

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CHAMPION

for Vulnerable
Children



Children's Place
ASSOCIATION



AT CHILDREN'S PLACE ASSOCIATION

WE FIGHT ON BEHALF OF
KIDS WHOSE LIVES AND
FUTURES ARE IN PERIL.

We fight for their health.

We fight for their safety.

We fight for their education.

We fight for their futures.

We are their Champion.

We are Children's Place.

OUR MISSION:

We're building a secure and hopeful
today, so children facing health issues
and poverty succeed tomorrow.

2020: RESPONDING IN A TIME OF URGENT NEED

NOTABLE

- Responding to the COVID-19 health crisis, Children Place secured more than **\$100,000 in special funding** to help children, youth and families in Chicago and in the Caribbean.
- **140 vulnerable Chicago families** – including 200+ children – received support during the COVID-19 shutdown, ensuring they had access to food, medical care, housing and other essentials.
- In mid-summer, our **Early Learning Center re-opened after a three-month shutdown due to COVID-19.** We developed extensive protocols, in compliance with public health guidelines, to protect the safety of children, families, teachers and other staff.
- **4,000+ children and youth** in Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania and the Dominican Republic benefited from health and educational programs supported by Children's Place International.
- The original Children's Place program, **the Residential Center, permanently closed** after 29 years of caring for medically-complex abused and neglected children.

DEAR FRIENDS,

It is with humility and gratitude that we present this annual report, documenting the work of Children's Place Association in 2020.

This has been a year like no other in our lifetimes. A global health crisis has killed more than one million people and continues threatening the wellbeing and economic viability of human beings around the world.

While all of us have been impacted by COVID-19, some have suffered far greater than others – with deaths of loved ones or prolonged illness... loss of income... risk of homelessness... and more. The highly vulnerable children and families our organization has pledged to help – here in Chicago and overseas – have been particularly hard hit by this pandemic.

Assisting those who are vulnerable remains our number one priority. But **the pandemic has made our work even more challenging.** Like other organizations, Children's Place had to implement major changes in how we operate. These include adapting to employees working from home... and temporarily shutting down our Early Learning Center.

Our dedicated staff found creative ways to continue helping client families access the vital services they need to stay healthy. And we tailored online platforms so our young students could continue their early education at home.

Also, we made a **difficult decision to permanently close our original program, the 10-bed Residential Center.** While risks posed by COVID-19 played a part in our Board's assessment, the primary factor was the facility itself. The building – opened 29 years ago to care for infants and toddlers – was not suitable for the older children and adolescents being referred to the program. This closure affects the Residential Center only. All other Children's Place programs continue to make a difference for vulnerable kids and their families every day.

We remain steadfastly committed to our mission... and to finding innovative ways to address today's challenges. **In 2021 we will introduce a new initiative to bring urgently needed services and resources** to impoverished westside Chicago children traumatized by gun violence.

We are enormously grateful to all who have stood with us during this difficult time. Because of you, hundreds of local children, and thousands more in Africa and the Caribbean, are being helped. Thank you for making our work possible.



THANK YOU!



Cathy Krieger,
LCSW, MA, MBA
PRESIDENT & CEO



Bob Ryan
BOARD CHAIR

Chicago PROGRAMS

Children's Place Association is a **champion for Chicago's most vulnerable children** – those facing poverty, health issues, abuse/neglect, homelessness and neighborhood violence. We provide critical assistance to children – and importantly – to their families to maximize the impact on a child's future. Since opening in 1991, Children's Place has helped more than 6,000 Chicago-area children and parents break the cycle of adversity in four key areas of impact:



FROM FOSTERING TO PARENTING

A Family for "James"

When Lisa and Kirk decided to become foster parents, they searched for a foster agency that mirrored their values. They found Children's Place Association listed on the Equality Illinois website... and soon discovered our organization's pioneering history in serving children with health conditions and recruiting nontraditional families as foster parents.

While excited about fostering, Lisa and Kirk were concerned whether they would be up to the task of caring for a child with medical issues or special needs. "We were so unsure of ourselves," Lisa says. But extensive training from Children's Place eased their doubts... and in late 2015 the couple received a call asking them to take an infant scheduled for discharge from the hospital.

"James" was born extremely premature and had spent the first five months of life in a neonatal intensive care unit. He would require continued specialized care due to issues related to prematurity. Lisa and Kirk gave an enthusiastic yes and within a few days James arrived at their home. "It was terrifying and exciting at the same time," recalls Kirk.

