



# FY21 ANNUAL REPORT

(JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021)

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**CHILDREN'S PLACE ASSOCIATION**





# FY21 - Annual Report

Dear Friends,

In 1990, when I was hired as Executive Director of the Children's Place Association, this fledgling not-for-profit had neither a staff office nor a website. We did have a bold vision, though-- to build a better tomorrow for Chicago's most vulnerable children. From the 1991 opening of our 10-bed residence for babies with HIV/AIDS to our start up in 2021 of Child Thrive whose vision is to make one impoverished west-side community a terrific place to be a child-- Children's Place Association continues to champion the needs of children, youth, and families whose life circumstances are anything but just and equitable.

Last year, staff, board, and supporters went the extra mile to support our children and families during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which took a heavy toll on the low-income, minority communities where our families live.

Child Thrive, our newest initiative, is a community convener and partner for youth, families, and local organizations committed to reclaiming their community and making it a place where all children and youth can Thrive. Late in FY21, Children's Place received a highly competitive grant of \$550,000 from the State of Illinois to launch Child Thrive in collaboration with our key neighborhood partners. Focusing on issues identified by community members, Child Thrive will increase mental health services for traumatized children and youth, identify and help remediate dilapidated properties, improve access to pediatric medical care, and launch a youth mentorship program.

Thank you—generous supporters, board, staff, and volunteers — for all that you did in FY21 and throughout the years to make this work possible.

With gratitude,  
Cathy Krieger  
President & CEO, Children's Place Association

Friends,

As we close 2021 and look forward to the New Year, I want to reflect on the 32 years of service my friend and colleague **Cathy Krieger** provided to the Children's Place Association and Chicago's most vulnerable children. Cathy spent a career serving children in need, tackling issues head-on, and advocating for the poor and marginalized. With the launch of **Child Thrive**, Cathy and CPA expanded their mission to face Chicago's violence epidemic. 2021 was a big year for Child Thrive as we opened the Child Thrive Center and introduced services, including mentoring, primary care access, and mental wellness services to children and families in West Humboldt Park.

As Board Chair, I am excited and deeply committed to the mission of turning the most difficult situations into the most successful outcomes. In 2022, Children's Place looks forward to continuing to serve Chicago's most vulnerable and expanding Child Thrive's services to improve the lives of children in the Westside communities.

Bob Ryan  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
The Children's Place Association



# Chicago Mission & Programs

## Our Mission:

**Building a secure & hopeful today,  
so children facing  
health issues & poverty  
succeed tomorrow.**

## Our Programs

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



Health



Education



Family Support



Financial Stability

## Scope of Services

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

FOSTER/ADOPTIVE CARE

SUPPORTIVE FAMILY HOUSING

CASE MANAGEMENT

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS &  
SUMMER CAMPS

YOUTH MENTORING

PRIMARY CARE ACCESS

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

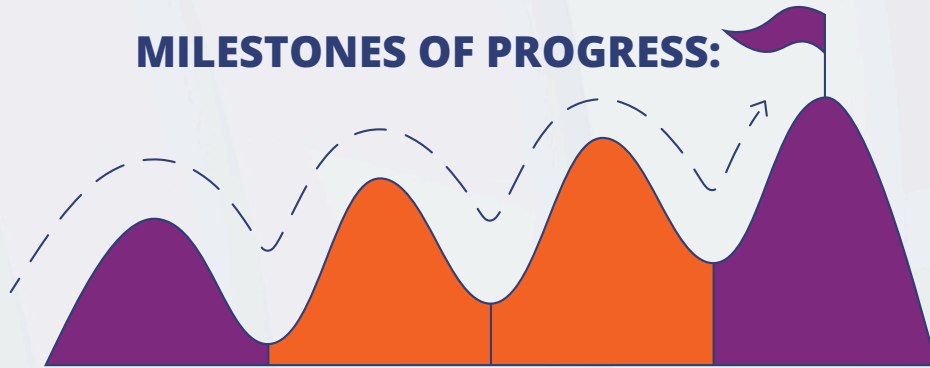
***"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,"  
– African Proverb***

# FY21 - 30th Anniversary

## 30 Years of Impact: Building a Better Tomorrow for Chicago's Children

Since its founding in 1991, the Children's Place Association has transformed from a fledgling vision into a driving force for change, supporting Chicago's most vulnerable children and families. What began as a compassionate response to babies orphaned or abandoned due to HIV/AIDS has grown into a multifaceted organization that addresses a broad range of challenges, from health disparities to housing insecurity.

