

ARTS HOLDING HANDS AND HEARTS

IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022

DO YOU SEE ME?

By Taylor M., a 17 year old girl in the shelter at CCYC

When you look at me you see fear

For what the future holds,

Anxiety caused by anything I cannot foresee.

What if I told you,

You are just like me.

One day I will be what I aim to be,

Have a future and finally be happy.

Do you see me when I'm locked up,

Out of sight, out of harms' way,

No longer lurking with the night?

Does my family realize me when I am around,

Able to finally comprehend sight and sound?

Do people recognize me on the streets when

I'm with my friends walking around,

Playing pretend?

If people could only see me when I'm finally at Zen,

No act,

Just me and my pen.

If people could see behind these eyes they would see

A Bitter World,

Yet with so much beauty,

But locked up with a hidden key.

Will they see me if I can no longer be seen,

Apart from pictures or videos and distant memories?

DO YOU SEE ME?

A Message from Jan Michener

Founder and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support and belief in AHHAH's mission to empower youth, strengthen families and mobilize communities through arts, literacy, and mindfulness for social and racial equity and justice. We believe it takes a village working **TOGETHER** to raise a child in poverty. Our vision is one day every child has the tools and opportunities to thrive and fly to their highest capacity.

Since 2013, over 17,000 youth and adults in Chester County have participated in AHHAH's programs. AHHAH's trauma-sensitive holistic approach of combining mindfulness and the expressive arts to create agency, hope and resilience for youth has helped launch new trajectories for their lives.

This has been a a year of challenges and opportunities for AHHAH. Covid with its different variants persisted. Our programs alternated between online and in-person. The continued challenges of the pandemic reinforced our commitment for collaboration and working together for the greater good.

Dr. Eleanor Brown from West Chester University was able to complete the NEA 3-year cortisol study of AHHAH's "Creativity and Calm" programming with children in Head Start in Coatesville. A dozen new PULL (Pop Up Lending Libraries) were built, painted, and installed by individuals and groups working together in Coatesville, Kennett, and Oxford. AHHAH partnered with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and Looker Books LLC and launched the Greater Coatesville Imagination Library initiative for children in the 19320-zip code. AHHAH partnered with Chester County Futures in the creation of Justice Restored 3.0, a collection of writings and illustrations from Chester County youth. AHHAH facilitated over two dozen Self-Care, Well-Being and Resilience trainings for schools and organizations serving youth impacted by trauma.

We are grateful for all our partners both individuals and organizations. We are grateful to all the youth and families we serve who have shown such courage and resilience. We are grateful to AHHAH's teachers and volunteers who continue to demonstrate that the **5 Cs =T: Connection + Creativity + Compassion + Courage + Commitment = Transformation.**

Together we will come through this time of great change a stronger, kinder, more equitable and more just community and society.



Jan Michener, M.Ed.

Executive Director, Arts Holding Hands and Hearts (AHHAH)

AHHAH's Board of Directors and Staff

AHHAH welcomed two new members to our Board this year: Travis Ingersoll (middle row, 2nd from left), and Meredith Nussbaumer (back row 4th from left), and two new advisory board members Oni Lasana (front row 1st left) and Sherry McCormack.

AHHAH has a new Director of Expressive Arts, Zandra Matthews.

We welcomed 4 new teachers this year Sharlene McKinley Bund, Tammy Russell, Autumn Phillips, and Jessica Lupacckino



AHHAH's Mission

Empower youth, strengthen families, mobilize communities through arts, literacy, and mindfulness for social and racial equity and justice.

AHHAH's Vision

Every child will have the tools, opportunities, and support they need to thrive and live to their highest capacity.

AHHAH'S VALUES

5 Cs = T

Connection + Compassion + Creativity + Courage + Commitment =
Transformation

Our Methods

AHHAH uses multiple intentional strategies (C.A.L.M.) to offset the stressful effects of long-term poverty. Our programs are designed to engage youth in mindful, artistic initiatives, building resiliency and establishing positive pathways for a productive and fulfilling future.

Community Partnerships and Programs connect and engage youth, families, and seniors - creating lasting change in their lives and their communities

Arts Programming encourages youth to explore and discover their authentic voice.

Literacy Initiatives enable youth to succeed in life by becoming powerful readers, writers, and thinkers

Mindfulness Instruction improves attention, self-awareness, self-control, and emotional resilience to offset prolonged exposure to childhood toxic stress.

Our Year in Serving Chester County

AHHAH's Fiscal year 2022 (from July 2021 thru June 2022) saw us returning to several of our traditional programs that had been impacted by Covid, as well as undertaking some exciting new initiatives.

Traditional programs

We resumed our in-person programming at Chester County Youth Center. Programming includes classes in mindfulness, expressive arts (writing), and nutrition. Our traditional nutrition program has been enhanced and expanded into our Cultivating Change Program which includes cultivation of the food and herbs that are used in cooking classes and development of recipes and stories about food and family for a cookbook that will be released in 2023.

