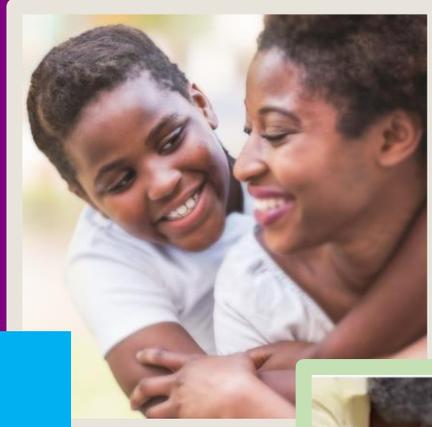


Homeless Children's Network

Annual Impact
Report 2019-20



HOMELESS
CHILDREN'S
NETWORK

hcnkids.org

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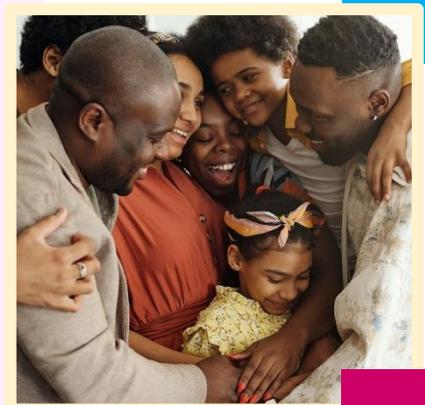
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OUR MISSION

HCN’s mission is to decrease the trauma of homelessness and domestic violence for children, youth, and families; to empower families; and to increase the effectiveness of collaborative efforts among service providers to end homelessness and poverty.



Letter from Dr. April Y. Silas, Executive Director

Dear HCN Community,

During this last year, a time of heightened anxiety and uncertainty, I'm proud to say that Homeless Children's Network remains a voice of continuity and empowerment for families.

HCN has been serving children, youth, and families since 1992. We are unique in San Francisco, the hub of a Collaborative of more than 50 other homeless-serving agencies who refer children and families to us for mental health services. Over decades, we've built trust and established rapport in every neighborhood in the city, within schools, shelters, resource centers, and wherever families are located.

HCN Remains a Voice of Continuity and Empowerment for San Francisco Families

Every day HCN works to decrease the impact of trauma and to empower overwhelmed families. We provide comprehensive mental health services, case management, consultation, family education and support services, youth leadership and advocacy training at no cost to clients. This enables us to work closely with each family to understand their needs and to connect them to HCN's internal resources and our external partners. We form a trusted relationship and follow our clients over time, providing security and stability when it is needed most.

Expanded Telehealth and Direct Client Assistance Services

During the time of COVID-19, HCN has been considered an "essential service" by the city of San Francisco and has been finding creative ways to serve families remotely. Our therapists reach families via phone, video chat, text, and email. We've been leveraging our resources to offer just as much, even increased, supports for clients.

HCN has started a new "Helping Hands" direct client assistance program to provide gift cards for basic needs such as food and transportation. We can now provide laptops to clients to connect them to our telehealth services as well as community resources, school, and ultimately the world at large.

Ma'at: The Black Mental Health Revolution

The need for Afri-centric community supports has never been more clear as families rise up to insist that Black Lives Matter, while simultaneously navigating the COVID-19 crisis.

We have an urgent need for healing, and yet many families are reluctant to engage in traditional mental health systems. In response, we launched the Ma'at Program. Through Ma'at, Black therapists provide Afri-centric therapy to Black families, from within a communal context. Healing happens within the family and community systems.

I want to extend my gratitude to each individual who has supported HCN's journey. Together, we can uplift one another and take action in this revolution, as our families reach towards a place of healing and strength.



Raising awareness of the Ma'at Program throughout San Francisco



In partnership and community,

April Y. Silas

Dr. April Y. Silas
Executive Director

2,400+

Children, Youth & Families Served in San Francisco Neighborhoods

50+

Service Provider Partners in HCN Collaborative

2

New Client Programs Including:

- Ma'at Program
- Helping Hands

1,430+

Gifts Cards for Food & Basic Needs for Families Available through Helping Hands

27+

Years Serving San Francisco

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



6

Films Featuring HCN Staff Including:

- Introduction to Ma'at
- Voices of the Uprising Series
- COVID-19 Videos for Families





HCN Collaborative

HCN works with a Collaborative of over 50+ San Francisco-based service providers to promote and maintain a standard of care.