The couple credits the Children's Place case worker and nurse with helping them in their new roles as caregivers. "Fostering a medically complex child is equally overwhelming and reassuring. We are so



thankful for the Children's Place team who helped us along the way," says Lisa.

With their love and support, James has made remarkable progress in his therapy and education. "He has defied everyone's expectations on what he could achieve," says Lisa. The journey Lisa and Kirk began in 2015 continues. The family reached an important milestone earlier this year when the couple officially adopted James.

There are still many challenges ahead, but these parents are confident James will have a bright future. "Much of this is possible because of the support we had through Children's Place. We are so grateful," Lisa says.

Lisa and Kirk are currently in the process of adopting their second foster child.

FINDING COMMUNITY RIGHT AT HOME

A Home and a Future for Jasmine and Paul



Jasmine and her young son, Paul, moved to a Children's Place Association apartment in 2016, shortly after our West Humboldt Place building was completed. A single mother, Jasmine had struggled with housing insecurity and was grateful to find an affordable home.

But she quickly discovered that it was so much more than that. There were activities for children, parent trainings, tenant meetings and access to additional services. Jasmine learned that Children's Place provides *supportive* housing, meaning tenants have a dedicated case manager who helps them find the supports they need – for themselves and their children.

It didn't take long for Jasmine to jump right in and be a part of the West Humboldt Place community. She attended many events and met regularly with the case manager and other staff. Among the support services suggested to Jasmine was early education for her son at the nearby Children's Place Early Learning Center.

She was excited that Paul would be attending a high-quality Head Start/Early Head Start program. What she didn't expect was how the Early Learning Center would change her own life.



OUR SCOPE OF SERVICES

- Early Childhood Education
- Foster/Adoptive Care
- Supportive Family Housing
- Case Management
- Mental Health Counseling
- Lucy R. Sprague Summer Camp

Jasmine became actively involved at the Center, meeting with other parents and teachers on ways to improve the educational experience for their kids. Because of her leadership qualities, Jasmine was selected to be a parent representative on the Early Head Start Policy Council.

She attended monthly Council meetings with parents from several other early learning sites, where they learned more about early education and progress that was taking place in their communities. Jasmine then shared this knowledge with Children's Place administrators and helped shape the direction of programming at the Early Learning Center.

Jasmine served on the Policy Council for three years and credits the experience with boosting her confidence and teaching her how to be a stronger advocate for her son and other children. She also credits Children's Place with helping her transform her life.

With the help of her case manager, Jasmine enrolled in a dual program allowing her to receive her GED and a Nursing Assistant certificate. Her long-term goal is to continue her education and become a Registered Nurse. As for Paul, he graduated from the Early Learning Center, fully prepared for school. He began first grade, via remote learning, this fall.

Jasmine considers the support she's received from Children's Place as a blessing. "Children's Place gave me a safe place to live, educated my son and allowed me to go to school and work," Jasmine says. "It has been wonderful and fulfilling."

Children's Place INTERNATIONAL



ADVANCING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

DEAR FRIENDS,

The health effects and severe economic downturn caused by COVID-19 are impacting children and families in ways unseen since World War II. The global recession has created significant food insecurity, disrupted health services and closed schools for kids in our partner programs.

The situation calls for comprehensive response both here and overseas. We must do all we can to protect the youngest members of society and ensure their futures. And that's how the Children's Place International community is responding.

Thank you for supporting our work... and for giving children and youth the opportunities to contribute their gifts to families, communities, countries and the wider world.

LESLIE MCLEOD

Children's Place International Board Chair

JOHN SWEENEY

Director

This past year, more than 4,000 children, youth and adult family members in Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania and the Dominican Republic benefited from Children's Place partner health, educational and economic development programs.



Tanzania. Takeda Pharma employees visit with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College staff in Northern Tanzania as part of Children's Place International's Healthcare Partners for Access. This initiative engages healthcare industry teams with frontline NGOs around the world. The November 2019 visit advanced a joint project on pediatric and adult cancers.



Mirebalais Hospital, Haiti. Frontline health worker Marc Julmisse was honored with a Children's Place International Hero Award last fall in recognition of her commitment to Haitian children and youth. Marc is Chief Nursing Officer and the Deputy Chief Operating Officer at the Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais, a 300-bed facility.



Cap Haitien, Haiti. Youth from the New Ventures Program visit a local non-profit in January 2020. The afterschool project allows young people to explore career opportunities and helps them develop skill sets, confidence and leadership to pursue them.



