



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# Uplifting Voices, Empowering Community

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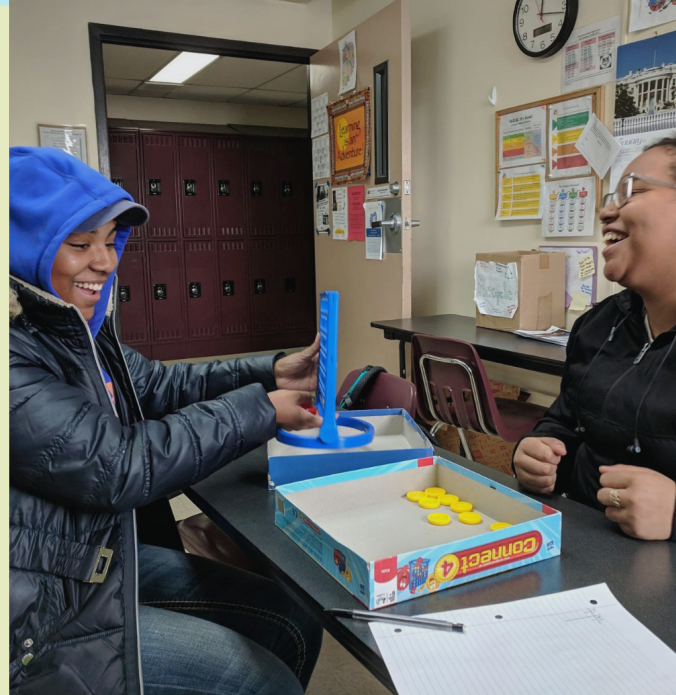
## WHAT WE DO

Since 1899, the House has been a vibrant, inclusive home for people on a journey to live their fullest life. The work of our current strategic plan is framed around supporting resilience, active resistance against injustice and broken systems, and reimagination of a brighter future.



## HOW WE DO IT

The House makes new paths to stability, growth, and fulfillment possible by providing access to high-quality, culturally responsive services and service providers and reducing access barriers especially for Black and Latinx community members.



## WHY WE DO IT

We envision a more inclusive society: one where each person is fully participating - economically, politically, socially and culturally - in the life of their families, communities and society.



Message from the

# CEO



In this annual report, you will see how our programs uplift participant voices across all five of our divisions. Our comprehensive programs place youth in loving homes, offer second chances for high school education, provide behavioral health services for those in need, launch individuals into thriving careers, and lift communities through health and wellness programs.

## Dear Friends,

As we reflect on a year of resilience, resistance and reimagination, I am moved by the unwavering commitment of you - our stakeholders, donors, staff and participants who bring our mission to life.

Throughout this transformative year, Association House has witnessed remarkable achievements and milestones. Guided by our Strategic Plan, we remain steadfast in advancing our mission of removing the barriers that prevent families and individuals from fully participating in society.

Here at Association House, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Your continued support plays a crucial role in the work we do here at the House. We hope you are inspired by the stories in this annual report. Together, we empower a stronger community.

As cherished partners, we thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Juan Carlos Linares  
President & CEO

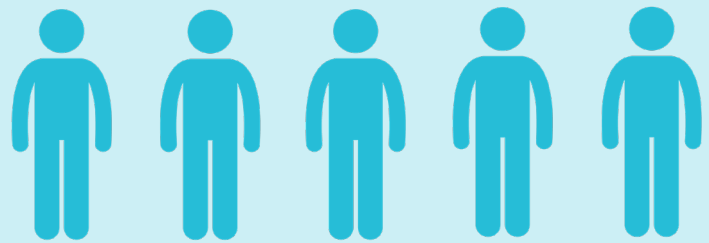


For more information on Association House's Strategic Plan, scan the QR code or [click here](#).

