



**2020-2021**

# annual report



Hephzibah Children's Association



“If you come together with a mission—and it’s **grounded in love and a sense of community**—you can make the impossible possible.”

**John Lewis**

*U.S. congressman and civil rights leader*

## Dear Friends,

At Hephzibah we like to say that meeting the changing needs of children and families is “in our DNA.”

After more than a century of helping children thrive and families flourish through economic downturns, war and social change—we **were uniquely equipped to support children and families** in crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our mantra during this most difficult year was “**Hephzibah Strong**.” Although COVID threw us some curveballs, we are proud to report that we adapted to meet every challenge as we served **children and families in more ways than ever before**. The takeaway? Hephzibah will always be there to meet the needs of children and families—even during a global pandemic!

Anyone with kids will tell you that parenting during the first full year of the pandemic was an exhausting experience. With entire families working and learning from home, Oak Park parents were at their wits’ end and their school-aged kids were isolated and understimulated. To meet the vastly changed needs of these families as we moved out of the Spring 2020 lockdown, we created a **safe, socially distanced summer camp** and replaced our after-school daycare program with a **full-day remote-learning program** that offered e-learning support and supervision—as well as recreation and enrichment—for hundreds of children in elementary and middle school. Turn



# 1,387

Total number of children and family members **served by all Hephzibah programs**



**Merry Beth Sheets**  
Executive Director

to page six of this report to find out more about the **radical transformation of our Day Care program** for parents struggling to keep their kids safe while making ends meet.

As we came to the aid of working parents and school-aged children, we were also safely caring for some of the **youngest and highest-need children in the state of Illinois**. Many of these survivors of severe neglect and abuse have spent their early years surrounded by unimaginable chaos. Before they found a safe haven and a place to heal at Hephzibah Home, their days were devoid of the predictable routines that lend a sense of stability and security to the lives of most children.

For these vulnerable youngsters, the disruptions of COVID—from the challenges of remote learning to the loss of community outings

“After more than a century of helping children thrive and families flourish through economic downturns, war and social change, **Hephzibah was uniquely equipped to support children and families in crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic.**”

our programs and services while meeting the urgent needs of nearly 1,400 children and families during the worst public health crisis in more than a century.

We also learned about **the community's amazing capacity for generosity and kindness** during this period of profound hardship.

Our work on behalf of children and families would not have been possible during the pandemic without the extraordinary generosity of our benefactors and friends. As the needs of children and families in crisis increased and expenses mounted, we reached out to the community for help—and the community responded with a spectacular show of support.

In a year when our budget seemed to continually expand to meet growing needs, we received more financial support than ever before—including more than \$2.6 million in contributions from individuals, community partners, corporations and foundations.

The children at Hephzibah Home are still talking

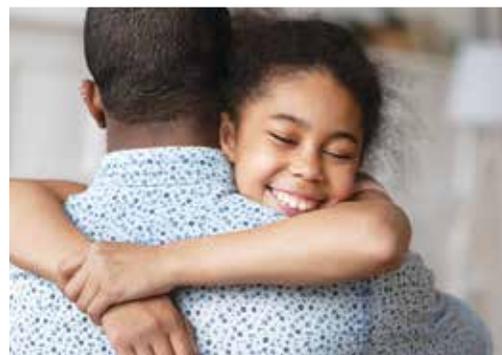
and in-person visits from family members and volunteers—could have been particularly destabilizing. But our deeply committed Hephzibah Home staff stepped in to save the day, working nonstop to provide intensive e-learning support and fill the lives of 43 housebound kids with love, positivity, healing therapies, healthy habits and a healthy dose of fun.

In spite of the pressures of the pandemic, we not only maintained every supportive and therapeutic service we could without violating COVID safety protocols, but also invested in new programs and initiatives to enhance the children's overall well-being.

We incorporated a **behavior analyst** into our therapeutic team to gain a better understanding of the children's more challenging behaviors and launched a series of **therapeutic groups** to give the children the support and insights they needed to develop stronger coping and interpersonal skills. Turn to page four to find out more about the therapeutic team's creative use of the “pandemic pause” to help the children heal in new and novel ways.

