2020 Annual Report
Maya Angelou once said, “You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.” As we reflect on this past year we often first consider the ways we have been challenged, and the times when we felt overwhelmed. But just as important, if not more so, is remembering how we have continually risen to the occasion.

When New York City became the COVID-19 epicenter, drawing the attention from onlookers around the world, some said, “That’s it — New York City is over.” Those people, however, do not know the grit of New Yorkers, the resilience of our staff, or the strength of the communities we serve. They also do not know how powerful the trust is between organizations like Children’s Aid and the people of New York City. We are reminded once again of the strides we can make when we unite.

That resilience and trust will be more important than ever as our young people confront learning loss, the digital divide, and the hidden consequences of COVID-19. But we will recover, together, because we choose not to let ourselves be reduced.

Phoebe C. Boyer
President and CEO

Amy Engel Scharf
Chair, Board of Trustees
Children's Aid helps children in poverty to succeed and thrive. We do this by providing comprehensive supports to children, youth, and their families in targeted high-needs New York City neighborhoods.

**Mission**

All children have access to the opportunities and supports they need to realize their fullest potential and lead successful, healthy, and productive lives.

**Vision**

Proper mask wearing and physical distancing are supported and required at Children’s Aid sites. While some of the photos represented within illustrate the challenges of mask wearing, in each scenario, physical distancing and safety were upheld. We do love to see the smiles behind these necessary shields, and are glad to show them to you as well.
If the past year has taught us anything, it is what the word essential really means: those people and resources we literally cannot live without. For many New York City families, however, Children’s Aid was essential even before the pandemic. For them, financial hardship, health disparities, food insecurity, and lack of educational resources were everyday realities. Our place in their lives became more important than ever.

Every year, Children’s Aid provides comprehensive academic, health, and family services to help children in poverty succeed and thrive. However, this was no typical year, and so, like everyone, we had to pivot. Last year, we shifted to an emergency response that focused on providing essentials to every family. At the same time, we ensured that the potential of all children could be realized — even during lockdowns and school closings.
In 2020, Children’s Aid responded by connecting families to critical resources and opportunities.

Food.
Access to food is an essential every child deserves, but when the pandemic and its associated economic hardships swept through New York City, it emptied grocery store shelves and kitchen cabinets. Many children and their families experienced food insecurity before the pandemic, and that insecurity ignited a hunger crisis.

Shelter.
Among the most essential necessities is a stable home. For our youth in foster care attending college, that stability was threatened when campus housing closed last spring, leaving them homeless. Other families we serve grappled with eviction threats and family instability resulting from economic hardship.

Health.
COVID-19 took a particularly harsh toll on families living in poverty, claiming the lives of some of our children’s family members and guardians, and causing lingering health issues for others. Beyond these tragedies, children’s mental health suffered from the abrupt closure of schools, the lack of interaction with peers, and the stressors of parental unemployment.

Education.
Keeping kids’ schooling on track continues to be a challenge facing parents and educators. While it is essential that school-aged children stay engaged, socio-economic disparities in technology and internet access, and the disruptions of opening and closing schools, have threatened to undermine the foundational education every child needs.
Food.

Ensuring our kids and families don’t go hungry.

As workers lost their jobs and stores across New York shuttered, requests for food assistance to Children’s Aid more than doubled. As parents and children struggled to survive with insufficient food, our staff on the front lines increased emergency distribution across all sites. For safety, we set up several outdoor distribution tents.

This provided relief for many of our families, but we had to find more customized solutions for those who found themselves homebound. Some could not leave their homes because they had family members with preexisting health conditions and could not risk contracting COVID-19. For others, their immigration status left them cut off from government pandemic relief, and fear of unpredictable Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids caused them to isolate and forgo public food distributions. For these families in an untenable position, we delivered groceries and nutritious meals directly to their homes.

“There’s widespread need. Our families are really relying on us.”

— Whitney Reuling, Director of Food and Nutrition

50% of Children’s Aid families are estimated to be food insecure.
83,000
pandemic hunger relief packages provided through the end of the 2020 calendar year.

300,000
pounds of produce distributed from March through December 2020.

20,000
individuals have received food relief throughout the pandemic.

