



**COA**

YOUTH & FAMILY CENTERS

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2022



# FAMILY IS AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING WE DO.



**OUR MISSION:** COA Youth & Family Centers nurtures children, supports families, and builds strong and resilient communities – one child, one family, one community at a time.

**OUR VISION:** To provide children-centered, family-focused, community-connected opportunities that expand possibilities, change lives and build futures.

**OUR VALUES:** Children-first, Family-focused, Community-connected, Collaborations, Commitment, Empowerment.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear COA family and friends,

As I summarize my thoughts in this, my second opportunity to share an Executive Director's letter with you, I feel a deep sense of humility. Humility allows us to get in touch with our limitations and understand the areas of our lives where we need help from others, and more importantly, where we need to help others. If 2021 has accomplished anything, it has shown me we need one another and we are so much better together.

With that being said – WOW! What a year! If I had to describe 2021 in one word, as it relates to COA, that word would be "RESILIENCE". Resilience is defined as: the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, bounce back, and the ability to cope with stress and adversity. Yes, my COA Family and Friends, 2021 was far from a day at the beach. Like almost every other organization in the world, we experienced setbacks and difficulties such as staffing shortages, impacts of the recession, balancing increased needs with declining funding, and of course COVID-19. But, through it, all COA remained resilient! I cannot say enough about the dedication of our amazing staff, board and key stakeholders. While many organizations completely shut down or reduced their hours and programs, COA was resilient and worked hard to accommodate our frontline and essential workers and their families – even going so far as to extend our hours at some locations where the need was great and at our own expense.

COA performed well in 2021. By regarding our fiduciary responsibilities as one of the most critical functions during this unpredictable time, we were able to keep our expenses low, giving us the opportunity to address some much-needed delayed maintenance projects, including a new HVAC control system at the Goldin Center and a new well as at Camp Helen Brachman. For the first time in over 2 years we were able to host a resident and family camp with almost 200 attendees.

Maintaining the health, mental wellness, and morale of the men and women of COA was also a key factor for our success in 2021. With the assistance of a PPP loan and ARPA funding, COA was able to remain open and provide programs and services throughout 2021, however; not only did this funding help COA remain open during COVID, it also provided the opportunity for COA to create and implement a new compensation structure and strategy. This new strategy included raising our minimum wage so that we could be more competitive in the marketplace, providing retention bonuses, and addressing instances of wage suppression for tenured staff.

So what's next for COA? The goal for COA is neighborhood stabilization. People would be more likely to remain in their neighborhoods and add value to them if the fundamentals they deemed to be important (like affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, quality childcare, and afterschool programming) and the opportunities to thrive were present. COA wants to bring those fundamentals to the communities we serve and help develop the opportunities that encourage residents to stay.

So how do we do this? **1).** We accomplish this by applying the COA settlement house service delivery model to design programs and services. **2).** We become firmly connected to the communities we serve through community outreach and engagement efforts and **3).** We must make sure our community engagement and outreach efforts; reinforce a shared positive vision, harness the community's existing assets, effectively use outside resources, assign ownership and agency and most importantly be intentional.

COA will continue to pursue opportunities supporting COA's vision: To provide child-centered, family-focused, community-connected opportunities that expand possibilities, change lives and build futures – resulting in neighborhood stabilization, because COA's mission is to nurture children, support families, and build strong and resilient communities – one child, one family, one community at a time.

So as we close the book on 2021, let's take all of its lessons—good and bad—and use them as the prologue for 2022, remembering while we learn from the past, if we remain "**resilient**", we can determine how the story ends.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Cannon-Sain  
Executive Director  
#IIVII



# EMPOWERING

## Early Child Development Programs

COA's Early Childhood Development programs take a holistic, family-centered approach where young children and caregivers have the support they need to thrive.



## COA's Burke and Riverwest Early Education Centers (EECs)

provide a nurturing environment where children ages six weeks through six years learn and develop key skills to help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally through hands-on learning experiences.

In 2021, COA's Burke EEC, located in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood, became NAEYC\* accredited. We are proud to provide Milwaukee families with high-quality early learning opportunities at our two NAEYC accredited childhood centers.

*"COA's Early Childhood Development programs take a holistic, family-centered approach where young children and caregivers have the support they need to thrive!"*

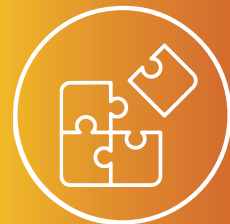
\* National Association for the Education of Young Children.

