

2021-2022

Annual Report



125
1897-2022



hephzibah
always here

helping children thrive and families flourish since 1897



the Hephzibah Children's Home



OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 1905.

growth



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Dear Friends,

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT 125 YEARS HAVE PASSED since our founder, Mary Wessels, opened her Oak Park home to two orphaned boys in need.

As we reflect on Hephzibah's history since that founding day in 1897, one overarching theme stands out: Every safe haven that we provided and every pioneering program that we developed was **a direct response to an urgent need**—in the world, in our state and in our community.

You may not know, for example, that Hephzibah provided temporary shelter for the children of military families during World War I and World War II. Or that Hephzibah Home was once a refuge for children whose impoverished parents could no longer afford to care for them during the Great Depression.

As society continued to change, so did Hephzibah. When more women entered the workforce in the 1970s, Hephzibah established the first day care program in Oak Park to provide peace of mind for working parents. At the dawn of the AIDS crisis, our foster families courageously stepped forward to care for HIV-positive babies—braving the fear and stigma that was rampant at the time to nurture and protect the smallest and most vulnerable victims of the epidemic. In the 1980s, Hephzibah bucked tradition once again by becoming one of the first agencies to license same-sex foster parents.

When COVID hit in 2020, we adapted with lightning speed. Our Day Care team developed a **full-day program of e-learning support and supervision** for the children of working parents in just two weeks after the local school district made the decision to shift to remote learning—and our Intact Family Services staff helped some of Illinois' most fragile families **safely navigate the most dangerous phase of the pandemic** by offering more support and services than ever before.

Through two world wars, economic disasters, deadly pandemics and more than a century of social change—Hephzibah has not only endured, but met the changing needs of children and families with **creativity, flexibility and innovation**. We think Mary Wessels would be proud!

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OUR TRADITION of **growth and transformation** continued in 2021–2022. One of the most visible signs of transformation was the renovation of Hephzibah Home, which needed major repairs and upgrades after sheltering more than 21,000 children over the course of nine eventful decades. The renovation, which was completed in late Summer 2022, will enable us



Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director



Mary Wessels, circa 1897

Always here to meet the changing needs of children and families:

We're celebrating our 125th anniversary by taking a look backwards at Hephzibah's evolution from a home for orphaned children in the late 1800s to the multifaceted agency that it is today. To find out more about our history, look for the **Always Here** highlights and photos throughout this report.



sformation



1,187

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

to continue to provide a **safe and welcoming haven** for young survivors of neglect and abuse in the years to come—and make new programs and therapies possible so that these severely traumatized children can heal and move on to enjoy happy, healthy lives. Find out more about our renovation project on page 4—and turn to page 11 to learn the poignant story behind the memorial sculpture in our front yard.

While we rehabbed Hephzibah Home, we continued to help children thrive and families flourish with **innovative programs and therapies**.

In anticipation of the opening of our **new gross-motor-therapy room** on the first floor of Hephzibah Home, we laid the groundwork for the launch of our new **Sensory Motor Arousal**

Regulation Treatment (SMART) program. Our therapists are currently completing intensive training in this innovative treatment for children who have experienced complex trauma—and they will soon be using SMART therapy to help the young residents of Hephzibah Home process their trauma through the use of sensory equipment and physical play.

Many neglected and abused children are not only traumatized, but malnourished when they arrive at Hephzibah Home—and most have not been exposed to healthy foods and eating patterns. To prepare them for a future of vibrant physical health and well-being, we partnered with the Illinois Public Health Institute to launch a **Healthy Eating Initiative**. The children engaged with food and eating in new ways as they learned how to make healthy food choices, harvested vegetables that they grew themselves through our **Garden Therapy Program** and collaborated with Chef Joe at Hephzibah Home to plan and cook healthy, delicious meals. It is farm-to-table eating at its finest—and the children love it!

We also restarted vital programs that had been interrupted by the pandemic. After a two-year hiatus, **Camp HepSIBah** was once again the site of joyful family reunions as brothers and sisters living in separate group, foster or adoptive homes enjoyed a rare week of togetherness at a remote woodland retreat in Wisconsin. **Hephzibah Summer Day Camp** was also back in full swing with the return of field trips, pool days and Play Shops.

We relaunched our **Youth Advisory Board** to give foster teens an opportunity to develop leadership skills, restarted our **Breakfast Club** to give foster parents a forum for the exchange of ideas and welcomed back our **Heartmate** mentors and **Huskie Helpers** high school volunteers.

Behind the scenes, we were building on Hephzibah's core values of **diversity, equity and inclusion** as we moved forward with a multifaceted DEI Initiative. Our staff and board members focused on strengthening the organization from top to bottom to ensure an inclusive and welcoming environment for every child and family we serve; our board and leadership invested in trainings, retreats and seminars; and our **DEI Committee** moved forward with the



108

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



Keeping families strong: During the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hephzibah's **Intact Family Services program** helped strengthen and support 213 families and 507 children in need.

development of Hephzibah's first equity plan, which will help us build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace in the years to come.

As we celebrated 125 years of helping children and families, we also celebrated some happy endings. We gave 24 children the gift of permanence by creating forever families for 19 Hephzibah foster children through adoption or guardianship and reuniting five children with their biological families. This was **one of the highest permanency rates in the history of our foster care program**, far exceeding the state-established benchmark for permanencies.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our benefactors and friends. We are deeply grateful to the **Village of Oak Park** for granting us \$525,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to offset our pandemic-related expenses and revenue losses, to **Senator Harmon** for securing state grants to support the renovation of Hephzibah Home and help us meet increased Day Care Program costs, to the **generous sponsors and guests** who rallied to make our **2022 Heart of Gold Ball** Hephzibah's most successful fundraiser of all time and to the **caring community** that helped us raise more money than ever before in the 125-year history of Hephzibah. We couldn't have done it without you!

