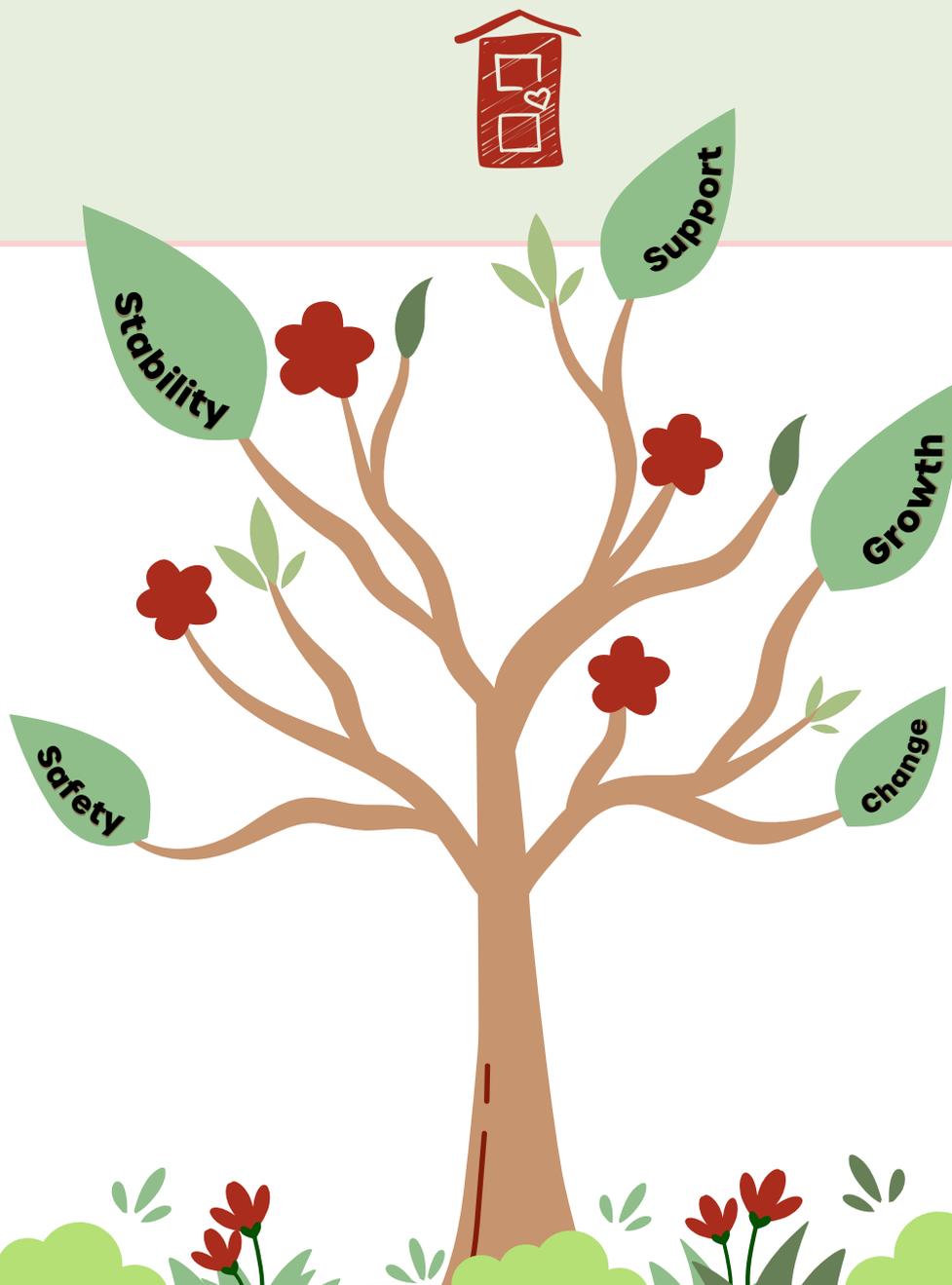


# HEARTH 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

*30 Years of Planting Seeds and Growing Futures*



# REFLECTING ON OUR JOURNEY: HEARTH IN REVIEW



1

## 1989: The Beginning of a movement

Founded as North Hills Affordable Housing after local service providers identified affordable housing as a critical unmet need in the North Hills area of Pittsburgh.

