

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Shelter, Inc.



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

Dear Friends,

The fiscal year of 2021-2022 was filled with many challenges as well as accomplishments for Shelter, just as it was for our community. With you and our other partners, we continued to help youths and families through the mental health crisis resulting from the pandemic, to break the cycle of abuse and neglect, and to realize their goals and dreams.

One of my proudest moments this year was the purchase of a new home for our Transitional Living Program for youths aged 17-21. This endeavor was not without its obstacles, and it was inspiring to see the community rally around us and the young people we serve. In April, we welcomed TLP residents into a beautiful new home that is safer, more modern, and has room to grow. None of this would be possible without our dedicated team of donors, volunteers, staff, and community supporters. The Program has remained at capacity and has a continuous waiting list.

Our Clinical Program has been highly successful, breaking through barriers to provide free mental health care for under-served youths. We had 48 clients, including their family members. Two new therapists were added for on-site counseling.

We also achieved 11 permanencies in our Foster Care program, enrolled 14 new families in Healthy Families, increased the number of youths served in our Group Homes, provided free COVID vaccine clinics for the community, and launched a new user-friendly website.

None of this would have been 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.

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

Carina H. Santa Maria, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

A photograph of a man and a young girl laughing together outdoors in a grassy field. The man is on the right, wearing a light blue sweater, and the girl is on the left, wearing a black top and light blue jeans. They are both smiling broadly and looking at each other. The background is a blurred green field with some people in the distance.

**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 LGBTQ community and children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

2021-22

- **94 children served**
- **2,286 days of care provided**
- **The name of our Boys' Group Home was changed to the Buckholz Group Home, honoring one of our founders. The change is to reflect Shelter welcoming all gender identities.**





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.

2021-22

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- **59 families served**
 - **3,179 hours of care provided**
 - **Seven families graduated from the five-year Program with their children enrolled in kindergarten**
 - **We're proud of parents' accomplishments, including high school graduation, college enrollment, and purchasing a home**
 - **Lurie's Connect Teen Program was welcomed as a new partner**

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. Foster Care brings children together with families to love them in stable and healthy environments where they can not only grow but also flourish.

2021-22



- **67 foster families created**
- **11 permanencies achieved**
- **18,413 days of care days of care provided**

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.

2021-22



- **In April, we welcomed TLP residents into a beautiful new home that is safer, more modern, and has room to grow**
- **8 clients served**
- **2,230 days of care**



Youth Experiencing Homelessness



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

2021-22



- **12 clients**
- **2,366 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 Services

Providing trauma-informed mental health care is critical for healing.

In response to the need and gap in services, Shelter launched a new Clinical Program in 2021 that breaks down the barriers for our clients to receiving quality mental health therapy. Because we now accept Medicaid and other insurance, we can offer mental healthcare free to clients.

Making mental health therapy accessible to children in crisis results in more successful outcomes and fewer life-long effects from trauma.

