



Shelter, Inc.



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

shelter-inc.org

DEAR FRIENDS,



This past year, Shelter's dedicated staff was fortunate to provide resources and support to nearly **500 youth and families** who were experiencing instability and trauma. From immediate emergency shelter and long-term housing placement to emotional support and physical care, Shelter, Inc. and its supporters continue to be a **lifeline for young people** when their families are in crisis.

Our youth need a total well-being approach that, together, we can provide so they will have what they need *today* for a brighter future *tomorrow*.

Thank you! Our community grows stronger with you as our partner, and your commitment moves us ever closer to our vision of all children being raised in safe and nurturing homes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carina H. Santa Maria'.

Carina H. Santa Maria
MSW, LCSW
Executive Director



SEE WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN WE WORK
TOGETHER

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

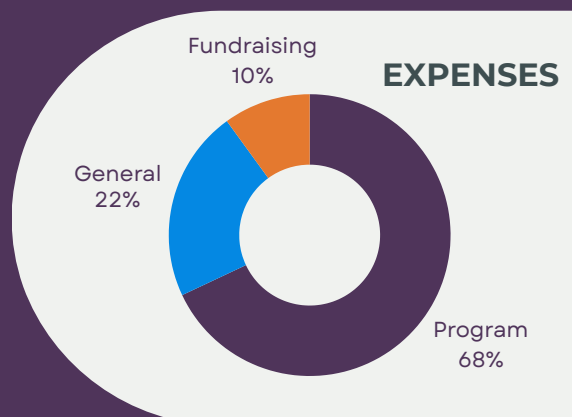
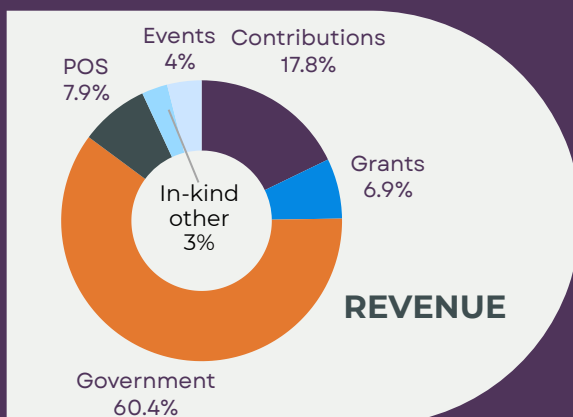
In Illinois, nearly 200 children are victims of abuse and neglect *each* day. These young people deserve protection. They deserve healing. They deserve a chance to build a stable life. Yet young people who are in crisis or suffering from trauma often do not have a lifeline when they need it most. Shelter, Inc. is there. Our mission is to end the cycle of child abuse by providing a comprehensive network of support that makes a safe place, a stable foundation, and a healthy family possible for every young person.

1 in 5

**CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS
WILL BE VICTIMS OF
ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY
THE AGE OF 18**



FINANCIAL REPORT



REVENUE

for the year ended June 30, 2024

	FY2024	FY2023
Contributions	\$1,011,991	\$471,920
Grants	376,338	155,322
Government Fees	3,411,250	2,914,531
Purchase of Services (POS)*	419,050	643,499
In-Kind and Other	139,898	287,154
Special Events	194,771	198,272
Total Revenue	5,553,298	4,433,349

EXPENSES

Program Services	3,323,049	3,353,187
Management and General	1,076,307	677,714
Fundraising	501,681	385,783
Total Expenses	4,901,037	4,416,684
Change in Net Assets	652,261	16,665
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	926,876	910,211
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,579,137	\$926,876

*Purchase of Service (POS) represents payments from DCFS for case management and other services provided by Shelter to DCFS clients.

PROTECTING CHILDREN



Emergency Shelters

50 YOUTH SERVED
1,600 DAYS OF CARE

Shelter, Inc. has two homes in Chicago's northwest suburbs that provide youth, aged 11-17, with emergency **shelter, security, and healing** while experiencing crisis due to abuse, neglect, homelessness, and more. The homes are in established neighborhoods and staffed with caring professionals who provide trauma-informed care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Foster Care

116 CLIENTS
19,000 DAYS OF CARE
22 PERMANENCIES ACHIEVED



Shelter, Inc.'s Foster Care programs for children, from birth through 21 years, include home-of-relative, traditional, and emergency foster care. In many cases, children are placed in foster care because they have been abused or neglected and are unable to continue living safely with their families. Sometimes homelessness, loss of income, addiction, hospitalization, mental illness, or parental death make it impossible for a biological family to care for a child. These children all need **safety, love, support,** and **guidance.** Our Foster Care caseworkers work with families to resolve problems so children can be reunited as quickly as possible.

