



C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



MISSION

TO BUILD A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY OF CAREGIVERS THROUGH ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES WITH RESOURCES THAT CONNECTS FAMILIES NAVIGATING THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILD IN ANY THERAPY, REGARDLESS OF DIAGNOSIS.

VISION

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

HOW IS C.I.T.Y. DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?



CONNECTION



COLLABORATION



CELEBRATION

- C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT WELCOMES ALL FAMILIES & CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF DIAGNOSIS. WE UNDERSTAND NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE, FAMILIAR, OR UNDERSTOOD, AND WE BELIEVE ALL FAMILIES CAN BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT OF THIS UNIQUE COMMUNITY.
- RESOURCES & PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED AT NO COST AND IN VARIOUS FORMATS (IN-PERSON AND ONLINE OPTIONS) TO INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY FOR FAMILIES.
- WE STRIVE TO CONNECT FAMILIES TO OUR RESOURCES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND OUR COLLABORATION PARTNERS.
- LOCAL FOCUS IN CHICAGOLAND - NOT MANAGED BY ANY LARGER CORPORATION.

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.



9,850

FOLLOWERS IN SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS OF ENGAGED PARENTS, PROFESSIONALS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



159

IN-PERSON C.I.T.Y. PLAYGROUPS OFFERED AT DIFFERENT LIBRARIES AND PLAY SPACES AROUND CHICAGOLAND IN 2025



39

HOURS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING FREE, ON-SITE PARENT RESPITE AT THE GENEROC.I.T.Y. SHOP IN 2025

- 3RD-ANNUAL "LET'S MEET" PARENT RETREAT
- INCLUSIVE FAMILY PLAYDATES
- VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON PARENT MEET-UPS

- MONTHLY DADS HANGOUT GROUPS
- FREE ON-SITE RESPITE CARE
- "WELCOME TO OUR C.I.T.Y" PROGRAM

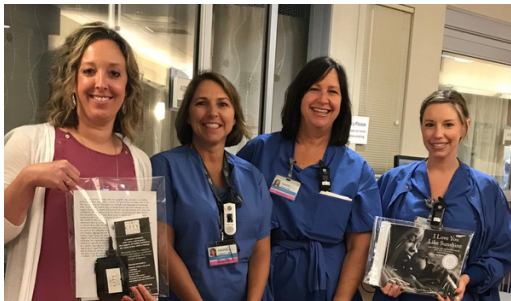
CONNECTION & OUTREACH

"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.

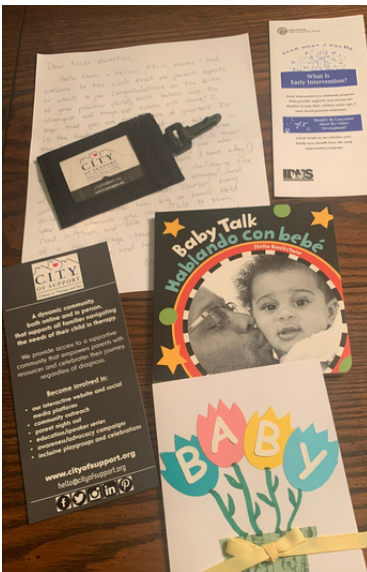


225
NICU BAGS DISTRIBUTED
TO FAMILIES IN 2025



12
PARTICIPATING CHICAGOLAND
NICU DEPARTMENTS SO FAR,
WITH THE POTENTIAL TO REACH
ALL 22 LEVEL III-IV NICUS IN IL.

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



COLLABORATION

WE BELIEVE WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.

- “WE LOVE OUR C.I.T.Y.” MONTH THERAPY TIPS
- BI-ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS
- ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT LIBRARY COLLECTIONS (2ND COMING SOON!)
- ONLINE CLASSES/WEBINARS & COLLABORATIVE BLOG POSTS

661

ON-DEMAND WEBINARS VIEWED BY PARENTS & PROFESSIONALS



IEP Basics & How to Best Advocate for Your Child's Needs

11

VIDEOS OF THERAPY TIPS SHARED BY PROFESSIONALS DURING FEBRUARY 2025 FOR “WE LOVE OUR C.I.T.Y.” MONTH

SUNDAY	MUSIC MONDAY	STORY TIME TUESDAY	WORKOUT WEDNESDAY	THERAPY TIP THURSDAY	FUN FACT FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	22

124

PROFESSIONALS WHO ATTENDED BI-ANNUAL C.I.T.Y. NETWORKING EVENTS IN 2025



CELEBRATION

WE BELIEVE FAMILIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE THEIR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENTS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.