Beyond the borders of Oak Park, our **Intact Family Services** team helped some of Illinois' most fragile families make it through one of the hardest years of their lives. We hand-delivered groceries and holiday meals, wrote checks to landlords to prevent evictions, paid utility bills and offered a wide variety of intervention and prevention services to support and stabilize 191 families. Turn to page eight to learn more about our work on behalf of families in crisis—including the launch of our new **Positive Parenting Program** and the **expansion of our Intact Family Services program** to ensure that more struggling families have the support they need to thrive.

What did we learn during our year of coping with COVID? We learned that it was possible to pursue new avenues of growth and continually improve



191

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



about the delicious **Sunday Suppers** that brightened their weekends, as well as the regular meal deliveries from **Gene & Georgetti** restaurant and **The Paramount Group**.

The families participating in our Intact Family Services program surely will not forget the turkeys and food baskets filled with all of the trimmings donated by **Lou Malnati's** just in time for Thanksgiving.

We will always remember the **caring community** members who chased away the chill of our first COVID Christmas by purchasing, wrapping and delivering more than 3,000 gifts to brighten the holidays of the children living in our group, intact and foster homes.

Finally, we will always be grateful to the hundreds of generous sponsors and guests who turned out for our **2021 Heart of Gold Ball** and transformed this virtual event into **the most successful Hephzibah fundraiser of all time**.

Thank you all for giving so generously of your time, talent and resources to support the children and families we serve when they needed it most. **We are truly Hephzibah Strong because of you!**

# 1,260

**Benefactors** supported children and families in need

Merry Beth Sheets  
Executive Director

Kenna MacKinnon  
Board President

# Helping Children Heal

during the “Pandemic Pause”

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING.

While the “pandemic pause” that interrupted our lives last year certainly had its drawbacks, it gave our therapists more opportunities to help children heal.

This was especially true at Hephzibah Home, which served 43 young survivors of extreme neglect and abuse in 2020–21.

During the pandemic lockdown—with regular school days replaced by remote learning, recreational outings canceled and in-person visits suspended—the world

**A garden therapy group** helped the traumatized children at Hephzibah Home harness the healing power of nature.



receded a bit. **What many would have regarded as a loss, our therapists seized as an opportunity.**

“When the pandemic hit and all of our outside resources were cut off, we were given the gift of time,” recalls Clinical Coordinator Lucy Scott, LCPC. “So we decided to step up our therapeutic services. We hired a behavior analyst, added an intern to our team and increased our individual therapy sessions with the children from once a week to twice a week.”

Because the children at Hephzibah Home were quarantined together, Scott and her fellow therapists also took advantage of this naturally occurring social structure and implemented a series of therapeutic groups to work on specific skills and goals.

One of those goals was **building healthy attachments**—no easy feat for severely traumatized children, who are often stuck in “fight or flight” mode. When these children experience stress or a perceived threat, they often respond by lashing out angrily (fight mode) or withdrawing and running away (flight mode). Their emotions literally “hijack” the brain, and it’s the therapist’s job to help them work through their trauma, understand the triggers that can lead to a loss of control and develop coping skills so that they can connect with people in positive, healthy ways.

To move this work forward, Hephzibah Behavior Analyst Nicole Roby led weekly, one-hour **therapeutic social groups**.

“During the pandemic, I noticed that the children’s biggest challenges revolved around peer relations. They struggled greatly while playing together, and the smallest task could escalate into a major conflict,” says Roby. “So I decided to form these small groups to address the difficult issues that come up for our children in social settings, teach them new interpersonal skills and reinforce these skills in real time.”

Roby’s social groups opened with mindfulness exercises and then segued into structured activities that addressed issues such as peer relationships and self-management strategies. She also introduced topics such as

“Why do kids come to Hephzibah?” to give the children an opportunity to talk about their family traumas, share their experiences and develop empathy for one another.

The group dynamic brought about some welcome breakthroughs.

“Kids are more apt to talk about their own feelings and experiences when other kids are sharing,” Scott notes. **“There were so many times when I**

**heard a child blurt out, ‘That happened to me too!’** It was very powerful.”

The children’s enthusiastic embrace of the social groups inspired Hephzibah’s therapeutic team to launch three more groups during the pandemic.

Therapist Jennifer Wise harnessed the healing power of nature with a **garden therapy group** utilizing Hephzibah Home’s backyard garden space. The children planned the garden during the winter months, planted in

the spring and harvested the fruits and vegetables that they had nurtured from seedlings in late summer. Each week, Wise teamed up with Roby to work on social skills and emotional issues with the children, who were more relaxed and receptive in their garden oasis.