### MILESTONES OF PROGRESS:



*Founders at Hard Hat Party*



*Ribbon cutting at residence.*

Our journey began with the **opening of a 10-bed residence in 1991**, offering 24-hour nursing care for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens  
can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."  
- Margaret Mead*



## FY21 - 30th Anniversary Cont.

Soon after, we launched **Foster Care and Adoption services (1994)** and opened the **Arthur E. Jones Early Childhood Care & Learning Center (1999)** provides specialized education for children with health challenges. By **1999**, we added supportive family housing for families experiencing homelessness.

As the AIDS crisis eased, we expanded our mission to address broader challenges. **In 2007, we launched Children's Place International**, impacting over **4,000 children and families annually in Africa and the Caribbean** through health, education, and economic development programs. Locally, we added a third supportive housing center in 2015 and adapted quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure 140 families had food, medical care, and housing.



## A Vision for the Future

In 2021, we continued advancing our founding vision by launching **Child Thrive**, a bold initiative in West Humboldt Park. This program provides access to primary care, trauma-informed mental health services, youth mentoring, and economic development opportunities. Our goal? To transform this underserved neighborhood into a place where every child can thrive.

We are proud of our progress over the past three decades and are immensely grateful to the volunteers, employees, partners, and supporters who have made it possible. We've helped thousands of children and families overcome challenges and find hope. As we look to the future, we invite you to join us in continuing this vital work.

Let's keep building a brighter tomorrow—because every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.





## FY21 - Highlights

In 2021, the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence every aspect of our work at the Children's Place Association. While the immediate crisis of the previous year began to ease, the challenges were far from over. The families we serve face ongoing struggles with unemployment, housing instability, and escalating mental health concerns. At the same time, we adapted to new ways of working, addressed technological needs for our home-based students, and supported children and families navigating disrupted routines and uncertain futures. Our mission remained steadfast through it all: to provide stability, care, and hope to the most vulnerable among us during an extraordinary time.



### Once Upon a Time... With Love from Chicago Virtual Gala

This year's virtual gala celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Children's Place Association with inspiring keynote speakers Alex Kotlowitz and Maria Woltjen, renowned advocates for children. The event raised **\$175,000** to support the new Child Thrive Initiative in West Humboldt Park, which offers trauma-focused mental health therapy, youth mentoring, and community-led programs to create a brighter future for children and families.



### Flamingle - Junior Board Virtual Trivia Event

This year's Flamingle Trivia Night was held virtually due to COVID-19, offering a fun and interactive way to support Children's Place Association. The Junior Board's annual event raised nearly **\$40,000** and featured trivia games, a steel drum performance, and heartfelt messages from board members about their dedication to helping Chicago's most vulnerable children. Special thanks go to Co-Presidents Maureen McCluskey, Breck Seitz, Co-Event Chairs Paige Larson, Kelly Whitney, and Sue Sullivan for organizing such a successful evening.



## FY21 - Highlights Cont.

In 2021, the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence every aspect of our work at the Children's Place Association. While the immediate crisis of the previous year began to ease, the challenges were far from over. The families we serve face ongoing struggles with unemployment, housing instability, and escalating mental health concerns. At the same time, we adapted to new ways of working, addressed technological needs for our home-based students, and supported children and families navigating disrupted routines and uncertain futures. Our mission remained steadfast through it all: to provide stability, care, and hope to the most vulnerable among us during an extraordinary time.



### Adopt A Family Gift Drive

More than **80 individuals**, families, and businesses came together to spread holiday cheer by providing gifts for over **130 families** served by Children's Place Association—bringing joy to more than **800 children** and their immediate family members. Their generosity ensured that children facing illness and economic hardship felt seen, valued, and included in the season's magic. Beyond the gifts, parents received supermarket and gift cards, empowering them to create meaningful holiday memories with their children, from shared meals to special traditions. This incredible outpouring of kindness made a lasting impact, reminding families that they are supported by a community that cares. Thank you to everyone who helped make the season brighter!

