

**Illinois Children's  
Healthcare Foundation  
2023 Annual Report**





**Mental Health Outcomes**

**> \$2M**

was invested in programs that address children's mental health needs

**6,956**

children received mental health services through ILCHF's Children's Mental Health Initiative and COVID-19 School Wellness Initiative

**Oral Health Outcomes**

**\$900K**

was provided in funding to organizations dedicated to increasing access to oral health services

**43**

partner organizations received a total of nearly \$4.2M in support of efforts to positively impact the lives of Illinois children and families in 2023

ILCHF has a single vision:  
*that every child in Illinois grows up healthy.*

## Dear Friends,

Success is best when it's celebrated with others! Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation is profoundly grateful to celebrate 20 years of success partnering with organizations committed to improving the health and overall well-being of Illinois children and families.

Welcome to our 2023 Annual Report, our opportunity to recognize the remarkable work of our grantee partners. In 2023, 43 organizations across the state were awarded nearly \$4.2 million in grants supporting initiatives that improve the overall health and well-being of Illinois' children and families. In addition, the Foundation engaged in a yearlong celebration of our 20th year anniversary highlighting impact made in partnership with our grantees and reflecting on the Foundation's ongoing commitment to embed equity, diversity, and inclusion principles into our programs, practices, and policies.

For over 20 years, ILCHF has been privileged to partner with grantee organizations committed to cultivating, supporting, and promoting initiatives that improve the health and wellness of children in Illinois. This is due to the thoughtful, creative, visionary leadership of Former Illinois Attorney General, Jim Ryan. ILCHF exists, and countless children and families have benefitted from the work of our grantee partners because of his bold vision. In celebration of Jim's role both in the creation of the Foundation and service on the ILCHF Board of Directors, in 2023 Jim was elected as our first posthumous Director Emeritus and the Foundation's Spark Grants were renamed the Jim Ryan Legacy Grants.

Trauma & Resilience Initiative, Inc. (TRI), was the inaugural recipient of the first Jim Ryan Legacy Grant. TRI advocates for trauma informed, just, and equitable policies, practices, and procedures in order to create equitable, just communities in which every person is cared for, connected, supported, and well. Through the work of new initiatives and partnerships like TRI, Think Outside Da Block, My Block•My Hood•My City, all committed to creating healthier and safer communities, there is much to celebrate!

Seeking to both celebrate and support our grantee partners and the countless children and families they have impacted over the Foundation's first 20 years, ILCHF hosted a 20th Anniversary event that featured a half-day symposium titled "Innovations in Children's Healthcare Workforce" and a celebratory luncheon acknowledging the meaningful work of our grantee partners and awarding 21 grants (\$20,000 each) to organizations committed to inspiring the next generation of mental and oral health care leaders. Click [here](#) to access all of the presentations and watch ILCHF's 20th Anniversary video!

Even though we are celebrating 20 years of impact this year, our grantee partners engage in life-changing and at times, life-saving work every day! We highlight and celebrate just a handful of those grantees in this report, including:

- Eagle View Community Health System’s innovative approach described on page 6 to address the ongoing workforce shortage by hosting a youth “Medical School” summer program to encourage careers in children’s health care;
- Erie Family Health Center’s role in the Sankofa Village Wellness Center. Details about this unique concept and ILCHF’s investment in the expansion of pediatric oral health service are on page 9; and
- Kane County Health Department’s award-winning Parent Council and the work they are doing to improve mental health is featured on page 11.

2023 not only provided a time for celebration, but also a moment for reflection. As we indicated last year, the Foundation remains committed to a journey of learning, reflection, and action and sharing the results of our equity, diversity, and inclusion work. In 2021, the Foundation adopted an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan that encompassed six goals. In 2023, the Foundation focused on making significant progress toward three of these goals: grantmaking, training and education, and consultant relationships. To learn more about the implementation of our EDI Action Plan please see page 15.

On August 5, 2024, the Foundation suffered a tremendous loss as Bob Egan, our Director of Oral Health & Other initiatives, passed away. He was a beloved friend and colleague to our team, our current and former Board members, and grantee and community partners across the state of Illinois. He was immensely dedicated to achieving the Foundation’s vision that “every child in Illinois grows up healthy” and because of his unwavering perseverance, deep heart for people, ability to listen deeply, and his interest in learning and moving forward, we can honestly say that significant strides have been made toward ensuring our vision becomes a reality. May he rest in peace and in the knowledge he was so well loved. For Bob Egan’s Tribute, please see page 19.

