



# C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT

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Children In Therapy and You

# C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

# MISSION

TO CREATE A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY, BOTH ONLINE AND IN PERSON, THAT SUPPORTS ALL FAMILIES NAVIGATING THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILD IN THERAPY.

# VISION

ALL FAMILIES WHO HAVE CHILDREN IN THERAPY WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY THAT EMPOWERS THEM WITH RESOURCES AND CELEBRATES THEIR JOURNEY, REGARDLESS OF DIAGNOSIS.

*"THE NETWORK OF FAMILIES AND THERAPISTS THAT CITY BRINGS TOGETHER IS PRICELESS. BEING A PARENT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS KIDDO CAN BE SCARY, AND JOYFUL, AND OVERWHELMING.*

*FOR ANY OF THESE MOMENTS, THANKS TO CITY, I KNOW RIGHT WHERE TO GO FOR ADVICE, FOR EXPERTISE, FOR FRIENDSHIP, AND FOR CELEBRATION."*

*--PARENT IN C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT*



# CORE VALUES



**CONNECTION**



**COLLABORATION**



**CELEBRATION**



# MEET SOME OF THE AMAZING CHILDREN IN OUR C.I.T.Y.

C.I.T.Y. CLOSE-UPS

**C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT WELCOMES ALL FAMILIES & CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF DIAGNOSIS. WE UNDERSTAND NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE, FAMILIAR, OR UNDERSTOOD. WE BELIEVE ALL FAMILIES CAN BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT OF THIS COMMUNITY.**



*"I am so beyond proud of Zhuri. She is so motivated and smart. She strives to keep up with her friends at daycare. She is extremely curious and a little nosey. She loves people but can also give you the sassiest facial expression to make sure you know how she is feeling. She runs the house and will most definitely be a powerhouse based on her already out of this world personality."*



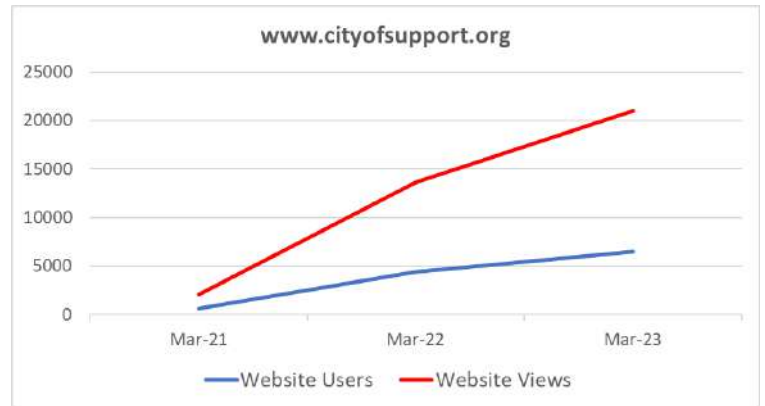
*Despite not being able to hear for her first year of life, Ellie's caught up to her chronological age for speech and hitting expressive and receptive language targets for her age group. She's 100% oral/verbal, although we plan to add ASL to her communication. She's social and happy and will be transitioning into preschool in the fall! We couldn't be more proud of her grit, resilience, and fearless personality that makes her capable of being anything she aspires to be."*



*"Bryant is a surviving twin 29 weeker preemie that was in the NICU for 63 days. 20 months later Bryant's family gave birth to their rainbow baby Charlotte. Bryant has been in therapies since NICU discharge. We haven't had a family photo session since the arrival of our daughter so this was truly special to us. Thank you C.I.T.Y of Support and Something Blue Photography for this amazing photo session experience."*

# CONNECTION

ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS & RESOURCES ARE OFFERED AT NO COST TO FAMILIES, AND MANY ARE AVAILABLE 24/7 ON OUR WEBSITE AND ACTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS.



**VIRTUAL PARENT MEET-UPS**  
**FAMILY PLAYDATES**  
**DADS GROUPS**  
**BOOK GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

- Find others who live the same life.
- Let go of expectations.
- Ask for help.
- Find what works for your family.
- Try one more thing.
- Enjoy your amazing child.





**CONNECTING C.I.T.Y.'S  
NEWEST FAMILIES IN A  
COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT**

# "WELCOME TO OUR C.I.T.Y."

**THIS PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY FOR FAMILIES WHOSE NEWBORN WAS REFERRED FOR THERAPY. UPON DISCHARGE FROM THEIR NICU STAY, PARENTS ARE IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH A SOURCE OF RESOURCES & SUPPORT FROM OUR C.I.T.Y.**



# 750

HANDMADE CELEBRATION CARDS CREATED BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS-- INVOLVING EVERYONE FROM GIRL SCOUTS TO SENIORS



# 500

BAGS WITH RESOURCES, WELCOME CARD, PARENT LETTER, BOARD BOOK & SMALL GIFTS ASSEMBLED BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



# 6

CHICAGOLAND HOSPITAL NICU DEPARTMENTS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING, WITH THE POTENTIAL TO EXPAND & INCLUDE ALL 25 LEVEL III-IV NICUS IN ILLINOIS



# COLLABORATION

THIS SPECIAL, CITY-SPONSORED LIBRARY COLLECTION INCLUDES OVER 350 CURATED THERAPEUTIC TOYS, TOOLS, & PRINT MATERIALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES TO EXPLORE AT HOME, PRIOR TO PURCHASING THESE SOMETIMES-COSTLY ITEMS.

