THIRTY-THREE YEARS AGO, OUR FIRST FOSTER FAMILY WAS FORGED THROUGH A SINGULAR ACT OF KINDNESS.

A local mom had died, leaving behind four grieving adopted children. After the orphaned youngsters had been safely settled in four different emergency foster homes, we began to search for permanent placements.

During our search, we shared the children’s story with Oak Parkers Dennis and Bunny Murphy, who had already adopted three children through another agency.

Although Peter, John, Marita and Anne Marie were not related by blood, the Murphys felt that the siblings should be placed in the same home since they’d been living together before the death of their mom. When we worried out loud that it would be difficult to find a family to raise all four children, Dennis said quietly, “We will do it.”

That simple declaration changed the lives of four very vulnerable youngsters—youngsters who thrived in the Murphys’ care and eventually matured into four productive, positive and utterly charming adults. Peter is now a child care worker helping other children in need at Hephzibah Home, and the children adore him. John is a firefighter and a family man. Marita is a happily married mother of two, while Anne Marie is a college student and a Hephzibah Day Care mom. You’ll learn more about their journey on page five of this report.

The story of the Murphy family seems like a fitting place to begin as we reflect on the many acts of kindness that have helped Hephzibah’s children and families thrive in FY15.

You’ll read about some of these selfless acts in the pages that follow—from the high school students who spent countless hours mentoring the children in our group homes and the technology pros who spent every Saturday morning schooling them in the ways of the digital world to the celebrity chef who donated a summer of fun in the form of camp scholarships.

But these were just a few of the acts of kindness that brightened our fiscal year.

To help the children in our group homes lead safer, healthier and happier lives, West Suburban Medical Center conducted a Healthy Living Program at Hephzibah, with sessions devoted to topics such as Your Body and Exercise and Healthy Eating.

In May, Loyola University’s Ronald McDonald Children’s Hospital dispatched its pediatric mobile health care unit to Hephzibah Home. When the 40-foot-long “children’s clinic on wheels” rolled into our driveway, the children in our Foster Care Program clambered aboard for physical exams, immunizations, health screenings, asthma checks and more.

During the growing season, our Alex Anderson Memorial Garden continued to serve as a healing natural oasis for the traumatized children in our care, thanks to the green thumbs and funds provided by the family of Alex Anderson and family friend Patti Spangler.

Throughout the year, our committed and compassionate corps of corporate and community partners continued to give unstintingly to enhance the health, happiness and well-being of the children in our group homes, foster homes and Day Care Program.

The Avis Budget Group volunteered at our annual Day Care pancake breakfast fundraiser and treated the children in our group homes to a private movie screening at the Lake Theater, while employees participating in the CME Group Amicus Volunteer Program cruised Chicago’s waterways with the children on a Wendella boat tour and accompanied them on other recreational outings in the Chicago area.

On Giving Tuesday in December, Gene & Georgetti restaurant donated $8,000 to Hephzibah from their November dessert sales, donations from
Acting as a referee, McDonald’s Corporation signed on as a $20,000 sponsor for the Heart of Gold Ball and sent a crew of employees to northern Illinois to flip burgers at our annual sibling camp cookout.

Back in Oak Park, a gregarious group of employees from Philips Lighting fired up the grills and cooked up platters of hot dogs and hamburgers to fuel the cowgirls and cowboys at our annual Rodeo.

The Peninsula Chicago hotel donated more than $16,000 in revenues from its rooftop ice skating rink, hosted a skating party for the children in our group homes and dispatched a costumed employee in a Mini Cooper decked out with bunny ears on Easter and a giant spider on Halloween to pass out candy and toy bears at Hephzibah Home.

Because nothing soothes the spirit like the sound of music, the Oak Park Arts Council sponsored a series of concerts for the children in our Diagnostic Treatment Center.

Meanwhile, our individual benefactors were engaging in their own acts of kindness. In December, our first-ever challenge grant donors offered to match every donation to our Hephzibah Holiday Challenge dollar for dollar up to $15,000. Their extraordinary generosity inspired nearly 300 other people to give, generating more than $126,000 and, in the process, changing many lives for the better.

After we launched our new Planned Gift Programs in January, Hephzibah board member Francesca DeBiase and her husband, Jassem el Mahmoud, marked the occasion with a generous bequest to the Hephzibah Children’s Trust.

These acts of kindness, big and small, had a ripple effect. After witnessing the altruistic endeavors of a caring community, a young artist in our Residence held an art show to benefit the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. When this young survivor of abuse learned that the proceeds from the sale of his paintings would feed 10 families, his jaw dropped—and he has already started to create a new body of work for his next art benefit.