2,148

Number of **benefactors** who gave generously to support our mission

Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director

Lisa Emerson
Board President

Feels Like Ho

**Home isn't
where you're
from; it's where
you find light
when all grows
dark.**

These words by writer Pierce Brown greet residents and visitors in Hephzibah's newly renovated first-floor reception area

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT HOME IS THE PLACE WHERE YOUR HEART RESIDES. This is true for many former residents of Hephzibah Home, who landed on our doorstep during the darkest of times but remember Hephzibah as **a place where healing happens and hope blossoms.**

The two-story Georgian-style building in Oak Park will always hold a special place in the heart of former resident Brian Fruits—who was one of the first to arrive at an **Open House in September 2022** for the “grand reveal” of his recently renovated childhood home.

The renovation was long overdue. Hephzibah Home had weathered more than nine decades and sheltered generations of children since



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construction workers put the finishing touches on the brick edifice in 1929. Benefactors had funded updates over the years, but the first floor hadn't changed much—and **needed a major reconfiguration and renovation to meet the needs of children and families in the 21st century.**

With generous funding from foundations and friends, Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets and her team shepherded the renovation project from concept through completion—collaborating with architects, designers and work crews to maximize available space and improve traffic flow; install a high-tech security system; update the children's dining room and atrium; renovate the reception area; and build new gross-motor therapy and family visitation rooms.

Fruits admits to being a bit apprehensive as he toured the transformed space. "Coming back to see the renovation, I had a fear that it would be too different, that it had been changed too much," he confides. "But it still feels like home to me. It's a lovely space and the kids deserve it. I am grateful to everyone who helped make this project possible!"



Hephzibah Home, circa 1992

Always here for children

in need: More than 21,000 children have found a safe haven at Hephzibah Home—from orphans in the early 1900s to children whose parents could no longer afford to care for them during the Great Depression to young survivors of neglect and abuse. Although the circumstances that brought them here differ, nearly all remember their stay as a time of hope and healing.



The grand reveal!

At an open house sponsored by **Oak Park Bank** in September 2022, more than 200 community members—including **D.M. Burton**, president of the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce—toured our transformed space, which included a renovated lobby and reception area, a cheerful dining room decorated with whimsical wall art, a new gross-motor therapy room and cozy visitation rooms where residents can reconnect with family members.



Healing with art

Former Hephzibah board president **Kenna McKinnon** (far left) and (l-r) Hephzibah Executive Director **Merry Beth Sheets**, artist **Margot McMahon** and former Hephzibah board member **Jeanne Gallo** at the unveiling of *Forms of Nature*, an outdoor sculpture created by McMahon to honor the memory of former Hephzibah board member **Leslie Jones** and her husband, **Tom Johnson**.



A shared commitment to children and families

Retired Hephzibah executive director **Mary Anne Brown** with Illinois Senate President **Don Harmon**, who helped secure a renovation grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. We are grateful to Senator Harmon and the State of Illinois—as well as the Hinsdale Junior Women's Club, the Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat Fund, the Sylvia Zientz Foundation and two anonymous foundations for making this project possible!



A Hephzibah homecoming

Former Hephzibah Home resident Brian Fruits (right) tries out the equipment in a new **gross-motor therapy room** where the children will benefit from an innovative therapy that uses movement, rhythm and physical play to help them heal from complex trauma. The room was partially funded by the **Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat Fund** in memory of Hunter, who loved being active.

Bringing Siblings

“To the outside world, we all grow old. But not to brothers and sisters. We know each other as we always were. We know each other’s hearts. We live outside the touch of time.”

CLARA LUZ ZÚÑIGA ORTEGA
Spanish author

THE VIEW OF LAKE KEESUS ON THIS WARM SUMMER DAY WAS SPECTACULAR. But Jonah—a middle schooler more at home on the streets of Chicago than at this rustic Wisconsin summer camp—was too preoccupied with the perils of canoeing to notice. He was convinced that the minute he climbed into that aluminum canoe bobbing gently next to the dock, it would tip over and dump him into the lake, where he would sink like a stone.

One of the older campers, who was working as a junior counselor to learn leadership skills while earning a \$200 stipend, picked up on

Separated by circumstance, connected by love: Each year, **Camp HepSIBah helps keep sibling bonds strong** by giving brothers and sisters separated by the child welfare system an opportunity to reconnect, share outdoor adventures and create positive memories that they will cherish in the years to come.



Together

75%

The percentage of **children in foster care with at least one sibling who is also in care**. More than 65 percent of these siblings will be separated at some point.

returned to shore, exhilarated and empowered.

“I did it!” Jonah shouted to his eight-year-old sister, who was still out on the water canoeing. “I can’t believe I actually did it!”

We hear those words a lot at Camp HepSIBah—because it’s more than a sibling camp experience where brothers and sisters living in different group, foster or adoptive homes can share some rare moments of togetherness. It’s also an **opportunity for traumatized children to slow down and experience the**

Jonah’s distress and walked over to help. Although she, too, was afraid of the water—and had planned to avoid all water sports during the four-day camp session—she suggested to Jonah that they face their fears together. After an uneventful launch and paddle around the lake, they

healing rhythms of nature while expanding their horizons, tackling new challenges, gaining social-emotional skills and becoming more responsible, resilient and self-reliant.

