



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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 VALUES

Children-first, Family-focused, Community-connected, Collaborations, Commitment, Empowerment.

OUR VISION

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello COA Family and Friends,

In December of 2020, I accepted the baton to become COA Youth & Family Centers' (COA) Executive Director, becoming the first woman and the first person of color to lead the organization. COA's rich 115-year history of serving under-resourced children and families exemplifies the organization's legacy of commitment, community and compassion. For this historic opportunity I am truly grateful.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to my predecessor, Mr. Thomas Schneider. Tom was at the helm of COA for nearly twenty years. His vision transformed the Amani and Harambee neighborhoods in Milwaukee, creating opportunities for children and families to grow and thrive. It is because of his great leadership that COA is recognized as a leader in providing quality, children-first, family-focused, and community-connected programming and services. **– Thank you, Tom.**

Leadership during a pandemic poses many challenges, but those challenges can be mitigated when you have dedicated staff committed to your mission. Risking their own health and safety, and the health and safety of their families, COA staff banded together during the pandemic to ensure that COVID-19 would not prevent us from being there for those who needed us the most – our children and front-line workers. While some agencies and programs were forced to close their doors during the pandemic, COA staff worked hard to continue to provide, and in some cases expand, quality programming and services to meet the needs of our community.

March brought us some much-needed relief when many children were able to return to school. Summer arrived, and COA embraced the opportunity to resume programming like "Safe Summer Kick-Off," "Family Nights," and "Skyline Music," and to the delight of many, "Family Camp" at COA's Camp Helen Brachman. My heart is full of gratitude for the untold ways COA came together this past year to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, "we are better together." - **To The Staff of COA**, **Thank you**.

As we look toward our limitless future, we are energized by our new mission statement: **COA Youth & Family Centers nurtures children, supports families, and builds strong and resilient communities – one child, one family, one community at a time**. We are dedicated to reaching even more families in our communities while embracing our values: **Children-First, Family-Focused, Community-Connected, Collaboration, Commitment and Empowerment, and remembering, "Family is at the center of everything we do.**"

While there still is much work to be done, we do it with a servant's heart and with our families and communities in mind.

Again, thank you Tom, thank you to the amazing COA Staff, and finally a big thank you to "**YOU**," our friends and families. It is only through your continuous and generous support for our children, families, and communities that COA can continue to do "GREAT WORKS." The best is yet to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Cannon-Sain Executive Director #IIWII



PROGRAM AREAS



Early Childhood Development: COA takes a holistic, family-centered approach to enhance learning, where young children and caregivers have the support they need to thrive.

- Our two Early Education Centers, both five-star accredited by NAEYC as of 2021, provide safe, nurturing environments where COA staff foster critical skills and social-emotional development in children to help them become successful, lifelong learners.
- HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters), an internationally recognized bilingual literacy and school-readiness program, empowers parents as their child's first teacher.



Youth Development: COA provides Milwaukee youth with programming and resources that help drive academic achievement and foster personal development in supportive environments.

- COA provides after-school and summer programming for youth (6-18) at our two community centers and six Milwaukee Public Schools' CLCs. Programs include daily academic enrichment, tutoring and homework help, and recreational/ enrichment activities.
- Camp Helen Brachman, located in central Wisconsin, hosts summer camps, winter camps, and family camps with expertly-guided programs in nature, art, swimming, boating, and archery.



Community Development: COA believes that the best way to understand the needs and goals of a community is to listen to them. By embracing a placebased focus, we are able to access community resources to rapidly respond to the needs of the community.

- Kadish & Moody Park bring people together through programming and events such as the Skyline Music Series, Safe Summer Kick-Off, Beyond the Bookbag and Community Fun Nights.
- COA's two Family Resource Centers, located in the Amani and Harambee/ Riverwest neighborhoods, offer programming for families and resources based on community needs such as food pantries, energy assistance information, and more.













MAKING BASKETS WITH CREAM SKILLS

Over the summer, teens at COA's Goldin Center participated in programming with Cream Skills Incorporated, an organization whose mission is to promote entrepreneurship skills through sports. Cream Skills is a unique basketball program. As a microcosm of the NBA, youth in Goldin's teen program had the chance to participate in a draft, playoffs, and even an all-star game complete with a threepoint contest. This year's games were hosted at the Goldin Center.

