



2019-2020

annual report



Hephzibah Children's Association



“Deep within every crisis is an **opportunity** for something beautiful.”

KATE MCGAHAN
Clinical social worker, hospice counselor, author

growth

Dear Friends,

HEPHZIBAH HAS A LONG HISTORY OF GROWTH AND INNOVATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS. This was true in 1897, when our founder, Mary Wessels, opened her Oak Park home to two young children—and quickly made space for a dozen more after a local orphanage was destroyed by fire. It was true after the stock market crash of 1929—when the brick dormitory building now known as Hephzibah Home was completed just in time to serve as a haven for Depression-era children whose parents could no longer afford to care for them. It was true in the 1940s, when children found a safe harbor at Hephzibah while their fathers were off at war.

It was also true in Fiscal Year 2020 as we weathered the COVID-19 crisis while providing **more services for more children and families than ever before**—a feat that would not have been possible without the extraordinary dedication and creativity of our staff and board members and the **generosity and commitment of a caring community of benefactors and volunteers**.

Our year of growth, ingenuity and creativity began with the launch of *Family Matters*, a strategic plan that will guide us over the next four years as we **expand our reach and enhance our services** to strengthen families and give children the best possible start in life.

The loss of one's biological family, however fragile or flawed it may be, is a wound that lasts a lifetime. To **help and heal families in crisis**, *before* they reach the breaking point and their children must be removed from the only home they have ever known, we **provided support**

and intervention services for 174 intact families—the largest number of intact family cases in Hephzibah's history. As the number of Illinois families struggling with stressors such as poverty, unemployment, chronic illness and homelessness continues to grow, this strategic objective has become an urgent priority—one that we will address by **doubling the number of families that we serve** in Fiscal Year 2021.

As we **deepened and broadened our core work of keeping families together**, we laid the groundwork for the integration of the **Positive Parenting Program** into our Intact Family Services. This evidence-based parenting and family support model—which enhances the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents to reduce the prevalence of emotional and behavioral problems in children—has been shown to cut



Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director



1,414

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



174

Fragile families that received the intensive support and services they needed to **stay together**

rates of child abuse, reduce foster care placements and decrease hospitalizations from child abuse injuries.¹

While we expanded our services for families, we provided a safe haven and a place to heal for 35 neglected and abused children in our **Diagnostic Treatment Center** and **Residence** at Hephzibah Home. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Department of Children and Family Services **recognized these highly specialized programs for their successful outcomes** by designating them as the only programs licensed to serve the most severely traumatized children between the ages of three and eleven in the state of Illinois. This new

designation provided additional funding for a full-time behavioral analyst hired in September 2020, as well as enhanced therapeutic services, additional caseworkers and a higher staff-to-child ratio to help children recover from the devastating effects of extreme abuse and neglect.

Because **every foster child deserves a loving family with no expiration date**, we also intensified our efforts to achieve permanency for the children in our care by adding a clinical supervisor, a licensing supervisor, a foster care supervisor and a sixth part-time therapist to our foster care team. You'll learn more about the tireless efforts of this team—which helped **more Hephzibah foster children achieve permanency than ever before**—and experience the joy of one of these happy endings as you meet a Hephzibah “forever family” on page eight of this report.

When Chicago became a COVID-19 hotspot in Spring 2020, **keeping children safe and families strong took on a whole new meaning**. As has been our tradition for more than 120 years, we swiftly pivoted to meet this global health crisis head on. By carefully and creatively reallocating our resources and shifting employees from our temporarily suspended after-school Day Care program to areas of critical need, we were able to keep our entire staff on payroll, continue our core programming and provide pandemic-related emergency relief services where they were needed most.

In this report, you'll learn more about our efforts to meet the academic, therapeutic and recreational needs of the 26 energetic children sheltering in place at Hephzibah Home and develop a **full-day, socially distanced summer camp experience** that was, literally and figuratively, a breath of fresh air for 99 school-age campers and their families.

This letter would not be complete without a mention of the heroes who helped us navigate the “new



689

School-aged children nurtured and enriched in our after-school Day Care and Summer Camp programs

¹ Prinz, R.J., Sanders, M.R., Shapiro, C.J., Whitaker, D.J., & Lutzker, J.R. (2009). “Population-Based Prevention of Child Maltreatment: The U.S. Triple P System Population Trial,” *Prevention Science Journal*



Hephzibah strong: *Thanks to the determination and resilience of our staff and the generosity of our benefactors and friends, we weathered the hardships of a global pandemic in Fiscal Year 2020 while providing more services for more children and families than ever before.*

normal” of pandemic life. We are in awe of the **dedicated and determined staff members** who worked tirelessly to deliver vital necessities and services to vulnerable children and families. And we are profoundly grateful to our **benefactors and friends**, who made generous contributions to our COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, provided emergency support for fragile families, purchased thousands of items to help the children at Hephzibah Home pass the time during the spring lockdown, donated personal protective equipment to keep us safe, provided Chromebooks for remote learning and delivered delicious dinners to our door.