“Camp HepSIBah creates a feeling of connection and continuity for these children who have lost so much,” says Hephzibah Family Based Services Director Julie Dvorsky. “Just as important, sibling camp allows them to just be kids—unencumbered by their past traumas—and enjoy a summer camp experience that should be a part of every childhood.”

After two years of pandemic isolation, our July 2022 campers—23 children from 9 sibling groups—were more than ready for four days of fun and fellowship.

“Kids in foster care often experience more isolation and more fractured relationships, so it was wonderful to see these **siblings connect deeply with one another and put their worries and fears aside** for a few days,” notes Foster Parent Recruitment and Support Specialist Nancy Silver. “For many of these children, Camp HepSIBah is the highlight of the summer and an experience that they will talk about for years to come.”



Testing the waters: Buoyed up by the reassuring presence of a junior counselor, a camper conquers his fear of canoeing and paddles around the lake at Camp HepSIBah in July 2022.



Hephzibah sibling camp, circa 2004

Always here to strengthen family bonds: For nearly two decades, Hephzibah has reunited siblings living in different group, foster or adoptive homes for a week of summer fun at **Camp HepSIBah**. More than 1,000 children have reconnected with their brothers and sisters at Camp HepSIBah since its founding in 2003.



The Joys of Summer

“**The Harry Potter Play Shop and the Glow-in-the-Dark room were awesome!**”

— A Summer Hephzibah Day Care parent

“BEST SUMMER EVER!” THAT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF SCORES OF OAK PARK WORKING PARENTS in August 2022 as Hephzibah’s summer day camp drew to a close. The responses to our parent survey were peppered with superlatives, expressions of gratitude and a generous helping of exclamation points.

“Our daughter loved the varied activities and seemed to be both enjoying and learning a lot in the Play Shops,” wrote one parent. “Knitting and cooking were huge hits. So many things that she loves!”

The relative freedom and **unfettered outdoor fun** after two years of pandemic life sparked joy in everyone—children, camp counselors and day care administrators alike.

We resumed our ever-popular Play Shops—which ranged from cooking and cartooning to flag football and engineering—as well as trips to the local pool. **Field trips**, a perennial favorite, were also back. Once a week,



“**My daughter adored the staff and hanging out with new**

summer

230

Number of children who enjoyed a summer of enrichment, social-emotional growth, fun and friendship at **Summer Hephzibah day camp** in 2022

the children boarded yellow school buses and headed for destinations that ranged from laser tag arenas and roller rinks to Brookfield Zoo and the DuPage County Fair.

Some activities designed to provide fun and enrichment during the early phases of the pandemic, such as our **special-interest rooms**, were back by popular demand.

“We enhanced our **Hephzibah Cafe**, where kids could use imaginative play to create menus, take orders and prepare food for their customers,” says Hephzibah Day Care Director Amy O’Rourke. “We also created a new **glow-in-the-dark room** with a black light and glow-in-the-dark Hot Wheels cars and tracks, as well as glow-in-the-dark arts and crafts supplies.”

Overall, says O’Rourke, there was a more relaxed vibe to the summer. “We all got to focus on **building happy summer memories in a less structured, more free-flowing environment**—and enjoy the return of some time-honored Summer Hephzibah camp traditions such as singing songs on the bus!”



Hephzibah Day Care, circa 1975

Always here to provide peace of mind for working parents:

In 1974, when more women began to enter the workforce, Hephzibah launched a small day care program for 20 children.

As the need for affordable day care grew, Hephzibah partnered with the Oak Park school district to provide day care on site at every Oak Park elementary school and one summer camp location.



friends. When I arrive to pick her up, she doesn't want to leave!

— Parent of a Summer Hephzibah day camper

Community

FROM THE CORPORATE PARTNERS who treated our kids to a day at the ballpark to the army of Secret Santas who purchased thousands of toys from our holiday wish lists, **a caring community went out of its way to make life better** for the children and families we served. You'll find highlights from a year of generosity and giving below—and a complete list of in-kind gifts and services in our online annual report.



Fitness @ The Park

Fit Philanthropists

There's nothing like a good workout for a good cause! In October 2021, **Fitness @ The Park**—founded in 2020 to create community and unity during the pandemic by raising funds for nonprofits in need—partnered with our **Chicago Auxiliary Board** to host an outdoor workout benefiting Hephzibah's kids.

The Resale Squad

In Spring 2022, a dedicated squad of volunteers took on the gargantuan task of sorting, tagging and selling thousands of children's clothing items for

our **Hephzibah Kids Resale Event**, which netted \$9,000 to support Camp HepSIBah.

Making Wishes Come True

Bank of America supported Hephzibah with generous contributions and purchased hundreds of items from our wish list for the children in our care. In an endearingly personal touch, an enthusiastic crew of Bank of America



Bank of America Wish Granters

employees delivered the wish list items directly to our door.



Strategex Baseball Benefit

A Day at the Ballpark

In August, our new corporate partner, **Strategex**, organized a benefit for Hephzibah at Impact Field, home of **The Chicago Dogs** minor league baseball team. Strategex also treated the children at Hephzibah Home to complimentary tickets to the game, as well as free hot dogs, drinks and snacks. Proceeds from ticket sales, a raffle and online donations, which were matched by Strategex, came to just over \$17,000.

The Gift of Buoyancy

Many of the children at Hephzibah Home don't know how to swim, so the **River Forest Tennis Club** donated private swim lessons to teach them water safety and basic



River Forest Tennis Club

swim strokes. The lessons were partially funded in memory of **Hunter Quigley Coe**, who loved aquatic activities and served as a lifeguard at the club.