In addition to showing their skills off on the court, each participant attended weekly training camps at MATC. These training camps focused on teaching financial literacy, and life, health, and fitness skills. A memorable training session occured when representatives from BMO Bank visited COA's Goldin Center to teach youth how to open a checking account and answer additional banking questions. Teens also learned more about auto mechanics, gaining important skills such as how to change a tire, check their car's oil and more.

Nigel Harvey, Director and Founder of Cream Skills Inc., shared that at CSI, he and his staff strive to "create a nurturing environment where, win or lose, all participants feel like they are a part of a family."

COA Youth & Family Centers has been a proud partner of Cream Skills Inc. since its founding in 2016 and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership in the years to come.

BROADENING HORIZONS AT CAMP HELEN BRACHMAN

This experience gave us an opportunity to get away from everyday city life and brought us closer together. Camp Helen Brachman gave us memories for a lifetime."



This summer, Camp Helen Brachman offered families a mini-vacation like no other. After a brief camp hiatus in 2020, family campers engaged in three days of programming filled with activities that helped families connect, enjoy time in nature, try new activities, and grow. Campers were able to enjoy new camp amenities including expanded hiking trails, a new waterfront, and renovated cabins. Participants shared that the experience brought their families closer together by providing them with an opportunity to slow down and enjoy each other's company.

CAMPERS AND CAMP COUNSELORS SAY:

CHB let the kids take time away from the city and their electronics, and find out nature and outdoor activities can be super fun. Camp opened their minds to new things as well."

**Camp Helen Brachman cultivated a thriving garden! Kelly and John Turner of Turner's Fresh Market and Assistant Camp Director, Hope Gibson, planted veggies, fruits, herbs, and plants in the camp garden. The garden was used as an educational tool to help educate families and campers about horticulture and nutrition!"

> *Coming to CHB brought my family closer together. Together we tried and learned new things. Surviving off the grid? Best feeling in the world!"





COA'S HIPPY PROGRAM EMPOWERS CHILDREN AND PARENTS

At the heart of COA's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program is the mission to empower parents as their child's first teacher and improve school readiness for children along the way. But to Jessica Namaste, COA's HIPPY Program Director, HIPPY is more than a place of employment; it is where her own transformation as a parent began:

"When I was in HIPPY, my Parent Partner, Sarah, taught me a lot about patience. At the time, I was a young mother, and she helped me navigate parenthood. She taught me how to have more fun with my daughter and the importance of spending meaningful, one-on-one time together."

Since becoming Program Director, Jessica has led the HIPPY program through many exciting changes that included: introducing new initiatives for families, supporting her staff in the transition to virtual learning sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic, aiding in the creation of HIPPY programming at COA's Burke Center, and expanding summer programming for families.

"HIPPY is not just a school readiness program; it is so much more. It is a parent empowerment program that gives parents tools to not only educate their children, but to bond as a family, learn more about their children, and gain an understanding of their child's development."

For many families like Jessica's, HIPPY is not just about the curriculum. HIPPY encourages one-on-one time with children, and helps establish new routines such as homework time or reading together before bed. It strengthens relationships parents have not only with their child enrolled in HIPPY, but also with the entire family. HIPPY has a lasting impact on families that continues long after they graduate from the program.



HIPPY PARTICIPANTS SAY:

- The most important lesson I have learned is that any moment can be a teaching moment."
- We've learned the importance of dedicating specific time to have quality experiences with our children."
- The most important thing I have learned from the program is that my children are the most important thing to me and seeing their happy faces as we spend time together is priceless."

DARIEN GETS BACK ON TRACK THANKS TO HIS PARENTS AND COA TEACHERS

Darien, an 8-year-old participant at COA's Riverwest Youth Development Center, is known by COA staff for his fun and energetic personality. Like other kids his age, Darien enjoys playing soccer with his friends and spends his free time playing computer games.

Darien was one of many students nationwide whose educational experience was drastically altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Though usually someone staff described as having an open mind, Darien grappled with the new changes that came with virtual learning.

When Darien first started to attend COA for support with his virtual learning, he struggled. Learning from a screen was an entirely different experience from his former school days. Zoom sessions made focusing on his schoolwork difficult, and he would exit out of learning sessions out of frustration. Darien struggled with asking for help and soon began to submit incomplete work to his teachers and disengage from his learning.

