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Kids Above All



Annual Report

STEP UP, STAND UP & RISE UP
FOR KIDS



Kids Above All is a 501(c)(3) organization, accredited by the Council on Accreditation. Kids Above All is a member of the Illinois Collaboration On Youth and Child Welfare League of America. It is also a partner of the United Way; affiliated with the United Methodist Church; and registered with the Presbyterian Children's Home and Related Ministries.



Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this document. If, however, you note an error or omission, please accept our sincerest apology and contact Kids Above All's Marketing Department at (773) 867-7328.

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OVERVIEW

Impact & Outcomes

RISE UP

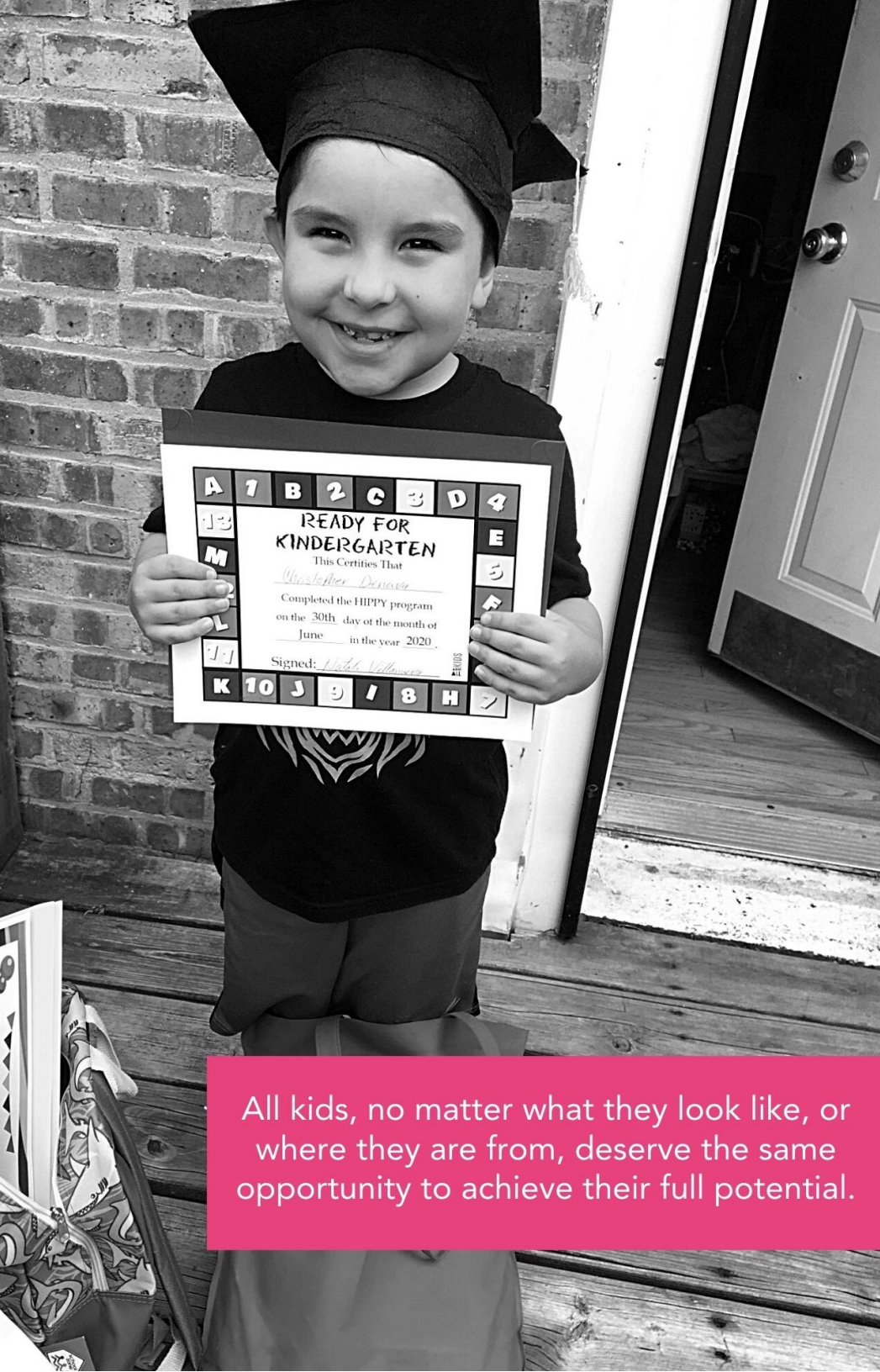
Programs & Success Stories

STEP UP

Foster & Mentor

STAND UP

Financials & Donors



All kids, no matter what they look like, or where they are from, deserve the same opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Step Up For Kids

Get Involved

Group Homes TUTOR

Share your time and expertise with a teen in our group homes, helping them to achieve their personal and academic goals.

*Contact Zulma Colon at
zcolon@kidsaboveall.org or
(773) 867-7361 for more
information.



Emerge

MENTOR TO EMPLOYMENT

Make a positive impact in the life of a formerly homeless young adult in our Emerge program by providing academic or career guidance.



*Contact Zulma Colon at
zcolon@kidsaboveall.org or
(773) 867-7361 for more information.

Step Up For Kids

Get Involved

Early Childhood LITERACY KITS

Help encourage children ages 2-5 in our early learning program to read and learn by donating:

- Books/Coloring Books
- Flash Cards
- Educational Games
- Crayons/Pencils
- Alphabet Building Worksheets
- Number Games
- Soft Toys

*Contact Zulma Colon at
zcolon@kidsaboveall.org or
(773) 867-7361 for more
information.



Foster Care FOSTERING

Become a foster parent and create a safe, nurturing environment that helps a child to heal from trauma and encourages their growth.

*To learn more about
fostering, contact
info@kidsaboveall.org.



Leadership

Board of Trustees

Rodney Brown, Chair
Christopher Engelman, Vice-Chair
