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.
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, RN  
President & Executive Director

Josh Prangley  
Chairman, Board of Directors
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
Dorothea Hamann Trust
The Stewardship Fund
Bonnie and Robert Kerr

$10,000 - $24,999
Farah and Praveen Adhi
Anamika and Harit Bhatt
Alex and Mike DeNoma
JoAnn Crowe and James English

$5,000 - $9,999
Theresa and Robert Danko
James W. Karch
Jennifer and Dan Horsley
Joanne and Travis Haldeman
Jan and Douglas Brooks
Julie and Jon Neustadt
JoAnn Crowe and James English

$1,000 - $4,999
Mrs. Erica Hoffman
Agnes and John Anderson
Holly and Tom Carr
Theresa and Robert Danko
Caroline and Patrick Donlin
Douglas Evans
Isabel and John Fiore
Sheila+ and Terrence Gallagher
Len Gasman
Stephen Grisko
Dr. Arne Karch and Gary Karch
Mary and William Neustadt
Shefali and Pranav Patel
Anne R. Pramaggiore
Dr. and Mrs. Peter J. Smith
Manita Sullivan

$500 - $999
Anonymous
Lisa and Scott Abramson
Reagan and Bill Atwood
Kim and Dan Ault
Andy and Michelle Baker
Stacy and Paul Bogodanski
Nancy and Michael Borders
Alex Boyajian
Jan and Douglas Brooks
Anthony D. Chimino
Alex Boyajian
Stacy and Paul Bogodanski
Nancy and Michael Borders
Alex Boyajian
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Deborah and Steve Grisko
Carey and Michael Grisko
Joanne and Travis Haldeman
Dr. Michael Hoffman and
Mrs. Erica Hoffman
Brenda and Gary Holter
Jennifer and Dan Horsley
Irene Hrusovsky
Patrick Hughes
Carolyn and Joe Johnson
Loretta Julian
Rishi Kapoor
James W. Karch
Bethany and Brad Keown
Laurie and Martin Koehler
Nancy and David Krunfuss
Purvi and Ravi Lakhani
Kim and Matthew Mannion
Gwen and Brian McCallon
Mary and Randall McFee
Nancy and Joseph Minard

"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
Beth and Ryan Satterfield
Susan J. Schwartz
Susie and Viraj Shah
Laura and James Sharwarlo
Monica and Veeral Sheth
Elizabeth Smith
Maureen and Stephen J. Smith
Ann Sullivan
Erik Swanson
Nirav and Nik Thakkar
Sarah Tromans
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Laura Westley and Bob Neu
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Robin and Mike Zawrotsky
Lizzie and Eric Zaslav

Mary and Kevin Mitchell
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Jeni and Ryan Murphy
Ronald and Ruthellen
Musil Family Fund
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Denise and Mark Nora
Jon Osheroff
Santa and Franklin Ottens
Jim and Cheryl Patrick
Kristin Peterson
Matthew Ponzi
Karen Prangley
Dr. and Mrs. Narasimha Rao

Michelle with Beth (RN)
"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"
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.

Total Philanthropic Giving: $2,059,535

- Civic: 28.63%
- Foundations: 27.41%
- Individuals: 27.13%
- Estates: 7.89%
- In-Kind: 4.37%
- Corporations: 4.57%
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.

For each dollar contributed to Almost Home Kids:
83% directly to our community, 17% indirectly to achieve our mission

Transitional Care: 71%
Supportive Services: 6.4%
Expansion: 5.9%
Marketing & Fundraising: 5.7%
Management & Administration: 5.6%
Medical Education: 4.5%
Volunteer Management & Advocacy: 0.9%

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
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.