



Anchored in Empathy.
Powered by Community.

The Ark

2022 Impact Report

8,150
prescriptions
filled at no charge

\$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

900 Thanksgiving
meals delivered

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

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

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

4,000
individuals served
with dignity

5,100 donors
contributed more
than **\$5.5 million**
in annual support

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

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

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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 to sustain and strengthen our services 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,



Signature of Steven Blonder

Steven Blonder
President, Board of Directors



Signature of Marna Goldwin

Marna Goldwin
CEO

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

Life-Changing Impact



New Beginnings

HOUSING SOLUTIONS



“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

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 for any number of challenges they may face. A significant grant from the JUF Mental Health Initiative will also fund the addition of a full-time clinician to work in schools that lack permanent, on-site social work and mental health professionals to better identify and evaluate students who could benefit from this unique program.

We are already working with more than 50 families at over a dozen schools, and this work is having a life-changing impact for many in our community.

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.



“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

184

clients received
literacy skills training

967

one-on-one
counseling sessions



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.

"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

2022 Highlights



Café Ark brings the community together for a warm meal and connection twice a month

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

"This community meal has been a blessing in my life. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and know that I belong." Ark client

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.



Volunteers organize kosher food at The Ark warehouse

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

"Volunteering at The Ark's food pantry has opened my eyes to the reality of food insecurity in our community. It's also shown me how we can come together to support our neighbors in need." Ark volunteer

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



School and synagogue groups pack presents for Chanukah

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.



Ark employment professionals prepare clients for their job search

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, is dedicated to helping individuals define their professional identity through expertly written resumes

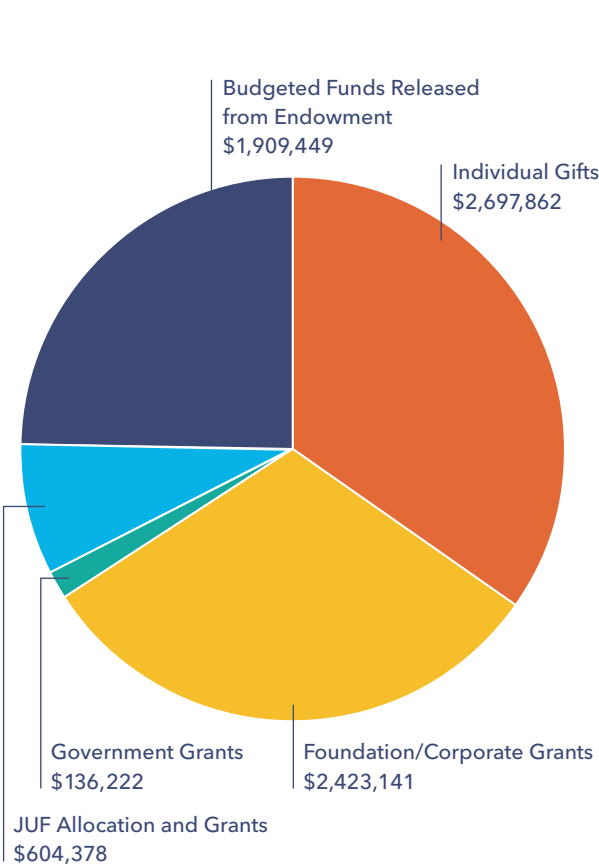
"When a client finds meaningful work in a right-fit job, they reconnect with their strengths and identity and are better prepared to overcome challenging times." Andrea Storz

and workshops focused on presenting confidence in interviews. She also assists clients through goal setting, skills exploration, LinkedIn profiles, network training, and identifying employers seeking qualified candidates. Even after securing a position, she continues to provide clients and employers with support and guidance to maximize long-term success.

The Ark Fiscal Year 2022 Revenue and Expenses

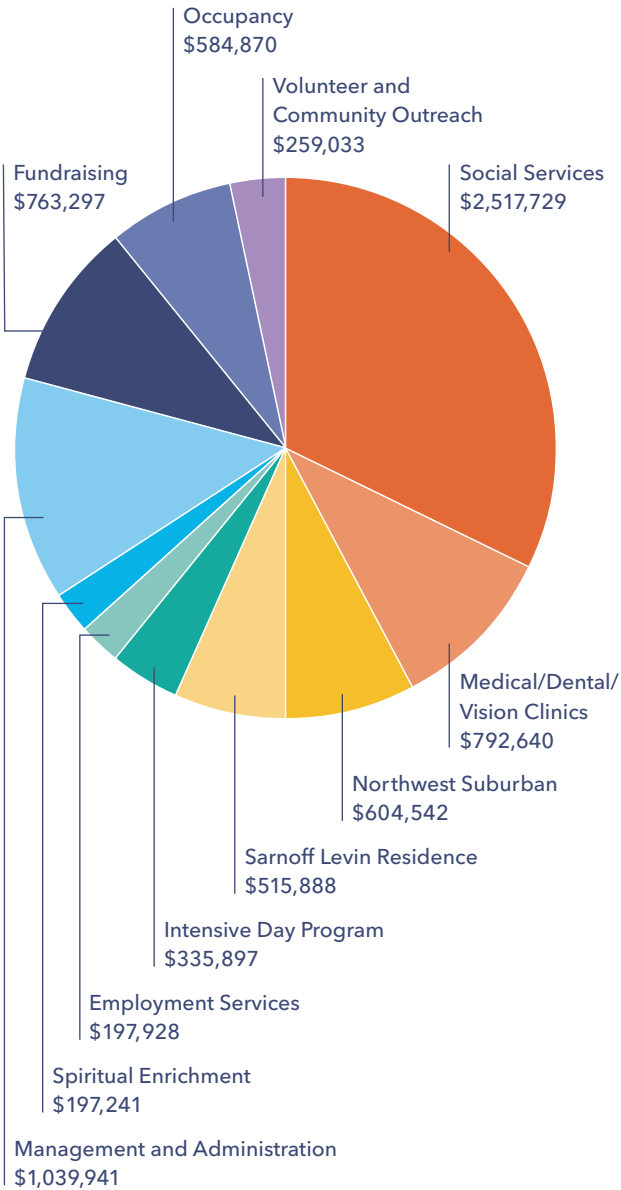
Revenues

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Expenses

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



Coming in Late 2023: Building The Ark’s Future



Exterior



Atrium and Community Room



Food Pantry



Second Floor, Shul and IDP space

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.



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 3500 W. Peterson Avenue, Third floor Chicago, IL 60659	The Ark Northwest 3100 Dundee Road, Suite 802 Northbrook, IL 60062	773-973-1000 arkchicago.org
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Illinois Nonprofit Organization. Community-Funded.
A Partner with the Jewish United Fund in Serving our Community.