



ARDEN SHORE
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Rebuilding Children's Lives Since 1898

**Family
is the heart
of the home.**



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

This year, individuals and families around the world rebuilt their lives in the face of the global pandemic. We learned to adapt. We learned new ways to accomplish our work, to make sure our kids were learning and safe, to take care of one another. And through it all, home became the center of our lives more than ever before. Home took on new meanings. It is where families and friends found new ways to connect. Parents became teachers. Kitchens became offices. This year, staying home meant saving lives. We were reminded of what is most important.

For Arden Shore, home has always been at the heart of our work. Home is a place where we can feel the deepest sense of trust, where we can have the freedom to express our most audacious hopes. Home is where we belong. That's why Arden Shore is dedicated to keeping families safe, strong, and together.

This year, essential workers were our heroes. At Arden Shore, this was no exception. Staff were adaptive, creative, and above all, passionate about ensuring children and families received the support and resources they needed to thrive. I am so proud to share that staff not only maintained service quality in the face of immense challenges, but also achieved phenomenal growth in scale and impact. Behavioral Health and Support Services saw a 40% increase in persons served this year. Arden Shore's Foster Care program ranked number one in the state of Illinois for permanent placements. With a deepened sense of what caring for our community means, our inspiring staff served more than 1,850 children and families.

We never could have anticipated how meaningful your ongoing support of Arden Shore's vital programs and services would be for our shared communities. As we do the work to heal from the pandemic and rebuild what our shared future might look like, let's not lose sight of the importance of strong, healthy homes. Let's keep working together to rebuild children's lives and make home a place where everyone can thrive.

May all those who belong in your home, and the children who touch all of our hearts, be well.

With sincere gratitude,



Dora E. Maya, Ph.D.
President and CEO



Dorothy A. (Dottie) Rzeszutko
Board Chair





Family is Essential.

"Arden Shore made sure our two boys had everything they needed. Once COVID-19 made things even more difficult, Arden Shore went above and beyond to ensure our children were safe, healthy, and loved." -Krissy, Foster Parent

Foster Care Services

Arden Shore strives to help children recover and rebuild by working closely with foster parents to provide a nurturing home and stable environment. Understanding the importance that separated families keep connected, Arden Shore continues to exceed goals, making thousands of supportive visits to ensure active communication regarding parent challenges, therapeutic concerns, and other needs to help rebuild lives.

This year, in the face of the unprecedented challenges, **Arden Shore ranked number one in foster care legal permanent placements in the state of Illinois**, evidence of the team's unwavering dedication to the well being of the hundreds of children and families in their care.

"I like working with kids and their families. Our goal is always to reunify if it is in the best interest of the child. Family is very important and we always try to find relatives that can help kids in care."

-Pedro, Foster Care Case Manager



Behavioral Health & Support Services

Therapeutic professionals work with adults, children and families to make sure they have the tools they need to heal from difficult situations like trauma, domestic violence, or substance abuse. Highly trained professionals provide individual and family therapy, substance abuse counseling, mental health assessments, and trauma-informed parenting groups. This year, Arden Shore's Behavioral Health Support Services received certification as a Community Mental Health Clinic (CMHC).

Arden Shore's Behavioral Health Services and Support Services (BHSS) staff adapted quickly by implementing tele-therapy to avoid service disruption in the face of the pandemic. **BHSS achieved phenomenal growth in scale and impact, expanding by 40% and partnering with more than 350 individuals to realize an improved quality of life** in areas such as relationships, education, housing, physical health, and mental health.

"Working in social services for 15 years, I enjoy the opportunity to guide interns in the process of clinical therapy. I am passionate about helping."
-Africa, Clinical Supervisor Behavioral Health & Support Services



Behavioral Health Internship Program

Arden Shore continues to strengthen the Lake County Mental Health Workforce through its robust internship program— training the next generation of the workforce to be prepared to address the needs of individuals throughout our community. The Behavioral Health team trains and supervises student interns from nine college and university programs, including Loyola University, University of Chicago, Rosalind Franklin, and Chicago School of Professional Psychology to provide the practical experience they need to graduate ready to enter the workforce. Since the launch of this program in the spring of 2018, **Arden Shore has hosted 36 interns**. Arden Shore's interns have secured positions with Nicasa Behavioral Health Services, Catholic Charities, and the Lake County Health Department, as well as Arden Shore— increasing the capacity of Lake County's behavioral health expertise.



"In recent months, learning new ways to protect children has strengthened my drive to continue helping families learn to live safe and healthy lives."
-Monica, V.P. of Case Management



"I am passionate about the work I do to keep children safe and continue to advocate for disempowered populations. The team at Arden Shore inspires me to grow and learn as a social worker."

-Lisa, Intact Supervisor

Intact Family Preservation Services

The Intact Family Preservation program is designed to keep families together. Arden Shore's staff work with families who may be at risk of disruption or separation, providing parenting skills education, family advocacy, and support in the family's home. Families choose to participate in these services voluntarily, with the goal to stay healthy, together, and thrive at school, at work, and other areas of their life.

Arden Shore continues to exceed programmatic goals, with 82 families completing the program **and more than 95% of families remaining together** for the 12 month period after support ends, indicating sustained growth as a family.

