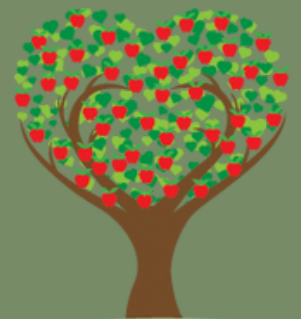




# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



ADAM'S HOUSE

GRIEF EDUCATION AND PEER SUPPORT CENTER FOR  
CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN



# Overview

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# Founder's Message



I look back at 2024 as a time of positive change and exciting transformation for Adam's House.

We started the year with a strategic realignment of resources, which helped our team to focus more thoughtfully on building awareness of our programming and expanding upon existing financial support, while acquiring new prospects interested in supporting our programs.

Our "Helping Hearts Heal" program continues to impact children and families across Connecticut. We saw an increase in calls from school counselors, therapists, and other crisis management professionals who rely on our program as a complement to the work they do. To date, over 400 lives have been transformed through the work we do at Adam's House.

Our volunteer base has continued to grow, with over 500 hours of time gifted to us in 2024 by individuals, community organizations, and corporations.

After a historic rainstorm pushed our Annual Pro-Am Golf Outing to a new date, we were excited to welcome over 100 guests to Brownson Country Club for golf and lunch. Seeing this event's popularity grow each year is a testament to the unwavering support of our local community.

We were thrilled to move our "Dancing with the Stars" event to the Fairfield Theater Company as we celebrated the event's 5th year. Standup comedy icon, storyteller, and writer Lisa Lampanelli took the stage as our emcee, and NBC CT's Taylor Kinzler, Fox 61's Matt Scott, and studio owner Marco Micic rounded out the judges' table. Our dedicated volunteer dancers and talented partners from Fred Astaire Dance Studios entertained our largest crowd ever, and over \$70,000 was raised to support our grief programs.

As we continue to focus on the growth and stability of Adam's House, our financial outlook remains strong. We made great strides in attracting new donors in 2024, doubling the number of individual donors who engage with us in various ways throughout the year.

I am excited for new initiatives we have in place, including the addition of Noah Eliot Gotbaum as our Interim Executive Director, effective January 2025. His initial focus will be defining and guiding strategic plans as we work together to write the next chapter for Adam's House. I'm excited for the year ahead!

With gratitude,  
Allison



# Our Mission

Adam's House transforms lives and communities by providing free grief education, peer support, and resources that empower children and families to navigate their grief journey with strength, resilience, and hope as they rebuild their lives.

All grief journeys are unique.



*“Adam’s House forever changed my life. In my darkest days, I found light. In my sadness, I found comfort. And in my isolation, I found strength, support, and hope which now carries me and my children forward and back into school, work, our community - and life.”*

*~Adam’s House Program Family*



# Our Vision

A world where no child or family grieves alone and where all have access to proven grief support and the tools to allow them, their children, and their children's children to effectively manage feelings of isolation, depletion, and withdrawal to live joyful, social, and productive lives.



*"I remember hearing the sound of my own laughter for the first time, and it was at Adam's House - what a beautiful moment. I will cherish my group forever and so will my children."*

*~Adam's House Program Parent*



# The Need



**1 in 12 children will experience the loss of a parent or sibling by age 18.**

**By age 25, that number more than DOUBLES.**

**More than 1,200 children under the age of 18 are newly bereaved each day.**

*Yet most grieving children and families have severe difficulty finding support resources*

Unresolved childhood grief is associated with generational issues including substance abuse, depression, suicide; developmental disruptions, including relationship, academic, and career functioning, violent crime and incarceration, and economic dependency and poverty.

- 1.5 million children live in a single-parent home because of the loss of one parent
- Nearly 2 million children under 18 have lost both parents
- Children who experience unresolved grief of a father are
  - 5x times more likely to complete suicide
  - 9x more likely to drop out of high school
  - 10x more likely to engage in substance abuse



# Our Impact

Since 2016, Adam's House has helped to transform more than 400 lives after the loss with peer support, grief education and fellowship.