Anaeli, age 2
Early Childhood Participant

As Anaeli’s second birthday approached in April 2020, her family faced the prospect of celebrating with minimal food — both her parents had lost work due to the pandemic. They turned to Children’s Aid’s early childhood program, where Anaeli is enrolled, to ask for help with the essentials. We delivered food assistance in the spring and summer, and her mom was so grateful that she sent us a picture taken on Anaeli’s birthday.

Morrison Nwosu
Food and Nutrition Staff

As our food box program coordinator, Morrison promotes a fruit-and-vegetable inclusive diet to our children and their families and provides healthy food access in areas that lack it. In the pandemic, he logged many overtime hours to convert our food and nutrition services into emergency food relief and to scale up distribution directly to families. His upbeat personality brings light into our families’ lives, which is more valuable than ever.

Aidan, age 4
Health Connections Participant

When Marlin’s 4-year-old son, Aidan, was diagnosed with special needs, our health staff began creating a medical plan for him. But due to the pandemic, another need quickly emerged: Marlin lost her job and ran out of food. Her Children’s Aid caseworker delivered hunger relief packages directly to their home so they could survive the difficult months. Marlin now has a steadier source of income, and we are helping her secure additional employment and continuing to coordinate Aidan’s medical care.
Health.

Caring for the well-being of our community during a crisis.

From the outset of the pandemic, our doctors, nurses, and therapists braved the front lines of the biggest health crisis of our generation. For patients who needed in-person care, our clinics continued to remain operational and provided essential care. Many of our services quickly transitioned to telehealth, which included COVID-19 medical guidance, case management, and psychotherapy, ensuring both continuity of care and staff safety. The crisis also compelled our staff to go above and beyond their traditional methods of care. Many of our staff members who helped manage complex medical cases visited homes to drop off medicine or food — despite not being required to — in order to better support families experiencing the worst of COVID-19. And when Governor Andrew Cuomo sent urgent requests to medical providers for extra help at understaffed hospitals, several of Children’s Aid medical staff volunteered at a local hospital’s COVID-19 ward.

“It’s been so important to address emotional as well as physical needs.”

— Rhonda Braxton, Vice President of Health and Wellness
It’s been so important to address emotional as well as physical needs. — Rhonda Braxton, Vice President of Health and Wellness

Medical, mental health, and dental appointments provided from March through December 2020.

When the pandemic began, families were scared, but had a trusted resource in whom to turn: Tara Herlocher. As a nurse practitioner at our Harlem-based health clinic, Tara helps families take precautions against COVID-19 and tests youth for the virus. Today, Tara is counseling vaccine-hesitant families. Tara recalled, “One patient said to me, ‘Tara, if you told me you had the vaccine, that would make a difference.’” Now she can do exactly that — Tara got vaccinated in January.

In high school, Leslie’s attendance was slipping. Her mother, Silvia, worked with Children’s Aid to create an attendance plan, and dreamed of sending Leslie to college one day. But COVID-19 cut that dream short — Silvia contracted the virus in March 2020, and passed away a few weeks later. Leslie now lives with her older sister and receives mental health support and grief counseling from our therapists. “Now, I’m planning on college,” said Leslie, “for my mother.”

Ethan attends one of our early childhood programs in the Bronx. Before the pandemic, his teachers recommended interventions for his verbal and motor skills. Ethan began receiving twice-weekly occupational therapy. When learning went remote, we instructed his parents through remote learning software to continue his treatment at home. In spite of these pandemic-related adjustments, Ethan has made significant improvement in his speaking abilities and movement, and is on track for success in grade school.

83% of children ages 3-7 receiving medical care in our community health centers had a well-child visit.

100% of high school youth who received referrals for mental health services received treatment.

34,803 medical, mental health, and dental appointments provided from March through December 2020.
Providing safe, strong, and loving homes for children.

COVID-19 has intensified the pressures many children and families were already feeling. Children’s Aid has always worked with families at risk of entering the world of foster care to help stabilize the home and avoid the removal of children. This work became even more critical when the pandemic added unique layers of familial stress. We made critical interventions to keep families together.

We transitioned our family visits to virtual but continued in-person visits to promote child safety. We supported and helped our foster parents provide loving homes for those children who did require placements into foster care — in some cases after losing a biological parent to COVID-19.

