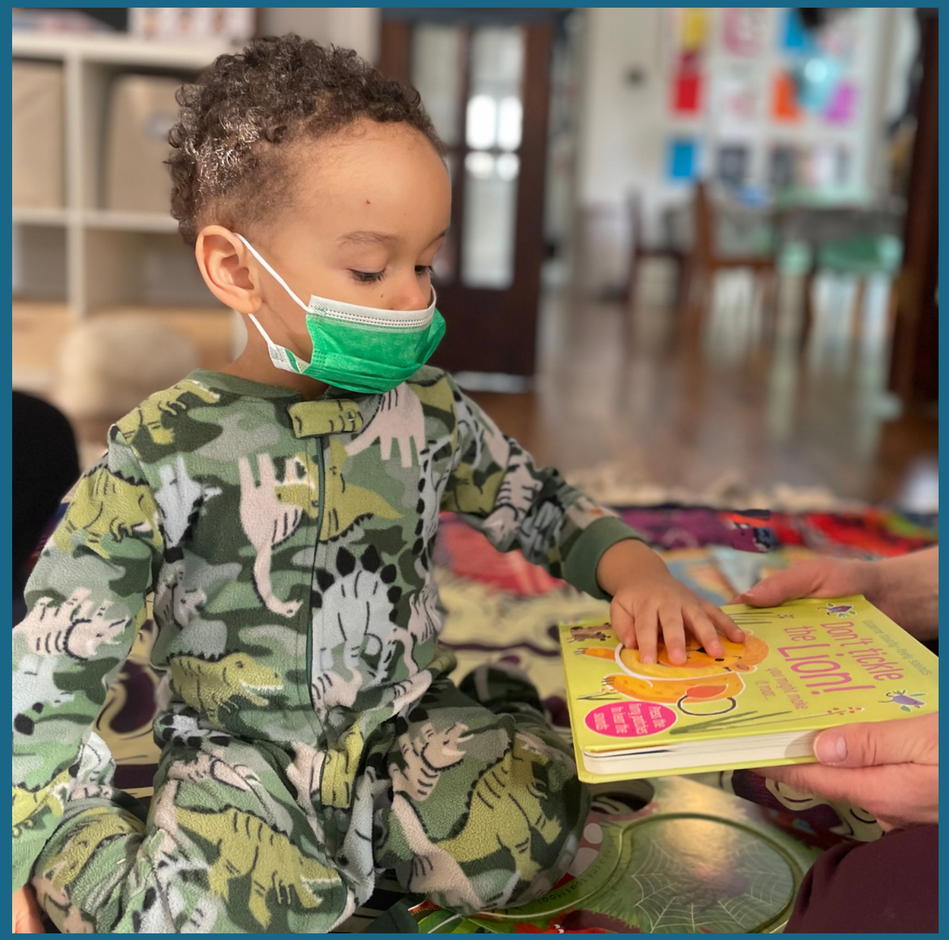
A House In Austin

2021 Year End Report

We connected with over 40 families in 2021!

A House In Austin

www.ahouseinaustin.org
533 North Pine Avenue
Chicago, IL 60644



Deep and Wide

A House In Austin is a community of parents from various walks of life, gender, religion, financial status, education, with children of all ages. We pull in an abundance of knowledge, confidence, support, honesty, transparency, reliability, and love!

"AHIA is where you find support and comfort, where your child can spread their wings to fly with others!"

-Esmeralda M., AHIA parent since '17

A House In Austin | Chicago

"You all have been a God send to my family.
Your help is amazing."
- Heather R., AHIA mother since '18

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Co-Executive Directors

Dear AHIA friends,

We made it! Another year for AHIA and it's been a year full of resilience, transparency, and community support. 2021 revealed the true power and need for community support on an intimate level. It revealed to us where our efforts should be more focused, and we're proud to continue taking on the task of helping parents nurture secure bonds with their children.

We believe healthy parents raise healthy children, and we've devoted our work to helping parents work through trauma, often tied to childhood experiences, to break through communication barriers within themselves and their families.