Gonaives, Haiti. Djenie picks up food and personal protective equipment from Children's Place International partner Zanmi Lasante. The 17-year-old lost both parents some years ago and cares for a younger sister.



Cap Haitien, Haiti. Premont Lucien Lubendsky participated in Children's Place International supported Northern Haiti program for over 10 years, steadily advancing in school and excelling in the New Ventures afterschool project. He graduated this past year with a degree in medical technology and is now a medical technician.

HIGHLIGHTS

- We distributed \$35,000 in emergency funding to the Dominican Republic and Haiti to help partners prevent and mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
- **330** children and youth received food, healthcare and educational scholarships including students from grade school to university in Haiti.
- More than **900** children, youth and family members accessed pediatric and other cancer care services in Kenya and Tanzania.
- More than **2,500** children, youth and adults accessed neurological and mental health services in Haiti.
- We initiated a new partnership with Clinica de Familia in the Dominican Republic to provide health and educational support to children.

CHAMPION

for Vulnerable Children

General SUPPORT

FY 2020 CHICAGO PROGRAM DATA

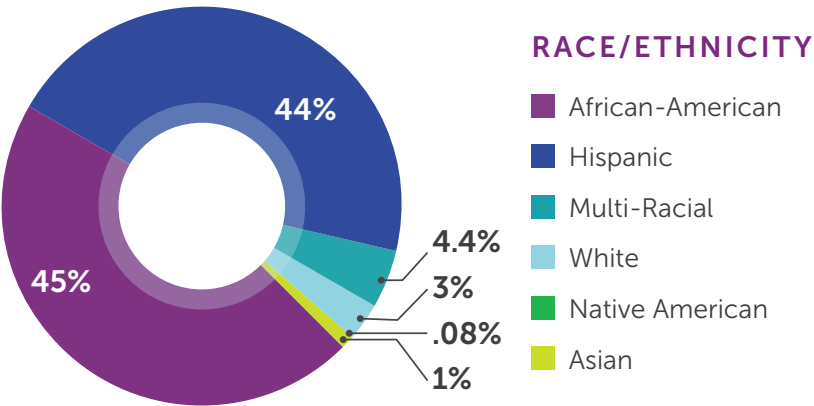
(JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020)

NUMBER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS: 362

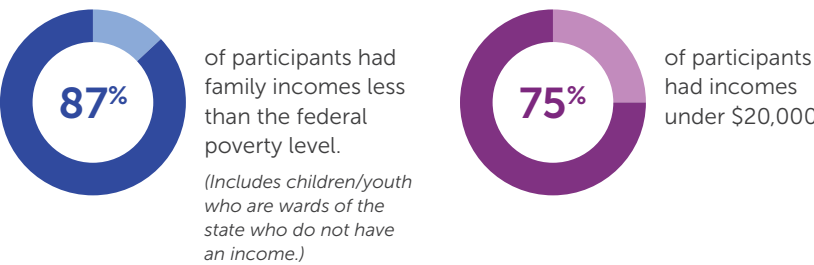
CHILDREN'S AGES



GENDER



FAMILY INCOME



Chicago Neighborhoods We Serve

Located on Chicago's westside, Children's Place Association serves children and families throughout the city.

★ CHILDREN'S PLACE LOCATION

■ CHICAGO ZIP CODES WHERE OUR PARTICIPANTS LIVE

■ CITY-ADJACENT SUBURBAN ZIP CODES WHERE OUR PARTICIPANTS LIVE

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

In December 2019 more than 121 individuals, families and 14 businesses generously provided holiday gifts to 198 families in need. More than 834 individuals, including approximately 500 children and youth from newborn to 19 years old, received items. Your generosity ensured that children facing illness and poverty were not forgotten - that they woke up to find toys and other gifts under their tree and food on the table. Thank you to all our "Secret Santas" who made this annual holiday giving drive a success!

IN-KIND SUPPORT

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4C Four Corners | Joseph Leigh Designs |
| George Aliaga | Kids Playing Camp |
| Auction Event Services | KnitWits Crochet & Knitting Club |
| Badger Press | Leigh Loftus |
| BBJ Linen | Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants |
| Candee Productions | Ana Miyares Photography |
| Cy Fredrics Jewelers | Quilting Ministry at St. Mary's Parish |
| Delta Air Lines | Sarah Drake Design, LLC |
| Employees of Children's Place Association | SKPR |
| Flying House Media | Sound Investment |
| Grace Lindstone & Co. | Twitter |
| Cheryl Gelfond | Dex Warr |
| Dave Grzenia | Windy City Linens |
| Danielle Haddad | |
| Hall's Rental | |
| Jewell Events Catering | |

TRIBUTE GIFTS

We extend our appreciation to all donors who made honorary and memorial gifts in celebration of a friend or loved one during fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020).