When the threat of homelessness hung over families due to illness or unemployment, we provided emergency rent relief and worked with homeless shelters and internet providers to ensure our students had broadband access to stay connected to online learning.

“Families that have always made rent now struggle to do so.”

— Johnnymae Williams-Gales, Director of the Office of Client Advocacy

7,804 children are currently living in foster homes in New York City.
As COVID-19 spread, college students in our foster care program had to vacate their dorm rooms, which had become their homes. They had to relinquish their hard-earned independence to return to foster care. Dr. Brenda Triplett and her education team worked tirelessly to help students make these housing transitions and successfully secured emergency housing placements for them. The team also provided students with supports to sustain their emotional well-being and educational success during remote learning.

Regina lost her parents as a child and was placed into our foster care program. Over the years, we helped her earn her GED and begin college, provided culinary arts training, and offered ongoing mental health counseling and life coaching. As she aged out of foster care in the midst of the pandemic, we assisted her with securing permanent supportive housing — providing her with a safe and stable place to live during this crisis and beyond.

Alexander is in the process of aging out of foster care. To help with his journey into adulthood independence, Children’s Aid secured an apartment for him in Washington Heights. In early 2020, he was gainfully employed at a bakery, but lost his job when COVID-19 disrupted the bakery’s business. He fell behind on his bills. To maintain his housing and stability until unemployment benefits kicked in, we provided him with emergency cash assistance.

98% of families who received one of our family crisis interventions avoided foster care placements last year.

4,091 in-person and virtual visits were made by child welfare staff in March 2020 alone.

195 children in our foster care programs were placed into permanent homes last year.

Regina, age 21
Youth in Foster Care

Alexander, age 20
Youth in Foster Care

Dr. Brenda Triplett
Foster Care Staff
Making sure learning never stops — despite the challenges.

Child development experts warn that children in low-income households are disproportionately likely to fall behind academically as a result of the pandemic. In fact, research from the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year estimates the average American student could fall seven months behind academically, while Latinx and Black students could fall nine and 10 months behind, respectively.

To help families maintain stability while meeting children’s educational, social-emotional, and health care needs, we adjusted how we deliver many of our services: we converted 19 community schools and 10 early childhood centers into virtual learning programs; we leveraged app-based educational platforms to provide academic enrichment; and we distributed learning devices to our students with limited access to technology. Our staff also curated at-home activities tied to our existing age-specific curricula, so that after-school programming, tutoring, GED training, and college and career prep could continue.

“Distance has created a gap. We bridge it with both technology and care.”

— Moria Cappio, Vice President of Early Childhood Programs
Courtney has served Children’s Aid for 23 years and currently oversees our college success program and career readiness initiatives. She is responsible for awarding scholarships, connecting youth to trade schools, and helping our alumni get the support they need to complete their degrees. Since the pandemic transformed so much, Courtney supports her team as they work with college students — like Kendra — to navigate the uncharted waters of enrollment, class registration, and remote learning.

Matias, age 2
Early Childhood Participant

Remote learning is a challenge for students and parents alike, but for a child like Matias, who needs speech therapy, it can be even more complex. When schools went remote, Matias could have fallen through the cracks. But thanks to dedicated Children’s Aid staff from our Bronx Early Childhood Center, Matias continued to receive virtual educational lessons, and his parents participated in routine virtual check-ins. Matias’ mom and dad say he is making real progress in his speech and learning abilities.

Kendra, age 18
Adolescence Program Participant

The first in her family to attend college, Kendra is a freshman at Clark Atlanta University. Kendra participated in nearly a dozen of our initiatives and activities in high school that helped pave the way for her success, including college prep programs and internship opportunities. During COVID-19, Kendra gained summer job experience by staffing our pandemic relief hotline to help families and received assistance navigating college enrollment when her freshman year went virtual.

Courtney Carrera-Ghatan
College and Career Staff

96% of surveyed families reported that our remote learning programs met or exceeded their expectations.

98% of high school graduates in our targeted programs were accepted to at least one college.

