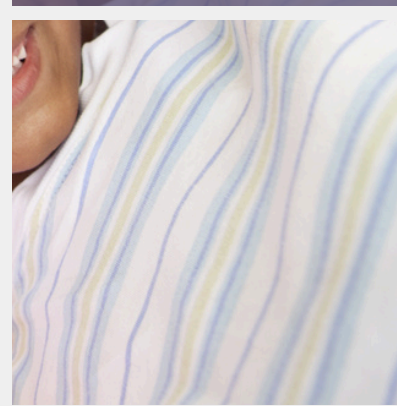
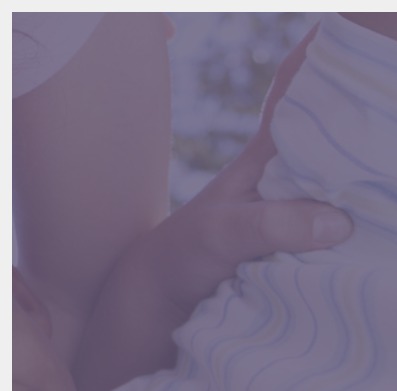
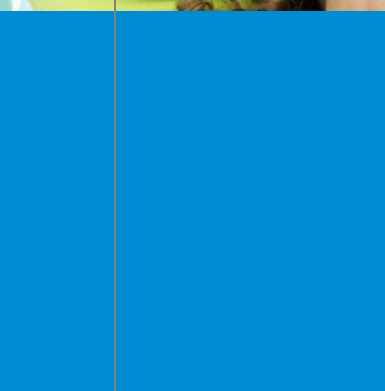


Hands Across
The Water

2023 Annual Report

Hands Across The Water supports and empowers children and families through inclusive, strength-based services.





HATW

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER

Our Mission

Hands Across The Water supports and empowers children and families through inclusive, strengths-based services.

Our Vision

We envision a community where every child is valued and has a safe home and loving family where they can thrive.

Board of Directors

- Rick Modglin-Green, President
- Mary Gladstone-Highland, Vice President
- Belinda Needham, Secretary
- Darlene Helzerman, Treasurer
- Julius Buzzard, Board Member
- Julie Roesch, Board Member
- William Grenawitzke, Board Member
- Victor DiGiovanni, Board Member

Hands Across The Water (HATW) is proud to part of the Michigan Federation for Children and Families, the National Council for Adoption, and to be Hague-accredited through the Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity. HATW has been annually recognized by the Human Rights Campaign for supporting and serving LGBT youth and families since 2011.



Letter from the Executive Director

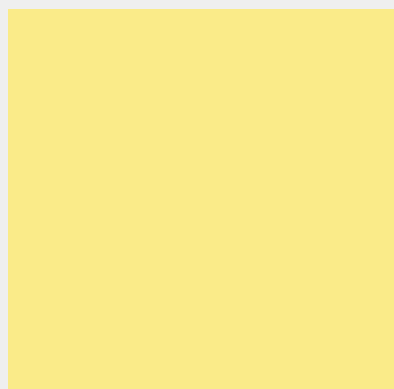
Dear HATW friends and supporters,

Reflecting on 2023, the words resilience and adaptability come to mind. When friends and family ask how work is going, I usually measure things with a roller coaster metaphor. I know, given my contacts with other non-profit leaders, that the wild ride is not a unique experience. Knowing that the roller coaster always climbs back up the track after a dip is what I remind myself when the hard times seem overwhelming. The ride can be terrifying and exhilarating, full of joy and fear. In 2023, the staff and families served by HATW rode many roller coasters together, from the reduction of staff and programs such as our longstanding pregnancy counseling program, budget shortfalls, parents and children experiencing crisis, continued impacts of COVID on operations as well as overall mental and physical health of staff and clients; to the news of a federal subaward for a Kinship Navigator program in collaboration with Michigan State's Kinship Care Resource Center, the execution of our long-awaited evidence-based TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention) parenting trainings, the reunification of 25 children with their families, the finalization of 33 adoptions, the growth of our behavioral health program to serve HATW families past and present.