OVER 6,400 HOURS OF  
GRIEF EDUCATION &  
PEER SUPPORT



MORE THAN 400 LIVES  
TRANSFORMED  
AFTER LOSS



3200+ MEALS SHARED  
BY PROGRAM  
FAMILIES



OVER 100 ACTIVE  
VOLUNTEERS

\*Data as of December 2024

*“Meeting other families that were going through the same situation made us feel we were not alone... everyone was so supportive of one another. We felt like we gained a whole new family.”*  
~Adam's House Program Family



# Our Cornerstone Program

## “Helping Hearts Heal”

An innovative and effective curriculum-based, 8-week grief education and peer support program designed for children 5-18 and their parent/caregiver

Children are placed in age-appropriate peer groups facilitated by volunteer “FIGs” (Friends in Grief).

Through our program, children and families explore feelings of grief and loss to find healing and hope, and to re-engage with life.



*“When we first attended Adam’s House, I thought it might help my son.*

*I never imagined that it would also provide me with a community of support and a new purpose in life.”*

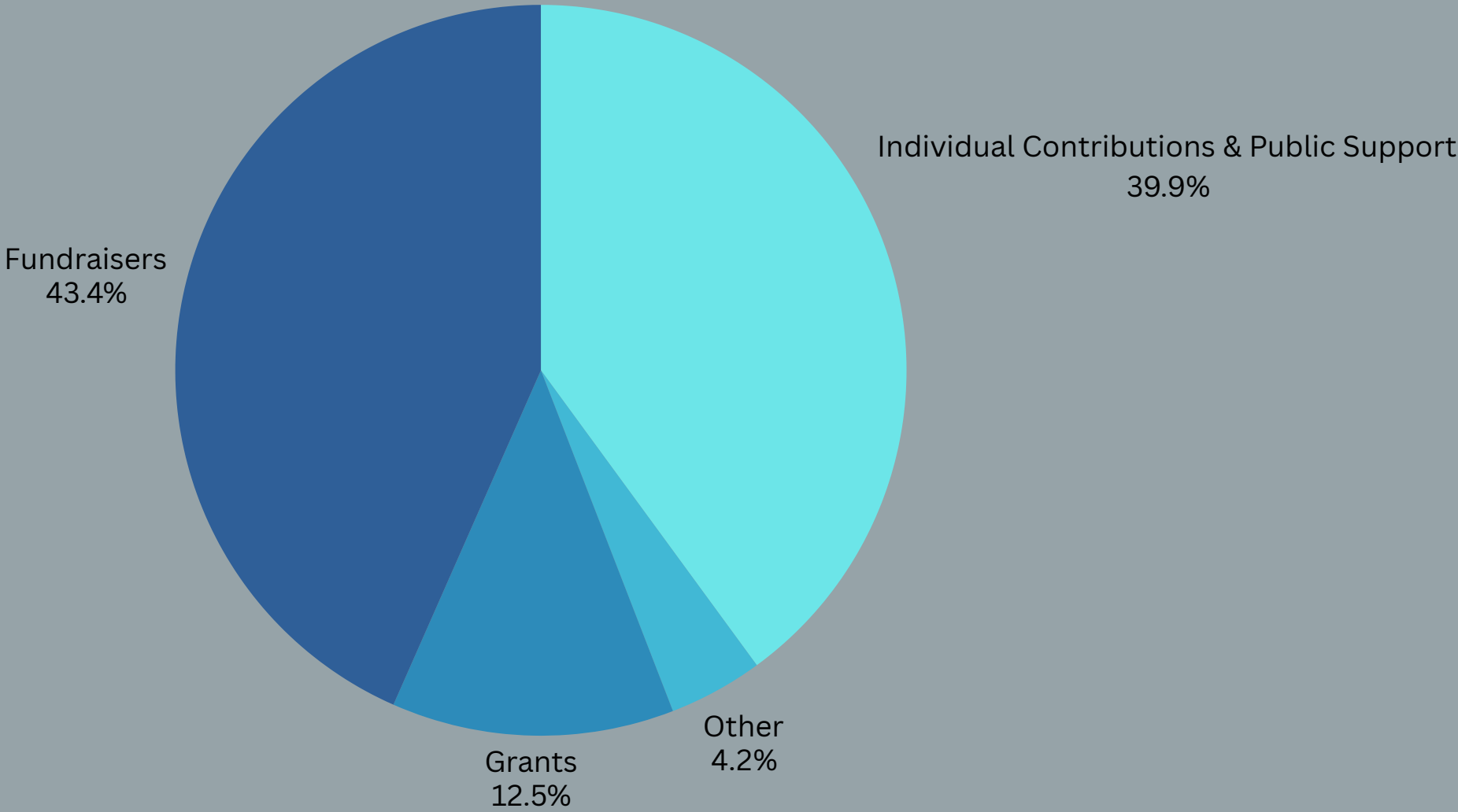
*~ Program Participant*



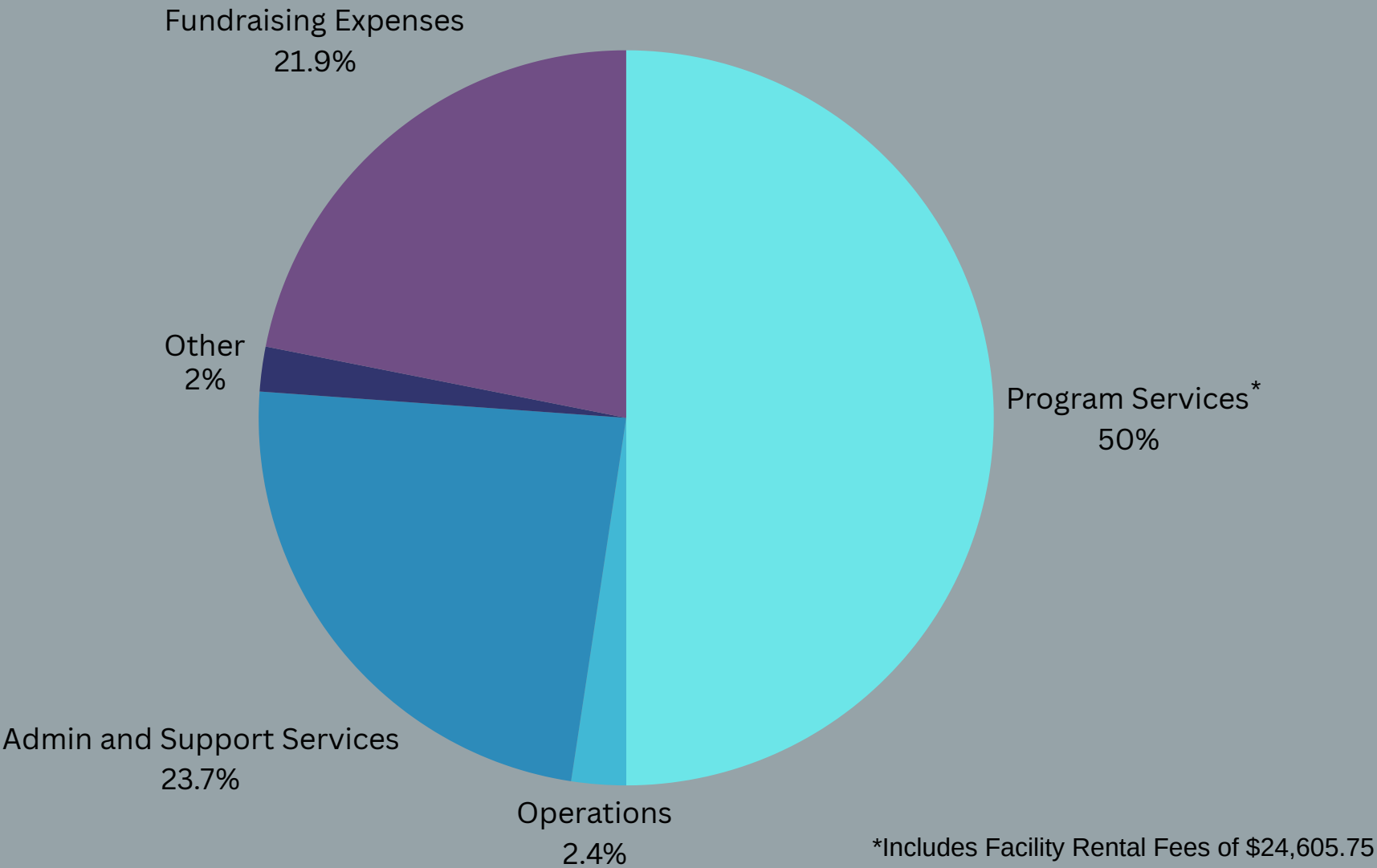


# Our Financials

Revenue



Expenditures



Our total revenue for the fiscal year 2024 was \$239,627.92, with total expenditures of \$217,404.12. Our net gain was \$22,223.80

We look forward to continued growth in 2025 thanks to a 3-year Operational Grant from the Valley Community Foundation and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, enhanced fundraising efforts, and a marked increase in individual contributions as compared to 2024. In addition, our marquis fundraising events saw a larger net revenue thanks to our dedicated local community of individual and corporate supporters, most of whom have agreed to retain or expand their partnerships with us in the coming year. We are also grateful for the continued financial commitment of our Board of Directors, and the time and talent they share with Adam’s House.



