



2020

Annual Report



## OUR MISSION

At Adam's House we believe every child should never grieve in isolation. Each child deserves a supportive and understanding community to learn and explore their feelings of loss. All grief journeys are unique. Grief is a natural reaction to a loss of a loved one. We strive for children to understand their complex grief feelings, increase resiliency and boost their self-esteem while they create their new normal.



## THE NEED

1 in 16 children in Connecticut will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age of 18—that's more than 41,000 children.\*

Grieving children often feel different, alone, and misunderstood. While they return to school, activities, and seem “normal” they are struggling. Children need their voice to be heard, to be given the tools to grieve and express their emotions, and to surround themselves with other children who understand what they are experiencing.

\*Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model

## PROGRAM

"Helping Hearts Heal" is an 8-week program that guides participants through their grief journey to draw support from their peers and gain new strategies for coping with loss.

Meeting once per week in the evenings, participants are divided into four groups: Littles (5-9), Middles (10-13), Teens (14-18), and Parent/Caregiver and through play, arts and crafts, and age-appropriate activities focus on a topic pertaining to grief, following a curriculum.

Over the eight weeks participants build trust and camaraderie with their peer group, helping them feel understood, less isolated, and better able to express their emotions. Regardless of age, participants leave Adam's House feeling loved, supported, and with a sense of community.

*"There was solace in being with people who knew how hard the days could be. Adam's House held space for us to feel what we were going through while doing something constructive through the programming each week. The experience will always be a light in an uncertain time."*



# Founder's Message

"There is always a light. If only we are brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it."

This excerpt from "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman beautifully describes how we feel about the service we offer at Adam's House. This year was challenging, difficult, isolating, exhausting and stressful- both financially and emotionally. BUT there is always a light. It's why Adam's House exists, to be a light for those struggle to cope with grief. To shine a light on hope, on healing, on rebuilding a new life.

In the midst of uncertainty, anxiety, fear, social injustice and political strife, our organization rose to the challenges to support our bereaved community. We were brave to face our own anxieties and fear to adapt to the changing environment.

When I reflect back on 2020, I am so very proud of our response and deeply grateful to our small, yet mighty staff, our Board of Directors, our dedicated program volunteers and our many partners for their unyielding support of our program.

There were many moments of "light" for our organization. We swiftly moved to host all of our program groups virtually.

Groups were in the middle of their grief work when they pandemic hit. We extended "Helping Hearts Heal" by 6-weeks to continue to support all groups during this COVID crisis. We hosted two FIG volunteer trainings. Both 12-hr. trainings were held in-person and with COVID protocols in place. We safely held an eight-week Fall "Helping Hearts Heal" in-person. We even produced our first podcast called "Good Grief Connecticut" to offer grief advice to our community, We converted our in-person shopping event into a successful virtual fundraiser.

I am continuously blown away by the commitment of our families and volunteers to the healing process. But more so this year. I'm so proud that Adam's House showed up to be the light to so many bereaved families when they needed it most!



# LIVES TRANSFORMED

When her husband of 15 years of marriage died at age 35, Tanya was left to figure out how to pick up the pieces. She had two young girls, ages six and nine. Time was marching forward, but Tanya and her girls were stuck.

What she saw happening was that her life wasn't really about living. Then, a friend recommended Adam's House. And that's when everything changed for the better [>watch video](#)



# WEBINARS & TRAINING

## Good Grief: Connecticut

The loss of life resulting from the coronavirus pandemic caused a wave of anxiety and grief in Connecticut. At our grief Center, we were in touch with people who were suffering every day. In an effort to promote healing by openly talking about grief and loss, Adam's House proudly hosted its first webinar, "Good Grief: Connecticut" in July.

## Friends in Grief Training.

At Adam's House we refer to this special group of volunteers as a "Friend in Grief." During the 12-hours of training, FIGs learn about the grieving process, how children deal with it, the trauma a death can cause if it was not dealt with properly, and how you can help children of all ages find a place of comfort in their time of loss. It is a wonderful and fulfilling program, and an inspiration to those lives you are lucky enough to touch. We host FIG training throughout the year. If you're interested in completing the training to join our team, we would love to hear from you.