In Summer 2015, a compassionate group of Hephzibah Day Care kids formed a Hephzibah chapter of the GenerationOn Kids Club, a global youth service movement that inspires young people to work together to help others in their communities and around the world. The children sold lemonade to raise money for Hephzibah and the Animal Care League; carefully crafted crate blankets, toys and “Adopt Me” bandannas for the homeless animals at the Animal Care League shelter; helped preschoolers with special needs; and volunteered at a food pantry.

As times get tougher, these acts of kindness make a bigger difference in the world. Thank you all for helping us build a better future for the children we serve!
Abused Dogs HELPING Abused Kids

One of the most heartwarming stories of the year is the story of Paws for Strength, a new pet therapy program made possible by a partnership between Hephzibah and the Bryan and Amanda Bickell Foundation. Paws for Strength pairs rescued and rehabilitated therapy dogs with the abused children in our group homes to create a healing human-animal bond.

During the eight-week program, the children teach their canine companions tricks and then demonstrate their dog’s new skills at a graduation ceremony.

Chicago Blackhawks forward Bryan Bickell and his wife, Amanda, visited Hephzibah in December to read the children a story about an abused dog that was rescued and now lives with a loving family.

“Hopefully that will be my story,” said one child after listening intently to every word.

When Hephzibah Executive Director Mary Anne Brown asked the children why Bryan and Amanda had chosen them to learn about and work with rescued dogs, one little boy responded, “Because bad things have happened to us too.”

“The kids really relate to these dogs,” says Amanda Bickell. “When they learn that the dogs live with families now and they’re able to love and be happy again, it gives the children hope that they can have a brighter future too.”
Studies show that high-quality learning experiences during the first five years of life can promote the development of a robust network of neural pathways that can enhance a child’s ability to think, react, process and grow.

Yet the U.S. ranks 25th in the world for early learning enrollment—and fewer than 30 percent of all four-year-olds nationwide are enrolled in quality early learning programs.

To help address this unmet need, Hephzibah’s Day Care Program now offers Head Start services free of charge for qualifying families in Oak Park and surrounding communities. Each year, scores of preschoolers are nurtured and enriched by our Head Start curriculum as they engage in activities that foster their growth and development in areas such as language, literacy, math, science, creative arts, physical skills, learning skills and social and emotional functioning.

The program has drawn rave reviews from Head Start parents—and accolades from the State of Illinois. In FY15, Hephzibah earned the Gold Circle of Quality Designation—the highest of four ratings available through the state’s new quality rating system for early learning and development providers.

The FAMILY That Hephzibah Built

The year was 1982—and it was shaping up to be the worst year ever for Peter, John, Marita and Anne Marie, whose single adoptive mom had just died.

Hephzibah was still setting up its Foster Care Program, with a foster care license in hand and foster families lined up, but no state contract. No contract meant no funding for the children’s care, but that didn’t deter Hephzibah’s first foster families, who took the orphaned siblings in without pay.

The children were in good hands, but they were also in separate emergency foster homes. They missed their mom and they missed each other. When night fell, they lay alone in unfamiliar beds, wondering if they’d ever see one another again.

Hephzibah Executive Director Mary Anne Brown was also lying awake at night worrying about the sibling group. Would she have to split them up permanently to facilitate their adoptions? She had to find a better way.

Brown mentioned the children’s plight to Oak Parkers Dennis and Bunny Murphy, who had already adopted three children. Without hesitation, the Murphys responded, “We’ll take them all,” and Hephzibah’s first forever family was born.

Thirty-three years later, it’s clear that the ties that bind the Murphys are emotional, rather than genetic. But, says Anne Marie, the bonds are no less enduring.

“We were brought together through a Hephzibah adoption,” she notes, “and our bond is deeper than blood.”
**FORWARD P L A N N E D  G I V I N G**

Keith Elkins (third from top) at Hephzibah in 1935

Keith Elkins and his little sister, Muriel, landed on Hephzibah's doorstep. Their parents, financially depleted by the Great Depression and on the verge of a breakup, had come to the discouraging conclusion that they could no longer provide for their children.

Keith doesn’t remember much about that day, but he does remember his years as a “Hephzibah kid.”

“My years at Hephzibah turned out to be the happiest of my childhood,” he notes. “Well into adulthood, I treasure the gift that Hephzibah gave me—the gift of hope.”

Now Keith and his wife, Kathleen, have returned that gift by naming Hephzibah as the beneficiary of a bequest in their will.

“I want to help ensure that Hephzibah can provide as much security and happiness for children now as it did for me and my sister back in the 1930s,” says the retired college professor, whose fond memories also inspired him to write a deeply personal account of Hephzibah's history and evolution from the 1930s to the present.

