



The  
Homeless  
**Families**  
Foundation

# MEETS THE MOMENT

EVERY YEAR APPROXIMATELY 1,200 FAMILIES AND 3,000 CHILDREN ARE HOMELESS IN COLUMBUS. EVERY DAY THAT WE FAIL TO END HOMELESSNESS IS ANOTHER DAY REAL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ARE LIVING WITHOUT A HOME. WE MUST ACT EVERY DAY WITH PURPOSE TO BREAK THIS CYCLE.

The Homeless Families Foundation (HFF) was founded in 1986 by community volunteers who believed it was unacceptable for any child to be homeless and that belief continues to fuel HFF's mission and programming. We believe all children in our community should have a home—and the key to ending homelessness is a stable family. We must work together with a sense of urgency to break the generational cycle of homelessness by fostering independence for families who are currently living in poverty and crisis.

The great equalizer in society is a good education. The great resilience builder in life is hope. At HFF we create a hopeful, nurturing environment for families and children where they are engaged in year round education, housing assistance and supportive services. HFF has a variety of programs that empower struggling families and expectant mothers to achieve stable housing and self-sufficiency. The HFF's education program educates and nurtures children, Pre-K through 8th grade, from the Franklinton community and beyond with afterschool and summer programs, and home visits that provide both education and intervention.

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## Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I will remember the year 2020 as the most challenging year of my lifetime. Watching the world and our communities deal with the pain and anxiety of the COVID pandemic, systemic and institutional racism, and deep political division, our “new” normal became one of stress and uncertainty for the future. This unprecedented time of need could have easily overwhelmed us at HFF; instead, it gave us a renewed sense of purpose and focus on what is most important. Stable, thriving children and families.

When the world began to shut down, HFF ramped up our work. Through incredible efforts in teamwork, we found creative ways to reimagine our existing programs and services. Continuing to move homeless families from shelter to their own homes, and expanding case management by adding virtual visits, and meeting families on porches and parks. Delivering daily meals to students when schools closed, and emergency rent assistance to families who lost jobs due to closure and lack of childcare. Pivoting our education programs from traditional after-school to daytime Learning Extension Centers and providing tablets to children so they had the technology to complete their schoolwork.

As the pandemic continued throughout the year, we saw our community's most vulnerable residents feeling the negative effects of COVID more acutely, as those living in poverty have less resources to successfully navigate and recover from loss of employment, illness and other pandemic-related stresses.

Columbus' lowest income households were struggling to pay rent, utilities and make ends meet before the pandemic, and now are facing increased risks of evictions and homelessness due to job losses and reduced wages. We knew we had to do more, so HFF sought out new funding and resources to expand our core services and began new programs to fill gaps in our community's service network which were widened by the pandemic. With unwavering support from our government and foundation partners, volunteers, and our corporate and private donors, HFF has added new programs and services to serve homeless and at-risk pregnant women, transition age youth and families. National recognition from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund, and 60 Minutes, has highlighted the amazing work of our HFF staff and Board, which has helped us garner more and more volunteers, donors and support for our HFF mission.

Looking toward 2021, I am incredibly optimistic for the future. Our HFF family, including our resilient children, young adults and families, faced seemingly insurmountable challenges in 2020 and are still standing. We are committed to using our lessons learned to get stronger, advocate louder and fight harder for our community's most vulnerable.



With gratitude,

*Beth Fetzer-Rice,*  
Executive Director

## HFF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT

At HFF, Diversity and Inclusion are more than just words, they are values and principles that guide our work. The families and children we serve are resilient, diverse, and multi-cultural, and we are committed to reflecting this in our Staff, Board and workplace. With resolve and intent, we are striving to create an environment where everyone feels empowered to be their full, authentic self. Where all voices are welcomed, heard and valued. Where our similarities are embraced, our differences respected, and both are celebrated for the value they bestow.

IN 2020, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECEIVED EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGH THE DOWD EDUCATION CENTER:

167

K-8TH GRADE STUDENTS RECEIVED IN-PERSON AND/OR VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

106

PRE-K CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES PARTICIPATED IN THE SPARK PROGRAM AND RECEIVED BOOKS AND SUPPLIES



26

TEENAGERS LEARNED LEADERSHIP AND COPING SKILLS THROUGH YOUTH LED

163

FAMILIES WERE SUPPORTED BY DELIVERIES OF FOOD, CLEANING SUPPLIES, SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND/OR PANDEMIC CASE MANAGEMENT



# OUR MISSION

THE HOMELESS FAMILIES FOUNDATION EDUCATES AND NURTURES CHILDREN WHILE EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO ACHIEVE STABLE HOUSING AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

## CURRENT HFF PROGRAMMING:

**RAPID RE-HOUSING** helps homeless families living in shelter move into stable housing. Families living in shelter are referred to HFF for this program.