## Photos:

Top right: Good Grief Connecticut Moderator: Mercedes Velgot. Host: Allison Wysota, Founder & Executive Director, Adam's House. Guest: Licensed Therapist Caitlin, Licensed Professional Counselor, MAAT, LPC, ATR-BC, CBC, Shelton, CT

Middle: Fall 2020 FIG Training Graduates

Bottom: July 2020 FIG Training Graduates



# VOLUNTEERS

While 2020 was not ideal for in-person events, that didn't stop our incredible volunteers from doing their part to help Adam's House! From Peer to Peer (P2P) campaigns and individual fundraisers, to becoming "Friends in Grief" (FIGs) for our "Helping Hearts Heal" program, and much more, our volunteers are hugely important to our mission.

One of our biggest fundraisers of 2020 was "The Great Give," a 2-day, community online giving initiative benefiting Greater New Haven non-profits. Our success would not have been possible without direct P2P fundraising volunteers. Adam's House had 17 individual P2P fundraising campaigns, which raised a total of \$13,528.40, xx% of our \$xx,xxx total for "The Great Give."

Our wonderful FIGs are the cornerstone of our "Helping Hearts Heal" program, and 2020 did not disprove this. Twenty-three amazing FIGs donated over 120 hours of their time to support "Helping Hearts Heal." They showed up every week, both in-person and virtually, to ensure each child was supported and had an outlet to express their feelings, while learning important tools to manage their grief.

**Photos:** top: Lexie, our resident Adam's House canine volunteer. Bottom left: The incredible mother-daughter volunteer team Alana and Eileen who cleaned, organized and put away three car loads of donations from "The Wonder Years Learning Center." Top right: Cathy & Fred Pesavento and Staci & Alyssa Vergati with special guest Amber the Dog. This amazing family volunteer team weeded, trimmed, planted and pruned our gardens that had been neglected during the pandemic. Bottom right: Marie and "The Waterview" staff donated blankets, toys, games, crafts supplies and more for our Winter "Helping Hearts Heal" program families.





# VOLUNTEERS, cont.

In total, 50 Friends in Grief volunteers gave 200 hours of their time, totaling \$48,524.80 in 2020! (Based on national avg of \$27.20 per hour. Source: <https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2020>)

As the saying goes “The show must go on” and our annual “Giving Tuesday” Shopping Event, Mistletoe & Margaritas, was no exception. This critical fundraiser went 100% virtual this year. and featuring 40+ amazing small businesses, and community volunteers on our Main Stage. This event raised \$xxxxx for Adam’s House, more than our in-person event ever had in the past!



# CREATIVITY FUNDS OUR MISSION

In 2020, the Adam's House community raised \$xx,XXX to help fund our grief education and peer support programs. From Facebook fundraisers to Pub Crawls to streamed events- we’ve witnessed dozens of campaigners prove that creativity and love can inspire the most awesome fundraising activities.

FMG Termite and Pest Control showed us that volunteering your time isn’t the only way to make a difference in a grieving child’s life. In celebration of their 20th anniversary in business, FMG Termite & Pest Control Services of Shelton conducted a creative FB campaign to boost their following and show their support. For each “Like” and “Share” their page received, they donated \$1 to Adam’s House.

“The Badadumper Players,” a local Valley volunteer group, had Performed at Mistletoe & Margaritas in the past and wanted to continue their service in 2020. They tirelessly performed an amazing table-read of the classic “Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer,” requested a suggested donation of \$10 per viewer. The final rendition was amazing, and the campaign raised over \$2500 for Adam’s House.