*"No one has ever become poor from giving."*  
– Anne Frank



# FY21 -Impact Report

## OUR WORK FOCUSES ON FOUR KEY AREAS OF IMPACT:



Health



Education



Family  
Support



Financial  
Stability

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**158**

Vulnerable Children  
Participated in High  
Quality Early Education

**34**

Children Graduated from  
Preschool Fully Prepared for  
Kindergarten



**10,851**

Full Days of Service

**21,702**

Hot Meals



### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



**18**

Formerly Homeless  
Families Stably Housed  
(53 people total)

**100%**

of Households  
had Serious Illness



### NURSING

**38**

Medically Complex  
Children Received  
Around-the-Clock  
Residential Nursing Care

**13,870**

Days of Care



### FOSTER/ADOPTIVE CARE

**64**

Abused/Neglected  
Children Placed in  
Loving Foster Homes



**5**

Children Received  
Permanency (adopted or  
reunited with birth families)



### CASE MANAGEMENT

**210**

Families  
Served



### SUMMER CAMP

**26**

Children Participated in  
our 2021 Summer Camps



### MENTAL HEALTH

**24**

Clients Received  
Mental Health  
Services





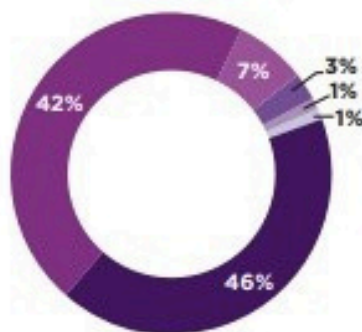
# FY21 -Impact Report

## 301 INDIVIDUALS SERVED (ALL PROGRAMS)

### AGES



### GENDER



### RACE/ETHNICITY



### OUR APPROACH

Children's Place Association intervenes at critical points in a child's development by stabilizing the most vulnerable children and families, crafting personalized plans for their well-being and providing comprehensive services that break the cycle of poverty, illness, violence and racial injustice.

### FAMILY INCOME

89%

of participants had family incomes less than the federal poverty level. (Includes participants who are wards of the state who do not have an income)

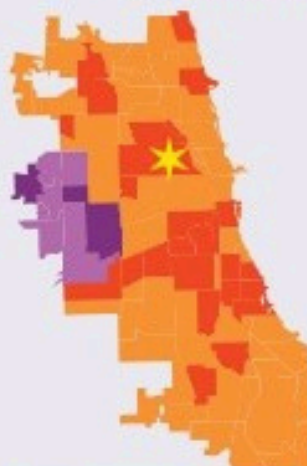
80%

of participant families survive on annual incomes of \$20,000 or less.

### OUR SERVICES

- Early Childhood Learning for children with health issues
- Foster/Adoptive Care for abused and neglected children
- Supportive Family Housing for those struggling with illness and homelessness
- Youth Mentoring
- Primary Care Access
- Mental Health Counseling
- Case Management
- Family Services and Support
- Summer Camp and Afterschool Programs

### CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS WE SERVE



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

★ CHILDREN'S PLACE LOCATION

■ CHICAGO ZIP CODES WHERE OUR CLIENTS LIVE

■ CITY-ADJACENT SUBURBAN ZIP CODES WHERE OUR CLIENTS LIVE



# Program Stories & Testimonials

## CHILD THRIVE

### Patti B. testimonial

#### **Have you noticed any changes in Darron's growth with the program?**

*"Yes, he has always liked math and being interactive with me, but it is awesome to see him interacting with other children, trying to figure out what he likes and doesn't like, and having fun. Don't get me wrong he started rocky with the after-school program not only with the kids but the other adults but you see he has never been allowed to be around other people other than me and his father and God parents; I've sheltered Darron from a lot and to see him grow and understand and like after school it makes me very happy to see especially being around other kids. Darron was the first grandchild in my family for 3 years and hasn't had any outside activities with other children, and seeing him grow into a young man with the help of this program warms my heart."*

#### **How do you think the after-school program can help other children?**

*"To me, after school involves covering all of the basic homework, hands-on activities, educational and physical activities, and then also feeding them and giving them free time. I feel they are doing a magnificent job, especially as a mother who is very overprotective."*

#### **Does Darron enjoy the after-school program? If he has any comments, would he like to share them?**

*"Darron loves every bit of after-school and counts down the days when he gets to go back and races from school to the program."*

## FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

### Meet Bianca

Longtime foster parents Lisa Daubney and Timothy Kirk Louthan finalized the adoption of Bianca Williamson, a bright and resilient child they welcomed into their home through Children's Place Association. This marked their second adoption through CPA.

