

2024

Arts Holding Hands and Hearts Impact Report



AHHAH Filmmaking students and teachers

Jan Michener

Arts Holding Hands and Hearts

9/12/2024

INSIDE ME

By Liz, a 15-year-old in detention at CCYC

Inside me you will find someone who dreams of A love so powerful that it could shake the ground,

Love so passionate it puts all other loves to rest,

A love so true it breaks all boundaries of the world.

Inside me you will find someone who is like a lonely star because I sit quietly hoping to find another lonely star

To shine their light on me, And hope that in the darkness eventually there will be sunshine.

Inside me you will find someone who is like a winter storm when

I feel so depressed and empty,

And my body hurts to move due to the lacerations scattered across me,

While I let the snow drown out the noise.

Inside me you will find someone who is burning to show you what I'm truly capable of,

I am not a failure.

I want to show everyone I am worth something more.

Inside me you will find someone who is like a clock, going around and around all day,

Letting the hours pass while nothing changes.

Inside me you will find a candle stick, born with such hope, light, and joy,

Then burnt out to nothing.

Inside me you will find someone who is like an ocean, ready to take myself and everyone I love under.

Inside me you will find someone who wants to

Find love, joy, peace

Wants to make changes in my life.

Inside me you will find someone who doesn't care about the words thrown at me,

The stares I get and looks up and down,

The whispers when I walk by.

Inside me you will find someone who stumbles when I am in a dark place and can't get out.

Inside me you will find someone who craves to be loved yet struggles to love myself.

Inside me you will find someone who is determined to achieve the most amazing and fulfilling life ever.

A Message from Jan Michener Founder and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support and belief in AHHAH's mission and the work we do to empower youth, strengthen families, and mobilize communities through arts, literacy, and mindfulness for equity and justice.

The Chester County Imagination Library continues to grow. Over 7500 children under the age of 5 received a new, high-quality book every month in the mail in 2023. Thank you to Justamere Foundation for their continued support of this program.

On April 24, AHHAH and the Kennett Library co-hosted a Spring Forward Together resource event for families in the community. Forty-five other non-profits joined us. Together we are weaving a basket of love and support for families in Chester County. Senator Comitta, Senator Kane, and Representative Sappey announced the initiative to expand the Dolly Parton Imagination Library statewide at our reception on the roof for Spring Forward Together.

AHHAH's Step Up, Step Out (SUSO), an empowerment, self-care, and leadership afterschool program for girls in Coatesville is one of six finalists in the Great Dames National Innovative Ideas contest. The girls are making an impact in their community and bringing people together for positive changes. We have partnered with the Coatesville YMCA so that every girl who joins SUSO receives a free membership to the Y.

AHHAH's Restorative Justice Filmmaking program received a PECO Powering the Arts grant, and on June 26, we had our second annual Restorative Justice Open House at the Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center in West Chester. Over 150 people watched the trailer for "Invisible No More" the documentary the youth in the filmmaking program are making to bring awareness of the impact on mental health of teenagers in the juvenile carceral system.

We believe it takes a village working together to raise a child, especially a child in poverty. You continue to show us what a loving and supportive village we have here in Chester County.

Thank you all.

AHHAH's Mission

Transforming youth, families, and communities through mindfulness, literacy and the arts for 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

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-regulation, and emotional resilience to offset prolonged exposure to childhood toxic stress.

AHHAH's Board

During the year AHHAH welcomed four new Board members -- Susan Hankin, Jonette Marcus, Deb Dart and Yazzy Alston. On June 30th Meredith Nussbaumer, Shauna Yeldell and Sara Getchell reached the end of their terms as Board Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively. Many thanks to them for their years of service in those roles. At the final meeting of the fiscal year, Jonette Marcus was elected as our new Board Chair and Deb Dart as the new Treasurer.

Jonette Marcus is the Chief Empathy Officer of The Equity Firm where she specializes in leadership and educational development rooted in the core values of empathy, equity, and excellence. Jonette brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in the education and nonprofit sectors.

Deb Dart is an accountant who specializes in non-profit accounting. She has previously served as Treasurer for the Health and Welfare Foundation for Southern Chester County, Rotary Club of Kennett Square, and Kennett Area Senior Center.