A grassroots effort raised nearly \$1 million to renovate St. Benedict's Academy in Ross Township into 15 apartments for women and children in crisis.



## 1995: Doors Open

HEARTH's first transitional housing program welcomed its first families, providing a pathway to economic self-sufficiency for women with children experiencing homelessness.



**H**omelessness  
**E**nds with  
**A**dvocacy  
**R**esources  
**T**raining and  
**H**ousing

A Safe Place Matters

## 1997: A New Name, A Clear Mission

Renamed to HEARTH -  
Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training, and Housing.

Refocused mission to serve women and children impacted by domestic violence, recognizing it as the leading cause of homelessness among women.



## 2011: Expanding Affordable Housing with Benet Woods

Created 11 permanent, affordable rental housing units for low income families in Ross Township.



## 2013: A Permanent Home in Shaler Township

Relocated to the Zoar Home property in Shaler Township, transforming an abandoned site into HEARTH.

With 16 transitional housing units and 4 permanent affordable housing units, HEARTH is now able to serve 20 families, offering stability in a supportive setting.

## Today

HEARTH continues to provide safe, affordable housing and supportive services for women and children, empowering families to break cycles of trauma and create a stable, independent future.

With a beautiful campus, families have access to playgrounds, a community garden, sports court, field area, food pantry, free store, clothing wardrobe, wellness space, therapy room, and a community space to engage with their children.



**HEARTH**  
A Safe Place Matters





## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As we close 2024 and begin 2025, I want to take a moment to celebrate everything we've accomplished together. It's truly an honor to be part of the HEARTH community—a place where hope, support, and opportunity come to life for women and children overcoming trauma. This year, we've grown, learned, and made a real impact, thanks to the dedication of our families, team members, volunteers, donors, and supporters. Looking ahead, I'm excited for what's to come and grateful to have you as part of this journey—we couldn't do it without you!

- *Christy Pietryga*

## HONORING OUR HEARTH FOUNDERS

In 2024, we had the privilege of hosting two Founders Breakfasts, bringing together the visionaries who built HEARTH with the families who now call it home. These gatherings were more than just meals—they were moments of reflection, gratitude, and inspiration. Our founders shared their stories, their hopes for HEARTH's future, and their continued commitment to supporting our mission.

One of the most meaningful parts of these events was the opportunity for our founders to meet a HEARTH mom and her family, seeing firsthand the impact of their dedication from three decades ago. Their willingness to listen, engage, and leverage their networks in support of HEARTH is a testament to their enduring legacy.

As we approach our 30th anniversary celebration, we're excited to partner with the founders to create an oral history—ensuring their contributions are recognized, remembered, and celebrated for years to come. This video will be presented at our 30th celebration on November 7th 2025.





# FAMILIES AT HEARTH

In 2024, HEARTH served a total of **88 individuals**.



**23 moms** supported



**65 children** received safe housing



**1,177 individuals** served since 1995

## LISA’S JOURNEY: STRENGTH TO SUCCEED

Lisa’s journey to HEARTH was filled with hardship—battling addiction, loss, and an abusive relationship. Her breaking point came when her son was born three months premature and taken into custody. Determined to rebuild, she entered recovery and, after completing a 10-month program, needed a stable place to heal.

She found that at HEARTH.

Moving in on June 14, 2021, Lisa gained more than housing—she found a community that believed in her. HEARTH provided the support, resources, and accountability she needed to rebuild her life. Lisa shared that her biggest accomplishment has been being able to be a present, loving mother, creating a safe and nurturing home for her children. Her journey is a testament to resilience, proving that with support and determination, transformation is possible.



*Lisa and her mother at Purses 24*

Lisa was honored this year with HEARTH’s Strength to Succeed Achievement Award, recognizing her perseverance and success. Her story is a powerful reminder of why HEARTH’s mission matters.



## VOLUNTEERS: CULTIVATING HOPE

At HEARTH, volunteers are the foundation of our work, helping to build brighter futures for families in need. In 2024, **over 100 volunteers** dedicated their time and talent across multiple volunteer events, contributing an incredible **754.48 hours of service**—a value of \$25,267.53 in donated time. Together, they've transformed spaces, uplifted families, and strengthened our community.