HATW staff are able to stay on the roller coaster because of the incredible network of support that surrounds us, from a Board which believes deeply in the work we do, community partners who provide necessary services, donors and grantors who choose HATW amongst so many other worthy causes, friends and family who make sacrifices of time with us, DHHS and other private child welfare agencies who pull together as partners to serve families – but most importantly, we stay on the roller coaster because we are inspired by the resilience of the amazing children and caretakers we serve who face challenges, and keep moving forward every day. Thank you to all who have played a role in 2023's exhilarating and challenging work providing inclusive, strengths-based services to children and families. It's an honor to be on the ride with you.



Katie Page Sander, LMSW



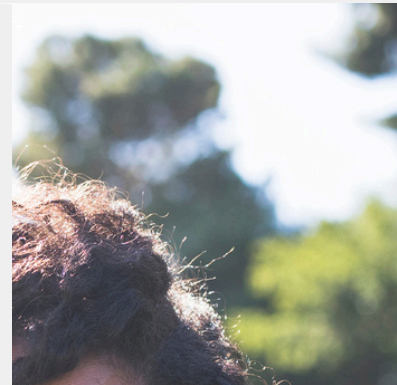
Foster Care

Hands Across The Water touches more people through our foster care programs than any others. In 2023 the case management, licensing and visitation teams were very busy bringing in new non-relative foster parents, and working to achieve reunification for children with their parents.

A grant from the Speckhard-Knight Foundation allowed us to continue the work of recruitment and retention of foster parents we feel is so vital to the successful support for young people and families.