Susan Hankin is a retired Law Professor whose areas of specialty included Legal Writing, Animal Law. And Public Health Law. She taught at the University of Maryland School of Law and Georgetown University Law Center and spent a visiting semester at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. OR.

Yazzy Alston is a wife, a mother of four, a REALTOR® with Coldwell Banker Realty, LLC, Collections Lead for an Oxygen Therapy Company, Maternal Child Health Consortium's PPOR Project Coordinator, podcast host, advocate and MC; Yazzy Alston is purpose driven in all things.



Jan and Board members L to R Jonette Marcus, Deb Dart, Kathy Hrenko, Megan Goodwin, Susan Hankin, Richard Dowgun, Joe Pomorski, Meredith Nussbaumer and Mary Lawrence.

New teachers and staff

Kathy Hrenko – Lead Expressive Arts Teacher.

Abigail McNeil – SUSO Wellness and Forgiveness Coach

Sandrien DeBruijn – Restorative Justice lead photography teacher

Marla Friedman - Yoga, mindfulness teacher

Zoe Rind -- Science of Reading Literacy Consultant

Alyssa Brown - SUSO Senior Peer Support Coordinator

Michele Wolfe - Imagination Library Enrichment Consultant

Internship Program:

AHHAH's internship program with West Chester University has continued to thrive and develop. Over the last year we have been fortunate to work with the following talented and dedicated interns.

Emily Capolupo – Communication Sciences major – literacy programs

Isaac Gabriel – Urban and Environmental Planning major

J'Simone Loyd – Theater major – Step Up Step Out program

Katie O Callaghan – Education major – Step Up Step Out program

Ethan Tom – Cell and Molecular Biology major – Step Up Step Out

Isabelle Spears – Education major – literacy programs

Tess Schweiger – Communication Sciences major– Literacy programs

AHHAH's year of service

Literacy Programs

Chester County Imagination Library

In late 2021 AHHAH initiated the Greater Coatesville Imagination Library in partnership with the Dollywood Foundation and Looker Books Inc. This initiative sends one free book per month to the home of any Chester County child up to 5 years of age who registers with the program. December 2022 AHHAH expanded the program to include all children in Chester County and renamed it the Chester County Imagination Library.

This year the program has continued to grow rapidly thanks to generous support from funders – particularly the Justamere Foundation. As of June 2023, we are close to having 9,000 Chester County children enrolled. More than 100,000 books have been mailed to children in Chester County.

January 2024 AHHAH initiated the Imagination Book Club and Storytime program at the Kennett Library. The program provides a free weekly book club and enrichment program for children aged 2-4 years at the library.



Emily Capolupo reading to children in Imagination Library Book Club at Kennett Library

Spring Forward Together

In April, AHHAH and the Kennett Library co-sponsored a Spring Forward Together event at the Kennett Library. 45 nonprofit organizations serving children were invited to share their resources at this event.

AHHAH is working with our elected officials on a statewide expansion of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. State Senators Carolyn Comitta, John Kane, and House and Christine Sappey have co-sponsored bills in the House and Senate which will establish the PA Statewide Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. They announced the initiative at the Spring Forward Together event.



Pop-Up Lending Libraries (“PULL”)

We continue to build, install, stock and maintain Pop-Up Lending Libraries in locations where children congregate in Chester County communities. PULL is a truly voluntary community program: the books are donated, and the PULLs are built, decorated, installed, stocked and restocked, and maintained by teams of volunteers from the community. There are over 100 PULL Stations in Chester County and over 300,000 books have been collected and distributed since 2015 when the program was initiated.



Storytime Yoga



Zandra leading a summer story time yoga session at Tick Tock

AHHAH provides Storytime Yoga sessions to children at Tick Tock Early Learning Center in Kennett and Tree House Early Learning Center in Coatesville.

AHHAH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Programs at Chester County Youth Center, Concern4Kids, and Daikon Evening Report Center

2023 marked the 10th year of AHHAH serving children and youth involved with the juvenile justice system. Programs at these locations currently include classes in mindfulness, expressive arts (writing, music, and visual arts), cooking and nutrition. We continue the tradition of collecting the writing and art of our students for publication in the next edition of *Restorative Justice 4.0*.