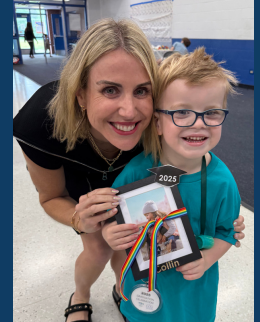
- ANNUAL GRADUATION CELEBRATION
- TRIBUTE CONCERT/PARENTS NIGHT OUT

● C.I.T.Y. CLOSE-UPS



392

GUESTS REGISTERED FOR THIS YEAR'S GRADUATION CELEBRATION



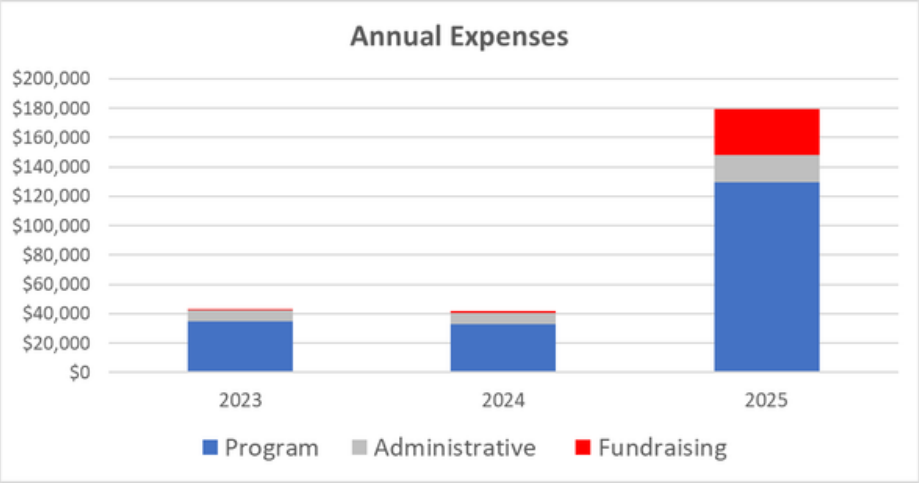
"C.I.T.Y. CLOSE-UPS"

ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH, WE DEDICATE A SPACE FOR PARENTS TO SHARE THEIR CHILD'S LATEST SUCCESS STORIES--WHATEVER THEY MAY BE. WE COMPILE ALL THE COMMENTS FROM THE PAST 3 MONTHS INTO ONE LARGE QUARTERLY RAFFLE, AND THE WINNER IS RANDOMLY SELECTED TO RECEIVE A SENSORY-FRIENDLY FAMILY PHOTO SHOOT WITH SOMETHING BLUE PHOTOGRAPHY.

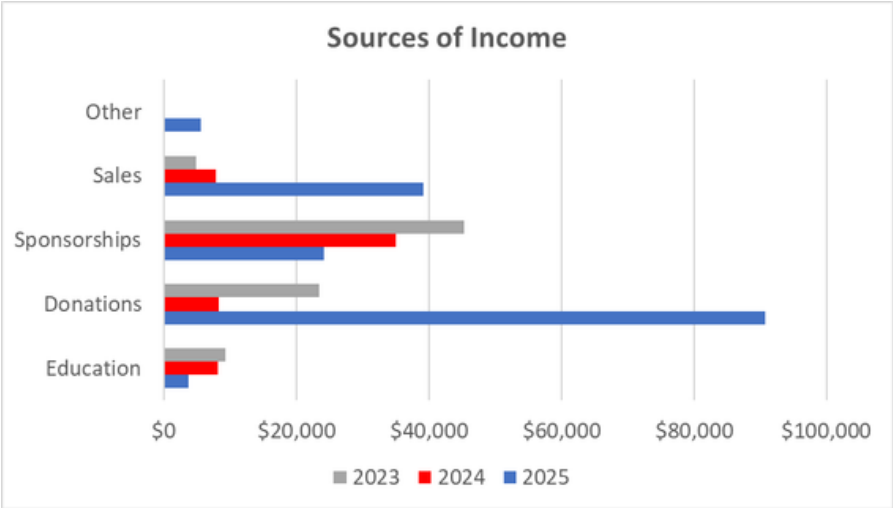


"WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE FOUND A COMMUNITY LIKE C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT THAT CELEBRATES ALL CHILDREN IN THERAPY AND LIFTS UP THEIR CAREGIVERS. "

