



The Children's Room

2020 DONOR REPORT

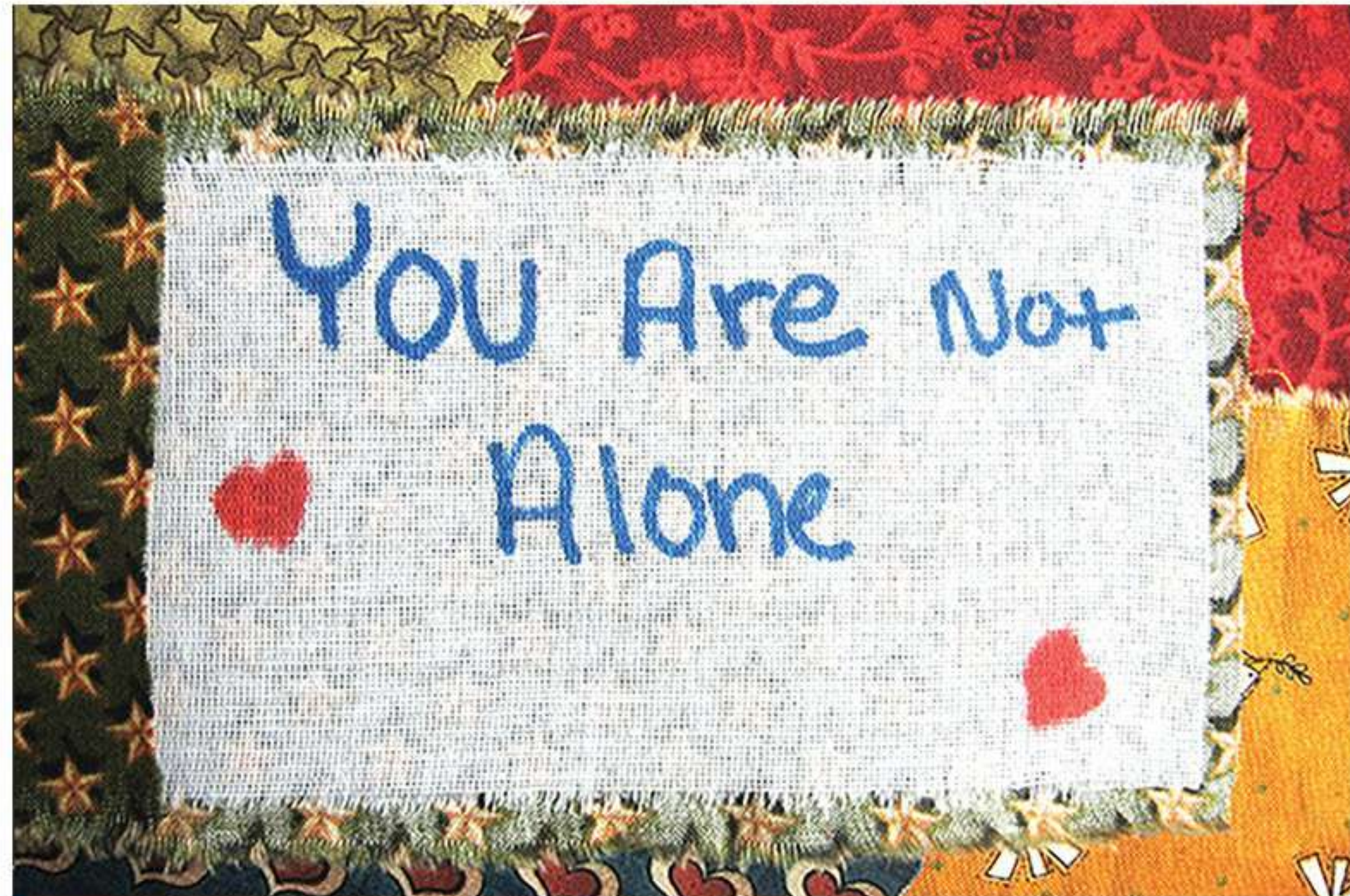


LOOKING BACK
LOOKING FORWARD



The Children's Room
caring support for grieving children, teens, and families

WELCOME



OUR VALUES

RESPECT
HONESTY
INTENTION
CONNECTION
EMPOWERMENT
COMMUNICATION



Dear Friends,

In over 20 years as a child bereavement program, we have touched the lives of thousands of children and their families who often feel alone in their grief until they find us. There is nothing more important than to feel safe and supported, and part of a community when your parent, spouse, sibling, or child has died.

Even during the COVID-19 crisis, The Children's Room has had no interruption in our programming, moving our work to a variety of platforms including virtual, low-tech, and no-tech. Many of our families have shared with us that The Children's Room has been the one constant during this unprecedented pandemic. The skills learned with us help them navigate the world beyond just their grief. In fact, some parents have told us that their grief prepared them for the uncertainty and isolation of the past eight months.

Today in Massachusetts, there are 93,000 children who are dealing with the loss of a parent or sibling. 93,000. Said another way, 1 in 15 children in Massachusetts will have a parent or sibling die before they turn 18. We know that this pandemic will bring more loss and grief. We plan to be here for them and are grateful that your support allows us to (virtually) keep our doors open.

We are proud to share with you all we have accomplished this last year. I am especially excited to share with you the story of one of our founders. When they were struggling twenty years ago, they pushed through challenging times as well and kept their eyes on the prize. As Jean Marchant eloquently shared, "there is pride in surviving."

Thank you for all you do for grieving children, teens, and families. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other.