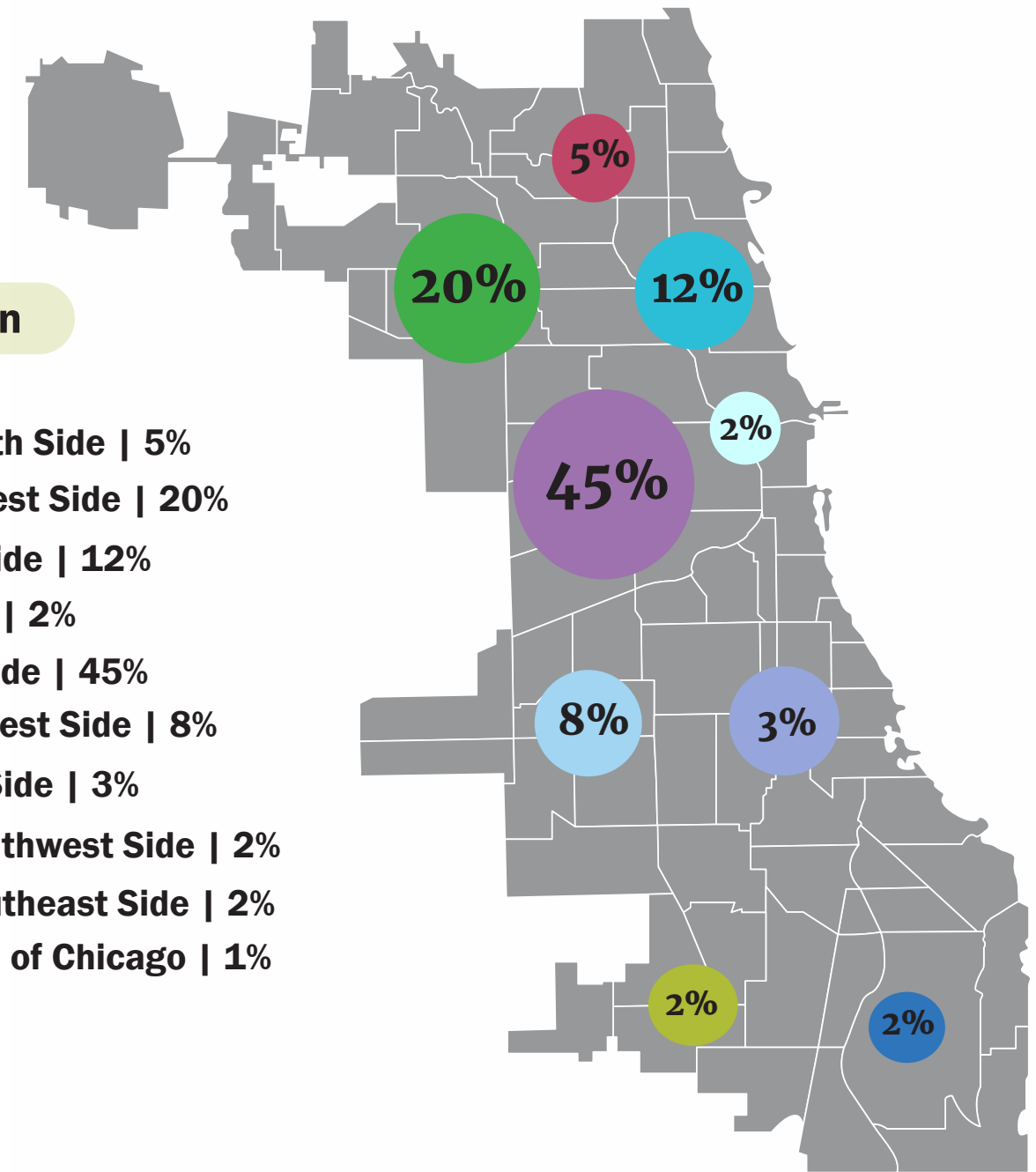
# Impact Highlights



**3,812**  
individuals served



impacting  
**10,025**  
family members\*

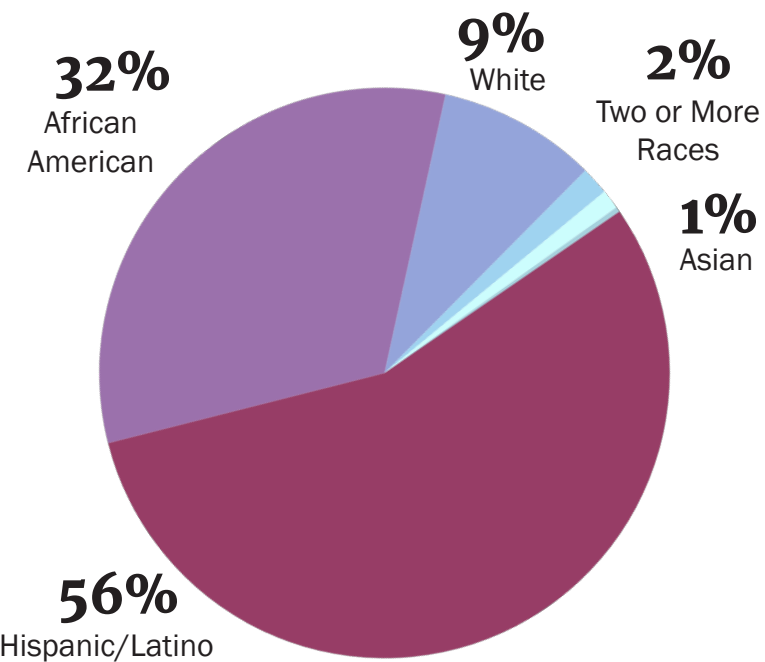


## Location

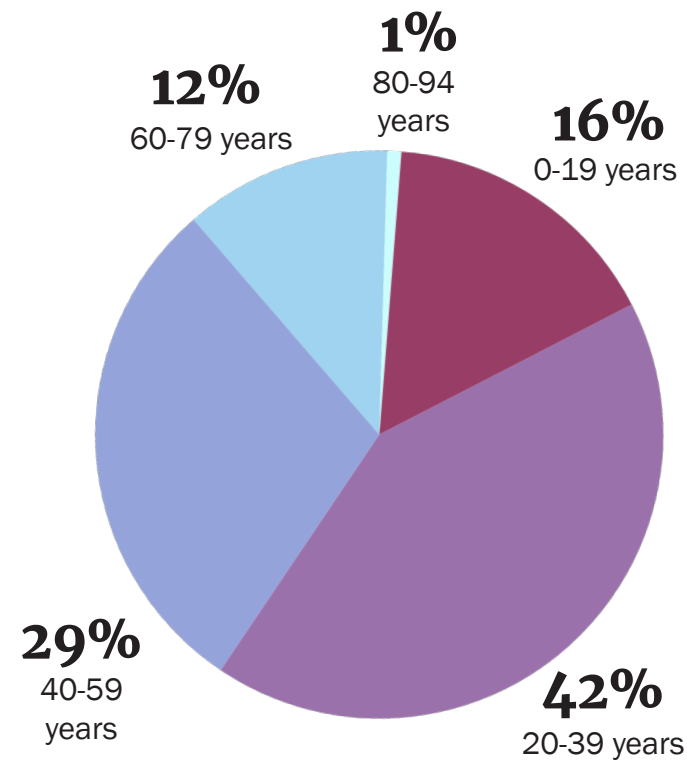
- Far North Side | 5%
- Northwest Side | 20%
- North Side | 12%
- Central | 2%
- West Side | 45%
- Southwest Side | 8%
- South Side | 3%
- Far Southwest Side | 2%
- Far Southeast Side | 2%
- Outside of Chicago | 1%

## Participant Demographics

### Race



### Age



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



**“The DEI Committee is providing opportunities, collaboration, and exposure for the agency and community to continuously engage in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts.”**

*Jemina Lyle, DEI Committee Member  
High School Culture & Climate Coordinator*

\*estimate based on average household size

# Building Future Public Health Leaders through New AmeriCorps Program

Please welcome our first-ever Public Health AmeriCorps team! Association House was chosen as one of two Illinois agencies to launch the national program to bolster the resiliency of the community through recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders. The Public Health AmeriCorps members joined our Behavioral Health and Community Health divisions to help participants get the care and resources they need.



Association House AmeriCorps alum and Serve Illinois President, Andres Fernandez, welcomed Public Health AmeriCorps members to the agency.

“The CCMTM program gives our participants the chance for a fresh start. We treat them with dignity and give them the tools to live their lives to the fullest.”

Maggie Hettman, Quality Administrator  
Comprehensive Class Member Transition Program