Nancy Duel, Secretary
Stephen Mack, Treasurer

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Quenton Anderson
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Donald Brackey
Timothy Brennan
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Kids Above All Staff Ex-Officio

Dan Kotowski, President & CEO

Ex-Officio Members

Bishop Sally Dyck
Northern Illinois Conference, UMC

Auxiliary Board

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Elizabeth Taylor, Co-Chair

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Susie Dunphy	Cindy Walsh
Jennifer Engelman	Debbie Watson
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President's Council

Peter Anastasiou	Thomas Hutchinson
Peter Birnbaum	Dan Johnson
Timothy Cavanagh	John Kelly
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Scott Humphrey	A.J. Wilhelmi

Kids Above All Senior Management

Dan Kotowski, President & CEO
Sonja Clark, Executive Vice President,
Programs & CQI
Jeri Laureano, Chief Clinical Operating
Officer
April Redzic, Vice President, Resource
Development

Other Ways to Stand Up for Kids

Planned Giving

If your estate plans include Kids Above All, please let us know.

Kids Above All welcomes planned gifts in the form of bequests, life insurance, life estates, charitable remainder trusts, an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b) plan. Making a bequest or any other type of planned gift may generate tax benefits for you as the donor and provide long-term support for the organization.

Donor Advised Funds

If you currently use a Donor Advised Fund to contribute to your favorite causes, add Kids Above All to your gift planning. We gratefully accept contributions through several DAF's including Fidelity, Vanguard, Schwab, and more. Contact your DAF administrator and recommend that a contribution be made to Kids Above All.

Stock Gifts

If you are interested in giving a gift of stock to Kids Above All, please provide a letter of direction authorizing your investment firm to transfer the stock and indicate the company and number of shares to be transferred.

IRA Distributions

Kids Above All recently began accepting planned giving contributions through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), which saves on income taxes.