Halloween Fun and Holiday Magic

The Paramount Group decorated Hephzibah Home's backyard for Halloween, donated holiday toys, raised more than \$15,000 to support our mission and purchased gifts, gift-wrapping supplies



Kids Resale Volunteers

Harnessing the Healing Power of Art



Paramount's Spooky Surprise

and grocery store gift cards for struggling families.

Delivering Christmas Cheer

A generous community of supporters made the holidays especially bright for the children and families we served. Secret Santas purchased every item on



Suited up for Santa Duty

our Amazon holiday wish list. Corporations and foundations—including **Astellas Pharma Inc, ComEd, James Instruments, The Paramount Group, RPAI/ Kite Realty** and the **Ticket to Dream Foundation**—sponsored gift drives and delivered or funded holiday gifts. Big-hearted business owners, families and community groups feasted and fêted the children at Hephzibah Home throughout the season with scrumptious meals and festive parties. **Thank you for lighting up the lives of children and families in need with your incandescent holiday spirit!**

THE THREE 10-foot-high sections of **Forms of Nature**, which greet residents and visitors as they approach Hephzibah Home, symbolize the Oak Park community:

the arboretum, human life and animal life—and the interconnectedness of these life forms. But to the three friends who brought us *Forms of Nature*, it means so much more.

The story behind the sculpture is one of loss and healing. It began with a conversation between former Hephzibah board president **Kenna MacKinnon**, former board member **Jeanne Gallo** and artist **Margo McMahon**, who were discussing ways to honor the memory of longtime Hephzibah board member Leslie Ann Jones and her husband, Tom Johnson.

Leslie and Tom were passionate about children and art, so the women decided to honor the couple's many contributions to Hephzibah and the community with the **Art Heals Memorial Fund**.

Launched in 2021 with generous contributions from colleagues and friends, the fund covered the cost of the sculpture that now stands as a tribute to two brilliant and beloved humanitarians and community leaders. It will also provide **ongoing support for art therapy** to help the children at Hephzibah Home heal from the trauma of severe neglect and abuse.

"At the top of the sculpture, there are two birds in flight," noted McMahon as she put the finishing touches on the sculpture in advance of its unveiling in September 2022. "To me—that's Tom and Leslie."



The community members behind the Art Heals Memorial Fund (l-r): Oak Park artist Margot McMahon, former Hephzibah board president Kenna MacKinnon and former board member Jeanne Gallo



Photo by Alex Rogals, Wednesday Journal of Oak Park and River Forest



Photo by Margot McMahon

ABOVE LEFT: Gallo and McMahon discuss **Forms of Nature**—a public sculpture created to honor the memory of former Hephzibah board member Leslie Ann Jones and her husband, Tom Johnson. ABOVE RIGHT: The finished sculpture, prior to its installation at Hephzibah Home

Philanthropy

“What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.”

—ARISTOTLE



Strikes or Gutterballs, It's All for the Kids

After a two-year pandemic hiatus, the **Chicago Auxiliary Board** resurrected its popular **Care and Spare** event at the Timber Lane Bowling Alley in March 2022. More than 50 young urban professionals attended the emceed event, which raised \$3,754 from ticket sales and raffle packages while spreading the word about Hephzibah's mission to new audiences.

The Runners are Back!

As the sun rose over Glen Ellyn on Memorial Day 2022, local residents witnessed a welcome sight: hundreds of fitness buffs returning to Newton Park to participate in the **Western Auxiliary Board's Hoof It for Hephzibah** 5K Run/Walk. More than 260 runners and walkers of all ages hoofed it through Glen Ellyn, raising \$14,850 for Hephzibah's kids while reveling in the company of their fellow runners and walkers for the first time since Memorial Day 2019.

\$60,209

Total amount raised by our Chicago, Oak Park and Western auxiliaries in 2021–2022

Rocking for a Cause

Sixty-five rock fans gathered at the Alter Brewery in Downers Grove to listen to live music and raise a glass for Camp HepSIBah at **Rock "N" Roll for Your Heart & Soul**. Hosted by the **Western Auxiliary Board**, the April 2022 event raised \$23,780 to help cover the cost of Hephzibah's annual sibling camp, including backpacks filled with sunscreen, bug spray, towels, toiletries, flashlights, cameras and photo albums for every camper.

Namasté on a Summer Evening

Seventeen gentle souls gathered for the **Oak Park Auxiliary Board's** new **yoga and wine-tasting event** in July 2021. Held at the home of Oak Park Auxiliary Vice President Dorota Szerszenowicz-Olweny, the evening—which included a backyard yoga session, a breathing exercise, a wine-tasting and a light dinner—raised nearly \$2,000 while offering a relaxing respite from daily life. The event was so well-received that the board plans to host it again in Summer 2023.



Our Most Electrifying Heart of Gold Ball Ever!

NEARLY 300 HEPHZIBAH SUPPORTERS tossed aside their pandemic sweatpants, broke out their party clothes and streamed into the Bridgeport Art Center's Skyline Loft on March 5 to help us **celebrate 125 years of helping children thrive and families flourish** at our 2022 Heart of Gold Ball.

During the festivities, Hephzibah Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets presented **Heart of Gold Awards** to **Ken and Patty Hunt**—who have strengthened and sustained many essential organizations, including Hephzibah, with their generous support—and **Illinois Senate President Don Harmon**, who directed critically needed emergency funding to Hephzibah and other organizations serving vulnerable populations during the pandemic. Sheets also recognized Hephzibah Home residential counselor **Peter Murphy** and Day Care Assistant Director **Melissa Smith** for 25 years of dedicated service to children and families.