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... we are encouraged by the relentlessness of our community partners who work diligently to make sure that the children of Illinois have the support and services they need to live healthy lives.

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As we publish this Annual Report, the Foundation remains committed to the vision **that every child in Illinois grows up healthy**. While we know the opportunities presented will be accompanied by challenges, we are encouraged by the relentlessness of our community partners who work diligently to make sure that the children of Illinois have the support and services they need to live healthy lives. We are also inspired by those who are brave enough to envision a world where there's greater equity, justice, access, belonging, and parity across the board.

In summary, we have been deeply honored to partner with so many on this journey to positively impact the lives of Illinois children and families. Thank you for celebrating 20 years of success with us and we look forward to 20 years more!  
CHEERS!

Sincerely,

Myrtis Sullivan, MD, MPH  
Board Chair

Heather Higgins Alderman  
President & CEO



**Our mission**

**ILCHF cultivates, supports, and promotes initiatives that improve the health and wellness of children in Illinois.**

“Quite simply we want to ensure that kids get the care they need, when they need it— regardless of where they live or what insurance card, if any, they carry.”

**JIM RYAN**

*Former Illinois Attorney General  
ILCHF Director Emeritus*

# spotlight: 20th anniversary grantee

## Henderson County Rural Health Center dba Eagle View Community Health System

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Henderson County Rural Health Center dba as Eagle View Community Health System (EVCHS) is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC) that serves a five-county area comprised of Henderson County, Mercer County, McDonough County, and Warren County, in West Central Illinois and Des Moines County in Iowa. EVCHS has been in operation since 1970 and for over 40 years has managed multiple sites that offer medical, dental, and mental health services. It believes that everyone should have access to quality, affordable, integrated, medical, behavioral health, and dental care regardless of income levels.

Over the past 20 years, ILCHF has partnered with EVCHS supporting its efforts to meet the oral health and health education needs of the communities it serves. In 2009, ILCHF awarded its first grant to EVCHS in the amount of \$165,485, supporting its initiative titled Macomb Location Oral Health Expansion which was focused on increasing oral health capacity and services. Since then, ILCHF and EVCHS continued their partnership and expanded it to include FQHC Covid-response and expansion initiatives, ensuring the ability to meet the needs exacerbated by the pandemic. To date, ILCHF has invested nearly \$615,000 in a partnership that believes everyone should have access to quality, affordable health care.

In 2023, EVCHS received ILCHF's 20th Anniversary grant—*"Supporting a Strong Children's Health Workforce in Illinois"*—in the amount of \$20,000 supporting its "Recharge Teen Center" program intended to inspire the next generation of children's mental health and oral health professionals.

EVCHS proposed to host a summer "Medical School" program to promote careers in children's healthcare to 60 youth (ages 14-19), who are at-risk behaviorally or academically, and that regularly attend its Recharge Teen Center. The summer "Medical School" program will include several structured summer activities, including a "Medical School" week where students will participate in career sessions featuring professionals from the behavioral health and oral health fields. In addition, the "Medical School" will feature speakers from local colleges to discuss course content and structure, and to answer questions the youth may have about the medical/dental fields.

Once the "Medical School" program is complete, youth who expressed further interest in a health career will have an opportunity to participate in job shadowing experiences and tours of the Monmouth Eagle View Clinic. Professionals from local schools and colleges will also visit with the students to assist them with planning their educational pathway. The goal of the project is to inspire the students to pursue careers in oral health or mental health and, because they are connected to the community, to encourage them to return to be employed there after completing their education.





**We are honored to collaborate with local grantee partners across Illinois who promote childhood health and well-being practices that lead to a healthy adulthood.**

In 2023, ILCHF issued **\$4,165,269** in funding for children's oral health, mental health, and unmet and emerging needs.



