

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Protecting Children • Strengthening Families • Transforming Communities



Shelter, Inc.



ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE.
Together we can do so much.

Dear Friends,

One of the things I love about the work we do at Shelter, Inc. is that the impact is tangible. We're changing kids' lives, and we're making our whole community stronger in the process.

When Shelter, Inc. was founded in 1975, the mission was simple: We need to protect kids. Since then, that protection has expanded from a safe place to sleep at night to implementing seven specialized programs that each meet a unique community need.

When it comes to kids, there's no such thing as the status quo. Shelter, Inc. continues to grow and evolve and provide housing, education and prevention programs that help to end the cycle of child abuse and build brighter futures for our most vulnerable young people and their families.

One of my proudest moments this year was in January when Shelter, Inc. was selected as one of 18 recipients out of 140 applicants to receive a Cook County Behavioral Health Expansion Initiative Grant.

This funding will allow for the expansion of our Clinical Program and make mental health therapy more accessible to children and families in underserved suburban Cook County.

This past year, Shelter, Inc. also launched a new Emergency Foster Care Program in partnership with Let It Be Us to fill a critical need for stable, shorter-term housing for young people who have experienced inconsistent and difficult placements.

These achievements and so many others would not be possible without the support of our community for which I'm so grateful. Your commitment to children and families moves us ever closer to our vision of all children being raised in safe and loving homes.

Carina H. Santa Maria, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director



Hear how our staff bring hope and healing to the young people and families in our care.



**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 vision is that every child grows up in a safe and loving home.

Emergency Group Homes

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

Shelter's group homes 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 LGBTQIA+ community and children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

FY2023



- **108 children served**
- **2,435 days of care provided**
- **Shelter's Buckholz Group Home for young people who identify as male is the only home of its kind in Chicago's northwest suburbs**



A close-up photograph of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly as she holds a baby. The woman is wearing a light pink top. The baby is wearing a white diaper. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Healthy Families

Because abuse often perpetuates, breaking the cycle is crucial.

Healthy Families is an intensive home visiting program for at-risk, often 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 help parents learn fundamental skills such as stress management, effective discipline, health care and nutrition, and connect them to critical community resources.

FY2023



- **56 families served**
- **3,776 hours of care provided**

Foster Care



Shelter, Inc.'s Foster Care programs are for children from birth through 21. Our programs include home-of-relative, traditional foster care and new Emergency Foster Care program. 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. Foster Care brings children together with families to love them in stable and healthy environments where they can not only grow but also flourish.

FY2023



- **75 foster families created**
- **7 permanencies achieved**
- **22,258 days of care days of care provided**
- **Shelter, Inc. launched a new Emergency Foster Care Program in partnership with Let It Be Us. This program addresses a critical need for shorter-term placements for young people who have had difficult and inconsistent housing.**

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 people assigned male at birth 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.

Services target continuing education, stable employment, and social and emotional well-being. Life skills training includes cooking, nutrition, and financial literacy. In many cases, TLP is the last opportunity for these young people to learn healthy choices and build productive lives with promising futures.

FY2023



- **8 clients served**
- **2,133 days of care**



Youth Experiencing Homelessness



Youth “homelessness” does not necessarily mean young people are living on the streets.

FY2023



- **10 clients**
- **2,196 days of care provided**
- **Outcomes included full-time jobs, going to college, and being successfully independent**

Through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services and in partnership with the Kenneth Young Center, Shelter provides support for youth ages 14-24 who are without stable, fixed, or adequate housing. These youths may be “couch surfing” at friend’s or relative’s homes or living with their parents but lacking basic needs, such as food, personal hygiene, and supervision.

Child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, parental substance abuse, and family conflict related to a youth’s sexual orientation, gender identity or expression are often the impetus for youth being forced out of their homes before they reach adulthood.

Shelter’s YEH program takes a housing-first approach and provides individualized support and comprehensive services to increase the safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of youth experiencing homelessness.