**The Badadumper Players present...**

**A TABLE READ OF THE HOLIDAY CLASSIC FEATURING LOCAL “CELEBRITIES” TO BENEFIT ADAM’S HOUSE**

**DEC. 16-20TH IN YOUR LIVING ROOM! SUGGESTED DONATION \$10**

**RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER**

 Jackie Meeker-Field as Rudolph Local singer	 Danielle Mastrony as Hermey Assistant Aquatic Director Shelton Community Center	 Ben Mikula as Yukon Cornelius Lead Singer of The Alpaca Gnomes	 Matt Mikus as Snowman Sam Lead Singer of Hubinger St.
 Nicole Mikula as Clarice Celebrate Shelton Bring the Hoopla	 Jake Withers as Santa Celebrate Shelton Security	 April Perry as Mrs. Claus Celebrate Shelton Hospitality	 Mike Yachymczyk as The Bumble Market Master Shelton Farmers' Market
 Jen Merenda as Tall Elf	 Aim D'Amaro as Train w/ Square Wheels	 Darren Field as Head Elf	 Victoria Solits as The Doll
 Tara Coen as Toy Boat	 Amy Rodia as Polka Dot Elephant	 Michelle Keller as Cowboy on Ostrich	 Geoff & Robin Johnson as Mr. and Mrs. Donner
 Mike & Sarah Wood as Director and Narrator	 Janet & Paul Bradley as Comet and Charlie-in-Box	 Ralph & Jen as Water Pistol and Fish	 Mike & Renee Warner as Fireball and Clarice's Dad

Newtown Savings Bank volunteers made blankets, keychains and name tags for our program families

A group of local friends and volunteers starred in, directed and produced a version of the holiday classic

# COMMUNITY

## Program Partners

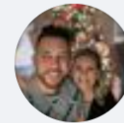
Aquarion Water Company  
FSP Foundation  
Valley Community Foundation  
Matthews Children Foundation  
Bruce F. Griffing Foundation  
Ion Bank Foundation  
Mutual Security Credit Union  
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce

## Great Give 2020

Matching Gift Donor: OEM Controls  
(Shelton, CT)  
Individual Donations: 280

## Mistletoe & Margaritas

Vendors: 45, Tickets: 194  
**Corporate Sponsors:**  
Your CBD Store  
CT Basement Systems  
South Street Self Storage  
Mutual Security Credit Union  
OEM Controls  
Nutmeg State Networking Group  
Valley Community Foundation  
  
Masquerade Lashes  
Finance IQ LLC  
Milestone  
Lincoln Tech  
Innovative  
The Wheelk  
Newtown Savings Bank



## Clayton's GivingTuesday Fundraiser for Adam's House

Fundraiser for Adam's House by Clayton Percy



# DONORS

## \$5,001-\$10,000

Mutual Security Credit Union  
Valley Community Foundation

## \$1,001-\$5,000

The FSP Foundation  
Carole Guglielmino  
Bruce Griffing Foundation  
Lee Kamlet  
Darsh Mariyappa  
Susan O'Reilly  
OEM Controls  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Debra Venech

## \$501-\$1,000

Bad Sons Beer Co, LLC  
Bearingstar Charitable Fund  
Cindy Dunlop  
Marc Fontaine  
The Garrison Family Foundation  
Your CBD Store  
Cintas  
Ankit Mehta  
Sony Corp. of America  
Last Chance Racing - Joseph Staurovsky  
First Congregational Church of Derby  
Allison Wysota

## \$251-\$500

Aquarion  
Big Y  
Behar Cami  
Chatfield True Value  
Connecticut Basement Systems  
Finance IQ  
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Michael Guthrie  
Karen Hartje  
Susan Lee  
Matias Martinez  
Masquerade Lashes  
Danielle Mastrony  
Austin McAnney  
Matthew McGlynn  
South Street Self Storage  
Randi & Doug Olin  
Angela Petitti  
Nutmeg State Networking Group  
Mark Roman  
Jill Rutsky  
Shelton FC Soccer  
Stuart Shaw  
Bill Taibe  
Lisa Tobin  
Kristen Vineyard

## Up to \$250

Russ Abraham  
Adorn Accessories  
AMG Catering  
Vicky Amidon  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Bozena Antoniak  
Patricia Arick  
Brenda Arrasate  
Debra Arrato  
Barbara Arthur  
The August Family  
Avon  
Elisa Ayala  
Sara Aylward  
Steven Bader  
MJ & Michael Baird  
Rachel Barnett  
Cara Battistoni  
Jeff Bauml  
Shelley Bayer  
The Beach Family  
Beautycounter  
Kirsten Bent  
Patty Bilotti  
Angela Bird  
Heather Blakeman  
Kelly Blanchard  
Blanchette Sporting Goods  
Sue and Chris Blaser & Chris Blaser  
Suzanne Bliven  
LouAnn Bloomer  
Samantha Boardman  
BD Provision  
Big Foot Chair Co