In one of the therapeutic team’s more creative endeavors, therapist Inae So tapped into the children’s love of digital content with an **animation group**. Using Animaker™, a software program that allows users to create animated videos using pre-built characters and templates, the children produced short animated clips that explored themes relevant to their lives.

When a child asked what “African” meant during a group discussion, the therapeutic team added a **geography group** to expand the children’s cultural horizons.

“We decided that we needed to encourage the children to talk and think about the world in a broader way,” says Scott. “We read stories about various countries, shared traditional food items and explored the idea that we are all different but equal. The kids felt more connected to the world’s diverse cultures and to one another.” ♥



## 43

Children found a **safe haven and a place to heal** at Hephzibah Home

*“We appreciate all that you did to help us roll with the punches during the pandemic—and for providing a resource that our family desperately needed during this difficult time.”*

*A Hephzibah Day Care parent*

# A Saving Grace for Working Parents

*Helping Oak Park families survive a year of pandemic parenting*

## FOR MOST OAK PARK FAMILIES, THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WERE A BLUR,

and what working parents do remember wasn't good: day after day of “Zooming” into the office and trying to meet work deadlines while helping their kids cope with the frustrations of virtual learning. Overloaded Wi-Fi networks, crashing computers and stir-crazy kids leaping over sofas to burn off energy. Some days, it seemed like the only happy household member was the family dog.

By Summer 2020, Hephzibah had come to the rescue with a **socially distanced summer camp** for school-aged children. For eight glorious weeks, bone-tired working parents got a break from the crushing daily pressures of the COVID-19 lockdown.

But the school year was looming. With COVID on the rise, Oak Park School District 97 made a late-summer decision to go fully remote—and working parents who had barely made it through the Spring 2020 lockdown were now facing more of the same.

As families weighed their options, which ranged from bad to worse—**Hephzibah's Day Care team**

**was collaborating closely with Oak Park School District 97 to come up with a better solution.**

“Our Day Care program has served the needs of working parents for almost 45 years, but never during a global pandemic,” says Day Care Director Amy O'Rourke. “In two weeks flat, we transformed our after-school daycare program into a **full-day remote learning program** for families of all income levels—and hired 31 new full-time employees!”

Preparing for the first day of the 2020–21 academic year was an agency-wide endeavor.

Our finance and fundraising departments began searching for resources to help fund the remote-learning program.

# 484

*School-aged children attended Hephzibah's **full-day remote learning program** and **safe, socially distanced summer camps***

# day care

Staff members purchased e-learning equipment, PPE and sanitation supplies. Our human resources team worked overtime to onboard and help train the new hires.

On August 31, Hephzibah launched its full-day program at three Oak Park elementary schools and **met a vital need in the community** for e-learning support and supervision—as well as after-school recreation and enrichment—for hundreds of school-aged children.

For the first time in its history, Hephzibah also opened its program to **middle schoolers**—a welcome development for parents who worked outside of the home or did not have the time to guide their sixth- and seventh-graders through their virtual school days. Although the remote learning program required a sixfold increase in full-time staff, Hephzibah kept its hourly rates at pre-pandemic levels and continued to offer a sliding-fee scale and scholarships for lower-income families.

When District 97 transitioned to a hybrid learning model in February 2021—with in-person learning at school in the morning and remote learning at home in the afternoon—Hephzibah pivoted again, partnering with **United Lutheran Church** to provide a full-day site for students who preferred to remain fully remote. For students participating in the district's hybrid learning program, Hephzibah offered afternoon e-learning support and recreational activities at seven elementary schools. When the school district reverted to full-day, in-person learning in mid-March, Hephzibah returned to its traditional after-school daycare model.

In Summer 2021, 290 children attended Hephzibah Summer Camp. Although CDC guidelines still called for masks and social distancing, **our counselors made sure there was no shortage of fun.**

“Our summer camp staff was amazing,” says O’Rourke. “They had outdoor water days with slip-and-slide kickball and water squirters and special events such as our Monday staff challenges, when our campers got to ‘challenge’ the staff with antics such as a pie in the face. The kids had a great summer.”