### By the numbers:



**97%**

of children showed an improvement in their motor skills.



**95%**

of children showed an improvement in their cognitive skills



**93%**

of children showed an improvement in their social-emotional skills

## HIPPY Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

empowers parents as their child's first and most important teacher while improving preschool development and school readiness for young children.

*"HIPPY is not just a program, it helps us to grow in many ways as parents, especially for first-time parents, and is also helpful for spending quality time with kids."*



**97%**  
of parents reported improving their caregiving skills.

## COA's Samson Family Resource Center

COA's Samson Family Resource Center provides free, drop-in programming for parents and their children (ages 0-5) that includes independent playtime, storytime, art projects, and field trips while providing support to parents.

*"COA's FRC is very important to moms like me and it has such an impact on our children. It's the perfect place for your child to grow and understand everything around them."*





# COMMITTED

## Youth Development Programs

COA's Youth Development Programs provide Milwaukee youth opportunities to thrive in a supportive environment where they are empowered to realize their greatest potential.

## COA's Youth Development Centers in Milwaukee

COA provides after-school and summer programming for youth (6-18) at our Goldin and Riverwest Centers and six Milwaukee Public Schools' Community Learning Centers (CLCs). Through COA programming, youth develop socially, academically, emotionally, physically, and civically.

### How do COA's Youth Development Programs make an impact?

"Martin was a first-year participant at our CLC and impressed staff with his intelligence and ambition. When Martin completed his homework, he volunteered to go help other students with theirs. He said when he grows up he wants to help others to become successful." – Markevan, CLC Site Coordinator

### By the numbers:



**100%**

of youth ages 12+ improved on understanding why it's important to do well in school



**97%**

of youth ages 6-11 improved on having goals/plans for their futures



**94%**

of youth feel more aware of STEM content and disciplines after completing the Kohl's Explore Your Future program!



## COA's Camp Helen Brachman

Camp Helen Brachman provides youth and families with transformational experiences. At camp, youth experience the wonders of nature, make life-long friends, and gain confidence as they learn new skills.

### What are parents saying about Camp Helen Brachman?



"Thank you to everyone at Camp Helen Brachman for helping Lila make the best camp memories! She's already excited to come back next summer!"  
-CHB Parent



"Camp lets the kids take time away from the city and their electronics, and find out nature and outdoor activities can be super fun."  
-CHB Parent



# COLLABORATIVE

## Community Development Initiatives

COA's community development initiatives provide families with the resources they need to thrive while providing residents opportunities to drive transformational change in their communities.



## Amani Community Programming

COA's community development efforts in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood empower community members while creating a stronger and more connected community.

432

Residents attended COA's fifth annual Safe Summer Kickoff event in Moody Park.

COA partnered with the Milwaukee Health Department to administer COVID-19 testing and vaccinations at COA's Goldin Center.



450

Attended our back-to-school event, Beyond the Bookbag this August, where we donated 500 Backpacks.

Local Milwaukee artist Tia Richardson collaborated with COA staff and participants to paint welcoming murals at COA's Goldin Center.



## Riverwest Community Programming Skyline Music Series Returns

For over ten years, COA's Skyline Series has been one of COA's most popular Riverwest community events. This year, Skyline made a full return to COA's Kilbourn-Kadish Park and brought the Milwaukee community together once again to enjoy great music, family fun, and Milwaukee's beautiful skyline.