Through access to mental health services, our health cooking course, parent support groups, our early development programs like Boppin Babies music and My Fresh Table, we've committed to supporting our families to true health in all aspects of their lives.

AHIA would cease to exist without the kind and unwavering support of our partners, donors, and volunteers. Your support allows us to provide sustenance to families on Chicago's west side. Our 2021 report conveys the intentionality of our efforts to seek true impact. A House In Austin has never sought to be a large organization in number, but rather a safe, consistent support, no matter the phase of parenting because parenting is a life-long commitment and support is neccesary in each phase.

Lynette Kelly-Bell & Becky Martin

How did you meet your CO-ED? What were your first thoughts? Have they changed?

"Becky and I met 15 years ago, at Rock of our Salvation Church. She began volunteering in the teen youth group.
My initial thought was "She's too nice and bubbly!" I noticed how comfortable and open the other youth felt around her. This has not changed and is a huge reason why she's my Co-Ed. We're hot and cold and combined we bring balance."

"I met Lynette Kelly-Bell at church when she was in the teen program. She stood out right away as strong minded and a natural leader. I was pretty sure this girl had no fear and she kept me on my toes, never afraid to call me out when I needed it. Lynette taught me you had to earn someone trust and their confidence.

Lynette is still strong minded and a natural leader but she is a little nicer now when she calls me out. We joke that we are the perfect balance together strong where the other one is weak. Our history allows us to have trust in each other, learn from each other, and listen when the other stands strong on an issue."

My Wonder Kids

Erica Hilgart, founder and volunteer
& Lindsay Ambrose, volunteer and new Lead Teacher

Erica

"I really love and am encouraged by the loving and nurturing environment of My Wonder Kids programming. The children are engaged in imaginative play activities with supportive and consistent grown ups that care about them, and the curriculum includes project-based learning opportunities and open-ended art exploration. I'm excited for more nature play this spring and summer for the children in My Wonder Kids."

Goals for My Wonder Kids

"Document developmental milestones for each child and to record growth throughout the year with a portfolio of work and to promote and connect best practices in AHIA programming to at-home practices and activities in the areas of child development for language, literacy, & social-emotional ("The power of the parent for play & language" , the 3T's for early language development—Tune In, Talk More, Take Turns, daily interactive read alouds, validating feelings and self-regulation tools, etc.)"

Lindsay

Why do you work at AHIA?

"I started coming to My Wonder Kids on Thursdays with my youngest daughter as a volunteer. She played while I helped out and it was a lot of fun. I loved being with the children and felt so connected to the AHIA mission that I pursued the Lead Teacher positions so I can get to know the children and families even better and make a greater impact."

Plans for the program?

"My Wonder Kids has such a strong foundation that I get to build from. I am excited to take all that Precious has done for Boppin Babies music program and grow it even more so we have more families and children experiencing the many benefits of early exploration in music. Looking forward to growing our Monday Wonder Kids programming where we will be focusing on building those early literacy and language skills in a fun, playful way through read aloud, sounds, and storytelling. I am also excited to be able to provide that consistency across the children's programs and hopefully grow the number of children we serve."

My Wonder Kids

What We Do

My Wonder Kids program meets the developmental needs of children ages 0-5, whose parents participate in our parent support groups. During this 2 hour session children engage in imaginative play, a fine and gross motor skill activity, as well as a nutritious snack to feed their brain and body.

While 2 hours a few times a week may not seem impactful, quite the opposite is true. Parents witness their childs new development directly related to their participation in MWK, and are ecstatically encouraged to continue participation and seek full preschooling for their child.

We rely on volunteers to help run the room and we're excited to announce Lindsay as our 1st official Lead teacher!

Children served- 30
Volunteers- 10
Activities & crafts- 228

Parent rating: 4.8 Stars!
This is major! AHIA's childcare program is often the first place parents feel safe enough to leave their young child with someone for an extended period of time. Parents remain on-site during programming which helps families slowly transition into the routine and habit of drop offs.