# DONORS

Up to \$250

Bodi-Wear  
Britt Bothe  
Lisa Bronte  
Barbara Brown  
Colleen Brown  
Brenda and Edward Bryce  
Julie Buckley  
Tamara Bugarchich  
Steve Burrows  
Clement Company LLC  
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Brighteyed for Treasures  
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John Catizone  
Pat Caton  
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Ceconi Family  
Celebrate Shelton  
Betsey Chadwick  
Chaves Family  
Lisa Cheney  
CL Jewelry Co  
Sharon Closius  
Samuel Cole  
Color Street  
Lindsay Collins  
Yvonne Comey  
Kevin Convey  
Luke Cormier  
John Corraro  
Kleber Costa  
Lynzy Coughlin

Jessica Crafton  
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Adam D'Errico  
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Karen Dmochowski  
Jake Doherty  
Michelle Domena  
Jason Domena  
Joe Domena  
Karen Domena  
Sarah Domena  
Rachael Donohue  
Katie Dowling  
Yolanda Drapala Gaidis  
Ursula Drapala Zajkowski  
Brian Dwyer  
DVTD Marketplace with a Mission  
Eileen Marie's Chalk Couture  
Amanda Ely  
English Tealeaves  
Judith Epstein  
Bobbi Essagof  
Eye group of CT  
Jaedin Falcone  
Stewart Family  
Farmer Family

Howard Fendell  
Katie, Kevin and Emily Fennell  
Carly Fine  
Janice Fischer  
Jill Fisher  
Renea Flook  
Rebecca Flynn  
FMG Termite & Pest Control Services  
Andrea Fodor  
Danielle Fontaine  
Alexandra Fontaine  
Patrick Fontaine  
Chris Fontaine Maloney  
Fredericks Family  
Jamie Fragale  
Olga Fryz  
Matt Gade  
Leigh Gage  
Nicholas Gambardella  
Sharon Garrow  
Brent and Glenda Garrow  
J. Michael Geiger  
Elice Geller  
Christien Gilson  
Greg Giordano  
Gliستا Family  
Karen Goering  
Jim Golden & Marie Reynolds  
Helen Goldenberg  
The Good Coin Foundation  
Roger & Laurel Goulet

Tanya Grant  
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Diana Grazia  
Linda and Ned Greenberg  
Pamela Greenhouse  
Guilt Free Pastries  
Heidi Guerrero  
Lindsey Guerrero  
Maria Guglielmino  
Juliana Guido  
Ogulcan Guney  
The Haberkerns  
Sarah & Mark Hale  
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Maureen and Sean  
Monique Hartl  
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Barbara Hayes  
Dianne Heaney  
Andrew & Julie Hecht  
Monique Henderson  
Shannon Hernandez  
John Holmes  
James Holmes  
Christina Iorfino Grant  
Innovative CPA  
Tracey Irby  
Ceasar Irby  
The Jamison Group LLC  
Gerard & Deb Jamieson

