



Shelter, Inc.

2020 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

While 2020 presented us with difficult challenges, together, we have achieved unprecedented accomplishments. With deep gratitude and pride, I have seen our community rise to the challenges and to be here for children in need.

Despite restrictions due to COVID-19, we kept our programs open 24-hours a day, every day, thanks to our supporters and dedicated staff. We successfully transitioned our in-person visitations and events to be virtual and implemented the highest safety standards at our group homes.

With the support of our community behind us, Shelter not only maintained our services but expanded them to meet the growing needs of children and their families.

We doubled the capacity to house those in our Youth Experiencing Homelessness program, and in March, we created our Family Crisis Fund, assisting families overwhelmed by the pandemic with essential needs from food to utility payments.

This year, we've strengthened our organization and community by widening our network, forging new partnerships, and building new relationships.

Thank you to those who generously donated your time, talents, and resources. You provided the strength and determination to offer hope, unlimited possibilities, and brighter futures for children in crisis. Regardless of what the future holds, we will continue until all children grow up in safe and loving homes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carina H. Santa Maria'.

Carina H. Santa Maria, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director



**Imagine a world where
all children grow up feeling
safe, nurtured, and loved.**

**Today there will be
222 reports of child
abuse in Illinois.**

**Last year, nearly
34,561 children in
Illinois were victims of
abuse or neglect.**

Founded in 1975, Shelter, Inc. has become a leader in Chicagoland for providing emotional and physical care, programs and services that children need to build safer, healthier and brighter futures. We are the only agency in the state to provide comprehensive and community-based services for children and families at risk and in need.

Our mission is to end the cycle of child abuse by providing a comprehensive network of support, ensuring safe, healthy and nurturing environments to children, their families and our community. We are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our goal is to create a world where all children grow up in safe and nurturing environments.

Emergency Group Homes

Providing temporary relief can improve family stability and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Shelter's Boys' Group Home and Jennings Group Home for Girls provide emergency housing for youth ages 11 - 17 who are experiencing crisis due to abuse or neglect, or are in need of emergency shelter due to family circumstances such as homelessness, illness or domestic violence.

Our homes are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our staff provides trauma-informed care, and specialized support for the most marginalized populations such as children in the LGBTQ community and children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

In FY2020, 112 children in our emergency homes were given the physical and mental help they needed to heal from their trauma, with 2,086 days of care.





Healthy Families

Because abuse often perpetuates, breaking the cycle is crucial.

Healthy Families is an intensive home visiting program for at-risk, first-time parents. The program is voluntary, confidential and free.

Our multi-lingual staff works with parents during a child's most formative years - from birth through age 5 - to create safe and healthy environments for their babies. Through regular home visits, we teach parents fundamental skills such as stress management, effective discipline, health care and nutrition, and connect them to critical community resources.

In FY2020, 61 first-time families received the resources needed to be self-sufficient and stop abuse before it had a chance to start.

"We are trying our best...for our son. I want to thank the person who made this possible for us. My son will finally have his own crib."