Thank you all for keeping us “Hephzibah Strong” in a year like no other. We couldn’t have done it without you!

3,300+

Hours logged by more than 250
Hephzibah volunteers

Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director

Kenna MacKinnon
Board President

ingenuity

Coping with COVID-19

Behind the scenes at Hephzibah Home during the coronavirus

IN SPRING 2020, KEEPING KIDS SAFE at Hephzibah Home took on a whole new meaning as Chicago became a COVID-19 hotspot and a tiny but formidable pathogen transformed our lives. Here's how we kept them

connected, educated, active, enriched and entertained during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can always tell it's a weekday morning when the school buses line up outside of Hephzibah Home. But the bus lane was empty during the final months of the fiscal year as the children in our Diagnostic Treatment Center and Residence at Hephzibah Home embarked on a **new adventure in virtual learning**.

"It was challenging at first," admits Hephzibah Education Coordinator Eliana Callan. "We had 26 different learning plans on different devices and platforms and more Zoom meetings than I could count."

With more than two dozen children to educate and a lot of special needs to address, Callan and her coworkers spun into action. "It was an all-hands-on-deck situation," she recalls. "Our goal was to

help the children stay connected to school and to the teachers who had become such an important part of their lives."

After a short adjustment period, the children adapted surprisingly well to their virtual classrooms and continued to make academic progress—a fact that Callan attributes to the dedication of a **committed group of Oak Park educators**.

"We have so many stories about these amazing educators who went out of their way to help our kids," Callan notes. "The teachers dropped off schoolwork, made short videos to keep the children motivated and even organized a drive-by parade to let them know how much they were missed."

Meanwhile, **our therapists were hard at work helping the children cope** with the emotional impact of COVID-19.

"Many of the children have a history of relational trauma and broken family bonds," says Hephzibah



Delivering smiles: *As they sheltered in place, the children at Hephzibah Home were the beneficiaries of an extraordinary outpouring of support from a compassionate community of benefactors and friends who donated arts and crafts supplies, science activities, basketball and bowling arcade games and other items to keep them entertained and engaged when the school day was over.*

pandemic

Clinical Supervisor Ashley Ice. “So our first priority was to preserve the nurturing and supportive relationships that these children had developed with Hephzibah therapists, social workers, staff and volunteers.”

But how does one safely stay connected during a global pandemic?

“Connection is connection, whether it’s virtual or in real life,” says Ice. “We masked up for in-person therapy sessions and encouraged the children to talk about their feelings of loss and isolation. We also encouraged them to use the coping tools that they had learned upon their arrival at Hephzibah—tools that had helped them become more resilient, such as meditation, breathing exercises, yoga and positive self-talk.”

Throughout the lockdown, our **volunteer Big Siblings and Heartmates stayed in touch** via phone calls, letters and Zoom sessions; our Homework Helpers read stories to the children on video; and our Paws for Strength pet therapists shared entertaining videos showing the world from a pup’s point of view.

With many pre-pandemic recreational outings and extracurricular activities suspended, we also had a lot of empty hours to fill.



Dinner at our door: Gene and Georgetti restaurant and scores of other supporters personally delivered lunches and dinners or raised funds for meal deliveries to cheer up the children at Hephzibah Home during the spring lockdown.

“We wanted to keep the kids busy and active after their schoolwork was done,” explains Hephzibah Behavioral Interventionist Molly Pyne. “So we came up with an extensive menu of afternoon activities, from indoor sports such as bowling and hockey to freeze-dance competitions and karaoke.”

With each extension of the stay-at-home order, our staff members brainstormed again to **keep the fun fresh and the surprises coming**—from build-your-own robots to a crazy hair day with spray-on hair colors.

“Even though we were not leaving Hephzibah Home and life was far from normal,” says Pyne, “**the kids were having fun every single day and so were we.**” ♥



“Even though we were not leaving Hephzibah Home and life was far from normal, **the kids were having fun every single day** and so were we.”

— MOLLY PYNE, Hephzibah Behavioral Interventionist

creativity

Saving Summer

Peace of mind for working parents during the summer of COVID

As Oak Park families hunkered down at home during the pandemic's early stages in March and April, Hephzibah's Day Care staff was already thinking ahead.

Summer was just weeks away, COVID-19 was still a serious threat to lives and livelihoods—and summer camps and activities were being canceled one by one. Many parents who didn't have the option of working at home—from first responders and health care workers to grocery store employees—were facing a summer without adequate or affordable child care.

With these parents in mind, our Day Care team was working overtime to create **Summer**

Hephzibah 2020—a full-day, socially distanced summer camp experience for a world in the grip of a global pandemic.

