



**Almost Home Kids™**

Share the Care

# 2023 Annual Report



**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.**



*Christopher enjoying play time with Cathy (Occupational Therapist)*

## Dear Friends,

The passage of another year encourages us to reflect on and appreciate our experiences as an organization in 2023.

Once again, we are incredibly fortunate to have countless steadfast supporters, like you, in our corner. We are grateful for our Board and Council members, our healthcare partners, educators, volunteers, corporate and civic groups, social media followers and our gala goers. Each person who has embraced our mission and propelled us forward has contributed meaningfully towards our ability to positively impact each child and family in our care.

While we have much to celebrate in 2023, the year wasn't without challenge. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we know that despite extraordinary advances in treatments and vaccinations, we must maintain many heightened infection and protection controls to ensure the safety of children, their families, and our staff.

We are thankful for our adaptable and proactive staff who continue to remain vigilant and adhere to the ever-changing healthcare landscape and, as always, keep the wellbeing of the children in our care at the forefront of every decision.

David Kruger joined our clinical leadership team as Chief Operating Officer. His leadership is contributing to our on-going focus on efficiency, streamlining operations and our ability to retain nursing staff despite the current climate and has enabled us to reach a significantly higher census over the past year than we have historically.

The year also showed us that, we are not immune to national trends, like inflation, burgeoning healthcare labor costs and decreases in individual giving. These challenges have inevitably influenced our bottom line.

However, thanks to our thoughtful leadership, Strategic Advisory Council and Board members, we continue to find ways to thrive and expand our reach and, most importantly, provide the best possible care in the most appropriate and cost-efficient setting for children with medical complexities and their families.

Next year, we reach a milestone—25 years of service to children and their families. We look forward to involving each of you in the celebrations of 2024 in anticipation of another successful 25 years and beyond.

Warm regards,

Debbie & Terri



*Deborah A. Grisko*

Deborah A. Grisko, RN  
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*Theresa Danko*

Theresa Danko  
Board Chair

# Our Family of Supporters

Our donors and volunteers go beyond our hopes and dreams. It is their excitement, enthusiasm and generosity that make AHK's mission possible. We thank the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and civic groups for their personal cash contributions received from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023.

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**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.**

Kim and Matthew Mannion  
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Karla enjoying some play time with volunteer Ayana

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**\$1.1M was contributed by Foundations, Corporations and Civic groups**

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 Donna Poehls  
 Cathy and Thomas J. Schwertman  
 Suzy and Ray Shinkle  
 Mary Beth and Bob Smith  
 Kelly Stearns

**In-Kind (non-cash) contributions help keep our operating costs low as they directly affect our bottom line. We are grateful for gifts to our silent and live auctions, clothing, supplies and toys for the children, meals and treats for the clinical staff, as well as immeasurable gifts of time and expertise. We thank the following individuals, foundations, corporations and civic groups for in-kind contributions received from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023.**

Megan and Bill Sulich  
 Holly B. Wood  
 Lizzie and Eric Zaslow

**In-Kind Contributions**

Ace Hardware Foundation  
 Rupamathi Acharya  
 Kim and Dan Ault  
 Michelle and Andy Baker  
 Laura Barnes  
 Stacy and Paul Bogdanski  
 Laura Brown Photography  
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 Flora Keslin  
 Kids Around the World  
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**In 2018 Almost Home Kids launched a Sustainer Giving Program, asking supporters to make a prolonged impact with an automated monthly gift. Today there are nearly 50 Sustainer Donors. Thank you for your consistent support, it helps us plan with confidence.**

**Learn more at [almosthomekids.org/sustainer](https://almosthomekids.org/sustainer)**

# 2023 Annual Report—Financial Summary

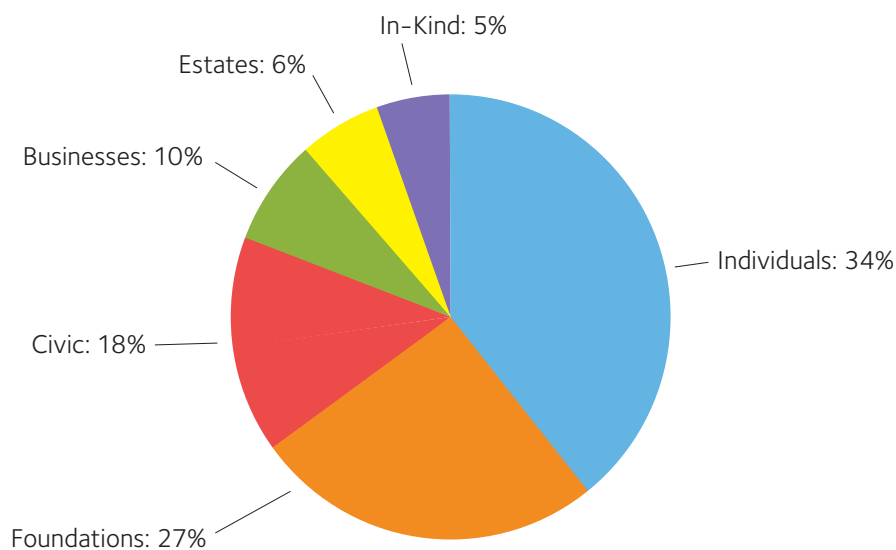
In fiscal year 2023, which ran from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023, total AHK Program Expenses were \$10.5M which is 16% above fiscal year 2022. AHK’s days of care increased 31% over the prior year, accounting for much of the program expense increase. Salary costs in the nursing industry have also continued to rise.