In a touching tribute to a former Hephzibah Home resident who rose above early adversity to become a devoted husband and father and build a distinguished academic career, Sheets honored **Keith Elkins** with the first-ever **Hephzibah Hero Award**. Elkins, who turned 91 this fall, was unable to travel from New York to accept the award, but noted in a pre-recorded video that he remembers his years at Hephzibah Home

\$646,534

Amount raised at our **record-breaking Heart of Gold Ball**, the most successful fundraiser in Hephzibah's history



We are grateful to **Heart of Gold Ball Committee Chair Kenna MacKinnon** (fourth from left) and her committee members for their gifts of time and talent as **the creative forces behind Flourish**, our 2022 Heart of Gold Ball.

from 1935 to 1938 as the happiest of his childhood.

The evening also took some unexpected turns. **Ken and Patty Hunt** made a surprise announcement that they would match every donation to Hephzibah dollar for dollar up to \$250,000 with a **generous challenge grant**. Moved by the Hunts' benevolent gesture, everyone in the room responded with cheers of gratitude and applause.

Later, as guests danced during the after party, lightning struck the building and knocked out the power in an **electrifying surprise ending**. The blackout didn't dampen the exuberant mood, however, and the dancing continued under the light of the moon!



LEFT TO RIGHT: Illinois Senate President **Don Harmon** with Executive Director Merry Beth Sheets and Board President Lisa Emerson after receiving his Heart of Gold Award; guests let loose on the dance floor; Heart of Gold Award recipients **Ken and Patty Hunt** elicit cheers from the crowd as they announce their \$250,000 matching-gift challenge; **Board President Lisa Emerson** (standing, far left) and her guests during the live auction



For 125 years, a **caring community** of friends, foundations, organizations and corporations has made our mission possible. Thank you for **continuing the tradition!**

thank you

Gifts

\$100,000 and above

Anonymous
Ken and Patty Hunt

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Sylvia Ziontz Foundation

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Kathy and Vincent Ambrosino
Paul and Sherry Carbery
Maria Garvy and William Keffer
Hunter Quigley Coe Be the Boat
Fund of the Oak Park-River Forest
Community Foundation
McDonald's Corporation
NOW Health Group, Inc.
Oak Park River Forest Community
Foundation
Ticket To Dream Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Westlake Health Foundation
Bette and Craig Williams

\$10,000 to \$19,999

The A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
Anonymous
Akilah and Jason Brown
Christopher L. and M. Susan Gust
Foundation
CIBC
Claro Healthcare
Lisa and Shaun Emerson
Christine and Mark Fisher
Cathy and Ron Fox
Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation
Kathleen and Michael Haupers
Helen Brach Foundation
Jackson National Life Insurance
Company
James and Kathy Malpede
Marvin and Kaye Lichtman Foundation
Mary Lou Downs Foundation
Joshua and Meghann Moses
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Dave and Lynde O'Brien
Gary and Zena Paice
Heather Turk

\$5,000 to \$9,999

American Family Insurance
Dreams Foundation
Gilmary and Paul Andrews
Anonymous
Ashley and Nick Beil
Pauline Caldwell
The Chubb Charitable Foundation
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
Kristen and Mark Coe
Amy and Timothy Davis
John Davis and Juana Morales
Christine DiFrancesco
Ecolab Foundation
Jennifer Ellis-Jackson and
Darren Jackson
EuroDev

Barb Garvey
Gene & Georgetti
George M. Eisenberg Foundation
for Charities
Cynthia and Norman Goldring
Ken and Melissa Kansa
Klaff Family Foundation
Susanne Lodgen
Sheldon Mandell
Kathy and Lou McKeever
Maggie Murzanski
Nordstrom
Patricia K. O'Shea and
Frank V. Tannura
Peninsula Chicago Hotel
Jenny and Patrick Roach
Byron and Parle Taylor
Trine Tsouderos and Jon Yates
The Ward Foundation
Anne and Robert Weber
Tracy Williams
Alain and Barbara Wood-Prince
Kristina and Patrick Woodward
Christine Zielinski

\$1,000 to \$4,999

ADJLM Foundation
Alex Anderson and Anne Hennessy
Kelley and Matthew Anderson
Anonymous
Antares Capital LP
Maria Anthony and Obi Ofoegbu
Anthony and Lisa Azu-Popow
The Babcock Law Firm, LLC
Dan and Spencer Baker
John and Vivien Barkidjia
Jackie Barlow
Patricia and William Black
Barbara Blair
Brian and Julie Boczkowski
Boyle Design Associates
Madeline Brady
Angela and Michael Brauneis
Lindsay Brehm
Brookfield Properties
Byline Bank
Iole Cappiello
Capstone Financial Advisors
Christopher and Emily Carroll
Robert and Stephanie Cavota
CME Group
Kevin and Linda Conway
Loretta and Robert Cooney
Arlene and Harvey Coustan
Amy and Stephen Crilly
Raima and Timothy Cunningham
David and Elyse Cutler
Ravi and Rupa Datta
Corina Davis
Timothy Davis
Anthony DeAngelis
Kathy and Michael Deitch
Erik and Leslie Dobos
Mark Donovan and Mary Ludgin
Audrey and Steven Dormanen
Caitlin Dreger
Dunsire Family Foundation, Inc.
Keith E. Elkins and
Kathleen Shoemaker
Euromonitor International
Daniel and Therese Farley