Heather Leach, lead cooking instructor



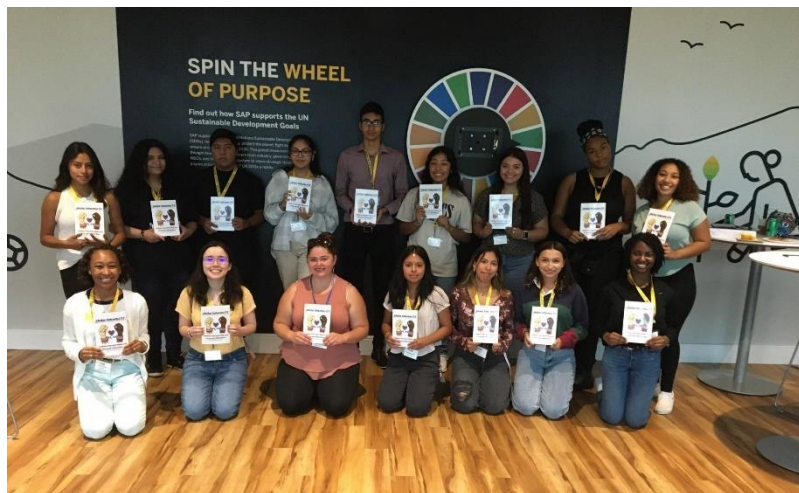
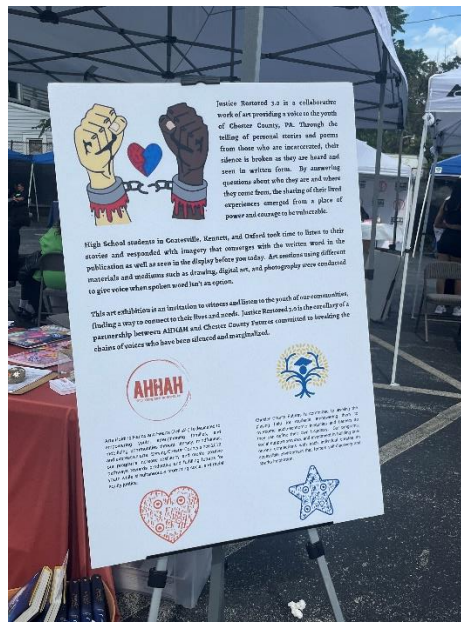
Kathy Hrenko, AHHAH's certified art therapist setting up for art workshop



I Matter Board created by girls in detention at Chester County Youth Center

Partnership with Chester County Futures for Restorative Justice 3.0

AHHAH's art teacher worked with Chester County Future students who created art in response to writings and poetry written by youth in AHHAH Expressive Arts programs at CCYC . The art and poetry were published in 2023 in the third book in our Restorative Justice series Restorative Justice 3.0. The art work has been traveling the county and *has* been on display at several public libraries, churches, and YMCAs throughout the county. The Restorative Justice 3.0 Traveling Art Exhibit was chosen for the Oxford Art Alliance Emerging Artists gallery November/December 2023. The writing and art from these programs also provide inspiration for the workshops in our filmmaking programs.



Student artists from AHHAH's joint program with Chester County Futures holding copies of Justice Restored 3.0

Restorative Justice Filmmaking

In early 2023 AHHAH started a filmmaking program for young people involved with the juvenile justice system through the Chester County juvenile probation office. In the spring and early summer of 2023, we provided a total of 20 classes. In 2023-24 we provided another 20 classes to a mix of new and continuing students. The feedback on the program from both students and



teachers has been overwhelmingly positive, with most students who take their first court-mandated series of classes returning voluntarily to take additional ones. Students are working as a team to produce a documentary about their experiences with the juvenile-justice system.

Students and teachers from AHHAH's filmmaking program

An eight-minute trailer for the documentary *Invisible No More* was screened at our second Annual Restorative Justice Open House at the Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center June 26, 2024. The trailer can be viewed on our website: www.ahhah.org/invisible-no-more.html. AHHAH supporters and members of the community interacted and learned more about the program and the issues that it raises.



