The Ark
2022 Impact Report
Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share our 2022 Impact Report which demonstrates The Ark’s profound impact on our community after over 50 years of service.

Following nearly three years of planning, we broke ground on renovating our longtime home in West Rogers Park which will expand our physical space by over 60% and create beautiful new spaces for clients and staff. We’ve launched several new initiatives to meet emerging and growing needs, including innovative housing solutions and a mental health program focused on addressing the child mental health crisis. While rising living expenses during the pandemic have driven many toward hardship, The Ark remains committed to providing support to those searching for a safety net.

We have overcome extraordinary challenges this past year. In May, while preparing to relocate for the duration of construction on our base of operations, a fire broke out in the temporary location we had secured. After several weeks of disruption, we moved into alternate spaces at 3500 and 3525 W. Peterson Avenue where we are now fully operational. Our Northbrook facility continued to operate seamlessly during this time, and our entire team has shown remarkable resourcefulness to continue caring for our clients while we await the completion of our new building scheduled for the end of 2023.

Last year, more than 5,100 donors contributed over $5.5 million in annual support and over 2,000 volunteers devoted 7,500 hours to working alongside our dedicated staff. We are deeply grateful for the communal support that has driven The Ark since its founding in 1971. Thank you for being a part of our story this year and for your continued partnership at this moment of transformation for The Ark and for our community.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Chief Executive Officer
Marna Goldwin

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David Shmikler
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Michael H. Zaransky

The Ark is a vibrant hub of vital human services, empowered by Jewish values, that lifts and strengthens the Jewish community.

The Ark Northwest office in Northbrook coordinated 2,500 pantry orders and provided service to 33% of Ark clients

7,500 service hours from 2,000 volunteers

$296,500 in food assistance provided though grocery gift cards and produce vouchers

1,000 gift cards provided to individuals and families to fulfill Chanukah Gift Wishes

$20,000 offered to 500 clients for transportation needs, including gas cards, Ventra passes, and ridesharing services

8,150 prescriptions filled at no charge

60% of clients rely on The Ark’s food pantry

1 in 5 Jewish families in the Chicagoland area struggle to make ends meet

*2020 Metropolitan Chicago Jewish Population Study

$632,000 in direct rent and utility assistance for nearly 1,000 clients

$1.2 million in financial assistance

20% have children living at home

70% spend over 1/3 of their income on housing, according to Health and Human Services Dept. federal poverty level guidelines

900 Thanksgiving meals delivered

Back-to-school supply packages equipped 700 children with classroom essentials

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4,000 individuals served with dignity

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Life-Changing Impact

“The donors of The Ark go the full distance to make sure we have a roof over our heads, that we’re taken care of, and that we don’t lay awake every night worrying how we’re going to feed our kids tomorrow. And that’s worth everything in life.”

Ark client

New Beginnings
HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Through the remarkable generosity of an Ark donor, individuals and families facing housing insecurity have found support through the New Beginnings program, launched in 2021. Since its inception, 11 Ark families have benefitted from safe, secure housing, reducing their financial burden and allowing them to focus on improving their employment situation, creating a savings plan, and building a foundation that will allow them to move on into independent, long-term housing.

Over the same period, we provided more than $632,000 in direct rent and utility assistance for nearly 1,000 clients, enabling them to remain in their neighborhoods and maintain connections with friends and community institutions vital to their well-being. An additional 20 clients were housed for periods of up to four months at the Sarnoff Levin Residence in West Rogers Park, a transitional housing facility that provides daily meals, direct access to all Ark services, case management, and support in finding stable housing.

Child & Family Wellness
PARTNERING TO ADDRESS CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH

Through the course of the pandemic, schools have faced a growing challenge to meet the escalating mental health needs of their young students. Through a generous grant from the Robert and Debra F. Hartman Family Foundation, The Ark has partnered with REACH in launching a new Child & Family Wellness Program to provide critical mental health support to children whose families do not have the resources to access treatment on their own.

School administrators and educators refer students to be assessed for service eligibility. As Ark professionals evaluate a participating child’s therapy needs and connect them with clinicians across our community, their families will work with an Ark Case Manager to access comprehensive, holistic support in finding stable housing.

Ralla Klepak Foundation for Education in the Performing Arts
ENRICHING COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

In 2022, The Ark’s Intensive Day Program (IDP) provided daily programming and psychiatric support for 200 adults in the local Jewish community facing mental and physical health challenges. IDP’s mission is to enrich lives and enable clients to live independently with financial and residential stability.

Thanks to the generous support of Ralla Klepak Foundation for Education in the Performing Arts, The Ark significantly expanded performing arts programming for IDP participants. By covering the costs of tickets and transportation, 54 clients were able to participate in theater, dance, and music experiences both online and in person.

Highlight events of the year included guitar lessons with the Old Town School of Folk Music; therapeutic, drama, and dance classes offered by the Institute for Therapy Through the Arts; live performances at Northlight Theater in Skokie, The Art Center of Highland Park, Victory Gardens Theater, and the Broadway Playhouse in Chicago.

