I SPENT A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT FAIRY TALES THIS YEAR. It all began with a drawing of a princess in her purple castle, safe from fire-breathing dragons and other fairy-tale foes.

After nearly 40 years at the helm of Hephzibah, I couldn’t help but compare that little princess—carefully rendered in colored markers by Ruby, a young artist in our day care program—to the neglected and abused children at Hephzibah Home. For the most vulnerable children that we serve, Hephzibah is like that purple castle—a safe haven where happy endings do come true.

During the past year—with the help of a committed and compassionate corps of board and staff members, benefactors, corporate and community partners, foundations and volunteers—we made these happy endings happen in many ways.

We provided a stable, nurturing environment and a place to heal for 51 neglected and abused children in the Diagnostic Treatment Center and Residence at Hephzibah Home. Because we operate one of the only residential treatment centers in the state equipped to rehabilitate severely traumatized children, Hephzibah Home was filled to capacity throughout the year. We treated children from all over the state, and more than half were placed in our care after inpatient treatment in pediatric psychiatric hospitals.

As you might imagine, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a sad fact of life in our group homes. To give our staff members even more tools to help these traumatized children heal, Help for Children, a foundation supported by Hedge Funds Care, funded an intensive staff training in trauma intervention techniques. Hephzibah staff members trained in these techniques, which you’ll learn more about on page 4, are already reporting promising results as they work with the children in our group homes—from fewer symptoms of PTSD to better coping and social skills.

While we helped these children recover from the wounds of the past, we were also thinking about their futures. To prepare them for a world in which job opportunities in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math) are growing at nearly twice the rate of other occupations, we increased their science literacy by incorporating STEM programming into our One Book, One Hephzibah summer reading program and our Summer Reading Academy curriculum. We also enhanced their digital literacy by enlisting the aid of a kindhearted cadre of Technology Mentors, who spent Saturday mornings teaching the children about safe web browsing, computer hardware and software, coding and more.

Meanwhile, a caring community of board members and benefactors mobilized to spruce up the children’s surroundings. Our Western Auxiliary Board renovated and refurnished a family visiting room in our Residence, while the John F. Smiekel Foundation provided an $18,000 grant for general maintenance and helped fund a new playground in our backyard.

The cooks in our community also pitched in, dishing up delicious homemade meals on Sunday evenings through our Sunday Supper Program, which grew from 12 to 26 supper donors this past year. Calvary Memorial Church made a commitment to cook dinner on the first Sunday of every month and invited the children to their church gym for recreational activities before supper was served.

Meanwhile, celebrity chef Jeff Mauro and his wife, Sarah, were cooking...
up another summer of fun by funding scholarships for 10 Hephzibah foster children to Steve and Kate’s Camp in River Forest. We also helped mend broken family bonds at Camp HepSIBah, an annual summer sibling camp experience for brothers and sisters living in different group, foster or adoptive homes. Adidas outfitted our 45 campers with backpacks, while McDonald’s dispatched a team of volunteers to fire up the grills and flip burgers at our sibling camp cookout.

As the number of children served by our Foster Care Program continued to grow, we launched a monthly foster parent support group and redoubled our efforts to recruit additional foster parents by hosting monthly foster parent information sessions throughout the Chicago area.

Because happy endings happen when children of all income levels are given the same opportunities for growth and enrichment as their peers, we launched an Early Head Start program for children 0-3; increased our Head Start program capacity by 57 percent; and provided safe, stimulating and affordable after-school and summer day care services on a sliding scale for more than 500 children in grades K-5.

During the holiday season, our community partners and individual donors helped make all of these programs possible with a gratifying show of support. We had our best Giving Tuesday ever, with cash and online donations totaling nearly $16,000. A member of our Board of Directors offered to match donations to our second annual Hephzibah Holiday Challenge campaign dollar for dollar up to $15,000. Her extraordinary generosity inspired hundreds of other community members to give, generating more than $107,000 by New Year’s Day.

It was also a record-breaking year for our holiday Bring-a-Gift Party at Doc Ryan’s, which raised $7,000 in donations and raffle ticket sales. Kindhearted revelers arrived bearing a small mountain of gifts, which were dispatched to Hephzibah Home by a UPS driver accompanied by a special escort of Forest Park police officers with a soft spot for our kids.