Seeing Darien struggle, COA teachers partnered with his parents and school teachers to ensure he was getting the support he needed. Shortly after, Darien started being more honest with his teachers and asked for help with his assignments. Once he started being transparent about his struggles, COA staff learned more about his needs and were able to help him succeed.

Soon after, Darien showed a complete 180 in his care and attitude towards virtual learning. He started to understand the importance of staying logged on to his classes and stayed engaged by keeping his camera on. Darien became invested in his virtual learning and ended up making the most of his experience.

Not only did COA staff provide Darien, and fellow program participants, with a safe and accepting environment to complete online learning, but they also ensured that Darien's voice was being heard, his needs were being listened to, and he had a community of support to help him persevere.

OUR IMPACT



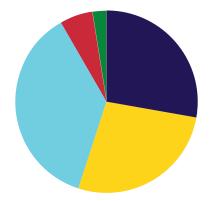






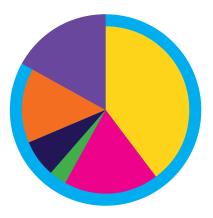
FAMILIES ATTENDED COA'S CAMP HELEN BRACHMAN THIS SUMMER

FINANCIALS



ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$1,862,921	27.83%
Program Service Fees	\$1,821,851	27.21%
Government Grants	\$2,460,298	36.75%
United Way	\$399,237	5.96%
Special Events	\$149,996	5.2%
Total Annual Operating Revenue	\$6,694,303	100.0%



EXPENSES BY PROGRAM Early Childhood Education \$2,556,252 39.81% Youth Development \$1,179,393 18.37% Family Support Services \$217,429 3.39% 7.25% Camp \$465,776 **Community Services** \$926,447 14.43% **Total Program Expenses** \$5,345,297 83.24% Total Management & Fundraising \$1,076,136 16.76% \$6,421,433 **Total Annual Expenses** 100.0%



Charity Navigator has awarded COA its highest 4-star rating for the 16th 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!

DONORS

Visionaries (\$25,000+)

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 Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Leila Goldin Greater Milwaukee Foundation **ELM II Fund** M Drake Breskvar Fund Walter & Olive Stiemke Fund Herb Kohl Philanthropies

Graduation Day 2021 at HIPPY.



Jewish Community Foundation Bill & Idy Goodman Family Donor Advised Fund Kohl's Sally Merrell & Ely Leichtling Milliman IntelliScript Milwaukee Public Schools Next Door Foundation Northwestern Mutual Foundation

Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation Howard B. Schoenfeld United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County

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

A.O. Smith Foundation, Inc. American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation Inc. Anonymous Baird Camp Nebagamon Scholarship Fund Croen Foundation, Inc. Sallie and Don Davis Greater Milwaukee Foundation Milwaukee Responds Fund **Green Bay Packers Foundation** Jewish Community Foundation Jack & Lucy Rosenbera Donor Advised Fund Joseph Family Donor **Advised Fund** PAR Donor Advised Fund Johnson Controls, Inc. Leibowitz and Greenway Family Charitable Foundation Lubar & Co. Marcus Corporation Foundation Medical College of Wisconsin Milwaukee Admirals Power **Play Foundation**

Nicholas Family Foundation Donna and Michael Nicholson Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund PNC Foundation Ralph G or Cherie Gorenstein Charitable Foundation Betsy and Bill Reilly

Pat and Allen Rieselbach Shelagh and Stephen Roell Nancy Pinter and R. Max Samson Sheldon & Marianne Lubar Charitable Fund Irene and Henri Van Helden Wells Fargo Bank Foundation Donna and Jeffrey Whittle Kay and Richard Yuspeh

Stakeholders (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anon Charitable Trust Anonymous Heidi Marcelle and Robert Barnard Bert L. and Patricia S. Steialeder Charitable Trust **BMO Harris Bank Devereux Family Charitable** Foundation General Capital Management Group Godfrev & Kahn, S.C. Brent Halfwassen Hupy and Abraham, S.C. Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation Jewish Federation of Metro Chicago Seder Family Foundation Junior League of Milwaukee Mary and Ted Kellner Nancy Laskin Erin and Max Mann Christine and Randy McLaughlin Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club Philip Rubenstein Foundation Posner Foundation

R.A. Stevens Foundation Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Inc. Real Estate Alliance for Charity Michael Schneider Leigh Wallace Tabak and Fred Tabak Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, Inc.