Amy and Thad Felton
John C. Filosa and Cathaleen Roach
First United Methodist Church
of Oak Park
Forest Park National Bank
Wendy Foster
Sara Freer
Friends of Don Harmon
for State Senate
Frances Gaik
Stephanie R. Gaines
Carolyn and Lawrence Garber
Jeff and Lisa Garling
George and Barbara Kovacs
Family Fund
Carmen and. Desdune Gilyot
Cindy and John Glavin
Patrick Golon
Google, Inc.
David Gosnell
Megan Greene
Dave and Heather Hackett
Susan Hammond and
Richard Leftwich
Harry F. Chaddick & Elaine Chaddick
Foundation, Inc.
Hazard Family Foundation
Mercedes Hennessy
Joyce and Kenneth Holmes
Julius Lloyd Horwich
Lynne and Martin Horwich
Kimberly and Mark Hoyt
Betsy Hughes-Zimblar and
Lyle Zimblar
Anthony Ianonni
John and Nancy Ide
Inspire11
IT Supplies, Inc.
Donald and Donna Jensen
Regine Jeune
Jocarno Fund
John T. and Suzanne S. Jacobus
Family Foundation
Johnson, Jones, Snelling, Gilbert &
Davis, P.C.
Donald and Jacqueline Jones
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Judy and Peter Blum Kovler
Foundation
Jodi Kastner
Joseph and Laura Keffer
Robert W. Kent and
Marian Sassetti-Kent
Kite Realty Group
Ed and Susan Klinger
Brenda and David Knapp
Karl Kochendorfer
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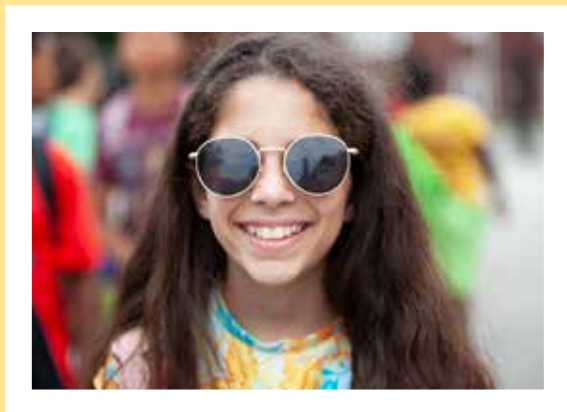


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roots & wings

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

HODDING CARTER

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Jack and Stephanie Flynn
Wendy Foster
Cathy and Ron Fox



Sara Freer
Frances Gaik
Stephanie R. Gaines
Carolyn and Lawrence Garber
Jeff and Lisa Garling
Barb Garvey
Maria Garvy and William Keffer
Carmen and. Desdune Gilyot
Cindy and John Glavin
Cynthia and Norman Goldring
Patrick Golon
David Gosnell
Emilie Green
Megan Greene
Dave and Heather Hackett
Susan Hammond and Richard Leftwich
Richard and Sue Harold
Kathleen and Michael Haupers
Mercedes Hennessy
Jessica and Jonathan Henry
Kurt Hessler
Joyce and Kenneth Holmes
Julius Lloyd Horwich
Lynne and Martin Horwich
Kimberly and Mark Hoyt
Betsy Hughes-Zimble and Lyle Zimble
Ken and Patty Hunt
Anthony Ianonni
John and Nancy Ide
Lynn, Chloe and Emily Jacobson
Donald and Donna Jensen
Regine Jeune
Donald and Jacqueline Jones
Eric and Laura Jordahl
Ken and Melissa Kansa
Mary Ann Karris
Jodi Kastner
Joseph and Laura Keffer
Robert W. Kent and Marian Sassetti-Kent
Ed and Susan Klinger
Brenda and David Knapp
Karl Kochendorfer
Steve Kohn
Elizabeth J. Kovacs
Jerry and Susan Latta
Amy and James Laurenzo
Byron Lee and Audrey Williams-Lee
Susanne Lodgen
Brian and Julie Loftus

Meg and Patrick Loughran
Gregory Macchio and Rosa Navarro
Kenna and Michael MacKinnon
Paula and Phillip Maggio
James and Kathy Malpede
Sheldon Mandell
Ann L. Masur
Daniel and Mary Matas
John T. and Maureen W. Matthews
Jeff and Sarah Mauro
Kristin M. Mayhew
Michele and Scot Mazur
Debbie and Mark McCann
John and Terri McConville
Robert McCurdy
Kathy and Lou McKeever
Tanya and Ted Meyers
Charles and Pamela Meyerson
Laura and John Milder
Anthony and Dietra Millard
Adam and Linda Miller
Bruce and Carol Miller
Michele and Noel Moore
Elizabeth Morton
Joshua and Meghann Moses
Bunny and Dennis Murphy
Maggie Murzanski
Laurie and Steve Nations
Edward and Sara Naureckas
Donald Nekrosius
Alan and Kathryn Nesburg
Juli and Rich Niemann
Dave and Lynde O'Brien
Kevin and Virginia O'Keefe
Julie Olenn
Michelle Olson and Pete Senechalle
Albert Olszowka
Janice Olszowka
Paul Olszowka
Patricia K. O'Shea and Frank V. Tannura
Denise and Mark Pacioni
Gary and Zena Paice
Beth and Zdenek Pecenka
Harold and Mary Pelzer
Floyd and Linda Perkins
Lisa and Peter Perkins
Diane Pero
Laura and Shelley Petrie
Michele and Zdzislaw Piotrowski