You’ll learn more about these and other highlights from our fiscal year in the pages that follow—including our 2016 Heart of Gold Ball, Once Upon a Hephzibah, which was inspired by Ruby’s drawing of the princess and her purple castle.

Now, you may not put much stock in fairy tales, but I believe they can teach us a lot about life. Your support over the past year has shown us that some of the real-life dragons that threaten the health and happiness of the children and families we serve can be slain. You’ve also shown us that real-life fairy tales—which are not so much about good and evil, but about hope and triumph and transformation—really can come true.

Thank you for making happy endings possible for Hephzibah’s kids!
HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL of Oak Park’s Youngest Learners

Recent advances in neuroscience tell us that a child’s brain goes through an amazing period of development between birth and age three—producing 700 new neural connections every second.

Yet children born into poverty have slower rates of brain growth. By the age of four, an achievement gap of about 18 months separates many of these children from their more affluent peers.

Studies show that high-quality learning experiences during the first five years of life can help prevent this achievement gap, increase high school graduation rates and even enable children to become better team players and problem-solvers later in life.

Yet, despite these documented benefits, the U.S. currently ranks 32nd out of 39 developed countries worldwide in enrollment rates for early childhood education. Within the U.S., Illinois ranks a dismal 29th out of 51 states.

To meet the urgent unmet need for early childhood education in Oak Park and surrounding communities, Hephzibah began offering Head Start services for children between the ages of three and five in 2011 and launched an Early Head Start program for children from birth to three in 2015.

One hundred percent of the children served by our Head Start programs this past year met or exceeded developmental benchmarks in social-emotional, language, math and physical development.

“Change the first five years and you change everything.”

—THE OUNCE OF PREVENTION FUND

101

Number of children ages 0-5 served by Hephzibah’s Early Head Start and Head Start programs, which were offered free of charge to low-income families

HENEVER JAMES GETS UPSET, he lifts the lid of a small gray plastic toolbox filled with the help of a Hephzibah staff member and studies its contents: a red plastic dinosaur, a palm-sized wad of putty, a handful of loose Legos and a spiky rubber stress ball. Then he takes one of these coping tools out of his toolbox and plays with it until the big emotions that are threatening to derail him begin to feel more manageable.

James’ box of coping tools is just one of the takeaways from an intensive staff training session in ARC (which stands for attachment, regulation and competency), an internationally recognized intervention framework for working with traumatized children.

Because abused children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder at twice the rate of returning veterans, Help for Children, a foundation supported by Hedge Funds Care, recently funded the two-day trauma intervention training with a generous grant of $26,000. The April 2016 training taught staff members how to respond to the trauma underlying the behaviors of the neglected and abused children in our group homes and help them manage their sometimes overwhelming feelings of anger, sadness, worry and fear.

What COPING SKILLS are in Your Toolbox?

Making the most of the first 2,000 days: Hephzibah’s Head Start and Early Head Start programs for children ages 0-5 ensure that every child in our community—regardless of family income—gets the best possible start in life.
TATISTICS SHOW THAT CHILDREN LIVING IN SUBSTITUTE CARE perform well below their peers academically, with the greatest achievement gaps occurring in the areas of reading, math and written expression. To help close these gaps for the children living at Hephzibah Home, we kicked off the summer season in June with One Book, One Hephzibah, an eight-week summer education program with weekly book selections, activities in the STEM curriculum areas (science, technology, engineering and math), field trips and guest presentations.

In August, the children participated in Hephzibah’s Summer Reading Academy at Concordia University. This two-week program—designed to assess the children’s educational needs and prepare them for the start of the school year—combined activities designed to improve reading skills with activities that advanced their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math. The children continued their reading practice while developing their powers of observation and detection in a Mad Science® Secret Agent Lab and learning about scientific problem solving, space travel, space technologies, living in space and rocket building in a Mad Science® NASA Space Lab.

ABOVE: After reading James and the Giant Peach for One Book, One Hephzibah, the children at Hephzibah Home learned how to whip up a batch of peach smoothies with a bicycle-powered blender during a cooking class taught by Sugar Beet Coop Founder Cheryl Munoz.

FAR RIGHT: A young Hephzibah Home resident learned about healthy food choices and practiced his money skills as he shopped for fresh peaches with one of Hephzibah’s new Teen Leaders at the Oak Park Farmer’s Market.