**RAPID RE-HOUSING INTENSIVE** helps families who have been in shelter multiple times. Families living in shelter are referred to HFF for this program.

**HOMELESS PREVENTION FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS (HPEM)** provides housing and supportive services to improve the health and well-being of mother and child.

**HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH** (ages 18 - 24) provides housing assistance and programming when the head of household is 24 or younger.

**HEALTHY BEGINNINGS AT HOME (HBAH)** was a housing stabilization pilot program for pregnant women, led by Celebrate One, seeking to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in low-income families. HFF was a key partner in the program and provided housing stabilization services and insight.

**SUCCESS BRIDGE** provides housing assistance and supportive services for Columbus State college students.

**FAMILY STABILITY** is a safety net for all within the HFF sphere of influence. It provides financial and material assistance along with supportive services to prevent families from becoming homeless again.

**HOUSING NOW FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES** provides assistance to families with a minor child or someone at least six months pregnant that are experiencing a housing crisis.

**EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATION** assists current clients who need help with employment. Services include help with resumes and notification of job openings.

**HFF DOWD EDUCATION CENTER** offers programming as a Learning Extension Center during the pandemic. We look forward to resuming afterschool and summer camp programs supporting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) focused education, while providing support for Social Emotional Learning, Skill Building and Education/ Career Exploration.

**SPARK (SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSURE READY KIDS)** provides in-home educational services to help parents teach their children the skills needed to begin kindergarten. SPARK is offered in both English and Spanish.

**YOUTH LED**, a program for youth ages 13-18, in partnership with ADAMH, offers leadership training and programs giving students technology and communications skills.

# THE HOMELESS FAMILIES FOUNDATION MEETS THE MOMENT

Like many agencies of its kind, HFF faced new and unprecedented challenges in 2020. Not only was more required of us, but required in a landscape altered by a global pandemic and the raw and exposed wounds of deeply entrenched systemic racism. As an agency, staff and community, we were called to pivot, innovate and adapt and we remain overwhelmed with gratitude to all who helped shoulder the load. Our holistic, wrap-around services were more essential than ever, but because of the great teams we had in place and the incredibly successful work we perform every day, we were able to “meet the moment” in serving existing and emerging needs in prevention, education enrichment, and emergency financial and stability services. Although so much changed, we are proud to say our mission and the core of who we are held true.

As stay-at-home orders were enacted in mid-March, our immediate attention turned to sharing information and critical resources with the families we serve, as well as providing for our families’ most immediate needs: food, internet access and additional financial assistance. With our offices closed to the public, our amazing case workers began delivering food and essential household necessities, but shifted to completing paperwork via telephone and online meetings. Always dedicated to building authentic relationships with our families, our case workers actually experienced increased success in meaningful engagement, despite the challenges before them. When school closures were extended through May 1, the Dowd Education Center transitioned to online learning, including the creation of a private web portal and Facebook group to share daily virtual education. Students also received regular delivery of meal kits, made possible in part by the number of businesses, organizations and private individuals who increased existing gifts or made new ones in response to the pandemic.

We were ahead of the curve in one regard; our No Show Mother’s Day Gala, one of our established annual fundraisers, has been virtual since its inception. With help from our friends at ABC 6/Fox 28, along with other local media outlets, we celebrated our most successful No Show Mother’s Day Gala in the event’s history, raising more than \$78,000 to provide housing, food, child care and essential services to our clients, 95% of whom are single mothers. But as

COVID continued to highlight the racial disparities in wealth and health our agency confronts in its daily work, we, along with our nation, watched as the unspeakable horror of institutional, systemic racism was exposed to our nation at large. Our Executive Director was one of the original 750 signatories on a letter to Columbus City Council declaring racism a Public Health Crisis; our staff participated in the June 5 “March to End Racism” at City Hall; our organization re-committed to reflecting resiliency, diversity and multi-culturalism in its Staff, Board and workplace. The subsequent murders of Casey Goodson Jr. and Andre Hill prove, piercingly, how far we have to go. HFF stands ready to advance this work in both our organization and our community.



There was light, though, as well. Later in June HFF partnered with Columbus State Community College, the Columbus State Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio and the Community Shelter Board to launch “Success Bridge,” a program providing stable housing assistance to students. Our Ridge Runner Ramble fundraiser took place virtually from June 1 – 7; “ride on your own” routes in Dublin, New Albany, Canal Winchester and Grove City raised more than \$14,000 in funding for our programs.