NEW HOME FOR YOUTH SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Shelter, Inc., in partnership with Housing Opportunity and Development Corporation (HODC) and SI Container Build, will open **Illinois' first DCFS-licensed home for female youth survivors of human trafficking**. To support this program and its survivors, we successfully secured funding to purchase land and a \$5 million grant from DCFS to build a 12-bedroom home in Palatine, IL. Shelter's professional staff will provide 24-hour trauma-informed care and comprehensive services to help survivors build the skills, strength, and self-esteem they need to develop to their full potential. **We are deeply grateful to our funding partners: Foglia Family Foundation, Canning Foundation, Fitzgerald Family Foundation, The Chicago Bears, and Endeavor Health Community Investment Fund.**

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



Healthy Families

59 FAMILIES

4,140 HOURS OF CARE

Shelter, Inc.'s **Healthy Families Program** is a nationally recognized home visiting program that offers five years of free, one-on-one support for first-time parents who face multiple challenges. Our staff work with parents during a child's most formative years helping parents create an environment where their children can be secure, nurtured, and thrive. Home visiting services break cycles of crisis and strengthen families.

Clinical Care

53 CLIENTS
370 HOURS OF CARE



Crisis, instability, and abuse have a detrimental long-term impact on families and young people. By providing quality **Clinical Care** for emotional healing and recovery, we can equip families and young people with the skills and tools they need for a brighter future. Our Clinical program breaks down barriers to receiving quality mental health care by increasing access and coordinating care.

A Behavioral Health Expansion Initiative Grant from the Cook County Department of Public Health is enabling us to expand our mental health services to underserved areas of Cook County.

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



Transitional Living Program

11 CLIENTS
1,900 DAYS OF CARE
ALL RESIDENTS EMPLOYED

Shelter's **Transitional Living Program (TLP)** is a two-year, voluntary program for young people, ages 17-21, assigned male at birth who will soon age out of the child welfare system. These young people often arrive at TLP lacking the basic life skills we take for granted, like how to budget finances, apply for a job, grocery shop or even do laundry. Programming and support ensure each resident achieves self-sufficiency and independence.

Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program

6 YOUTH SERVED
758 DAYS OF CARE



Some youth have left difficult home situations and need shelter beyond the temporary kindness of friends or the danger and instability of living on the streets. Shelter's Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program helps young people find the **housing** and **resources** they need to ensure their **safety**, improve their well-being, and help them become self-sufficient



Advocacy & Education

3 NEW BOARD
APPOINTMENTS

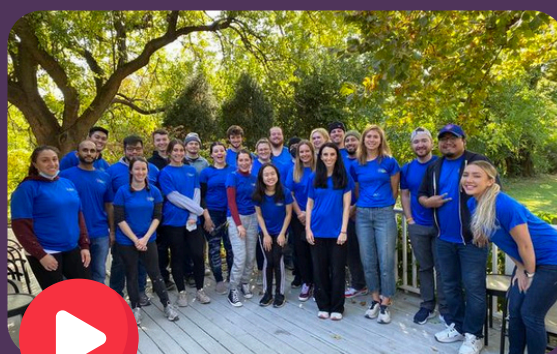
This past year, Executive Director, Carina H. Santa Maria, was appointed to the Illinois Foster Care Council, the Cook County Child Death Review Board, and the Child Policy Board, giving Shelter an opportunity to **shape Illinois child welfare policy**. In addition, staff shared experience and expertise with local educators, social service workers, law enforcement, and more to advocate for at-risk youth.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Stories of Hope & Healing

Staff talk about what it means to work at Shelter and bring **positive change to young people's lives**.



Small Acts of Kindness

Last year, **more than 100 people volunteered** in our homes and office, at events, and around the community. We are so grateful!



A Legacy of Caring

This year, we honored the **20th Anniversary of the Michael Portelli Memorial Golf Outing** and the value of our **long-time partnerships**.



OUR TEAM



REBECCA HELKOWSKI
BOARD PRESIDENT

“We are so grateful to our staff, volunteers, and community partners for their dedication to giving every child in our care the opportunity to thrive.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REBECCA HELKOWSKI
President

JOHN STOMPER
Vice President

J.J. COMISKEY
Treasurer

HEATHER MOSS
Secretary

LARRY COLLINS
GUY W. EISENHUTH
JULIE GIBSON
NINA MCILREE
JENNIFER RYDER
LINDSEY TINTERA



EXECUTIVE STAFF

CARINA H. SANTA MARIA, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director

GINA CIULLA, MSW, LCSW
Associate Director

PATRICE BRAZIL
Human Resources Coordinator

SIMONE WHEELER, C.F.R.E.
Director of Development

CAITLYN LIERMAN, MSW, LSW
Residential Director

CHRISTINA GAYTAN, MSW, LCSW
Foster Care Director

LYNN PUCKELWARTZ, MSW
Healthy Families Program Director

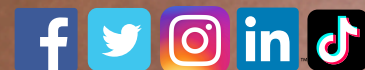
SARAH GALLA, MSW, LSW
Clinical Director



Like stars are to the sky, so are the children to our world.

THEY DESERVE TO SHINE!

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Arlington Heights, IL 60004
shelter@shelter-inc.org
www.shelter-inc.org
24-Hour Referral Line: 847.255.8060



Shelter, Inc. is committed to providing safe, inclusive, and supportive resources for youth and families from all backgrounds and identities.