Trendsetters (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield August G. Mueller Trust Christena and Woodrow Benson Camp Thunderbird Charitable Foundation Cara Foundation Ben Caya Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust Carmen Decot **Direct Supply Foundation**, Inc. **Enterprise Holding Foundation** Evan and Marion Helfaer Foundation Linda and Eli Frank Gene & Ruth Posner Foundation. Inc. Michael Gilbert Bonny and Rick Goldin Mark Goldin Greater Milwaukee Foundation Colton Charitable Fund Jay Kay Foundation Joan & Irving Saltzstein Fund Judith & Arthur Saltzstein Fund Rose Marie Hoffmann Hunger Task Force Suzanne and Michael Hupy Irrevocable Childrens Trust Matthew Jarzemsky Jewish Community Foundation Margery H & Irvin M Becker Donor Advised Fund Komisar Brady LLP Donor Advised Fund Lois Malawsky Donor Advised Fund



Fun at Camp Helen Brachman's Summer Camp.

Dr. Larry & Roberta Polacheck Donor Advised Fund **Richard & Susan Strait** Donor Advised Fund Jerome H Weil Memorial Fund Donor Advised Fund Michael Kelly William Kerns Kiwanis Club of North Shore Milwaukee Shannon Corallo and Andrew Komisar Marlene Lauwasser Tracy Luber Margie and Jonathan Margolies Medtronic Volunteer Grant Program Susan Angel Miller and Ronald Miller Susan and Dan Minahan Rhonda and Gregory Oberland Andrew O'Connell Kelly and Kevin O'Neill Peck Foundation

PNC Bank Cathy Procton Chuck Pruitt Julie and Russell Ragland Select Equity Group Foundation Florence Steinberger Steren McDonald's Restaurants Brian Timmis Ryan Tochihara US Bank US Foods We Energies Foundation Timothy Wright Katherine and Joshua Yost



Enjoying live music at Skyline Music Festival.

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

John Affeldt Michael Aldana Anonymous Elizabeth Blackwood and William Honrath Blackwood Morton Blutstein Bradley Impact Fund Elizabeth Brenner and Steve Ostrofsky Lisa Handler and Michael Cleary Congregation Shalom Sharon and James Deauzman Edith Arnstein Charitable Trust Katie and Jason Eggert **Einhorn Family Foundation** Alicia Gathman Greater Milwaukee Foundation Ernest F. Rice & Babette A. Rice Fund Kopmeier Family Fund Thomas Guav Ann and Jon Hammes Kathy and William Heilbronner Nancy and Joseph Jacobs Jewish Community Foundation Albert & Anne Deshur Donor Advised Fund Eileen & Howard Dubner Donor Advised Fund Richard Kahn Donor Advised Fund Anne & Stephen Kravit Donor Advised Fund Patti Keating Kahn and Charles Kahn Bree and Philip Kastenholz Mary and James Kaufmann Kessler Family Foundation Margie and Thomas Krauskopf Janet and John Melamed Judy and Randy Nelson Laura and Brenton Nelson Joan Polacheck and Jonah Orlofsky Alicia and Bryan Sadoff Susan Schaffer Robin Schnake Susan and Steve Schnoll Mallory Sdano SFC. Inc. Christy Brooks and Allen Silverstein Gil Southwell Dori and Jason Steigman Joel Treffert James Trotter Kari Pietsch-Wangard and Stewart Wangard Kimberlie and Rod Weekley Barbara and Richard Wiederhold Libby and Jim Wigdale William Stark Jones Foundation Kim Wynn

Leaders (\$500 - \$999)