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers shared 500+ hours of their time and talent with us in 2024



*BOARD MEMBERS ~ FRIENDS IN GRIEF ~ EVENT VOLUNTEERS ~ BLANKET ASSEMBLY ~ GARDEN COMMITTEE ~ HOLIDAY DECOR*



Their dedication to our mission is inspiring.

We are grateful for the commitment they show to the children we serve.

***Do you or your organization  
want to get involved?***

*Contact [noelle@adamshousect.org](mailto:noelle@adamshousect.org)*





# Key Community Support



In 2024, Adam's House was awarded a new 3-year operational grant totaling \$52,000 from Valley Community Foundation and Community Foundation of Greater New Haven



Jimmy McGrath Foundation supported our Pro-Am Golf Outing as the 2024 Title Sponsor



After learning more about our mission and impact, Asset HR chose to support “Dancing with the Stars” as the event’s Presenting Sponsor

# SONY

SONY was a generous matching sponsor for The Great Give. Their support helped us reach our fundraising goal.



Sona Bella Salon & Spa hosted their 4th Annual “Glam-a-Thon” with proceeds to benefit Adam’s House



THOR Specialties continued supporting Adam’s House in 2024 by sponsoring Shopping with Elves for our alumni families.



# EVENTS



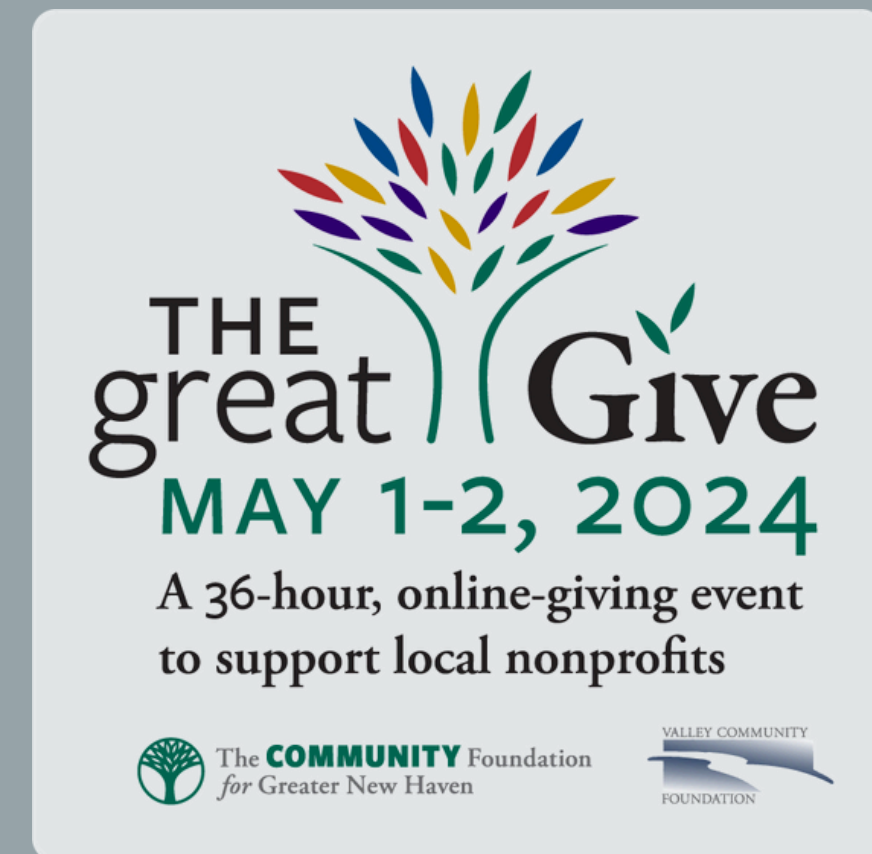
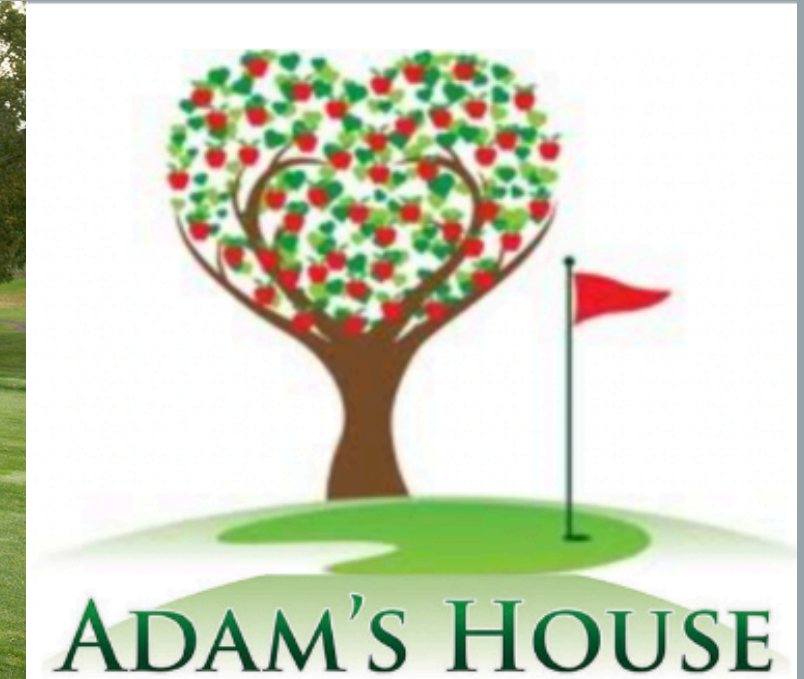
5th Annual "Dancing with the Stars" at The Warehouse @FTC