For more information about how you can impact the lives of children, contact Zulma Colon at (773) 867-7361 or zcolon@kidsaboveall.org.

Rise Up: Brian & Group Homes



Brian* wanted to prove to everyone, especially himself, that he was more than his designation as a "youth-in-care".

He entered Illinois's child welfare system at age 13 after family safety concerns were reported to the Department of Children and Family Services, and by the time he came to Kids Above All's Lisle Group Home in August of 2019, Brian was intent on continuing his progress toward developing his own identity, living independently and becoming an entrepreneur like his uncle.

As he settled into the group home, Brian enrolled at both Lisle High School and Camelot Therapeutic Day School in Hoffman Estates, which gave him the opportunity to learn in a classroom setting that provided more individualized assistance.

He started counseling with his Kids Above All therapist Peter to work through the trauma of being separated from his family. They also focused on building Brian's self-confidence, identifying and emphasizing his strengths and interest, as well as improving his ability to regulate his mental, emotional and physical reactions.

While at group homes, Brian took advantage of Kids Above All's life skills training seminars, learning financial literacy, tips on finding a job and how to be an effective advocate for himself. And in his free time, he enjoyed biking and fishing at a lake near the home.

Brian graduated from high school in May 2019. He immediately found a job at the local bowling alley, so that he could save money for his future.

In September 2020, he successfully completed Kids Above All's Group Homes program with a stronger sense of who he is and what he can achieve. He recently moved to a transitional living program (TLP), which gives him more freedom to achieve his goal of starting his own business.

We're proud of Brian's hard work, courage and determination and wish him the very best in the future.

*For our client's privacy and safety, their name has been changed.

Fiscal Year 2020

Financial Information

FY2020

Current Assets: \$3,744,555
Non-Current Assets: \$579,263
Fixed Assets-Net: \$1,395,882
Total Assets: \$5,719,700

Current Liabilities: \$4,899,679
Other Liabilities: \$2,598,149
Net Assets: (\$1,778,128)
Total Liabilities & Assets: \$5,719,700

FY2019

Current Assets: \$2,628,938
Non-Current Assets: \$586,346
Fixed Assets-Net: \$1,464,120
Total Assets: \$4,679,404

Current Liabilities: \$4,492,938
Other Liabilities: \$1,481,041
Net Assets: (\$1,294,575)
Total Liabilities & Assets: \$4,679,404

Comparative Statement of Activities for years ending June 30, 2019 & June 30, 2020

FY2020 INCOME

Government Support: \$10,363,056
Private Support: \$2,372,573
Other Revenue: \$251,860
Total Income: \$12,987,489

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Cost of Care: \$2,766,799
Staffing: \$7,861,939
Cost of Operations: \$2,842,304
Total Expenses: \$13,471,042
Change in Net Assets: (\$483,553)

FY2019 INCOME

Government Support: \$8,798,469
Private Support: \$3,158,743
Other Revenue: \$124,450
Total Income: \$12,081,662

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Cost of Care: \$2,555,823
Staffing: \$6,927,237
Cost of Operations: \$2,598,579
Total Expenses: \$12,081,639
Change in Net Assets: \$23

Dear Friends,

Throughout our 126-year history, the Kids Above All family—our children and families, staff and supporters—have displayed the courage, commitment and resilience that have enabled us to carry on our mission and rise above every obstacle in our path.

We can confidently report in Fiscal Year 2020 that despite immense outside challenges, our tradition of success and impact remain intact.

Kids Above All expanded by an additional 50 children and families in our early childhood program; started a new therapy initiative in Lake County to address a growing need for mental health services; and successfully executed an organizational rebrand from ChildServ to Kids Above All.

We can also report that Kids Above All met head-on the enormous challenges of 2020: the health and economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic and the more than 400-year-old struggle for racial justice and equality in the United States. These crises tested our resolve but compelled us to redouble our efforts to step up and stand up for kids so they can achieve their full potential and safely live in a just and equitable world.

