



LETTERS CHARITY

Annual Impact Report

2024

944

total donations

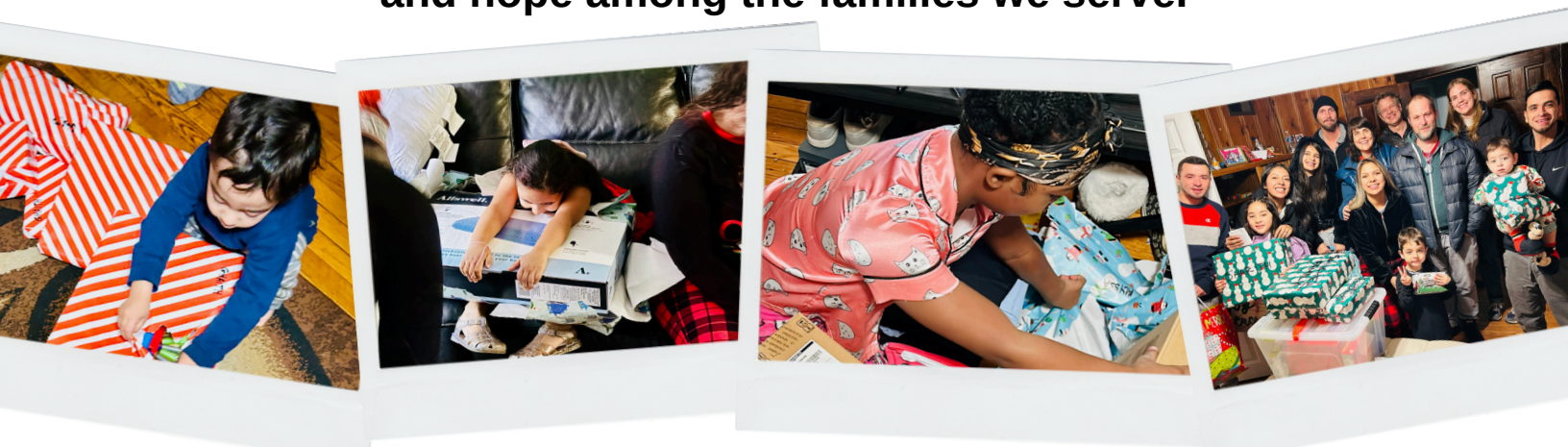
\$553,311

total funds raised



Give Directly. Change a life.

In 2024, we continued our core mission of transforming compassion into tangible support, using art and community connection to inspire a sense of dignity and hope among the families we serve.



The year in review

As we reflect on 2024, our journey has been defined by transformation, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our mission.

This year marked a profound evolution for our organization. We changed our name from Poverty Alleviation Chicago to Letters Charity—a change that captures the essence of our work. It's not just about the gifts or the money we deliver, but about the hope experienced when we read a person's letter asking for help and then show up, in person, to answer it.

Our second annual Letters To Santa: The Holiday Gala was hosted by Brookfield Zoo Chicago and was a testament to the power of community. The event sold out, raising an incredible \$164,000.

Organizationally, we navigated significant changes. Heather Whinna transitioned to Chief Mission Officer, while I stepped into the role of Executive Director. This shift allows us to continue our strategic advocacy while maintaining our day-to-day operations.

Most importantly, 2024 was a year of profound loss. On May 7th, we lost Heather's husband, Steve Albini—an impossibly massive loss for all who knew and loved him. Steve, who alongside Heather answered the first letter in 1995, was the heart of our organization. Every Christmas, he wrapped thousands of gifts, drove our delivery van, and passionately advocated for families facing exploitation. His absence is deeply felt and his spirit will continue to guide our work.

As we look forward, we carry with us the lessons, the love, and the legacy of those who have made our work possible. Our commitment remains unchanged: to read letters, to listen, and to answer.