154

Foster Youth Served



13

New Families
Licensed



33

Active Foster
Families



25

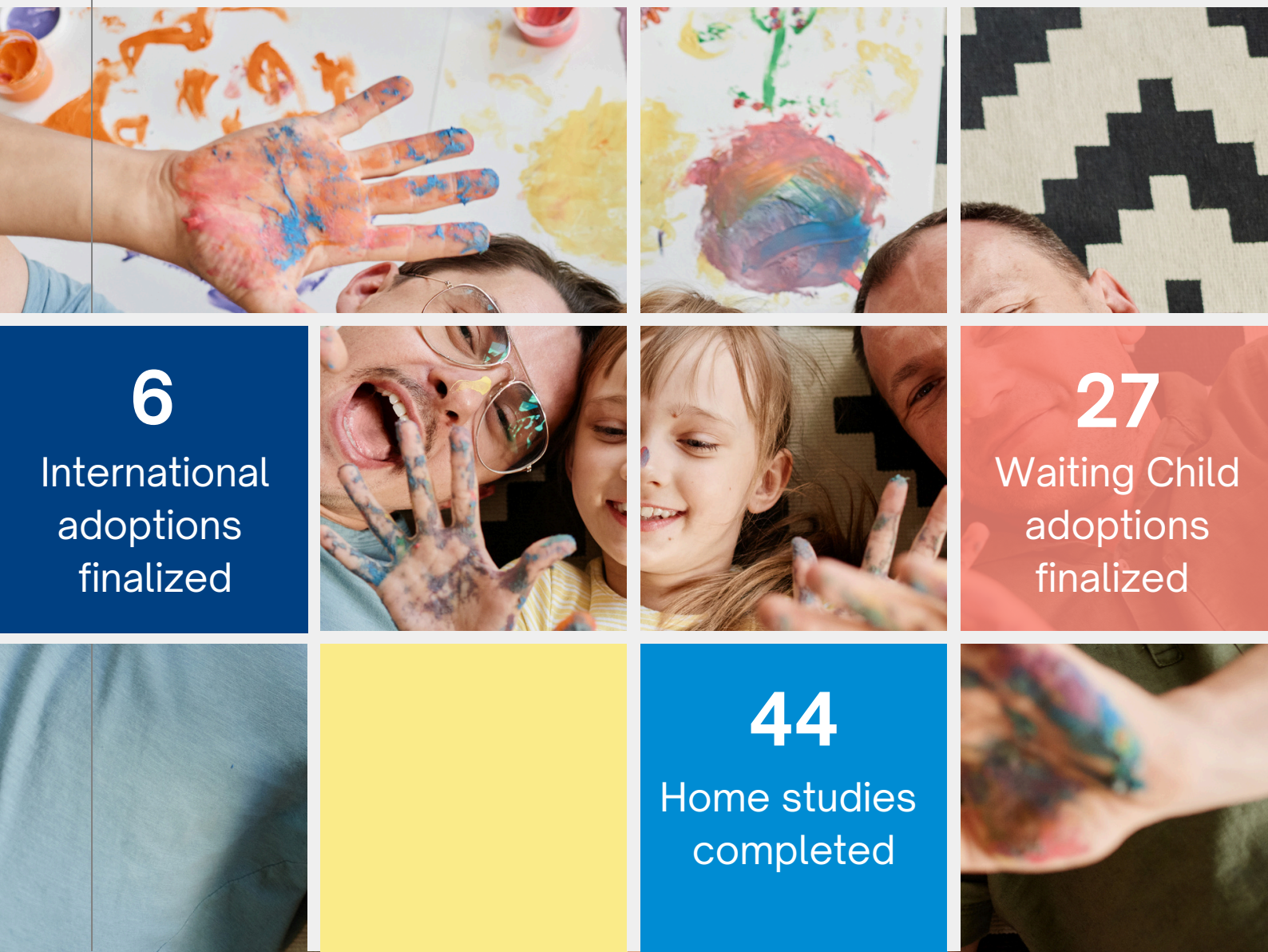
Youth
Reunified



Adoption

One of the biggest changes in our adoption programs during 2023 was the decision to stop offering placement services and pregnancy options counseling as part of the Infant Adoption program, while remaining committed to assisting families looking to adopt infants by continuing to offer home study and post-placement supervision. Of note, in addition to our adoption finalizations, these teams also served:

- 73 International Adoption families, 53 of which used HATW as their primary provider
- 4 Pregnancy Options Clients



6

International
adoptions
finalized

27

Waiting Child
adoptions
finalized

44

Home studies
completed



41

Behavioral Health Clients

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health team was busy seeing clients in 2023, as well as beginning work funded by the Carls Foundation and Ethel and James Flinn Foundation to become certified in Trust-Based Relational Intervention. That work was scheduled to continue through 2024 with planned training for HATW staff, clients and community members.

A new ongoing support group launched for parents of older adoptive children and the new challenges presented by parenting through the teen and young adult years.

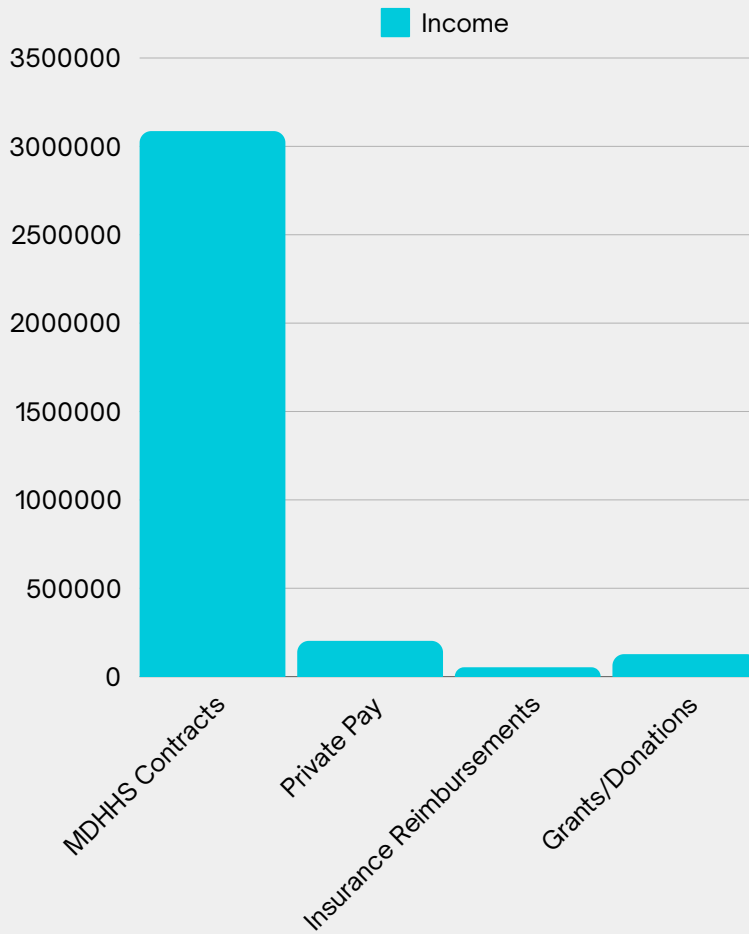
And the Ann Arbor Youth Community Foundation Youth Council supported our behavioral health team through a grant to address the need for supplementing payments through Medicaid, which is the primary way through which young people in foster care are able to receive mental health services. Included in this grant was funding to restart our limited-series support group for teens.