Of course, all of this pivoting came with a price tag, and Hephzibah’s Day Care program ran a staggering

\$1 million deficit. Some of the costs were offset by a PPP loan, District 97 scholarships for low-income families and contributions from benefactors. The rest? It was simply the cost of doing what Hephzibah Day Care has done for nearly half a century, says O’Rourke: providing safe, enriching care for children and peace of mind for working parents.

**“This program has been a total game-changer for our family,”** wrote one appreciative working mom. “After months of isolation and monotony, our kids are making friends again, playing games, working on crafts and spending more time outside. I’m finally able to focus on my job without feeling guilty. **I can’t overstate how grateful our whole family is for Hephzibah!**” ♥



**Helping parents dodge another COVID curveball:** *When District 97 delayed the start of school by a week to prepare for a full semester of e-learning in Fall 2020, Hephzibah gave working parents a **backup plan in the form of a four-day Mini-Camp.***

# Keeping Families “Hephzibah Strong”

*Healing families in crisis before they reach the breaking point*

**D**EBORAH NEEDED HELP. She was struggling to free herself from an abusive marriage and worried about the impact of her husband’s behavior on their oldest daughter, who was becoming increasingly withdrawn.

**Jean was so immobilized by depression** that she could barely get off of the couch—and her kids were running wild.

**Derek lost his job** as a dishwasher when the restaurant that employed him shut down during the pandemic. He was lashing out at his wife and clashing constantly with his 11-year-old son.

Each one of these families was **in danger of fracturing** last year from pressures such as poverty, unemployment, mental illness, domestic violence, addiction and COVID-related hardships. They are just three of the nearly 200 families served by Hephzibah’s **Intact Family Services** program in 2020–21.

“We do whatever it takes to stabilize and strengthen these families so that they can raise their children in a **positive, safe and nurturing environment**,” says Family Based Services Director Julie Dvorsky, LCSW. “When a family is referred to us, we conduct an in-home assessment to identify the stressors that are

destabilizing the family. Then we develop a support and intervention plan.”

The Intact Family Services team addresses the family’s immediate needs first with direct services such as emergency rental assistance, utility payments to keep the heat and lights on, Ventra cards to get parents where they need to go and grocery store gift cards to put food on the table. Then the deeper work begins with services such as substance-abuse assessments and referrals, domestic-violence intervention programs, parenting classes and family therapy sessions to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

The Intact Family Services team has been **keeping families “Hephzibah Strong” since 2000**, when

**1,800%**

*Increase in the number of families served by **Hephzibah’s Intact Family Services** since the program’s inception in 2000*



# intact family services

During the pandemic, Hephzibah's **Intact Family Services** program provided intervention and prevention services to help and heal 191 families in crisis.

the program was launched with a caseload of 10 families. Last year, we served more intact families than ever before: a total of 191 families and 457 children over a 12-month period.

This exponential growth reflects an increasing emphasis on prevention in the child welfare field, which culminated in the 2018 passing of the federal **Family First Prevention Services Act**. The Family First legislation increased funding at the state level for programs designed to **strengthen and support families**, so that children can be kept safely at home and out of foster care.

"If at all possible, children should be able to grow up in their families of origin," Dvorsky emphasizes. "For this reason, **we have made it a strategic priority to serve at the forefront of prevention efforts** in Illinois. The Family First Prevention Services Act presented new avenues for prevention funding, so we seized this opportunity by doubling our Intact Family Services program capacity, providing a broader array of evidence-based prevention programs and adding a **second Intact Family Services team** to ensure that every family referred to us has the support and services it needs to thrive."

One of these services is Hephzibah's newly

launched **Positive Parenting Program**, which could be loosely defined as a "course in resilience."

**Triple P**—as it is often called—teaches parents simple, practical ways to build strong, healthy family relationships and confidently manage their children's behaviors.

Because the training takes place in the home, rather than in a classroom, Hephzibah's Triple P facilitators get a firsthand view of the family's relationship dynamics and the specific behavioral issues that parents hope to address.

According to Dvorsky—and the 21 families that got the help they needed—Triple P helped defuse some potentially explosive situations and lay the foundation for healthier dynamics going forward.

One hundred percent of the parents who received Triple P training reported that most or all of their children's needs had been met, 92 percent felt that the program had helped them deal more effectively with family problems and 92 percent reported an improvement in their children's behaviors.