Deb and Steve Poe
Carole and Peter Popow
Carr and Marcia Preston
Stephanie and Tyler Qualio
Maggie and Thomas Quinn
Linda Quintana Wolf
Kimberly Rachal
Brandon and Gretchen Radach
Mauricio Rainey
Carol and Pravin Rao
Diane Ratekin and Thomas Yates
Andrea Ravin and James White
John and Kristen Reale
Vijay Reddy
Matthew Regan
Stephen Rehmann
Susan Reich
Rondell Richardson
Jenny and Patrick Roach
John and Katie Roberts
Nate and Sarah Roberts
Carolyn J. Roche
Donna Rolf
Katherine Rose
Michael and Linda Ryan
Charlotte Rubenstein and Michael Salvati
Megan and Rick Scheck
Stacy and Tim Senechalle
Cindy and Dan Shea
Kevin and Theresa Shea
Jesse Rosas and Merry Beth Sheets
Jill and Kenneth Shiner
Michael and Renee Sichlau
Daniel and Sienna Singer
Jeff and Kristen Smith
Melissa Smith
Richard Smith
Virginia Sonnenschein
Kathleen Spillane
Mary Spyropoulos and Jeffrey Stocker
Kelley Staley
Byron and Susan Stanislaw
Julie and William Sutton
Byron and Parle Taylor
Kira and Mike Tchang
The Tchen Family
Brian and Laura Thier
Laura and Michael Thompson
Cindy and Scott Tinervia
Jane Tobin
Gwen and Pietro Tonino
Lance and Mary Tortorici
Trine Tsouderos and Jon Yates
Alice and John Tulley
Heather Turk
Erik Urban
Dale and Michelle Vanderlaan
Marita Vasquez
Karl Vogel
Jen and Josh Weaver
Anne and Robert Weber
Bryan and Joyce Webster
Bette and Craig Williams
Martha Williams
Tracy Williams
Kelly Wilson
Linda and Tom Wolf
Alain and Barbara Wood-Prince
Kristina and Patrick Woodward
Mark Yapelli
Juliet and Rocky Yera
Christine Zielinski

Financial Statement

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022

Revenues

Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributions and Grants	\$ 2,518,102
Fees and Grants:	
State Government Agencies	\$ 8,211,674
Local Government Agencies	\$ 201,662
Other Revenue:	
Program Service Fees and Grants	\$ 1,142,736
Investment and Other Income*	\$ 153,174
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 12,227,348

Expenses

Programs	\$ 9,328,450
Administration	\$ 1,430,948
Fundraising and Development	\$ 851,822
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 11,611,220
Increase in Net Assets Due to Operations *	\$ 616,128
Total Decrease in Net Assets	\$ (496,811)
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 10,676,707

* Excludes unrealized loss on investments and change in beneficial interests of \$(1,112,940).

Grants Awarded

ADJLM Foundation
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
Anonymous
The Chubb Charitable Foundation
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
Dunsire Family Foundation, Inc.
Ecolab Foundation
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Harry F. Chaddick and 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
Illinois Department of Human Services Grant
Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Jocarno Fund
John T. and Suzanne S. Jacobus Family Foundation
Klaff Family Foundation
Marvin and Kaye Lichtman Foundation
Mary Lou Downs Foundation
McDonalds Corporation
Monarch Awards Foundation, Inc.
Nordstrom
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Shaker Family Foundation
Shuler Family Foundation
Sidley Austin Foundation
Sylvia Ziontz Foundation
T. Kendall Hunt Family Foundation
Ticket to Dream Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant
Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant COVID Fund
The Ward Foundation
Westlake Health Foundation



Cookie Philanthropy

THE COOKIE MONSTER MAY HAVE A NEW HERO IN MARY DISOMMA—mother of four, doctor of podiatry, committed philanthropist, cookie connoisseur and cookbook author. Each holiday season, Mary bakes somewhere between 5,000 and 7,000 cookies to share with the cookie fans in her life. Because Mary is also passionate about helping children and families, she is donating every penny of the proceeds from her new cookbook, *A Gift of Cookies: Recipes to Share with Family and Friends*, with Hephzibah and the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society. Since the cookbook's publication in 2020, Mary has donated \$50,000 in proceeds from the project to support our mission, giving new meaning to the phrase "cookie dough"!

LEFT: Mary DiSomma signing copies of *A Gift of Cookies*



Hephzibah helps children thrive and families flourish

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

Hephzibah is accredited

by Social Current (formerly the Council on Accreditation).

