



Atlanta
Children's
Day Shelter



2024

Annual Report



*Investing in the
future of families*



To you, our supporters:

Dear Friends,

2024 was anything but ordinary for the Day Shelter—it was a year of transformation. With the launch of our first-ever Strategic Plan, we set the stage for a future rooted in impact and sustainability. Yet, when I look back, the first thing that comes to mind isn't a milestone or a plan—it's the bright smiles of our families.

Their journeys bring to life stories like Ebony's--she received her certificate as a medical assistant to further her career and solidify a strong future for her family--or stories like William's--a five-year-old whose trauma once hindered his ability to speak and connect with others. With the support of our therapeutic partners, William graduated from our program and stepped into kindergarten strong, confident, and thriving. These are just two of the many moments that shine as reflections of our values, our mission, and our vision.

Our historic 2024 wasn't just about change—it was about laying the foundation for more of these moments, amplifying our impact, and deepening our commitment to the families we serve. With our new Strategic Plan, we have sharpened our focus on the values that guide us: Collaboration & Teamwork, Accountability & Leadership, Inclusion & Equity, Caring & Compassion, and Integrity & Trust.

We enhanced several of our core programs this year by deepening partnerships with mental health counselors to offer more comprehensive support for parents, restructuring our case management model to better meet families' needs, and expanding therapeutic services for children. We are especially proud of the stronger, more collaborative relationships we've built with community partners—allowing us to serve more families and serve them better.

2024 was a year of laying groundwork, but more importantly, it was a year of impact. Every number, every story, and every milestone in this report reflects the dedication of our supporters, staff, and families. Together, we move forward to an Atlanta where homelessness is defeated and every child has a safe and nurturing home.

Let's overcome homelessness together.

Cameron Turner
Executive Director

Our Values turn the gears!

Parent(s)



Child(ren)

**Our
Staff**

**Our
Services**

**Our
Values**

**Compassion
& Caring**

**Integrity
& Trust**

**Inclusion
& Equity**

**Accountability
& Leadership**

**Collaboration
& Teamwork**

Victoria & Elijah



After a broken foot left Victoria unable to work as a valet parking supervisor, she and her two children, Jamie (8) and Elijah (2), were shuffled between family members. Searching for 6 months, Victoria struggled to find affordable housing. Then Elijah's preschool changed its operational hours, leaving Victoria without childcare and still without a home.

Then, Atlanta Children's Day Shelter entered their lives. Elijah was enrolled in our early childhood education program while Victoria participated in our parent services.



When first enrolled, Elijah was struggling with emotional expression, a vital skill for conflict resolution. Often, Elijah would feel an emotion, and then shut down as Victoria puts it. But with play therapy and help from his teachers, Victoria says Elijah “learned to trust people outside of myself, and understand that there are other adults that actually care about him too.”

For Victoria, this support of Elijah in expressing his emotions was further evidence that the Day Shelter was the right place for her and her family: “I think that was the best part of about it--I was not alone in those transitions with him... It was just an open door.”

With Elijah safe and cared for at the Day Shelter, Victoria could fully focus on her housing and employment search, quickly securing both. Once Victoria and Elijah had the right support, the entire family thrived!

In 2024, Victoria’s family graduated to our Steps2Success program.

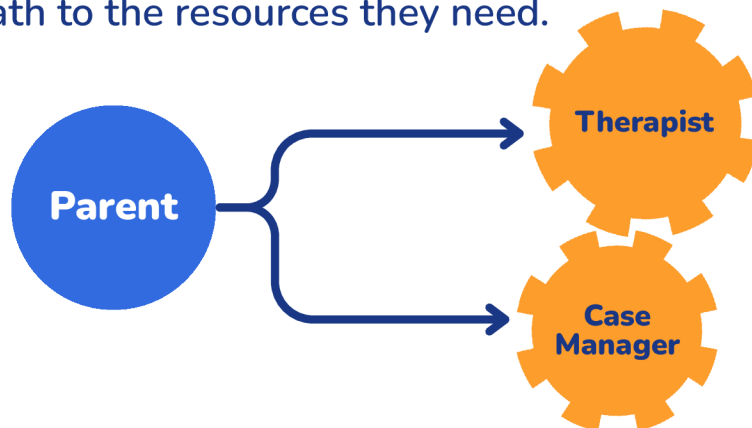
Our Steps2Success program provides continued wraparound support to families whose students have graduated from our ECE program or whose families have met their initial case management goals. In the case of Victoria’s family, they’d met both!



Victoria found amazing success in our program!

To ensure all our parents reach their goals, in 2024, we implemented a strengths-based approach to our model of care.

Our case manager and adult therapist now work in closer collaboration to connect clients to the resources needed. Our adult therapist sets up a safe space that helps our clients learn strategies for improved mental health, and in that safety, clients can express what resources may be missing and then be further connected with their case manager. On the other side, case managers foster an achievement-oriented space where clients feel supported in pursuing their goals. In that environment, clients may identify mental health needs, leading to further connection with a therapist. This integrated model streamlines the efficiency of service access, providing a clearer and more efficient path to the resources they need.



Case Manager Spotlight!