### Volunteer Events in 2024

Volunteers supported us in a wide range of meaningful ways this year. Here are some highlights:

- **Childcare Support:** Childcare is at the heart of our volunteer efforts, ensuring moms can attend skill-building workshops, community meetings, and wellness activities with peace of mind. Volunteers provided care during our Monday Night Programming, holiday events, and other key sessions.
- **Community Garden Volunteers:** Assisted with planting, maintaining, and harvesting in our garden, providing a nurturing space for families.
- **AON Community Room Update:** Revitalized our Community Room with new furniture, and created an organized, welcoming space for moms and their children.
- **Norwin Show Choir:** Brought joy to families by hosting two parties—celebrating birthdays and holidays with music, games, and decorations.
- **BNY Mellon Founders Week:** Cleaned and organized the HEARTH campus, inside and out.
- **CLCV Veterans Team:** Designed a childcare training module, secured a safety fence, and relocated the bike shed for a safer play area.
- **EY Connect Day:** Prepared the community garden for winter, cleaned facilities, and helped set up holiday decorations.
- **EQT Volunteer Day:** Supported the Boiler Building cleanup and donated items to the HEARTH Store and Food Pantry.
- **Water Play Day:** The North Hills Community Baptist Church Youth Group filled a day with summer fun, bringing water balloons, sprinklers, and a baby pool for the kids to splash and play!
- **Clothing Volunteers:** Ensured that families had access to essential clothing when they moved in and throughout their stay.



**Thank you to all our 2024 volunteers. Your kindness, time, and energy create ripples of positive change that will grow for years to come.**



## HEARTH BOARD

HEARTH's Board of Directors is a dedicated group of leaders committed to ensuring our program operates efficiently and effectively while continuously growing to meet the needs of our families. Comprised of five committees—Executive, Development, Finance, Governance, and Programs—our board provides essential oversight and strategic guidance.

Michelle Fontana, President	Diane Bickford	Jennifer Hoerster, CPA
Janet Duderstadt, Vice President	Alena Anderson	Colleen Elliott
Randall King, Treasurer	Nick Elliot	Jay (Bob) Vuillemot
Kate Swanson, Secretary	Angela Scotto	James Giel
Brocton G. Skeen	Kimberly Buchheit	Meagan Roberts, LDI
Tess Palmer, LDI	Brian Matthews	Nikki Hudak-Fink, RPh MPH
Jennifer Lawrence	Maxwell Hine	
Tracey Lewis	Kate McKenzie, CAP, D.Sc.	

## BENET WOODS BOARD

The Benet Woods Board plays a vital role in ensuring that HEARTH's Permanent Housing community remains a safe and well-maintained environment for families who have transitioned out of our program and families in need of permanent, affordable housing.

Violet Thompson, President	Thomas Murtha
Bryan Thompson	Brocton G. Skeen
Brandon Baldauf	Janet Duderstadt
Ashley Wagner	

## EMERGING LEADERS BOARD

HEARTH's Emerging Leaders Board (ELB) is a dynamic group of young professionals and community leaders dedicated to supporting our mission.

Brittany Mitzak, President	Reagan Mickey	Anthony Herman
Alyssa Kruse, Vice President	Brandon Bauldof	Lauren Ferianc
Hannah Miller, Secretary	Kate Swanson	Stephanie Haugh
Stephanie Bachman	Mia Siclari	Margo Wright
Jordan Schakner	Samantha Kite	



## THANK YOU DONORS: OUR SEEDS OF GENEROSITY

HEARTH's mission is made possible by the generosity of our dedicated supporters. Your contributions provide safe housing, vital resources, and life-changing programs for the families we serve. Because of you, mothers and children at HEARTH can rebuild their lives with stability, support, and hope for the future.

We are deeply grateful to the following donors who gave \$1,000 or more in 2024. Your commitment fuels our work and empowers families on their journey toward independence.

Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE)  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
John R. and Margaret S. McCartan Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania - Impact Grant  
Patricia and Hayes Stover  
Comcast NBCUniversal  
Anne and Michael Mlecko and family  
The Ann & Frank Cahouet Foundation  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Arconic Foundation  
Lisa and Randy King  
CentiMark Foundation  
CNX Foundation  
PNC Foundation  
Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation  
Ingomar United Methodist Church  
Westmoreland Electric Services, LLC  
Richard J Madden Foundation  
Costa Contracting, Inc.  
A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust  
Gayle and Paytrick Manning  
Savinis, Kane & Gallucci, LLC  
The Essential Foundation  
Arjun Kashmag Foundaton  
Jewish Women's Foundation  
United Way of South Western Pennsylvania  
Giving2Grow  
Barb and Charlie Smith  
David and Keri Heaton  
PITT OHIO  
Inspired Women South  
Walter Peterson, Jr.  
Ansys  
Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation  
Kristine L. Schlindler Memorial Fund  
Thomas Marshall Foundation

Donna and Bill Gaughan  
Ronald Symons  
Linda Christian  
Roger and Kathleen Eichner  
Snee Reinhardt Charitable Foundation  
Kimberly and Rick Roadarmel  
Jay and Julie Vuillemot  
The Anne R. Monroe Foundation  
Betsy Farmer  
Allegheny Financial Group  
Ernst & Young, LLP  
Michelle Fontana  
UPMC and UPMC Health Plan  
Susan and Victor DiBattista  
Rycon, Inc  
Erika and Glenn Kolod  
New York Life Insurance Company  
Donald & Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation  
Linda Christen Family Charitable Fund  
Target Circle  
Derek and Barbara Eichelberger  
Colleen and Nick Elliott  
Brentwood Bank  
Fred Donatelli & Son Cemetary Memorials  
Burns & Scalo Roofing Company  
Matthew Frist  
Ann Turnbull  
Jackie and Chuck Fusina  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh  
North Boroughs Rotary Club  
Brocton Skeen  
Precision Electrical Contractors  
Hatzel and Beuhler, Inc.  
Brittany Hurst  
Stephen and Rachel Cupcheck  
Farls Family Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Janet Duderstadt  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
David and Irina Grundler

Ann Sekely  
David and Kimberly Watson  
Steven Woodring  
Anne Giannetti-Osborn  
Jared Mains  
McKamish Inc  
Maxwell Hine  
Jenny Winters  
BNY Mellon Corporation's Community Partnership  
Holly Kreisel-Jones  
Barbra Marsden  
Carol and William Haskins  
Thomas Taormina  
Megan Henney  
Suzanne Gibbs  
Parkwood Presbyterian Church  
Patrick McDermott  
Jennifer Hall  
Daniel Holodnik  
John Hawrylak  
ALL Together Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Dennis Crawford  
Becky Witt  
Patricia Rowlands  
St. Matthew Parish - Association of Ladies of Charity  
M&S Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Third Presbyterian Church  
Cigna Health  
John Yokim  
Longitude IT Consulting  
Nikki and Jeff Fink  
Lee and Myrna Silverman Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Barbara Wolfe-Lustig  
Sebastian Mueller Charitable Fund of Eden Hall Foundation  
Kieran Fallon  
Tom J. Tabor



## GROWING TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS

This year, countless organizations and individuals helped HEARTH provide safety, stability, and support to families in need. From education and wellness to special celebrations and holiday giving, your generosity has brought hope and joy to HEARTH families. Thank you for being part of our mission!

### ♥ **Education & Family Support**

Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF)  
Parent Chat  
Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry  
Women Against Abusive Relationships (WAAR)

### **Events & Community Giving** ♥

Brentwood Bank  
Norwin Show Choir & Expressions in Harmony  
Beverly's PGH  
Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU)  
Heart For Her  
Cakes For Care

### ♥ **Essential Needs & Safety**

Centimark  
Shaler Township Police  
Your Home  
Drive On 412

### **Holiday Giving & Special Support** ♥

Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills  
Knights of Columbus  
Hampton Presbyterian Church  
St. Paul United Methodist Church  
North Hills Community Baptist Church Youth  
Ladies from Carson Middle School  
VIVO Restaurant  
Perry Highlands Women's Association  
Amy Bennett & Bennett Family  
Terri Farringer  
Norwin Show Choir & Expressions in Harmony  
Holiday Family Sponsors  
Anne Mlecko & Family



## SIGNATURE EVENTS: NURTURING OUR MISSION

**Tees & Traps, June 2024:** HEARTH hosted our annual Tees & Traps event which brought together over 100 golfers and supporters for a day of friendly competition and philanthropy. Participants enjoyed the beautiful Longue Vue golf course, skill challenges, and networking, all while raising critical funds to sustain HEARTH’s program.

