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,

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, RN  
President & Executive Director

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.

$25,000 and greater
Dorotha Hamming Trust
Kim Guckien
Donald Tokarz Trust

$10,000 - $24,999
Farah and Praveen Adhi
Michelle and Andy Baker
Theresa and Robert Danko
Carley and John Diedrich
Caroline and Patrick Donlin
The Stewardship Fund
Bregan and John Herrold
Laurie and Marty Koehler
Mary and Paul Neustadt
Mary and William Neustadt
Ginny Paisika
Jigna and Ruchik Patel
Shefali Shah and Pranav Patel
Karim and Joshua Prangley
Marita Sullivan

$5,000 - $9,999
Michael Chronopulos
Susan Daley
Terrence Gallagher
Corey and Michael Grisko
Dr. Michael and Mrs. Erica Hoffman
Dr. Ann Karch and Gary Karch
Cindy and Andrew Clemens
Josette and Steve Klapfer
Catherine and Jim Madden
Julie and Jon Neustadt
William (Billy) Neustadt
Andrew Nichols
Rebecca and Michael Olson
Beth and Ryan Satterfield
Dianne and Chris Schenkeng
Heather and Scott Schuster
Suzy and Ray Shinkle
Cathy and Derek Wheeler

$1,000 - $4,999
Paul Answorth
Nathan Alan Lewis
Nancy and Kenneth Arlen
Kim and Dan Ault
Stephanie Balaban
Julie and Ethel Bartan
Inshu and Aneel Belani
Patti R. Bellock
Mary Beth Belles
Jeff Beswick
Anamika and Harit Bhatt
Amola and kunal Bhatt
Kristine Bowman
Alex Boyajan
Suzi Branson Brooks and
Mr. Charles Brooks
Jan and Douglas Brooks
Laura and Jeffrey Brown
Lynn and Brian Carroll
Meagan and Robert Cataldo
David Cotton
Mary and Patrick Curran
Mary Ann and Thomas Curran
Andrew Davis
Steve DeBoer
Jean and Robert Dwyer
Isabel and John Fiore
Lisa Fredheim
Doug Frost
Rosemary and Donald Fry
Dr. Teresa Garate and Rich Smith
Kevin Gordon
Vonnie and Mark Gordon
Brian Greenblatt
Deborah and Steve Grisko
Kimberly Grove

Anne and Daniel Groves
Shady Hagaj
Joanne and Travis Haldeman
Mark Hannert
LaDonna Hillman
Mike Howley
Jackie and Steve Hynek
Robert Janis
Suzanne Jessup
Carolyn and Joe Johnson
Jeanne and Steve Johnson
Nicole and David Jones
Alanna and Timothy Joyce
Nidhi and Rishi Kapoor
Stephanie and Eric Kline
Don Klink
Tim Koehler
Nancy and David Kunrufusz
Rita and Albert Lacher
Robert Lindeman
Elizabeth and Robert Littel
Simi and Aatish Madhwala
Ellen and Brian Deltgen
Candice and Kyle R. Olson
Suzanne and Richard Olson
Santa and Frank Ottens
Jeanne and Thomas Palinsako
Sharad S. Patel
Kate Prasse
Stephen Price
Marcele Reeb
Leigh Ann and Rebel Roberts
John Salvinio
Kimberly and Doug Scharafin
Geoffrey Scheitlin
Susan J. Schwartz
Susan Schwardci
Suzanne and Ross Secler
Smita and Niraj Shah
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Shanley
Laura and James Shrawako
Kathleen and Kevin Shea
Monica and Veeal Sheth
Kristyn and Neil Smallcombe

Lizzie and Eric Zaslav
Rita and Jeff Zona

$500 - $999
Rupamati Acharya
Wendy and Frank Adcock
Kelsey Ault
Laura Barnes
Robert Bensman
Bernadette Bach Robinson
Sarah Bloome
Stacee and Pat Gogdanski
Chad Bohmstedt
Dan Biloc
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Alene Korby
Darren Kret
Tracey and David Kruger
Jane and Lawrence Kulik
John and Erin LaMania
Courtney LeFevre
Joey Leicht
Dena and Kurt Lentisch
John D. Lucecom
Eric Loges
Andre Magni
Caroline and Charles McLendon
Maria and Larry Mertz
Meghan and Casey Meyer
Michelle Meyer
Katye Michaud