Foster Care
Fostering the LEADER in Every Teen

“TAKES CONFIDENCE TO SUCCEED in life. Yet foster and adopted teens often struggle mightily with issues related to their self-worth and their place in the world.

To help these teens develop leadership qualities; encourage them to set vocational goals; and give them opportunities to develop the skills, self-esteem and motivation they need to achieve these goals, Hephzibah launched a new Teen Leaders program in June.

Funded by a $5,000 grant from Oak Park Township Youth Services, the summer-long program gave Hephzibah teens a chance to exchange old, self-limiting labels such as “foster child” for empowering new ones such as “leader” and “role model.”

The Teen Leaders were paid an hourly wage to assist with summer reading programs, mentor the children in our group homes and create videos to welcome new residents and recruit teen volunteers. To pave the way for future career success, they also participated in mock job interviews and polished their resume-writing skills.

EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT
Closing the Achievement GAP

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” — DR. SEUSS

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S DUSK SETTLED OVER THE CITY on Saturday, March 5, more than 400 Hephzibah supporters slipped into a fairy-tale world at Once Upon a Hephzibah, our 2016 Heart of Gold Ball.

While guests dined and danced in a storybook setting inspired by a child’s drawing of a princess and her purple castle, they also joined Hephzibah in honoring the late Jane Hedges, a selfless humanitarian who worked tirelessly to support our mission as a board member and volunteer, and the Bryan & Amanda Bickell Foundation for its Paws for Strength Program, which pairs rescued and rehabilitated therapy dogs with the children in our group homes.

Co-chaired by Donna Rolf and Jen and Josh Weaver and hosted by our Oak Park Auxiliary Board and newly formed Gala Committee, our 2016 Heart of Gold Ball raised $305,375 to support happy endings for Hephzibah’s kids.

KIDS’ GALA: A Fairy-Tale Evening of Their Very Own

FEW WEEKS AFTER OUR 2016 HEART OF GOLD BALL, the children in our group homes were fêted as honored guests at the Oak Park Auxiliary Board’s first annual Kids’ Gala at Hephzibah Home.

Seated at tables adorned with white tablecloths, fresh flowers and elegant place settings, the children raised champagne flutes filled with sparkling juice as Kids’ Gala Chair Dave Wick kicked off the evening with a celebratory toast. After a delicious dinner served up by Oak Park Auxiliary Board members, the board celebrated the strengths and talents of each child with awards in categories such as Master Reader, Best Bike Rider, Most Helpful and Biggest Heart. The Oak Park Auxiliary deserves its own Biggest Heart award for honoring and affirming some of the most vulnerable children we serve!
Making Happy Endings HAPPEN

ONCE AGAIN, OUR THREE AUXILIARY BOARDS INSPIRED EVERYONE at Hephzibah Children’s Association with their boundless energy and enthusiasm as they raised awareness of our mission, hosted fundraising events and organized activities for the children living in our group and foster homes. Here are just a few examples of the many ways that our Chicago, Oak Park and Western Auxiliary Boards made happy endings happen for Hephzibah’s kids, one event at a time.

In January 2016, 90 winter-weary guests slipped into the rustic warmth of Paramount Events’ private West Loop venue, The Smith on Lake, for our annual Wine & Beer Tasting. Sponsored by the Oak Park Auxiliary Board and Paramount Events, the tasting raised $4,707 from ticket and raffle sales. Paramount owner Jody Fyfe, an Oak Park Auxiliary Board member, raised another $2,000 by donating two private Paramount dinner parties.

On February 10, our Western Auxiliary Board kicked off the Valentine’s Day weekend and raised $24,586 for Hephzibah at their annual Rock ‘n Roll for Your Heart & Soul event in Glen Ellyn. The evening, which featured three live rock bands, a raffle and a first-ever live auction, has become so popular that board members are searching for a larger venue for 2017.

ABOVE, clockwise from left:
Fit philanthropists: In August 2015, 187 active urban professionals hit the sand at North Avenue Beach for an afternoon of music, drinks and some friendly competition at the Chicago Auxiliary Board’s 8th Annual Dodgeball Tournament, which netted $10,476 to support our mission.
Friendship on tap: More than 100 craft beer lovers converged on the Lagunitas Tap Room and Brewery in Pilsen for a lighthearted friendraiser hosted by the Chicago Auxiliary Board.
Fifteen years and still running strong: More than 550 fleet-footed fans of all ages turned out on Memorial Day 2016 to raise $14,504 at the Western Auxiliary Board’s 15th annual Hoof It for Hephzibah 5K Run/Walk and Kids Dash in Glen Ellyn.