Clinical Care

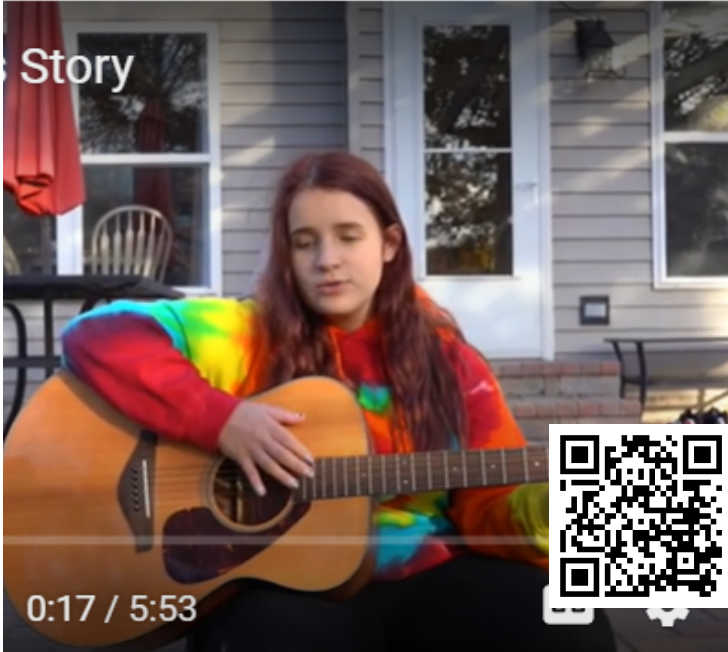
Without intervention, child abuse's life-long effects may include multiple mental health disorders, chronic illness, suicide, drug addiction and more.

Many of the children and families in Shelter's programs are under-insured or on Medicaid. Finding mental health service providers in suburban areas is difficult. By accepting Medicaid and other insurance, Shelter can offer free therapy to children and their family members whose mental health impacts their well-being. The Clinical Program breaks down the barriers to receiving quality care by eliminating the cost, increasing access and coordinating care. Making mental health therapy accessible to children in crisis results in more successful outcomes and fewer life-long effects from trauma.

FY2023

- 80 clients served
- Shelter, Inc. received a Behavioral Health Expansion Initiative Grant from the Cook County Department of Public Health to expand our mental health services and provide increased access to children and families in underserved areas of Cook County

Making a Difference



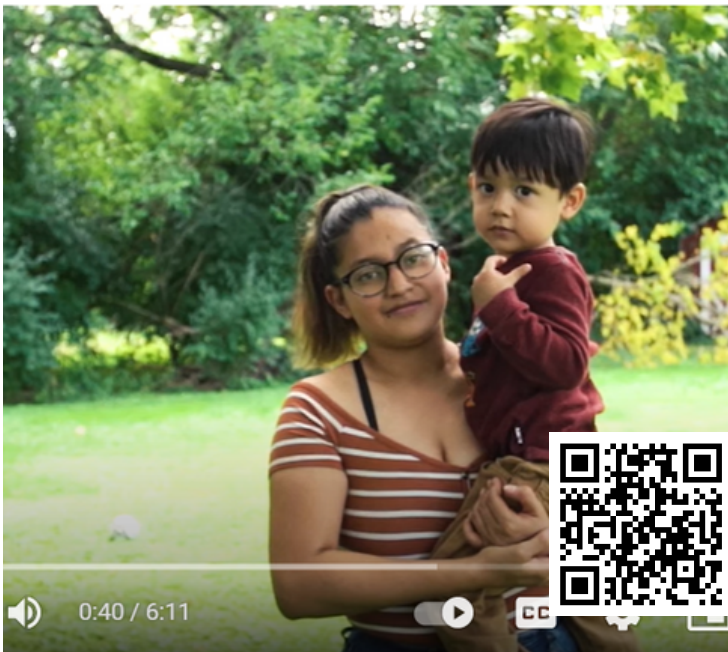
Sophia's Story

Sophia is a survivor. This is her story about how Shelter, Inc. supported her on her journey to overcome childhood abuse and human trafficking.