“For more than 40 years, Hephzibah has provided exceptional after-school and summer camp day care experiences for generations of children of working parents—and we were committed to continuing that tradition during the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Day Care Director Amy O'Rourke. “Although we reimagined our

The cure for coronavirus cabin fever: *In Summer 2020, Hephzibah provided a safe, socially distanced summer of fun and enrichment for 99 children of working and low-income parents—without a single case of COVID.*



summer camp experience in 2020 to follow the safety protocols outlined by the Centers for Disease Control, the American Camp Association and the Illinois Department of Public Health, our mission-bound commitment to providing safe, enriching and affordable day care on a sliding scale for families of all income levels did not change.”

By June 8, Summer Hephzibah 2020 was in full swing, offering peace of mind for working parents and a full menu of summer fun for 99 school-aged children.

“The children were champions about adjusting to the protocols established to keep them safe during the pandemic,” says O’Rourke. “If the children were wearing their masks correctly, they earned ‘Masked Crusader’ points. If they were standing six feet apart, they got points for keeping their ‘Force Field’ up. These points could be swapped for small prizes, a spontaneous dance party, a guest singer and other incentives.”

Our summer campers’ daily dose of fun included outdoor sports, cooking projects, picnics, karaoke, singing parades, scavenger hunts, canoe- and teepee-building projects, dance challenges, silly sock days, water play, outdoor science fairs, bike rides and scooter outings.

Some of the fun—like our “drive-in theater” day with cars made out of cardboard boxes—was charmingly retro, but some was decidedly high-tech, such as a Tik-Tok video produced by the children and Zoom Lego Mindstorm robotics classes offered in partnership with the Oak Park Education Foundation.

One of the silver linings of the pandemic, according to O’Rourke, was the opportunity for our summer camp counselors to enjoy **more one-on-one time with the children**. “Without the field trips, the pool days and the playshops, there was more time to bond with our summer campers,” she says. “On some days, our Day Care staff brought in their musical instruments and played music for the kids. It was a pretty calm and fun summer overall.”



A breath of fresh air after the spring lockdown: A kindergartner revels in the fresh air and fun at Summer Hephzibah 2020.

“Thank you for all that you did to **support working parents** while giving our children **a true summer camp experience.**”

— A Hephzibah Day Care parent

At summer’s end, scores of working parents expressed their gratitude for the saving grace of Summer Hephzibah.

“Summer Hephzibah enhanced our kids’ well-being and **balanced their need for activity and socialization with the need for safety precautions** to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” wrote one parent. “Thank you for all that you did to support working parents during a global pandemic while giving our children a true summer camp experience.” ♥

family

Forever Families

Why every foster child needs a safe and loving forever home

“ALL CHILDREN—and especially older children in foster care—need and deserve a loving family with no expiration date. Yet, in the U.S., more than 23,000

youth exit foster care and are left to fend for themselves each year. This scenario—leaving foster care without achieving permanence—carries lifelong consequences. Youth who age out of foster care are more likely to engage in risky behaviors and experience hardships such as homelessness, joblessness, early parenthood and substance use.”

This statement from the Annie E. Casey Foundation is supported by statistics released

by the National Foster Youth Institute, which tell us that 20 percent of foster youth will become homeless on the day they age out of foster care, only half will have gainful employment by the age of 24 and fewer than three percent will earn a college degree. **Without the support of a forever family, foster children trying to heal from a traumatic past may face an equally tragic future.**

According to Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets, these outcomes can be avoided if child

Forever together: *Monica Tijerina and her husband, Mark Rauckhorst, with their adopted foster son, Zander, on the day that they first met in 2016.*



“Every child deserves a **safe, loving and permanent home where they can be unconditionally loved** and receive the support they need to succeed.”

MERRY BETH SHEETS
Hephzibah Executive Director

welfare agencies are proactive about helping children achieve permanency while they are in care. “Every child deserves a **safe, loving and permanent home where they can be unconditionally loved** and receive the support they need to succeed,” she states. “We want every child in a safe home with a permanent family. That is our number one goal.”

In Fiscal Year 2020, **25 Hephzibah foster children achieved permanency—more than ever before in our foster care program.** Yet supporting the development of forever families that can weather the emotional storms caused by a child’s early trauma is a long and complex process—one that involves intensive counseling for emotionally fragile foster children; training and ongoing support for family members; and a dedicated staff committed to going the extra mile to achieve each permanency in a timely manner while ensuring the long-term success of the family unit.

25
Hephzibah **foster children** united with forever families

In recent years, Hephzibah has launched a concerted effort to lay the groundwork for these forever families.