Boppin Babies

This class uses the Musikgarten Curriculum to offer an educational music program that promotes healthy child development and builds/strengthens parent and child attachment. The class is designed for 0-5 year olds and their parents and caregivers. In-person classes offer a time of parent-child play interaction followed by 30 minutes of music and movement. Virtual programming offers 30 minutes of parent-child music classes. Families enrolled in our virtual programs have received musical instruments, generously donated by Oak Park Rotary Club, to ensure that, even at home, children can fully participate in the music program.

15 families participated in Boppin Babies & Toddler music class

29 classes held

Precious who led the Boppin Babies program for 4 years has now transition to Parent Support Specialist, where she will use her skills to help parents. She is currently leading our 12 week Chicago Parent Program, under Becky's supervision.

"While being part of the staff at AHIA I've enjoyed learning more about the areas I thrive in. I look forward to finding new ways to add to AHIA's efficiency and hospitality." Nya

Boppin Babies & Toddler music

Milestones

2016-19

First classes held at By the Hand, Precious, Becky, and Lynette began attending with their children. We moved closer to our dream home in 2019. We're forever thankful to Original Providence Baptist who open their doors and allowed us to share their beautiful space.

2020-21

Moved into our dream home at 533 North Pine Ave., in the middle of a global pandemic. As the world transitioned to quarantining, we transitioned in-person class to Zoom. To ensure diversity we expanded the experience with the addition of Spanish songs and books to our curriculum.

2022

Goal: Increase participation in classes, offer more days, continue adding Black (ADOS) culture and representation to our curriculum. Increase father engagement.

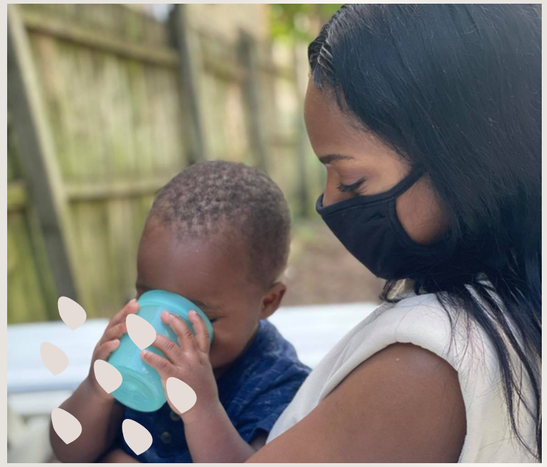
15
alum Boppin Babies continue to participate in various AHIA events

7
Boppin Babies alum participate in music lessons via private lessons

Parent Impact

“Bobbin Babies has been a fun experience so far. Watching the kids dance, sign, and also learn Spanish is extremely rewarding.” Sam Rivera, AHIA parent since '19.

More than an Institution



"AHIA is special to me because it is one of the organizations in the Austin community that is helping to bring quality programs to the families here."

-Latoya P

When families enter AHIA, they enter a home, literally. A home that encourages them to develop their *child's* early learning skills, their *personal* cooking skills, their *family's* communication skills, and so much more!

Our *home* environment eliminates the stigmas associated with seeking help. Our open registration policy means that all parents, no matter age, gender, history, or religion can receive quality impactful support for as long as they need it.

We wouldn't have it any other way, except for maybe 2 homes for families to receive impactful support.

Parents Rate AHIA out of 5:

4.9

My Fresh Table

What is My Fresh Table?

My Fresh Table is a 4 week cooking course that introduces families to healthier food options, budgeting, reading and understanding nutrition labels, meal prep, and offers an in-person healthy lifestyle children's program.

Why it matters?

It's not just access to the foods that creates the gap; but access to knowledge plays a significant role in the foods families choose to prepare. Even the best intending parent may fall victim to "patterns and history" or simply fear when preparing a new food. MFT course gives parents the opportunity to explore new recipes, ingredients, and seasonings to increase their culinary skills without taking on the financial costs with their often strained budget.