With gratitude,
Holly Lewis
Executive Director

2024 Giving Highlights

- **107 individuals** received personalized gifts like warm clothing, electronics, toys, and board games.
- **16 families** received **\$10,000** financial grants
- Additional adults in each household received **\$1,000** grants
- Each family received a bin full of **non-perishable food**
- Amazon Fire Kids Edition for **each child 8 and under**
- HP Chromebook for **each child 9 and over**
- Total Impact: **\$212,344** in direct support to families

Finances

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash \$167,436

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable \$8,400

REVENUES

Gross Contributions \$553,311

Less Cost Direct Donor Benefits (\$78,258)

Total Net Income \$475,053

EXPENSES & DEDUCTIONS

Administrative \$67,174

Fundraising \$72,699

Program \$58,940

Direct Family Support \$212,344



Funding summary

\$176,218

Public Donations

\$130,367

Benefactors & Sponsors

\$82,507

In-Kind Donations

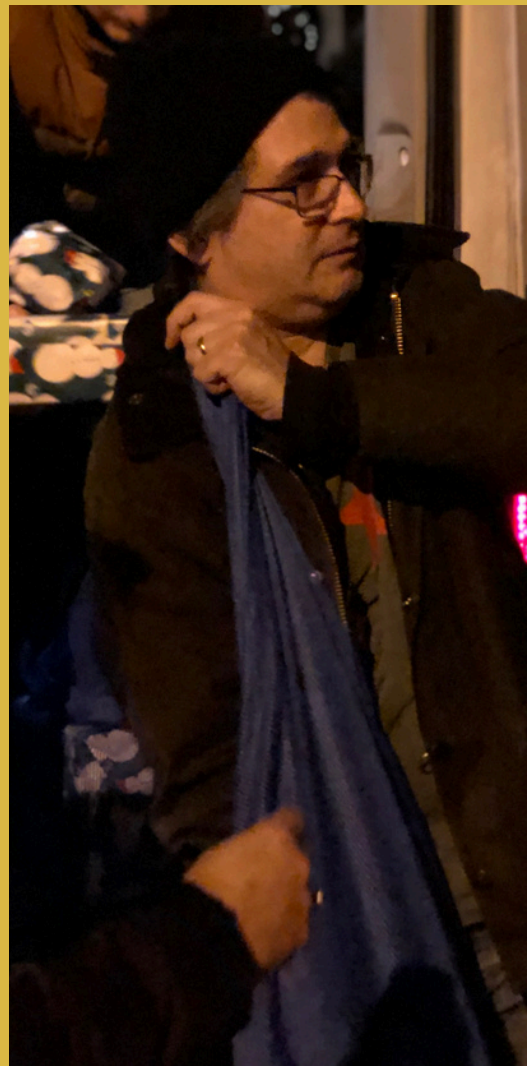
\$164,219

Holiday Gala Event

Thank you for your ongoing support

Acknowledgements

Letters Charity Board of Directors
Drew and Amanda Hester
Kirk Crenshaw and Shawna Wolverton
Fred Armisen
Gina Albini
The Hibel Family Foundation
Tim Midyett, Vickie Hunter, Lila Hunter
Sue Miller and Jeff Tweedy
Acorn Investment Partners
Julia Rickert
Tim Christoffersen & The SSA Group
Brookfield Zoo Chicago
The Holiday Gala volunteer production crew:
Jeff Hadick, Kyle Anderson, Elliot Dicks,
Anthony LeBlanc, Joe Ruffner, Leslie Stone,
Bobby Lewis, Stan Wood, Niq Schwartz and
Rosie Chevalier.
The Holiday Gala volunteers
All of the performers who donated their
valuable time and remarkable talent to bring
life-changing relief to those we had the
privilege of serving in 2024.



#ThankyouSteveAlbini



Letters Charity
1723 West Devon Avenue, #60522
Chicago, IL, 60660

www.letterscharity.org
info@letterscharity.org
[@letterscharity](https://www.instagram.com/letterscharity)