Bianca came into care shortly after birth under challenging circumstances. Born at 36 weeks and experiencing withdrawal and complex medical needs, she remained hospitalized for six weeks before arriving at CPA's Residential Program in January 2018. Initially isolated for treatment of a severe virus, Bianca was matched with Lisa and Kirk just weeks later and placed in their loving home in February.

Lisa and Kirk have been unwavering advocates for Bianca, ensuring she received the specialized care she needed. This included developmental therapies, orthotics, glasses, and audiological support such as cochlear implants and hearing aids. Her care team has included providers from Lurie Children's Hospital, Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, and Blue Bird Therapeutic Day School.

Bianca has made remarkable progress thanks to Lisa and Kirk's nurturing environment. She has developed a strong bond with her adoptive family and continues to grow and thrive under their care. Their steadfast commitment is a powerful reminder of what's possible when children are allowed to flourish in a safe and supportive home.



# Child Thrive

The opportunity to engage with, support, and provide essential services to the most vulnerable communities has always been central to the Children's Place Association's mission. Child Thrive is the driving force behind that vision, deepening engagement and impact by delivering services that address community-identified needs.

As an inaugural recipient of the State of Illinois R3 Grant (Restore, Reinvest, and Renew), we have been given the platform to launch this initial phase of collaborative services for Chicago residents, primarily focusing on the West Humboldt Park community. In just six months of operation, we have laid the foundation for multiple pathways to success for communities facing the lasting effects of structural and systemic racism.

We are intentional, focused, and honored to partner with community stakeholders to create sustainable change. This is just the beginning; we are excited about what's ahead.

Lives will be changed, families will be strengthened, and children will grow up knowing their neighborhood was a great place to be a kid.

Maurice Fears, Sr.  
Chief Initiative Officer

## Child Thrive Core Focus Areas

YOUTH SUCCESS

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS &  
IDENTITY

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

SAFE SPACES

## Partners



In partnership with Child Thrive, Big Brothers Big Sisters offers a free 1-to-1 mentoring program. Bigs and Littles meet every other week in a group setting led by a Program Coordinator, with time for relationship-building, structured activities, and free play.



Through local schools, JPA and Child Thrive provide mental health support to youth. The program includes counseling for students and families, as well as direct services and support for teachers. Services are available by appointment.



Rush Medical provides free school sports physicals at West Humboldt Place, helping youth meet activity requirements. They also offer physical health consultations for families seeking guidance or support on specific health issues.



WHPDC works with local stakeholders to identify and address problem properties. Partnering with pro bono lawyers and civic groups, they create action plans to improve these buildings and increase community service opportunities.

# Child Thrive Highlights

## The Child Thrive Initiative

Child Thrive partners with the community to address the barriers that poverty, racism, gun violence, and trauma create for youth and families. Through relationship-building and thoughtful, holistic programming, we work to foster stability, safety, and empowerment. With consistent dialogue and strong partnerships, the West Humboldt Park community can rewrite its narrative and truly thrive.



## Child Thrive Summer Mini-Camps

In just six months since launching, Child Thrive rolled out its first summer of mini-camps—offering basketball, Double Dutch, video editing, mindful arts and crafts, and more. Children ages 8–13 spent their summer playing, creating, learning, and building new friendships.



## 20 Years of Camp for Kids Facing Family Illness

This summer marked 20 years of our four-week camp for youth affected by family illness. “We adore having CPA kids—seeing their joy as they swim and play in a safe setting makes our summer,” said Camp Director Kathy Chuckas.

**“Darron Loves every bit of after-school and counts down the days of when he gets to go back and race from school to the program.”**

**- Patti B.**





# Children's Place International

Dear Friends,

This past year, the global pandemic and economic downturn presented the most difficult environment for children and families living in poverty in many decades.