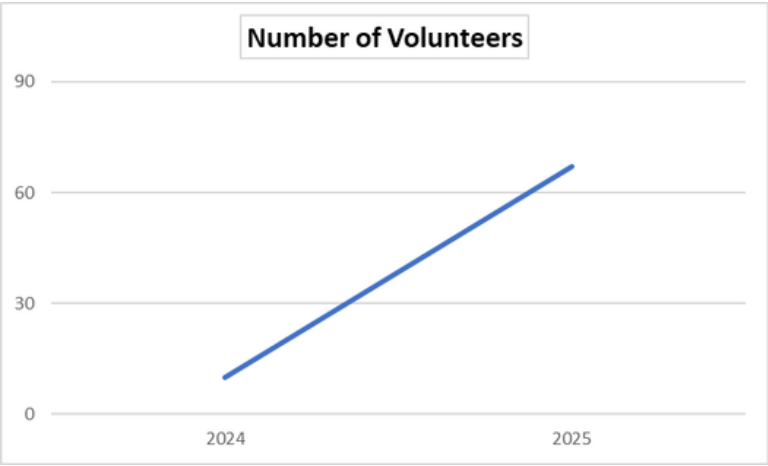
2025 FINANCES



IN 2025, **72%** OF EXPENSES WERE USED SPECIFICALLY TO FUND C.I.T.Y. PROGRAMS

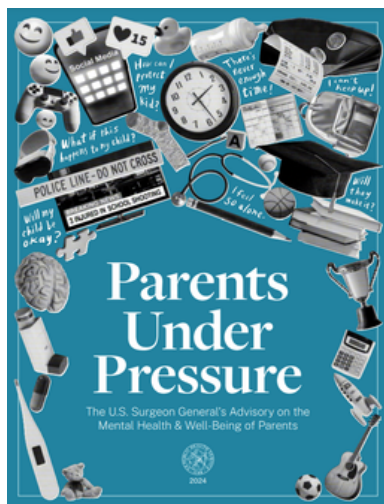


IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED COMMUNITY INVESTMENT, OUR STREAMS OF REVENUE NOW INCLUDE CONSISTENT SALES AT THE GENEROC.I.T.Y. TOY SHOP



NOTABLY, WE HAVE SEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN VOLUNTEER ENTHUSIASM AND RECRUITMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR, ENABLING US TO EXECUTE OUR PLANS AS A COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT.

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



IN AUGUST 2024, THE SURGEON GENERAL ISSUED AN ADVISORY HIGHLIGHTING:

- "1) THE STRESSORS THAT IMPACT THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS
- 2) THE CRITICAL LINK BETWEEN PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILDREN'S LONG-TERM WELL-BEING
- 3) THE URGENT NEED TO BETTER SUPPORT PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, & FAMILIES."

THE SURGEON GENERAL'S SURVEY INDICATED THAT THIS POPULATION OF **PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS REPORTED TWICE THE AMOUNT OF "FAIR OR POOR MENTAL HEALTH"** COMPARED TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITHOUT SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

AN ARTICLE IN THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (2023) NOTED: *"IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT HOME- AND HOSPITAL-BASED STAFF AND PROVIDERS, THROUGH COORDINATED AND FAMILY-CENTERED CARE, PARTNER WITH FAMILIES TO ASSESS SUPPORT AND INFORMATION NEEDS AND IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP FAMILIES GENERATE LONG-LASTING NETWORKS OF SUPPORT BEYOND THE HOSPITAL WALLS."*

C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO ADDRESS THIS NEED.

OUR VISION FOR A PHYSICAL LOCATION

CREATING A DESIGNATED SPACE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS **(THE FIRST OF ITS KIND)** THAT INCREASES ACCESS TO MEANINGFUL SUPPORTS & RESOURCES **MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE FAMILY.**



TWO PHASES AND GOALS:



1. ESTABLISH A PHYSICAL PRESENCE

MAKE A FOOTPRINT THAT BUILDS OUR CAPACITY TO SERVE C.I.T.Y. OF SUPPORT & THE COMMUNITY

- INCREASE VISIBILITY FOR, AWARENESS OF, & REFERRALS TO OUR ORGANIZATION.
- SUSTAIN REVENUE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING BY CREATING A SPECIALTY RE-SALE SHOP SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY DONATIONS OF GENTLY-USED TOYS & BOOKS.