“A few years ago, we added two new caseworkers, a clinical advocate and a permanency specialist to our Foster Care team,” says Director of Family Based Services Julie Dvorsky. “In Fiscal 2020, we expanded our team with a clinical supervisor, a licensing supervisor, a foster care supervisor and a sixth part-time therapist. The tireless efforts of these dedicated professionals is reflected in the **historic number of permanencies** that we achieved—a 150-percent increase since 2017.”

“When a family is given the necessary services and support to ensure their child’s continued well-being, that’s a strong foundation and a beautiful start to a forever family,” says Permanency Specialist Alexandria McCague. “Parents and children who have gone through this process with us know that we are

part of that forever family—and that we are standing by to provide the support and encouragement they need as they build a life together.”

Zander, a bright and introspective 13-year-old, is just one beneficiary of Hephzibah’s permanency initiative. In foster care from the age of four, he was adopted by Oak Parkers Monica Tijerina and Mark Rauckhorst in Fall 2019.

“To make Zander feel more secure and help us move forward as a family, a Hephzibah therapist came to our home on a weekly basis,” recalls Monica. “Hephzibah also provided a therapeutic mentor and ongoing parenting training, covered the cost of tutoring to address Zander’s academic deficits and even paid for private swimming lessons.”

As Zander’s adoption date approached, his anxiety skyrocketed and his behaviors escalated. “Hephzibah’s foster care team was very responsive,” says Monica. “Sometimes they were at our house so often that it felt like they lived here!”

After the adoption, Zander began to relax as it dawned on him that he finally had a forever home.

“Now, Zander says to me ‘I know I’m here forever and if I do things wrong, I know you won’t stop loving me,’” Mark confides. “This is the first time in his life that he’s had that feeling of security.”

Today, when Zander acts out like any other teenager, Monica reassures him even as she reigns him in.

“I tell him, ‘For better or for worse, you’re here forever—so you’d better shape up!’” she says with a laugh. “Overall, we’re a pretty tight family unit.” ❤️

community

The Chicago Bears' 100th-Season Surprise

WHAT'S BETTER than serving as an honorary captain at Soldier Field during the Chicago Bears' pre-game coin toss?

According to Hephzibah Board President Kenna MacKinnon and Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets, it doesn't get much better than that—unless you also receive a **\$100,000 check from the Chicago Bears Community All-Pros grant program.**

The moment was a dream come true for our fearless board president and executive director, who boldly strode out onto Soldier Field to accept the check in front of FOX News cameras and thousands of football fans before an October 2019 matchup between the Chicago Bears and the New Orleans Saints.

The Community All-Pros program was launched

to celebrate the Chicago Bears' 100th season and express the Bears' gratitude to the community that has supported the team since 1921. Ten \$100,000 Community All-Pros grants were awarded over the course of the 2019 season to support nonprofits that do meaningful work in the Chicago area.

"This gift will have a tremendous impact on the lives of the young children who call Hephzibah their home each year," reports Sheets. "It tells our children that the entire Chicago Bears family believes in them and stands with them as they heal from the trauma of abuse and neglect."

A centennial celebration gift to help children heal: Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets (below) accepts a \$100,000 Community All Pros check from the **Chicago Bears** at Soldier Field in October 2019.

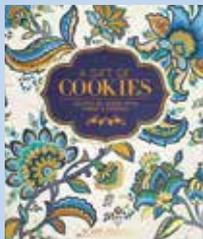




Mary DiSomma (above) and her husband, William, are covering the entire cost of publishing **A Gift of Cookies: Recipes to Share with Family & Friends** so that every penny from the sale of her new cookbook will be donated to Hephzibah and the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society.

A Passion for Baking and for Helping Kids

MARY DISOMMA—mother of four, doctor of podiatry, committed philanthropist and cookbook author—is passionate about baking cookies. Each year, she bakes 5,000-7,000 holiday cookies to share with people she loves. Now she's sharing 130 of her favorite cookie recipes with the publication of **A Gift of Cookies: Recipes to Share with Family & Friends**. Because she's as passionate about helping children as she is about baking, DiSomma will also be donating 100 percent of the selling price to Hephzibah and the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society.



DiSomma loves cookies because they bring back fond memories of the warmth and comfort of childhood. “Unfortunately, not every child gets to experience that,” says the Hephzibah benefactor and friend. “I was adopted at birth and raised by a loving family, but I know how important it is for children to have a place where they can feel safe and loved and cared for. That’s why I’m passionate about supporting two outstanding nonprofits dedicated to helping children and families in need.”

Help us spread the word about the DiSomma family’s generosity, treat yourself to a copy and order copies for family members and friends at marydisomma.com or amazon.com.

Hoofing It, “Pandemic Style”

IT TAKES MORE THAN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC to stop our loyal legions of supporters from lacing up their running shoes and hoofing it for Hephzibah’s kids.