A word from Lynette:

I've always enjoyed culinary and pastry arts. I began preparing meals for my family at the age of 10 and I fell in love with the creating process! My father taught me the basics of culinary arts and instilled in me a desire for creativity, flavor, and presentation. He ignited and nurtured my curiosity of world dishes. I'm honored to lead the cooking portion of MFT and share my knowledge of healthy, affordable, culturally diverse meals. My goal for future sessions is to implement lunch, and breakfast focused sessions to ensure parents are skilled in all areas of meal prep and planning.

8
new participants to AHIA

312
meals provided to families totaling over $3k

30
total participating families and counting

A House In Austin

HOME VISITING

What's the big deal about home visits?

Our Home Visiting program offers in-home services to a wide spectrum of parents from pregnant moms to parents or caregivers of kids up to 5 years of age. Due to our private funding, we are able to accept more parents and children with less restrictions than other organizations. We use the Parents As Teachers model to offer evidence-based support, education, and empowerment. We also work with families to ensure their basic needs are provided for and empower parents to meet their individual goals and see positive growth. After the pandemic, we have been utilizing virtual programming, as well as calls, text, and deliveries to continue to stay connected with our families.

21

families participated in homevisits

181

virtual/in-person visits

87%

*of Parents who **complete** 5 **home visits** move on to participating in other AHIA program, virtually and in-person!*

A House In Austin

Parent Support

Parent Chat

Our parent groups are centered around community building and cultivating support. When in-person programming was available, AHIA worked to create a calm, loving, supportive environment.
We offered high quality childcare, a home cooked breakfast, coffee hour, yoga, and mediation. AHIA creates an environment to meet the parents where they are at and works to provide education, support, and empowerment to meet their goals as parents, founded in neuroscience and research based, empathetic methods.

Future of Parent Support

"I hope to see it stay a community. I want our programs to grow and the families in Austin feel comfortable accessing them and feel supported. I would love to see the fathers' involvement grow!"-Becky

Parent chat impact: 35 parents served and 76 groups held

Special moments!

For many participants, AHIA is place of refuge, acceptance, and love. We've humbly accepted the role of a steady support in the lives and homes of our participants. As parents build their own non-traditional tribes, we are humbled to be apart of an essential support needed. Empowering parents is more than just education, it's strengthening them as a person and building their community. AHIA hosts parent and family events to reinforce positive interactions with positive support.

"A House in Austin is special to me in a time as special as beginning my journey as a parent, I've been given the tools to help with self awareness as a mother. They provide guidance for me and ensure I can be the best guide from the beginning of my child's journey."
-Iris, AHIA parent since '19

Parent outings

Family events

27

family events including parents night out, summer water events, field trips, Halloween, and other special holidays.

*Representation and relatability matters. We're proud to employ members of our west side community who have similar first hand experiences with our participants and seek the same community support and programs for themselves, adding to the power of our staff.

Growing Staff

Lynette Kelly-Bell, Co-Executive Director, East Garfield 60612
Becky Martin, Co-Executive Director, Austin 60644
Adrienne Reynolds, Operations Manager, West Garfield 60624
Lindsay Ambrose, Lead Teacher, Oak Park 60302
Precious Jones, Parent Support Specialist, Austin 60644
Nya Martinez, Facilities Attendant, Austin 60644

Staff Stats!

6 employees
2 full-time
4 part-time
2 new positions: Operations Manager and Lead Teacher
3 staff with more than 5 years with AHIA
3 staff began as participating mothers
5 proud West side residents
4 mothers of young children
3 born & raised West siders

Partners: Early Intervention

A House In Austin is really excited to announce our partnership with Children & Family Connections. Since the beginning of the formation of AHIA, our founder Erica Hilgart envisioned a partnership with Early Intervention (EI). We understand the importance of families receiving therapeutic services at a young age and we wanted to help remove barriers. The physical AHIA house has a specific room designed for EI to use for their services. The state's EI program works as a team to help children learn and overcome challenges. They offer occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, nurse care, children development services, and case management for families with children under age three.

