster children
served by
Hephzibah

joined the board and benefited immensely from its mission to empower young people in foster care; give them a voice at Hephzibah and in the larger community; and equip them

with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to advocate for themselves, move toward self-sufficiency and live healthy, productive, fulfilling lives.

“During the fiscal year, our Youth Advisory Board members met monthly to engage in enriching activities that were guided by the four pillars of the program: service, leadership, team building and life skills,” explains Director of Family Based Services Julie Dvorsky. “They got a behind-the-scenes look at different careers during their **Professional Development Days**, attended workshops on **money-management** and other life skills, participated in team-building and service activities, attended DCFS meetings to learn about resources for teens transitioning from foster care to independence and presented a break-out session about foster care at a **Youth Social Justice Conference** hosted by the Oak Park Public Library.”

All in all, it was **a year of affirmation and empowerment** for our Youth Advisory Board members—a year that expanded their horizons, broadened their perspectives, helped them develop valuable leadership and life skills and taught them that **their voices, experiences and talents mattered**—and could be used to make a difference not only in the child welfare system, but in society as a whole.

30

Hephzibah **foster youth** between the ages of 12 and 21



Highlights from a Year of Empowerment

July 2017

Youth Advisory Board members attend a **“Dollars Making Sense”** presentation to learn about money management.

August 2017

Youth Advisory Board members spend a **Professional Development Day** at the office of Hephzibah board member and Chicago real-estate broker Eric Sorensen.

September 2017

Youth Advisory Board members participate in a **peace circle** to share their thoughts, experiences, hopes and dreams.

October 2017

Youth Advisory Board members attend the Oak Park Public Library’s first **Youth Social Justice Conference**, where they host a break-out session entitled “What Foster Care is and What it Should Be: Through the Eyes of Youth in Care.”

November 2017

Youth Advisory Board members attend a regional DCFS **Youth Advisory Board meeting** to discuss policies that affect youth in care.

December 2017

Youth Advisory Board members host a table at **Pocket Con 2017**—a comic convention that celebrates the work of underrepresented minorities in the comic genre—where they exhibit their work and network with other young artists, writers and comic book fans.

February 2018

Youth Advisory Board members spend a **Professional Development Day at Eden**, the West Loop restaurant owned by longtime Hephzibah supporter Jodi Fyfe.

events

A Celebration of Big Hearts and Big Dreams

In March, 350 loyal friends of Hephzibah flocked to the Bridgeport Art Center's Skyline Loft to dine, dance and support our mission at **Dream With Us**, our 2018 Heart of Gold Ball. As dinner was being served, Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets welcomed the guests, shared stories of hope and healing and honored **Retail**

Properties of America and **Susan Ellefson and The Peninsula Hotel-Chicago** for their unwavering support during the fiscal year.

During one of the evening's most moving moments, **former Hephzibah Home resident Brian Fruits**—now a professor of humanities at Concordia University and the founder of the Saltbox Theatre Collective—spoke about his arrival at Hephzibah Home as a child, “wounded by neglect and verbal and physical abuse,” and confided that Hephzibah taught him to believe in himself and “dream big”—dreams that led him where he is today.

Thanks to the creativity and commitment of **Heart of Gold Co-chairs Cam Niederman and Maria Garvey** and their **Gala Committee**—and the boundless generosity of our gala sponsors and guests—this hope-filled evening generated more than \$270,000 to empower the children we serve to dream big dreams that lead to brighter futures.



\$271,720

Amount raised at **Dream With Us**, our **2018 Heart of Gold Ball**

A swanky start to the holiday season: More than 200 guests suited up in their swankiest attire and helped us kick off the holiday season in style at **Swanksgiving**, a fresh new fundraiser co-hosted by our **Chicago Auxiliary Board** and **Paramount Events**. Held on the Friday before Thanksgiving at The Lakewood—Paramount's private event space in Chicago's trendy West Loop restaurant district—the evening of wine and beer tasting, creative cocktails, chef-driven cuisine and dancing to the tunes of DJ Betty raised nearly \$23,000 for Hephzibah's kids.





An evening of art and philanthropy: In October 2018, our **Oak Park Auxiliary Board** launched **Oak Park After Dark**—a new fundraising event that will focus on the arts and feature local artists at a different local venue each year. Nearly 100 friends and art lovers joined us at the Oak Park Art League to kick off the inaugural event, which raised almost \$13,000 to support Hephzibah’s mission. **ABOVE:** Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets with Oak Park Auxiliary Board President Michele Mazur.



Shopping for a cause: Oak Park families turned out in force to buy gently used clothing for their kids while raising funds for Hephzibah’s kids at our inaugural fall and spring **Kids Resale Events**. Powered by an energetic and upbeat band of volunteers, the resale events raised nearly \$33,000 to support our annual **Sibling Camp**, where siblings living in different group, foster or adoptive homes can reconnect, mend broken family bonds and create shared childhood memories that they will cherish in the years to come.