Although COVID-19 prevented us from gathering in Glen Ellyn’s Newton Park in 2020, as we have done for nearly two decades, more than 330 stalwart friends and fitness buffs signed up for the virtual version of our **Western Auxiliary Board’s Hoof it for Hephzibah 5K Run/Walk** on Memorial Day weekend.

In this unusual year, “hoofing it” took on a new meaning as participants from all over the Chicago area—as well as Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin—walked, jogged, sprinted, cycled, cartwheeled and danced their way through the 5K. Participants posted photos on social media throughout the weekend to show how they hoofed it to raise \$16,906 for the children and families we serve.

\$16,906

Amount raised during our virtual **Hoof it for Hephzibah 5K Run/Walk**

“Families ran together in the woods, on the beach and in their neighborhoods,” reports Western Auxiliary Board President Laura McLaughlin. “Many biked, some played basketball, some walked—and some just relaxed in their race t-shirts toasting to 20 years of Hoof It!”



How they hoofed it: Hundreds of socially distanced supporters from nine states posted photos on social media to show how they hoofed it for Hephzibah’s kids on Memorial Day weekend 2020.

philanth

Imagining a Better Future

for Children and Families in Need

IMAGINE, our 2020 **Heart of Gold Ball**, was the last great party that lit up our lives before the coronavirus lockdown—but we definitely went out in style!



The evening began with a flourish as more **370 guests** were greeted by a pair of aerialists performing in the Bridgeport Art Center's **Skyline Loft** while our DJ played a remix of John Lennon's song, "Imagine," in honor of the evening's theme.

As our live auction began, the aerialists entertained the guests with an intricately choreographed duet while a speed artist painted an abstract interpretation of the city skyline, which was auctioned off to the highest bidder before the paint had even dried.

While dinner was being served, Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth

Sheets honored the **Chicago Bears** with the **Heart of Gold Award** for their \$100,000 Community All-Pros grant and a committed group of River Forest families with the **Heart of the Home Award** for their **9/11 LemonAid Kids Helping Kids** fundraiser, which has raised more than \$300,000 over the past 18 years to support Hephzibah and other local nonprofits that serve children.

As the clock struck nine, we kicked off our first-ever **Heart of Gold After-Party**—a high-energy affair with a DJ, a live violinist, dancing, a photo booth and a late-night spread of sliders, mini deep-dish pizzas and hot pretzels to refuel the revelers who had danced off their dinner.

Thanks to the creativity and hard work of **Heart of Gold Ball Committee Chair Kathy Malpede** and her committee members—and the generosity of our sponsors and guests—this unique event raised \$336,022, more than any Heart of Gold Ball in Hephzibah history. We are grateful to everyone who made this amazing evening possible—and for the memories that we'll be subsisting on until the pandemic ends and the partying begins again!

\$336,022

Amount raised at *Imagine*—the **most successful Heart of Gold Ball** in Hephzibah history.



copy



Rocking On for Hephzibah

EIGHT YEARS AGO, Western Auxiliary Board members Tami Wanless and Megan Scheck parlayed their shared passion for music and Hephzibah's mission into one of our most popular fundraisers:

Rock 'N' Roll for Your Heart and Soul.

Since its inaugural year—when Wanless was the sole vocalist accompanied by a single acoustic guitar—the event has evolved into a one-night rock and roll festival featuring multiple live bands. Over the past eight years, Rock "N" Roll for Your Heart and Soul has **raised**

more than \$175,000 to support a shared summer camp experience for siblings living in

\$34,000

Amount raised at **Rock "N" Roll for Your Heart and Soul 2020**

separate group, foster and adoptive homes.

In 2020, our **Western Auxiliary Board** once again used the power of music to bring people together for a night of fun and fundraising at their **eighth annual Rock 'N' Roll benefit** in January. More than 150 music fans attended the event, which included live performances by Back Pocket Bourbon and Sgt. Pepper's Tiny Hearts Band, as well as a raffle, food and dessert stations and a late-night BBQ buffet.

A Virtual Cure for the Quarantine Blues

WHEN COVID-19 THREATENED to foil our Chicago Auxiliary Board's fundraising efforts in Spring 2020, this tech-savvy group of young professionals did a quick pivot and planned their first-ever **Virtual Quarantine Olympics** in two weeks flat.

Their collective creativity paved the way for one of Hephzibah's most innovative fundraisers to date: a virtual "game night" to chase away the quarantine blues with six rounds of fast-paced competitions involving everyday household items. More than 150 participants from all over the U.S. and as far away as London logged on via Zoom in early May to join the fun, which included a trivia contest, a scavenger hunt, a cup-flipping contest, a stacking contest and a Pictionary competition.

The lighthearted virtual romp—which provided a much-needed social outlet for the locked-down competitors—**raised just under \$4,600 in a single night.**

'Tis the Season to Get Swanky!