Best,

Liz Cohen
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

**CREATING SAFE, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES
SO THAT NO CHILD, TEEN, OR FAMILY HAS
TO GRIEVE ALONE.**

LOOKING BACK

Jean Marchant likes to think of The Children's Room as her first grandchild. Maybe it's because she was the one to name it. Jean knew that children need the space, "the room" to grieve. But, Jean could never have predicted that the little program she built with two colleagues almost 30 years ago would grow to serve thousands of grieving children and their families.

Like many friends and supporters of The Children's Room, Jean has her own loss story. She is a mom to two daughters who died in infancy a few years apart, Michelle and Darlene, along with two living daughters, Darlene's twin, Dawn, and Heidi. There were few answers back then and little support. She keeps her daughters' memories alive and makes donations to The Children's Room in Michelle and Darlene's honor. Yet she knows, "all these years later, it still hurts."

Jean always had a call to the ministry, and hospice work captured her heart early. While Jean was working for Hospice West in Waltham, a colleague introduced her to Phyllis Silverman. At the time, Phyllis was doing her landmark research on bereaved children and was thrilled to find a like-minded person. They began exploring ideas when fortuitously, one of the moms in Phyllis's study had seen a segment on 20/20 about The Dougy Center, the first child bereavement organization in the country. That was it!

In 1992, members of The Dougy Center trained the three founders (including Judy Oliver) and a cadre of volunteers. They were provided space on a porch off Hospice West to hold groups. After three years The Children's Room reached a crossroad. They needed to find a new home. Luckily, a minister at First Baptist Church shared Jean, Phyllis, and Judy's vision and gave them space. Organizational challenges and growth hurdles during this period seemed insurmountable.

But The Children's Room survived. And over time, thrived. Jean finds similarities between their start-up phase and what is happening today. It is all about building resiliency and finding inspiration and creativity for growth.

Jean, Phyllis, and Judy's legacy will have a lasting impact on thousands of grieving children and their families. And in turn, The Children's Room had a lasting effect on Jean. As she shares, "I would not be who I am without my losses; I am who I am today because I went through it. Pay attention to what your loss has taught you and how it has impacted who you have become. Grief is formative."

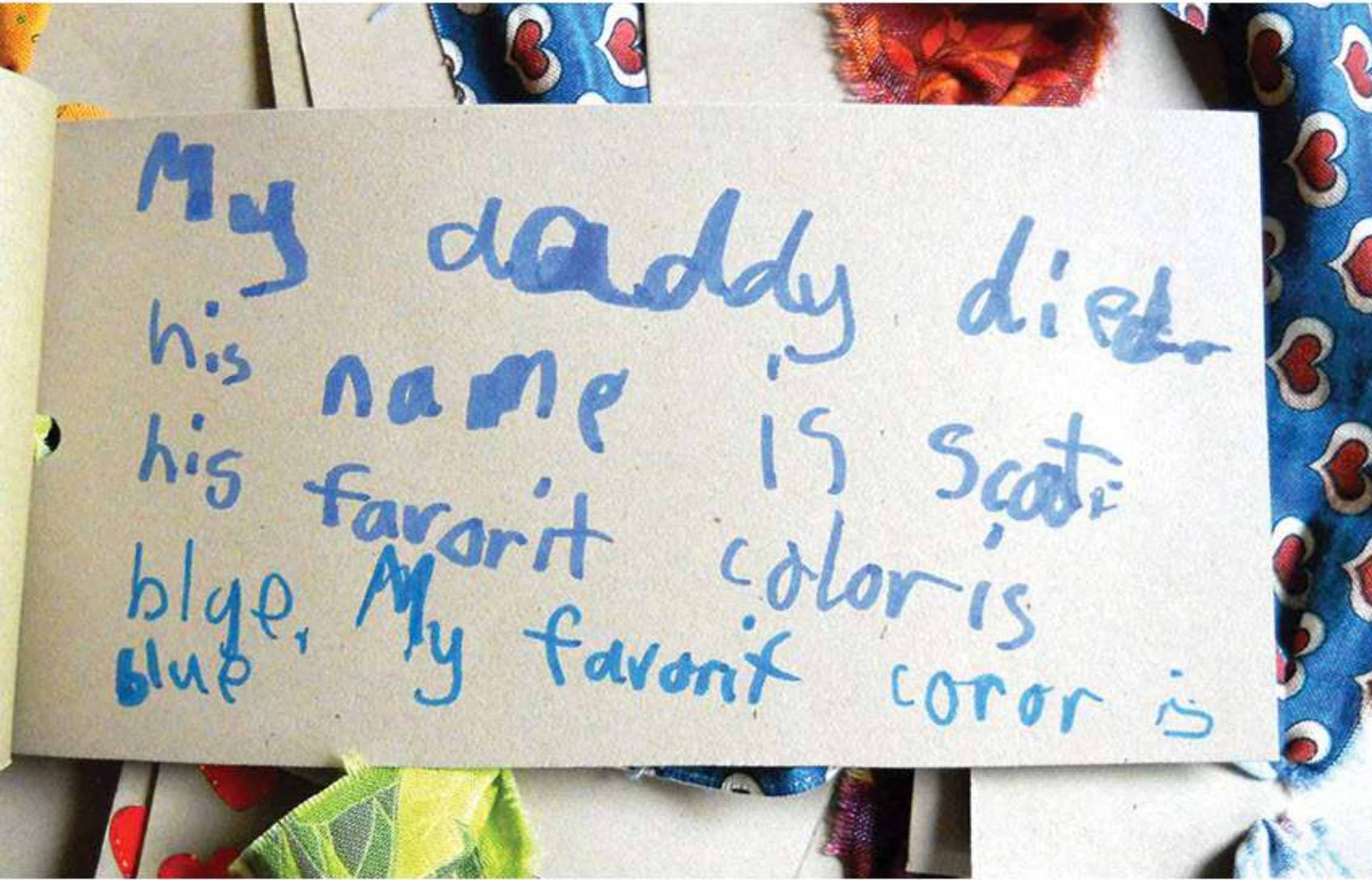
Join us in thanking Jean for her resilience, creativity, and hard work.