AHK received \$6.5M in fee for service revenue from the State of Illinois, third party insurance companies, and cash payments which is 34% above fiscal year 2022. The rise in fee for service revenue is attributed to the above-mentioned increase in days of care of 31%.

In fiscal year 2023 we relied on community-based philanthropy from individuals, businesses, civic groups, and private foundations to help close the gap to support our medical services. Thanks to the generosity of 1,513 donors, contributions to AHK for fiscal year 2023 totaled \$2.1M. This represents an increase of 18% from the prior year.

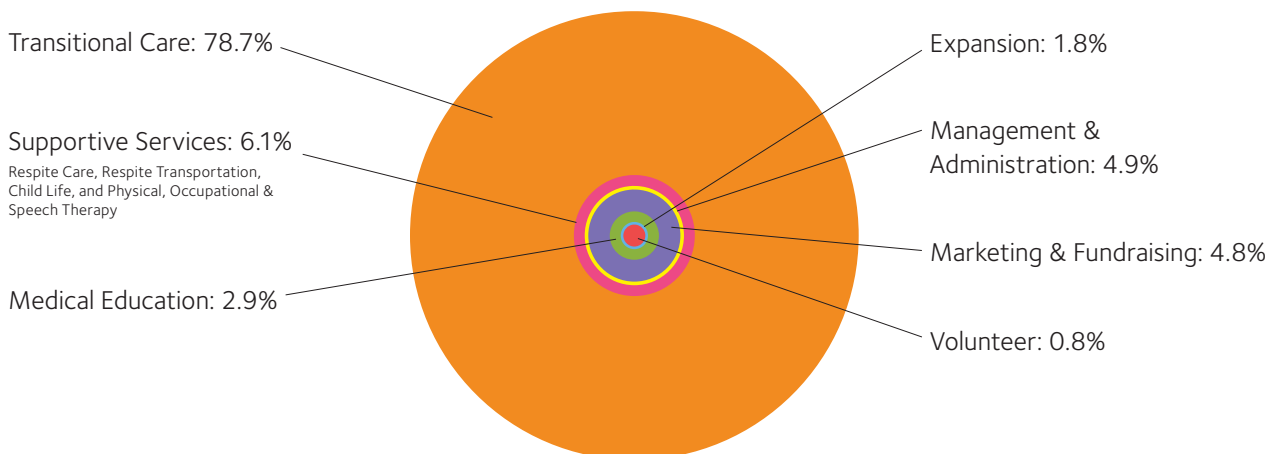
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## Total Philanthropic Giving: **\$2,128,688**



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## 88% of AHK Expenses are directly related to programming.



# E2E Gets a Boost from the Federal Medical Assistance Protection Program

It is with great excitement that we share the growth of our educational program: Educate to Elevate (E2E): A Day of Simulated Training for Pediatric Home Health Nurses. In its inaugural year, 2022, we reached 71 nurses in the community representing 50 nursing agencies. In 2023 we trained 48 additional home health nurses. The successful training better prepares home health nurses to confidently, and competently, care for children with medical complexities in the community.

For the upcoming year, we partnered with The Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) and were awarded funds available through the Federal Medical Assistance Protection (FMAP) program, offered by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare. Almost Home Kids was selected to run up to 16 E2E and 2 Pilot Caregiver Trainings in Illinois by March 2025. We are committed to expanding nurse training throughout Illinois and to developing a training program for parents and caregivers of children with medical complexities in the community.



Home healthcare nurses train in a realistic simulation with scenarios developed by AHK



High-fidelity mannequins designed to immerse learners in realistic scenario-based exercises



Real-time discussions, assessments and debriefs allow participants a greater understanding of the appropriate response to each scenario



Different situations, build confidence levels and increase capabilities in vent and trach care

# 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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## Naperville Location

7 South 721 Route 53  
Naperville, Illinois 60540  
630.271.9155

## Chicago Location

211 E. Grand Avenue, 6th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
312.229.0170

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