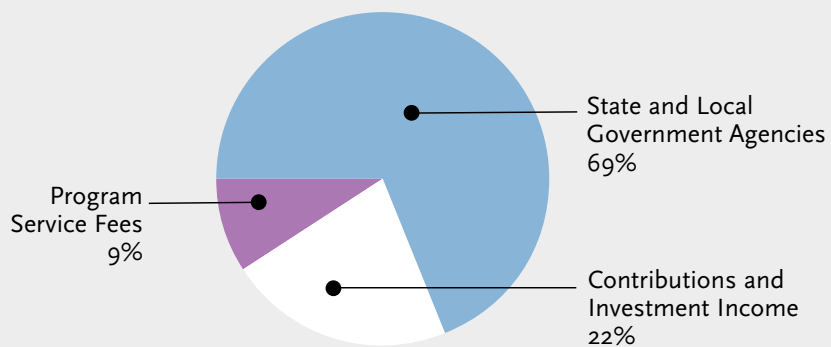
Licensing

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

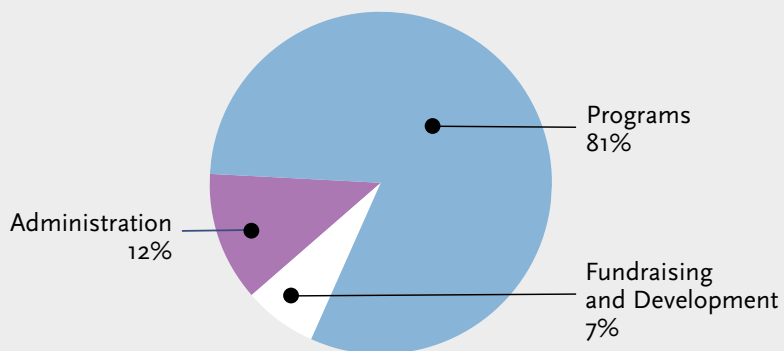
Funding

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

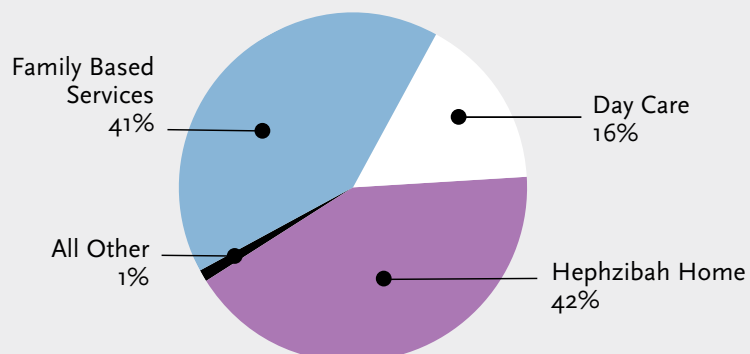
Sources of Funding



Distribution of Revenues



Distribution of Revenues Allocated to Programs



The People Behind Hephzibah

July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022

Board of Directors

Lisa Emerson
President

Jennifer Ellis-Jackson
Vice President

John Ide
Treasurer

Donna Rolf
Secretary

Kenna MacKinnon
Immediate Past President

Lisa Azu-Popow
Mark Fisher
Jerecki Garner
Bernie Lacayo
Alex Leibowitz
Kenna MacKinnon
John McConville
Amy Muran Felton
Lynde O'Brien
Marcia Preston
Rondell Richardson
Peter Senechalle
Byron Taylor
Craig Williams
Jon Yates

Lucia Paris Hoyos
Ex-Officio Member

Hephzibah Children's Trust

Jackie Barlow
Lisa Emerson
Gail Hague
John Ide
Kenna MacKinnon
Nancy Quinn
Eric Sorensen
Maureen Stratton
Byron Taylor
Mark Trinka
Tom Yates

Chicago Auxiliary

Lesley January
President

Diana Sanborn
Vice President

Courtney Valderrama
Immediate Past President, Secretary and Hospitality Coordinator

Sophie Marwil
Social Chair and Membership Coordinator

Diana Sanborn
Membership Coordinator

Meagan Schade
Communications Coordinator

Kyle Blankenship
Sarah Gascoigne
Paul Kitt
Stephen Kohn
Justin Kopale
Christopher Lingner
Luke McLeese
Jordan Shane
Lorraine Sullivan

Oak Park Auxiliary

Elizabeth Cannon
President and Communications Coordinator

Dorota Szerszenowicz-Olweny
Vice President

David H. Wick
Immediate Past President

Lauren N. Dain
Treasurer

Madeleine W. Milan
Secretary

Cynthia Weber
Membership Coordinator

Erin O. Mott
Jean Powell
Brittani Provost
Lynae Reissenweber
Kristi Sampson
Amy Unell
Sloan Watson
Cynthia Weber
Melanie Weiss
Amy Werthmann

Western Auxiliary

Anne Weber
Co-President

Carla Franz
Co-President and Western Auxiliary Junior Board Coordinator

Tami Wanless
Vice President

Lisa Diomede
Vice President

Kim Stoltz
Treasurer

Stephanie Qualio
Secretary

Laura C. McLaughlin
Immediate Past President

Tanja Williamson
Membership Coordinator

Alicia Skodol
Children's Services Coordinator

Megan Scheck
Hospitality/Social Coordinator

Jenn Vlahavas
Marketing/Publicity Coordinator

Penny Latta
Western Auxiliary Junior Board Coordinator

Rachel Alcorn
Western Auxiliary Junior Board Coordinator

Michelle Choi
Western Auxiliary Junior Board Coordinator

Tracy Keller
Children's Interaction

Lisa Amoruso
Tarah Arnold
Allison Billingsley
Julie Boczkowski
Stephanie Clark
Kathy Duckworth
Jennifer Eldersveld
Megan E. Feinberg
Cindy Glavin
Lindsey Griffin
Tina B. Hutchinson
Katelyn Kaese
Nicola Kern
Rachelle Kienlen
Laura King
Andrea Knapp
Christina Koliopoulos
Jane Mitchell
Wendy Reitz
Jenny Rieger
Kimberly Schwegel

Western Junior Auxiliary Board

Maddy Choi
President

Marcello Diomede
Vice President

Connor McLaughlin
Vice President

Jane Franz
Secretary

Declan Scheck
Treasurer

Dylan Skodol
Publicity Chair

Charlotte Alcorn
Membership Chair

Brooke Dougherty
Scheduling Coordinator

Jack Boczkowski
Ryan Choi
Mary Crum
Enzo Diomede
Christine Dougherty
John Duckworth
Mack Feinberg
Joey Griffin
Bryce Huff
Elijah King
Ellie Latta
Logan Lawrence
Kailyn McLaughlin
Brook Roscich
Carly Roscich
Rebecca Roscich
Breccan Schek
Lexi Skodol
Chris Weber

Executive Leadership Team

Merry Beth Sheets
Executive Director

Nancy Dorfman Schwartz
Chief Operating Officer

Richard Wesley**
Chief Financial Officer

Julie Dvorsky
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 Residential Services

Juliet Yera
Director of Development

* Retired as of January 2022
** Began as of October 2021





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1144 Lake Street Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.649.7140 Fax 708.649.7194

www.hephzibahhome.org

