

2021 Annual Report





Dear Friends,

In our 46-year history, the past year for Shelter and our community saw the gravest of challenges and the most remarkable achievements. Never before were we faced with a life-threatening pandemic, the perfect storm to trigger severe child abuse and neglect, and overwhelming hardship for families.

While none of us remained untouched by COVID-19, our community responded with courage, compassion, and heartfelt commitment, working as one to ensure no child or family was left behind.

Despite restrictions due to COVID-19, we kept our programs open 24-hours a day, every day, thanks to our supporters and dedicated staff. Not only did we maintain service, but we expanded service to meet the growing needs of children and their families.

One of the most exciting things that happened this year was identifying a new location for our Transitional Living Program. We have begun the process of obtaining permits and approvals from the Village of Arlington Heights and look forward to the time when we can move our program into a safer, more modern space with room to grow.

We saw an unmet need for accessible mental health care, and launched a new Clinical Services program to provide free therapy services to our clients.

We also doubled the capacity of our Youth Experiencing Homelessness program, achieved 11 permanencies in foster care, enrolled eight new families in Healthy Families, and made investments in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts to better serve all clients, and especially those with marginalized identities.

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 working 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 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.

2020-21



- **109 children served**
- **2,309 days of care provided**





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.

2020-21

- **57 families served**
- **2,957 hours of care provided**
- **162 referrals made**
- **Family crisis fund established to help families facing overwhelming hardship due to the pandemic**

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.

2020-21



- **65 foster families created**
- **11 permanencies achieved**
- **18,765 days of care provided**
- **Family crisis fund established to help families facing overwhelming hardship due to the pandemic**

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.

2020-21

- **Started permit process for a new TLP home in Arlington Heights that will provide a safer, more modern space with room to grow**
- **Nine clients served**
- **2,009 days of care provided**



Youth Experiencing Homelessness



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

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.

2020-21

- **11 clients served**
- **2,085 days of care provided**

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.

2020-21



Shelter hired two full-time therapists to provide on-site counseling.



A Year of Progress

Started permit process for a new TLP home in Arlington Heights

60



Number of volunteers donating their time

340

Number of volunteer hours donated

Due to COVID restrictions, limited volunteer opportunities were available

3



Community education webinars presented.

200

Community education webinar attendees.

100

Number agencies, businesses, and organizations we partner with to help kids in our community find safe and loving homes.



250

Clients served



25,291

Days of care

Shelter was one of 11 agencies in the state of Illinois selected as a Think Trauma training agency by Northwestern University

11

Number of permanencies achieved for foster children.

Shelter was a proud first-time sponsor of the Buffalo Grove Gay Pride Parade.

162

Referrals made for callers to our 24-hour helpline.

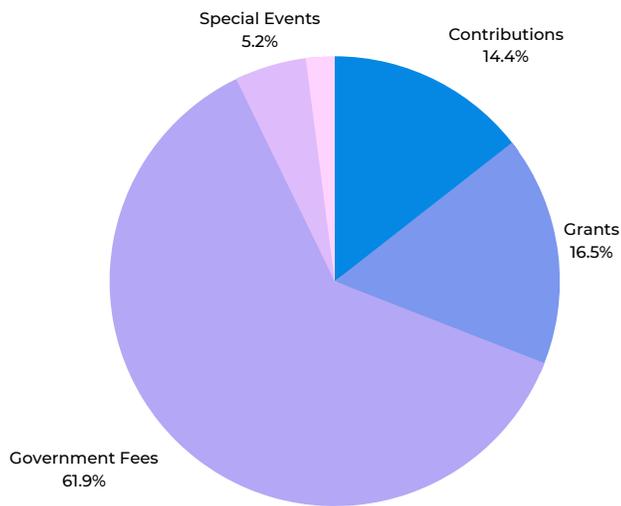


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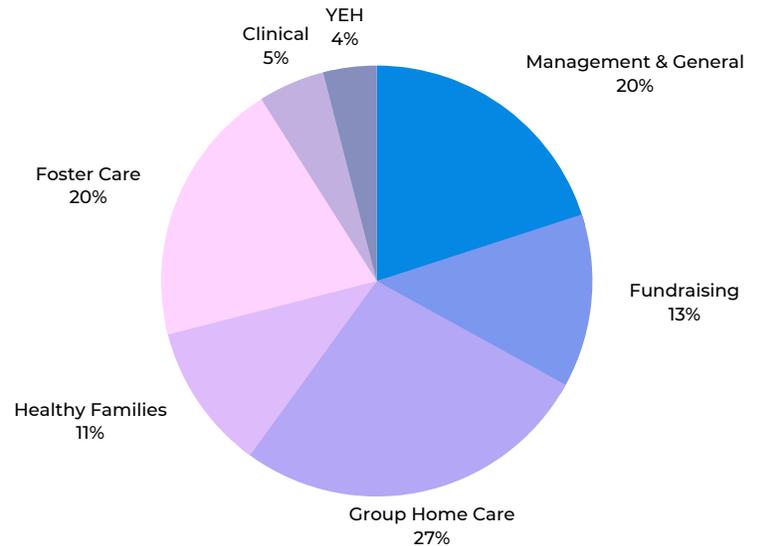
Rate of reunification for children and families in our emergency group homes.

Financial Report

REVENUES



EXPENSES



REVENUE

for the year ended June 30, 2021

	2021	2020
Contributions	\$476,090	\$332,095
Grants	554,793	228,514
Government Fees	2,078,344	1,949,299
Special Events	178,070	308,214
Purchase of Services (POS)	71,401	60,408
In-Kind and Other	82,265	–
Total Revenue	\$3,440,963	\$2,878,530

EXPENSES

Supporting Services		
Management and General	\$641,043	\$346,530
Fundraising	427,263	381,843
Total Supporting Services	1,068,306	728,373
Program Services		
Group Home Care	879,876	894,424
Healthy Families	364,987	380,238
Foster Care	667,510	668,965
Clinical	159,992	–
YEH	124,888	–
Community Education and Development	–	97,147
Total Program Services	2,197,253	2,040,774
Total Functional Expenses	3,265,559	2,769,147
Change in Net Assets	175,404	109,383
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	560,435	451,052
Net Assets, End of Year	\$735,839	\$560,435

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

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Executive Director

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Senior Director of Development

Diana Morris
Human Resources Specialist

Gina Ciulla, MSW, LCSW
Clinical Director

Michelle French, MSW
Foster Care Director

Lynn Puckelwartz, MSW
Healthy Families Program Director

Associate Board

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Monica Hailer
Vice President

Jenn Mastalerz
Event Chair

Erin Doyle
Lindsey Novak
Gina Robertson



Thank You for Your Support

BACKPACK DRIVE



DONATION DRIVES



AWARENESS MONTH



PRIDE PARADE



5K RUN/WALK 4 KIDZ



PORTELLI GOLF OUTING



COOKING WITH CLASS



HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE



2021 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.