



Communication Health,  
Advocacy & Therapy

# IMPACT REPORT 2024

## A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

**For 46 years, CHAT has been the go-to place for children with few—if any—other options.**

In 2024, we expanded our reach, serving eight new preschools through our partnership with Northwestern University, and providing neurodiversity-affirming services at 29 schools. We increased our Early Intervention services by 211%, tripling the number of families served year over year. To support this broader community impact, we increased fundraising through donations, grants, and our 45th anniversary event honoring two leaders in communication justice and inclusion.

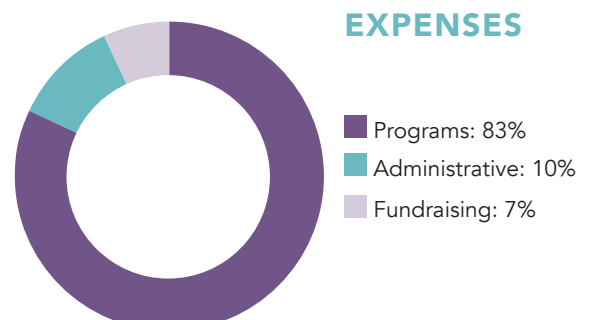
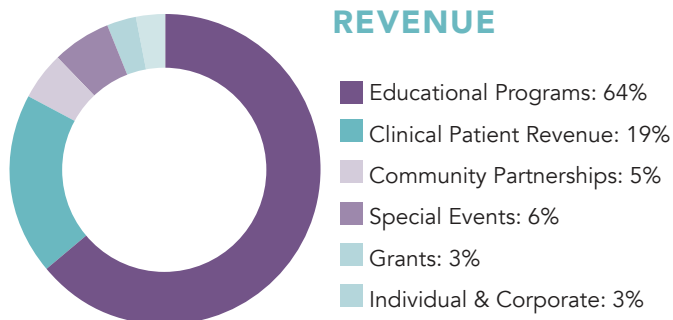
Your support is more critical than ever, as we strive to continue this work in more challenging times. **Thank you for helping us keep barriers to access down and bring life-changing therapy to children in need.**

With Gratitude,

Karine Faden Fiore

President & CEO

## CHAT BY THE NUMBERS



# 1,000+

children's lives  
changed

# \$370K

in scholarships awarded  
since 2020

# 67%

of children served on  
Medicaid or underinsured

# 211%

expansion of Early  
Intervention services

# 218

individual donors

# Vol. 2

of *The Hyperlexia Handbook:  
Therapy that Works* published

# \$2.1M

budget

# 451

children served through  
scholarship and grants

# 2,034

number of scholarship  
sessions provided

# \$125K

raised through  
events

# 86%

of summer program participants  
received scholarship

# 29

schools served

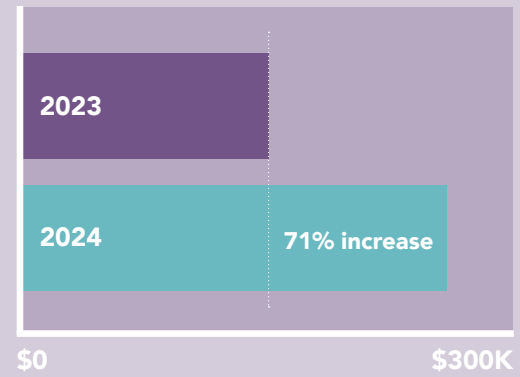
# CHAT FUNDRAISING

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

**Foundation Supporters:** Grace A. Bersted Foundation, Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, Northwestern Medicine Foundation, A. Montgomery Ward Foundation, Community Memorial Foundation, Venable Foundation, Walter S. Mander Foundation, and Jewel-Osco Foundation.

**Partners:** Northwestern University, Center for Independence and Keshet.

## FUNDRAISING GROWTH



## EVENTS

### 45th Anniversary Benefit

CHAT celebrated 45 years of providing speech and language services to children with few – if any – other options. Over 150 attendees came together to help us celebrate the history of CHAT and honor two amazing individuals with awards. At the event, we honored:

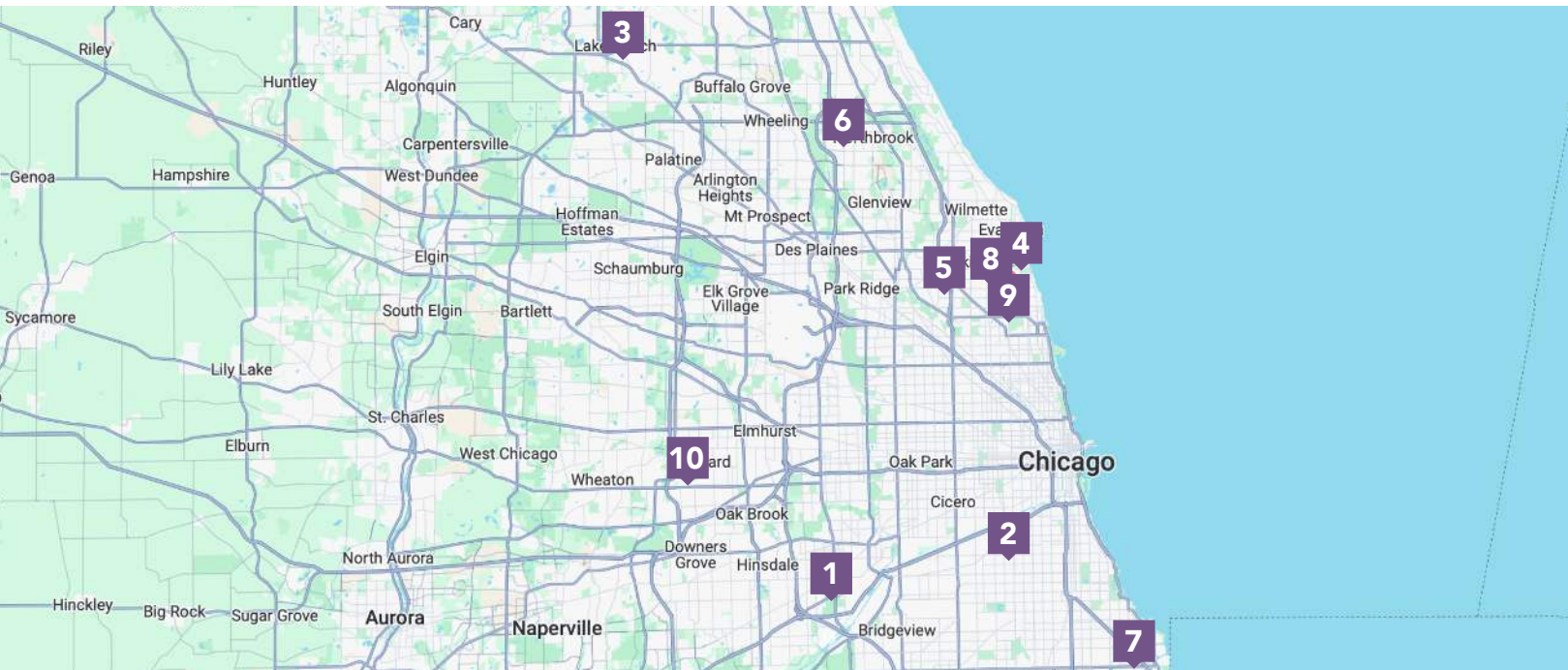


- **Randy Lewis, Retired Walgreens Vice President with the inaugural "Inclusion Champion Award"**
- **E. Patrick Johnson, Dean, School of Communication at Northwestern University with the inaugural "Communication Justice Award"**

Thank you to our event sponsors: Northwestern University Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences Disorders, Northwestern University School of Communication, United Airlines, The Parking Spot, Porte Brown LLC, and Hart Dental.



# SUMMER PROGRAMMING LOCATIONS



**CHAT offered summer programming at nine community partners sites and at its Lombard clinic.**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. The Center for Independence (Countryside, IL) | 6. Keshet                             |
| 2. The Center for Independence (Chicago, IL)     | 7. Great Lakes Academy                |
| 3. The Center for Independence (Lake Zurich, IL) | 8. Infant Welfare Society of Evanston |
| 4. McGaw YMCA                                    | 9. Toddler Town                       |
| 5. Swift Child Care Early Childhood Centers      | 10. CHAT Lombard Clinic               |

## 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:

- During a school IEP meeting, CHAT SLP Erika was able to be a voice of support for a student who learns differently from his peers. After the meeting, his parents reached out to Erika to express their appreciation for her above and beyond understanding of their child and the resources she offered to further support him and his learning.
- CHAT SLP Zoë was seeing a child for Early Intervention and her clinical instincts and knowledge told her that his medical history wasn't quite adding up, so she advocated for the child's family to take him to an ENT for a consultation. Ultimately, he got ear tubes for recurrent ear infections that were causing hearing loss and had a huge jump in language development because of Zoë's advocacy and the parents' trust in her.
- In a meeting with a clinic family, CHAT SLP Katie was able to help the family understand their right to request a school-based evaluation despite mixed messages they received from the school district.
- Using rapport and positive, strengths-based language, CHAT SLP Shanah has helped multiple families feel more comfortable with the prospects of receiving an Autism diagnosis for their young child, showing these families that receiving a diagnosis can open more doors.