Step Up Step Out - SUSO

In spring 2023 AHHAH was asked to design a program for girls in Coatesville because as one board member from the Coatesville community stated, “Girls in Coatesville are fighting”. In summer 2023 we held a 6 week Coatesville Girls Empowerment and Leadership summer think tank which lead to the design of our “Step Up, Step Out, Make A Difference” program for 8th to 12th grade girls in Coatesville.

September 2023, AHHAH implemented SUSO, an Empowerment, Wellness,



Leadership 30 week after school program for girls. The program is a 3-year pilot.

SUSO is one of six finalists in the Great Dames National Innovative Ideas Contest for empowering girls and women.

Girls and teachers in AHHAH's Step Up Step Out Summer Think Tank

Thistle Hills

Thistle Hills is a holistic home in Coatesville which houses and serves women who have been abused and/or trafficked 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. Since 2022 AHHAH has provided bi-weekly mindfulness and arts programming for the women

AHHAH'S Year In Growing Recognition and Awareness

Pints for a Purpose In collaboration with Locust Lane Craft Brewery and Exton Regional Chamber of Commerce, in September 2023 AHHAH welcomed supporters to a Pints with a Purpose Happy Hour at Locust Lane Brewery in Malvern. Over \$1,200 was raised to support AHHAH programs.

Better than Bacon In collaboration with the Kennett Flash and the Better Than Bacon Gives Back, in October 2023 AHHAH supporters enjoyed an evening of comedy improv in Kennett Square at the Kennett Flash.

Justice Restored Art Exhibit From November thru December 22, the [Justice Restored 3.0 Traveling Art Exhibit](#) was on display in the Emerging Artists Gallery at [Oxford Arts Alliance](#). Justice Restored is a collaborative art project featuring the writings of young people ages 10-18 incarcerated in the Chester County Youth Center, interpreted through drawings created by high school students in the [Chester County Futures](#) program. The art exhibit was at the Coatesville YMCA for the month of February for Black History Month



AHHAH's Restorative Justice 3.0 Traveling Art Exhibit at the Coatesville YMCA

Candid Gold Seal In January 2024 AHHAH earned the Candid Gold Seal of Transparency on [GuideStar](#)! With a directory of over 2.5 million nonprofit organizations, GuideStar works to ensure trust and confidence between charities and the communities they serve. Visit [AHHAH's profile](#) on GuideStar to see an overview of our work and learn more about our commitment to transparency!

National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month January 11th was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. In recognition of this important cause, AHHAH is thankful to County Commissioners Josh Maxwell, Marian Moskowitz, and Eric Roe; and to Carol Metzker of [Sound and Wellness](#) for acknowledging AHHAH in the Chester County Commissioners' Proclamation against human trafficking, together with [Thistle Hills](#) and [ACE Anti-Human Trafficking Alliance of Oxford, PA](#).

We are truly grateful to have so many wonderful and compassionate allies dedicated to ending the cycle of exploitation in Chester County.



Jan Michener, Rev Sherry Deets and Carol Metzker

Let's Talk About It

On March 7, 2024, AHHAH's Executive Director Jan Michener spoke with Chelsea Melrath and Tracy Behringer of [WCHE](#) in an interview for Let's Talk About It, a radio show covering themes and topics around mental health. Jan discussed AHHAH's history and ongoing work as well as the importance of addressing the relationships between youth literacy, trauma, and the justice system. We're so grateful to Chelsea and Tracy for the opportunity to share an insightful conversation on these deeply important issues.

Spring Forward Together

April 24, 24, AHHAH and the Kennett Library co-sponsored a Spring Forward Together resource event at the Kennett Library. Over 40 nonprofit organizations serving families children in Chester County attended.

State Senators Carolyn Comitta, John Kane, and House and Christine Sappey have co-sponsored bills in the House and Senate which will establish the PA Statewide Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. They announced the initiative at the Spring Forward Together event.

Lori Cushman from the Justamere Foundation made a \$260,000 donation in support of the Chester County Imagination Library.