We are deeply grateful to Keith and Kathleen for their planned gift, which will help other children find a safe haven at Hephzibah Home in the years to come.

The Oak Park Auxiliary Board spent countless hours promoting our 2015 Heart of Gold Ball, *The Stars Among Us*, soliciting and packaging auction items and creating the celestial setting for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Their efforts helped us raise just under $312,000—an increase of $82,000 over the previous year.

In November 2014, the Oak Park Auxiliary hosted its fifth annual Fall Harvest Wine & Beer Tasting at Paramount Events. Paramount owner Jodi Fyfe, an Oak Park Auxiliary board member and Hephzibah Corporate Partner, donated the food and enlisted vendors to provide wine and beer samples for the event, which raised nearly $4,300 for Hephzibah’s kids.

The Western Auxiliary Board chased away the winter chill with its third annual Valentines Day fundraiser, *Rock N Roll for the Heart and Soul*. The event, which featured performances by three rock bands and an auction at the Elevate Studio & Gallery in Glen Ellyn, generated raves from guests and more than $12,000 in proceeds.

More than 600 supporters hit the road for Hephzibah on Memorial Day 2015 at the Western Auxiliary Board’s 14th Annual Hoof it for Hephzibah Run/Walk and Kids Dash. The popular Glen Ellyn 5K raised $38,000 for Hephzibah programs while raising awareness of our mission in the western suburbs.

Meanwhile, our growing Chicago Auxiliary Board continued to spread the word about Hephzibah to other young urban professionals while introducing the children in our group homes to recreational activities in the downtown area. In August 2014, scores of supporters slathered on their sunscreen and headed over to North Avenue beach for a day of sports, socializing, live music and more at the Chicago Auxiliary’s 7th annual Dodgeball Tournament. Nearly 100 enthusiastic dodgeballers participated in the tournament, which raised over $10,000 for the children in our group homes.

The following March, more than 50 young Chicagoans participated in the Chicago Auxiliary’s first annual 90’s Theme Pub Crawl, a lighthearted tour of some of the trendiest taverns in Chicago’s Logan Square neighborhood, with different bar games at each stop.

**HEPHZIBAH’S AUXILIARY BOARDS**

Putting COMPASSION into Action

Our Chicago, Oak Park and Western Auxiliary Board Members energized and inspired everyone at Hephzibah in FY15 with their boundless enthusiasm as they raised awareness of Hephzibah’s mission, hosted fundraising events and organized activities for the children living in our group and foster homes. Over the course of the fiscal year, this dynamic force of 90 committed and compassionate citizens raised a combined total of $390,000 to help make our mission possible. We’ve highlighted just a few of their labors of love below.

Runners of all ages hoof it through Glen Ellyn on Memorial Day 2015 at the Western Auxiliary’s Hoof it for Hephzibah 5K Run/Walk; Western Auxiliary Board Vice President and real-life rocker Tami Wanless performs with her band, Savile Row, at the Western Auxiliary’s Valentine’s Day fundraiser, *Rock N Roll for the Heart and Soul*; guests at the 2015 Heart of Gold Ball revel in the evening’s festivities; and young Chicagoans play a game of Twister at the Chicago Auxiliary’s first annual 90’s Theme Pub Crawl.
HEN HEPHZIBAH’S RODEO ROLLED AROUND in June 2015, the children in our group homes could barely contain their excitement. They adore the rodeo, which is held annually to reward them for their hard work and achievements during the academic year.

But, more than the pony rides and prizes, the dunk tank and the bounce house, the comical llama in the petting zoo or the nice lady who makes those twisty balloon animals, the main attraction at the festival is the undivided attention of the Hephzibah Huskies—a group of Oak Park River Forest high school students who have captured the hearts of Hephzibah’s kids.

In FY15, these energetic and idealistic volunteers not only organized and hosted the Rodeo, but took the children to high school sporting events, hosted a sports day and a St. Patrick’s Day party, served up three Sunday Suppers at Hephzibah Home, joined their young friends and fans for regular movie and game nights and volunteered in our Day Care Program.

Their gifts of time and companionship have worked wonders for the traumatized children that we serve, helping youngsters who are reluctant to love or trust develop healthy emotional bonds. We applaud these high-school humanitarians for their selflessness and enduring commitment to children in need.

**Kids HELPING KIDS**

**Cooking Up the Best Summer EVER**

**A Celebrity Chef Serves Up Steve & Kate’s Camp Scholarships for Foster Kids in Need**

In SUMMER 2015, SEVERAL HEPHZIBAH CHILDREN walked into a world packed with new possibilities: a world free of adult judgments and expectations where they could experience new sensations, make their own decisions and explore their passions and potential. It was Steve & Kate’s Camp, where kids can zero in on what truly makes them happy.