The work to address the pain and hardship of the pandemic, as well as the ongoing fight against systemic racism will forever remain at the core of Kids Above All's mission as an organization. This requires an internal examination and a whole-hearted re-dedication to the values of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA). Our Board and staff have made significant progress on this front through the creation of a DEIA committee and task force to guide our every action as we strive to better meet our clients' needs and fully realize our mission.

Kids Above All's promise in Fiscal Year 2021 and beyond is to better confront the challenges faced by our kids and families by expanding our services and intensifying our impact. We will ensure that more kids living in poverty are ready for school through early childhood education; that more youth who have lost family members to homicide are helped on their grief journey through Camp Sheilah; and that more our young people have options to heal from trauma through innovative and experiential therapy.

As always, we truly appreciate our Board of Trustees, Auxiliary Board, Women's Impact Council, President's Council, community, corporate and faith partners, foster parents and daycare providers, volunteers and team members, who step up and stand up for kids every day, so they can build better lives.

We invite you to join us in placing the safety, well-being and education of all kids above everything else. Introduce Kids Above All to a family, family member or colleague, connect with us on social media, consider volunteering or contribute to our mission. Now, more than ever, our kids need difference-makers in their lives, who will help them succeed and have the best life possible.

Best regards,



Dan Kotowski
President & CEO



Rodney Brown
Chair, Board of Trustees

Kids Above All

New Name, Same Mission

On June 15, 2020, we officially changed our name from ChildServ to Kids Above All.

"Kids Above All" is statement of priority and principle. It is a powerful and defiant call-to-action, challenging every member of the community to join us in placing the safety, well-being and education of all kids above everything else.

All kids.

No matter what they look like and where they are from.

This isn't new—it's been our belief since 1894—but now, more than ever, we must clearly articulate and intentionally practice our values, stepping up and standing up for kids and families—particularly those in black and brown communities—so they have every opportunity to live in a fair, equitable and safe society.

And we recognize that the most effective and only way to really achieve our mission is to expose, confront and end the systemic racism and injustice devastating their lives.

The fact is that 87% of the children and families that we serve are from Black and brown communities.

This means we put kids above all by heightening our efforts as an organization to rise-up and unmask the source of racism and the institutions that perpetuate it.

This also means we put kids above all by increasing our advocacy by educating our board, supporters, volunteers and team members so we all have the knowledge and tools to stand up and stop the horrifying abuse that those in positions of power, either willing or subconsciously, inflict on people from communities of color.

Our commitment to ending injustice and racism is absolute, and we will continue to use our privilege, our diversity, and our collective voices to fight for a free, fair and equitable society so that kids, families and communities of color, in and around Chicago, have the opportunity to build a better life and realize their full potential.

In short, Kids Above All is who we are and what we do!

Kids Above All would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our Board and team members, and the generous commitment and creativity of Landor, a global branding firm in Chicago, who donated their time and talents to help us in this effort. Their guidance, expertise and phenomenal work were vital to the project's success and has transformed our organization.

FY2020 Events



The agency's Founder's Day Gala, in November 2019, raised nearly \$500,000 to help our clients achieve their full potential and celebrated our 125-year mission to build better lives for children and families.

President & CEO Dan Kotowski (left) presented the Lucy Rider Meyer Humanitarian Award to AT&T's Eileen Mitchell (center), honoring her career-long commitment to stepping up for children.



Our 2019 Holiday Gift Drive was again the most successful in agency history! We received more than \$103,000 in donations of toys, books and clothes to make sure 1,500 kids in our care experienced the joy of the holidays.

The drive was made possible through the generosity and support of nearly 200 volunteers, including companies like Mandel Metals, who not only donated toys but delivered them to our Elgin and Lake County sites for distribution to our kids and families.

Kids Above All hosted our first-ever virtual event in June 2019, the Stand Up For Kids Virtual Comedy Night, raising more than \$10,000 to benefit the kids in our programs.