We resumed in person programs at CCIU Coatesville Head Start and completed West Chester University professor Dr.Eleanore Brown's multi-year cortisol study on the effects of combined expressive arts and mindfulness classes for preschool children.



We continued our Pop-Up Lending Library (PULL) program In Coatesville and Kennett Square. And expanded to Avondale and Oxford communities We added 8 new PULL stations, bringing our total to 52 outdoor PULL Stations



We continued to provide our professional development workshops for teachers and other caring professionals. The thinking behind this is twofold. First, our classes in mindfulness, stress-management and resilience help participants individually as they deal with the challenges of working with disadvantaged and traumatized children. Second, we hope that they will incorporate the principles they learn into their own teaching and professional practice.

Throughout the year we provided an average of two workshops per month to a wide range of (caring) organizations in southern Chester County including: Chester County Dept of Community Development, Phoenixville Area School District, Chester County Health Department, Chester County Futures, Chester County OIC, and Goodera.

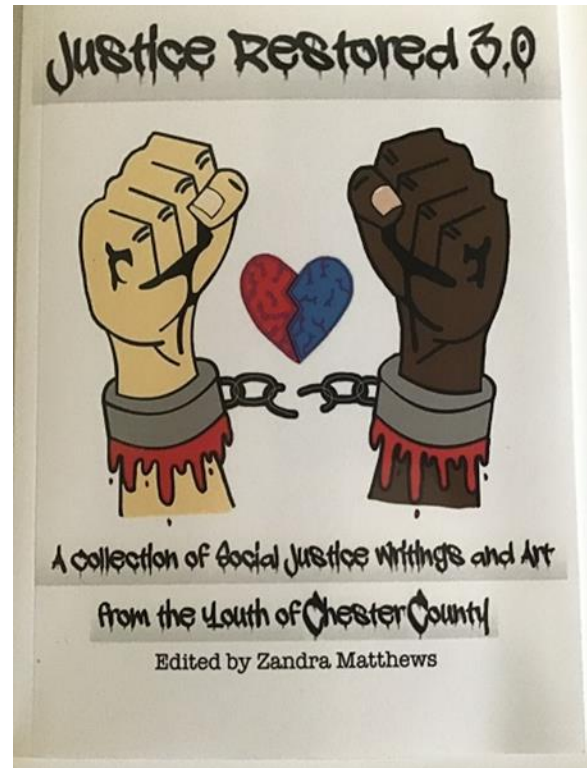
New initiatives

Greater Coatesville Imagination Library (“GCIL”).

GCIL is a partnership between AHHAH, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and Looker Books Inc. The program delivers one free book per month to every registered child aged 0-5 years who lives in zip code 19320. We began the program in January 2022, and as of June 30 we have 620 children enrolled and have shipped 2143 books. We estimated that approximately 3000 children aged 0-5 live in zip-code 19130, so this has the potential to become one of AHHAHs largest

programs. It costs AHHAH \$30 to provide a year’s worth of books to each child.

Justice Restored 3.0 is the latest collection of the writing produced by children at Chester County Youth Center and was published in June 2022. This was a highly collaborative effort. The children at CCYC created over 500 pieces of original writing for the program. Students at West Chester University selected the 50 most compelling pieces for inclusion in the volume. Over 30 students participating in Chester County Futures after school program in Coatesville, Kennett, and Oxford created the artwork/illustrations and Bushwick Writers Publishing volunteered to manage the production and printing of the finished volume.



Thistle Hills House

Thistle Hills is a holistic home in Coatesville which houses and serves women who have been abused and are in recovery. The women live at the house for two years while receiving programs to help them return to a more productive and thriving life.

AHHAH provides weekly mindfulness and arts programming for the women and monthly self-care, well-being and resilience workshops for both staff and residents.

Organizational changes

Zandra Matthews joined AHHAH as Director of Expressive Arts Education. In addition to overseeing our programs in expressive arts, Zandra took the lead in the editing of Justice Restored 3.0.

Dana Looker -- Director of Development. Dana introduced AHHAH to the Imagination Library opportunity and manages all the administrative work for the Greater Coatesville Imagination Library. Since January she has also been serving as AHHAHs first Director of Development.

Our Year in Growing Awareness

On May 26, 2022, AHHAH held a celebration for friends and supporters at the recently renovated Midway Arches event venue in downtown Coatesville. The focus of the event was to introduce the new Greater Coatesville Imagination Library program. More than 70 AHHAH supporters attended, and AHHAH raised our goal of \$25,000 from the event to cover a substantial portion of the predicted costs of the GCIL program for fiscal year 2023.



New grants

In 2022, AHHAH received continuing grants from CCRES, and The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, PA Council of the Arts Program Stream funding. We were also fortunate to receive new grants from Chester County Community Foundation, The Fund for Women and Girls, the Hadley Foundation, The Justamere Foundation, the Huston Foundation, and the Kennett Square Mushroom Festival.

AHHAH continues to be strongly supported by the communities we serve – in 2022 we received donations from more than 125 individuals and small businesses. Their gifts made up almost one third of AHHAH’s total revenue.