# DONORS

Up to \$250

Donna Jedynak	Learning Advantage Network	Jacklyn Meeker	Michelle Pagliaro
Jessica Jensen	Diversified, LLC	Tamara Rusty Meier	Rosemary Pagliaro
Claude and Maureen Johnston	Paul Lenihan	Katie Miller	Bill Palmer
Leilani Kalama	Paul Levin	Regina Mills Kijewski	Heather Patrick Moura
Charlee Brodsky and Mark Kamlet	Warren Lieff	Chris Mingoello	Janice Paul
Barb Kamlet	Jeff and Tamie Lieto and Family	Joseph mingoello	Kerry Pawlyk
Harlow Kamlet	Lillie Mae Handmade Aromatherapy	Rose and Chris Mingoello	Peach Athleisure Wear
Benjamin Kamlet	Products	Marybeth Mohr	Carol Pendagast
Dennie & John Kamlet	Charles Litty	Helga and Jay Moody	Cathy Pesavento
Jenna Kamlet	Leroy Boys	Patricia Moonan	Jeanne Penta
Rick Kamlet	Lesko & Polke Funeral Home	Rachel Moore	Judith Perrin
Carolyn Kamlet	Catherine Lombardi	Kathy Moran	Allison Peyton
Jeffrey Kaplan	Matthew and Barbara Lombardi	Lawrence Moses	Barbara Pierce
Sally Kaplan	Cookie Martini	Jessica Mottram	The Pink Bakery, Inc
Ken Kashiwahara	Rebecca Lowden	Michele Nangle	Jennifer Pisco
Joan Kayser	Catherine LeStrange	Lincoln Technical Institute	Kimberly Plourde
KB Essentials	Donna Madronal	Tracey Pearl Neal	Pop's Kernel Gourmet Popcorn
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Don Kendall	Frances Mahoney	Quinn Nelson	Tamie Proscia-Lieto
Josh and Sharon Kesselman	Bill & Janet Maley	Newtown Savings Bank	Brian Puttre
Armen & Dede Keteyian	Matthew Malok	Nod Hill Brewery	Taneil Quattrucci
Karen Kiely	Christine Maloney	Martine Nolletti	Quinn & Co. Apothecary
Olivia Kingston	Kaitlin Maloney	Stephen Norris	Kathy Radin
William Kohlhepp	Kayla Manton	Tracy Norton	Matthew Reardon
Amy Kohn	Erik Martire	Susan Ochman	Amy Reed
Samuel Kolthay	Stephen Martoni	Suzanne OHara	Wendy Regan
Alan Kraft	Jackson Marvin	Tina Oliveira	Kathryn Regan
Alice Kroll	Mary Kay	Kristen Olivo	Jim & Paulette Regan
KSS Made	Lisa Mccombs	Kevin O'Reilly	Katie Regan
Marilynn Kurpiewski	Pam McCoy	Jennifer Orr	Samantha Regan
Cassie Maloney	John McFarland	Kaitlyn Mohr	Katelyn Regan
Alison L. Hong, MD	Laura McHugh	Lisa P Sandler	Michael Reilly
Elizabeth Laden	Leigh Meccay	Linda Padell	
Laurel's Tupperware			

# DONORS

## Up to \$250

Patty Reilly	Say It Wear It Tees	Suzanne Sutton	Alyssa Vergati
Lyndsey Resto	Elise Schepeler	Sydoni Skincare and Beauty, Inc.	The Waffle Iron
Kathy Riddle	Mitzi Schindler	Ida Szeto	Liz and Len Waiksnis
JJ Boutique by Jen	Corrine Schlabach	Frank C. Szajkowski	Anne Marie & Bob Walker
Julie Robbins	Laura Schlossberg	L D Tanner	Kelly Walker
Lisa Roberto	Beth Schweitzer	Brenda Tarzian	Laurie Wallace
Monica Roberto	Seacret Wellness	Barbara Tenerowicz	Rhanna Walsh
Nancy Roberts	Roberta Sekas	Mary Tesla	Joanne Walsh
Amy Rodia	September BODY & Bath	Jodi Thomas	Emily Walz
Andrew Rodriguez	Celina serafin drapala	Margaret Thomas	Wanke's Yankee Hot Pepper Products
Virginia Rodriguez	Lin Serena	Darlene Tickey	Mary Wargo
Judy Rodriguez	Seymour Blank Canvas	David Tillman	Lucinda Waterhouse
Jeff & Debby Rogart	Paul Shapiro	Traveling Vineyard	Kendall Webb
Lexi Roma	Riverview Funeral Home	Laura Tobe	Elizabeth Weiner
Sharon Roman	Jill Ship	Robin Tobin	Emily Westphal
Aaron Rome	Laurel Sibley	Red Torley	Shannon Whipple
Robert Ross	Mark Silverman	Mike Torley	Sarah Widomski
Jaime Rotatori	Jen Silvestain	Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski	Belinda Wutke
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Gwendolyn Rowe-Lanham	Michael, Nicole and Jimmy	Patty Tubin	Young Living
Monique Russo	Brad and Marianne Smythe	John Tublin	Nalley Yvette
Kate Sabatini	Suzanne Solensky	2 Crazy Crafting Moms	The Zajac Family
Rayna Salemme	Star 99.9	Alan Tyma	Jennifer zucaro
The Samons'	Stella & Dot	Hank Unger	Maryann Zurbuch
Anne Santa-Maria	Stephen Staurovsky	United Way of Metropolitan Chicago	Mary Zwecker
John Santos	Alisha Stripling	Staf van der heijden	
Lesley Sareen	Dora Sung	James Velgot	
Salil Sareen		Mercedes Velgot	