### 20th anniversary initiative

#### **ADLER UNIVERSITY**

Teen Mental & Behavioral Health Career Pathways

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

#### **CENTERSTONE**

Centerstone's Proposal to Encourage a Strong Children's Mental Health Workforce

*Southern Illinois*

**\$20,000**

#### **CHILDREN FIRST FUND: THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION (CFF)**

Preparing Chicago's Youth for a Future Oral Health Workforce

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

#### **DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

High School Mental Health Workforce

*East Central*

**\$20,000**

#### **EAST SIDE HEALTH DISTRICT**

Supporting A Strong Children's Health Workforce in Illinois

*Southern Illinois*

**\$20,000**

#### **EASTERSEALS CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

Counselors-In-Training

*East Central*

**\$20,000**

#### **GARY COMER YOUTH CENTER**

Healthcare Careers Pathways Mental Health Care Unit

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

#### **HENDERSON COUNTY RURAL HEALTH CENTER INC.**

Recharge Teen Center Medical School

*Northwest Central*

**\$19,024**

#### **JOSELYN CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

Mental Health for All / Salud Mental Para Todos

*Collar Counties*

**\$20,000**

#### **KANKAKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 111**

KHS Medical Academy— Developing Kankakee County's Dental and Mental Workforce Pipeline

*East Central*

**\$20,000**

#### **KIDSMATTER FOUNDATION INC.**

Youth Healthcare Workforce Development and Education Initiative

*Collar Counties*

**\$20,000**

#### **NAMI ILLINOIS, INC.**

Mental Health Career Mentors

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

#### **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE**

Creating a Pipeline for Future Oral Healthcare Professionals in Madison County, Illinois

*Southern Illinois*

**\$19,987**

#### **TCA HEALTH, INC. NFP**

Choices & Pathways to Dental Careers

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

#### **TRI-TOWN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION**

CoLABoratory For Youth Mental Health and Wellness

*Collar Counties*

**\$20,000**

#### **THE CHILDREN'S CLINIC sponsored by OAK PARK RIVER FOREST INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY**

Children's Health Workforce Educational Videos

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

#### **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

Implementation of Longitudinal Mini Medical School for Underserved Student Communities in Peoria

*Northwest Central*

**\$20,000**

#### **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

Peer 2 Peer Pathway Program

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

#### **WELL CHILD CENTER**

Project SMILE!

*Collar Counties*

**\$20,000**

#### **WESTERN ILLINOIS HEALTH CORPORATION DBA CASS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Grow Our Own Program for Cass County

*Southwest Central Illinois*

**\$20,000**

#### **YOUTH CROSSROADS INC.**

Youth Mental Health Workforce Development

*Metro Chicago*

**\$20,000**

# spotlight: oral health

## Erie at Sankofa Village

Erie Family Health Centers (Erie) is a healthcare home to more than 85,000 patients, mostly low-income, who are served in the Chicago area at 13 locations. Erie's steadfast commitment to helping patients in need is reflected in their mission statement: "Motivated by the belief that healthcare is a human right, we provide high quality, affordable care to support healthier people, families and communities."

In 2023, ILCHF granted Erie \$400,000 over two years for a new state-of-the-art dental health center in West Garfield Park which is a community experiencing deep disparities impacting health and well-being, including access to high-quality oral health care for children. This proposed 2,100 square foot oral health center will be located within the new 14,700 square foot Sankofa Village Wellness Center, providing dental, medical and behavioral health care and other support services. Through its four dental operatories, Erie will serve **665 pediatric dental patients** in the first year of operations (projected to start in April 2025) and ramp up to almost 2,200 pediatric dental patients once at full capacity in year five.



The Sankofa Village Wellness Center is at the heart of the Sankofa Wellness Village, a unique, collaborative community effort to address the challenges that have plagued the health of community members for decades. The Village's primary objectives include advancing the economic, physical, and psychological health of West Garfield Park residents while addressing the root causes of health disparities and the life expectancy gap. Components of the Village include the Wellness Center, an entrepreneurial center, an arts center and a community grocer. Taken collectively, investments made by project partners will advance economic opportunities while addressing social drivers of health that impact the health outcomes of communities.

The Sankofa Village Wellness Center represents a unique opportunity to establish a community asset in a high-need, medically underserved community. With an investment of capital funds, this little used space will be transformed into a modern, welcoming community center, connected with other developments designed to spur economic opportunity and improve health and social equity for West Garfield Park residents. It will offer an opportunity for existing businesses to grow and expand their services and work in the West Garfield Park neighborhood. This growth is projected to create nearly 400 new jobs in varying sectors with approximately 60 in the health sector, 25 administrative and management, over 50 in community services, childcare, and fitness and 250 in construction and trades.