More than 175 people tuned in for the show, which featured hilarious sets by WGN TV's Pat Tomasulo, Last Comic Standing's Kevin Bozeman and Chicago comedy legend Patti Vasquez (right).



You can put Kids Above All

Make a financial gift

Contribute at www.kidsaboveall.org or via mail to:

Kids Above All
8765 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60631

Be a volunteer

Share your time and talent as a mentor for a youth in our care or help out at our administration office.

Get your employer involved

Encourage your business or employer to give to Kids Above All.

Become a foster parent

Open your heart and home to a child who has experienced trauma.

Sponsor Kids Above All events

Become a sponsor of one of our annual events. Your name or business logo will be featured in the event's material.

Make an in-kind gift

Donate new furniture, mattresses, diapers, baby and children's clothing, coats, pajamas, bath products, and shower curtains.

For more information about how you can impact the lives of children, contact Zulma Colon at (773) 867-7361 or zcolon@kidsaboveall.org.



Stand Up For Kids

We're grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

Maternal Infant & Early
Childhood Home Visiting
Program (MIECHV)

Naperville Social Services
Grant Fund
U.S. Department of Housing &
Urban Development

Violent Crime Victims
Assistance Program Grant
of the Illinois Attorney
General's Office
Waukegan Community
Development Block Grant



Rise Up: Brooke & Foster Care



From an early age, Brooke* sought the stability and support that her parents were unable to provide. At 13, she often ran away from home and found herself in dangerous situations involving gangs and drugs.

After living with a relative for a time, Brooke entered Kids Above All's foster care program in 2016. She met her case manager, Alicia Wimbley, who quickly realized that Brooke needed a steady, reliable person in her life.

In 2018, Brooke's behavior became more erratic, and she was admitted to Hartgrove Hospital, a mental health center in Chicago. While at Hartgrove, Alicia remained in close contact with Brooke and became a trusted confidant. They talked about committing to therapy and her treatment plan, and Alicia helped Brooke to develop a routine. Over time, Brooke achieved the goals she needed to move to another facility in Arkansas.

As Brooke continued her journey, Alicia was a source of stability and comfort, helping her navigate new situations and looking out for her best interest.

Brooke started to blossom after transitioning to a group home in Murphysboro, Illinois. She excelled in high school and found jobs at McDonalds and then at Walmart. Brooke remained in therapy and learned to identify her triggers and establish clear boundaries for herself and others. She also began to work through the trauma associated with her parents, and eventually, she gained confidence to become a more effective advocate for herself, including in her difficult relationship with her mother.

During a recent stay in a Kids Above All foster home, Brooke experienced the consistent care and support that were missing from her own family. This placement only furthered her resolve to continue working toward a healthy relationship with her parents.

Brooke currently lives in a transitional living program outside of Chicago and with Alicia's help, is learning important life skills, like budgeting and cooking.

Increasingly, Brooke's conversations with Alicia are focused on the future.

Brooke's professional goals are to become a hair stylist and beauty salon owner. And while she researches educational options for both cosmetology and business, she is starting an eyelash business.

And thanks to Alicia's many years of steadfast support and guidance, Brooke is also on-track to achieve her treatment goals, making progress toward live independently as an empowered, self-sufficient adult and having a stable relationship with her parents based on trust.

*For our client's privacy and safety, their name has been changed.