2,500 youth enrolled in our summer 2020 virtual or in-person programming, classes, and internships.
Every year, Children’s Aid provides the essentials to about 50,000 New York City children and their family members. In a normal year, we provide academic, health, and family services in the neighborhoods where there are the highest concentrations of childhood poverty. We are located at more than 40 program sites across the city and Westchester County.

But 2020 was anything but normal. We pivoted and shifted focus to deliver retooled, customized services to children and families in new ways. Nutrition activities transitioned into hunger relief; health care became telehealth care; and learning took place through screens at home. At a time of great uncertainty, Children’s Aid was a trusted resource and calming presence for families. We delivered services directly to homes so families in quarantine could stay safe and kept some of our sites open while adhering to the highest health protocols.

Additionally, our leadership and staff sat on Mayor Bill de Blasio’s reopening committees, advocated for broadband access for remote learning, and hosted workshops and trainings on how to best navigate education during the pandemic, reaching more than 1,500 teachers, educators, and administrators.
In Fiscal Year 2020, Children’s Aid served 48,899 children and family members.

Online and in-person: support, community, and care.

- Provided 10,000 virtual mental health sessions in the first four months of the pandemic.
- Distributed remote devices and conducted virtual learning to 6,000 students.
- Delivered 1,637 food packages to homes throughout the pandemic.

Program Sites  As of February 1, 2021

- Armory Track
- Bronx Career and College Preparatory High School
- Bronx Community School
  - Children’s Aid College Prep Charter School (Gr. K-5)
- Bronx Early Childhood Center
- Bronx Family Services Center
- Bronx Health Center and Foster Care Services
- Brooklyn Family Services Center
- Central Park East II
- Charles Drew Campus
  - Frederick Douglass Academy III Secondary School
  - I.S. 219 New Venture School
  - Kappa
- C.S. 61 Francisco Oller
- Curtis High School
- Drew Hamilton Early Childhood Center
- Dunlevy Milbank Community Center
- East Harlem Community Center
- Executive Headquarters
- Fairmont-Samara Campus
  - Fairmont Neighborhood School
  - Samara Community School
- Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School
- Frederick Douglass Community Center
- Goodhue Community Center
- Harlem Family Services Center
- Hope Leadership Academy
- I.S. 61 William A. Morris
- The Lexington Academy
- Manhattan Family Services Center
- Manhattan General Preventive Services
- Mirabal Sisters Campus
  - M.S. 319 Maria Teresa
  - M.S. 324 Patria Mirabal
- M.S. 301 Paul L. Dunbar
- National Center for Community Schools
- Next Generation Center
- P.S. 5 Ellen Lurie
- P.S. 8 Luis Bellard
- P.S. 152 Dyckman Valley
- Richmond Early Childhood Center
- Salomé Ureña Campus
  - City College Academy of the Arts (Gr. 6-12)
  - M.S. 322
- Staten Island Family Services Center
- Taft Early Childhood Center
- Wagon Road Camp (Chappaqua, NY)
- Whitney Young Jr. Campus
  - Children’s Aid College Prep Charter School (Gr. 6-8)
  - C.S. 211
  - I.S. 3318 Math, Science & Technology Through Arts

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Beyond the Basics.

Addressing the needs of children and families through public policy advocacy.

Children’s Aid is primarily a direct service organization for children, providing more than 100 programs in academics, health, and family services geared toward breaking the cycle of poverty. But we go beyond direct service, and incorporate advocacy at the local, state, and federal level. We help our nonprofit and government partners implement effective models.

The pandemic exacerbates existing inequities, and that is especially true for low-income families. That’s why our advocacy work is more important than ever. Though our Public Policy team’s work has become more virtual, like much else, it has continued in full force. We have fought against budget cuts to youth services and community school programs, promoted census participation, met with elected officials, testified at city council hearings, and more. We also kept up our budget advocacy efforts at city, state, and federal levels for our priority areas including community schools, after-school and summer programs, early childhood education, and child welfare. This year, our priorities list has expanded to include advocating for equitable COVID-19 relief for our communities.
Breanna, age 11  
School Age Participant

Breanna attends our after-school program at The Lexington Academy in East Harlem, learning about current events and engaging in other enrichment activities. Last spring, the murder of Black Americans weighed heavily on her mind.