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
Gwen and Brian McCaillion
Patty and Daniel McHugh
Mary Beth McLaughlin
Judith and Ross McLean
Michelle Mezere
Nancy and Joseph Minard
Yvonne Miranda
Mary and Kevin Mitchell
Lowell Mora
Kristin and Charles Morrow
Matthew Mullarkey
Katie Murphy
Elizabeth and David Nehf
Brian Neustadt
Robert J. Neustadt
Gavin Newman
Kim and Matthew Mannion
Gwen and Brian McCaillion
Patty and Daniel McHugh
Mary Beth McLaughlin
Judith and Ross McLean
Michelle Mezere
Nancy and Joseph Minard
Yvonne Miranda
Mary and Kevin Mitchell
Lowell Mora
Kristin and Charles Morrow
Matthew Mullarkey
Katie Murphy
Elizabeth and David Nehf
Brian Neustadt
Robert J. Neustadt
Gavin Newman

MaryBeth and Bob Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Peter J. Smith
Julie and James Stamos
Ellen Steenbrecher
Katie Stockmeier
Michelle Theford
Edward Trasystem
Lynne and Tom Tuch
Jon Walsh
Tamara Walsh
Linda Weaver
Carolyn Weeks
Kathy and Steve Wenerstrum
Katrena York-Koprowski
Shari Young Lewis
Linda and Herb Young
Robin and Mike Zafirovski

Karla enjoying some play time with volunteer Ayana
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.

In Kind Contributions

Ace Hardware Foundation
Rupamathi Acharya
Anonymous
Priti Amn & Tim Hickey
Kim and Dan Ault
Donna Blessing
Judith and Greg Bogdanski
Chad Boehnstedt
Claire Boyan
Laura Broucek
Laura and Jeffery Brown
Nancy and Joe Donlin
Peggy and James M. Doyle
Jean and Robert Dryer
Rosemary and Donald Fry
Aurora and Russ Garcia
Yonhee and Mark Gordon
Kim Guckten
Jim Harney
Erika and Michael T. Hoffman
Christopher Howell
Carolyn and Joe Johnson
Jeanne and Steven Johnson
Geeta Kakade
Paul Karch
Larry S. Kociolek
Tim Koehler
Purvi and Ravi Lakhan
Matthew W. Mannion
Patty and Daniel J. McHugh
Mary Beth McLaughlin
Meghan and Casey Meyer
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Betsy and Peter Nasso
Rita Nathanson
Colleen and Daniel Neustadt
Denise and Mark Nora
Raeann and Roosevelt Jackson
Becky and Mike Olson
Jennifer Philbrick
Donna Pooehs
Cathy and Thomas J. Schwertman
Suzy and Ray Shinkle
Mary Beth and Bob Smith
Kelly Stearns

Robert Janis
Dr. Ann Karch and Gary Karch
Ken Arlen Evonik
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Shakieda Lewis
Judith and Ross McLean
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Karina and Joshua Prangley
Stephen Price
Suzy and Ray Shinkle
Skender Construction Company
SpeedPro Chicago Loop
Dense Stanley
Sweet Home Gelato
Swan Group LLC
Lynne and Tom Tuch
Andrew Ushakov
Vin Chicago
James Vitullo
Kathy and Steve Wernnerstrum
WTSO
Yanni Design Studio
Katerina York-Koprowski

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
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.

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

- **Individuals:** 34%
- **Businesses:** 10%
- **Civic:** 18%
- **Foundations:** 27%
- **Estates:** 6%
- **In-Kind:** 5%

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

- **Transitional Care:** 78.7%
- **Supportive Services:** 6.1%
  - Respite Care, Respite Transportation, Child Life, and Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- **Medical Education:** 2.9%
- **Expansion:** 1.8%
- **Management & Administration:** 4.9%
- **Marketing & Fundraising:** 4.8%
- **Volunteer:** 0.8%
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.