With fall upon us, the Dowd Education Center earned distinction as a City of Columbus sponsored Learning Extension Center, allowing qualified students to access reliable internet, academic assistance and meals in-person in a safe and distanced environment. With regret, we announced that our signature fall event, Hope Takes Flight, would also be virtual, consisting of a “Thank You” concert with The Conspiracy Band hosted by our friends at Sunny 95 and presented by Nationwide and NetJets. This extremely successful event raised more than \$136,000 even in the midst of the pandemic.

We then turned our attention to the winter holidays. Our traditional sponsors alongside new ones stepped up once more, ensuring we had everything we needed – including 30 last minute turkeys – to provide each of our families a complete Thanksgiving meal. HFF’s Holiday Store remained a highlight of the year for staff, volunteers and families alike – it just looked, like all things 2020, a little bit different. Rather than families coming in to shop free of charge, they submitted wish-lists per child to their case managers, parent partners or teachers. HFF then recruited and matched those wish-lists to 169 different sponsors – individuals, organizations and companies alike. In addition, approximately a dozen toy drives took place in the community, including a “Teen Drive” sponsored by our new friends at Mark Wahlberg Chevrolet. Families then received their gifts in a “drive-thru” style event, with HFF staff delivering additional gifts



as needed. In addition, each family received a \$50 Giant Eagle or Kroger gift card for their holiday meal, as well as a Christmas tree, lights and wrapping paper if desired. Despite the pandemic, HFF served a record-breaking 669 children within 265 families through this year’s store, bringing much needed joy to all who participated.

But it wasn’t just our families who had a special holiday season – it was HFF itself. December also brought the news that HFF had received a \$1.25 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund, allowing us to continue serving those impacted the most and the most unfairly by this pandemic for as long as they need, and to continue growing our staff and programs to meet the demands of the year ahead. For this gift, we are humbled and grateful.

As we close, we remember how often we marvel at the resiliency of our families. This challenging year required us to model that same resiliency; to be capable of withstanding shock without permanent deformation, to recover from and adjust easily to misfortune and change. We have always been our families’ safety net; in 2020, more than ever before, you have been ours. For that, our gratitude knows no bounds.



## HFF RECEIVES DAY 1 FAMILIES FUND GRANT

The Homeless Families Foundation learned in early December that it had been selected to receive a \$1.25 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, the Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families.

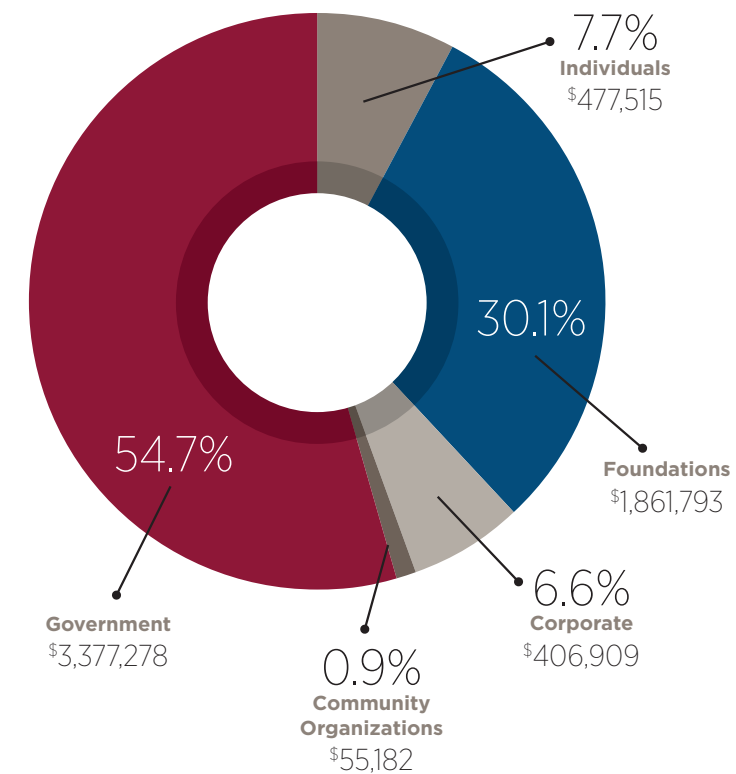
HFF was one of 42 nonprofits across the U.S. to receive the third annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, as part of a continuing commitment by the Day 1 Families Fund to help end homelessness for families. The Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$105.9 million in grants in 2020; to select these organizations, the fund worked with an advisory board of homelessness advocates and leaders whose expertise spans housing justice, racial equity, direct services, homelessness policy, equity for Native American communities and anti-poverty work.