“I was like ‘Wow, this is the world that we’re living in,’” she said. “I couldn’t put it into words how disappointed I was and how saddened I was that these tragedies happened.”

Breanna was compelled to do something about it. She created posters and then organized a march supporting Black Lives Matter, attracting neighbors, teachers, and Bronx community leaders. Since then, she has been invited to speak at a march in Central Park, and has plans to continue her activism.

“Rooting out systemic inequities.”

With an understanding that racism is a root cause of the inequities undermining the health and success of our children, families, and communities, Children’s Aid has affirmed and amplified our commitment to anti-racism. We issued public statements in solidarity with racial justice efforts, added our support to multiple sign-on letters highlighting the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on our communities, and advocated for additional investments. We also encouraged city and state legislators to amend laws that unfairly target low-income families of color — and we will continue the momentum onward.

“We work to dismantle structural racism and longstanding inequities.”

— Rose DeStefano,  
Senior Director of Collective Impact
We are pleased to present our 2020 financial report based on our audited financial statements for the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2020. We raised $148 million in operating revenue for the year, while spending $146.3 million on operating expenses, which were allocated 82.8% toward program services, 14.9% toward management and general, and 2.3% toward fundraising costs.

Children’s Aid ended FY 2020 with a $1.7 million surplus from operations, but with an overall deficit of $4.5 million. The deficit was due to pension actuarial losses, and investment portfolio spending in excess of returns. The pandemic caused a reduction in government funding, but we compensated for much of these losses through the generosity of private supporters and by successfully advocating for the reinstatement of some of the government funding. We continue to have a diversified source of government, private, and internal funding streams, and we also have a prudent amount of reserves. We finished the year with an expanded balance sheet, having total assets of $470.4 million.

These are just some of the highlights from FY 2020. Please visit our website at ChildrensAidNYC.org/about/financials for our complete independently audited financial statements for FY 2020 and earlier years, along with our public charity IRS federal form 990 informational tax return.
Five-Year Financial Analysis

FY 2020 Revenue and Expense

**OPERATING REVENUE**

$148.0 MILLION

- Government: 60% | $88.3 million
- Contributions: 18% | $27.2 million
- Fees and Other Income: 12% | $17.8 million
- Board-Approved Use of Reserves: 9% | $13.0 million
- Net Assets Released: 1% | $1.7 million

**OPERATING EXPENSE**

$146.3 MILLION

- Child Welfare and Family Services: 33% | $48.0 million
- Youth: 24% | $34.6 million
- Health and Wellness: 13% | $19.0 million
- Early Childhood: 12% | $17.4 million
- Collective Impact & National Center for Community Schools: 1% | $2.1 million

**Program Services**
- Management and General: 15% | $21.8 million
- Fundraising: 2% | $3.4 million
Thank you.

The Children’s Aid Annual Report celebrates gifts made during the fiscal year 2020, from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report. Should you notice an error or omission, please accept our apologies and notify the Development Department at 212.949.4936.

FY 2020 Patrons

Foundations and Individuals

Children’s Aid is extremely grateful to the following foundations, individuals, trusts, and estates for their generous support. Amounts shown reflect gifts of $2,500 and more in fiscal year 2020.

$1,000,000+

- The Carson Family Charitable Trust
- Stephanie and Chase Coleman
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund
- Robin Hood Foundation
- In Memory of Melvin R. Seiden
- Estate of Rosalie K. Stahl

$500,000+

- Clark Foundation
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- Tiger Foundation
- Estate of Cynthia Van Husan
- The Wallace Foundation
- Anonymous

$250,000+

- Judy and Jamie Dimon
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Dedicated to helping New York City children thrive.

Leslie & Ashish Bhutani
Children’s Aid Supporters

It started in 1990, when Leslie won a raffle item at one of our fundraising events. Every year since then, the Bhutani have offered personal and corporate support of our teen health services, college and career success programs, and other initiatives — efforts that became especially crucial during the pandemic. “We knew that we had to continue supporting an organization helping the next generation of children in New York City. These people are amazing heroes,” Leslie said. Leslie and Ashish are our heroes, too.

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For more information, please contact us at: giving@ChildrensAidNYC.org or 212.949.4936.

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