**Block Party with Eleventh Hour Event, July 2024:** This lively summer event, organized by our Emerging Leaders Board, featured live music from The Mingo Creek Band, food trucks, basket raffles, and brews from Eleventh Hour Brewing Co. Funds raised supported HEARTH’s mission, particularly our efforts to provide mental health services to children.

**Hats Off to HEARTH, September 2024:** Held at the elegant PPG Wintergarden, this wine-tasting gala celebrated transformation and resilience. Guests enjoyed fine wines, curated food pairings, and live music, but the highlight of the evening was hearing from a past participant. She courageously shared her story about the challenges that brought her and her son to HEARTH and how the support she received helped her rebuild their lives. We are deeply grateful for her bravery and willingness to inspire others with her journey.

**Purses with a Purpose, December 2024:** This festive holiday event combined fashion and philanthropy, as attendees bid on designer handbags and unique accessories to support HEARTH’s programs. During the event, another past participant shared her heartfelt story, reflecting on the obstacles she and her family faced and how HEARTH helped them find stability and hope. We thank her for her strength and for inspiring us all with her resilience.



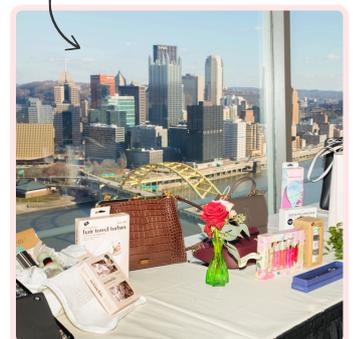
**Tees & Traps 24**

**ELB at Block Party for HEARTH**



**HEARTH Team & Speaker at Hats Off to HEARTH**

**Purses with a Purpose 24**





## SIGNATURE EVENTS COMMITTEES

A huge thank you to our incredible Signature Event Committees for Tees & Traps, Hats Off, and Purses with a Purpose! Your dedication, time, and hard work make these events possible, helping us raise crucial funds to support HEARTH's mission. From planning and organizing to making each event a success, we are so grateful for your commitment to creating a lasting impact for the families we serve. We couldn't do it without you!

### **Tees & Traps Committee:**

Brian Matthews  
Colleen Elliot  
Dave Heaton  
Nick Elliot  
Nick Schafer  
Brandon Bauldof  
Elizabeth Kofmehl



### **Hats Off Committee:**

Colleen Elliot  
Pat Saxton  
Jennifer Lawrence  
Joyce Papcun  
Lisa Plant  
Jim McBrier  
Nikki Fink

### **Purses Committee:**

Brandon Bauldof  
Kate Swanson  
Mia Siclari  
Molly Allwein  
Samantha Kite  
Brittany Mitzak  
Alyssa Kruse  
Hannah Miller  
Stephanie Bachman  
Jordan Schakner  
Reagan Mickey  
Anthony Herman  
Lauren Ferianc  
Stephanie Haugh  
Margo Wright





## FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENTS: MOMENTS OF JOY



### **Mother's Day: BloomShop**

HEARTH moms enjoyed a special BloomShop workshop with Brandi from Serenity Bloom, creating beautiful floral arrangements. Meanwhile, children in childcare picked out heartfelt gifts to surprise their moms.

### **Birthday Party with the Norwin Show Choir**

The Norwin Show Choir helped us celebrate all HEARTH children's birthdays in one big party filled with singing, dancing, bounce houses, and delicious food—making every child feel special.



### **Back 2 School Event**

In partnership with Brentwood Bank, families enjoyed a BBQ while receiving essential school supplies. Shaler Police Department donated bikes and provided safety lessons, and the Bunson Bakers treated kids to a fun edible cookie dough activity.



### **Enrichment Activities in Childcare**

Thanks to partnerships with HCEF, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Art Expressions, Attack Theatre, and PPG Science Education Council, children engaged in hands-on STEM projects, drumming, dance, theatre, and creative arts to foster growth and self-expression.