Annual Year-End Fundraising Effort



2nd Annual Golf Pro-Am at Brownson Country Club







Paint & Sip with Giggling Pig, Shelton



Sponsored by Thor Specialties



*Mother's Day Weekend  
Plant Sale*



DIY Charcuterie  
with Fairfield Craft Social



STAY  
EVEN



# 2024 DONOR LIST

## \$10,000-\$24,999

Asset HR  
Valley Community Foundation

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Bruce Griffing Trust  
Charter Arms  
Community Foundation for  
Greater New Haven  
Jimmy McGrath Foundation  
Scott Luntz\*  
Moccasin Lake Foundation  
Sony Corporation of America  
Wireless Zone Gives

## \$1,000-\$4,999

Anonymous Donor(s)  
Aquarion Water Company  
Ray Blanchette  
Danielle Carlson\*  
David, Carmen, Michael & Lindsay Carlson Fund  
City of Shelton  
Curran Volkswagen  
Denise D'Ascenzo Foundation  
Gamble Family Charitable Trust  
Guilford Savings Bank  
HUB International  
ION Bank Foundation  
Michelle Jukoski\*  
Juliana Mazza Memorial Fund  
Matthews Children Foundation  
Katharine Matthies Foundation  
Colleen McGrath  
Milestone, Inc.  
Mutual Security Credit Union  
OEM Controls  
Susan O'Reilly  
Angela Petitti  
Santa Energy  
Sona Bella Salon & Spa  
Thor Specialties, Inc.  
Town Fair Tire Foundation, Inc.  
Debra and Justin Venech  
Allison Wysota

## \$500-\$999

Bernadette Bimonte-Hackett Fund  
for Women and Children  
Lisa Bisson\*  
Christine Calabrese  
Church of our Lady of Assumption  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
Carole Guglielmino  
Sue Kahn Wolk  
Laura Krauss\*  
Mackenzie Painting Company

Matias Martinez  
M&T Bank  
Nicole Mikula  
Monroe Congregational Church  
Patricia Moonan\*  
Newtown Savings Bank  
Peralta Design  
Listy Thomas  
Dee Tutka\*  
Shawna Vallillo\*

## \$250-\$499

4 Core Financial LLC  
Barnum Foundation for Life  
Bearingstar Insurance Charitable Fund  
Brownson Friday Night League  
Brownson Invitational Committee  
Behar Cami  
CT Maid  
Czecho Slovak American Club  
Christopher Douglas  
Echo Hose Hook & Ladder Co. 1  
First Congregational Church of Derby  
Greg and Peggi Gandt  
Judith Gulish  
Jack Rose Imagery  
Lee Kamlet  
Brian King  
Law Offices of Denise A Mortati  
Luscious & Company  
Lauren Mahoney  
Mavi Cafe