*"THIS COLLECTION ALLOWS PROFESSIONALS, LIKE ME, ACCESS TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN TRYING NEW ITEMS WHILE WE NAVIGATE THEIR THERAPEUTIC JOURNEY.*

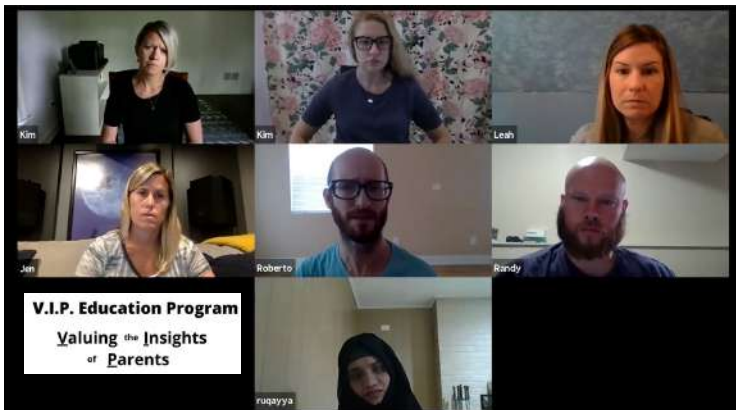
*IT IS A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES."*

*--LOCAL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST*



FOX32CHICAGO.COM

Arlington Heights Memorial Library debuts collection unlike any other in Illinois



**What To Do During A Tantrum?  
The Brain Science Behind Your Child's Behavior**

Live Zoom Presentation and Q&A:  
Tuesday, 9/20 at 7:00pm

**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION TAUGHT BY PARENTS  
ONLINE CLASSES/WEBINARS & COLLABORATIVE BLOG POSTS  
ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT LIBRARY COLLECTION  
BI-ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS**





# CELEBRATION

THIS YEAR, OVER 100 GRADUATES REGISTERED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ANNUAL, FREE EVENT WHERE ALL ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE CELEBRATED.

“ Finishing Early Intervention and starting preschool!

“ Increased eye contact and better understanding of directions!

“ Finishing an entire year e-learning!

“ Jumping with both feet and alternating feet up the stairs!

“ 11 months feeding tube free after 8 months of being NG dependent!

“ Learning so many new words on his AAC device, which he is using to communicate quickly and clear!

“ Using play equipment at the park!



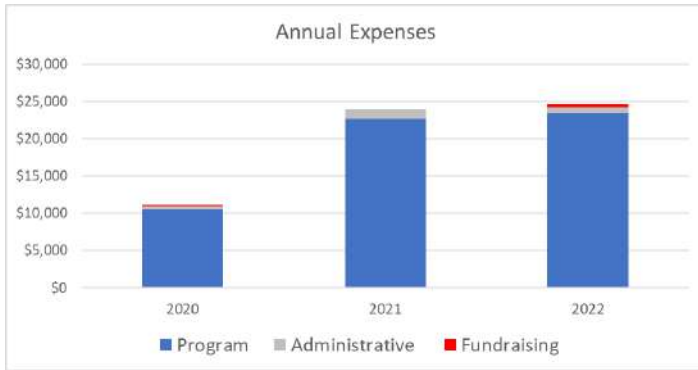
The month of February is for celebrating ALL children in therapy and the families who support them.

## ANNUAL GRADUATION CELEBRATION "WE LOVE OUR C.I.T.Y." MONTH C.I.T.Y. CLOSE-UPS



Show Your Support  
Wear a 'We Love Our CITY' button.

# 2022 FINANCES

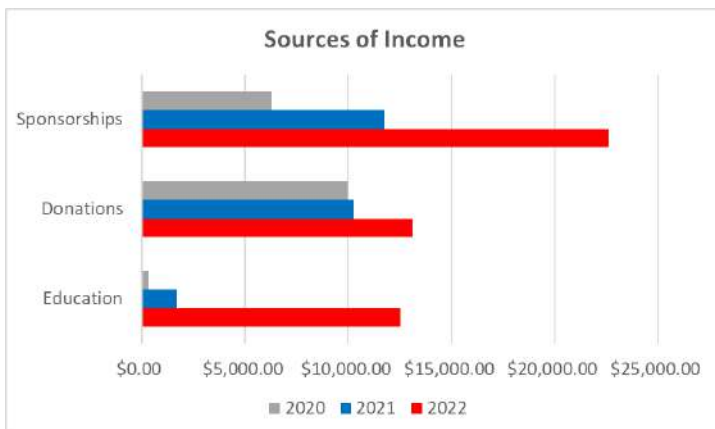


**IN 2022, 95% OF EXPENSES WERE USED SPECIFICALLY TO FUND C.I.T.Y. PROGRAMS**

**THIS RATE OF PRODUCTIVITY IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT NOT SUSTAINABLE WITHOUT AN ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**C.I.T.Y.'S BOARD CHAIR SPENT 941 VOLUNTEER HOURS DEVOTED TO THE RUNNING OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN 2022.**

