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.
Dear Friends,

Almost Home Kids has experienced another significant year in 2022: our census grew dramatically—almost returning to pre-pandemic levels, we celebrated in-person during fundraising events, and we welcomed our onsite recreational volunteers back.

While the pandemic turbocharged our evolution into the virtual world, we knew nothing could replace the incredible power of a volunteer holding a baby or reading to a child. It’s truly what makes our house a home.

The year also brought out a record number of adopt groups and individuals, who named AHK as the beneficiary of their own fundraising event or included us in their own personal journey—from running the Chicago Marathon, arranging a corporate bake sale, providing in-kind services, or hosting a golf outing. ALL of these efforts made a significant difference at AHK.

The inaugural year of our newest training program—“Educate to Elevate, A Day of Simulated Learning for Pediatric Home Health Nurses”—has been highly successful. We have already educated more than 70 home-healthcare nurses, who will help alleviate the shortage of nurses best equipped to care for children with medical complexities in the community. Other AHK educational programs that continue to thrive include The Coleman Foundation APRN Scholars Program, the De-Escalation Training Program, and the Keith Veselik, MD Medical Education Program, a first-of-its-kind training program for medical students, residents, fellows, and community physicians, which has been running successfully since 2015.

It has also been a year of leadership change for AHK. Josh Prangley, our Board Chair for the past six exceptional years, handed the baton to Theresa (Terri) Danko. Terri has been part of the AHK family since 2009, serving on the board, the nominating committee, strategic advisory council, multiple event committees, the Chicago President’s Advisory Council and acting as an instrumental part of our expansion in Peoria. Both Josh and Terri are outstanding champions of our cause, and we are incredibly fortunate to be able to rely on their farsighted guidance and thoughtful leadership.

As always, our wonderfully dedicated and generous supporters, donors, volunteers and event-goers have combined in a powerful way to keep AHK growing and to provide a vital safety net in the community for children with medical complexities and their families. Without a doubt, it is friends like YOU, that set us apart—elevating us to new heights and empowering us to uphold our mission and values.

Warm regards,

Debbie, Josh, & Theresa

Deborah A. Grisko, RN
President & Executive Director

Josh Prangley
Outgoing Board Chair

Theresa Danko
Incoming Board Chair
Our Family of Supporters

Our donors and volunteers go beyond our hopes and dreams. It is their excitement and enthusiasm that makes AHK’s mission possible. We thank the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and civic groups for cash contributions received from September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022.

$25,000 and greater
Dorotha Haung Trust
The Stewardship Fund
Donald Tokarz Trust

$10,000 - $24,999
Fair and Praven Adv
Alex and Mike DeNoma
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Joanne and Thomas Palmisano
Monica Patadia
Lisa and Ishwar Patel
Susan and Rupesh Patel
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Miles McCormack and Meghan Nam
Brian Neustadt
Colleen and Daniel Neustadt
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Denise and Mark Nora
Ellen and Brian Odelton
Candice and Kyle R. Olson
Rebecca and Michael Olson
Suzanne and Richard Olson
Joanne and Thomas Palmisano
Monica Patadia
Lisa and Ishwar Patel
Susan and Rupesh Patel
Vanessa Patel

"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."
"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 55 Sustainer Donors in 2022. Thank you for your consistent support, it helps us plan with confidence."

"In-Kind (non-cash) contributions help keep our operating costs low as they directly affect our bottom line. We thank the following individuals, foundations and corporations and civic groups for contributions received from September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022."

Epsilon Economics
Executive Construction Inc.
F3 Naperville Foundation
Fellowes Contract Interiors
Fifth Generation, Inc.
First Midwest Bank
First Midwest Charitable Foundation
FJK Private Foundation
Hall-Eckerson, Inc.
Happy Camper
Harper Family Foundation
Harry’s Black and Alton Fuller Fund, Bank of America, N.A.
HOB International Limited
Grant Thornton
Jet Brite Car Wash
JMG Financial Group Ltd.
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
KPMG U.S. Foundation, Inc.
Level Rags
M. Holland
Maul Paving Sealcoating and Concrete
McKinsey & Company
Medical & Dental Staff of Lure Children’s
Meltzer Pursell & Stelle LLC
Mullarkey Associates, Inc.
Neuco, Inc.
Northrop Grumman
Pasha Orthodontics
Pepisco
Plante Moran
Poliselli
PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP
Saks Fifth Avenue
Sheth Dermatology
Swoon Group LLC
The Biren Family Foundation
The Chicago Community Trust
The Coleman Foundation
The John R. Houby Foundation
The Leadership Group
Tip’s handmade vodka
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Turano Foundation, Inc.
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Civic and Other Non-Profit Organizations
Boilingbrook Park District
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc.
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Naperville Masonic Temple Assoc.
Naperville Noon Lions Foundation
Victory Cathedral/Worship Center
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Willow Creek SPE, LLC