Our unstoppable Westies: FY18 proved that nothing can stop our **Western Auxiliary Board** from raising funds and awareness for the children and families we serve—despite extreme weather that nearly derailed both of the group’s wildly popular events. In February, our Western Auxiliary board members braved a massive snowstorm to host their 7th annual **Rock ‘n Roll for Your Heart & Soul** fundraiser. A few months later, when their 18th annual **Hoof it for Hephzibah Run/Walk and Kids’ Races** coincided with the hottest Memorial Day on record, the soaring mercury didn’t even slow them down. We are grateful to our stalwart “Westies”—as well as the loyal supporters who turned out in blizzards and blistering heat to rock, roll and run for Hephzibah—for helping us raise nearly \$44,000 to help some of Illinois’ most vulnerable children.

\$116,630

Total amount raised by our **Chicago, Oak Park** and **Western** auxiliary boards in FY18



“Deep human connection is...
the purpose and the result of a
meaningful life—and it will inspire
the most **amazing acts of love,
generosity and humanity.**”

MELINDA GATES

thank you

for your generous support!

Gifts

\$50,000 and above

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of Oak Park Township
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The Lavin Bernick Huber
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\$20,000 to \$49,999

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Chicago White Sox Charities,
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Hephzibah Children's Trust
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& River Forest

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Christopher and Patricia Coogan
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Alanna and Tim Sullivan
Sunstar America, Inc.
Joan Swanson
TD Artisan Spirits
Mila Tellez
Rachel Tesch

Tito's Vodka
Alexandria Tonigan
Toula's Skin Care Products
Sandy Tragos
The Trainer Family
Cathy and Pat Troy
Alison Tunnicliff-Scott and James Scott
Two Story Farmhouse
U.S. Securities Exchange Commission
– Chicago Regional Office
Diane Wendt Uher
United Chinese Americans UCA
IL Chapter
United Parcel Service
Unity of Oak Park
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
Kim Urbanski
Van Buren Gentlemen's Salon
Cathy and Jim Van Vliet
Susana Vasquez
Viet Now–Berwyn/Cicero Chapter
Ritu Vig and Venu V. Talanki
Villa Park Office Equipment
The Village Links Golf Course
Beth and Peter Vlerick
Olga Vydra
Walgreens Co.
Christine Walker
Christi Walkup
Margaret H. Walsh
Neera Walsh
Crystal Ward
Dave and Judy Waters
Ida Waterstrat and Robert Ho
Wattage Personal Training
Jason and Julie Watts
Anne and Robert Weber
Donna and Tom Weigel
Jeanne Weiler
Alex Weiner and Sarah A. Yale
Eric and Tina Weinheimer
West Suburban Eye Associates
Maureen Whelan

Jackie and Tim White
Whole Foods Market
Willard Elementary School
Green4Good Club
Andrea Williams
Bette and Craig Williams
Kim and Mike Williams
Audrey Williams-Lee and Byron Lee
Robert and Tracey Wilson
Windgate Wealth Management
Wines For Humanity
Wines Of Substance
Felicia Wiwecki
Heather Wols
Cindy and Kevin Wolthusen
Kathy and Michael Wolthusen
Women Everywhere Partners in Service
Project, Inc.
Wonder Works
Alyson Woody
Lori Yagoda
Vanessa Zahora
Zanies Comedy Nite Club
Jeff and Laura Zawacki
Mary B. Zeigler

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 friends of Hephzibah or
children enrolled in Hephzibah's
Day Care Program. To ensure the
safety and protect the privacy of
the children living in our group and
foster homes, we have not featured
any photos showing their faces.*



Financial Statement

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018

Revenues

Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributions and Grants	\$ 1,536,248
Fees and Grants:	
State Government Agencies	\$ 6,749,619
Local Government Agencies	\$ 127,861
Other Revenue:	
Program Service Fees and Grants	\$ 1,553,976
Investment and Other Income*	\$ 148,536
TOTAL REVENUES	\$10,116,240

Expenses

Programs	\$ 7,765,665
Administration	\$ 1,301,025
Fundraising and Development**	\$ 548,854
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,615,544
Increase in Net Assets due to operations*	\$ 500,696
Total Increase in Net Assets	\$ 603,301
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 8,258,176

* Excludes unrealized gain on investments and change in beneficial interests of \$102,606.