Jean Marchant Co-founder

“ I will always think of The Children's Room as a safe place for me to explore what happened when I was so young. Thanks to The Children's Room and my mom, I have some happy memories with my dad, and I know his spirit lives in me. — Child ”

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Groups are for children and teens (ages 3.6-18) who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling and for parents or guardians who have experienced the death of a partner/spouse, or for parents who have experienced the death of a child.



FAMILY NIGHT

An expressive arts evening that offers families (including extended family) the opportunity to work together on a specific memory project. Creating as a family unit provides space for all to remember the person who died and begin to integrate the loss into their new family structure.



PARENTING WHILE GRIEVING

An 8-week, psycho-educational series for bereaved parents and caregivers to explore the effects of death and loss on children, discuss strategies for managing the challenges of parenting, and gain a developmental understanding of the grieving process.



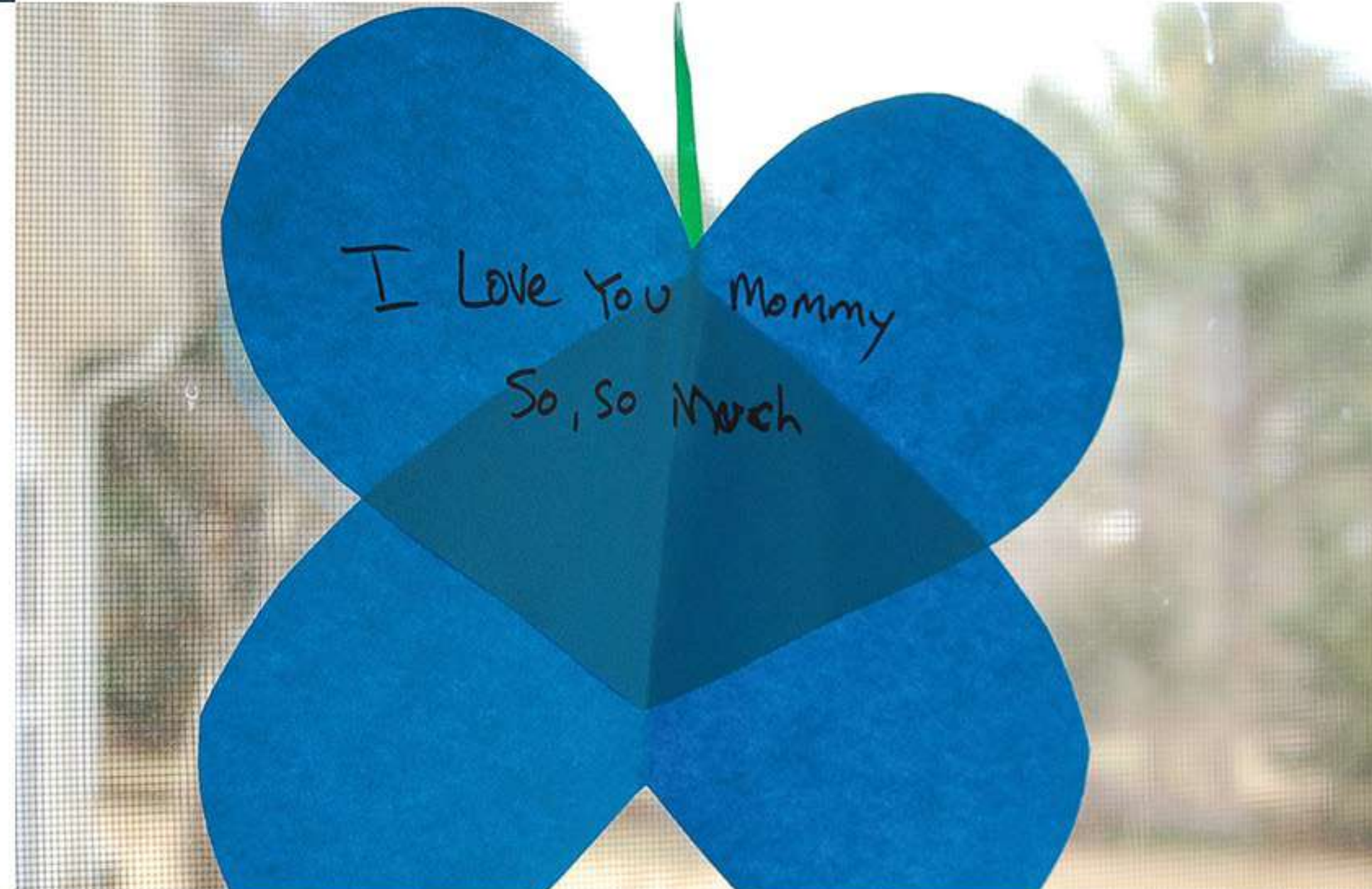
TCR TEENS PROGRAM

Monthly events offering a variety of free social activities, virtual gatherings, and expressive arts-based workshops for teens (ages 13-18) who have had a parent or sibling die.



SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Our school and community-based support groups and programs provide children and adolescents (ages 6-18) access to quality, trauma-informed grief support where they live and go to school.