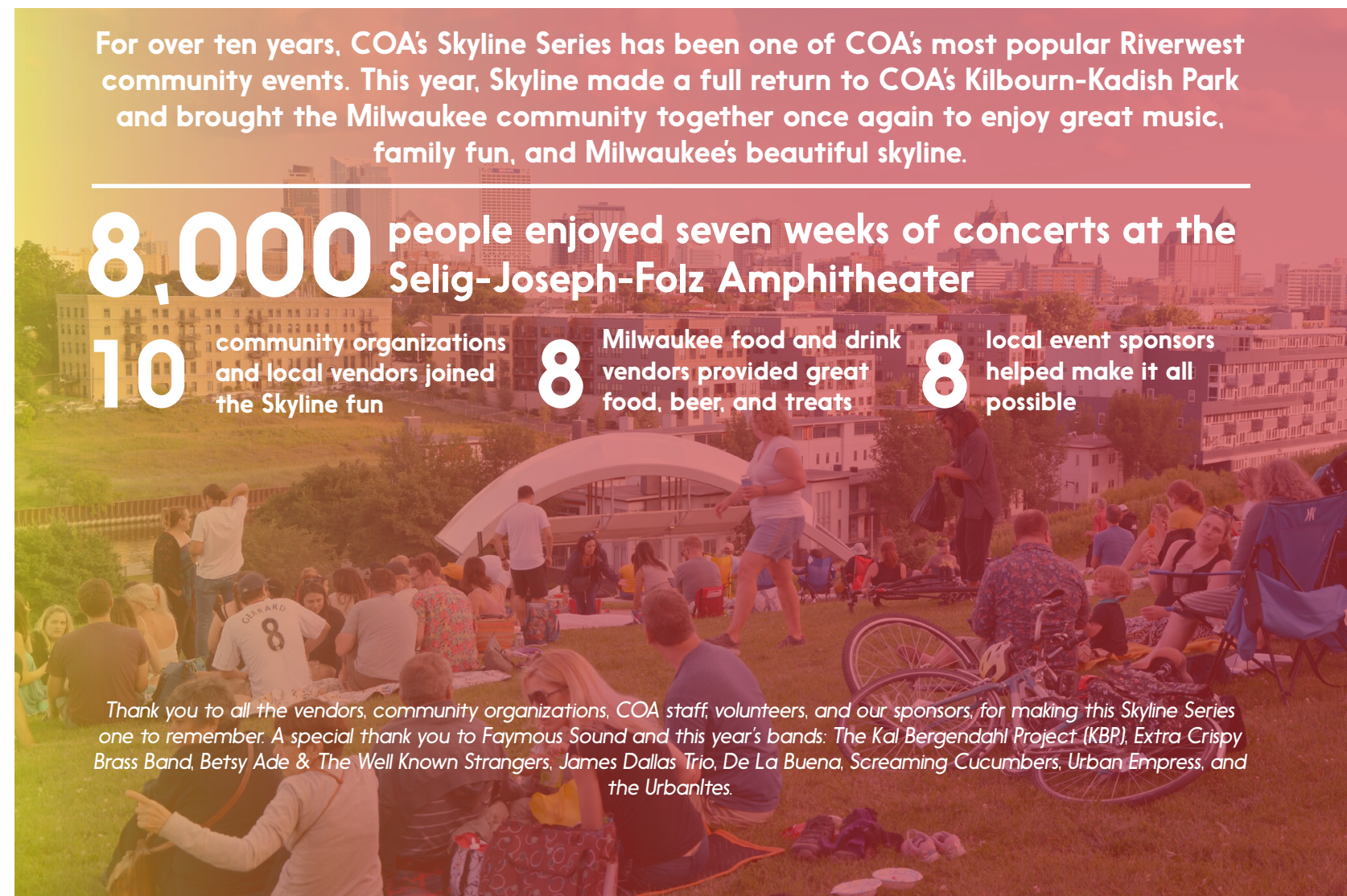
8,000 people enjoyed seven weeks of concerts at the Selig-Joseph-Folz Amphitheater

10 community organizations and local vendors joined the Skyline fun

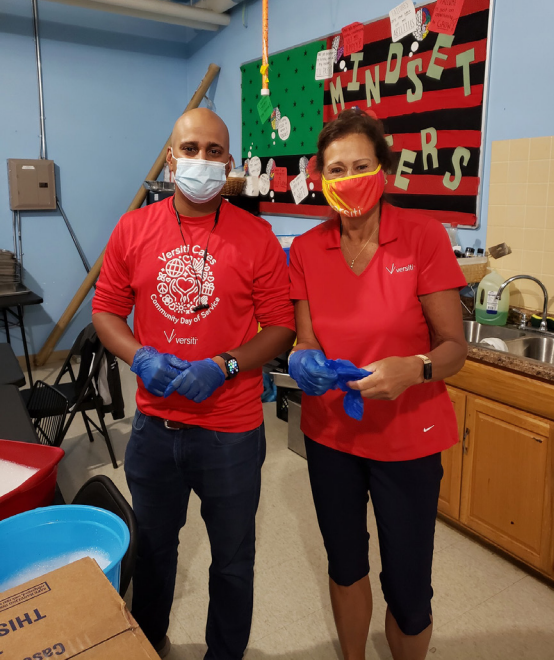
8 Milwaukee food and drink vendors provided great food, beer, and treats

8 local event sponsors helped make it all possible

Thank you to all the vendors, community organizations, COA staff, volunteers, and our sponsors, for making this Skyline Series one to remember. A special thank you to Faymous Sound and this year's bands: The Kai Bergendahl Project (KBP), Extra Crispy Brass Band, Betsy Ade & The Well Known Strangers, James Dallas Trio, De La Buena, Screaming Cucumbers, Urban Empress, and the Urbanlites.







## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

COA works in collaboration with local residents, community-based organizations, corporations, supporters, and volunteers to provide critical wraparound programming and services to best support children, families, and communities.

Effective and transformational community development requires a network of agencies and residents working together. Thank you to: Advocate Aurora Healthcare, Amani United Neighborhood Association, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Children's Wisconsin, Dominican Center, Employ Milwaukee, Feeding America, Friends of Moody Park, Hunger Taskforce, Milwaukee Public Schools, Northwestern Mutual, Safe & Sound, and United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee. We are proud to be part of this collaborative team.

### Program Partner Spotlight: The National Council of Jewish Women-Milwaukee (NCJW-Milwaukee)

**NCJW-Milwaukee** is a proud partner and supporter of COA's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program. NCJW's incredible partnership and leadership helped bring HIPPY to Milwaukee 25 years ago and continues to be essential to program implementation today.

*"The first year HIPPY was brought to COA with the support and help from NCJW, I was one of the first HIPPY parents with my daughter, Alicia. NCJW is instrumental to the success and work that HIPPY does at COA. We wouldn't be here without them."* – **Jessica Namaste, COA's HIPPY Program Director & Former HIPPY Parent**

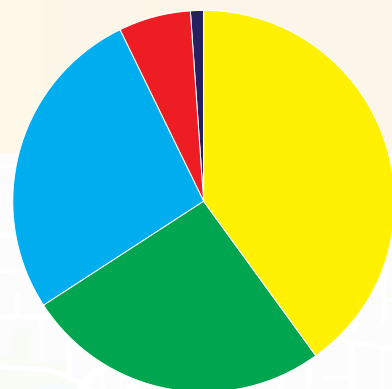
NCJW was selected as the 2022 Community Star Award Winner at COA's "Night with the Stars," fundraiser in recognition of their continued support of HIPPY. We are grateful for all the incredible partnerships that help make COA's work possible.



# FINANCIALS

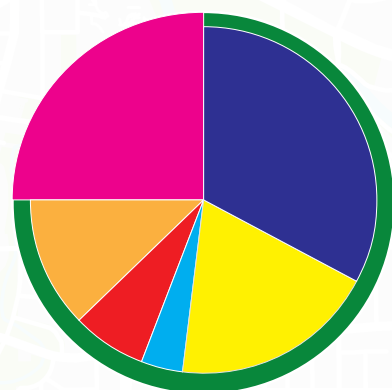
# COA at a glance

A by-the-numbers look at COA's impact in Milwaukee: **2021-2022**



## ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$2,995,717	39.9%
Program Service Fees	\$1,913,809	25.5%
Government Grants	\$2,077,563	27.7%
United Way	\$475,924	6.3%
Special Events	\$48,856	0.7%
<b>Total Annual Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,511,869</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Early Childhood Education	\$2,297,814	33.4%
Youth Development	\$1,298,337	18.9%
Family Support Services	\$259,168	3.8%
Camp	\$459,808	6.7%
Community Services	\$841,835	12.3%
Total Program Expenses	\$5,156,962	75.1%
Total Management & Fundraising	\$1,713,341	24.9%
<b>Total Annual Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,870,303</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Charity Navigator



Charity Navigator has awarded COA its highest 4-star rating for the 17th consecutive year for financial transparency and quality of programs and services. COA is Charity Navigator's highest-rated human services agency in Wisconsin, and the third highest-rated non-profit in Wisconsin!

## Early Child Development

**171**

Children Enrolled



## Youth Development

**254**

Youth Attending COA Programs



**177**

Family Resource Center Families Enrolled



**101**

Campers attended COA's Camp Helen Brachman!



