



**Almost Home Kids™**

Share the Care

# 2021 Annual Report



***“Right now, somewhere in your community, there is a kid like Abby. Maybe she has parents who are hanging by a thread. Or maybe, like Abby, the rest of the world has determined that she’s just too challenging. For these kids and these families, they need a place like Almost Home Kids to exist.”***

Jennifer and Tim Whitney (Abby's parents)



Abby's adoption into the Whitney family was finalized in 2019

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2021, we are even more grateful for the countless ways you and so many of our supporters stepped forward to make a difference at Almost Home Kids. You made it possible for us to continue to provide vital care to children with medical complexities and support for their families.

As the year progressed, we excitedly, but cautiously, resumed our important volunteer program. Watching volunteers read and play with the kids reminded us that they are the essence of our home-like community environment and just one reason our program is so unique and successful.

This year, we spent time reflecting on how far we have come as an organization and recognizing the important role of our educational programs in the training of healthcare professionals, including plans for our new simulated lab program called "Almost Home Kids Educate to Elevate: A Day of Simulated Learning for Pediatric Nurses," which you'll learn more about on page seven.

Education is the core value that drives our advocacy and inclusion efforts for children with developmental and cognitive disabilities, as well as those with medical complexities. With this in mind, the Board of Directors, several members of the administration staff, and some notable independent communication and marketing experts, re-examined and refined our mission statement and added a formalized set of values that truly reflect who we are and why we do what we do.

We have included the revised Mission and our new Value Statements within this version of the Annual Report and invite you to join us in considering the impact each aspect has on the children in our care and their families.

We are incredibly thankful to our exceptional interdisciplinary clinical team, whose tireless efforts have kept the children in our care safe throughout the pandemic, and for the outstanding expertise and careful oversight of our Medical Advisory Committee.

As we said goodbye to another rewarding year, we remain thankful for the strong community we have supporting AHK. Your dedication and commitment through difficult situations and changing environments is critical to our ability to carry out our mission in providing care for children with medical complexities and supporting their families.

We look forward to 2022 and are excited to embrace new opportunities for growth and improvement together.

Warm regards,

Debbie & Josh



*Deborah A. Grisko*

Deborah A. Grisko, RN  
President & Executive Director



*Josh Prangley*

Josh Prangley  
Chairman, Board of Directors

# AHK Mission Statement

Almost Home Kids provides a bridge from hospital to home through an innovative community-based care system for children with medical complexities. We respond to the needs of families, train caregivers, offer respite care, advocate for accessibility and inclusion, and educate healthcare professionals.