# 60+ Participants Reclaim Independence through CCMTM Program

The Comprehensive Class Member Transition Program (CCMTM) is a testament to how Association House creates lasting, positive change in the lives of the people we serve. These programs assist the 24,000 individuals with disabilities or mental illness wrongfully placed in nursing homes reclaim independent, fulfilling lives. This year, the program exceeded its goal, meeting 102% of its target transitions, and transitioned 61 people from Mental Health and Nursing Facilities into their new homes. These exceptional outcomes highlight the dedication, innovation, and resilience displayed by our program staff and participants.



Association House CCMTM participant, Reggie, proudly holds up the keys to his new home.



29 children found permanent homes through adoption or guardianship



82% of Visions participants reduced drug use, many reaching full abstinence



1,176 hours of clinical counseling provided

## Finding a Future

Before coming to [Association House High School](#), many of our students think graduation is impossible. Traditional schools often ignore the many circumstances preventing students from making it to graduation day. But here at Association House, our teachers, counselors, and mentors walk alongside students to help them achieve their goals.

After Constance welcomed her daughter, Key, into the world, she realized she had to grow up fast. With no support from her adoptive family, Constance and Key moved from Indiana to Chicago in search of a better life.

“I left with just me and my baby. I found a shelter; and it was a rocky transition because I didn’t know how to find other assistance,” says Constance.

Constance worked hard to provide the formula, food, and necessities needed to care for her daughter. As she made friends, they introduced her to vital resources, like Association House.

Two and a half years had passed since Constance dropped out of high school. She didn’t think, she could ever finish. However, when Constance stepped through the doors of Association House, she knew she was in the right place. Constance was met with a supportive community determined to help her reach her goals.