**396**

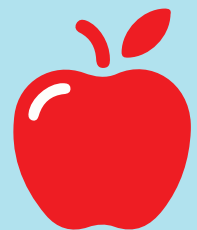
Children Completed the HIPPO Home Instruction Program



## Community Development

**2081**

Families Served at the Food Pantry





# DONORS

## Visionaries (\$25,000+)

American Family Insurance  
Bader Philanthropies  
Brady Corporation Foundation, Inc.  
Elizabeth S. & Mary Brauer  
Burke Foundation  
City of Milwaukee, Department of City Development  
Chortek Estate  
Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust  
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
"ELM II Fund"

Children playing in Kadish Park for HIPPY Family Fun Day.



Herb Kohl Philanthropies  
Jewish Community Foundation  
Jack & Lucy Rosenberg Donor Advised Fund  
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Leila Goldin  
Milliman IntelliScript  
Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.  
Milwaukee Public Schools  
Next Door Foundation  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation  
Karen Ritchie Crivello  
Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation  
Ron and Micky Sadoff  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County

## Patrons (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

A.O. Smith Foundation, Inc.  
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Camp Nebagamon Scholarship Fund  
Cedar Street Charitable Organization  
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## Stakeholders (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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National Council of Jewish Women-Milwaukee  
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## Trendsetters (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

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Camp Thunderbird Charitable Foundation  
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Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust  
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Jewish Community Foundation  
Lois Malawsky Donor Advised Fund



Summer fun with COA's Family Resource Center.

Loyal D. Grinker Restricted Endowment Fund  
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Patricia Keating Kahn and Charles Kahn  
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Laura Peracchio and Daniel Eder  
Cathy Proctor  
Julie Ragland and Russell Grabszyk  
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Social Development

Commission  
Debra Altshul-Stark and Brian Stark  
Florence Steinberger  
Frank and Elsa Sterner  
Sue and Rick Strait  
Brenda and Mark Szumski  
James Trotter  
United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee  
US Bank  
Irene and Henri Van Helden  
We Energies Foundation  
Weiss Family Foundation

## Pioneers (\$1,000 - \$1,499)

Michael Aldana  
Elizabeth Blackwood and William Honrath  
Bradley Impact Fund  
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Elizabeth Brenner and Steve Ostrofsky  
Jewish Community Foundation  
Albert & Anne Deshur Donor Advised Fund  
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Barbara Recht  
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Gayle Rosemann and Paul McElwee  
Susan and Steve Schnoll  
SFC, Inc.  
Dori and Jason Steigman  
Supporting Families Together Association  
Kimberlie and Rod Weekley



A child "graduates" from COA's Burke Early Education Center.

Libby Wigdale  
William Stark Jones Foundation  
Kim Wynn

**Leaders (\$500 - \$999)**

Anonymous  
Steven Antholt and Sharon Lennert  
Jodi and Matt Arnold  
Melissa and John Bitter  
Barbara Blankstein-Berman  
Lisa Cadotte and Anthony Milczarek  
Theresa and Ryan Chimenti  
Lina and Sandy Cicero  
Kelly and David Cisar  
Facebook, Inc.  
Elizabeth Forman and Scott Bolens  
Sara Geenen  
*Greater Milwaukee Foundation*  
Bettie Zillman Fund  
Kathleen and William Heilbronner  
Jackie Herd-Barber and Michael Barber  
Samuel Herzberg  
James Hiken  
Mary and Jonathan Hintz  
Bonnie and Jack Jacobson  
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Sari Selig- Kramer and David Kramer  
Dana Serrano  
Joan Spector  
Susan Stearns  
Heather Stillman  
Titus Wamai  
Timothy Wright  
Lisa Weber Zetley and Craig Zetley  
Jasmine and Tiger Zhao  
Betsy Mitchell and Steven Zydek

In-Kind Gifts:

Anna Arroyo  
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AON Risk Services Central, Inc.  
Association Acumen LLC  
Briggs & Stratton LLC  
Jessica Carroll  
CliftonLarsenAllen  
Karen RitchieCrivello  
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DreamBikes  
Merzy and Russ Eisenberg  
Gamma Pi Sigma  
Brett Garceau  
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Hometown Heroes  
Shayla Jackson  
Kahler Slater  
Kerns Carpet One  
Kiwanis Club of North Shore Milwaukee  
Komatsu Mining Corp. Group  
Colleen Kramer  
Sandy and Jonathan Krovitz  
Kelly LaBarr  
Milwaukee Admirals  
Milwaukee Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.  
Karen and Alan Peck Katz  
Ronald McDonald House Charities  
Sadie Rudnitzki  
Shorewood High School  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County

Gifts to COA were made...