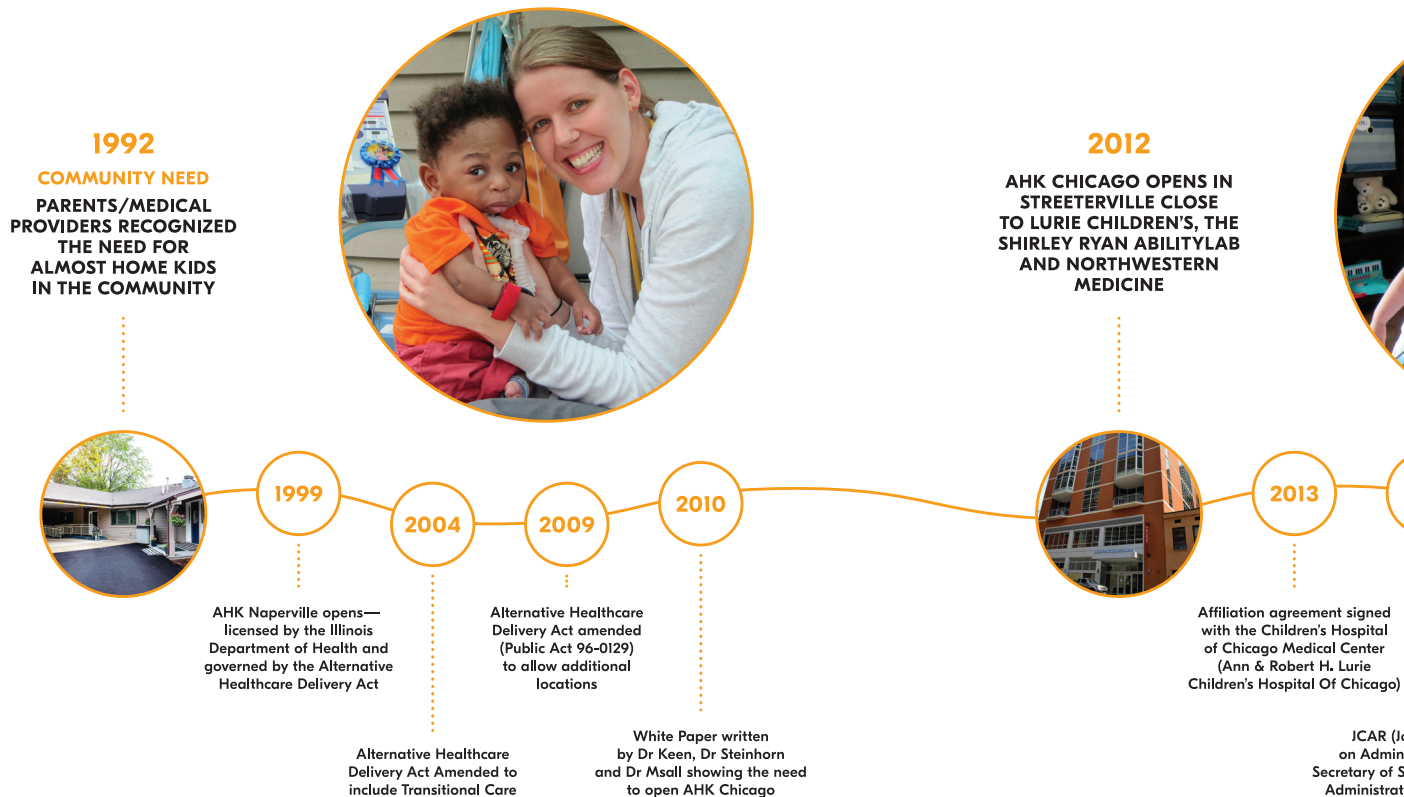


*Alo is doing a great job reaching for toys with volunteer Nusaibah*



*Nova and our volunteer Kathy spending some quality time playing on the mat*

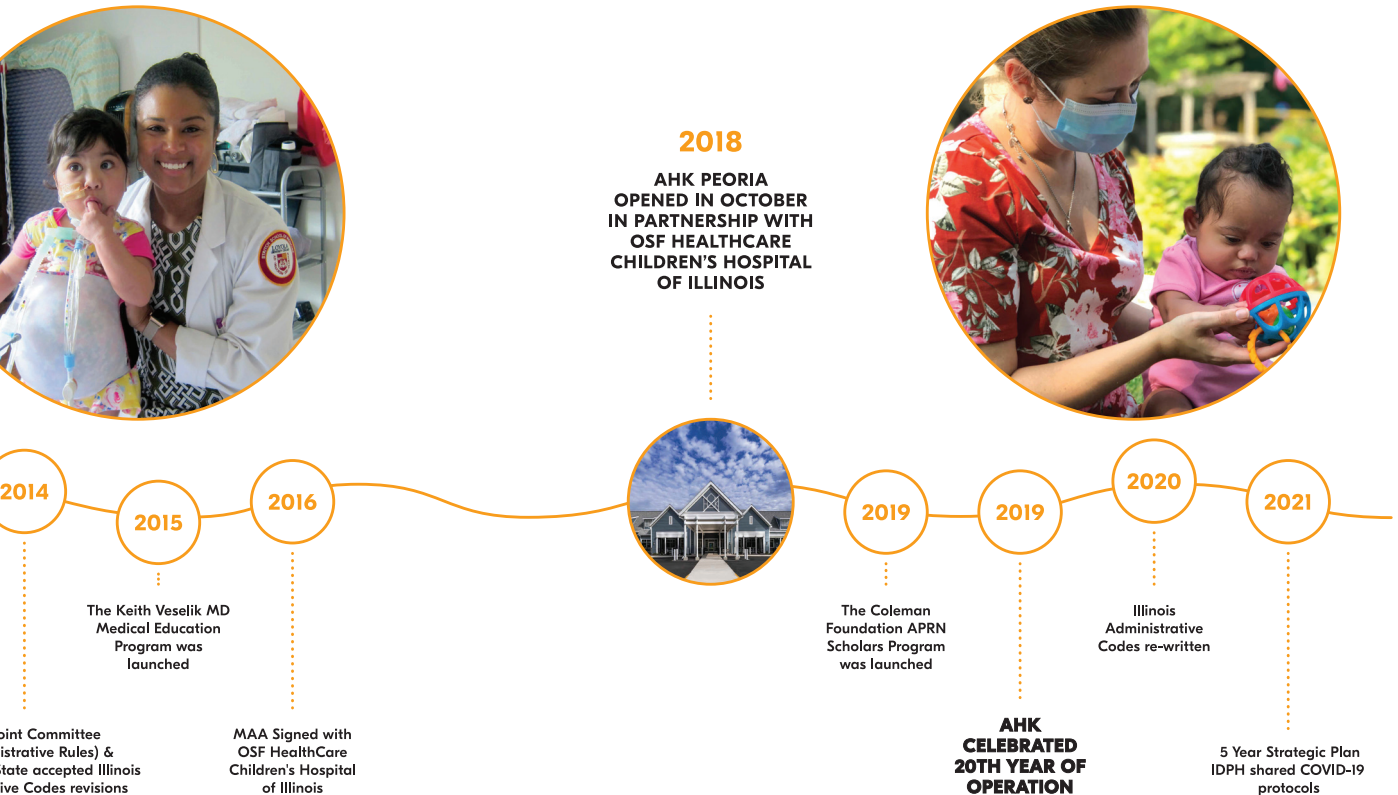
## Timeline



# Our Values

Our core value is family in all its forms and manifestations; it drives everything we do. We believe that all children deserve to grow up in a family setting and to be part of a community. Rooted in every effort is our goal to help families remain whole and together.

- **Advocating** on behalf of children with medical complexities at the government, medical and community levels
- **Strengthening Families** to be competent and confident to care for their child at home, as well as providing respite for caregivers
- **Educating** interdisciplinary healthcare professionals and students focused on children with medical complexities
- **Creating Community Awareness** to provide an opportunity for local businesses, civic groups, and individuals to support children and families in a community-based, home-like setting
- **Championing Accessibility and Inclusion** as a framework of integrated services that focuses on all children and families



# 2021 Annual Report—Financial Summary

In fiscal year 2021, which ran from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021, total AHK Program Expenses were \$7.0 million which is 3.2% below fiscal year 2020. The decrease in expenses was primarily attributed to lower personnel costs. Global nursing shortages, clinical staffing shortages and furloughs affected our ability to fully staff our sites which led to lower census and fewer bed days than the prior year.

AHK received \$4.3M in fee for service revenue from the State of Illinois, third party insurance companies, and cash payments which is 3.0% above fiscal year 2020. 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 as well as a PPE reimbursement related to the global pandemic from the State of Illinois that began in March 2020.

In fiscal year 2021 we relied on community-based philanthropy from individuals and private foundations to help close the gap to support our medical services and to offset our decline in special events revenue due to the global pandemic. We continued our virtual events efforts in FY21 and also held a few in-person outdoor events over the summer. Thanks to the generosity of 1,050 donors, contributions to AHK for fiscal year 2021 totaled \$1.6M.