HCN Programs

HCN provides comprehensive mental health services, case management, consultation, family education and support services, violence prevention services, community & youth leadership and advocacy training to homeless and formerly homeless children and youth ages 0-25 years old and their families at no cost to clients.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Children, youth and the families and caregivers that love them receive culturally responsive, strengths-based, trauma-informed direct mental health services and clinical case management.



CASE MANAGEMENT, REFERRALS & LINKAGES

Youth and families receive services that help them overcome problems with health care, housing, transportation, public benefits, education, employment and other issues.



EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION INITIATIVE

Designed to ensure the emotional well-being of young children (0-5) and families. Services include consultation, family education and support groups, training and support for providers and child observation.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Peer groups empower youth via leadership, communication, community building, teamwork and self-care activities. Youth receive mentorship to help them set and achieve goals for life skills and education.



MA'AT PROGRAM (NEW)

A supportive, holistic, therapeutic community, in which we center and work with African American/Black Families in San Francisco. Ma'at uses a whole-person approach to deliver Afri-centric, heartfelt, mental health wellness care that addresses head-on the historical legacy of intergenerational racism, inequity and trauma.



HELPING HANDS (NEW)

A direct client assistance program that provides HCN families with gift cards for basic needs such as food and transportation. HCN is also providing laptops to children, youth and families to connect them to our telehealth services as well as community resources, school and ultimately the world at large.



This is a time in which HCN has become creative around our services and community reach. We are leveraging technology to meet the urgent need for supports for children, youth and families. Through a moment of heightened anxiety and uncertainty in our communities, HCN remains a voice of continuity and empowerment for families in San Francisco.



HCN has responded to the needs described by families, community partners and staff by:

- ✓ **Pivoting to a telehealth model** as soon as the stay-at-home order was announced. Behavioral health services are now provided via video-call, phone, text and email so we can continue serving families wherever they are.
- ✓ **Focusing extra effort on Whole Family wellness** services to better serve children and youth.
- ✓ **Providing culturally responsive care** during this moment of compounding crises disproportionately impacting communities of color.
- ✓ **Acting as a trustworthy source of information** for clients that have a historical and healthy distrust of media and medical systems.
- ✓ **Building capacity** to share resources, as a community, while working to overcome barriers such as lack of access and varying levels of experience with technology tools.
- ✓ **Launching a new direct client assistance program—Helping Hands—** that provides gift cards for basic needs such as food. Laptops are also provided to connect clients to telehealth services, community resources, school and ultimately the world at large.

Ma'at Year One Highlights



The Ma'at Program's "Hub and Spoke" model addresses the impact of systemic racism, inequity and trauma on Black/African American communities to build trust and authentic engagement for overcoming barriers to accessing family behavioral health care. Ma'at is a healing community based on Afri-Centric and culturally opulent principles that connects Black therapists with Black families. Ma'at is the Black mental health revolution.

519 Ma'at Program participants received Afri-centric, Whole Person Wellness services

3,048 Outreach & community engagement activities by Ma'at staff in Year One

8 "Love Pop-Ups" by Rafiki Coalition, Ma'at inaugural spoke, reached 833+ Black/African American community members in SF

95% Ma'at staff reported that, for their clients, having a therapist or service provider of African descent is extremely meaningful & families echoed this finding

Download Ma'at Year One Report here: hcnkids.org/our-impact

"Deeply trusting, well-established relationships in the Black community that are based solely on unapologetic Afri-centric affirming foundations, function as the life-line between systems of care and Black families." – Ma'at Clinician



Ma'at Client Story



MA'AT SUCCESS STORY: SAM AND JAY

Twelve-year-old Jay* was having problems in school. His teachers said the sixth grader was being bullied by other students, getting in fights, and putting his head on his desk and refusing to work. His clothing was also attracting attention from students and school staff. Even on the warmest days, Jay would wear layers and layers of coats, plus a hat and winter gloves, including while he was eating. The school social worker reached out to Homeless Children's Network to access culturally responsive care through the new Ma'at program, which serves Black/African American families in San Francisco.