The one-time grant, awarded to organizations doing meaningful work to connect families with shelter and support, will allow The Homeless Families Foundation to expand and strengthen its best practice programming, providing holistic, integrated family stability services to assist in transitioning

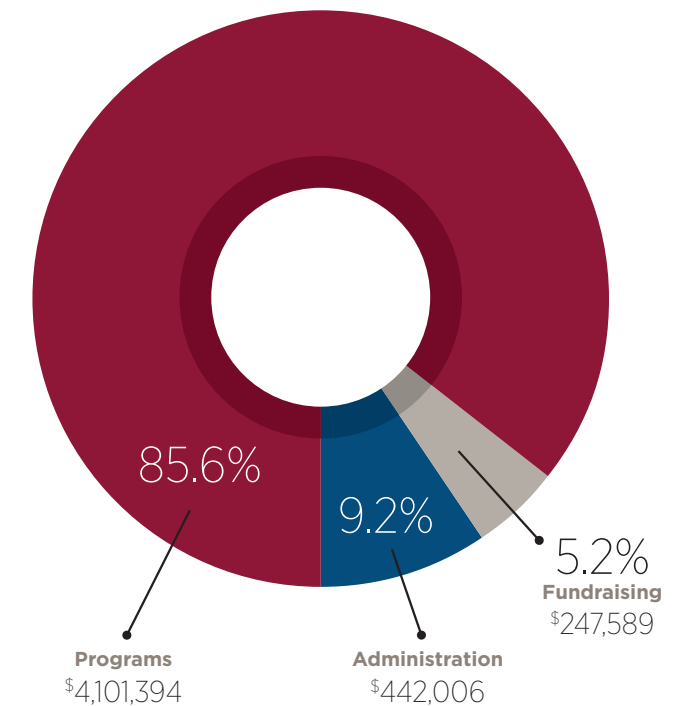
parents and children from homelessness to housing stability, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. As eviction moratoriums expire and pandemic assistance programs end, many of our families will be the last to “return to normal” – and that “normal” may still be a paycheck-to-paycheck, diaper-to-diaper battle. Struggling service industries, at which many of our families work, may remain slow to re-hire. Our working single mothers will continue to wrestle with affordable options for child care. Institutional and systemic racism, too often at the heart of housing inequity, will not simply disappear. The Day 1 Families Fund grant will allow HFF to directly address and counteract such challenges by providing essential resources to the existing and emerging programs that will be vital to providing ongoing support to our families, and to fulfilling our ultimate mission: Not one child ... not one night.

# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

**CONTRIBUTIONS** \$6,178,678



**EXPENSES** \$4,790,988



These are unaudited financials.  
The most recent audit can be found at [HomelessFamiliesFoundation.org](https://www.homelessfamiliesfoundation.org)

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** \$4,444,549  
December 31, 2020

## The HFF Endowment Fund

Established in December of 2015, The HFF Endowment Fund allows HFF to achieve its greatest goals in the coming decades and have an impact in our community for generations to come.

You can help HFF's Endowment Fund grow with an unrestricted bequest, planned, honorary or memorial gift. For more information, contact Cathy Stofac, Director of Development, at 614-715-8342 or [cstofac@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org](mailto:cstofac@homelessfamiliesfoundation.org).

**IN 2020,  
THE HFF ENDOWMENT FUND  
GREW BY 8.9% TO  
\$171,975**

# THANK YOU DONORS

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Steven L. and Sandra P. Faulkner Charitable Fund  
The ABC Fund  
The Heffner Fund  
Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation Fund  
Vonau Family Donor Advised Fund  
Vorys Assistance Foundation  
Ward-Smith Charitable Fund  
Weiner Family Charitable Fund  
William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation

IN 2020, HFF PROVIDED HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO OVER:

1,379

CHILDREN

&

662

FAMILIES

IN 2020, HFF AND OUR PARTNERS PROVIDED:

541

FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE PACKAGES

Non-funded rent, utilities,  
transportation costs,  
application fees, etc.

&

1,844

ITEMS NEEDED TO CARE FOR  
BABIES, CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Move-in kits, baby items,  
cleaning supplies, school supplies,  
holiday gifts, etc.

&

1,174

FOOD  
ORDERS

WE MISSED OUR VOLUNTEERS DURING 2020. ALTHOUGH WE HAD A LIMITED NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING CDC GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY, WE HAD VERY LIMITED IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES. THIS DIDN'T STOP OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS. MANY OF THEM CONDUCTED DRIVES FOR CLEANING SUPPLIES, FOOD, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL ITEMS NEEDED BY FAMILIES AND CHILDREN. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING IN-PERSON VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AGAIN SOON.



The  
Homeless  
**Families**  
Foundation

The Homeless Families Foundation receives support from the Community Shelter Board and its funders, which include the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the United Way of Central Ohio, supplementing the generous donations of numerous individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations.

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