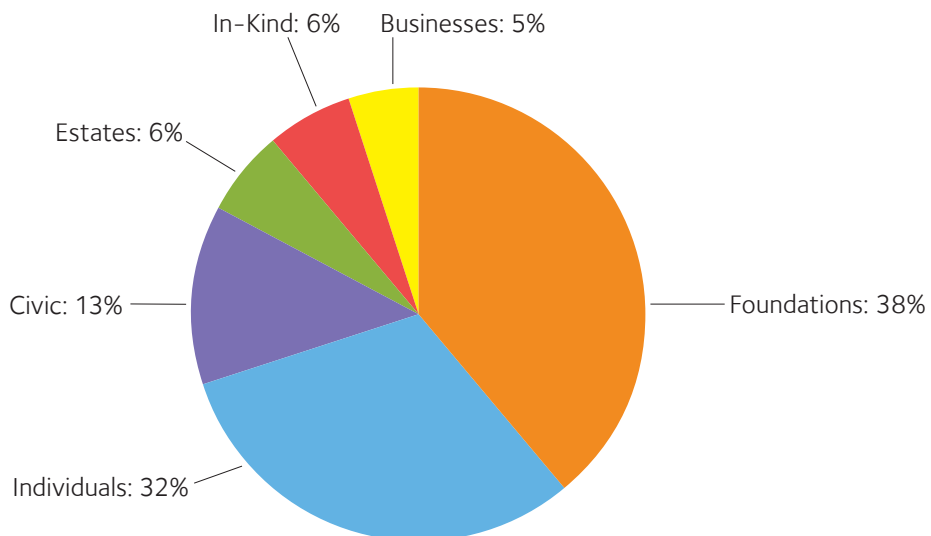


Jesús and Amy (Social Worker) outside by the pool during the summer



Our Certified Nursing Aide Diana, getting Abby ready for the day ahead

## Total Philanthropic Giving: **\$1,584,106**



# Seed Dollars to Expand Education Efforts

One of the important services we provide families at Almost Home Kids is the coordination of home care services their child will need to successfully transition to and live at home. Part of those services include finding highly trained pediatric home care nurses. However, there has always been a shortage of these nurses, even prior to the pandemic, throughout the State of Illinois and the country. Unfortunately, this staffing shortage results in the delay of transitioning children home both for AHK, as well as the children’s hospitals that refer children to us.

To address this gap in the market, AHK has collaborated with the Simulation and Integrative Learning Institute (SAIL) at the University of Illinois at Chicago to create a simulation lab program, "Almost Home Kids Educate to Elevate: A Day of Simulated Learning for Pediatric Home Health Nurses." The new one-day training program specifically targets pediatric home care nurses by providing much-needed education and hands-on training in the simulation lab with high-fidelity mannequins and actors to create realistic interactive scenarios.

**Almost Home Kids Educate to Elevate: A Day of Simulated Learning for Pediatric Home Health Nurses has been generously underwritten with a \$100,000 grant from the Alvin H. Baum Family Fund. The training will begin in early 2022 and seeks to reach 80 nurses over the next four years.**

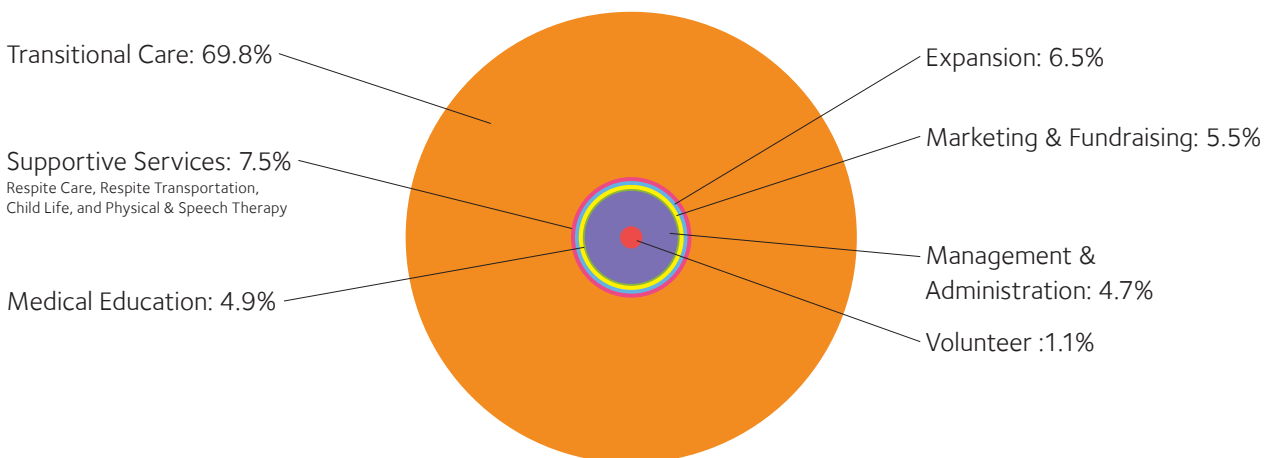


*Our clinical team is the best!*



*The night shift makes sure the exceptional care we provide at AHK is round the clock*

## For each dollar contributed to Almost Home Kids:



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

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