30

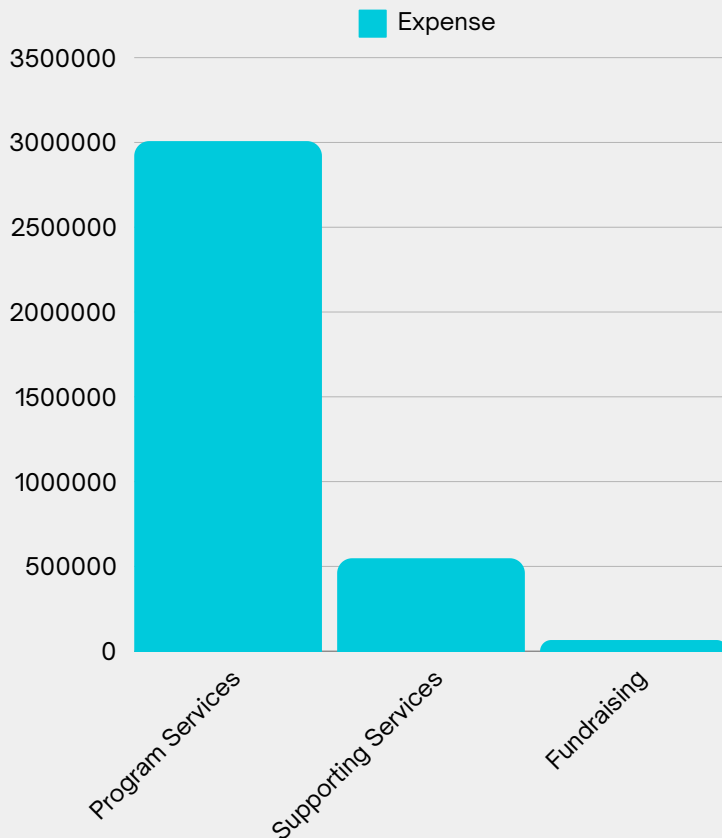
Support Group Members



Income and Expense



INCOME	
MDHHS CONTRACTS	\$3,086,409
PRIVATE PAY	\$202,392
INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENTS	\$52,975
GRANTS/DONATIONS	\$127,182
TOTAL	\$3,468,959



EXPENSE	
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$3,007,871
SUPPORTING SERVICES	\$547,991
FUNDRAISING	\$65,806
TOTAL	\$3,621,668

Events and Activities

Many exciting events and activities took place at HATW over the course of 2023! Many funders and partners helped provide support for clients, allowed HATW to strengthen its work advocating for LGBTQ+ youth and families, our Board of Directors gained a new member, we showed off our refreshed office space, and wrapped up a three-year friendly rivalry with Ohio.

In March, funding from the Ann Arbor Kiwanis Club Foundation allowed us to offer in-person and virtual art therapy sessions with Kelly Darke, MA.



Kiwanis®

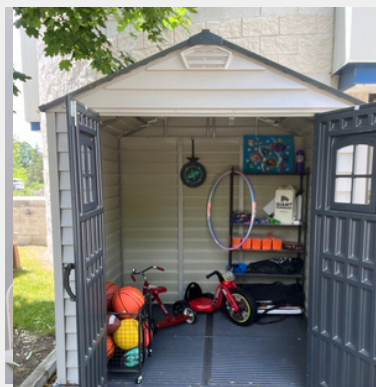


In March we also launched a new consortium of child welfare agencies committed to improving services to LGBTQ+ youth and families. Twenty-seven individuals representing 19 agencies attended the first session, and the consortium has continued to grow. HATW co-leads this effort with Fostering Futures, through support from the Hope Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

In May and June, volunteers worked to remove an old, rickety play structure and erected a new shed to store outdoor toys and created an outdoor picnic area for families to use when they have visits at our office thanks to a grant from the Galens Medical Society at the University of Michigan.



In July, Julius Buzzard, Executive Director of Growing Hope, joined our Board of Directors!