WE KICKED OFF THE 2019 HOLIDAY SEASON in mid-November with some seriously swanky fun at our **third annual Swanksgiving** fundraiser. More than 150 young professionals gathered at The Lakewood in Chicago's West Loop for an evening of wine and beer tasting, mouthwatering Mexican fare and dancing to the music of DJ Caliago. Co-hosted by our Chicago Auxiliary Board and long-time Hephzibah friend and benefactor Jodi Fyfe of The Paramount Group, this elegant event—which has lent some urban luster to our holiday festivities since 2017—**raised more than \$21,000** for Hephzibah's kids.





“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘**Look for the helpers.** You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of ‘disaster,’ I remember my mother’s words and I am always comforted by the realization that there are still so many helpers—**so many caring people in this world.**”

FRED ROGERS, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*

thank you

for being one of the world's helpers in this year of unprecedented uncertainty and need!

Gifts

\$100,000 and above

Chicago Bears Community All-Pros Grant
Hephzibah Children's Trust

\$50,000 to \$99,999

WellSky Foundation

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Chicago White Sox Community Fund
Maria Garvy
Ken and Patty Hunt
Hunter Quigley Coe, Be the Boat Fund
NOW Health Group, Inc.
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Sylvia Ziontz Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Westlake Health Foundation
Bette and Craig Williams

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Kathy and Vincent Ambrosino
American Family Insurance
Dreams Foundation
Teri Andresen
Anonymous
Paul and Sherry Carbery
CIBC
CME Group Community Foundation
Lisa and Shaun Emerson
Kathleen and Michael Haupers
Helen Brach Foundation
Jackson National Life Insurance Company
The Estate of Roberta (Bobby) Larson
LemonAid
Marvin and Kaye Lichtman Foundation
Juli and Rich Niemann
Northern Trust Company
Charitable Trust
Gary and Zena Paice
Retail Properties of America
River Forest Women's Club
SNAP, Inc.
T. Kendall Hunt Family Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Jon and Tania Zubkus

\$5,000 to \$9,999

American Camp Association, Illinois
Anna Kushel Marshall Trust
Gilmary and Paul Andrews
Anonymous
Maria Anthony and Obi Ofoegbu
Pauline Caldwell
Jim Christopherson and
Christina Ewing
Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice
Foundation

Amy and Timothy Davis
Kathy and Michael Deitch
Ecolab Foundation
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Christopher L. and M. Susan Cust Foundation
Hu-Friedy
John and Nancy Ide
Lincoln School PTO
James and Kathy Malpede
Sheldon Mandell
Mary Lou Downs Foundation
Kathy and Lou McKeever
Joshua and Meghann Moses
Dave and Lynde O'Brien
Patricia K. O'Shea and Frank V. Tannura
Donna Rolf
Jesse Rosas and Merry Beth Sheets
RSM US Foundation
Byron and Parle Taylor
The Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation
The Sweet Water Foundation
Cindy and Scott Tinervia
Trine Tsouderos and Jon Yates
Diane and Justin Ullman
Linda and Thomas Wolf

\$1,000 to \$4,999

ADJLM Foundation
Irma Aguilar and Larry Dakof
Alex Anderson and Anne Hennessy
Anonymous
Susan Anzaldi
Julio Argueta
James Arogeti and Madeline Brady
Brightly and Mack Babcock
Baird & Warner Good Will Network Fund
Dan and Spencer Baker
John and Vivien Barkidjija
Jacqueline Barlow
Kent Barnett
Karim Basaria
Rachael and Ryan Blackburn
Barbara Blair
Brad and Sandra Borgman
Boyle Design Associates
Diane and Jay Butler
Byline Bank
Lisa Capozzi and Robin Rada
Iole Cappiello
Capstone Financial Advisors
Rachel Caskey
Brian and Kelly Chang
Lisa Chorzempa and Rodney Schainis
Claro Healthcare
Kristin and Rob Collins
Kevin and Linda Conway
Loretta and Robert Cooney
Carrie and Matt Cotter
Cross Country Mortgage
Raima and Timothy Cunningham
Dashboard Wealth Advisors
John and Juana Davis
Anthony DeAngelis
Bernadette Diaz and Mark Trink