"Our parenting coach was very kind and professional," said one grateful parent. "We loved the program and wish we could do it again!" ♥

**"A healthy family is sacred territory."**

— Proverb

# Welcoming the Next Generation of “Westies”

*“Hephzibah is an inspiring place filled with amazing kids. Seeing the impact we can have on children who come from difficult circumstances makes me want to do whatever I can to make their lives better.”*

**Madelyn Choi**, Member  
Western Junior Auxiliary Board

WHEN GLEN ELLYN RESIDENT Penny Latta joined Hephzibah’s Western Auxiliary Board in 2011, her daughter, Ellie, was in elementary school.

A decade later, Ellie Latta (sixth from right in photo below) was following in her mother’s footsteps as a founding member of Hephzibah’s newly launched **Western Junior Auxiliary Board**—a group of west suburban high school students with big hearts and a desire to help Hephzibah’s kids.

Not surprisingly, many of the teens in the group are “second-generation” Westies whose mothers are long-standing members of Hephzibah’s senior Western Auxiliary Board.

“Our kids grew up with Hephzibah in their lives and they missed helping out at Hephzibah Home,” explains Penny Latta, the force behind the formation of the junior board. “We felt that a junior board would be a great way to keep them engaged and get their friends involved.”

The Western Junior Auxiliary Board was formally

launched in October 2019 with 20 members and a mission to raise funds and awareness while enriching the lives of the children at Hephzibah Home with special events and activities.

Although the pandemic preempted in-person activities with the kids last year, our Junior Westies still managed to raise some awareness and have some fun. In December, they decorated a Brookfield Zoo Christmas tree with Hephzibah-themed ornaments, brought holiday cheer to Hephzibah Home with a dazzling array of front-yard decorations and hosted a virtual Valentine’s Day Bingo Night for the children.

“At Hephzibah, we are always grateful for young people who have a heart for service and philanthropy,” says Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets. **“We are thrilled to have a new generation of Westies on board!”** ❤️





**Children playing at Hephzibah Home during the 1930s and 1940s, a time of war and economic hardship, when Anna Marshall Kushel was an Oak Park resident. We think Anna would have been gratified to know that the bequest she established more than 60 years ago helped children and families in crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic—just when they needed her most.**

## A Final Act of Friendship

**A**nnie Marshall Kushel (1876–1957) lived in Oak Park during the Great Depression and WWII, when Hephzibah served as a safe haven for children whose parents could no longer afford to care for them or were off at war. She and her husband, Frank (a founding member of the Oak Park Country Club), were active in the community and cared deeply about the welfare of children.

By the time **Michael** (a benefactor who preferred to remain anonymous) became a friend and supporter decades later, times had changed—and Hephzibah had evolved into a full-service child care and child welfare organization meeting the needs of more than 1,000 children and their families each year.

These two good Samaritans lived in different eras but **shared a common impulse: the desire to help children and families weather life's storms and thrive.**

They achieved this goal by designating Hephzibah Children's Association as the beneficiary of **generous bequests** in their estate plans. Hephzibah has been receiving quarterly income from the **Anna Marshall Kushel Trust** since the trust's establishment in 1957. Last year, Hephzibah received a final distribution of \$230,000 from Anna's trust, as well as a \$71,500 planned gift from Michael's estate.

We are deeply grateful to these friends of Hephzibah for extending their support beyond their lifetimes—and for helping children and families during the pandemic through their **thoughtful planned giving.**

## Guardian Angels for Families in Need

**T**HIRTY-SIX YEARS AGO, an **anonymous donor** raised in a low-income, single-parent household joined forces with several friends to **help single-parent families in need.** Every year since then, these generous supporters have quietly donated \$6,000 to Hephzibah with one simple request: use it to help struggling single parents with children enrolled in Hephzibah's Day Care program.

In years past, our **Oak Park Auxiliary Board** has teamed up to carry out this request, hitting the stores together to “angel shop” for scores of families before their children headed back to school in the fall and again as the holidays approached.

But in December 2020, with COVID cases rising and vaccines still on the horizon, group outings weren't an option. Undeterred, former Oak Park Auxiliary Board President and **Lead Angel Shopper Dannyel Kafer** masked up and made her way to the mall for a solo shopping trip. Hours later, she emerged with full winter wardrobes for 21 children—including coats, boots, dress outfits, jeans, sweatpants, sweaters, t-shirts and even socks and shoes.