CREATING A SPACE FOR FAMILIES TO FLOURISH

Creating a space for families to flourish: After raising $6,000 to renovate and refurnish the family meeting room at Hephzibah Home, the industrious members of our Western Auxiliary Board rolled up their sleeves to paint the walls and install new carpeting.

ON DECEMBER 1, we added a new dimension to our Giving Tuesday fundraising by enlisting the aid of our Huskie Helpers—a group of high school students committed to helping Hephzibah’s kids. These bighearted teens raised more than $1,000 by reaching out to their schoolmates at lunchtime and soliciting cash donations from motorists and pedestrians during the evening rush hour.

Meanwhile, other supporters doubled their impact by donating to Hephzibah at the Community Bank of Oak Park and Forest, which matched the first $1,000 in donations, while still others responded generously to our Giving Tuesday email campaign.

All in all, benefactors big and small raised a whopping $16,000 for Hephzibah’s kids—doubling our Giving Tuesday total from the previous year.

On Giving Tuesday 2015, the Huskie Helpers hit the streets to raise funds for the children we serve.
THANK YOU

Number of generous donors who supported our mission with financial contributions

2,109
$62,718
Gifts and grants from the American Camp Foundation; Kent. D. Barnett; the Harry F. Chaddick & Elaine Chaddick Foundation, Inc.; the Costco Wholesale Foundation; the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation; the UPS Foundation enabled scores of siblings living in separate group, foster or adoptive homes to "HepSIBah" sibling camp and create positive, shared memories that will last a lifetime.

For making your happy endings possible!
Hephzibah owes a debt of gratitude to the following community and corporate partners for enhancing the lives of children and families in FY16. We appreciate all that you do!

**Under $100**

- 1100 Block of North Harvey Avenue
- Neighbors
  - Ms. Deanna Albright
  - Ms. Nancy A. Alcorn
  - Ms. Sue Adams
  - Mr. Paul Adams
  - Ms. Catherine Addis
  - Ms. Dari Aria
  - Ms. Brent Albert
  - Mr. Michael C. Alexander
  - Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Allen
  - Mr. and Mrs. John Alkousis
  - Mary Anderson
  - Ms. Elisa Antonio
  - Ms. Grae-Berry
  - Ms. Roberta Arnold
  - Ms. Joan Arbochurets
  - Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Ashten
  - Ms. Gail Auer
  - Mr. Louis Bergeske
  - Ms. Patricia Badami
  - Ms. Cara Banchio
  - Ms. Elizabeth A. Baker and Mr. David Lupo
  - Ms. Jennifer M. Balsas
  - Mr. Kevin Ball
  - Ms. Barbara Ballinger
  - Mr. Brian Balzie
  - Ms. Kalinda Banka-Gardner
  - Ms. Janet Barkley
  - Ms. Emily Barnes
  - Ms. Benjamin T. Beairn
  - Ms. Megan Beausion
  - Ms. Linda Becker
  - Mr. Bailey Beckman
  - Mr. Walter Beley
  - Ms. Darla Belasch
  - Mr. Mike Belene
  - Ms. and Mr. Jeffrey H. Bell
  - Ms. Sarah Benedetti
  - Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Benner
  - Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Benton
  - Mr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Berendt
  - Mr. Chris Benamor
  - Mr. Jordan Berg
  - Ms. Shara Belmessie
  - Betty Plum Handmade Confections
  - Ms. Kelley Beam
  - Ms. Diane Begehen
  - Mr. Amy Black
  - Ms. and Mrs. Dennis B. Black
  - Ms. Anne Blair

- Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Chase
- Ms. Catherine Chavers
- Mr. and Mrs. Maureen Chaves
- Ms. Katherine Christmas
- Ms. Lisa Ciszek
- Mr. Ryan Clarke
- Mrs. Rebecca Cleary
- Mr. and Mrs. Hank Cleve
- Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Coder
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cole
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- Mr. Richard Collins
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Comisky
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- Ms. Alfonso Cortez
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- Ms. Diana Corrigan
- Ms. Kathleen Cronin
- Ms. Siouf Crossman
- Ms. Kathleen Cronin
- Ms. and Mrs. Rameh Curosh
- Ms. Megan Currie
- Ms. Cathy Currie
- Ms. Lauren Dawn
- Mr. and Mrs. Brian Daly
- Mr. Brian Daly
- Mr. Kathleen Dawson
- Mr. Mark Day
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- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deedee
- Mr. Louis DeFino
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- Ms. and Mrs. Tim Deveaux
- Mr. Bill Devlin
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- Mr. and Mrs. Patrick K. Doherty
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- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Dohrer
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- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Campbell
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Carthy
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- Mrs. Mary Carney
- Mr. and Mrs. Christopher K. Carroll
- Mr. Chris Carter
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Carter
- Mr. Ronald Caryl
- Ms. Tina Catlin
- Ms. and Mrs. John Cavaressi
- Mr. Matthew Chapman
- Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Chalmers
- Mr. and Mrs. Walt Clemen
- Ms. Margaret Claren
- Mr. and Mrs. Josephine Claridge
- Mr. Todd Glickstein

**COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERS**

- 120 | Hephzibah Children’s Association
- Hephzibah Owes a Debt of Gratitude to the Following Community and Corporate Partners for Enhancing the Lives of Children and Families in FY16. We Appreciate All That You Do!
One of these is roots — the other, wings.”
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 face.
The PEOPLE
Behind Hephzibah

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Carla Puccini
Jenny Rieger
Becky Rosich
Jennifer Schoenberger
Courtney Seipel
Kimberly Stoltz
Diane Ullman
Anne Weber
Jill Wardlemoner

* Sustaining Member

WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY (excluding events): Susan Reich  DESIGN: Anne Boyle
FINANCIAL Statement
For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016

REVENUES
Individual, Corporate and Foundation Contributions and Grants $ 1,348,718
Fees and Grants:
State Government Agencies $ 5,926,751
Local Government Agencies $ 75,952
Other Revenue:
Program Service Fees and Grants $ 1,641,866
Investment and Other Income $ 3,469
TOTAL REVENUES $ 8,976,756

GRANTS AWARDED 2015-2016
American Camp Association, Illinois
Chicago Association of REALTORS Foundation
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
CME Group Community Foundation
Costco Wholesale Corporation
Dolans Family Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
Gap Foundation
George and Barbara Kovac Family Foundation
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities
Harry F. Chadick & Elaine Chadick Foundation, Inc.
Helen Brach Foundation
Help for Children
Hephzibah Children’s Trust
Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation
Jocamo Fund
John F. Smiekel Foundation
Lerner Family Foundation
LJ Foundation
Mary Lou Downs Foundation
McDonald’s Corporation
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation Future Philanthropists Program
Opus Corporate Foundation
Tangam/ProSight Community Giving Fund
Tern Race Educational Technology Fund
The Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation
The John Buck Company Foundation
The Lavin Bernick Huber Charitable Fund
The Lumpkin Family Foundation
The Sweet Water Foundation
The Ward Foundation
Union Pacific Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
UPS Foundation
Village of Oak Park Community Development Block Grant

EXPENSES
Programs $ 6,958,747
Administration $ 1,310,634
Fundraising, Development, Volunteers $ 612,426
TOTAL EXPENSES $ 8,881,807
Increase in Net Assets $ 94,947
Net Assets, End of Year $ 5,186,926

Unaudited totals—excludes unrealized loss on investments of $14,822

GRANTS AWARDED 2015-2016

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.

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

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

FY16 FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

An $18,000 grant from the John F. Smiekel Foundation provided funding for general repairs and maintenance at our Diagnostic Treatment Center and Residence.

The Village of Oak Park renewed its $15,000 Community Development Block Grant to fund a social worker position for at-risk Oak Park children and their families.

A $20,000 grant from McDonald’s Corporation and a $5,000 grant from the Opus Foundation supported educational enrichment programs such as One Book, One Hephzibah and the Summer Reading Academy at Concordia University.

 SOURCES OF FUNDING

 DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES

 DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES
ALLOCATED TO PROGRAMS
Hephzibah
Helping children thrive and families flourish since 1897
946 North Boulevard
Oak Park IL  60301
708.649.7100   Fax 708.649.7102
1144 Lake Street
Oak Park IL  60301
708.649.7140   Fax 708.649.7194
www.hephzibahhome.org

GROUP HOMES  •  FOSTER CARE  •  FAMILY SERVICES  •  DAY CARE