Stand Up For Kids

We're grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

\$1,000,000+

Homes for Children Foundation

\$250,000+

Landor Chicago

\$70,000+

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Crown Family Philanthropies
Manuel Flores
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

\$50,000+

Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County
The McNerney Family Charitable Fund

\$30,000+

DuPage County Community Development Block Grant - Public Service Funds
Violent Crime Victims Assistance Program Grant of the Illinois Attorney General's Office

\$20,000+

Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund
Glasser & Rosenthal Family
Gorter Family Foundation
Lake County Community Development Block Grant
Lake County Video Gaming Revenue
Stephen & Rosemary Mack
Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts
United Way of Lake County
VNA Foundation
Waukegan Community Development Block Grant
Willow Springs Charitable Trust

\$12,000+

Community Memorial Foundation
Ellen B. Fox Fund

First Nonprofit Foundation
Naperville Community Development Block Grant-Capital Improvement
Oberweiler Foundation
Sheilah A. Doyle Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
W.P. & H.B. White Foundation

\$10,000+

Anonymous
AT&T
Bank of America
Brian & Gretchen Boyer
Helen Brach Foundation
Chicago COVID-19 Homeless System Agency Emergency Fund
Christopher & Jennifer Engelman
Insight Enterprises, Inc.
Foglia Family Foundation
Daniel & Katherine Johnson
The Edward & Wanda Jordan Foundation
Wesley E. Luehring Foundation
The Matriarch Foundation
Northern IL Conference, UMC
Steans Family Foundation
A. Montgomery Ward Foundation

\$7,500+

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The Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
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DuPage Medical Group
Charitable Fund of the DuPage Foundation
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\$5,000+

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DuPage Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund
Andrew & Molly Goldberg
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HBK Engineering, LLC
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Gregory & Teresa Hummel
John & Kathy Kenny Foundation
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Michael Mackey
Mikerphone Brewing, LLC
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Northern Trust
Tina & Orren Pickell
Elliot & Sherri Richardson
Dr. Scholl Foundation
John & Kathleen Schreiber Foundation
William Blair & Company, LLC

STEP UP

STAND UP

RISE UP

COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 has impacted the lives of every American.

But, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), data show that the pandemic has disproportionately affected communities of color—of which 87% of our kids and families are members.

The challenges that our clients continue to face in navigating both the public health and economic crises associated with COVID-19 are not new; they are in fact the latest manifestations of systemic inequities and the lack of investment in health, safety and economic infrastructures that provide for their well-being.

As a result, our clients' needs shifted in the earliest days of the pandemic—from program-related services to help in securing essentials like personal protective equipment (PPE), food, cleaning supplies, and baby items. As the parents and youth in our programs lost their jobs or saw major reductions in their income, our staff completed emergency drop-offs of necessities to keep our clients safe and healthy.

Many of our young people, particularly in foster care, also started to struggle with the isolation caused by the ongoing pandemic. The inability to see their friends or participate in extracurricular activities brought up past trauma, so our staff began to provide additional virtual therapeutic services and resources for our children and their caregivers.

To keep in contact with our kids and families, as well as help them maintain progress toward their goals, many of our programs during the stay-at-home order pivoted to virtual services over FaceTime, Zoom, and Facebook Messenger. This adjustment, however, brought to light the significant technology gap that our children and their caregivers experience. Through the generosity of donors, we were quickly able to close that gap and ensure they had the opportunity to access sufficient WiFi, as well as computers or tablets.

While most of our sites closed prior to the governor's March 20th "stay-at-home" order, Kids Above All's group homes for teens in Downers Grove, Lisle and Naperville remained open and fully operational. The 37 staff members and 18 teens adjusted as well as they could to their new normal, implementing additional health and safety precautions for anyone entering and leaving the homes.

Throughout the spring of 2020, the group home staff worked around the clock with our teens to find fun, interesting and productive ways to manage their emotions, complete their e-learning, and facilitate virtual family visits. And during the summer of 2020, our teens spent as much time outdoors as possible, taking trips to the Illinois Conservation Foundation's Tortenson's Youth Education Center.

We are very proud of and very thankful for our dedicated group home team, as well as every member of Team Kids Above All who, through these difficult times, continue to place the safety, well-being and education of our children and families above everything else.

Finally, we would like to express our profound gratitude to our Board of Trustees and dedicated community of supporters whose generosity and kindness have made all the difference in keeping our young people, their families and our staff safe and healthy.