- Teen mom in our Healthy Families program

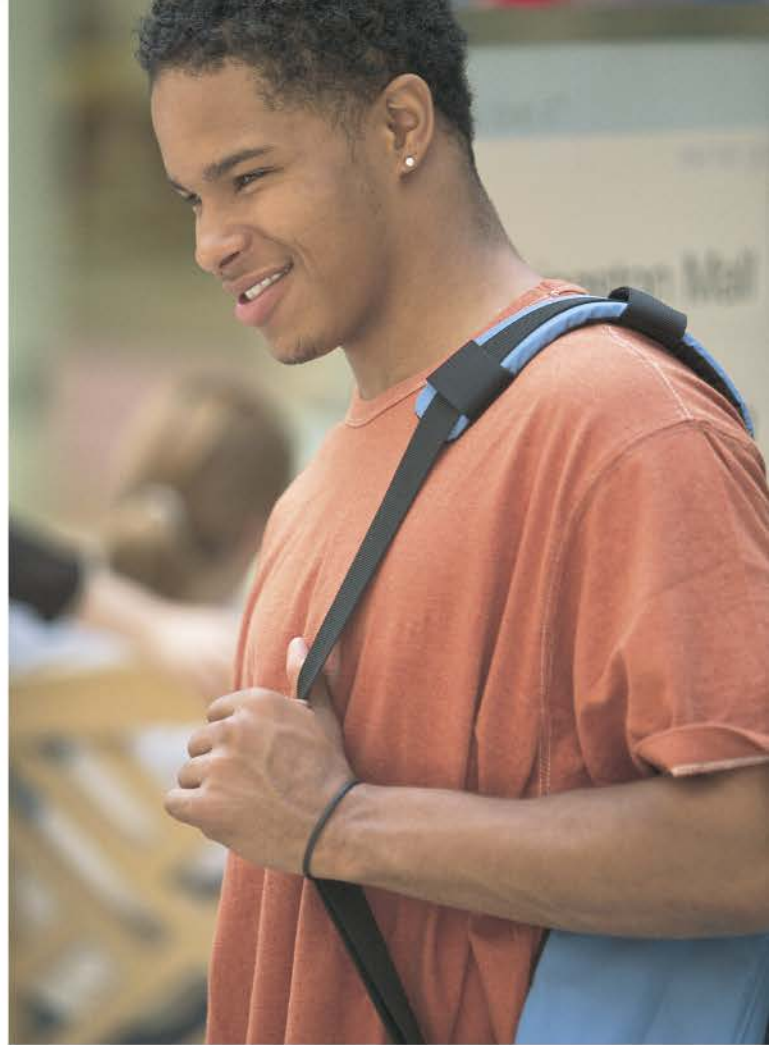
Transitional Living

Aging out of foster care leaves our youth in a situation in which they are vulnerable to homelessness

Shelter's Transitional Living Program (TLP) supports young men ages 17 - 21 who are homeless and aging out of the child welfare system. The goal of the two-year program is to provide support in a safe, appropriate, and stable home-like environment as they learn to transition to sustainable, healthy and independent living.

Support services target continuing education, stable employment, permanent connections, and social and emotional well-being. Life skills training includes essential skills from cooking and nutrition to budgeting, work ethics, and building self-esteem. In most cases, this is the last opportunity for these young men to learn healthy choices, resist gangs, crime and drugs while living off the streets, and to build productive lives with promising futures.

In FY2020, eight young men who were transitioning out of the child welfare system participated in our TLP. Two graduated from the two-year program with bright futures ahead.



Youth Experiencing Homelessness



Through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services and in partnership with the Kenneth Young Center, Shelter launched the Youth Experiencing Homelessness (YEH) program for young adults ages 14-24 without permanent housing.

For some youth, instability in their homes forces them out onto the streets before they are adults. Common family experiences include child abuse and/or neglect, domestic violence, parental substance use, and family conflict related to a youth's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Services provided by Shelter are free, confidential, and voluntary, and include:

- Assistance with housing
- Pregnancy and parenting support
- Counseling
- Life-skills training
- Other help needed to secure permanent housing

In FY2020, Shelter doubled the number of youth served through this program and helped them secure gainful employment.

Foster Care



Shelter, Inc.'s Foster Care programs are for children from birth through 21. Our programs include home-of-relative and traditional foster care. Families, with the assistance of foster care caseworkers, work to resolve the problems that brought the children or adolescents into placement so that they can be reunited as quickly as possible.

Foster parents may be single or have any marital status, working, in school, stay at home, or retired, have other children or live alone, be of any faith, sexual orientation, gender identification, or race.

In FY2020, 63 foster families were created, some temporarily, some permanently. Children who were unsafe in their homes were brought together with families to love them in stable and healthy environments where they can not only grow but also flourish.

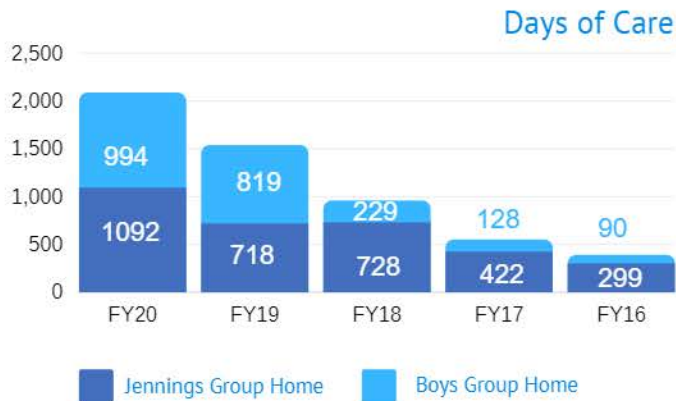
"If we can give everyone the tools they need...they can succeed and do great things. Because it's love and family that matters."

--Former Foster Parent

OUR IMPACT

EMERGENCY GROUP HOMES

130 children in our emergency homes were given the physical and mental help they needed to heal from their trauma, with 2,086 days of care.



HEALTHY FAMILIES

61 first-time families with multiple challenges at risk for abuse received the help needed to be self-sufficient, and stop abuse before it had a chance to start.