"As a therapy provider with Early Intervention for the past 10 years, I have seen the challenges some families face that have made in-home therapy almost impossible. Having a bright, lovely space at A House In Austin for them to come to each week not only allows them to receive much-needed services but also connects them to an incredible resource! AHIA is a warm, welcoming space and we hope to continue to increase the number of children that we can provide services for through Early Intervention. "

-Sherry Laughlin, Developmental Therapist

Look What I Can Do
Early Intervention

&

Childrens Research Triangle

A House In Austin understands the great need for trauma-informed therapy for children and families in the Austin Community to address mental health issues and meet the needs of the families.

AHIA believes this is a big part of supporting the overall well-being of families and children. Therefore, we partnered with Children's Research Triangle's (CRT) this past year. CRT provides intensive work throughout the Chicagoland area addressing the mental health needs of at-risk youth and their families, particularly those families who have been victims or witnesses of violent crimes.

AHIA supports the expansion of therapeutic services in the Chicagoland area and, particularly, the Austin community through CRT, which utilizes the National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Core Curriculum in the screening, assessment and treatment process. We welcome the opportunity to support our clients and their families by committing to provide CRT with space for therapy, site liaison, and referrals.

CRT CHILDREN'S RESEARCH TRIANGLE

A House In Austin

Partner: Welcome to Fatherhood

A House In Austin seeks to provide support to both mother and father because 2 healthy parents are certainly better than 1. We also know our strengths and abilities and where we need help. Being an all female staff we recognize fathers will feel more comfortable around their counterparts. This year we've partnered with Welcome to Fatherhood, making AHIA's home the physical meeting place for their bi-weekly parent support group.

Welcome to Fatherhood Inc. or WTF for short is a nonprofit organization created by Sir Royce Briales and Dr. Raheem Young to help dads of all ages showcase their superpowers to the masses. The concept was birthed out of discussions around the pressures and feelings of uncertainty Sir Royce and Dr. Raheem experienced when they were expecting their first children. They formed WTF to provide new and seasoned dads with a forum to discuss their parenting experiences.

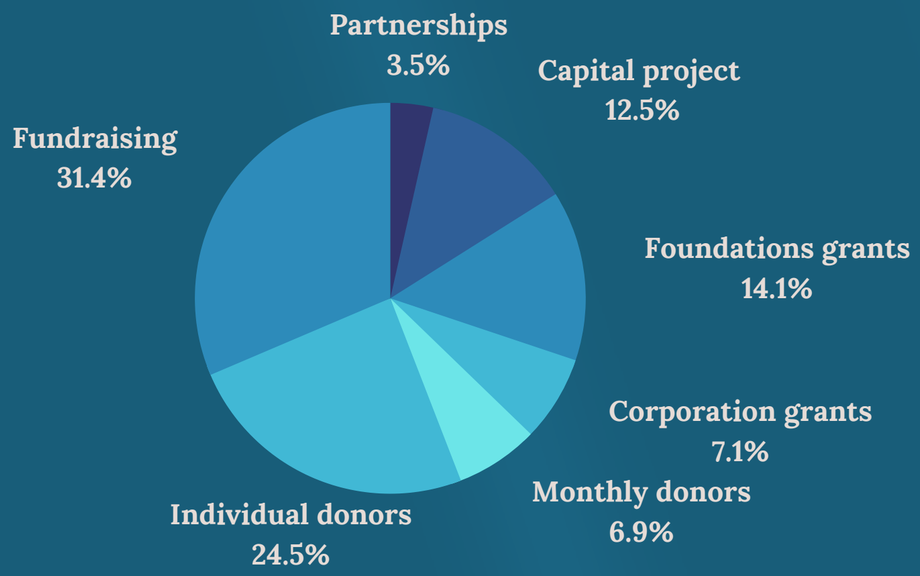
Dr. Raheem Young is a husband and father of three. He had his first child at the age of 21 and second at 23. Being married and having two children by the age of 23 was a maturing and eye-opening experience filled with many ups and downs.