“Life-Changing Impact

“I was excited to see my first Broadway in Chicago show, and The Play That Goes Wrong did not disappoint! It felt so good to laugh out loud with other people after two years in isolation, and I look forward to attending more shows in the future.”

IDP participant

ARKCHICAGO.ORG

THE ARK 2022 IMPACT REPORT
Profile: Marcy Goodman

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL COUNSELOR

Bringing deep experience as a Certified Financial Counselor, Marcy Goodman joined the Ark staff in 2021 as our full-time financial counselor. Marcy takes pride in teaching money management to help clients reclaim control of their finances.

Clients who live on small paychecks, social security, or disability benefits have found success through one-on-one sessions focused on creating a budget, prioritizing payments, and allocating emergency funds. Committed to empowering individuals to take steps towards financial self-reliance, Marcy works closely with our case managers and clinical director to coordinate services, such as navigating housing options and government programs that help build savings. In the past year alone, Marcy helped 184 clients improve their financial literacy skills and stability. For Marcy, there is no greater reward than seeing her clients thrive and build a secure future for themselves and their families.

CAFÉ ARK

In July, we were delighted to bring back in-person Café Ark meals, our popular restaurant-style community dinner program. Together with partners Maot Chitim and F.R.E.E. Synagogue, we proudly resumed hosting bimonthly opportunities for dozens of clients to come together, share a meal, and take home a packaged lunch for the next day.

“Helping clients achieve their financial goals is not just about providing solutions; it’s about equipping them with the knowledge and tools to build a better future.” — Marcy Goodman

CAFE ARK

RHEA SEGAL FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

Kosher food can cost 50% more at the grocery store, which can cause hardship for those who are trying to keep kosher with limited resources. The Rhea Segal Food Pantry Program is a crucial part of The Ark’s wrap-around service model, ensuring a reliable supply of nutritious kosher food at no cost to more than 2,400 Ark clients from our Chicago and Northbrook locations. Our pantry programs operate under a “Client Choice” model where individuals and families can select their preferred groceries, including meat, dairy, eggs, and more, for on-site pickup or home delivery. We also provide a range of household and personal care products not covered by federal SNAP benefits including diapers, toothpaste, soap, paper goods, and cleaning supplies. In 2022, an additional $296,500 in food assistance was provided through Jewel gift cards and vouchers for fresh produce. This supplementary funding offers clients the flexibility to purchase a wider variety of items and popular brand-name snacks to send to school with their children.

CHANUKAH GIFT WISHES AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Thanks to community and volunteer support, children and families participating in two of The Ark’s hallmark annual programs received items from their holiday and back-to-school wish lists they may have otherwise gone without. Through our Chanukah Gift Wishes program, gift cards were provided to parents to purchase presents for their kids. The Back-to-School program equipped students with essential supplies, including insulated lunch bags, water bottles, crayons, markers, and Target gift cards.

Back-to-School wish lists

Through the social and food pantry programs, it is more than just donating food; it is empowering clients to take control of their own lives. Here are a few examples of how this community meal has made a difference in the lives of Ark clients:

“Helping clients achieve their financial goals is not just about providing solutions; it’s about equipping them with the knowledge and tools to build a better future.” — Marcy Goodman

Our employment professionals prepare clients for their job search

Andrea Storz, Director of Employment Services, is dedicated to helping individuals define their professional identity through expertly written resumes.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The Ark is helping over 100 clients of all ages gain work readiness and conduct a strong and productive job search for today’s market. Andrea Storz, Director of Employment Services, continues to provide clients with support and guidance to maximize long-term success.
In 2022, The Ark broke ground on the transformative renovation and expansion of our longtime home in West Rogers Park. This landmark project will create a warm and inviting new space for Ark clients and staff, which honors our commitment to uplift our clients with the dignity they deserve. To date, The Ark has raised more than $21 million through the Building Our Future Campaign, to fund the renovation, bolster The Ark’s endowment, and invest in innovative new programs. Through the support of the community, we will:

- Expand our physical footprint by 60% with a 14,000 square foot, two-story addition making it possible to serve 20% more clients each year.
- Increase the size of our pantry fourfold, expanding access to nutritious, kosher food in a warm and welcoming environment.
- Double the size of our atrium and community room to accommodate shared meals and public events.
- Improve access to our free pharmacy to ease distribution of thousands of client prescriptions.
- Invest in new programs to meet our community’s emerging needs and strengthen The Ark’s future for long-term sustainability.

Coming in Late 2023: Building The Ark’s Future

- Case Management
- Social Services
- Financial Counseling
- Health Clinics
- Pharmacy / Kosher Food Pantry
- Employment Services / Mental Health Services
- Spiritual Enrichment / Transitional Housing

The Ark Permanent Home
6450 N. California Avenue
Chicago, IL 60645

The Ark Temporary Home
3100 Dundee Road, Suite 802
Northbrook, IL 60062

The Ark Northwest
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JUF Allocation and Grants
$604,378

The Ark Fiscal Year 2022
Revenue and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$763,297</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
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<td>Volunteer and Community Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical/Dental/Vision Clinics</td>
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<td>Budgeted Funds Released from Endowment</td>
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A Partner with the Jewish United Fund in Serving our Community.