Jan & L. Cushman of Justamere Foundation at the Spring Forward Together Event

Daughters of the American Revolution Literacy Champion Award

On May 11, AHHAH received the Literacy Champion Award from The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Chester County Chapter, in recognition of Outstanding Work in Literacy Promotion. Thank you so much to the Daughters of the American Revolution for your support and recognition of our literacy work!

Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce Corporate Citizenship

We are so grateful and honored to receive the [Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce](#)'s annual Corporate Citizenship Recognition. Since 2012, the Chamber of Commerce has awarded the Corporate Citizenship Recognition annually to local non-profit organizations for their work and dedication to the community. AHHAH received the award at this year's 2024 Gala on the Greene, a celebration featuring local vendors and community organizations at historic Greystone Mansion in Coatesville.



Corporate Citizenship Award Presentation

Restorative Justice Open House On June 24, 2024 AHHAH held our second Restorative Justice Open House at the Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center in West Chester. The event was attended by AHHAH Board members, teachers, volunteers and supporters, and students of AHHAH's Restorative Justice filmmaking program and their families, as well as business and civic leaders and community members Over 150 people attended.

The event featured the first public screening of the eight-minute documentary trailer created by our filmmaking students as well as the Restorative Justice 3.0 Traveling Art Exhibit. The filmmaking program and the Open House was supported by a PECO Powering the Arts Grant

Restorative Justice Open House



Community Events In 2023-24 AHHAH continued our tradition of participating in multiple community events throughout the year, including Baby Shower for Maternal and Child Health Consortium, Coatesville Family Fun Day/Back to School Day, Gordon Head Start Parent Committee Reading Event, Kennett Square Mushroom Festival, Kennett Library Community Volunteer Fair, United Way of Chester County Non-Profit Meet and Greet, and the Healthy Kids Running Series.

Community events give us the chance to connect with our neighbors and to show our support for the work of other non-profits and community organizations.

AHHAH at Kennett Mushroom Festival



AHHAH's Financial Results

AHHAH believes in maintaining fiscal responsibility by making wise and efficient use of all resources entrusted to us. Fiscal Year 2024 saw strong expansion – largely due to the rapid growth of the Chester County Imagination Library program. Total revenues rose by \$148,569 to exceed \$350,000 for the first time. We ended the fiscal year with \$174,348 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 2023	FY 2024
Contributed revenue	\$170,190	\$ 303,506
Earned Revenue	\$ 41,642	\$ 57,561
Total Revenue	\$211,832	\$ 361,067
Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$122,590	\$ 249,534
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 3,532	\$ 4,678
Administrative Expenses	\$28,782	\$ 57,705
Total Expenses	\$154,904	\$ 311,917
Net Income	\$ 56,928	\$ 54,150

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.

Chester County Community Foundation donor-advised fund.

Friends of AHHAH now have the option to show their support via a CCCF donor-advised Provisional Fund. Giving via a donor-advised fund can be simpler (particularly for gifts of stock) and more tax-efficient than direct donations.

Appreciation for Supporters.

\$5,000 and above

Justamere Foundation

Cleveland Cliffs Foundation

Chester County Community Foundation

Chester County Fund for Women and Girls

David and Jennifer Hall Trust

John and Kerry Harper Charitable Foundation

CCCF Delno and Denis C Large Memorial Foundation

Dianne Larson

PECO Powering the Arts

Jeff and Carol Yetter

\$2000 and above

Breuninger Insurance

Susan Hankin

Kimberton Whole Foods

Bernadette Piper

Westminster Presbyterian Church

\$1,000 and above

Alliance for Health Equity

Joan Bristol

Travis Sky Ingersoll/Helping Hands Books

Gurnard Betty Carlson Memorial

Greater West Chester Sunrise Rotary

Kennett Run Charities

Gregory Sarian

Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce

\$250 and above

Better Than Bacon

Book Club gift In honor of Rita Cicero

Margaret Diskin

London Grove Monthly Meeting

Peter Nelson

Aimee Ng

New London Friends

Presence Bank

Roy Smith

United Way of Chester County

Upland Country Day School

Cheryl Volpe

Karen Walter

\$250 and above

Whitecap Mortgage

Bill and Elma Wright

Shauna Yeldell

YoQi Ladies