*Constance walking at graduation to receive her high school diploma.*



“When I first came here, they welcomed me with open arms. It’s like a breath of relief because when I come here I have the support while I try to succeed,” Constance says.

Teachers helped Constance stay on track with schoolwork. Mentors provided her with the resources needed to take care of her family. And the Family Literacy Program provided a safe place for Key while Constance focused on her studies.

A couple years later, Constance found herself on stage at graduation, sharing her story in front of the people who believed in her the most. Friends who introduced her to the lifeline that is Association House. Teachers and mentors who went the extra mile to ensure she was at school and completing assignments. She even reunited with her biological family, who she had not seen since she was four years old.

*Constance’s daughter, Key, playing in the Family Literacy Program.*



**“I made the decision that I didn’t want to be the girl that failed... We have potential that stands higher than no mountain anyone has ever seen.”**

*Constance, Association House High School Graduate*

Association House meets individuals where they are and helps them unlock their potential. Constance is now studying in the EMT Paramedics Program at Malcolm X College. She has received \$12,000 in scholarships and aspires to become a physical therapist.

Not everyone’s journey is the same. As we celebrate Constance’s story, we are reminded of the remarkable transformation that can happen when individuals receive the right support. Association House is committed to uplifting and empowering the people in our community to live their fullest life.

# Behavioral Health Division Receives Advancing Minority Mental Health Award

Mental health has always been a priority across Association House’s 30+ programs. This year, our [Behavioral Health division](#) was awarded the 2023 Advancing Minority Mental Health Award by the American Psychiatric Association Foundation during their annual meeting in San Francisco. This prestigious award recognizes Association House’s dedication to raising awareness and improving access to mental health in underserved minority communities.



CEO, Juan Carlos Linares, Community Reintegration and Support Supervisor, Mary Gonzalez, and Clinical Director, Tanya Wade, accepting the Advancing Minority Mental Health Award.

**“We all know that in Black and Brown communities, our folks are not necessarily seen. And what I mean by seen, is recognized for their humanity and what they bring to the table, the strength, pride and culture that we have. So being able to work at an agency to provide services to the folks that are underserved within the community is important.”**

*Tanya Wade, Clinical Director*



**3,561** hygiene kits and food packages distributed to community



**49** foster parents certified through Child Welfare



**343** adults and youth trained in Mental Health First Aid

# Corporate Champions Inspire Change with Hands-On Impact and Support

Our corporate partners showed up and showed out this year! Not only have they provided generous financial support, but many took a hands-on approach by volunteering directly with our programs. From mentoring our high school students, stocking our Financial Careers closet, and collecting and distributing school supplies, our corporate partners have gone above and beyond to show their commitment to our community.



Comcast volunteers passing out backpacks at the 17th annual Back 2 School Fair.

McDonald's volunteers serving food to Life Skills Education participants.

## A Home for Every Heart

Every child deserves a home where they feel safe, loved, and cared for. For children whose safety is at risk, foster care provides a temporary haven where they are supported through these difficult times. Unfortunately, the foster care system faces its own challenges - a lack of funding, staff, and most importantly, foster parents.

Becoming a foster parent is a big decision. But since a very young age, Jessica knew she wanted to help the children in her community. Jessica and her husband, Jon, have two biological children of their own, yet they felt they still had love to give. This decision would change their lives forever.

**20,000**  
children are in  
Illinois Foster Care

**8,000**  
licensed foster  
parents in Illinois

Jessica and Jon's foster journey began in 2016 when they found Association House. Our child welfare team guided them through the process to become certified foster parents. During the process, they were given tools and resources to prepare themselves to take on this huge responsibility. Soon enough, Jessica and Jon welcomed their first foster child, Adel.

From the minute nine-year-old Adel arrived at his new foster home, he was met with warmth and affection. He quickly bonded with his foster parents, siblings and an extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. During regular meetings with his case worker, Angelica, he expressed his desire to make his situation permanent.

"Everybody has grown to love him. He's ours. He's been ours in our hearts since day one," says Jessica.

Four years later, Adel's foster home became his forever home. The official papers were signed on his 13th birthday, giving them another reason to celebrate. Though this was a happy day for the family, Jessica and Jon recognize the difficult truths that are sometimes left unsaid.

"We understand that adoption can be both the most beautiful and the most traumatic moment in a child's life. Supporting a child through that requires extra love and support," says Jessica.

Fostering can be a challenging journey full of emotional highs and lows. Jessica and Jon soak in every second. When Association House called again to ask if they were ready to take in another foster child, they said yes. This year, with the help of their caseworkers, Jessica and Jon finalized their second adoption.

"Association House has been with us at every turn, through whatever hurdles we are given and there were many. Our case workers are available 24/7. They walk us and the kids through every step. We do it in community," says Jessica.