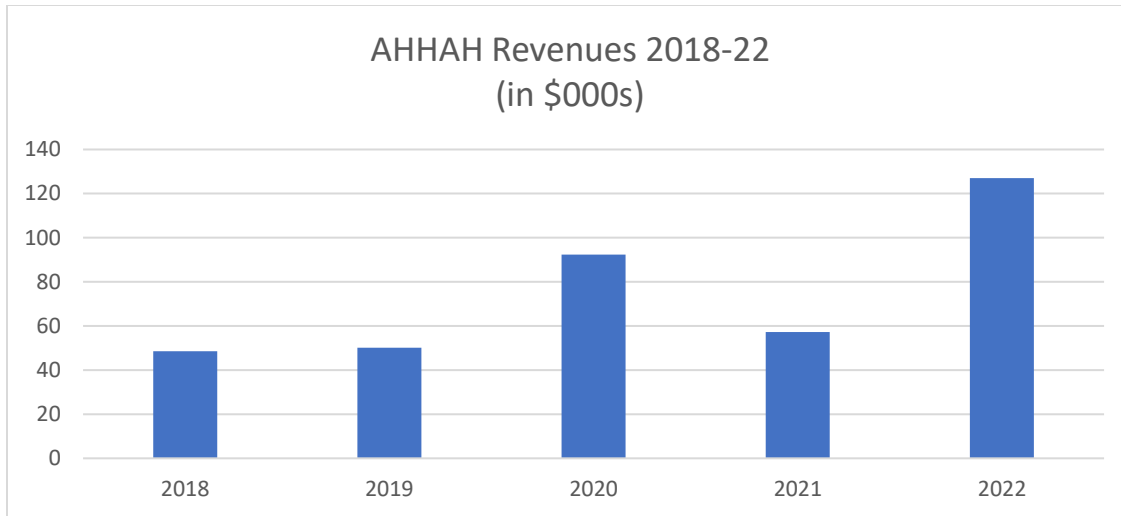
Our Year in Finance

AHHAH believes in maintaining fiscal responsibility by making wise and efficient use of all resources entrusted to us. Fiscal Year 2022 saw us recover strongly after the challenges of 2020-2021. Total revenues rose by \$69,743, to exceed \$100,000 for the first time. This was partly due to a recovery of program revenues as we were able to resume in-person live classes and professional development programs. It was also due to the ongoing generosity of our supporters, and to our success in accessing additional grant funding. We ended the fiscal year with close to \$84,000 in the bank. AHHAH is a 501c(3) public-charity and is registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

For the last two fiscal years AHHAH’s financial results were

Revenues	FY 2021	FY 2022
Contributed revenue	\$47,508	\$94,914
Earned Revenue	\$ 9,692	\$32,108
Total Revenue	\$57,279	\$ 127,022
Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$27,888	\$43,303
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 1,162	\$ 2,706
Administrative Expenses	\$38,467	\$37,860
Total Expenses	\$67,517	\$83,869
Net Income	\$-10,238	\$43,154

To provide more context, the chart shows AHHAH’s revenues over the past 5 fiscal years.



In addition to the above, AHHAH received and then used/distributed a large volume of in-kind donations in the form of thousands of books for the PULL program and received the benefit of hundreds of hours of volunteers' time.

Appreciation for Supporters

\$1,000 and more

Breuninger Insurance

CCRES

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

The Fund for Women and Girls

David and Jennifer Hall Trust

Hadley Foundation

Huston Foundation

Justamere Foundation

John and Kerry Harper Trust

Amy Kramer

Kennett Square Mushroom Festival

Diane Larson

Jan Michener

Paypal Giving Fund

Westfield Insurance

Whole Foods Markets

\$500-\$999

Jennifer Anderson
Suzanne Cornell
Richard and Kay Dowgun
Travis Ingersoll
Lindsay Myers

Joe Pomorski
Greg Sarian Hightower Financials
Roy Smith

\$250-\$499

Tara Bella
Berkshire Hathaway
Mary Bogsch
Paula Brenn
Ann Coleman
Jonette Marcus
Pete Mike Mayer
Franklin Mint FCU
Jennifer McNeil
Whitecap Mortgage
William Wright
Karen Wroblewski
Shauna Yeldell

... and over 100 other supporters

I Wish, I Want, I Fear, I Hope

By Ameeriah, a girl in the shelter at CCYC

I wish

To be free again

To get all these services out of my life

To see my friends and family soon.

I want

To change

To be successful

To be happy

To go live with my aunt

To go back to real school.

I fear

Being lonely

Being stuck

Being heartbroken.

I hope

My brothers and sisters are okay

That where I'm going is not so bad

I live with my aunt after the RIF.

In my body I feel alone and sad

But I will never show it.

I'm surprised that my mom is starting to care now.

I realized that I cannot go anywhere until I go to RIF.

I feel happy some days and sad other days.

I'm grateful for CCYC because it is keeping me safe and out of trouble.