IN HONOR (those honored are in blue)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Marie Godush | Joanna Thivierge |
| Karen Teitelbaum | Barbara Burger |
| Jami Richardson | Anthony Monk |
| Ashley Lupica | Juan Colina de Vivero |
| Evie Beentjes | |
| Danielle Haddad | |
| David Kouchnerkavich | |

IN MEMORY (those honored are in blue)

- | |
|---------------|
| Daniel Siemek |
| Gary Ward |

A special thank you to the family and friends of Cheryl Gelfond for generously donating to Joey Gelfond's Bat Mitzvah Registry benefiting Children's Place International

MAJOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- | | |
|--|--|
| AIDS Foundation of Chicago | Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) |
| Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) | Illinois State Board of Education - USDA Food Program |
| Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) | Ounce of Prevention Fund (Head Start/Early Head Start) |
| Chicago Housing Authority | |
| Howard Brown Health | |
| Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) | |



Our DONORS

Children’s Place Association and Children’s Place International thank the many individuals, families, foundations, businesses and organizations whose contributions make our work possible. The following list includes donors who made gifts or grants totaling \$250 or greater during our fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020).

\$100,000 & Above

Anonymous
Takeda Pharmaceuticals

\$50,000-\$99,999

Rossman Family Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

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\$15,000-\$24,999

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\$10,000-\$14,999

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& Co-Founder of the
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Community Volunteer

J. Phillips O’Brien
Fiduciary
Community Volunteer

Tina Serrano
Strategic Directions
Starbucks



Children’s Place Association Board Chair Bob Ryan reads to preschoolers at the Early Learning Center (pre-pandemic).

Place the Hope, Children’s Place International’s annual fundraising campaign, supports the health, education and nutritional needs of children and youth in the Caribbean and Africa. It culminates in an event each fall bringing together field partners, donors and volunteers to celebrate our progress. Tim Koenig and Marc Schmidt Co-Chaired the 2019 campaign, which raised more than \$170,000.

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International

For corrections or omissions please contact our Development Office at 312-660-3028.

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Cheryl Gelfond

Marc Harris

Tim Koenig

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Marc Schmidt

Vanessa Tanaka

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Becton Dickenson and Co.



2019 Place the Hope Chairs (left-right): Marc Schmidt and Tim Koenig

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2020 CHICAGO CHAMPION

For the first time in history, our annual spring **Once Upon A Time Gala** went virtual. Despite the challenges faced by the pandemic, the Gala Committee led by Danielle Haddad, of CNA and George Aliaga, of Marsh came together and raised an impressive \$180,000 to support children and families affected by COVID-19. The special online occasion **honored CNA with our 2020 Chicago Champion for Children Award**. CNA’S commitment to Children’s Place Association for over 20 years is a testament to their passion and drive to be a part of a solution. The hours they dedicated as hands-on volunteers helped create incremental steps bringing long-lasting change to the lives of Chicago’s most vulnerable children. We thank CNA for their commitment to our families, for **donating nearly \$130,000 for our programs that help children and families overcome poverty and illness** and for their commitment to philanthropy around the world.

**Children’s Place Association Board Member*

RESIDENTIAL CENTER CLOSES

During 2020, Children’s Place Association made the difficult decision to permanently close our original program, the 10-bed Residential Center. Opened in 1991 to provide around-the-clock nursing care for young children with HIV/AIDS, its focus was later widened to serve children with other medically-complex conditions. This pioneering program helped hundreds of children overcome serious illness over its three decades of operation. At a future date, when we are able to gather together, Children’s Place will host an event to honor the Residential Center’s legacy and celebrate the life-changing work that took place there.



Located in a converted Greystone house on Chicago’s westside, the Residential Center ceased operations in 2020 after 29 years of caring for medically-complex children.





Children's Place ASSOCIATION

700 N Sacramento Blvd.
Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60612
312.733.9954
childrens-place.org
childrensplaceinternational.org

Children's Place Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, chartered by the State of Illinois and licensed as a child welfare agency by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Photos of client children do not necessarily correspond to the story or program description on that page. Thank you to parents for allowing us to use photographs of their children in this annual report.

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Design by Jensen Donovan
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