TEENS-ONLY GROUP

Teens-only peer support groups offering opportunities for teens (8th - 12th grades) to find commonalities and build connections with others their age who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Training for professional groups at schools, medical centers, community agencies and other organizations on grief, in how children, teens, and families cope with death and loss, so they can respond within their own agencies and communities.



WHO WE ARE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

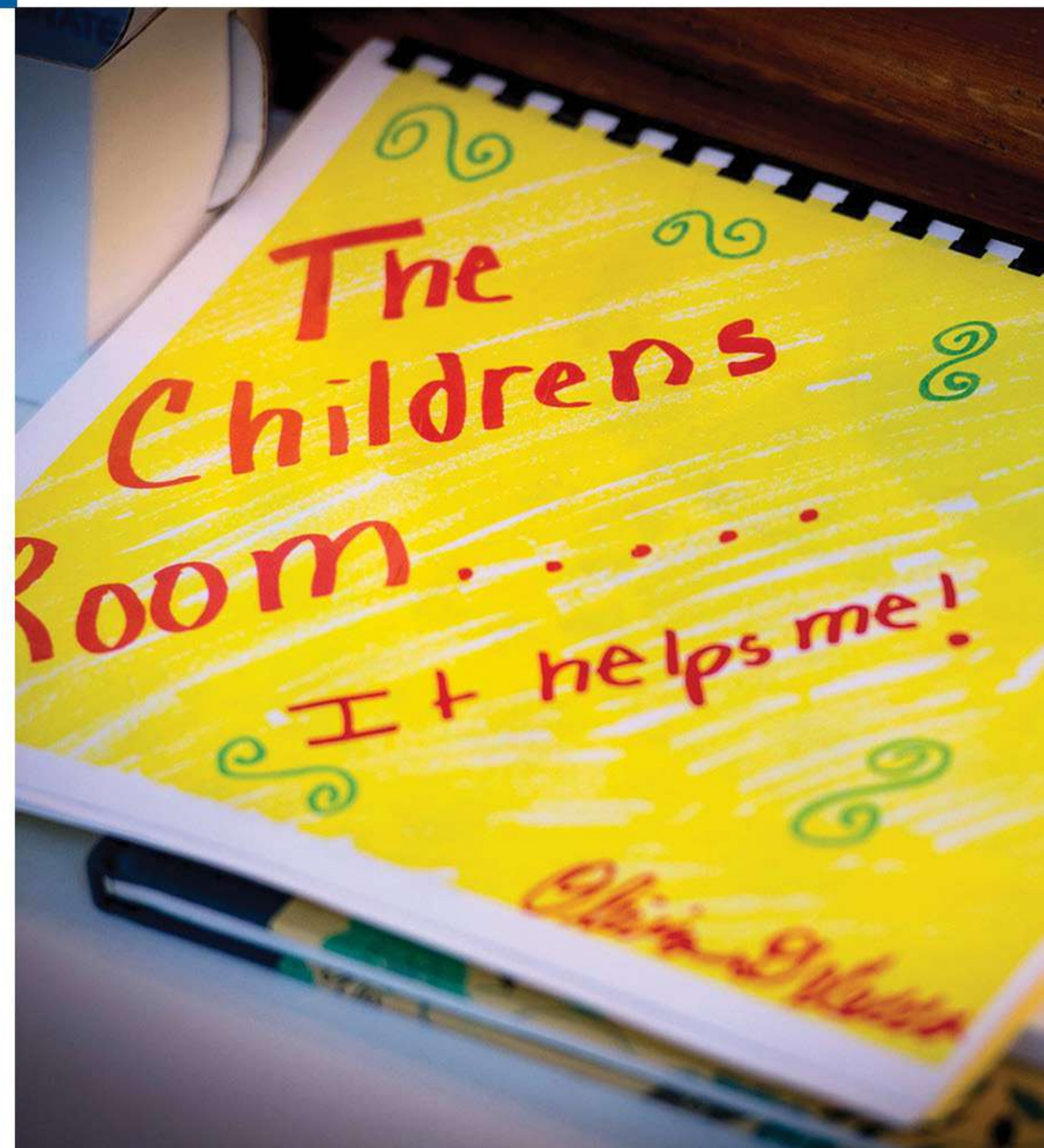
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Judy Zabin



“

I love talking to people who know EXACTLY what I'm going through. I relate to the kids in my group and I feel okay to share about my loss, which I don't always feel with my friends. — Teen

”

FOUNDERS

Jean Marchant
Judy Oliver*

Phyllis Silverman*
* In Memoriam

STAFF

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Nancy Frumer Styron
Clinical Director
Jenny Volkert
Administrative Assistant



“

The group changed so much for me. It gave me skills to help parent my grieving children, while caring for myself. — Parent

”



As with many organizations, 2020 will be a year that no one will forget. We started this fiscal year in September with a bold new strategic plan for growth, pivoted this spring with the COVID-19 lock-down, and ended with a robust plan for serving our families during the pandemic. Thanks to you, we had the fiscal support and sincere encouragement to deliver on our promise to create safe, supportive communities so that no child, teen, or family has to grieve alone. We are extremely proud of our talented team who accomplished so much this year.

- We launched collaborative, school-based groups in Acton, Chelsea, Easton, and Lawrence. As COVID-19 hit, we shifted to professional training and technical assistance for administrators and teachers as they supported their students' grief and isolation.
- We explored and delivered new ways for families to connect and to share memories of their person who died. To that end, we created a “Family Night in a Box”, a 30-page activity book for families to use together to create memory objects and facilitate conversations.
- We employed technology to continue and expand access to our “Parenting While Grieving” series and Peer Support groups once the pandemic lock-down occurred.
- We launched a new website to support better access to resources and services for new and existing families.
- We mastered new technologies and sat in on countless webinars learning how to best serve our families on high-tech, low-tech, and even no-tech platforms.
- We connected weekly with child bereavement programs across the country to exchange best practices and provide technical support.
- As a result of the national conversation on social injustice and diversity, we developed a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement to listen, learn, and launch specific tactics to positively contribute to a needed social change.