Though their family is not traditional, Jessica and Jon would not have it any other way. The decision to become foster parents has brought infinite joy to their home. For them, fostering is an act of profound love and resistance against a broken system.



*Jessica and Jon's family posing for a selfie on their front porch.*



Watch ["With Love,"](#) a short video created by Fig Media capturing the story of the Venegas family and how foster care changed their lives forever.

If you are considering becoming a foster parent, we hope Jessica and Jon's story inspires you to begin your journey. Association House is here.

Learn more: [www.associationhouse.org/become-a-foster-parent](http://www.associationhouse.org/become-a-foster-parent).





Association House Kitchen graduate poses with family member and culinary program instructor, Chef Tenoch, while proudly holding up certificate of completion.

Association House Kitchen participant makes sushi, showcasing new skills learned through the program.

## New Culinary Program Launches for Justice Involved and Returning Citizens

This year we added another program to our Workforce Development division! [Association House Kitchen](#) is a fast-paced, training and employment program for returning and justice-involved citizens. During the program, students develop hard and soft skills, from teamwork to knife skills, all while earning their ServSafe Illinois Food Handler certification and digital literacy certifications. This program is off to a strong start, already providing over 22 graduates with the knowledge and tools needed to transition back into the community and gain employment.

**“Our culinary training program doesn’t just teach individuals to create delectable dishes. It empowers them to craft a new narrative for themselves, transforming not only their culinary skills but also their lives.”**

*Filiberto Rios, Program Director  
Workforce Development & Community Health Division*



**\$2.7 million** ROI for workforce programs with **\$20.39/hr** average income



**9,000** hours of high school mentoring



**32** students earned high school diplomas

## High School Empowers Students through Reimagine Fridays

Fridays look a little different for [Association House High School](#) this year. Instead of a regular day of classes, students can explore their passions through Reimagine Fridays. This program is driven by student interests, including a variety of activities like nail tech, art, 3D printing, and STEAM. These enrichment days allow students the opportunity to learn new skills, build relationships and pave a path to life after graduation.



Student explores passion for design by learning to sew in 'Fashion Club.'

## Starting Over

Four years ago, Renease never could have imagined her life as it is today. She was in the midst of one of the most challenging times she had ever faced. In 2019, Renease was diagnosed with cancer. Shortly afterward, she found out she was expecting a child. With no other options, Renease knew she had to prioritize her health and leave her job.

Soon enough, Renease was on the road to remission, and welcomed her baby in March of 2020. Despite the joy of becoming a mother to her second child, COVID-19 surfaced, making it hard to secure employment and provide for her growing family.

And then there was hope. One day, while scrolling through her Facebook feed, Renease came across an advertisement for the [Financial Careers Training program](#) offered at Association House. Given her long-time interest in banking and the convenient west-side location of the program, Renease decided to take the leap of faith.

“I wanted to get into banking years ago, but I let that go because I didn’t have any real cash handling experience... The program fit the schedule at the time and everything that I needed so I figured why not?” said Renease.

Renease’s journey through the program was difficult. She was still working through personal challenges and would often have moments of self-doubt. Yet, Financial Careers Facilitator, Sherri Richardson, emerged as a mentor for Renease. Sherri listened to Renease’s struggles and helped her find the strength she needed to finish the program.



*Renease and her two beautiful children.*

**“If you’re looking for a change in your life or want to feel like you belong somewhere or want to feel encouraged and not judged, come to Association House.”**

*Renease, Financial Careers Program and Tech#Ready Graduate*

Not only did she finish the program, she found the confidence to give a speech at the Financial Careers Training graduation ceremony. Afterwards, she went on to take classes through Association House’s Tech#Ready program so she could excel in her new career. Through hard work and dedication, she graduated at the top of her class.

“I don’t know where I would be right now if I didn’t come across BankWork\$. It jump-started me getting back on my feet, defining who I am, getting on the path back to independence and starting over. That’s what BankWork\$ was for me – it was starting over,” said Renease.

Empowered with the skills and confidence instilled by her time at Association House, Renease is thriving. Today, she serves as a Client Service Analyst at JP Morgan Chase. Though her work can be stressful, she is finding fulfillment in her career and ensuring stability for her children. Association House is proud to walk alongside participants like Renease, down the path to a brighter future.