"Arden Shore workers truly care about the clients they serve. Things have gone the way they were supposed to and I have my son back home with me due to the organization and advocacy of the worker and agency."

-Client

Group Home for Youth

Arden Shore's group home is a safe and caring environment where dedicated staff provide the support the children need to grow into healthy adults. Through 24-hour therapeutic support and structured activities, the home provides youth with opportunities to develop the skills necessary to live on their own, build resiliency, and overcome the effect of early childhood trauma.

As an essential service, the Group Home continued to serve the boys 24/7—through the pandemic and "stay at home" orders. Like other homes throughout the country, the children were home from school and transitioned to e-learning. Staff remained keenly aware of the importance of maintaining the structure and routine children need. "Staff did an outstanding job of staying positive, educating, and informing youth--promoting a safe, caring, and therapeutic environment during uncertain and trying times," said Carie Pasenelli, Director of Residential Services.

Arden Shore's group home is designed to support youth's positive transition towards independence. This year, **three boys transitioned from the group home to more independent environments.**

"Not every child is fortunate enough to have an ideal situation. Sometimes, circumstances prevent children from being the best version of themselves. It brings me joy to be able to provide a safe place for the boys to wake up in every morning and know what I do matters."

-Deondre, Waukegan Group Home



Foster Family of the Year

The Garriga Family

"We understood from the beginning that foster care is not to provide a child to a family, but to provide a family to a child."
-Danae Garriga, Foster Family of the Year



Sometimes, Maybe, but Forever Danae Garriga

I have a child, sometimes.
I change diapers, sometimes.
I tie shoes, sometimes.
I meet with teachers, sometimes.
I go to Frozen theme birthday parties, sometimes.
I play pretend, sometimes.
I read bedtime stories, sometimes.
I drive to sport practices, sometimes.
I help with homework, sometimes.

I have a child. Sometimes.

I'm having a girl, maybe.
I'm having a boy, maybe.
I'm having twins, maybe.
I'm having an infant, maybe.
I'll get to adopt them, maybe.
They'll go back home, maybe.
I'll meet their family, maybe.

Maybe.

Yet I love, forever.
I care, forever.
I cherish, forever.
I learn, forever.
I am grateful, forever.
I am changed, forever.
I'll be attached, forever.

I love. Forever.

"Respecting and honoring the place that birth mom has enables you to fulfill the irreplaceable role that you have been given."

During Danae and Gabe Garriga's first experience fostering in 2019, they made an phenomenal effort to support the reunification process for Sarah (*name changed*.) The Garrigas began to write in a journal on weekly basis sharing updates about Sarah. Sarah's mom would read the journal and write back to the Garrigas during her weekly visits. As weeks went by, the Garrigas wanted to meet Sarah's mom, and arranged to do so. Soon after, the Garrigas began to supervise parent-child visits, and invited Sarah's older sister to visit every weekend so Sarah could spend more time with her sister and to help Sarah's mom as she worked on the weekends. In the beginning of 2020, Sarah was able to return home.

But when the pandemic made it difficult for Sarah's entire family later in the year, the Garrigas home reopened, not to just Sarah, but Sarah's entire family.

Arden Shore is honored to recognize the Garriga Family for their selfless dedication to their irreplaceable role as a foster family.

To learn more about becoming a
foster parent, please call
Arden Shore at (847) 623-1730.

You can learn more about the Garriga's fostering journey through Danae's blog at thetreeintheriver.com, where this poem and Danae's quotes were originally published.

Donor Recognition

Gifts made for the 12 month period of July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020

\$100,000 Gift

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Fiscal Year 2020 Financials

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020

Operating Revenue

Public Support	\$	238,474.00
Program Revenue	\$	5,206,944.00
Investment Income (net of fees)	\$	72,538.00
Investment Gain/(Loss)	\$	(35,994.00)
Irrevocable Trust Gain/(Loss)	\$	60,307.00
Other	\$	170,829.00
Total Operating Revenue	\$	5,713,098.00

Expenses

Program Expenses	\$	4,427,520.00
Management & General	\$	784,997.00
Fundraising	\$	126,017.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$	5,338,534.00

Change in Net Assets **\$** **314,260.00**

Net Assets

Beginning of year	\$	5,681,105.00
End of year	\$	5,995,365.00

Audited financial statements will be available upon request.

Mission

Arden Shore is committed to rebuilding lives affected by trauma and abuse in a caring community through foster care, family support, behavioral health services, and residential programs.

Values

We believe that children and families thrive in a safe and nurturing environment tailored to help them rebuild their emotional and physical well-being.

We believe that children and families are more likely to reach their full potential if they have the opportunity to participate actively in their planning and treatment.

We believe that it is our responsibility to create an environment which nurtures the inherent gifts and talents of children and their families.

We believe that all children and families are capable of learning and changing when they have the tools and support to make healthy choices.

We believe that the diversity of the children and families we serve and our staff and volunteers enriches and strengthens our ability to build well-being for everyone.

LICENSED BY:

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

ACCREDITATIONS:

Council on Accreditation

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ARDEN SHORE
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Rebuilding Children's Lives Since 1898

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