Allen Silverstein Atty. & Counselor at Law Matt Arnold Pat Baer Jon Berlin Barbara Blankstein-Berman Roberta and James Caraway CBRE. Inc. Theresa and Rvan Chimenti Kelly and David Cisar Christin Clark Cleaver Jovce and Charles Collins Mary Ritchie and Thomas Cunningham Sarah and Daniel DeGroot **Rodney Ferguson** Sara and Mark Fiorita Tammy Fricker Babnik Sara Geenen Jane Gellman Deborah and Martin Goldin Greater Milwaukee Foundation Bette Zillman Fund Karen Grundle James Hiken Jennifer and Andrew Irwin Keith Jacoby Lisa Johnson Lisa Jordan Wendy Kheiry Sally and Carroll Kraus Marian and James Krauskopf Lynn and David Krutz Kim and Daryl Lueck Laura and Joe Mantoan Jennifer Marino Nancy and George Morris Sarah Oberhofer Stacy and Jim Parks Jeanne Pien John Pittman Ryan Poqodzinski Don Polacheck Marianne and Mattew Robbins Julie and Mason Ross SaintA Tyler Schmitz Tom Serafin Eileen and Neil Sheehan McDavis Slade Meghan and Drew Slocum Barbara Stein Stephanie Taff Brooke Van de Kamp Lisa Weber Zetley and Craig Zetley Elizabeth Levins and Herbert Zien

COA Community Champions

Barbara Blankstein-Berman Jacob Erickson Jennell Kolp Cheri and Kevin McCourt Dee McGarity Nathan Karabon Ryan Pogodzinski Sam Warmuth Sara Geenen Brooke Van de Kamp Fischer Van Handel

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 Gerald and Harriet Glasspiegel Camp Scholarship Fund Larry and Bobbi Polacheck Family Campership Fund Mel and Leila Goldin Fund Pearl Becker Fund Sallv Kraus Child Care Fund Scott and Peggy Sampson Family Fund Susie Stein and Children Campership Fund

Gifts to COA were made...

in honor of:

Barbara Heilbronner Becca Alt **Bob Duncan** Christy Brooks & Allen Silverstein Dan Einhorn David Stearns & Family Debbie Baran Devin Reese Emme and Max Roemaat George Newby Howard Schoenfeld Katie Phillips Kim Rivera-Kloeppel Lillian Feingold Picard Lexi Segal's Bat Mitzvah Margie Margolies Mark & Leslie Collings Mark Attansasio & Family Mike Harrison Mike Salentine Nicholas Modesto Paul & Marianne Scobev **Rick Schlesinger & Family** Steve Joosten Sue Selia Tom Guay Tom Schneider Wendy Blumenthal William Heilbronner

in memory of:

Albing Buechler Alice Gillan Andy Feiring Ann Albert Ann Pereles Arlo Coplan Buzz Wilson Dr. Michael Luber Harold Hiken Jean Walton Fthil Gill Norman Fons Peter Flvnn Robert Goldstein Ronald Santelli Thelma Malofsky Thomas Kuesal William Truby

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Tracy Luber WEDC

Vice Presidents

Nancy Farino Broad Appeal Homes, LLC

ldy Goodman Community Volunteer

Treasurer

Ronald D. Miller, CIBC Cleary Gull

Secretary

Jeffrey Schaefer Associated Bank

Executive Director

Charlotte Cannon-Sain

Historian Sally Kraus

Ryan Alwood PNC Bank

Robert Barnard Black Maple Capital Management

Kimberly Blackwell Molina Healthcare of WI

Amanda Boynes US Bank

Lina Cicero Community Volunteer

Karen Crivello Community Volunteer

Carmen Decot Foley & Lardner

Jason Eggert Old National Bank

Daniel Einhorn Capital Midwest

Michael Gilbert Community Volunteer Deborah Goldin Community Volunteer

Jon Greenberg Milwaukee Admirals

Tom Guay Northwestern Mutual

Michael Hupy Hupy and Abraham, S.C.

Tyra Ivy We Energies

Jack Jacobson NAI MLG Commercial

Kellen Kasper *Milwaukee Brewers*

Andrew Komisar CliftonLarsenAllen

Sari Selig Kramer Community Volunteer

Marlene Lauwasser Community Volunteer Kim Lueck Marcus Corporation

Max Mann Baird

Christine McLaughlin Godfrey & Kahn S.C.

Heather Paradis City of Milwaukee Health Department

Laura Peracchio University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Sean Scullen Quarles & Brady LLP

Meghan Slocum Community Volunteer

Brooke Van de Kamp Johnson Controls, Inc.

Darryl Whitley Rockwell Automation

Mary Gute Witte Community Volunteer

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