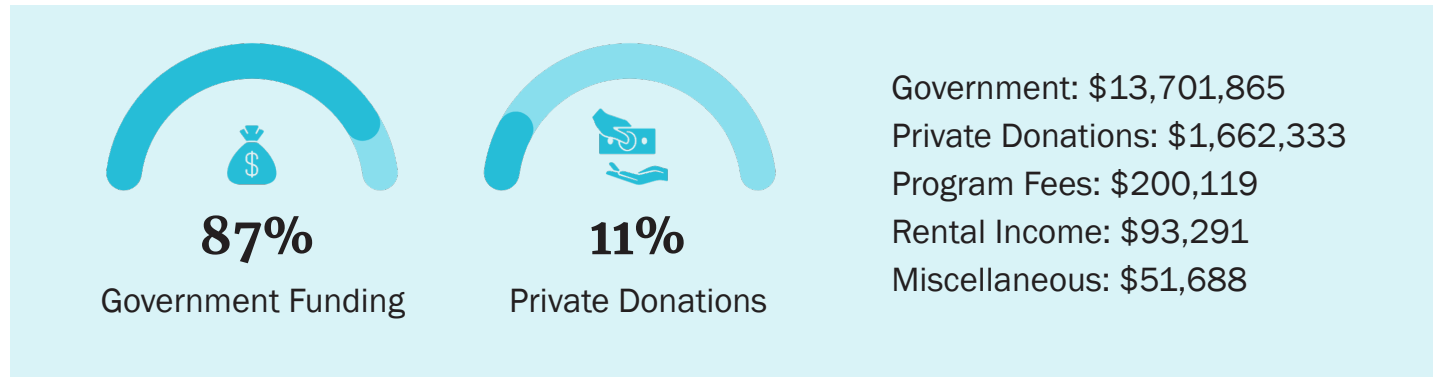
*Major support for Financial Careers Training is provided by Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and Boeing.*