Holiday shopping for one child while wearing a sweaty face mask is enough to send most of us into a state of meltdown. But, for Kafer, the shopping trip had a deeper meaning.

“As a single mom, I am very conscious of the challenges that single-parent families face,” she confides. “The support provided by our **anonymous guardian angel donors** is so important to these families—and it felt very special and exciting to be a part of it all.” ♥



**Auxiliary angel:** Oak Park Auxiliary Board 2020–21 President **Dave Wick** delivered full winter wardrobes for 21 children to low-income, single-parent Hephzibah Day Care families in December 2020—just in time to brighten the first holiday season of the pandemic.

Community



2021 Virtual Heart of Gold Ball

# At Home Together

HUNDREDS OF HEPHZIBAH FANS hunkered down at home in March 2021 for a night of fun and fundraising during our **first-ever virtual Heart of Gold Ball.**

We kicked off the March 6 festivities with a virtual happy hour as 150 guests socialized and “table hopped” on the interactive online event platform, REMO, before the main event: a live-streamed evening of entertainment, videos, award presentations, games and auctions, with a live-chat option that kept guests engaged all night long.

During the evening, Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets honored **Mary and Bill DiSomma** with the **Heart of Gold Award** for generously funding renovation projects at Hephzibah Home and supporting our mission with proceeds from the sale of Mary’s cookbook, *A Gift of Cookies*. The **Durpetti Family**, owners of Gene & Georgetti restaurant, received the **Heart of the Home Award** for their decades-long support, including weekly meal deliveries to nourish and comfort the children and staff at Hephzibah Home during the pandemic.

Although admission was free, our benefactors found **new and heartwarming ways to give**, from the guests who donated their usual \$250 per-person ticket fees and

the sponsors who donated the equivalent of their previous table fees to the anonymous benefactor who matched every dollar donated during our paddle raise with two dollars, effectively tripling the amount of each gift.

## \$285,000

Amount raised from hundreds of **sponsors and friends** during *At Home Together*, the first virtual Heart of Gold Ball in Hephzibah history

Our coverage of this inspiring evening would not be complete without a heartfelt thank-you to our amazing **Heart of Gold Ball Committee Chair Kathy Malpede** and committee members **Emily Carroll, Cara Kinna, Brenda Knapp** and **Sarah Roberts**, who worked overtime to help us reimagine our biggest fundraiser as a virtual event, secure auction items and seek out sponsors and guests.

Thank you all for rallying to support the children and families we serve. We hope to see you in person next year! ❤️





## Online Olympians

SIX DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS, 45 intrepid online Olympians competed in holiday-themed games during the Chicago Auxiliary Board's **Virtual Winter Olympics**, racing against time to build the tallest virtual snowman, name holiday songs, answer trivia questions and compete in rounds of heads or tails. This fast-paced evening of friendly competition raised \$2,600 in event and raffle-ticket sales, sponsorships and donations, which was matched by two generous anonymous donors for a total of \$5,200. We are grateful to our **Chicago Auxiliary Board**, our winter Olympians and event sponsors Lexus Central Area, Barbara McLaughlin and Daniel Saldana for their generous support!



## Hoofing and Woofing it for Hephzibah

THERE WERE A LOT OF PANDEMIC PUPPIES panting for Hephzibah's kids during the **Western Auxiliary Board's 2021 Hoof it for Hephzibah 5K Run/Walk**.

For the second year in a row, the event was held virtually as 116 friends and supporters hoofed it however and whenever the spirit moved them during the Memorial Day weekend. Some sprinted the distance, others leashed up their dogs for a leisurely stroll and some cycled, while others "hopped it for Hephzibah" on backyard trampolines.

Throughout the weekend, participants posted photos on social media with the hashtag #howihooft to show how they completed the event. Many thanks to our two- and four-legged friends for hoofing it and woofing it for Hephzibah's kids!