Adriana Mazza\*  
Joseph Nechasek  
Perry Hill Elementary School  
Anthony Piccirillo  
Carvalho Roldao  
Mark Roman  
Rotary Club of Ansonia, Seymour & Oxford  
Seymour Pumpkin Festival  
Thomas Shelto  
Shelton High Girl's Lacrosse Team  
Sam Simons  
Tina Skeete  
Matthew Slater  
Spear-Miller Funeral Home  
Aliha Talton  
Three Guys Masonry  
David Turecheck  
Ultimate Physique, LLC  
Joseph Verrastro  
Webster Bank



# 2024 DONOR LIST (continued)

## \$100 - \$249

William Alexander  
Vicky Amidon  
Anonymous Donors  
Kevin Atterberry\*  
Elliott Barber  
Janet Barillari  
Laura Behringer  
Katie Beirne  
Alexa Benfanti  
Alan Bigelow  
Merrily Bodell  
Daniela Boerescu  
Katy Bondeson-Schneider  
Joseph and Dana Branch  
Rachel Brownless  
Joanne Bruni  
David Burger  
Kelli Cagganello  
Cheryl Caracansi  
Deepa Chauhan  
Michelle Collings  
Melissa Copp  
John Corraro  
Lorrie Craw  
CT Institute of Finance  
AJ De Leo  
Matt and Noelle Debes  
Donna DiBenedetto  
Lisa Dunn  
Cheryl Dziubina

Crystal Engram  
Judith Evans  
Fairfield Half Marathon  
Catherine Farup  
David Flynn  
Emily Friedman  
Leigh Gage  
James and Nancy Geissler  
Irena Glinskaia  
Alex and Priscilla Goyette  
Maryellen Graft  
Johnel Hall  
Jennifer Harriss  
Karyn Harwood  
Hearst CT Media  
Daryle Hiltz  
Jesse Horsford  
Cathy Jackson  
Joseph Khoury  
Devon King  
Kinsley Group  
Diana Knapp  
Phillip Kohan  
William Kohlhepp  
Kevin Kosty  
Carol Krauss  
David Krauss  
Bruce Kueffner  
Sarah Kuhns  
Nicole Lewis

Douglas LoMonte  
Erin Loosen  
Mike Marett  
Nancy Marino  
Dolores Mason  
Lynda Mettler  
Lisi Metzger  
Lauren Haber Moore  
Lisa and Jay Mraz  
Caitlin Muller  
Liz Mysirlidis  
Colin Nissan  
Open Door Tea  
John Ostaszewski  
Joseph Pagliaro  
Kenneth Petrovich  
Allison Peyton  
Filomena Pirulli  
Brian Plourde  
Robert Powell  
Tom Quinn  
Joseph Rainone  
Robert Ramos  
Joanna Reslink  
Kathleen Rienzo  
Karen Rodriguez  
Jeffery Romatzick  
Jaime Rotatori  
Frederic Rothenberg  
S G

Lucy and Matt Sagliocca  
Paola Santamaria  
Vincent Santilli  
Lesley Sareen  
Adam Schaefer  
Beth Schweitzer  
Athena Sehr  
Cass Shaw  
David Sippin  
Brad and Marianne Smythe  
St. Margaret Mary Men's League  
Amy Sullivan  
Cindy Sullivan  
Leon Sylvester  
Paul Tavaras  
Kim Tchakirides  
Jodi Thomas  
Thyme & Season Natural Market  
Nikki Towle  
Anthony Vallillo  
Mark Vece  
Kristen Vietze  
Joseph Violetta\*  
Mark Voccola  
Gayle Weinstein  
Kathie Weisman  
Bruce Wettenstein

*It is our goal to ensure accuracy in  
our donor listing. If your name was  
inadvertently excluded, please know it was  
a slip of the pen and not of the heart.  
Contact us with any adjustment requests.*





### **Pro-Am Golf Tournament Supporters**

Anonymous (2)  
Brownson Country Club  
CT Maid  
Curran Volkswagen  
Czecho Club  
Fore Core Financial  
HUB International  
Jack Rose Photography  
Jimmy McGrath Foundation  
Law Offices of Denise Mortati  
Love Lou Wines  
Luscious & Co  
MacKenzie Painting  
Matt Landscaping  
Minuteman Press  
Mavi Cafe  
Peralta Design  
Piece of Cake by Brittany  
Seymour Pumpkin Festival  
Three Guys Masonry  
Webster Bank