*Renease's headshot in her new work attire.*

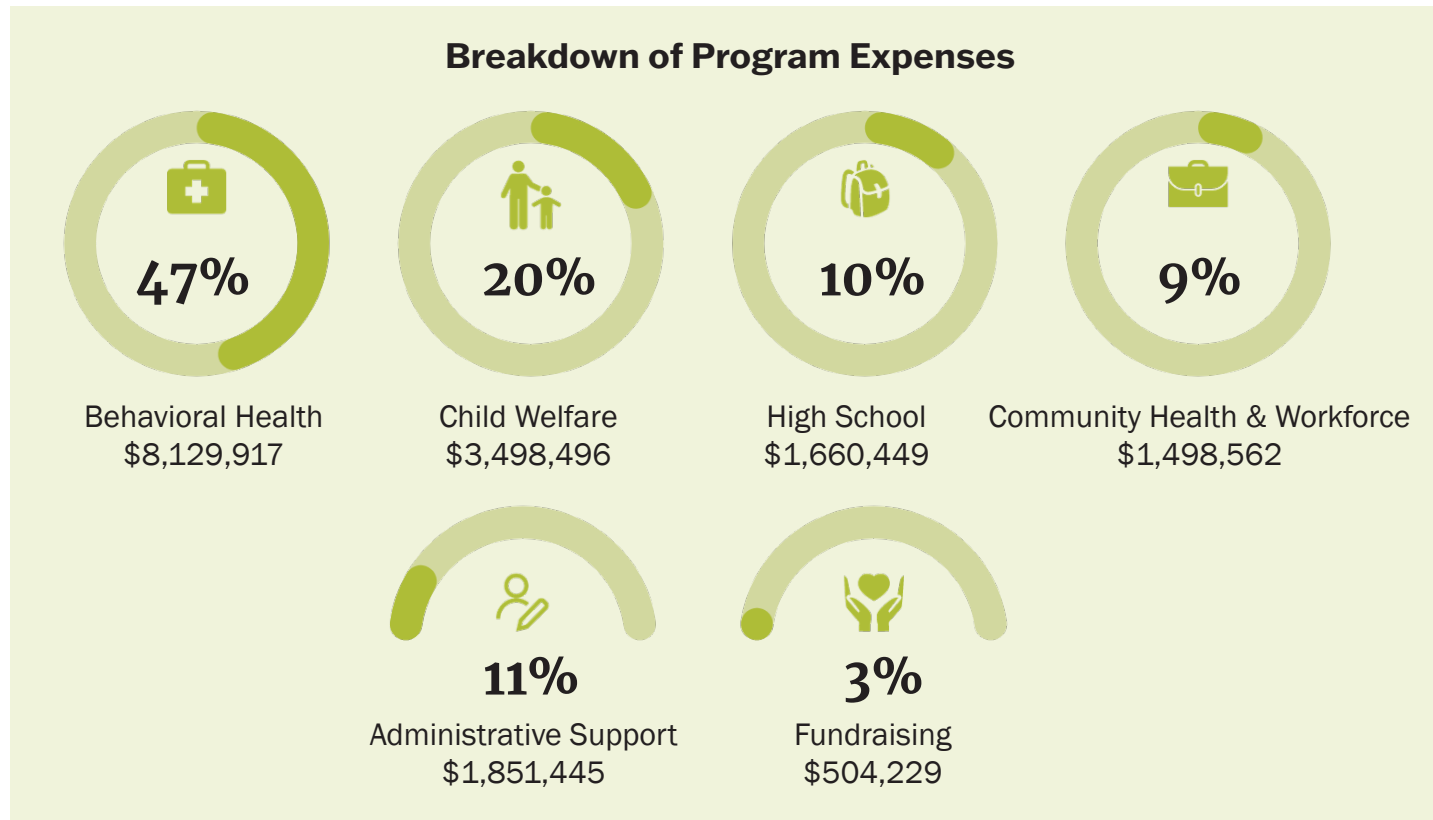


# Financial Highlights

## Where Our Funding Comes From



## How We Use Our Resources



## How We Ensure Sustainability

Board Designated Investment	Ending Balance June 30, 2022: \$14,201,330 Ending Balance June 30, 2023: \$15,338,523
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Brubaker, Board Chair <i>Wabtec Cooperation</i>	Jose Garcia <i>Northwest Community Credit Union</i>	Bhavini Shah <i>Salesforce</i>
Nancy Johnson, Vice President <i>Adtalem Global Education</i>	Tauseef Gillani <i>Huntington Bank</i>	Kathleen Smith <i>BMO</i>
Tadd Ingles, Treasurer <i>Ernst &amp; Young LLP</i>	Vachon Harper-Young <i>BMO</i>	Jourdan Sorrell <i>Comcast Corporation</i>
Noam Avidov, Secretary <i>IMC Trading</i>	Ronald Kurz <i>Lone Mountain Investors</i>	Helena Stangle <i>Acero Schools Network</i>
Patricia Brown <i>Deloitte LLP</i>	Angela Mathew <i>PricewaterhouseCoopers</i>	Jennifer Tedjeske <i>Chapman &amp; Cutler LLP</i>
Becky Brueckel <i>Retired, Foley &amp; Lardner LLP</i>	Paul Metzger <i>Retired, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter &amp; Hampton LLP</i>	Cynthia Ullrich <i>Retired, BMO</i>
Ryan Dwyer <i>PricewaterhouseCoopers</i>	Alexandria Moros <i>Amazon</i>	Audra Wilson <i>Shriver Center on Poverty Law</i>
Tangela Enyia <i>ComEd</i>		

## AUXILIARY BOARD

Kendal Garrett, Board Chair <i>Pandata Group</i>	Vincent Delgado <i>BMO</i>	Taylor Jennings <i>IMC Trading</i>
Elizabeth Juarez, LSW, Secretary <i>Fresenius Medical Care</i>	Rose Gibbons <i>PricewaterhouseCoopers</i>	Madeline Lavachek <i>Deloitte</i>
Michael Barnes <i>YMCA Metropolitan Chicago</i>	Lauren Goebel <i>Plante Moran</i>	Chris St. Martin <i>BMO</i>

# Our Supportive Network: Funding Partners

## \$100,000 and Above

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation  
 \*McDonald's Corporation  
 The Boeing Company

## \$25,000 to \$49,999

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation  
 Bank of America  
 BMO  
 Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation  
 Polk Bros Foundation  
 Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
 U.S. Bank  
 UnidosUS  
 \*United Way of Metro Chicago  
 The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation  
 \*Anonymous  
 \*Avnet  
 Capital One  
 Chapman and Cutler LLP  
 ComEd  
 Conagra Brands Foundation  
 The Donley Foundation  
 Ernst and Young LLP  
 Fifth Third Bank  
 Franklin Monroe Administrative Services LLC  
 Huntington Bank  
 IMC Trading  
 Old National Bank  
 PNC Foundation  
 Republic Bank of Chicago  
 Charles & M.R. Shapiro Foundation, Inc.  
 Wabtec Foundation  
 W.P. & H.B White Foundation

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

Adtalem Foundation  
 American Psychiatric Association Foundation  
 Associated Bank

Byline Bank  
 \*Chicago Board of Trade Foundation  
 Chicago Community Trust  
 CIBC Atlantic Trust  
 Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund  
 Deloitte Services LLP  
 King Family Foundation

## \$1,000 to \$4,999

Alliant Insurance Services, Inc  
 Francis Beidler Foundation  
 \*CNA Financial  
 Chicago Public Media  
 CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
 \*Community Presbyterian Church  
 George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities  
 ETI Construction  
 \*Jewel-Osco  
 Marquette Bank  
 Morgan Stanley  
 \*Northminster Presbyterian Church  
 RBC Foundation  
 Wintrust Bank

## Matching Gifts

ADP  
 Bank of America  
 Casey's  
 Cheniere Energy  
 Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation  
 IMC Trading  
 Kirkland & Ellis  
 McDonald's Corporation  
 Oracle  
 U.S. Bank