2021-22



- 48 clients served
- Two new therapists added

Our Stories



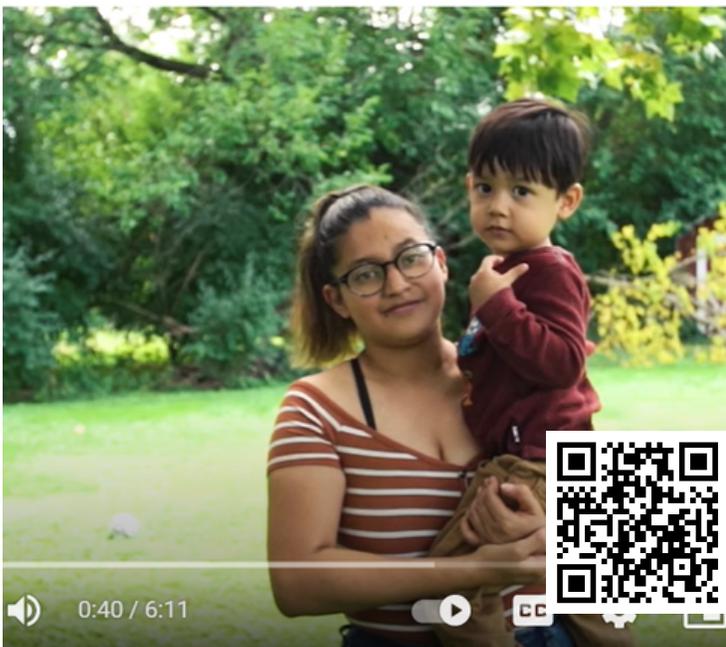
Sophia's Story

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



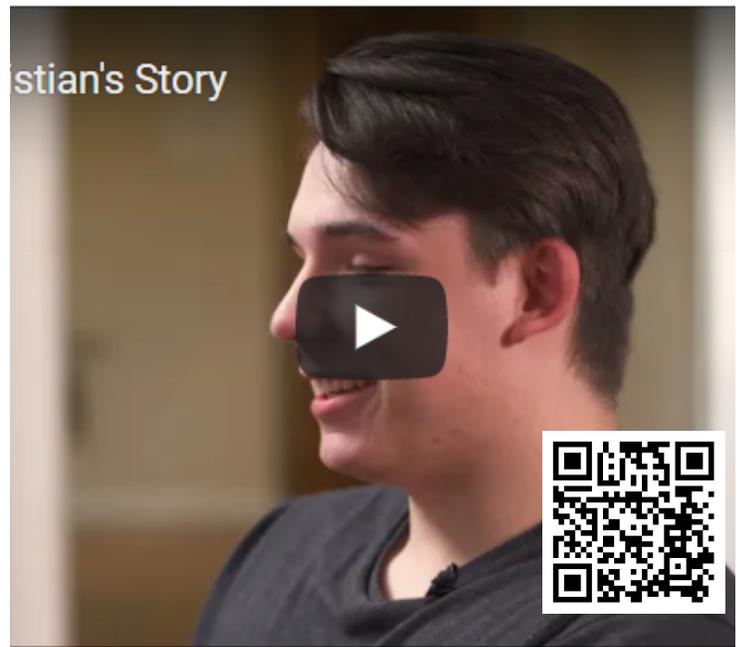
The Tintera Family's Story

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."

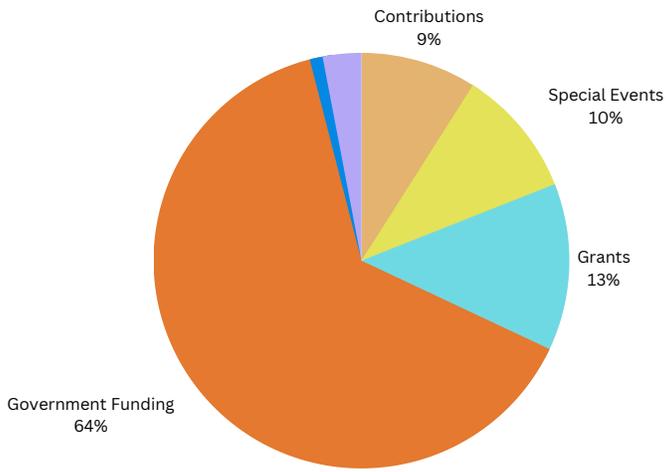


Christian's Story

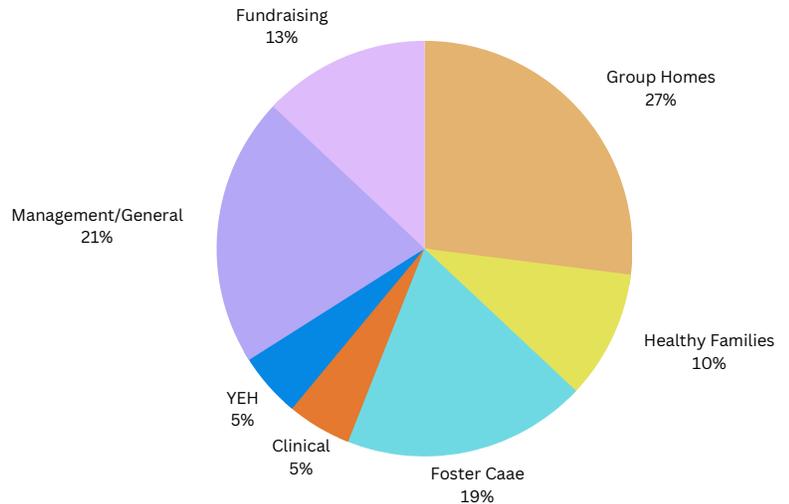
Christian shares his story about how the TLP helped him on his journey towards having hope for the future again.

Financial Report

REVENUES



EXPENSES



REVENUE

for the year ended June 30, 2021

	2022	2021
Contributions	\$338,645	\$476,090
Grants	520,052	554,793
Government Fees	2,480,779	2,078,344
Special Events	390,343	178,070
Purchase of Services (POS)	53,259	71,401
In-Kind and Other	122,035	82,265
Total Revenue	\$3,905,113	\$3,440,963

EXPENSES

Supporting Services		
Management and General	\$791,029	\$641,043
Fundraising	492,793	427,263
Total Supporting Services	1,283,822	1,068,306
Program Services		
Group Home Care	1,008,745	879,876
Healthy Families	361,046	364,987
Foster Care	715,855	667,510
Clinical	182,221	159,992
YEH	179,052	124,888
Community Education and Development	-	-
Total Program Services	2,446,919	2,197,253
Total Functional Expenses	3,730,741	3,265,559
Change in Net Assets	174,372	175,404
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	735,839	560,435
Net Assets, End of Year	\$910,211	\$735,839

Leadership

Board of Directors

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Vice President

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Heather Moss
Secretary

Leslie Carlson
Larry Collins
J.J. Comiskey
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Clinical Director

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Foster Care Director

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Erin Doyle
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Gina Robertson



Thank You for Your Support



DONATION DRIVES



5K RUN/WALK 4 KIDZ

PRIDE PARADE

AWARENESS MONTH



PORTELLI GOLF OUTING



TLP RENOVATION & OPEN HOUSE



COOKING WITH CLASS



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS GALA





Shelter, Inc.

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.