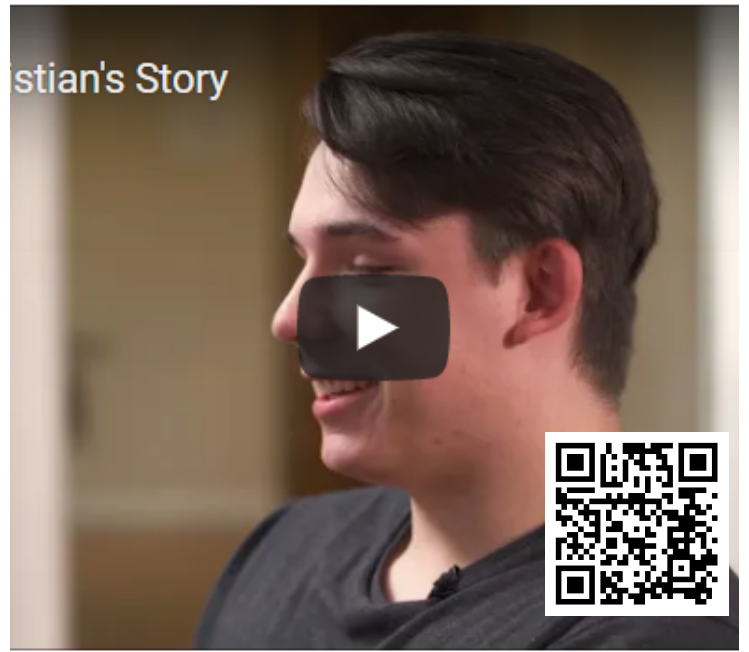
The Tintera Family's Story

The story of how Shelter, Inc. helped the Tintera family on their journey from foster care to adoption.



Leslie and Naydeli's Story

Leslie and Naydeli tell their stories of how Healthy Families has helped them throughout their children's development journeys. "That's more than help."

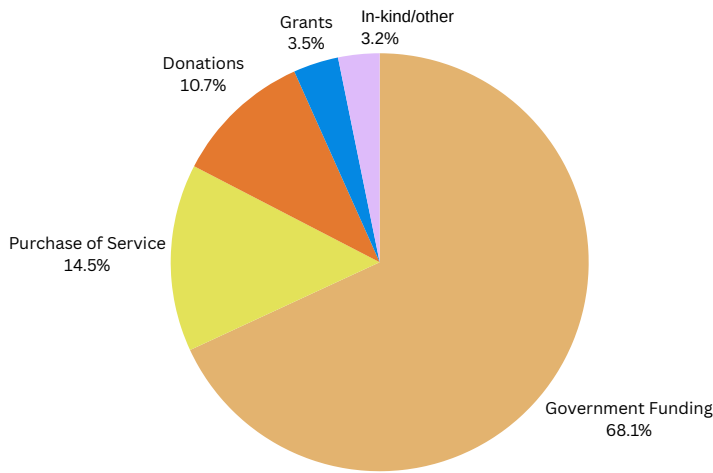


Christian's Story

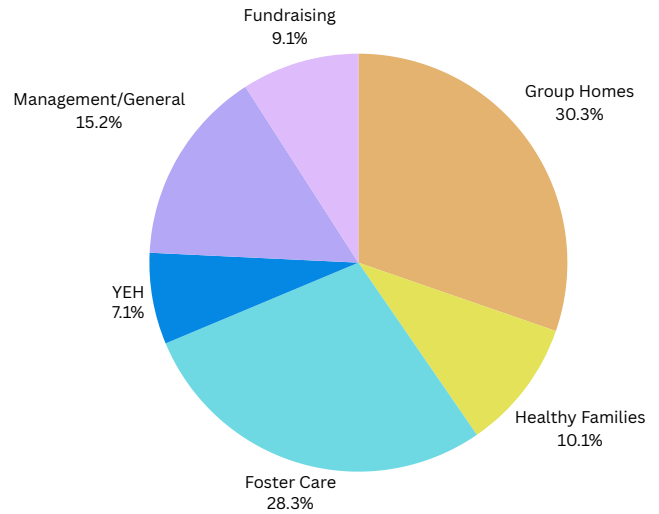
Christian shares his story about how the TLP helped him on his journey towards having hope for the future again.