**\$10,860**

Amount raised during our **Western Auxiliary Board's 21st annual Hoof it for Hephzibah 5K Run/Walk**



## Alfresco Fundraising

AFTER A LONG YEAR OF VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS, our **Chicago Auxiliary Board** hosted its last meeting of the year and its first in-person event since the pandemic hit: an outdoor patio party at the laid-back Logan Square wine bar, **Easy Does It**. The alfresco event, which raised \$600 from beverage and raffle-ticket sales, is proof that chilling out and raising money for a good cause are not mutually exclusive!

## Holiday Tunes for Trivia Buffs

AS OUR FIRST COVID CHRISTMAS approached, the **Western Auxiliary Board** brightened the socially distanced lives of 51 music trivia buffs with its first "**Name That Jingle**" virtual holiday music trivia contest. Logging in from the comfort of their homes, players competed in holiday-themed outfits, ugly sweaters, silly hats and pajamas. The lighthearted YouTube Live event, hosted by a fun-loving "Westie" and her husband, raised \$2,100 to support programs and services for the children and families we serve.





“You never know **how strong you are** until being strong is your only choice.”

**Bob Marley**, Jamaican singer, songwriter and musician

# Thank you for keeping us “Hephzibah Strong” with your generous support!

## Gifts

### \$100,000 and above

Anonymous  
Foster's Outriders  
Anna Marshall Kushel Trust

### \$50,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous  
NOW Health Group, Inc.  
Sylvia Ziontz Foundation

### \$20,000 to \$49,999

Kathy and Vincent Ambrosino  
Chicago White Sox Community Fund,  
a fund of McCormick Foundation  
CME Group  
Maria Garvy and William Keffer  
Ken and Patty Hunt  
Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat  
Fund of the Oak Park-River  
Forest Community Foundation  
Jackson National Life Insurance  
Company  
John F. Smiekel Foundation  
McDonald's Corporation  
Oak Park River Forest Community  
Foundation  
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
Diane and Perry Pero  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
Westlake Health Foundation  
Bette and Craig Williams  
Janson and Tania Zubkus

### \$10,000 to \$19,999

Paul and Sherry Carbery  
Christopher L. and M. Susan Gust  
Foundation  
CIBC  
Claro Healthcare  
Amy and Timothy Davis  
Lisa and Shaun Emerson  
Christine and Mark Fisher  
Good Heart, Work Smart  
Foundation  
Kathleen and Michael Haupers  
Helen Brach Foundation  
Marvin and Kaye Lichtman  
Foundation  
Joshua and Meghann Moses  
Juli and Rich Niemann  
Gary and Zena Paice  
Peninsula Chicago Hotel  
Retail Properties of America  
The Sweet Water Foundation  
Ticket to Dream Foundation

### \$5,000 to \$9,999

Gilmary and Paul Andrews  
Anonymous  
Alfred and Donna Bianucci  
Bruning Foundation

Pauline Caldwell  
Chicago Association of Realtors  
Foundation  
John Davis and Juana Morales  
Christine DiFrancesco  
George M. Eisenberg Foundation  
for Charities  
Goldman Sachs  
Matching Gift Program  
Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club  
Jerry and Susan Latta  
James and Kathy Malpede  
Sheldon Mandell  
Mary Lou Downs Foundation  
Kathy and Lou McKeever  
Nordstrom  
Dave and Lynde O'Brien  
Patricia K. O'Shea and  
Frank V. Tannura  
Jesse Rosas and Merry Beth Sheets  
Byron and Parle Taylor  
Trine Tsouderos and Jon Yates  
Heather Turk  
Kristina and Patrick Woodward

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

ADJLM Foundation  
James Allen  
Alex Anderson and Anne Hennessy  
Anonymous  
James Archambault  
Anthony and Lisa Azu-Popov  
Brightly and Mack Babcock  
Baird & Warner  
Good Will Network Fund  
Dan and Spencer Baker  
Jackie Barlow  
Michelle and Theodore Barnes  
Leslie Berns and Steve Kiger  
Patricia and William Black  
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*In Memory of Rose Williams to benefit the Rose Virginia Williams Music Enrichment Fund*  
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Jane Tobin  
Martha Williams

*In Memory of Elaine Helen Yapelli*  
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Gayatri Chinubhai



## In-kind Gifts

Hephzibah would like to thank all of the individuals, businesses and organizations that provided in-kind gifts in FY 2020–21. Your generosity, compassion and commitment played a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission. Thank you for your support!