** Includes event expenses of \$124,227; prior years reported net of event revenue.

Grants Awarded 2017-2018

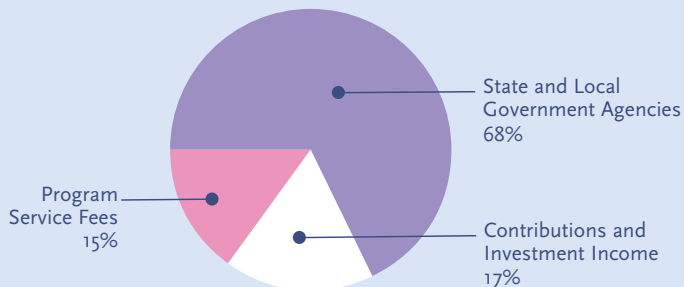
Harry F. Chaddick & Elaine Chaddick Foundation, Inc.
Chicago White Sox Community Fund,
A McCormick Foundation Fund
CME Group Community Foundation
Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
Mary Lou Downs Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Gail Anita Flagler Foundation
The Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation
Healthy Communities Foundation
Helen Brach Foundation
Help for Children
Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat Fund of the
Oak Park and River Forest Community Foundation
Jocarno Fund
The John Buck Company Foundation
The Lavin Bernick Huber Charitable Fund of
the Chicago Community Trust
LJ Foundation
McDonald's Corporation
McGraw Foundation
Nordstrom
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
Opus Corporate Foundation
The Owens Foundation
Terri Race Educational Technology Fund
Sidley Austin Foundation
John F. Smiekel Foundation
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
The Sweet Water Foundation
Ticket To Dream Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant
The Ward Foundation
Wells Fargo

FY18 Fundraising Highlights

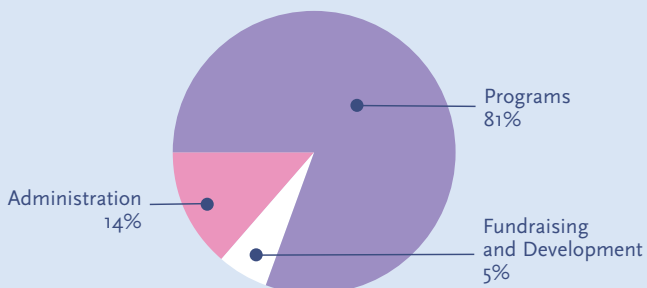
- ♥ A \$75,000 grant from the **Healthy Communities Foundation** provided general operating support and funded a complete upgrade of the century-old walk-in refrigerator at Hephzibah Home.
- ♥ A \$50,000 gift from the **Lavin Bernick Huber Charitable Fund of the Chicago Community Trust** enabled us to provide a higher level of clinical therapeutic support for the children in our group and foster homes.
- ♥ A \$50,000 gift from the **Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township** funded psychiatric and psychological care to help the children at Hephzibah Home heal from the trauma of past neglect and abuse.
- ♥ A \$20,000 grant from the **Chicago White Sox Community Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund** enabled us to add a clinical advocate to our therapeutic team to provide intensive support for children transitioning from group home care to foster homes.
- ♥ A \$15,000 grant from the **Gail Anita Flagler Foundation** enabled us to upgrade Hephzibah Home's backyard garden and play space with a new fence, a new security system and new trees to create a safe and sheltering outdoor haven for the children in our Diagnostic Treatment Center and Residence.



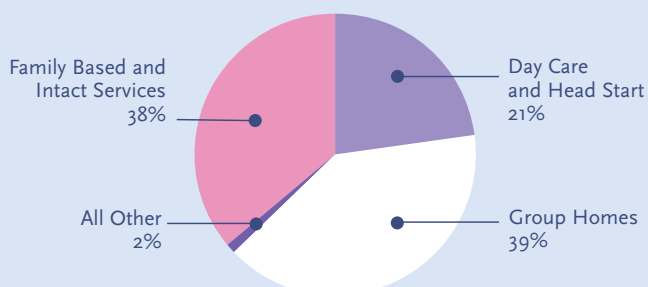
Sources of Funding



Distribution of Revenues



Distribution of Revenues Allocated to Programs



Hephzibah helps children thrive and families flourish

through a continuum of nationally recognized 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 award-winning after-school day care services on a sliding scale for families of all income levels.

Hephzibah is accredited

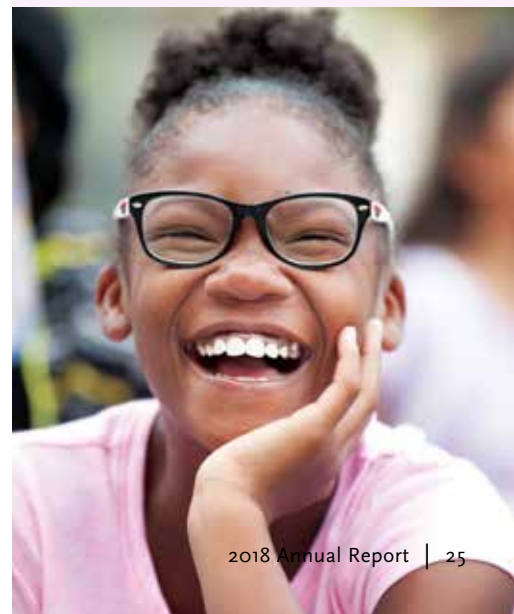
by the National Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services, Inc. in New York and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

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 and the Oak Park 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.



The People Behind Hephzibah

July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018

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Immediate Past President

Audrey Williams-Lee
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LaTosha Rivers

Alexandria Tonigan

Andrew Tonino

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Children's Interactions

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Co-Secretary

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Children's Interactions

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Children's Interactions

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Michelle VanHorn

Anne Weber

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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