## Jim Ryan legacy grants

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### COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, INC.

PSA of Gun Violence in our Community  
*Northern Illinois*  
**\$10,000**

### ROLE MODEL MOVEMENT, INC.

Save Street Ball  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$10,000**

### STRIDES FOR PEACE INC.

Community Partners Project Support—  
Paving the Way  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$10,000**

### THINK OUTSIDE DA BLOCK

Peace Pushers  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$10,000**

### TRAUMA & RESILIENCE INITIATIVE, INC.

Healing Communities, Evaluation  
Project  
*East Central*  
**\$10,000**

## Mental health grants

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### MERIDIAN METAMORPHOSIS, LLC

Community Centered Evaluation  
for Southwest Organizing Project  
Systems of Care  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$120,000**

### REFUGEEONE

RefugeeOne Wellness Program  
for Youth  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$50,000**

### SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT (SWOP)

System of Care  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$750,000**

## Oral health grants

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### DELTA DENTAL OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION

2023 H2O on the Go Program  
*State of Illinois*  
**\$250,000**

### ERIE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

Expanding Access to Oral Health  
for Children in West Garfield Park  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$400,000**

### HEARTLAND HEALTH OUTREACH

Illinois Healthy Smiles  
Healthy Growth 2023-2024  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$39,258**

### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Mile Square Health Center Dental  
Assistant Certification Program  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$52,000**

## Other initiatives: nutrition

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### CENTRAL ILLINOIS FOOD BANK, INC.

Children's Healthy Food Initiative  
*Southwest Central Illinois*  
**\$250,000**

### EASTERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Healthy Food for Growing Kids  
*East Central*  
**\$250,000**

### GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY

Food Purchase for Hunger Relief  
Initiatives  
*Metro Chicago*  
**\$250,000**

### NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Providing Access to Healthy Food  
for Children and Families  
*Collar Counties*  
**\$250,000**

### PEORIA AREA FOOD BANK

Feeding Children and Families  
with Children Program  
*Northwest Central*  
**\$250,000**

### RIVER BEND FOODBANK

Backpack Program for Hungry Illinois  
Children  
*Northwest Central*  
**\$250,000**

### ST. LOUIS AREA FOOD BANK, INC.

Food For Better Childhoods  
*Southern Illinois*  
**\$250,000**

### TRI STATE FOOD BANK, INC.

Backpacks and Mobile Food  
Distributions  
*Southern Illinois*  
**\$250,000**

## Other initiatives: discretionary

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### EASTERSEALS DUPAGE & FOX VALLEY

Jim Ryan Memorial  
*Collar Counties*  
**\$25,000**

### MANO A MANO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Healthy Kids Healthy Families  
*Collar Counties*  
**\$10,000**

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Watch the video of ILCHF's 20th Anniversary celebration, recognizing grantee partners' successes.



# spotlight: mental health

## Kane County Health Department

*Kane County Systems of Care Parent Council*

Kane County Health Department's (KCHD) mission is to improve health outcomes by working in partnership with the community to understand the cultural, environmental, historical and social issues impacting its residents' health so KCHD can effectively direct resources and services in an equitable and inclusive manner.

In November of 2019, the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation awarded the Kane County Health Department one of five Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) 2.0 grants. These six-year system of care grants focused on improving children's mental health outcomes by improving system coordination at a community level. Two core activities of the grant required that partners:

1. Engage and convene a consistent broad array of child serving system stakeholders to guide the system of care development and implementation through a 'Community Implementation Team'.
2. Maintain a minimum of 25% consumer parents or youth on the Community Implementation Team.