As we look to the 2020-2021 program year, we will continue to innovate, be agile, and respond to our families with compassion and thoughtfulness. Several parents have shared that The Children's Room is a consistent force in their lives. We take that responsibility seriously and commit to being a source of comfort, support, and community in whatever form that takes. Thank you for helping us keep that promise.

MEMORIES WALK

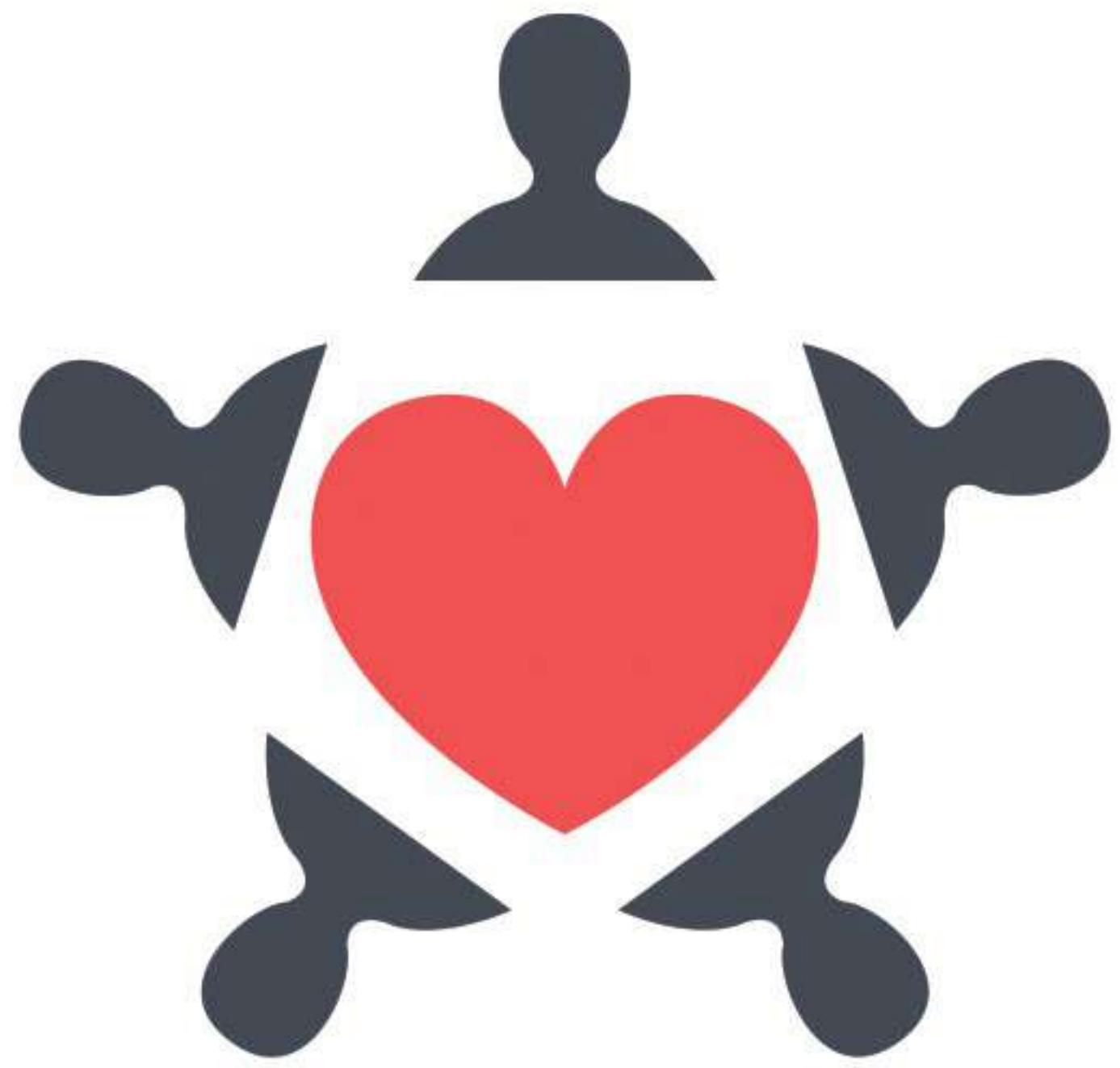
The Children's Room
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BY THE NUMBERS