The camp, which offered activities ranging from ziplining to software development to fully choreographed music videos, was a gift from Emmy-nominated chef and Food Network star Jeff Mauro, who has been a Hephzibah fan ever since his mom served on Hephzibah’s board in the early 1990s. Mauro is one of three celebrity chefs who assist with menu planning for Steve & Kate’s Camp, which offers five-course meals featuring cuisines from Mexico, Asia, France and other far-flung locales.

This is just the latest of many good works on behalf of Hephzibah’s kids for Mauro, who has made a habit out of naming Hephzibah as the beneficiary of his prize money whenever he competes in a Food Network cooking contest.
THANK YOU

Number of generous donors who supported our mission with 4,037 financial contributions and in-kind gifts

2,363
for your acts of kindness!

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Gifts and grants from Kent Barnett and the late Lauren Heath Barnett ($40,000), the Lerner Family Foundation ($15,000), The Toy Industry Foundation ($7,500), UPS ($10,000), the Harry F. Chadick and Elaine Chadick Foundation ($5,000) and Sloan Valve ($5,000) enabled scores of siblings living in different group, foster and adoptive homes to reconnect at our annual Camp HepSIBah sibling camp and create positive, shared childhood memories that will last a lifetime.
Hephzibah Children’s Association

COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Hephzibah owes a debt of gratitude to the following community and corporate partners for enhancing the lives of children and families in FY15. We appreciate all that you do!

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To err is human, to forgive, divine,...
Have we erred? Please contact Barb 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 homes and foster homes, we have not featured any photos showing their faces.
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EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Mary Anne Brown
Executive Director
Shaun Lane
Chief Operating Officer
Julie Doorday
Director of Family Based Services
Mary Jane Joyce
Human Resources Administrator
Amy O’Reourke
Director of Day Care Services
Molly Philosophos
Director of Development
Mary Tomasic
Director of Finance
James Woywod
Director of Group Homes

HEPHZIBAH
Children’s Association
Writing and photography: Susan Reich
Design: Anne Boyle

* Sustaining Member
FINANCIAL Statement
For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015

REVENUES
Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributions and Grants $1,346,091
Fees and Grants:
State Government Agencies $5,380,674
Local Government Agencies $55,886
Other Revenue:
Program Service Fees and Grants $1,386,715
Investment and Other Income $70,889
TOTAL REVENUES $8,240,255

EXPENSES
Programs $6,458,447
Administration $1,316,285
Fundraising, Development, Volunteers $499,063
TOTAL EXPENSES $8,273,795
Increase in Net Assets $33,540
Net Assets, End of Year $4,944,991

Unaudited totals—excludes unrealized loss on investments of $81,839

GRANTS AWARDED 2014-2015
Anonymous
Chicago Board Options Exchange
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
CME Group Community Foundation
Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation
Dolan Family Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
First Midwest Charitable Foundation
GE Capital
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Harry F. Chaddick & Elaine Chaddick Foundation, Inc.
Helen Brach Foundation
Hephzibah Children’s Trust
Jocarno Fund
John F. Smiekel Foundation
Lerner Family Foundation
LJ Foundation
Mary Lou Downs Foundation
Moller Family Foundation
Morgan Stanley Foundation
Northern Trust Company
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
T. Kendall Hunt Family Foundation
Tern Joe Charitable Foundation
Tern Race Educational Technology Fund
The John Buck Company Foundation
The Lavin Bernick Huber Charitable Fund
The Lumpkin Family Foundation
The Palmer Family Foundation
The Sweet Water Foundation
The UPS Foundation
The Ward Foundation
Toy Industry Foundation
Union Pacific Foundation
Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant

Hephzibah helps children thrive and families flourish through a continuum of internationally recognized programs that include short-term and long-term group homes for neglected and abused children, foster care and adoption services, comprehensive services for children and families in crisis and award-winning after-school day care services on a sliding scale for families of all income levels.

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

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

FUNDING
Hephzibah receives funding from Oak Park School District 97, United Way, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Human Services and our own fundraising activities.

FY15 FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS
❤ Hephzibah board member Francesca DeBiase and her husband, Jassem el Mahmoud, provided funding for two Foster Care Get-togethers, which enabled siblings living in different foster homes to reconnect and mend broken family bonds.
❤ An anonymous $70,000 grant and an additional $12,000 grant from John F. Smiekel provided funding for FY16 enhancements to the playground and therapeutic Residence at Hephzibah Home.
❤ Donations to Danny’s Birthday Closet ensured that the closet was filled with birthday gifts for 55 neglected and abused children at Hephzibah Home in FY15.