Stand Up For Kids

We're grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

\$2,000+

Aleksy Belcher Practice
Arches Retail Development
Attune
Avison Young
BMO Harris
CapitolHall Partners, LLC
Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc.
Dr. Glen & Tamera Davis
DaVinci Payments
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Illinois State Board of Education National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant
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Rachel & James Sterner
Swift Prepaid Solutions
Ticket to Dream Foundation
United Methodist Foundation
United Voices for Children
UPS
Barbara and Chris Warren
Waukegan First Foundation
Wight & Company
YWCA Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
Wespath
Rev. Christopher & Kerry Winkler

\$1,000+

Christopher & Jessica Angelica
Dean & Mary Bekas
Lloyd Betourney
William Boyle
BYObroker, Inc.
Joyce Cochran
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Delta Dental of Illinois - Dept. 1030
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Judy Godinho
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Walter & Elaine Kurczewski
David & Judith Lambert
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Alisha Leveston
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Swift Prepaid Solutions
Samuel Tanios
Alysen Terretta
Michael Thomson
Donne Trotter
UBS-Danford, W & L
United Way of LA
John & Merilee Waldron
Nigel Walters
Wieland Family Foundation
AJ Wilhelmi
Jack Yong

\$500+

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AF Group
Alliance of NonProfits for Insurance Gilbert Fund
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Phil Andrew
Scott Bartels
Matt Baumann
Bearcast Leasing



Stand Up For Kids

We're grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

Walgreens
Zion UMC, Hampshire

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Antioch UMC
Barrington UMC
Barrington UMC, UMW
Berry Memorial UMC, Chicago
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First UMC, Arlington Heights, UMW
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Friendship UMC, Bolingbrook
Glenview UMC, UMW
Grace UMC, Lake Bluff
Hinsdale UMC, UMW
Lake Villa UMC
Libertyville UMC, UMW
Luther Village Spiritual Enrichment Foundation
Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish
North Shore UMC, Glencoe
North Shore UMC, Glencoe, UMW
Northbrook UMC
Northern IL Conference, UMC
Northern IL Conference, UMC, UMW
Our Redeemer UMC, Schaumburg
Prince of Peace UMC, Elk Grove Village
Ravenswood Fellowship UMC, Chicago
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Park Ridge
Redeemer of Calvary/El Redentor del Calvario UMC, Chicago
Redeemer of Calvary/El Redentor del Calvario UMC, Chicago, UMW
Riverside UMC
Southlawn UMC, UMW
St. Andrew Methodist Church, Homewood
Trinity UMC, Mount Prospect
Trinity UMC, Mount Prospect, UMW
United Methodist Foundation
United Voices for Children
Waukegan First Foundation
Wesley UMC, Chicago, UMW
Wespath
Willow Community Church, Wheaton
Zion UMC, Hampshire

TRUSTS & ESTATES

Ellen B. Fox Fund
Octavus N. Hutchinson Charitable Trust

CIVIC & NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Communities That Care, Lake Zurich
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County
PlayItForward Kids
Rotary Club of Park Ridge
Sheilah A. Doyle Foundation
United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern NJ
United Way of LA
United Way of Lake County
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
YWCA Lake Forest/Lake Bluff

PUBLIC AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund
Chicago COVID-19 Homeless System Agency Emergency Fund
City of Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
DuPage County Community Development Block Grant - Public Service Funds
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois State Board of Education
Lake County Community Development Block Grant
Lake County Video Gaming Revenue

Stand Up For Kids

We're grateful to our generous donors for their continued support of our mission.

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Wide
Cary UMC, UMW
Central UMC, Skokie
Chicago Church of Christ
Collage LLC
Cooper's Hawk Winery &
Restaurants
Ikonix USA
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Rise Up: Marta & FCCH



As a young mother, Marta* made difficult choices to build a better life for her three daughters, Ashley (age 6), Ailyn (age 2) and Daniela (infant).

