



**Almost Home Kids™**

Share the Care

# 2020 Annual Report



**Our mission is to provide a bridge from hospital to home for children with medical complexities by:**

- **educating and empowering families with the training, skills and confidence needed to care for their child at home;**
- **coordinating all the community-based medical and social services the child and family will need;**
- **providing respite care when needed in a home-like setting.**



*Diego and Alex (Child Life Specialist)*

Dear Friends,

If there's anything we can learn from 2020, it's that donors and supporters of Almost Home Kids, just like you, consistently and regularly step up in so many ways to ensure we can continue to provide the continuum of care for children with complex healthcare needs, no matter the situation.

The COVID-19 pandemic created difficulties and struggles for nearly every organization, AHK was no different.

Yet, throughout the year, we have felt your generosity and support more than ever before, allowing AHK to continue the important work of providing transitional care for children with medical complexities and their families.

Your donations helped to ensure our clinical team had the personal protective equipment to safely care for the children at Almost Home Kids.

You were willing to champion AHK even from afar, guaranteeing our event committee's work transitioning to virtual events was a smashing success.

Our volunteers found creative ways to continue to support AHK despite the program being put on hold when the pandemic began.

And our staff remained resilient and ready to step up when called upon. In fact, we have continued to provide all the important services such as child life, physical and speech therapies in addition to the exceptional daily care to children we serve. The clinical team's dedication and strength has been truly amazing to see.

While 2020 was not the year anyone had envisioned, it has shown, time and again, that our community is powerful and that your continued contributions are critical to providing care for children with medical complexities and support to their families.

We look forward to 2021 and, hopefully, thanking you in person.

Warm regards,

Debbie & Josh



*Deborah A. Grisko*

Deborah A. Grisko, RN  
President & Executive Director



*Josh Prangley*

Josh Prangley  
Chairman, Board of Directors

# We are all in this together

Almost Home Kids is extremely grateful for the support of donors and volunteers. We thank the following individuals, foundations, corporations and civic groups for their contributions received from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020.

## \$25,000 and greater

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The Stewardship Fund  
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Karin and Joshua Prangley

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Matthew Ponzi  
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Dr. and Mrs. Narasimha Rao

*"While we greatly appreciate gifts of any amount, due to space constraints we cannot list every donor who supported us this year. Those listed here and hundreds of other partners have made a tremendous impact on the lives of the children and families we serve."*

Priya and Christopher Roop  
Catherine and Mike Rosenberg  
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Niamh Whelan-Reiter  
Peter Whittington  
Sophia Worden  
Kathleen and James Wrobel  
Linda and Herb Young  
Nicole M. Zotto



Michelle with Beth (RN)



Diego and Florence (Lead CNA)

**\$1.5M was contributed by Foundations, Corporations and Civic groups**

Ackerman Foundation, Inc  
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 DuPage Human Services  
 Homeward Bound Quilters  
 Illinois Women's Soccer League  
 Knights of Columbus - Chicago  
 Knights of Columbus - Naperville  
 Madison Elementary - School District 200  
 Naperville Jaycees  
 St. Helen Women's Philoptochos  
 St. John of the Cross Catholic Women's Club  
 Wiesbrook Elementary - School District 200  
 Wheaton Franciscan Sisters

*"In 2018 Almost Home Kids launched a Sustainer Giving Program, asking supporters to make a prolonged impact with an automated monthly gift. We started with 15 Sustainer Donors providing monthly support and have grown to 50 Sustainer Donors in 2020. Thank you for your consistent support, it helps us plan with confidence. Learn more at [almosthomekids.org/Sustainer](https://almosthomekids.org/Sustainer)"*

**Sustainer Giving Program**

Rupamathi Acharya  
 Renee and Tony Alberico  
 Kim and Daniel Ault  
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 Ponda and Thomas Barnes  
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 Tina and Mike Briggs  
 Laura Broucek  
 Laura and Jeff Brown  
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 Susan Daley  
 Nancy and Joe Donlin  
 Peggy and James M. Doyle  
 Rosemary and Don Fry  
 Aurora and Russ Garcia  
 Yonhee and Mark Gordon  
 Anne Gorman  
 Elizabeth Green  
 James C. Green  
 Cynthia Hall  
 Jeanne and Steven Johnson  
 Carolyn and Joe Johnson  
 Geeta Kakade

Paul Karch  
 Tim Koehler  
 Terese and Joseph Krisch  
 Franzi and Marc Lacher  
 Purvi and Ravi Lakhani  
 Kim and Matthew W. Mannion  
 Patty and Daniel J. McHugh  
 Meghan and Casey Meyer  
 Eileen and Mike Moran  
 Betsy and Peter Nassos  
 Rita Nathanson  
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 Cathy and Thomas J. Schwertman  
 Monica and Veeral Sheth  
 MaryBeth and Bob Smith  
 Carol and Steve Steinfeld  
 Ann Sullivan  
 Niki and Nirav Thakkar  
 Holly B. Wood  
 Lizzie and Eric Zaslow



Jahari and Leah (RN)

# Our Financial Summary

In fiscal year 2020, which ran from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020, total AHK Program Expenses were \$7.2 million which is 1.9% below fiscal year 2019. The decrease in expenses was primarily attributed to COVID-19. As a result of the pandemic, efforts were made to reduce costs to offset revenue losses and the increased expenses for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and cleaning.

AHK received \$4.2 million in fee for service revenue from the State of Illinois, third party insurance companies and cash payments which is 36% above fiscal year 2019. The rise in fee for service revenue was due in part to the increase in the reimbursement rate from the State of Illinois beginning January 1, 2020, and the additional rate increase to cover PPE expenses during the pandemic which went into effect in March 2020. AHK also received \$83,000 from the CARES Act Relief Fund for Medicaid Providers which offset some of the revenue loss.