In response, the Children's Place International team worked diligently to understand what was needed to support the children and families in our programs through this challenging time. Meeting their most basic needs—food, health services, pandemic safety, and education — became more urgent than ever.

Working with all of you – our partners here in the United States and our frontline partners in Africa and the Caribbean – we were able to provide lifesaving support to over 1,300 children and youth this fiscal year.

Despite all odds, we can still see a bright future for our program children – one of health and of hope.

Thank you again to everyone for standing with us to advance health and educational equity worldwide.

Leslie McLeod  
Board Chair, Children's Place International

John Sweeney  
Director, Children's Place International



## CPI Highlights

### Scope of Services

Informed by the needs on the ground, we collaborate with local experts to offer a complementary range of services for children and youth living in poverty within our programs.

### Our work focuses on:

- Healthcare, medicine, and treatments
- Mental health services and support groups
- Education and skills development
- Food insecurity and malnutrition
- Housing and transportation assistance
- Family case management and economic stability
- Illnesses such HIV/AIDS, pediatric cancers, water-borne diseases, and epilepsy

# CPI Highlights

## Haiti

In Haiti, 463 children and youth received mental health and neurological care, while an additional 370 gained access to healthcare, nutritious meals, and scholarships that made the school possible.

## Kenya & Tanzania

Across Kenya and Tanzania, 210 children battling cancer received specialized treatment and wrap-around support. Our programs also advanced care by developing awareness tools, remote trainings, data tracking systems, and targeted analysis.

## Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, nearly 320 children and their families, many affected by HIV/AIDS, benefited from medical consultations, mental health counseling, home visits, nutrition support, school supplies, and more.



Cadet, a Children's Place International scholarship student in Gonaïves, Haiti, completed her second year of nursing school, a significant milestone in a country where fewer than 2% of people can access university education.



Youth in our New Ventures afterschool program in Gonaïves learned career skills by creating and selling soap through a social enterprise project. The program builds confidence, fosters peer connection, and instills purpose. One graduate shared that it helped him "live with values and intention."



# CPI Highlights

*"I have been a participant in Children's Place International's programming for the past 12 years. Now, I am in university, and it is one of the greatest opportunities that Children's Place has given me. After graduation, I plan to establish a school. I am a beacon for kids in my neighborhood to follow." – Jean Ricard, Haiti New Ventures afterschool program graduate, Education Sciences major, only surviving member of a family of nine*



## Place the Hope

With generous backing from donors and corporate sponsors, our **Place the Hope** campaign raised a record-breaking **\$210,000** to provide essential support, including food, healthcare, school funding, and other necessities, for children and families. This support played a crucial role in helping communities recover from the pandemic's most severe impacts.



### **Mina Halpern**

As part of our **2020 Place the Hope** campaign, we honored Mina Halpern Lozada, Executive Director of Clínica de Familia La Romana, for her extraordinary frontline leadership in the Dominican Republic. That year, the clinic also received additional support from Children's Place International to provide high-protein food, school supplies and uniforms, and critical HIV treatment for more than 150 children and youth.



*"I was invited to join the CPI after-school program. We were taught how to tackle life, how to be a good leader, and how to carry ourselves in the world. I now take care of sick people as a nurse. What gives me hope is I have a profession and I can contribute to and help my community." – Occivana, Haiti New Ventures afterschool program graduate, practicing nurse*



# Financial Summary

*(For fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Unaudited figures subject to change)*

ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$596,277	\$806,875
Marketable Securities	1,806,136	1,436,469
Accounts Receivable	964,370	1,118,655
Net Property & Equipment	5,638,588	5,918,821
Other Assets	150,245	112,959
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$9,155,566</b>	<b>\$9,393,799</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Liabilities	\$1,880,875	1,706,837
Long-term mortgage payable & other	592,211	594,828
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,473,086</b>	<b>2,301,665</b>
Temporary restricted net assets	271,745	271,745
Unrestricted net assets	6,410,735	6,820,369
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$9,155,566</b>	<b>\$9,393,799</b>