902

PEOPLE RECEIVED
SUPPORT SERVICES



87

KIDS AND TEENS AT
NEW FAMILY ORIENTATIONS



62

COMMUNITIES SERVED



2,256

DONATIONS ANNUALLY



\$0

AMOUNT FAMILIES ARE
CHARGED FOR SUPPORT



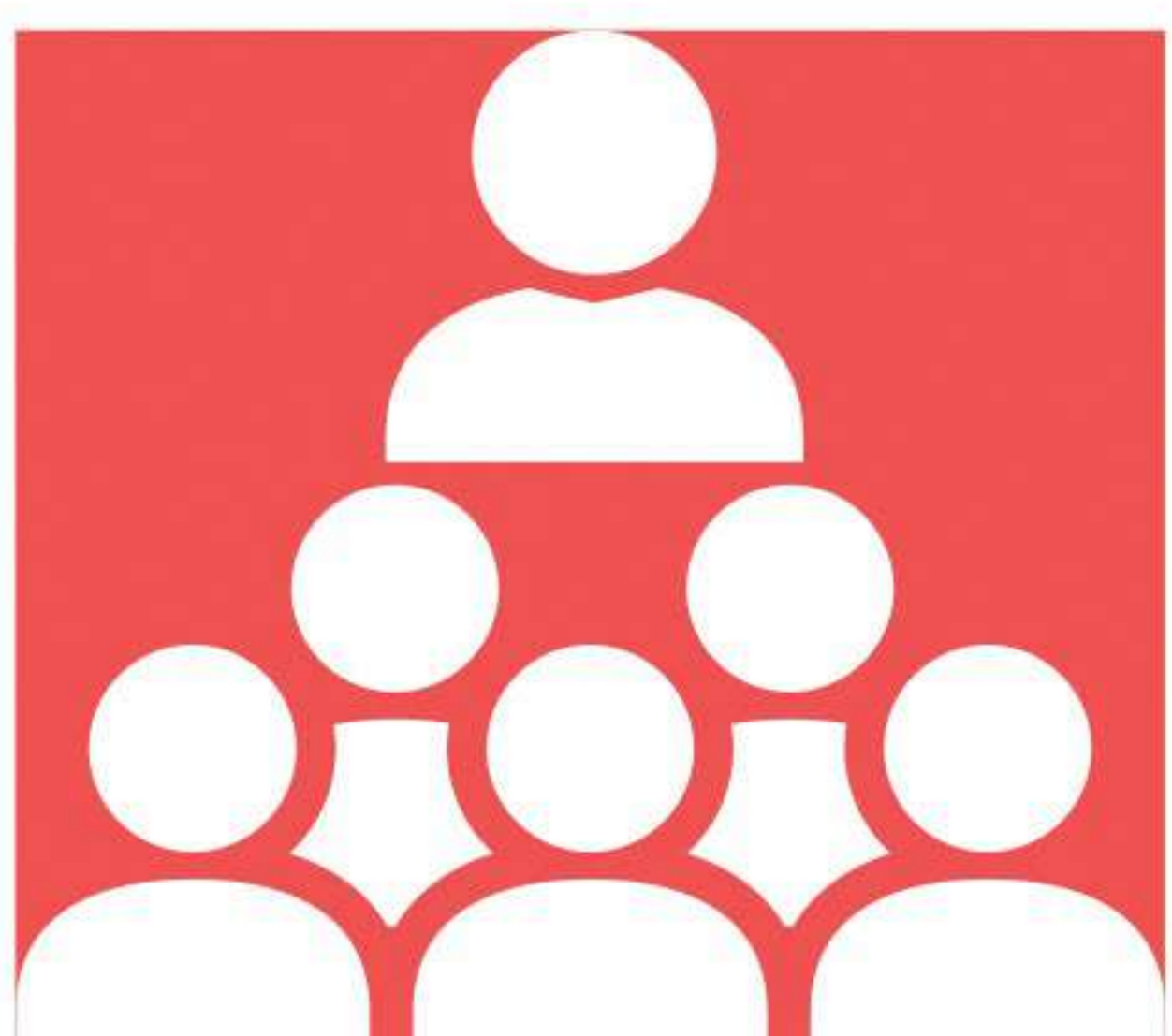
12,830

PHONE MINUTES FOR INTAKES
& INFORMATION/REFERRAL



13

NEW PROGRAM
VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



720

MESSAGES FROM