Jay had experienced abuse and trauma, and had recently come out as gay. The middle schooler was deeply depressed, and admitted that he had thought about taking his own life. When the HCN therapist met with Jay and his father, Sam*, she invested time building trust and connection with the family and establishing a safe space.

At their first meeting, Jay announced to the HCN psychologist, "You're a black lady and black ladies can't be doctors." He said every doctor he'd met was a white man. The HCN clinician spent time getting to know the family, creating a judgement-free zone, and even sharing meals.

Jay started to feel more secure and picture a future that was larger than what he had imagined was possible for himself and people who looked like him.

The HCN therapist met regularly with school staff and with Sam. She helped empower Sam with positive parenting strategies he could use at home. For example, now Sam helps Jay with journaling to improve his confidence to help him feel strong individually and as part of a family.

Sam has been taking Jay shopping to help him express his individual style. Jay is more confident, participating in school, and has taken off the hat and gloves. Recently, he told the clinician that thanks to his love of clothes, he can imagine himself growing up to be a fashion designer one day.

As one Ma'at therapist said, "That is the power of Ma'at. Aligning Black therapists with Black children who crave genuine connection with providers who understand their cultural background is the heart of this Ma'at journey. We are more than just therapists, we are cultural symbols of a village, a circle of support, and a pillar to their mental health journey."

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the clients.*

HCN Films

MA'AT PROGRAM VIDEOS

INTRODUCTION TO THE MA'AT PROGRAM

Learn about HCN's new Ma'at Program, a supportive holistic therapeutic community, in which we center and work with African American/Black Families in San Francisco.

Watch Introduction to the Ma'at Program here:

hcnkids.org/ma-at-program



THE MA'AT PROGRAM IN-DEPTH

Dive deep into the heart of Ma'at with this in-depth video and hear from Ma'at staff, clinicians, partners, and clients in their own words.

Watch in-depth Ma'at Program video here:

youtu.be/1jsGxhe1d0s



HCN's VOICES OF THE UPRISING VIDEO SERIES

VOICES OF THE UPRISING PART I

This is an unfiltered expression of the thoughts and feelings of HCN staff around racism, police brutality and the killing of Black people.

Watch Voices of the Uprising Part I here:

hcnkids.org/post/video-voices-of-the-uprising



VOICES OF THE UPRISING PART II: WHITE SILENCE

This video featuring HCN staff exposes the centuries-long impact of silence and urges viewers to speak out against all systems of racism.

Watch Voices of the Uprising Part II here:

hcnkids.org/post/white-silence



COVID-19 VIDEOS FOR FAMILIES

EXPLAINING COVID-19 TO KIDS

Join HCN Therapist June Lin-Arlow as she provides a child-friendly explanation of the coronavirus.

Watch Explaining COVID-19 to Kids video here:

hcnkids.org/post/creativity-at-work-at-hcn



FRIENDSHIP SOUP

Watch HCN Therapist Alex Rupp and her puppet friend Sparky share the ingredients to make delicious "Friendship Soup." This video aired on KTVU in May on an episode of the **SF Loves Learning** television show started by the San Francisco Unified School District!

Watch the Friendship Soup video here:

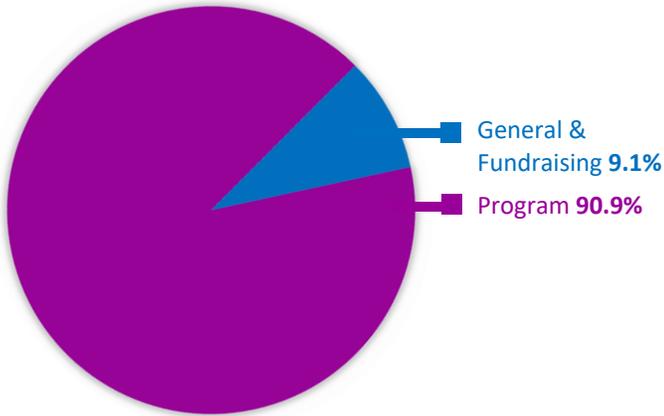
hcnkids.org/post/creativity-at-work-at-hcn