## In-Kind Support

Aveda Institute-Chicago  
 Avondale Bowl  
 Chicago Athletic Clubs  
 Chicago Botanic Garden  
 Chicago Shakespeare Theatre  
 Chicago Wolves  
 City Mini Gold  
 Court Theatre

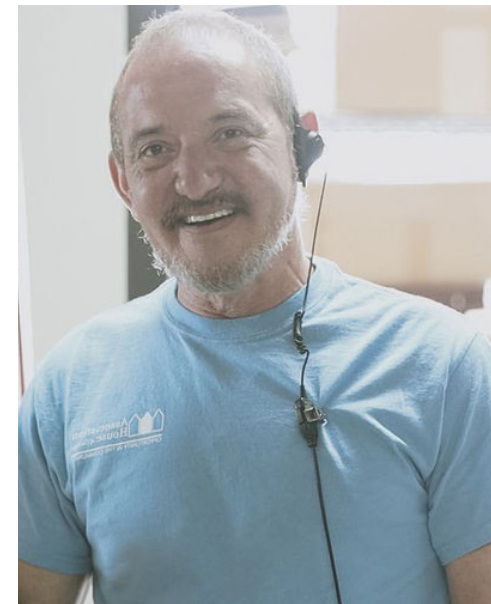
Deerpath Junior High School  
 Deloitte Services LLP  
 EaThai  
 El Cid Restaurant  
 Elske  
 ENJOY  
 The Field Museum  
 Fifth Generation Inc.  
 Fig Media Inc  
 First Ascent Climbing & Fitness-Humboldt Park  
 Gethsemane Garden Center  
 Humboldt House  
 Illinois Sports Facilities Authority  
 Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams  
 Koval Distillery  
 Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants  
 Little Broken Things  
 Logan Theatre  
 Lou Malnati's Pizzeria  
 Mad Science of Chicago  
 Mayfair Presbyterian Church  
 Music Box Theatre  
 Music House School of Performing Arts  
 Navy Pier, Inc.  
 Northlight Theatre  
 Northminster Presbyterian Church  
 NorthWestern Med Spa  
 Oromo Café  
 Pinot's Palette  
 PrimeCare Health  
 Revolution Brewing  
 Rickover Naval Academy  
 Spinning J Bakery  
 Sumitomo Corporation of Americas  
 Title Boxing Clubs



[Government Funding and Individual Donors](#)

# Staff Acknowledgment

Lastly, thank you to all our incredible staff. We would like to recognize your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our cause. During your time at Association House, you have changed thousands of lives. Without you, Association House would not be the place it is today. Special thanks for those who have made the House their home for more than a decade.



## 30+ Years

Silverio Lebron  
 Fernando Torres  
 Teresa Vicente

## 20+ Years

Raul Acevedo  
 Gilma Figueroa  
 Jaime García  
 Margarita Hernández  
 José Salgado Medina  
 Ana Muñoz  
 Jovan Ocasio  
 Fausta Pérez-Morales  
 Julie Rodríguez  
 Luis Rodríguez  
 Sofia Tobias  
 Ellen Vázquez  
 Francisco Valdez  
 Maribel Ortega-Vazquez

## 10+ Years

Alma Acevedo  
 Damaris Acevedo  
 Lourdes Aranda  
 Gabriela Arriaga  
 Cleopatra Bautista  
 Yvonne Beasley  
 Paola Bonfante  
 Alina Braica  
 Stanley Chan  
 Migdalia Dieppa  
 Jacqueline Dimmick  
 Angelica Gervacio  
 María Gómez  
 Raul Gonzalez  
 María Hernández  
 Randy Horton  
 Angela King  
 Veronica López  
 Emily Marion

Francisco Martell  
 Maribel Martínez  
 Thomas Mathews  
 Maria Mazur  
 Elda Pérez-Martínez  
 David Pieper  
 Filiberto Rios  
 Myra Rodríguez  
 Alejandro Trejo  
 José Vega  
 Sandra Velázquez  
 Guadalupe Vicente  
 Tanya Wade  
 Drew Williams  
 Lydia Zavala

**A heartfelt thank you to Mirta Ortiz, on her retirement after an extraordinary 45 years at Association House. Your commitment to our mission and participants has inspired us all.**

\*These funders place their profound trust in Association House through unrestricted giving. This allows our team to use their donations wherever they are most needed. Our special gratitude to you!



**Licensed By:**

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
Mental Health Division  
Developmental Disabilities Division  
Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Division

**Member Of:**

Chicago Alliance for Collaborative Effort  
Illinois Latino Agenda  
Community Behavioral Healthcare  
Association of Illinois  
Illinois Latino Agenda  
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