Events and Activities



In August we supported foster families by participating in the Washtenaw Back to School event, which provided kids with backpacks and new outfits. The Detroit Tigers Foundation also helped us celebrate foster families in September by providing tickets so we could send them to a game.

In November we opened our office doors to show off a refreshed office space and offer our friends a chance to gather and be thanked for all the support they've given Hands Across The Water and its staff over the years. November also saw us chosen as the recipient of Erratic Ale's AEROG Good Neighbor Tap for the month.



Bigger Than The Game
 Untie the Rivalry: Year 3 wrapped up this cooperative fundraiser with Ohio-based Caring for Kids with not only more Michigan tickets sold, but UM winning The Game, leaving the staff of Caring for Kids to send us a photo in UM gear.

Our friends at Walton Insurance and Auto Owners Group covered the entire cost of providing holiday gifts to all our foster youth!



Thanks to a grant from the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop, we provided more meals for families than ever before at the holidays.



Donors

We are so grateful to the individuals, businesses and foundations who support our work, strengthening the ability to provide the best care to our clients.

Individual 2023 Donors

Amber Muñoz	Gayle Lake
Amy Smith	Harry Haber
Andrew & Mary Gladstone-Highland	Hope Carroll
Anna Daoud	James & Margaret Sander
Atl & Claudia Martinez	James Sutton
Belinda & Rob Needham	Jamie Cook
Bethany Nowowiejski	Jamie Frech
Bryce Veldkamp	Jan Ulrich
Carol Hildebrandt	Jane & Craig Fry
Carolyn Szumski	Janet Radak
Catherine Bartholomay	Janet Shea
Christina Zani	Janice Tribble
Christine Boltz	Jason Ditman
Christine Kelley	Jeanette Bridges
Christine Nichols	Jennifer McCann
Colleen Van Lent	Jennifer Taylor
Conrad Smith	Jennifer Trotter
Darlene Helzerman	Jens Loemker
David Helke	Jorge Guzman De Branoff & Terry Branoff
David & Tracy Kapusansky	Julie Roesch
David Renwick	Julius Buzzard
Deb Honsowetz	Kari Smith
Diane & Edwin Smith	Katie Page Sander
Diane Levy	Katie Scott
Elizabeth Caswell	Kay Wilson & Daniel Barry
Elizabeth Lauricella	Kelly Pahle
Elizabeth Perpich	Kevin Patao
Elizabeth Petty	Kimberly Lin
Ellen Jasinski	Kitu Dave
Erica Melnykowycz	Kristen Seguin
Evan Garrity	Kristine Lavelle
Garry Packard	Kristyn DeMint
Gary Carney	Kyle & Chris O'Malley



Laura Hilburn
Leonard & Susan Page
Leslie Sobel
Lubiq Dedvukaj
Marcella Cornell
Margaret Sander
Maria Tazzi
Marilyn Fekety
Mary Mangum
Maya Geryk
Megan Eagle
Melissa Daneshyar
Michelle & Thomas Bules
Michelle Merkel
Michelle Parra
Nancy Meyers
Nancy Wallace
Nancy Wright
Nick Zagar
Olivia Fanning
Paul Paliani
Peggy Fisher-Kmieciak
Rachel Flynn
Rachel Lessem
Rebecca Belian
Richard & Sheila Henderson
Rick Modglin-Green
Rosemarie & Joseph Wywrot
Rudolph Belian
Sarah Emma Meyers
Scott Durig
Shelly Crundwell
Susan Hasselbach
Susan Page
Teresa Snider
Vince Flippo

Grants and Corporate Gifts

A & F Wood, Inc.
Altruic Advisors
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Ann Arbor Thrift Shop
Blue Cross Complete
Domino's Pizza
Dynamic Edge
Employers Mutual Casualty Company
Erratic Ale
First Presbyterian Church - Ypsilanti
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham
Galens Medical Society
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation, Inc.
Michigan Nonprofit Association
Retailers Insurance Company
Speckhard Knight Charitable Foundation
United Way of Midland County
United Way of Washtenaw County
Walton Insurance Group

Each of the people, companies and foundations named here played a pivotal role in our work throughout the year. If you have questions about how you can support HATW through planned giving or monthly giving, or if you would like to know more about programs or initiatives that would benefit from additional resources, please reach out to our development associate by calling our office at 734-477-0135.





HATW

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER



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