Our case manager, Akira, values our new strengths-based approach. She says, “Everyone works together collaboratively for the betterment of the children, their parents, and families. I think that’s what makes it so effective.”



Elijah received impactful care from our Early Childhood Education program.

In 2024, we worked to make sure this care is consistent by stabilizing our classroom workforce. **We had a 94% teacher retention rate in 2024**, bringing our students more consistent, quality care.



Play therapist, Morgan, with student, Chance

Elijah benefitted significantly from our play therapy program, which helped him learn healthy emotional expression. Our play therapy program plays an essential role in helping our students recover from homelessness. With an emphasis on early intervention, play therapy allows children to process trauma, build resilience, and create secure attachments, all for a brighter future. Our dedicated play therapists work to help our kiddos express their inner world through play, then guide our students in developing coping mechanisms, augmenting social skills, and resolving emotional conflicts. Services like play therapy are instrumental in achieving our mission.

Looking Ahead

In 2025, we're amplifying our play therapy program with Parent Pods, groups dedicated to building community amongst parents and translating the skills their students are learning in play therapy!

2024^{by the} Numbers

40

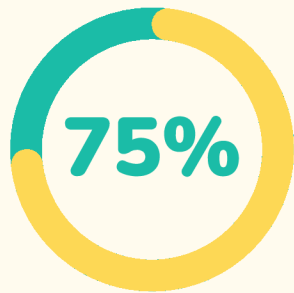
parents served

56

children served



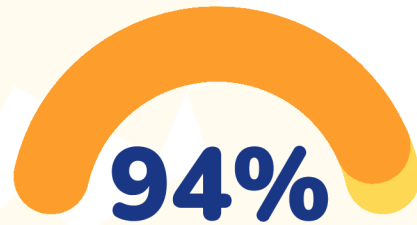
Employed



Housed

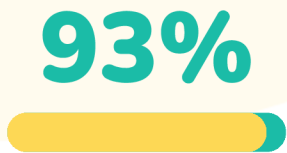
48,692

Meals and snacks served

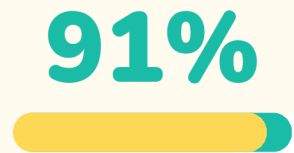


Teacher retention

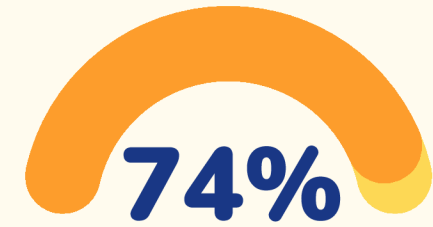
Steps2Success*



Employed



Housed



Students meeting or exceeding all developmental milestones

157

Adult therapy sessions delivered

208

Speech & Language therapy sessions delivered

256

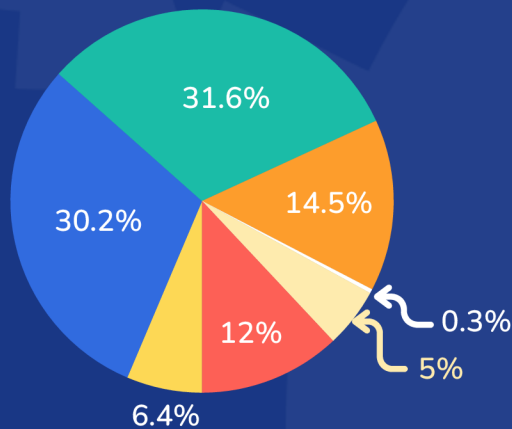
Play therapy sessions delivered

*Our Steps2Success program supports permanently housed parents whose children have graduated from our Early Childhood Education Program.

Our Financial Standing

Selected Comparative Financial Information* Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

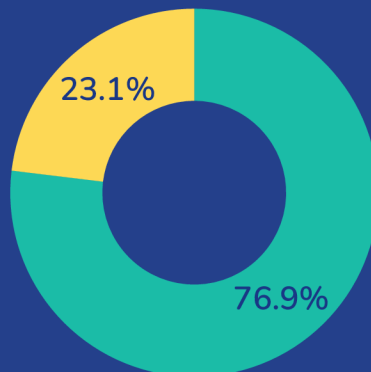
Revenue	2024	2023
Contributions & Grants	\$1,645,570	\$1,275,930
Special events, net of related expenses	277,399	456,432
Contributions of non-financial assets	37,233	26,387
Interest income	9,962	3,721
Investment income (loss), net	441,442	427,660
Total Revenue	\$2,411,606	\$2,178,208
Expenses		
Program Services	\$1,870,831	\$1,821,571
Management and General	217,409	177,077
Fundraising	343,850	286,822
Total Expenses	\$2,432,090	\$2,285,470
Increase/(Decrease) in Assets	(\$20,484)	(\$107, 262)



Revenue Sources



Expenses by Percentage



Scan the QR code for further financial information.

*The numbers presented herein are summarized from the Atlanta Children's Day Shelter's independently audited annual financial statements. Complete audited financial statements prepared by the independent firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC are available upon request and on our webpage at www.acsatl.org. Please request a copy prior to making significant contribution decisions based on the amounts presented herein.

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Atlanta Children's Day Shelter



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