Mark Donovan and Mary Ludgin
Dunsire Family Foundation, Inc.
Cynthia K. Eggemeyer
Keith E. Elkins and Kathleen Shoemaker
Jennifer Ellis-Jackson and Darren Jackson
Corey and Maha Engesser
Euromonitor International
Everlet Charger
Amy and Thadford Felton
John C. Filosa and Cathaleen Roach
First Midwest Bank
First United Methodist Church
Christine and Mark Fisher
Forest Agency, Inc.
Forest Park National Bank
Wendy Foster
Frances Gaik
Braden Galbreath-O'Leary
Carolyn and Lawrence Garber
Gene & Georgetti's
George and Barbara Kovacs Family Fund
Geppetto's Toy Box
Cindy and John Glavin
Cynthia and Norman Goldring
Allan Grane
Bill and Kim Green
Daniel Greenstone and Abby Lee
Greenville Community Church
Kimberly Griffin
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 McAdam Landscaping, Inc.
 Kelly McCarthy
 Dianne McDermott
 McDonald's Corporation
 Lisa McGlone
 Christopher T. Meglan
 Pamela Melvin
 Shaftk Memon
 The Merchen York Family
 Susan Messer and James Poznak
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 Maureen Mikulski
 Madeleine W. Milan
 Jessica Millburn
 Kimberley and Stephen Miller
 Natalie Miller
 Mindful Movemets
 MM Frame Company
 Michelle and Noel Moore
 Janel Morales
 Stephanie Morales
 Aaron and Amanda Morris
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 Rylee Murray
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 New Moms
 Newell Brands
 Julie and Mitch Newman
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 Cheryl and William Niro
 Andy and Natalie Noonan
 Jodi and Steve Norgaard
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 Oak Park Jewelers

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 Elizabeth O'Brien
 Meashan O'Brien
 Paula O'Connor
 Anne and Tim O'Day
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 Olenick & Associates
 Erin O'Neill
 Kadima Palles
 Panera Bread
 Erika Panichelli
 Papier Girl
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 Judith D. Paver
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 Shannon Penoff
 PepsiCo Chicago Aspire Team
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 Pizzazz Hair Salon
 Kimberly Plaxton-Drobot
 Renee Pleshar
 Deb and Steven Poe
 Michelle Poff
 Porsche Cars North America
 Tessa Porter
 PPM America, Inc.
 Bob Prischman
 Joe Proietto
 Delores Proke
 PRP Wines International
 Carla and Jason Puccini
 Megan Puntillo
 Quincy Street Distillery
 Radio Flyer
 Jennifer Raia
 Carol and Pravin Rao
 Michelle Records
 Ann Redmond
 Christi Regan
 Elizabeth Rehn
 Jenny and Paul Rieger
 John Rekas
 Aimee Renkes
 RPAI-Retail Properties of America
 Julia Richardson
 Rise Basket
 River Forest Animal Hospital
 Nate and Sarah Roberts
 J Robinson-Parran
 Rock of Ages Baptist Church
 Meg Rock
 Lilia Rocks
 Janette Rodriguez
 Olivia Roeger
 Joanne Rosenbush
 Meagan Roskos
 Carol Rushing Carr
 Cecilia Ryan
 Saltbox Theatre Collective

Jack Sandor
 Phillip Sandor
 SavorWe
 Catherine and Tim Scare
 David and Meredith Schacht
 David and Sue Schatz
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 Liz and Mike Schrader
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 Sculptureworks, LLC.
 Shawne Seaton-George
 Second Bridge
 Stacy and Tim Senechalle
 Seven Generations Ahead
 Leah Shapiro
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 The Skin Theory
 Alicia and Ted Skodol
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 Cory Smith
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 Bridget and Tim Sparkes
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 Kelley Staley
 Bryon and Susan Stanislaw
 Alyssa Stark
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 Richard and Dawn Stieber
 Myron L. Stokes
 Stolen
 Donna Stoll
 Becki and Rob Streit
 Allison Strickland
 Ellen Strizak
 Martha Strom
 Strong U Gym
 Meg Suec
 Danny Sugimoto and
 Sondra L. Summers
 Michelle Sui
 Suite Home Chicago
 Lorraine Sullivan
 Sunstar America, Inc.
 Sweet Girl Desserts
 Systech Information Services, Inc.
 Jennifer Tammen
 Helen Tan
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 Tara Tesmer

Texas De Brazil
 The Tennis and Fitness Centre
 The Joy Bar
 The Kids Table-Lakeview
 The Skin Theory
 The Skincare Company
 Lynn Thomas
 Jon Tokyo
 Bill Toliopoulos
 Gwen and Pietro Tonino
 Trader Joes
 Sandy Tragos
 Trattoria 225
 Jennifer Trauf-Todaro
 Carla Trudell
 John Tuhey and Kelley Witzemann
 Jennifer Turman
 Patrick Turnock
 Tutto To Go
 Twisted Cookie
 Two Hound Red
 Kyra Tyler
 U.S.Securities Exchange Commission-
 Chicago Regional Office
 Emily Ulrich
 Amy Unell
 The United Center
 University of Chicago
 Graham School
 U.S. Compliance Corporation
 Val-Matic Valve
 Vets 4 Vets
 Colleen and Frank Vihtelic
 The Village Links Golf Course
 Beth and Peter Vlerick
 Kai and Thea Vogelsburg
 Brian Walsh
 Becca Waterloo
 Kathleen Waterloo
 Lauren Wegner
 Christine Wehman
 Donna and Thomas Weigel
 David and Melanie Weiss
 Max Weiss
 West Suburban Internal Medicine
 Residency Program
 Wheaton Sports Center
 Maureen Whelan
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 Tania Wilson
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 Taylor Winton
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 Zazu Salon & Day Spa
 Amanda Zika
 Tania and Jon Zubkus



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.