Sir Royce Briales is a highly dedicated powerhouse entrepreneur whose underlying mission is to give fathers the quality advice, support, and empowerment they deserve. He enjoys building a strong community that gives both dads and their kids the best grounds to thrive on.

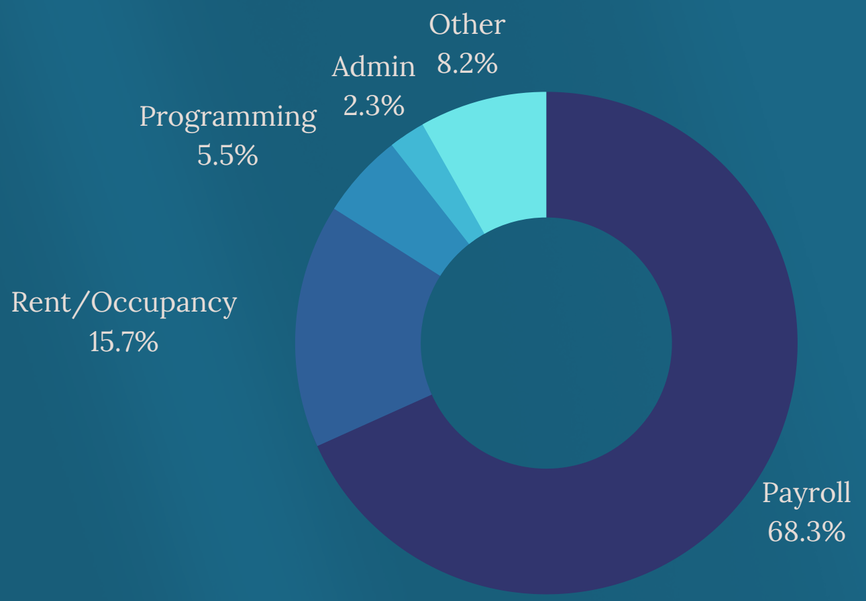
"Our purpose is to strengthen the family unit by empowering fathers and enlighten them on the importance of positive, active, and engaged paternal roles to their children's emotional, social, and family engagement."
-Raheem and Royce

We hosted our 1st Father BBQ this year with Welcome to Fatherhood in attendance. Our goal is to increase father involvement in programs and leadership at AHIA. We hope to build a father-led department to reach fathers who need support and community.

Revenue



Expenses



80% of staff earnings are directly related to programming

Get to know our Operations Manager, Adrienne Reynolds

"I enjoy the energy and commitment of the staff. My goal is to empower the team to create an environment that supports more Austin families and provide job access. "

We're grateful to see another year of growth within our organization. During a year of stagnation we were able to make progress and increase our impact. 2021 limited our ability to host an in-person gala, but through fundraising efforts and various support efforts we met new milestone goals.

Thank You:
Volunteers, Community Parnters, In-kind

Amy McIntosh
Austin Coming Together
Ava Zuccarino
Ben Hilgart
Bob Quinlan
Children's Research Triangle
Christine Goetz
Christy Webber Landscapes
Clarence Davids & Company
David Quinlan
Dennis Glass
Diaz Group, LLC
Erica Hilgart
Fabian Wyss
Fiore Nursery and Landscape Supply
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Mitch Staggs
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Tim Hunter
Tim Magner
Tom Shallenberger
Unilock
United Lutheran of Oak Park
William Quinlan
Yasmine Cavenagh

Always grateful and INSPIRED

Thank you to the numerous groups and individuals who volunteered their time to help AHIA in any capacity.