In honor of:	In memory of:
Barbara Heilbronner	Andy Feiring
Betsy Harwood	Ann Albert
Brian Hugh Hoffman	Dan McCarthy
Dan Einhorn	Donald "Tiny" Cheatham
Debbie Baran	Dr. Eric Runte
Derek K	Eugenia Yuspeh
Eve Eiseman	Gene Gilbert
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Matt Kleine	Mary Borman
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Nancy Farino	Tom Christofferson
Pat Baer	
Rebecca Alt	
Sarah Nanez	
Thomas Paul Schneider	
Todd Johnson	
Tom Flanagan	
Tom Krauskopf	
Tony Giuffre	

Endowment Funds

Alice Bertschy Kadish Park Fund  
Alice Uhrig Boese Memorial Fund  
Barbie and Morty Blutstein and Grandchildren Campership Fund  
Bud and Sue Selig Fund  
Edward, Carolyn & Kathryn Miller Campership Fund  
Charles A. Hays Fund  
David and Julia Uihlein Fund  
Ely Leichtling and Sally Merrell Fund  
Ernest F. and May Rice Memorial Fund  
Ethel N. Gill Campership Fund  
Gene and Ruth Posner Fund

Harry and Rose Samson Endowment Fund  
James, Mary Anne, and David Saltzstein Fund  
Janet Hirshberg Krauskopf Campership Fund  
TPS Scholarship Fund  
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Larry and Bobbi Polacheck Family Campership Fund  
Mel and Leila Goldin Fund  
Pearl Becker Fund  
Sally Kraus Child Care Fund  
Scott and Peggy Sampson Family Fund  
Susie Stein and Children Campership Fund



# THANK YOU



**Greater Milwaukee  
& Waukesha County**

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County helps increase the capacity and efficiency of our programs and program partners by providing technical assistance and training, and connecting organizations with volunteers and other resources. COA is grateful to work alongside over 200 community nonprofits to collaboratively improve health, education, and financial stability with support from United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.

## **A special thanks to the COA staff who contributed to the United Way Giving Campaign in 2022:**

Rebecca Alt  
Emily Bodilly  
Charlotte Cannon-Sain  
Keegan Flynn  
Natalpha Hampton  
Tamar Hampton  
Deborah Hertig  
Julie Hoffmann  
Sherron Idom  
Valerie Jackson  
Jorge Juarez  
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Nicole Thompson  
Joseph Trevino  
Brad Van  
David Waldo  
David White  
Diablo Williams  
Leslie Woodruff  
Deborah Wright  
Jasmine Zhao



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

## **VOLUNTEER**

Over the past year, COA hosted various volunteer groups who have generously donated their time to assist our programs and events. Their hard work, support, and dedication to service directly impacted the lives of COA participants, families, and staff.

"COA is doing amazing work in Milwaukee by providing support, stability, and educational resources to kids. I love COA's mission, and volunteering with them is a tiny way I can help them realize that mission. Organizations like COA are doing the real work needed to make Milwaukee a better place, and they can do an even better job with our support." -Volunteer with Milliman IntelliScript

**Contact Emma Fredrickson at [efredrickson@coa-yfc.org](mailto:efredrickson@coa-yfc.org) to learn more about COA's volunteer opportunities.**

## **Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming COA Events:**

### **Family of the Year:**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Italian Community Center**

**Learn more at [coa-yfc.org/foty](http://coa-yfc.org/foty)**

**Annual Gala 2023: April 1, 2023**

**Skyline Music 2023: July 11 - August 22, 2023**



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BMO Harris Bank

Brooke Van de Kamp  
Johnson Controls, Inc.

Mary Gute Witte  
Community Volunteer

**Donate now:**



# LOCATIONS

## Administrative Office

909 E North Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

## Riverwest Center

909 E Garfield Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

## Goldin Center

2320 W Burleigh St  
Milwaukee, WI 53206

## Camp Helen Brachman

9341 Asbury Dr  
Almond, WI 54909

## Community Learning Centers

Auer Avenue School  
Doerfler School  
Hopkins-Lloyd School  
Lincoln Center of the Arts  
O.W. Holmes School  
Westside Academy

## Parks

Kilbourn-Kadish Park  
Moody Park

## CONTACT US

414-263-8383  
coa-yfc.org  
@coayfc