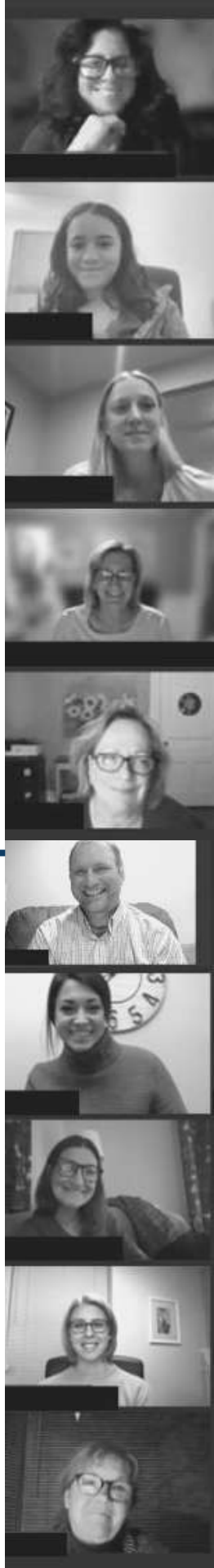
*THAT'S AN EXTRA 78.4 HOURS/MONTH (18.1 HOURS/WEEK) IN ADDITION TO HER WORK AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES*



**OUR COMMUNITY HAS DEMONSTRATED INCREASINGLY STRONG SUPPORT FOR C.I.T.Y., AS THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED & IMPACT OF OUR ORGANIZATION**

**NOTABLY, ILLINOIS'S EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDED A \$12,000 GRANT IN 2022 TO ENCOURAGE 120 STUDENTS TO COMPLETE OUR V.I.P. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

*REGISTRATION HAS CLOSED DUE TO THE EXTREMELY LONG WAITING LIST OF INTERESTED PROVIDERS*





# WHAT'S NEXT FOR C.I.T.Y.

CAN YOU SEE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT?

DO YOU SHARE OUR VISION?



## EXPAND C.I.T.Y.'S WELCOME PROGRAM

PARTNER WITH MORE LEVEL III-IV NICU DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE STATE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. ALSO WORK TO DEVELOP A "WELCOME TO OUR C.I.T.Y." GIFT BAG FOR FAMILIES OF OLDER CHILDREN JUST RECEIVING A DIAGNOSIS & STARTING ON THEIR JOURNEY.



## C.I.T.Y. OF PROFESSIONALS WEB DIRECTORY

EMAIL: [HELLO@CITYOFSUPPORT.ORG](mailto:HELLO@CITYOFSUPPORT.ORG) FOR DETAILS



## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY GROWTH

WITH THE HELP OF CORPORATE SPONSORS, WE HOPE TO OFFSET THE COST, SO MORE PROVIDERS CAN INCLUDE THEIR INFORMATION IN OUR NETWORK OF ONLINE RESOURCES, ULTIMATELY HELPING PARENTS CONNECT WITH VITAL SPECIALTY SERVICES ALL ACROSS THE STATE.



## INCREASE PERSONAL PARENT CONNECTIONS

BASED ON THEIR EARLY SUCCESS, CONTINUE FACILITATING VIRTUAL PARENT MEET-UP SESSIONS ACROSS THE STATE. ALSO, PLAN C.I.T.Y.'S FIRST-EVER "LET'S MEET RETREAT" DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS AS AN EDUCATIONAL, RESOURCE-GATHERING, HANDS-ON, SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OTHER PARENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALL OF OUR MOTIVATED VOLUNTEERS HAVE A PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH C.I.T.Y., WHETHER IT BE AS A PARENT, PROFESSIONAL, OR COMMUNITY ADVOCATE



**BETH DEITER**

Founder & Board Chair  
Speech-Language Pathologist



**DANA SCHAFER**

Educator & Instructional Coach



**DR. JAMES WEEDON**

Developmental & Behavioral  
Pediatrician



**MARIA  
PAPANASTASSIOU**

Youth Librarian



**JILLIAN BURGARD**

Business Owner in Applied  
Behavior Analysis



**MOLLY MCKINLEY**

Attorney



**SUSAN CHAVEZ**

Parent Advocate



**JEREMY JOSEPH**

Fiduciary Financial Advisor



**AMY PARKER**

Registered Nurse &  
Communications Assistant





WHAT AN INCREDIBLE YEAR

**THANK YOU!**

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[www.cityofsupport.org](http://www.cityofsupport.org)

Contact us at: [hello@cityofsupport.org](mailto:hello@cityofsupport.org)