Sustainer Donors
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Peggy and James M. Doyle
Rosemary and Don Fry
Aurora and Russ Garcia
Yoonhee and Mark Gordon
Anne Gorman
Cynthia Hall
Erika and Michael T. Hoffman
Kim and Bill Guikema
+ deceased

"Almost Home Kids—2022 Annual Report"

Stephanie and Eric Kline
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Nearly $1M was contributed by foundations, Corporations and Civic groups
Anonymous
Ackerman Foundation, Inc.
ADP, LLC
Allergy & Asthma Specialist
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
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Arthur J. Gallagher & Company
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Kelly Stearns
Carole Whittemore
William Wolz
Lizzie and Eric Zaslav

In-Kind Contributions
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McKay Landscape Architects
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Acer Hardware Foundation
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Ethan Allen Design Center
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The Drake Hotel
The InterContinental Hotel
The Langham Hotel
Therford Consulting LLC
Andrew Ushakov
Verve Wine + Provisions
Victory Cathedral/Worship Group
Vin Chicago
Peter Wagner Photography
WTSO
Yanis Design Studio
2022 Annual Report—Financial Summary

In fiscal year 2022, which ran from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022, total AHK Program Expenses were $9M which is 29% above fiscal year 2021. AHK experienced greater bed days combined with increased staffing costs related to a global nursing shortage, temp labor, retention pay and other elevated employee benefit costs.

AHK received $4.8M in fee for service revenue from the State of Illinois, third party insurance companies, and cash payments which is 13% above fiscal year 2021. The rise in fee for service revenue is attributed to an increase in bed days of 9% from the prior year.

In fiscal year 2022 we relied on community-based philanthropy from individuals, businesses, civic groups, and private foundations to help close the gap to support our medical services. Our special event effort returned fully in FY22 with in-person and outdoor gatherings. Thanks to the generosity of 1,216 donors, contributions to AHK for fiscal year 2022 totaled $1.8M. This represents an increase of 14% from the prior year.

**Total Philanthropic Giving: $1,810,402**

**For each dollar contributed to Almost Home Kids, 86% goes directly to programs:**

- Transitional Care: 71.9%
- Supportive Services: 8.5%
- Medical Education: 4.2%
- Respite Care, Respite Transportation, Child Life, and Physical & Speech Therapy: 5.3%
- Marketing & Fundraising: 4.8%
- Management & Administration: 4.1%
- Volunteer: 1.0%
- Expansion: 5.3%
- Respite Care, Respite Transportation, Child Life, and Physical & Speech Therapy: 5.3%
Recruitment, Retention, Reinvestment & Resiliency

Megan Sulich, our Director of Nursing, gives us an insight into the challenges faced and the solutions she has implemented at Almost Home Kids. She has assembled a cohesive clinical team at AHK, that is deeply rooted in our mission and passionate about providing the best possible care.

“On a nearly daily basis, it seems, we hear stories about the challenges facing healthcare in general and the nursing profession specifically. Almost Home Kids has not been immune to these challenges. Nurse turnover, burnout and compassion fatigue are threats to our ability to carry out our mission. Increasing our strength in numbers, knowledge and spirit is my top priority as the Director of Nursing. This comes in the form of retention and recruitment. To retain our core group of clinicians, we have focused on amplifying their voice and autonomy over their own practice, recognizing excellent performance, doubling down on education efforts to empower their best work, and creating a culture of collaboration, teamwork, optimism, and resilience. We have established clear and realistic expectations and improved the relationship between nursing leadership and the nursing workforce. I have also focused on recruitment of nurses and CNAs who are not only intelligent and hard-working but, most importantly, bring a passion for teamwork, positivity, and a desire to contribute to our mission. Combining the energy of our new team members with the wisdom, knowledge and mentorship of our existing staff is powerful. We have already started to feel the shift in energy that comes with change. With this reinvestment in our team, I am optimistic about the future and excited to see what we will accomplish together.”
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.