

From obstacle to opportunity



At Healthy Homes, we want all kids to grow up in safe homes so that they may flourish to the best of their ability. A child's home is strongly connected to their feelings of family, safety, and belonging, as well as to their developing health. And, if we're lucky, the memories in our childhood homes enrich us throughout our lives.

However, many children in our community are struggling with health problems created by the homes in which they live. Housing should not be a burden for children, especially for those living in poverty and who have so many things stacked against them. Speaking up and speaking out against environmental hazards in children's homes is a big part of what we do at Healthy Homes.

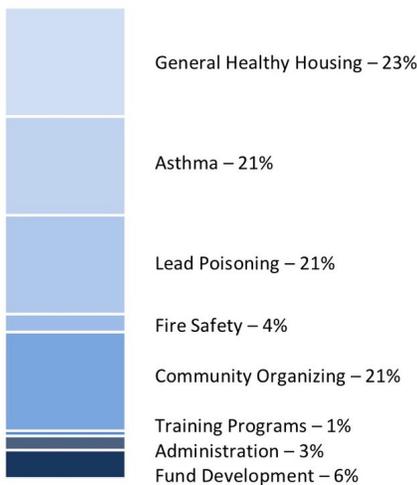
No success is achieved alone. We appreciate our partners and donors, both on a federal and local level. This report features just some of the donors that continue to support the important work we do. The 240 individual and corporate donors who supported Healthy Homes financially in the past year hold a special place to us.

Your voice and support can turn housing from an obstacle into an opportunity for kids to grow up to meet their full potential. We are proud of the momentum built this year. It is important work that stops children from hurting. Won't you add your voice and support to our growing movement?

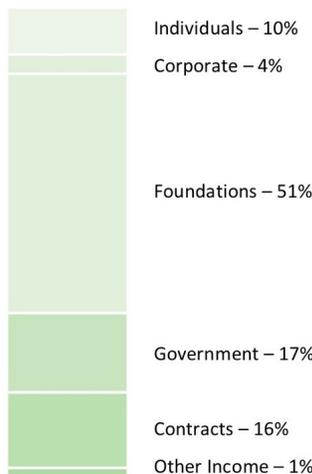
Joshlyn Litzenberger
Joshlyn Litzenberger, NP-C
Board President

Financials

EXPENSES



REVENUE



For the fiscal year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018, the Healthy Homes Coalition raised \$422,885 and spent \$423,385.

Our Impact

DIRECT SERVICES

75 families received assessments for lead hazards, asthma triggers, accidental injuries, and radon.

382 total home visits were made, with an average of 5 visits per family.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We promoted healthier housing at 28 community outreach events.

19 Lead Safe Cleaning Classes were organized in the most impacted neighborhoods.

134 parents/caregivers learned Lead Safe Cleaning practices.

24 homes were connected to Get The Lead Out resources for lead remediation.

PARENTS FOR HEALTHY HOMES

130 parents have been engaged in Parents for Healthy Homes.

16 parent leaders have participated in COFI leadership workshops.

3 parent leaders were certified as peer trainers in Chicago, Illinois.

30 parents and staff educated more than 90 state lawmakers and their staff in Lansing on April 18, 2018.

16 parents met with Mayor Bliss on June 4, 2018 to share personal stories of direct impact.

2 parents serve on city and county lead decision-making boards.

HEALTHY HOMES' MISSION IS STRAIGHTFORWARD:
TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING BY ELIMINATING
HARMFUL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Since Healthy Homes was founded in 2006, one key strategy has been to find and to help families who are struggling with the effects of environmental hazards, such as asthma attacks and lead poisoning.

Shantal Ferrell, a local small business owner and mother of four children, recently received services after her two year old was found to have an elevated blood lead level. Healthy Homes staff visited her westside rental home seven times to help identify lead hazards and teach her strategies that tenants can use to keep their kids safe from lead.



Within a few months, Shantal saw great progress in her daughter's health; her lead level dropped. While she was relieved to see improvement, the work involved in keeping her children safe in a home with lead hazards put Shantal's stress level at "a constant ten out of ten."

"I feel bad I can't let my kids play on the steps...I can't let my kids be kids. I'm always moving them, trying to keep them from being lead exposed."

Shantal is thankful that her daughter's lead levels have lowered, but she lives in fear that they could rise at any time. Shantal's stress arising from unresolved lead hazards in her home is a fairly common one for families living in older homes—especially when they rent. There are often circumstances that don't allow families to remediate lead hazards or relocate.

WHAT IF FAMILIES DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT
UNTIL THEIR CHILD WAS HARMED TO HAVE ACTION TAKEN?



Children like Shantal's daughter shouldn't be used as lead detectors. This is why, along with intervention, the Healthy Homes Coalition has always believed in advocacy. With support from the Wege and Steelcase foundations in the past year, we have been able to put this advocacy into action.

Parents for Healthy Homes is a grassroots group lead by parent leaders like Shantal and supported by Healthy Homes. Members are parents and concerned community members who want to see kids protected from exposure by changing local policies.

In the past year, 130 parents have been engaged with the organization. Sixteen of those parents have participated in workshops that will equip them to build the organization and lead on the issues that matter to parents. Parents have met with Mayor Bliss and are bringing authentic parent voices to local task forces. They even took a bus-load of parents to Lansing to help legislators understand the urgent need for solutions that stop kids from hurting.

One of those issues is putting to an end the fact that too many homes are rented or sold without ever being checked for lead hazards—a practice that hurts children like Shantal's. While the interventions put in place by Shantal in partnership with Healthy Homes worked to reduce her daughter blood lead level, we continue working together for more just and sustainable solutions.

Who we serve

Average income \$22,355
Average Household size 5

Racial demographics
48% Black/African American
32% Hispanic/Latino
19% White, non-Hispanic
2% Multiracial
2% Other

68% of families rent their homes.

19% of household do not primarily speak English at home, with 13% speaking Spanish.



Thank You, Major Donors!

City of Grand Rapids
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Environmental Defense Fund
Gordon Group
Anonymous donor designation - Grand Rapids Community Foundation
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Sebastian Foundation
Spectrum Health - Healthier Communities
Steelcase Foundation
Wege Foundation
William Curry Foundation
Yesterdog

All children deserve the opportunity to grow up in a safe and healthy home.