REVENUE	2021	2020
Governmental service fees & grants	\$5,501,066	\$6,755,379
Individual foundational & Corporate giving	1,362,519	1,276,325
Investment Income	13,293	(12,240)
Other Income	81,099	484,907
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,957,977</b>	<b>\$8,504,371</b>

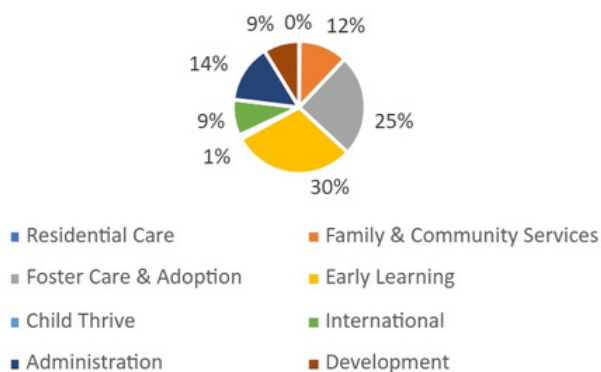


EXPENSES	2021	2020
Program Services	\$5,113,713	\$7,276,921
Management & General	1,079,756	902,964
Fundraising	1,325,579	532,354
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,539,048</b>	<b>8,712,239</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$(581,071)</b>	<b>\$ (207,868)</b>

EXPENITURES BY PROGRAM	AMOUNT	%
Residential Care	\$9,014	0%
Family & Community Services	899,460	12%
Foster Care & Adoption	1,873,874	25%
Early Learning	2,275,142	30%
Child Thrive	76,223	1%
International	663,446	9%
Administration	61,079,75663,446	14%
Development	662,133	9%
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>\$7,539,048</b>	<b>100%</b>

REVENUE BY FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT	%
Governmental service fees & grants	\$5,501,066	79%
Individual foundational & Corporate giving	1,362,519	20%
Investment Income	13,293	0%
Other Income	81,099	1%
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>\$6,957,977</b>	<b>100%</b>

FY2021 EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM



FY2021 REVENUE BY FUNDING SOURCE



# Boards and Committees

## CHILDREN'S PLACE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*\*Past Board Chair*

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# Boards and Committees

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CIBC

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Ventas, Inc.

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Fredi Bensdorf  
Community Volunteer

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2022 Director DLC  
Group

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CAIA  
Senior Managing  
Director,  
Chief Investment  
Officer,  
Equity Management  
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of Community  
Engagement,  
CRA Officer &  
Community Impact  
Liaison  
Wintrust Financial

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Jenner & Block

Jill Erickson  
Head, US Medical  
External Affairs,  
Health Equity &  
Community Affairs  
Takeda  
Pharmaceuticals USA,  
Inc.

Ellen Moiani  
Director, Government  
& Community Affairs  
Rowe-Clark (Noble  
Network of Schools)  
Chair  
Community Advisor  
Council (Child Thrive)

Meghan Reilly  
LCSW Private Practice  
on Trauma Informed  
Care  
Lecturer for  
University  
of Chicago

Dominique Wilson  
CPA  
Ambassador/past  
participant  
Rise Kit "Economic  
Mobility Software"

# Boards and Committees

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Edward F. Otto

Brad Dunlap

Wesler Lambert, MD, MPH

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Gary Harper, PhD, MPH

Terry McAllister

Treasurer  
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James McAuley, MD, MPH

Ivan Adams

Florence Kimondo, PhD

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Mark Harris

Justin Pauly

Co-Chair  
Kevin Amoo-Mensah

Tim Koenig

Mary Poliwka

Pere Berkowitz

Monica Lanum

Chris Reddick

Brad Dunlap

Terry McCallister

Ty Shockley

Tina Eddy

James McCauley

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Peter Erickson

Leslie McLeod

Pauline Taylor

Janessa Gates

Rich Moser

Joe Villanova

Jori Gates

Ryan Park

Kristina Zanayed

Cheryl Gelfond



# Donors

## **\$50,000 +**

Amicus Foundation, Paul M. Angell Family Foundation

## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

CAN Financial, The Christopher Foundation, Crown Families Philanthropies  
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committed citizens can change the world; indeed,  
it's the only thing that ever has.”***

***- Margaret Mead***