In fiscal year 2020, we relied on community-based philanthropy from individuals and private foundations to help close the gap to support our medical services and to offset the decline in special event revenue due to COVID-19. Thanks to the generosity of our 870 donors, contributions to AHK for fiscal year 2020 totaled \$2 million including \$150,000 for COVID-19 Relief. Virtual events, which have replaced in-person gatherings, have also been successful in raising funds for AHK, and these events are continuing into fiscal year 2021.

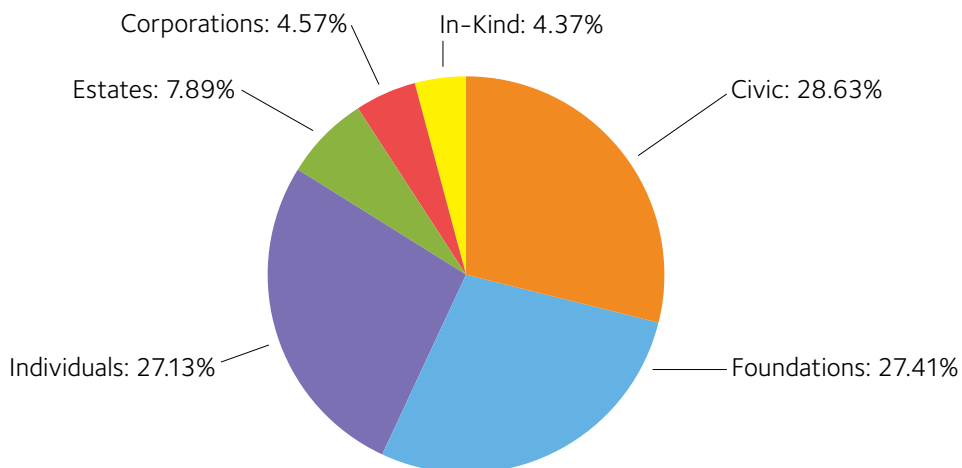


Alex and Mariana reading



The Clinical Team and Mariana in the garden in Naperville

## Total Philanthropic Giving: \$2,059,535



# Successful Collaboration: Continuing Medical Education

On August 27, 2020, under the leadership of Peter J. Smith, M.D., M.A., Almost Home Kids hosted a continuing medical education conference entitled “The Management of Medical Complexities in a Transitional Setting.” The conference took place at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and was approved to offer 4.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits* through Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Between the in-person and remote attendance, there were 53 registrants.

The objectives of the conference were to help providers: refine and improve their skills on the care of children with medical complexities particularly in the community (AHK model); become apprised of developments and best practices within the specialty of complex care; address the myriad of challenges that confront children, providers, families and caregivers; and provide resources and techniques that lend support to the improved delivery of patient care.

Almost Home Kids convened an interdisciplinary group of individuals with the experience and expertise to address the topics and the audience was equally diverse in health care professions. Many of the providers at Lurie Children’s participated in the conference as faculty, and a generous donation from Dr. Randy Kinsella and the Medical & Dental Staff Officers at Lurie Children’s made it possible to offer this conference free to all participants and at no cost to Almost Home Kids.

Evidenced by the evaluations, the conference was a huge success. AHK was pleased to offer this medical education conference to help providers acquire additional knowledge and skills to further their professional growth and clinical practice. AHK plans to host an annual or bi-annual conference informed by stakeholder needs with the goal of making each conference better than the previous one.



Peter J. Smith, MD MA  
Interim Chief Medical Officer



Lindsay M. Skibley, MD  
Medical Director Chicago



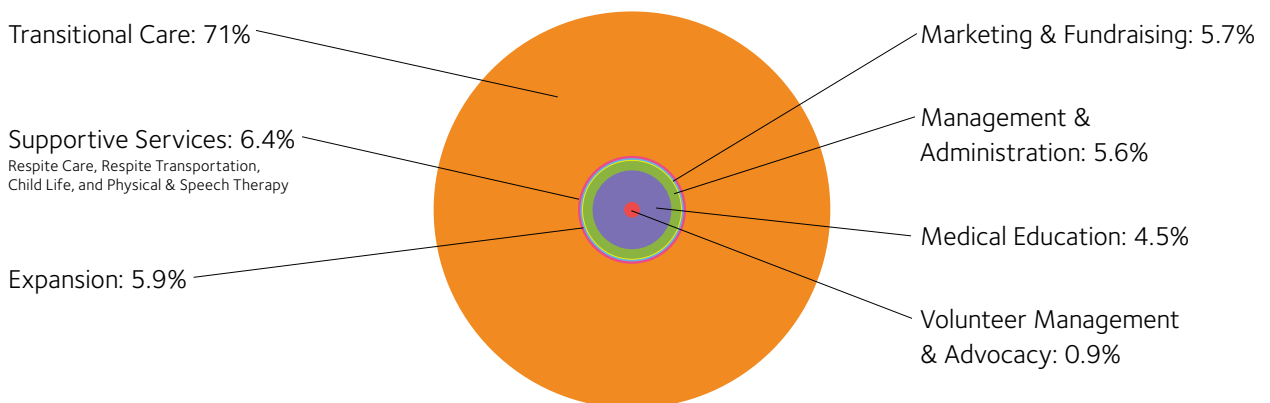
Charles W. Morrow, MD  
Medical Director Naperville



Ponda Barnes, PhD  
Director, Sponsored Programs

## For each dollar contributed to Almost Home Kids:

**83% directly to our community, 17% indirectly to achieve our mission**



# We envision a day when every family, every community and every child with medical complexities has access to transitional care, and unsurpassed standards of AHK.

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