VOLUNTEERS TO FAMILIES



950

SNACKS EATEN AFTER
ZOOM MEETINGS

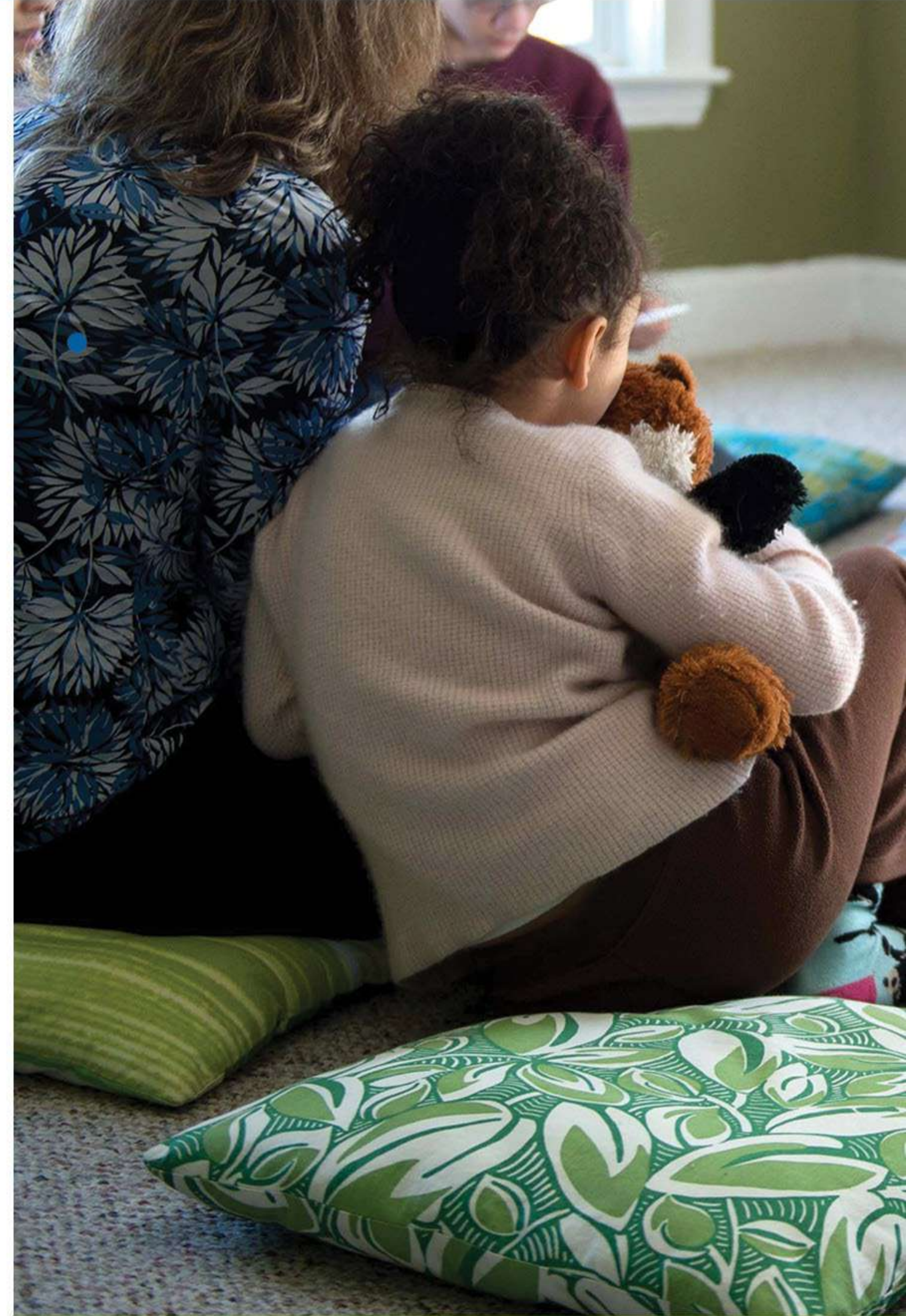


FINANCIAL RESULTS

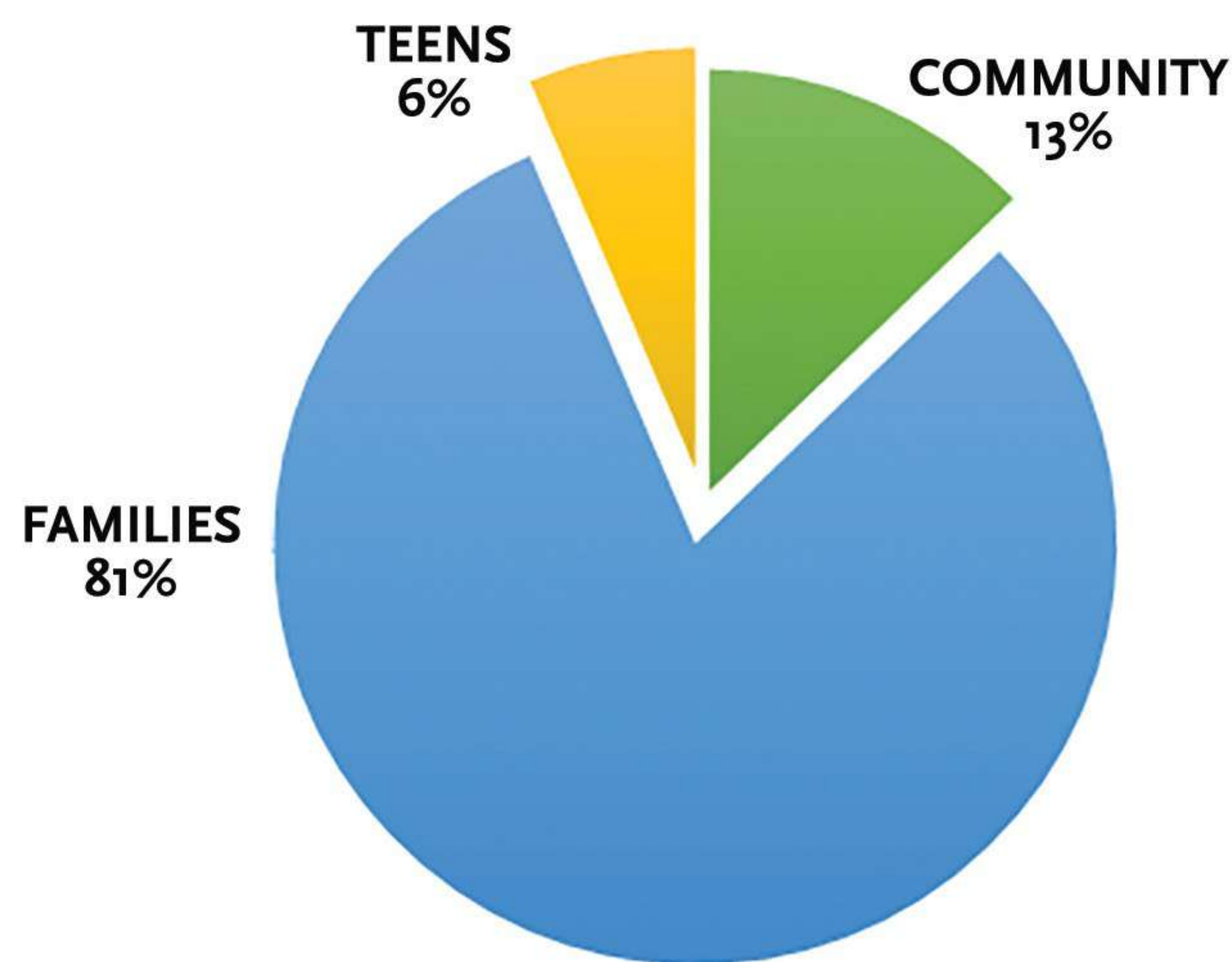
Revenues remained strong in 2020, despite the challenges of COVID-19 in the spring. We remain committed to offering programs to families free of charge, and rely on community support to reach our fundraising goals.