Financial Report

REVENUES



EXPENSES



REVENUE

for the year ended June 30, 2023

	FY2023	FY2022
Donations	\$471,920	\$728,988
Grants	155,322	520,052
Government Fees	2,914,531	2,480,779
Purchase of Services (POS)	643,499	53,259
In-Kind and Other	287,154	122,035
Total Revenue	\$4,433,349	\$3,905,113

EXPENSES

Supporting Services		
Management and General	\$677,714	\$791,029
Fundraising	385,783	492,793
Total Supporting Services	1,063,497	1,283,822
Program Services		
Group Home Care	1,325,297	1,008,745
Healthy Families	459,186	361,046
Foster Care/Emergency Foster Care	1,256,402	715,855
Clinical	16,540	182,221
YEH	295,762	179,052
Total Program Services	3,353,187	2,446,919
Total Functional Expenses	4,416,664	3,730,741
Change in Net Assets	16,665	174,372
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	910,211	735,839
Net Assets, End of Year	\$926,876	\$910,211

Leadership

Board of Directors

John M. Stomper
President

Guy W. Eisenhuth
Vice President

Rebecca Helkowski
Treasurer

Heather Moss
Secretary

Leslie Carlson
Larry Collins
J.J. Comiskey
Julie Gibson
Jennifer Ryder
Samara Tuchband

Executive Staff

Carina H. Santa Maria, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

Gina Ciulla, MSW, LCSW
Associate Director

Caitlyn Lierman
Residential Director

Diana Morris
Human Resources Coordinator

Simone Wheeler, C.F.R.E.
Director of Development

Christina Gaytan, MSW, LCSW
Foster Care Director

Lynn Puckelwartz, MSW
Healthy Families Program Director

Associate Board

Megan Kontos
President

Monica Hailer
Vice President

Jenn Mastalerz
Event Chair

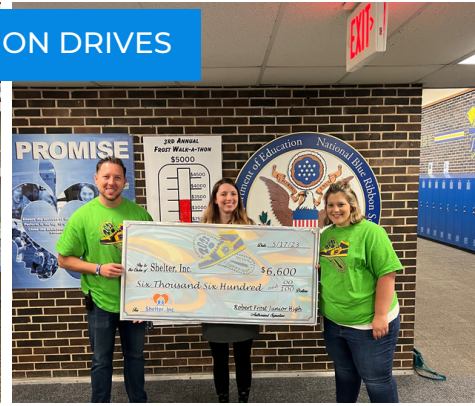
Erin Doyle
Lindsey Novak
Gina Robertson



Thank You for Your Support



DONATION DRIVES



5K RUN/WALK 4 KIDZ



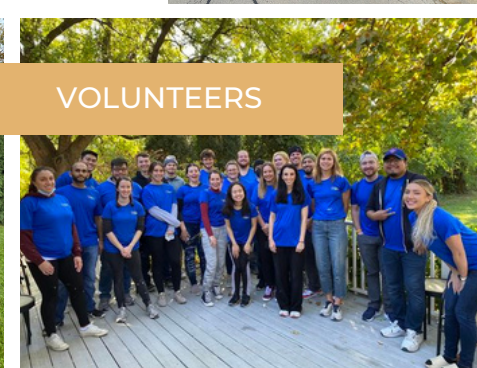
AWARENESS MONTH



PRIDE PARADE



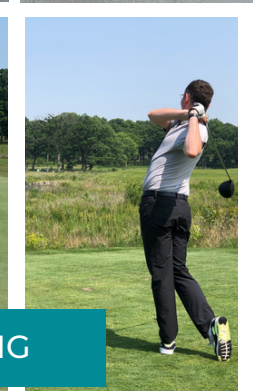
VOLUNTEERS



COOKING WITH CLASS



PORTELLI GOLF OUTING



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS GALA



13th ANNUAL REPORT 2023



1616 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

24-Hour Referral Line: 847.255.8060

shelter@shelter-inc.org
www.shelter-inc.org



Shelter, Inc. is committed to providing safe, inclusive, and supportive resources for youth and families from all backgrounds and identities.