A House In Austin

Thank you : Donors

Individual, Mission Makers, Foundations, and Grants

AbbVia Employee Engagement Fund
AKINLAWON Giving Fund
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Just Friends
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Karen Stelmach
Karen Vasquez
Karyl Kopaskie
Kathleen & Terrence Rice
Kathleen Nelson
Kathleen Rice/Just Friends
Kathryn Larsen
Katie & Mike Skoglund
Keith Nelson
Kelly Rogala
Kenneth Javor
Kent Barnett
Kevan Truman
Kimberly Menken
Kimberly Robinson
Kim Frost Bernat
Kim McCoy
Krissy & Steve Nickas
Kristen Coe
Kristen Doherty
Kristen Reale

Thank you: Donors

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Shaker Family Foundation
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Sharon Sih
St. Edmund Parish of Oak Park
Stephanie Schrodt
Stephen Crilly
Steven Kane
Sue Foran
Susan Harrold
Susie Goldschmidt
Suzanne Salerno
Tamara & Jason Koransky
Tamara Koransky Art Fundraiser
Tazewell Rowe
TCC Gives
TD Ameritrade
Teri Svehla
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The Gallagher Charitable Trust
Thein Family Fund
Thomas Hilgart & Shirley Kitzmann
Tiffany Conover
Tim & Maureen Hunter Charitable Foundation
Timothy & Stacy Senechalle
Todd Kirby
Towers of Excellence Foundation
UBS
Veronica Ammons
Victoria Hansen
Vikas Didwania
Westwork Maintenance
Whole Foods Market Community Giving Program
William McInerney

A Tree of Gratitude at A House In Austin

A beautiful donor tree has been designed, created, and donated by Stuart Schwadron of Yellow Mug Inc. Custom Studio. We are grateful for this gift. The tree will greet each person who enters the AHIA house, as the focal point in the foyer, and a special visual reminder of the community of people who have come together to make up A House In Austin.

Seven hearts will be featured on the tree to represent

- our committed monthly donors
- the amazing families of AHIA
-the dedicated staff
-the caring volunteers
-the devoted board members
-the bighearted donors of AHIA who make -
the vision and work possible each day.

Together, we are AHIA.
We are humbled by your support and generosity.
Thank you very much!

A House In Austin

Gold Leaves on the Tree of Gratitude

In recognition and appreciation of the generous benefactors of gifts, $10,000 & greater, who supported the vision and helped make the mission of A House In Austin possible.

Anonymous
Grayson Holmbeck
Fresh Table Grant
Neuberger Berman
The Barnett Family
The Hilgart Family
Markel Corporation
Maureen & Tim Hunter
The Desiderio Family
LemonAid, River Forest
In Memory of Chuck Mishoulam
Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation
Clarence Davids & Company In-Kind
Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation
The Hungerford Family--Brian, Lisa, Arlo, Ray & Irving
Aria Group Architects Social Justice Committee In-Kind
Chuck & Linda Mishoulam & Alert Protective Services, LLC In-Kind

Silver Leaves on the Tree of Gratitude

In recognition and appreciation of the generous benefactors of gifts, $5,000-$9,999, who supported the vision and helped make the mission of A House In Austin possible.

TCC Gives
Andrew Hixson
Unilock, In-Kind
Robertson Foundation
Sherwin-Williams In-Kind
Terry & Mike Clancy In-Kind
Cynthia & Michael Gallagher
Roosevelt Middle School PTO
Minnesota Community Foundation
Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest
The Chicago Board of Trade Foundation
Robin Schwadron, R Titus Designs In-Kind

“Roots to Rise"

In recognition and appreciation for believing in the vision and work of A House In Austin from its inception and donating gifts of $1,000+ to give AHIA the Roots to Rise as an organization.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Lael Johnson
Melissa Ford
Shannon Buth
Anonymous Grant
Rebecca DeGroff
Karen Guilfoyle
The Galo Family
The Hogan Family
The Laird Family
Grayson Holmbeck
Sandra & Tim Hogan
Markel Corporation
Perry & Diane Pero
Patty & John Henek
The Hilgart Family
Maureen & Tim Hunter
The Desiderio Family
Matthew & Erin Fisher
LemonAid, River Forest
Brian & Melinda Follett
Dr. Paul & Jaclyn Egger
Toni & Patrice McNiccoll
Robert & Jennifer Sabatino
Massive Mission Creative Media
Newman Own Foundation
Minnesota Community Foundation
Good Heart, Work Smart Foundation
United Lutheran Church of Oak Park
Dr. Rodney Schainis & Dr. Lisa Chorzempa
First United Methodist Church of Oak Park
Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation
The Hungerford Family--Brian, Lisa, Arlo, Ray & Irving

The Founding 100 Circle Members

In recognition and appreciation of the generous benefactors who joined the circle with gifts of $1,000 to support the renovation of the AHIA House, making the dream a reality.