### **Boo Bash & Trunk or Treat: Fall Festivities**

Families enjoyed a fun-filled night with a pumpkin patch, costumes, treats, and games. The Munson Foundation, Heart for Her, Millie's Ice Cream, and the Bunson Bakers made Boo Bash extra sweet. Accenture volunteers decorated their cars and donated candy, books, and wellness gifts for moms for Trunk or Treat at HEARTH.



### **Holiday Party with Norwin Show Choir**

The Norwin Show Choir spread holiday cheer with a festive performance, bringing joy, music, fun activities, and thoughtful gifts to HEARTH families as they celebrated the season together.





## PLANTING ROOTS AT HEARTH: SERVICES

### Program Services

- Furnished and prepared 23 units for families, providing essentials like bedding, kitchenware, household supplies, toys, books, and welcome baskets.
- Ensured all families had tailored access to childcare and transportation, removing key barriers to stability.

### Monday Night Programming

A weekly opportunity for HEARTH families to learn, connect, and grow through:

- Skill-building: Financial literacy with Dollar Bank, parenting discussions through Parent Chat.
- Community: Vision board workshops to encourage goal-setting and empowerment.
- Wellness: Group therapy sessions led by Anchorpoint Counseling.

### After School Program

- In partnership with HCEF, HEARTH launched an After School Program on Monday afternoons, providing a structured and enriching environment for school-aged children.
- Looking ahead to 2025, HEARTH will expand this program to serve more children and enhance learning opportunities in partnership with ABK Learning Center.

## THE HEARTH TEAM: ROOTED IN DEDICATION

When a new family moves into HEARTH, our team works seamlessly to ensure they feel welcomed and supported. **Kyona, our Program Director**, connects with the mom over the phone to provide an introduction to HEARTH's services. **Janet, our Night Manager**, prepares the family's unit with essential furnishings, while **Curt, our Facilities Coordinator**, ensures the space is clean and safe. Upon arrival, **Jenny and Jessica, our Family Support Specialists**, welcome the family and provide immediate guidance, offering emotional support and case management. **Morgan, our Community Engagement Coordinator**, coordinates volunteers to meet clothing needs and enrolls children in the After School Program.

**Mary, our Finance Director**, helps manage finances and provides financial support to the family during their transition. **Megan, our Development Director**, secures grants and donor support, ensuring HEARTH can continue its mission. **Danny, our Office Manager**, handles office operations and organizes donation drops to meet families' needs. Finally, **Christy, our CEO**, oversees the entire process, offering continued support to the family throughout their stay.

Together, the HEARTH team creates a welcoming, safe, and supportive environment for families, helping them on their journey to stability.