FOSTER CARE

- 63 clients (caseload capacity = 60)
- 21,919 days of care

46% Increase in days of care from FY19

YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAM

- 4 youth participated in this new program

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

- 8 men participated
- 56% of the men were employed
- 64% completed GED or vocational certificates, or are currently enrolled in school.

30% Increase in days of care from FY19

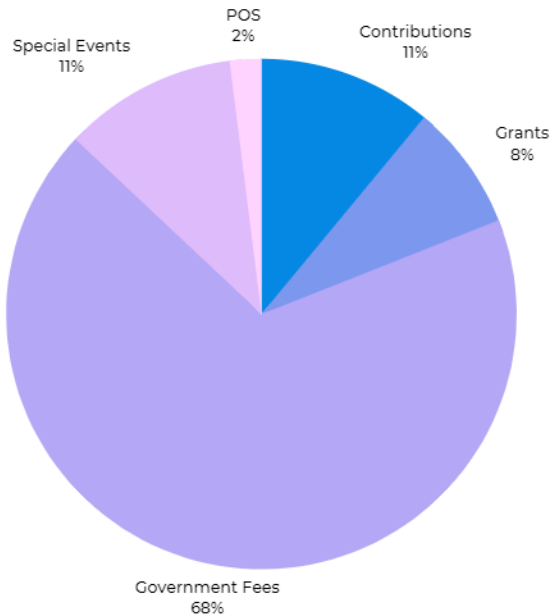
COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March, Shelter employees began working remotely in response to guidelines set by the CDC and the State of Illinois Public Health Department. Shelter's program staff maintained connection with clients through virtual visits. A crisis fund was created to help Shelter families deal with job loss, food insecurity, and economic hardship created by the Pandemic. Thanks to community support and Shelter's dedicated essential workers and staff, each of our programs has remained open during the pandemic.

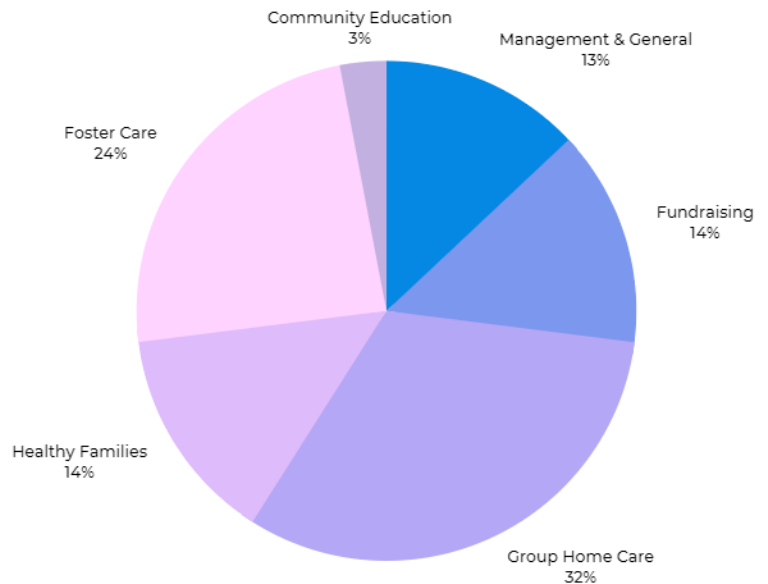


FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES



EXPENSES



REVENUE

for the year ended June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
Contributions	\$332,095	\$297,229
Grants	228,514	461,878
Government Fees	1,949,299	1,598,051
Special Events	308,214	331,789
Purchase of Services (POS)	60,408	100,317
Other	-	2,323
Total Revenue	\$2,878,530	\$2,791,587

EXPENSES

Supporting Services		
Management and General	\$346,530	\$375,921
Fundraising	381,843	356,242
Total Supporting Services	728,373	732,163
Program Services		
Group Home Care	894,424	875,346
Healthy Families	380,238	347,778
Foster Care	668,965	571,371
Community Education and Development	97,147	98,176
Total Program Services	2,040,774	1,892,671
Total Functional Expenses	2,769,147	2,624,834
Change in Net Assets	109,383	166,753
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	451,052	284,299
Net Assets, End of Year	\$560,435	\$451,052

LEADERSHIP

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John Kleek
Lindsey Novak
Gina Robertson

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Senior Director of Development

Diana Morris
Human Resources Specialist

Lisa Gierlach
Accounting Coordinator

Gina Ciulla
Clinical Director

Michelle French
Foster Care Director

Lynn Puckelwartz
Healthy Families Program Director



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT





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