July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020

Aaron & Laura McCollough
Andrew & Kaline Gillespie
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Aria Group Architects Social Justice Committee
Barry & Jeanne Nohalty
Be The Boat Fund
Becky Martin
Bob & Clancy Senechalle
Bob Kent & Marian Sassetti
Chris & Matt Goetz
Claire Mokrauer-Madden & Brad Keefner
Cory & Michelle Johnson
Cynthia & Michael Gallagher
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Dr. Paul & Jaclyn Egger
Dr. Rodney Schainis & Dr. Lisa Chorzempa
First United Methodist Church of Oak Park
Gary, Krista & Abra Kaplan
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Oak Park, IL
Grove Avenue School, Barrington
In memory of Leslie Jones & Tom Johnson
Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation
Jack & Debbie Hughes
Jill & Billy Iaccino
John & Mindy Amberg
John Paulett
Jon, Ericka, & Remick Bromling
Joshua & Jennifer Wyss
Just Friends, St. Giles
Kate & Eric Mattson
Kelly & Craig Mitchell
Kevan H. Truman—In Honor of All Teachers
Lael Johnson
Laura & John Milder
Lindsay & Andrew Knoblauch
Lykishia Carter
Lynette Kelly-Bell
Marrey & Will Picciotti
Maureen & Tim Hunter
Marty & Morgan Canniff
Maureen & Jack Matthews
Maureen & Tim Hunter
Melissa Ford
Melissa Gillespie
Michael & Jessica Holevas
Molly & Mike Andolina
Musikgarten of Oak Park
Neuberger Berman
Oak Park Pediatrics
Oak Park String Academy
Patty & John Henek
Paul & Sandy Veith
Perry & Diane Pero
Philip & Janet Frystak
Precious Jones
Rachel & Kyle Rettberg
Rachel Kohler
Reading Between The Wines Book Club
Robert & Jennifer Sabatino
Robin Varnado & Dean Loizou
Roosevelt Middle School PTO
Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest
Ryan, Matt, Bridget & Kelsey Hunter
Sarah, Eric, Logan & Jane Maxfield
Scott & Moira Stein
Stephanie & Craig Sellers
Sue & Bill Weir
The Adden Nevara Family
The Barnett Family
The Chicago Board of Trade Foundation
The Cotter Family
The Desiderio Family
The Digani Family
The Garvy-Brady Family
The George & Marge McGuire Family
The Hilgart Family
The Hill Family
The Hogan Family
The Hungerford Family—Brian, Lisa, Arlo, Ray & Irving
The Kakos Family—Steve, Anna, James & Jude
The Laird Family
The Leroux Family
The Lind Family
The Maggio Family
The Quinn Pasin Family
The Rotondo Family
The Sood Family
The Wollmuth Family
Tim & Stacy Senechalle

Room Sponsorships of the AHIA House

Room: The Music Studio
LAUREN'S HOPE MUSIC STUDIO
Sponsored by THE BARNETT FAMILY

Room: Early Intervention Playroom
Sponsored by The Hilgart Family
With Love
The Hilgart Family

Room: The Kitchen
Sponsored by Tim and Maureen Hunter
A KITCHEN'S SECRET INGREDIENT IS ALWAYS LOVE
In loving memory of Bob and Peg Gallagher

Room: Art Room
Sponsored by Neuberger Berman
Neuberger Berman Foundation Art Room

A serendipitous intersection of the Neuberger Berman Foundation's commitment to helping youth achieve their potential and the passion that Roy Neuberger, the organization's founder, had for art. This room represents the collective support of Neuberger Berman's employees and the Foundation.

Room: Therapy Room
Sponsored by The Desiderio Family
In Memory of Chuck Mishoulam