Financials

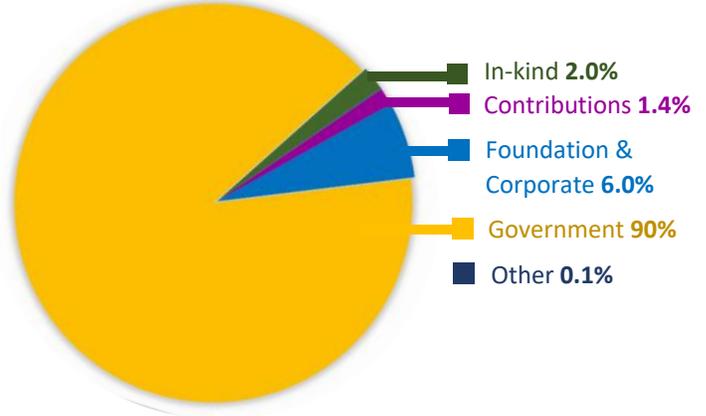
FINANCIALS: FISCAL YEAR 2019-20

Expenses



Total Expenses: \$4,414,537

Revenues



Total Revenue: \$4,618,433

Note: Figures are taken from FY 2019-20 financial statements, which are in the process of being audited. Final audited statements are available upon request.

Funders

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT (2019-20)

Thank you to all our institutional funders in the 2019-20 fiscal year. This support makes it possible for Homeless Children’s Network to continue to do transformative work in the lives of homeless children, youth and families in San Francisco in these challenging times.

- Battery Powered
- Bothin Foundation
- California Foundation for Stronger Communities
- Charis Fund
- Gilead Sciences, Inc.
- Grace Family Foundation
- Jewish Community Impact Fund
- Listen4Life Foundation
- Magic Cabinet (formerly Ken Birdwell Foundation)
- San Francisco Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing
- San Francisco Department of Public Health
- San Francisco Department of Children, Youth & Their Families
- San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development

- Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation
- Walter and Elise Hass Foundation
- William G. Irwin Charity Foundation



HCN Team

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Lisa Williams, *Board Vice President*
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Alexandra Cooke, *Board Co-Secretary*
Natalie Vicas, *Board Treasurer*
Michael Evans, *Board Member*

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Amira Mensah, *Development & Communications Associate*
Andre Jackson, *Clinical Therapist*
Ashley Wood, *Clinical Therapist*
Autumm Beard, *Clinical Supervisor*
Bonnie Harrison, *Clinical Director*
Cinthia Montenegro, *Youth Coordinator & Case Manager*
Dalyn P. Smith, *Clinical Therapist*
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Deanna Murillo, *Program Assistant*
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Erin Miller, *Clinical Therapist*
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Hilary Bothma, *Development & Communications Director*
Hosanna Rubio, *Youth Coordinator & Case Manager*
Jennifer Calderon, *Program Manager & Clinical Therapist*
Jennifer Cervantes, *Clinical Therapist*
June Lin-Arlow, *Clinical Therapist*

STAFF CONTINUED

Lynette Sweet, *Office Manager*
Mark Jefferson, *Clinical Therapist*
Nicollette Maristela, *Clinical Therapist*
Oman Hollingsworth, *Ma'at Office Manager*
Ricardo Peña, *Clinical Supervisor*
Shawneshia Hoover, *Clinical Therapist*
Stephanie Jones, *Clinical Therapist*
Tanaya Reid, *Clinical Therapist*
Victor Aguayo, *Finance Specialist*

CLINICAL INTERNS

Claire Posel, *Clinical Intern*
Daniel Molina, *Clinical Intern*
Elizabeth Marco, *Clinical Intern*
Maria Bachinello, *Clinical Intern*
Trang Nguyen, *Clinical Intern*

Thank you to our 2019-20 interns for going above and beyond!

**HCN Team as of June 30, 2020.*





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