



Communication Health,
Advocacy & Therapy

IMPACT REPORT 2023

A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

For 45 years, CHAT has been the go-to place for children with few—if any—other options. In 2023, we built on that legacy, doubling the number of scholarships from 2022 and providing them to 72% of clinic clients. We began providing Early Intervention services, where under-resourced families face long waitlists, and brought summer programming to five community partner sites. We grew our team to meet increasing demand for our services and will grow more this year. Last year's \$128K in scholarships also will increase in 2024, as we form larger community partnerships and expand CHAT's reach.

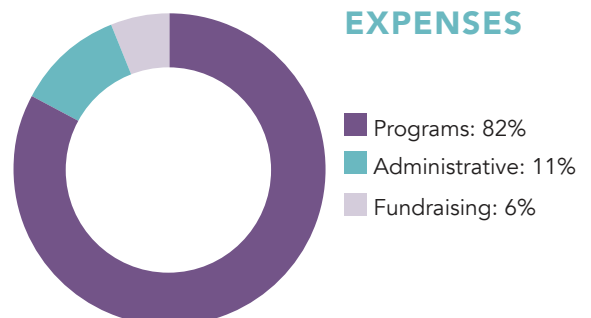
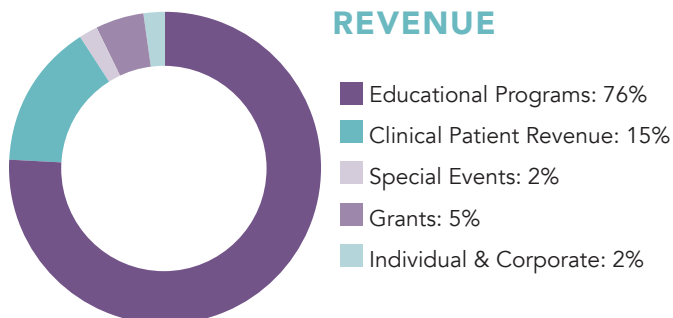
Your donations help us tear down barriers to access and bring life-changing therapy to more children. **We could not do it without your support.**

With Gratitude,

Karine Faden Fiore

President & CEO

CHAT BY THE NUMBERS



72%

of children served on
Medicaid or underinsured

\$128K

in scholarships given away in
2023, >100% YOY increase

90%

of summer program
individuals received
scholarships

750

total individuals
served

7

Hallie Quinn
Brown interns

97

individuals served
through summer program

\$1.9M

budget

28%

increase in clients on
Medicaid/scholarship

22

schools served

0-76

age span of clients

\$31K

raised through
events

245

individual donors

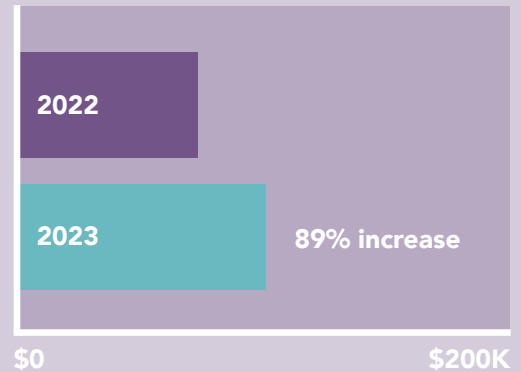
CHAT FUNDRAISING

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS!

Thank you to our foundation supporters:

Jewel-Osco Foundation, Telligen Community Initiative, Northwestern Medicine Foundation, Venable Foundation, Community Memorial Foundation, Grace A. Bersted Foundation, and Walter S. Mander Foundation

FUNDRAISING GROWTH



EVENTS



CHAT Chicken Challenge & Social

Over 65 CHAT supporters came out to see our panel of volunteers brave the heat with increasingly spicy hot wings while they answered questions about CHAT and speech therapy!