2. CREATE A COMMUNITY CENTER

CREATE A DESTINATION FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN THERAPY, WHERE CHILDREN AND CAREGIVERS ARE SUPPORTED ON THEIR JOURNEY

- INTRODUCE A SPACE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN THERAPY THAT SUPPORTS THE NEEDS OF THEIR KIDS WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF CAREGIVERS IN AN INCLUSIVE, WELCOMING, ONE-OF-A-KIND FACILITY. *REPLICATIONS OF THIS MODEL IN OTHER COMMUNITIES WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED BASED ON THE RESPONSE.*
- GROW OUR NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS TO OFFER ROBUST PROGRAMING & RESPITE OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE CHILDREN IN THERAPY AND THEIR FAMILIES.
- DEVELOP EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT BRING ALL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TOGETHER IN A DYNAMIC & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR VISION

GENERO-C.I.T.Y. TOY SHOP



GENEROC.I.T.Y. TOY SHOP
RECYCLE - RECONNECT - REIMAGINE

1423 E. Palatine Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

DECEMBER 2024

Holiday Fundraiser to determine interest in donating & selling gently-used toys & books

JANUARY 2025

Signed 6-month Specialty Lease to pilot the GENEROC.I.T.Y. Toy Shop at a temporary location

OCTOBER 2025

Moved into a bigger location designed specifically for our shop, and began our 3-year lease

DECEMBER 2025

Hosted the Grand Opening of the GENEROC.I.T.Y. Toy Shop at 1423 E. Palatine Rd. in Arlington Hts.



THE GENEROC.I.T.Y. TOY SHOP



AT THE GENEROC.I.T.Y. TOY SHOP, OUR TWO PROGRAM ROOMS PROVIDE UNIQUE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND THEIR KIDS.

1

PARENTS HAVE A DESIGNATED SPACE WHERE THEY CAN:

- TAKE A FREE RESPITE BREAK
- MAKE IN-PERSON SOCIAL CONNECTIONS
- LISTEN TO & MEET GUEST SPEAKERS
- FIND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



2

KIDS HAVE A DESIGNATED SPACE WHERE THEY CAN:

- ATTEND FREE STORY TIMES, PLAYGROUPS, THERAPY DOG VISITS, AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, & SPECIAL EVENTS
- PARTICIPATE IN INCLUSIVE ENRICHMENT CLASSES (MUSIC, YOGA, SPEECH-MOTOR, LEGO-BUILDING & MORE!)
- PRACTICE SKILLS IN A NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, OUTSIDE OF A THERAPY ROOM



HOW YOU CAN HELP

BECOME A C.I.T.Y. ALLY

- WELCOME OUR COMMUNITY AT YOUR BUSINESS
- JOIN OUR PROFESSIONAL ONLINE DIRECTORY
- SPONSOR EVENTS:
 - GRADUATION CELEBRATION
 - PARENT RETREAT
 - TRIBUTE CONCERT



SUPPORT OUR SHOP

- HELP US REACH OUR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GOALS OF INCREASED VISIBILITY & ACCESSIBILITY
 - SHOP SIGNS
 - ACCESSIBLE DOOR
 - INTERACTIVE PROJECTORS
 - SENSORY-FRIENDLY EQUIPMENT



CLEAR OUR SHELVES

- PURCHASE GENTLY-USED, CAREFULLY-CURATED ITEMS
- GIFT CARDS FOR TEACHERS & THERAPISTS
- KIDS CAN SHOP FOR THEIR FRIENDS & SIBLINGS
- ♥ PURCHASE ITEMS TO DONATE TO CHILDREN IN THERAPY

VOLUNTEER

- HELP WITH SHOP OPERATIONS
- ASSIST WITH CLASSES & PROGRAMS
- PROVIDE RESPITE FOR OVERWHELMED FAMILIES
 - DAY, EVENING, WEEKEND SHIFTS
 - 14+ YEARS OLD



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS



INTEGRATE SPONSORS:



INTERACT SPONSORS:



INTRODUCE SPONSORS:



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



DR. JAMES WEEDON

Board Member



**MARIA
PAPANASTASSIOU**

Board Member & Secretary



CAILYN MITTUR

Board Member



SUE KOWOLS

Board Member & Volunteer
Coordinator



SHARON MOEYKENS

Board Member & Treasurer



JON DEITER

Financial Consultant



JOAN KURTZ

Fundraising Coordinator



CALLIE GILSEMAN

Educational Liaison



WHAT AN INCREDIBLE YEAR

**WE WOULD LOVE TO
WORK WITH YOU!**

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www.cityofsupport.org

Contact us at: hello@cityofsupport.org