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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Kristina and Patrick Woodward
Mark Yappelli
Juliet and Rocky Yera
Tania and Jon Zubkus

Financial Statement

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2020*

Revenues

Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributions and Grants	\$ 2,109,265
Fees and Grants:	
State Government Agencies	\$ 6,982,370
Local Government Agencies	\$ 138,125
Other Revenue:	
Program Service Fees and Grants	\$ 1,336,818
Investment and Other Income †	\$ 102,340
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 10,668,918

Expenses

Programs	\$ 8,452,589
Administration	\$ 1,102,584
Fundraising and Development	\$ 763,882
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,319,055
Increase in Net Assets	
Due to Operations †	\$ 349,863
Total Increase in Net Assets	\$ 318,148
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 9,673,713

* The financials included in this report are unaudited. Audited financials will be published on our website in early 2021.

† Excludes unrealized gain on investments and change in beneficial interests of \$(31,715).

Grants Awarded

ADJLM Foundation
 American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
 Baird & Warner Good Will Network Fund
 Chicago Bears Community All-Pros Grant
 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
 Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation
 Ecolab Foundation
 Future Philanthropist Program of the Oak Park River Forest Community 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
 Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat Fund of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
 Jackson National Life Insurance Company
 The John Buck Company Foundation
 Locasto Family Foundation
 Marvin and Kaye Lichtman Foundation
 Mary Lou Downs Foundation
 McDonald's Corporation
 Northern Trust Company
 Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
 Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
 RSM US Foundation
 Sidley Austin Foundation
 SNAP, Inc.
 The Sweet Water Foundation
 Sylvia Ziontz Foundation
 Ticket To Dream Foundation
 United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
 Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant
 The Ward Foundation
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 WellSky Foundation
 Westlake Health Foundation

Fundraising Highlights

- ♥ A \$50,000 grant from the **WellSky Foundation** helped 35 children heal from the trauma of neglect and abuse by supporting the therapeutic programming at Hephzibah Home.
- ♥ A \$45,000 grant from the **Paul M. Angell Foundation** helped children thrive and families flourish by supporting our Diagnostic Shelter and Residence, as well as our Foster Care and Intact Family Services programs.
- ♥ A \$30,000 grant from the **Sylvia Ziontz Foundation** supported the creation of a welcoming backyard garden oasis to bring more nature into the lives of the children at Hephzibah Home.
- ♥ A \$20,000 grant from the **Oak Park River Forest COVID-19 Relief Fund** funded technology upgrades to support a fully mobile workforce and enable our employees to provide essential services for children and families during the pandemic.



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 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. and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

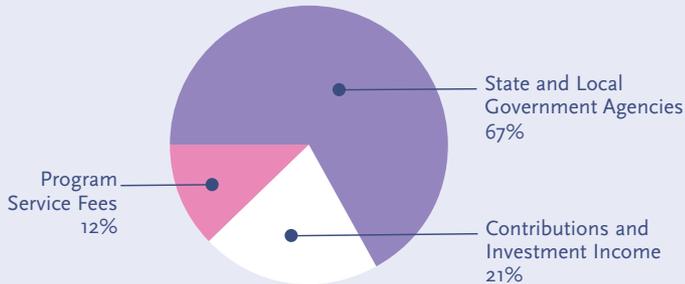
Licensing

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

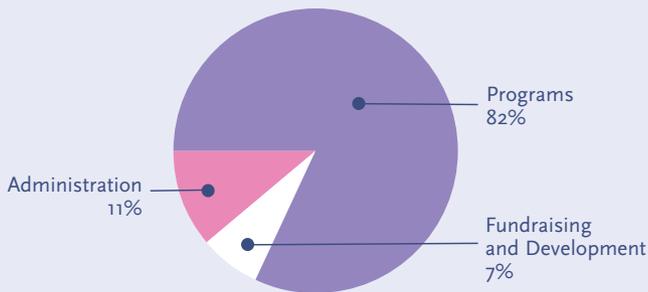
Funding

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, 2019, through June 30, 2020

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Executive Director

Julie Dvorsky
Director of Family Based Services

Nancy Dorfman Schwartz
Chief Operating Officer

Mary Jane Joyce
Director of Human Resources

Amy O'Rourke
Director of Day Care Services

Mary Tortorici
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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