In 2012, Marta, Ashley and Ailyn emigrated to the United States from Honduras, seeking safety from violence and greater financial opportunity for their family. The decision to leave Daniela with her grandmother in Honduras was excruciating but Marta promised to reunite the family as soon as possible.

When Marta and her daughters first arrived in America, they lived at a family shelter in Waukegan. Marta immediately found work in janitorial services, so that they could afford a place of their own. But her job wasn't 9 – 5 p.m., so when she left for work, she worried about her daughters at the shelter.

One of Marta's co-workers, however, told her about Kids Above All's Family Childcare Homes (FCCH) program in Lake County, which improves the financial stability of families living in poverty by providing home-based daycare and education services for kids while their parents are at work or in school.

Soon after, Marta enrolled both Ashley and Ailyn in the program. With the peace of mind of knowing her kids were in a safe, education-focused environment, Marta eventually earned enough to afford an apartment.

In addition to childcare, the FCCH program provided Marta's family with school supplies, Christmas presents, and rental assistance, helping them to build a life together in their new home. The program also connected Marta to immigration and counseling resources to make sure they had the support they needed, as she prepared to reunite with her youngest daughter, Daniela.

In 2017, after five years apart, Marta brought Daniela to Waukegan from Honduras. The transition was difficult due to the lengthy separation and the language barrier. Marta quickly started Daniela in FCCH, helping her to adjust, make plenty of friends and excel in school.

Now that they are together, Ashley, Ailyn and Daniela are inseparable. Marta and her girls enjoy picnics in the summer and frequent visits to the library.

Marta's goal is to make sure her daughters continue to grow as a family, instilling in them the value of hard work—in school and in life—so they never have to be apart again and can have the best life possible.

"I'm grateful to the FCCH program for helping my family for so many years; They gave me the chance to have my family together again."

*For our client's privacy and safety, their name has been changed.

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COVID-19 & Outcomes

Early Childhood

2,347

virtual visits across our suite of programs to ensure the health and safety of our kids and families, as well as maintain their progress toward developmental milestones.

95%

of the families in the programs received assistance, including food, diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies and utility assistance.



Foster Care, Adoption & Clinical Teams

2,820

virtual visits.

8

virtual foster parent trainings.

175

"survival kits" with games and activities distributed.

Group Homes

93%

of our young people participated in our experiential therapy program, including yoga, art and writing therapy, and adventure retreats, leading to improved emotional health.

Emerge

94%

of clients maintained medical insurance.



FY2020 Impact & Outcomes

2,488

children and families' lives made better.

96%

of our clients made progress on their personal & professional goals.



Strong Foundations for Life

674 CHILDREN

were ready to succeed in kindergarten due to our early childhood learning program, according to a national assessment tool.

98%

of parents in our program established goals to help their child have a strong foundation for life and succeed in school.

Loving, Supportive Homes

346 CHILDREN

who have experienced abuse and neglect were placed in safe, nurturing homes so they could heal from trauma.

90%

of children who were placed with a guardian or adopted now live in a safe, stable and permanent home.

Healing from Trauma

188 YOUNG PEOPLE

received trauma-informed counseling to help them heal from trauma.



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David Kolata
Joe & Rita Kotowski
Kapil Kumar

FY2020 Impact & Outcomes

91 %

of our clients felt Kids Above All provided the stability they need for growth.

93 %

of our clients were satisfied with our services.



Safe, Group Living Environments

27 TEENS

received counseling to heal from trauma, encouragement to finish high school and life skills training so they can become empowered adults.

95 %

participation rate from residents in the life skills training to learn about financial literacy, nutrition, and stress management.

Empowering Youth

23 YOUNG ADULTS

moved from homelessness to having safe apartments and received life skills training, including budgeting, resume writing and interview skills.

100 %

of clients are career-oriented--employed, in school, or actively seeking or changing jobs.

Camp Sheilah

64 KIDS AND PARENTS

who have lost a family member to homicide participated in Camp Sheilah to assist them on their healing journey.