In the fall of 2019, we saw growth in program attendance both in our center-based groups and in our community programs. During spring of 2020, attendance remained steady as we rolled out new remote and virtual programs for families to support the changing needs in our communities.

We are grateful for our continuing partnership with the Cummings Foundation as we completed the second year of a 10-year sustaining grant.



PROGRAM SPENDING

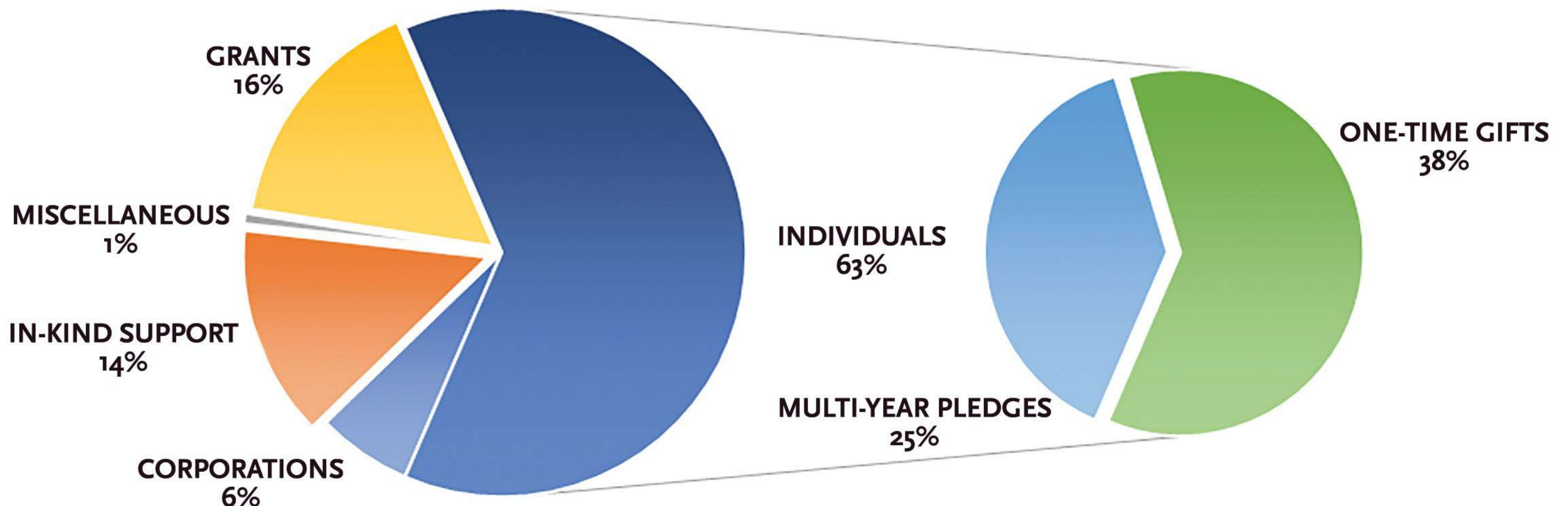


“

I like how people were open about telling their stories and the honesty and trust was very real. — Teen

”

OPERATING INCOME OVERVIEW





HERITAGE SOCIETY

Thank you to the following individuals who have included The Children's Room in their estate plan.

Jill & David Adler
Sue Costello & Jeff Keffer
Neil Fisher & Meryl Loonin
Becca Harris
Mary Ellen Margosian
Michael & Melyne Nagle
Maureen & Bob Powers
Alan & Janet Simpson
Nancy Simpson-Banker & Steve Banker
Lisa & Alan Walts

For more information on how to become a member, please contact Kim Cayer at kim@childrensroom.org.

CIRCLE OF HOPE GIVING COMMUNITY

FOREVER CIRCLE - Donation of \$10,000 or more per year, with a commitment of 5 years.

Jill & David Adler
Johanna & John Boynton
Sue Costello & Jeff Keffer
Tom & Gayane Ebling
Rick Frank & Alison Conant
John & Mary-Beth Henry
Debbie Johnston
Florence Koplow
Rhyme & Reason Fund
Maureen & Paul Rubeli Foundation
Alan & Janet Simpson
Melissa & Gary Tearney
Judy & Albert Zabin

HOPE GIVERS CIRCLE - Donation of \$5,000 or more per year, with a commitment of 5 years

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Frederick D. Fagan Memorial Fund
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Maria & Wes Kussmaul
Mary Ellen Margosian
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The Shapiro Foundation
Katina & Jerry Silberman
Crissy & Ted Straub
Sherry Tate

OPEN ARMS CIRCLE - Donation of \$1,000 or more per year, with a commitment of 5 years

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Joanne Bauer
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David Brewster
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Kim & Mike Cayer
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DeVito Funeral Homes
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TO OUR COMMUNITY

We would like to thank all of our generous donors. This report is accurate to the best of our knowledge, and includes donations of \$1,000 or more made between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020. We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions.



HEARTFELT FRIDAYS

ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$20,000+

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\$10,000 - \$19,999

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\$50,000+

John Hancock Marathon Non-Profit Program
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Cummings Foundation

\$10,000 - \$29,999

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Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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The Children's Room

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