& then there was well  
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Pauline and Scott Zelkin  
Matt Zoko  
Jason and Tania 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 stock images 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.*



James Allen  
Kathy and Vincent Ambrosino  
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Jon Yates and Trine Tsouderos  
Juliet and Rocky Yera  
Christine Zielinski  
Jason and Tania Zubkus

# Financial Statement

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021\*\*\*

## Revenues

Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributions and Grants	\$ 2,604,705
Fees and Grants:	
State Government Agencies*	\$ 8,507,239
Local Government Agencies	\$ 371,666
Other Revenue:	
Program Service Fees and Grants	\$ 761,574
Investment and Other Income*	\$ 659,655
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 12,904,839</b>

## Expenses

Programs	\$ 9,922,211
Administration	\$ 1,276,814
Fundraising and Development	\$ 709,712
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 11,908,737</b>
Increase in Net Assets	
Due to Operations **	\$ 996,102
Total Increase in Net Assets	\$ 1,499,805
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 11,173,518

\* Includes a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness in the amount of \$1,164,390

\*\* Excludes unrealized gain on investments and change in beneficial interests of \$503,703

\*\*\* The financials included in this report are unaudited. Audited financials will be published on our website in early 2022.

## Grants Awarded

ADJLM Foundation  
Anonymous  
Bruning Foundation  
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 Mental Health Board of Oak Park  
Ecolab Foundation  
Future Philanthropists 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  
Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club  
Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat Fund of the Oak Park River Forest  
Community Foundation  
Illinois Public Health Institute  
Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation  
Jackson National Insurance Company  
Jocarno Fund  
John F. Smiekel Foundation  
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Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
Sidley Austin Foundation  
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  
Westlake Health Foundation



PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

## Making E-Learning Possible at Hephzibah Home

**Maria Garvy, Diane and Perry Pero** and the **Sylvia Ziontz Foundation** helped transform Hephzibah Home into an e-learning academy in 2020–21 with their generous **combined gifts of \$80,000 to support internet and technology upgrades, program supplies and additional staffing expenses**. We are grateful for their thoughtful philanthropy, which enabled the children at Hephzibah Home to stay connected to their teachers and continue their education during the COVID-19 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 Council on Accreditation (COA).

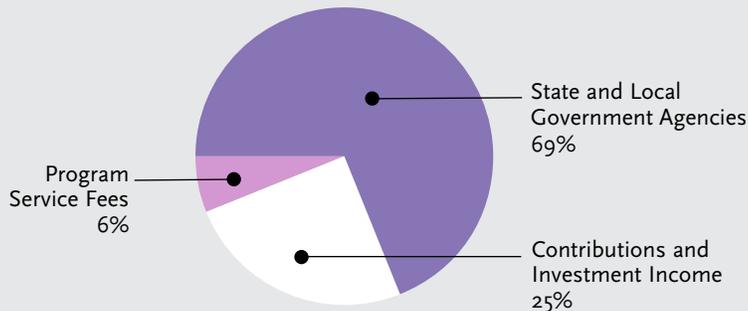
### Licensing

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

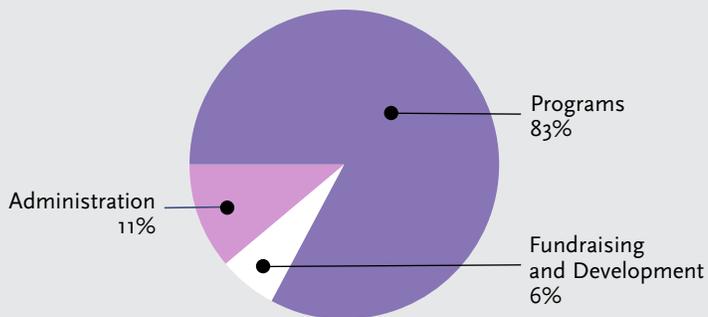
### Funding

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

### Sources of Funding



### Distribution of Revenues



### Distribution of Revenues Allocated to Programs



# The People Behind Hephzibah

July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021

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*Children's Interactions*

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Avery Potts

Kara Potts

Audrey Sawyer

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*Chief Operating Officer*

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*Director of Family Based Services*

Mary Jane Joyce  
*Director of Human Resources*

Amy O'Rourke  
*Director of Day Care*

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](http://www.hephzibahhome.org)



**group homes • foster care • family services • day care**