# Adam's House Financials 2020

## Contributions:

Individual and Business: 18,199.87  
 Facebook Donations: 7,554.79  
 Fundraisers; 53,801.25  
 Grants: 27,000  
 Reserve source: 57,307.96  
 Total Support: \$163,963.87

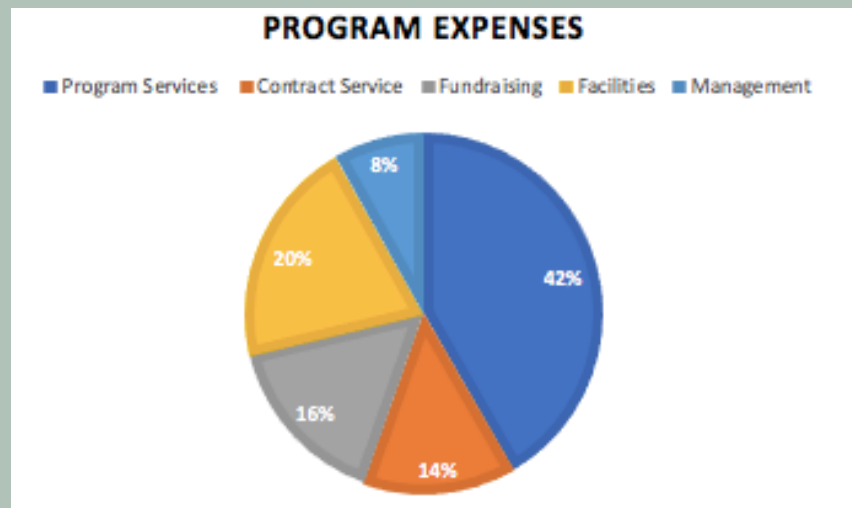
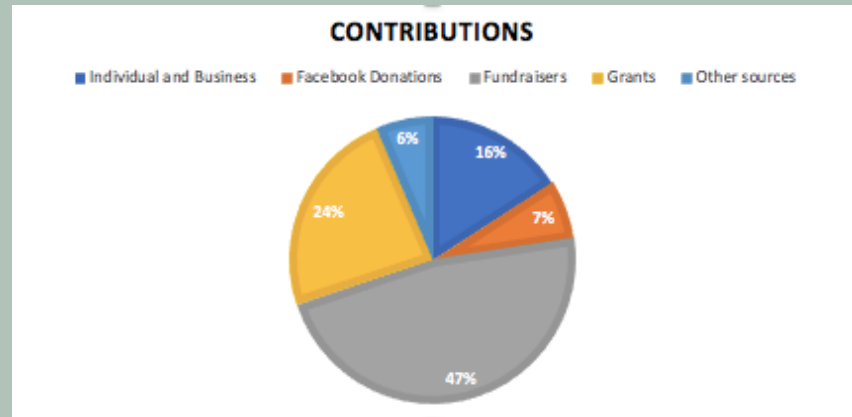
## Expenses:

Program Services \$65,068.86  
 Contract Service: \$21,467.60  
 Fundraising; \$24,825.54  
 Facilities: 31,948.90  
 Management: 12,868.25  
 Total Expenses: \$156,179.15

## Donors

**Social Media.** More than \$7,500 was raised for Adam's House through Facebook fundraisers this past year, helping our non-profit unlock significant new revenue. We would like to extend a big "thank you" to these donors who hosted special Facebook fundraisers for Adam's House and to the 200+ donors who made a contribution on this platform.

- Danielle Mastrony Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Tanya Grant's Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Marc Fontaine Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Gail P. G. Nankervis
- Jodi Thomas's Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Nancie Gray Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Clayton Percy's Giving Tuesday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Erin Gorman Giving Tuesday Fundraiser for Adam's House



\*We sincerely apologize if you donated to Adam's House but your name was inadvertently left of this report

## Staff

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## Board of Directors

Executive Board  
Marc Fonatine, Board President  
Lee Kamlet, Secretary

Alison Leiko Hong, MD  
Darsh Mariyappa  
Pam McCoy  
Katie Regan  
Lindsey Guerrero  
Austin Mcanneny  
Tanya Grant

### **Interested in joining our Board of Directors?**

We would love to hear from you. We are an engaged, passionate and committed group dedicated to driving Adam's House mission forward.





ADAM'S HOUSE

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adamshouse@gmail.com