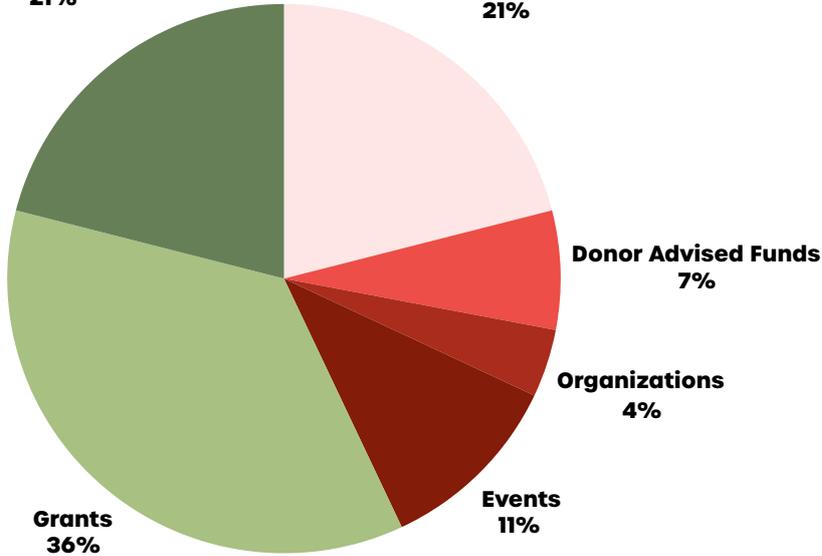


## 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**Interest & Other Income**  
21%

**Individual Giving**  
21%

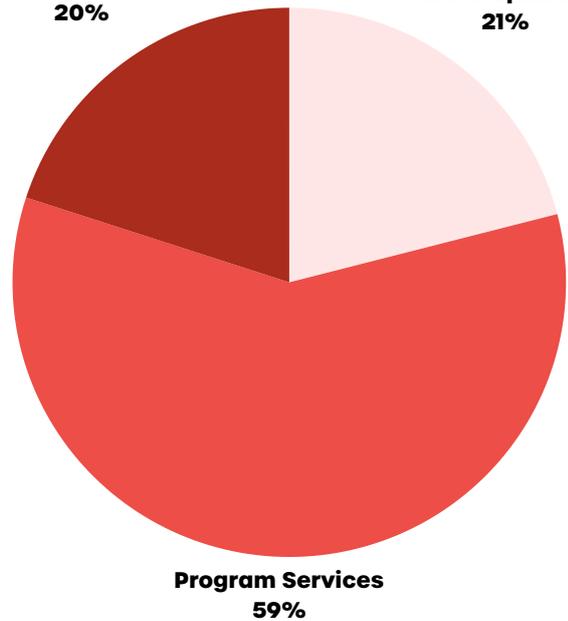
**Income Total:**  
**\$1,018,664**



**Administrative**  
20%

**Development**  
21%

**Expenses Total:**  
**\$1,213,446**



## END OF YEAR APPEAL

Thanks to your generosity, we surpassed our initial goal and raised an incredible \$120,000 during our End of Year Appeal! This support will allow us to focus on expanding childcare services for HEARTH families, ensuring mothers have the resources they need to build stability and independence. A special thank you to an Anonymous HEARTH Supporter for the \$10,000 match for new donors—what an incredible moment! We are so grateful to our donors for making this possible!



## LOOKING AHEAD: BRANCHING OUT IN 2025

As we enter 2025, HEARTH is excited to expand our impact through key initiatives that strengthen support for families on their journey to stability.

- **Expanding Child Services:** Thanks to the generosity of PCCD BOOST (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency - Building Opportunity through Out of School Time) and our dedicated donors, we are expanding after-school care for school-aged children in partnership with ABK Learning Center. This program will provide a safe, structured environment where children can learn and grow while their mothers work toward self-sufficiency.
- **Enhancing Mental Health & Wellness Support:** With support from our McCune Grant, HEARTH will introduce on-site licensed therapists, ensuring families have access to crucial mental health services as they heal from trauma and rebuild their lives.
- **Partnerships with the Housing Authority:** We are deepening collaborations to offer homeownership programs and voucher opportunities, helping HEARTH families transition into stable, permanent housing.
- **Your Home Initiative:** A volunteer-led effort partnering with HEARTH to furnish homes for families graduating from our program. This initiative ensures that as families move forward, they do so with comfort, dignity, and a true sense of home.
- **30th Anniversary Celebration:** On November 7, 2025, at the Circuit Center, we will commemorate three decades of HEARTH's impact. This special evening will honor past HEARTH families, celebrate our history, and bring together our community in support of a future where every family has a safe place to call home.

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## CALL TO ACTION

Join us in creating a lasting impact for HEARTH families! Together, we can ensure every family has a safe place to call home.

- ♥ **Become a Safe Place Partner:** Join our monthly donor community to provide steady support for childcare, mental health services, and housing.
- ♥ **Give Your Way:** Make a one-time gift, donate in honor of a loved one, or explore planned giving.
- ♥ **Support Through In-Kind Giving:** Help families by donating essential household items, pantry staples, and more.
- ♥ **Fundraise for HEARTH:** Host an event, start a fundraiser, or rally your community.

Visit [hearthpgh.org/donate/](https://hearthpgh.org/donate/) to explore all the ways you can make an impact



# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON OUR JOURNEY

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for every community partner, supporter, donor, board member, committee member, volunteer, and group that has stood beside HEARTH. Your generosity—through time, resources, and commitment—has provided safety, stability, and hope for the families we serve.

Because of you, HEARTH continues to be a safe place that matters. We are excited to continue this journey together and look forward to another year of creating lasting change.

With gratitude,

*The HEARTH Team*





## HEARTH STAFF

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## KEEP UP WITH HEARTH IN 2025



[hearthpgh.org](http://hearthpgh.org)



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Hills Affordable  
Housing



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