CHAT Mini Golf Fundraiser

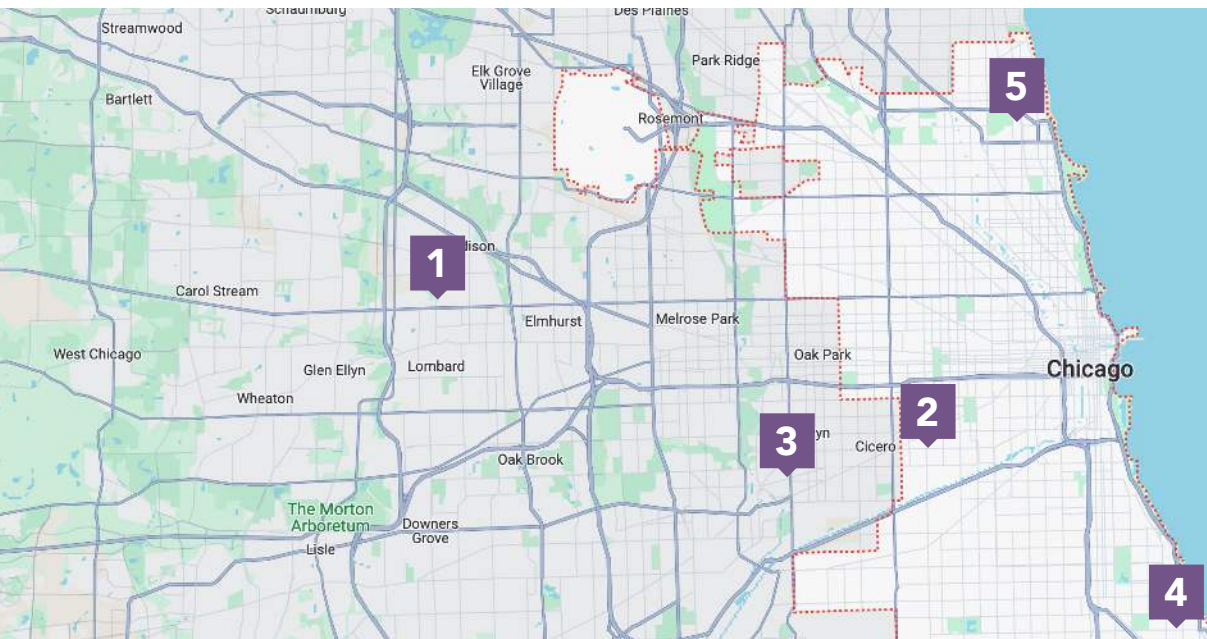
Over 100 supporters came to play and support CHAT's work of changing lives putt by putt!



INCREASING ACCESS

- Created two new versions of our Executive Functioning program, increasing access to executive function and language supports for populations with lower language abilities who need additional help with everyday activities and functional communication.
- Started delivering Early Intervention services to help address tremendous unmet demand across Chicagoland and to support families in earlier advocacy for their children.

PROGRAM & PARTNER EXPANSION:



CHAT offered in-person summer programs at five different community partner sites.

1. Ray Graham Association
2. Little Village Reconnection Hub
3. The Center for Independence through Conductive Education
4. Great Lakes Academy
5. AHS Passages Charter School

Thanks to funding from the Telligen Community Initiative, CHAT was able to onboard and support our biggest **Hallie Quinn Brown** internship cohort to date with seven interns across our five program sites. This internship provides clinical experience and mentorship from experienced SLPs to aspiring SLPs of color.

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Established SLP Advisory Board (SAB) to bring together inspiring change makers in the field, including:

Dr. Joshua D. Allison-Burbank, Johns Hopkins University
Rachel Archambault, Broward County Schools, PTSD SLP, LLC
Kristin Crawford, Avery County Schools
Dr. AC Goldberg, Northeastern University, CREDIT Institute

Dr. Giselle Núñez, Saint Xavier University Chicago
Dr. R. Danielle Scott, Northeastern University Charlotte
Dr. Megan York Roberts, Northwestern University
Dr. Treasyri Williams Wood, ASHA Board Member at Large

COMMUNICATION JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Juvenile Justice News

- Grew our juvenile justice practice in partnership with Equip for Equality to serve our first ever adult client and second adolescent client.

Neurodiversity-Affirming Work

- CHAT's neurodiversity-affirming approach is not found everywhere; therefore, CHAT has increased our scope of communication justice to include neurodivergent individuals whose communication disorders and differences contribute to their inequitable treatment.
- CHAT now offers neurodiversity-affirming consults as an avenue to help families learn to focus on strengths and advocate for the supports their neurodivergent children need.

ADVOCACY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

CHAT SLPs continue to be a trusted resource to families navigating a complex system, including schools, insurance bureaucracy and informational resources to get their children much-needed services.

The following are several examples of CHAT staff living our advocacy mission:

- When a parent was hitting roadblocks in making changes in their child's IEP, CHAT SLP Shanah was able to step in and be 'on mom's team' to advocate for literacy goals to be outlined in the student's IEP.
- CHAT SLP Katie was asked to speak to her clinic client's school team and share information and approaches to communication, as the client's mother had been so impressed with the strengths-based and affirming approaches used by all the CHAT SLPs her child has seen.
- CHAT SLP Zoë advocated for her student to get a full academic re-evaluation for her IEP because of struggles in other subjects, and the student now has accommodations in Social Studies and Math outlined in her IEP.

NEW IN 2024

The Hyperlexia Handbook: Therapy That Works, Volume 2 is now available. [CLICK TO PURCHASE](#)