### **THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED ADAM'S HOUSE BY PERFORMING**

#### **Celebrity Emcee**

Lisa Lampanelli



Olena Bobrakova, Hamden  
Andrii Drobitko, Hamden  
Maksym Dubrovnyi, Hamden  
Sofia Kibalnykova, Hamden  
Nenad Pavlovic, Orange  
Stephanie Pavlovic, Orange  
Felix Reyes, Shelton  
Juliette St. George, Orange  
Magali Bazzano, Orange

#### **Panel of Judges**

Taylor Kinzler  
Marco Micic  
Matt Scott

#### **Our Dancing "Stars"**

Alexa Benfanti  
Tara Evans  
Ashley Langer  
Kristen Ostrowski  
George Papanicolaou  
Hannah Perry  
Jay "The Iceman" Piccirillo  
Doug Wade

#### **"Dancing with the Stars" Sponsors**

Harvesting Elegance for a Cure: Asset HR -- *Platinum Presenting Sponsor*

Aquarion Water Company	Hearst CT Media Group	OEM Controls
GCA Gymnastics & Cheer Academy	ion Bank	Santa Energy
Guilford Savings Bank	Jessi Betar	Thor Specialties

*Local Media Sponsors ~ Connect Fairfield In a Fairfield Minute*

#### **In-Kind Donors**

Minuteman Press - Tina Marie Photography - Blanchette Sporting Goods  
Jack Rose Imagery - The Petal Pusher



**Third-Party Fundraisers  
in Support of Adam's House**

Big Y  
*Community Bag Program*

Fairfield Craft Social  
*DIY Charcuterie Night*

Giggling Pig  
*Paint & Sip*

ion Bank  
*Community Awards Gift*

Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale

Perry Hill Elementary School  
*"Wear your Jeans" Day*

Shelton High School Girls Lacrosse  
*Finn Fun Fest*

Sono Bella Salon & Spa  
*Glam-A-Thon*

**facebook**

**2024 Facebook Fundraisers  
for Adam's House**

Aliha Palmer Talton  
Laurie Howes Mylen  
Chris Malloy

**"Walkway of Angels"  
Memorial Brick Walk at the  
Adam's House Memorial Garden**

Martin Amidon ix	Andrew Mason
Pete Benfanti	Juliana Mazza
Kyle Bulkley	John F. "Jack" Purcell
Viviana Rose Cavalli	Patrick J. Purcell
Peter Collings	Avery Rotatori
Dragos Cucu	Xavier Sandor
Marcus R. Darby	Shinu Simon
Walter D. Fagan	A.J. Skoronski
Damien E Karlidag	Elisabeth Verrastro
Todd Michael Kuhns	Adam Wysota

**In-Kind Gifts to the  
Adam's House Memorial Garden**

John J. Brennan Construction Company

Grillo Services LLC

Kendra Hanson

Home Depot

Jones Family Farm

Lowe's

Planter's Choice

Red Coach Trucking, Co. LLC

TGM Construction

Winslow Landscaping

Deb Wolfram

Pete & Kim Zaksewicz



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR**

Blanket Project Donors & Volunteers ~ Pizza Donors ~ Program Supply Donors ~ Silent Auction Donors ~ Snack & Refreshment Donors



# Our 2024 Team

Thank you to our Board Members  
who served during 2024



**Allison Wysota**

Founder & Executive Director  
*Board President (March 2025)*



**Rachel Morrow**

Director of Fundraising



**Noelle Debes**

Director of Communications

Kevin Atterberry

Lisa Bisson

Danielle Carlson (*Vice President*)

Michelle Jukoski (*President*)

Laura Krauss

Christopher Lynn

Scott Luntz

Adriana Mazza

Patricia Moonan

Dee Tutka

Shawna Vallillo

Joe Violetta



In January 2025, Adam's House welcomed  
Noah Eliot Gotbaum  
*Interim Executive Director*

Visit our website to learn more about Noah  
[www.adamshousect.org/news](http://www.adamshousect.org/news)





## Adam's House

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Shelton, CT 06484

203-513-2808

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

[info@adamshousect.org](mailto:info@adamshousect.org)



/adamshousect



/adamshousect