Kane County Health Department, as experts in their local community, knew that partnering with Community Organizing on Family Issues (COFI) would be essential to these goals. As a result of this partnership, the **Kane County Systems of Care Parent Council** was formed and its purpose was to lift parent and caregiver voices in the children's mental health system. In February 2024 COFI released a report titled "*We're Glad You Asked!*", sharing concrete recommendations on how communities can engage parents and caregivers in policy-

making. This report highlighted the three-year partnership between COFI and Kane County Health Department and detailed the following parent engagement successes:

### **PARENTS . . .**

- **secured** a \$250,000 state grant for a community healers project to address trauma
- **joined** the table with county board and school district officials
- **conducted** more than 400 1:1 conversations with community members about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their children and family's mental health
- **modeled** inclusive practices for linguistically diverse community members and advocated for bilingual behavioral health services

As a result of this partnership's success, in December 2023 Kane County System of Care Parent Council received the Partner of the Year Award from Compañeros en Salud/Partners in Health. This award recognizes organizations that enhance the quality of life of Hispanics and other diverse groups in the Fox Valley area through culturally and linguistically responsive services.



**ILCHF is committed to advance EDI practices necessary to ensure that every child in Illinois grows up healthy.**

## ILCHF Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan report



ILCHF's EDI Statement states in part as follows: Inspired by the unique identities and life experiences of Illinois' 2.7 million children and their families, ILCHF Embraces Diversity, Encourages Inclusivity, and Champions Health Equity. ILCHF's Board of Directors and team commits to advance the equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) practices necessary to ensure the fulfillment of our vision that every child in Illinois grows up healthy. This explicit focus on EDI builds upon the Foundation's 20-year commitment to identify and fund strategies that expand access to the affordable quality health care services and resources that every child deserves.

In 2023, the Foundation focused on and made significant progress on three of these goals: grantmaking, training and education, and vendor and consultant relationships. Following on the 2022 modifications to our grantmaking practices embedding accountability, transparency, and EDI principles, in 2023 we issued our 20th Anniversary Grants initiative and leveraged EDI demographic data collected from the applicants to better understand the communities the applicants were seeking to serve, and how the potential grantees were representative of those communities. We aimed to make grants to organizations who were led by individuals that were representative of the communities they serve. ILCHF also began consistently hosting events in both English and Spanish, fostering an inclusive culture where respective grantees expressed being seen, heard, and valued.

In terms of training and education, ILCHF team members participated in more than 20 learning opportunities related to EDI and Mission Moments shared by both Board members and team members were incorporated into all Board meetings. Finally, our Vendor and Consultant Diversity goal seeks to maximize the impact of administrative dollars spent by aligning vendor procurement, contractors and investments with our EDI principles. In 2023, our Finance & Investment Committee committed to identifying an investment firm that aligned with the Foundation's goals of fulfilling its fiduciary obligations related to managing the endowment and its commitment to centering EDI in its investment strategies. After a year-long comprehensive competitive RFP process, our Board of Directors approved Marquette Associates to serve in an Outsourced Chief Investment Officer capacity managing ILCHF's nearly \$150 million investment portfolio and Fifth Third Bank National Association to serve as Custodian. These organizations were selected for the quality of their work, their commitment to improve diversity within the finance and investments sector, and their willingness to identify paths toward continued progress in the fight for equity, diversity, and inclusion. We look forward to continuing the implementation of our EDI Action Plan and providing updates on our progress.

Our EDI plan includes goals across six domains that touch every part of our mission including accountability; grant-making; governance; talent and organizational structure; training and education; and vendor and consultant relationships.

## Financial highlights

### Statement of Financial Position


	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,623,940	\$ 3,643,314
Investments, at fair value	139,732,314	126,209,344
Other assets	535,118	544,122
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>141,891,372</b>	<b>130,396,780</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Grants payable	2,722,075	4,747,075
Other liabilities	515,294	609,493
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,237,369</b>	<b>5,356,568</b>
Net assets without donor restrictions	138,654,003	125,040,212
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 141,891,372</b>	<b>\$ 130,396,780</b>

### Statement of Activities

	2023	2022
Investment income, net	\$ 22,591,969	\$ (29,144,684)
Other income	—	204,430
<b>Total net revenue</b>	<b>22,591,969</b>	<b>(28,940,254)</b>
Grants approved, net*	7,180,530	10,888,916
All other expenses, net	1,797,648	1,660,710
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>8,978,178</b>	<b>12,549,626</b>
Change in net assets	13,613,791	(41,489,880)
Net assets beginning of year	125,040,212	166,530,092
<b>Net assets end of year</b>	<b>\$ 138,654,003</b>	<b>\$ 125,040,212</b>
<i>*Grants paid out during the year</i>	\$ 8,842,721	\$ 11,988,411

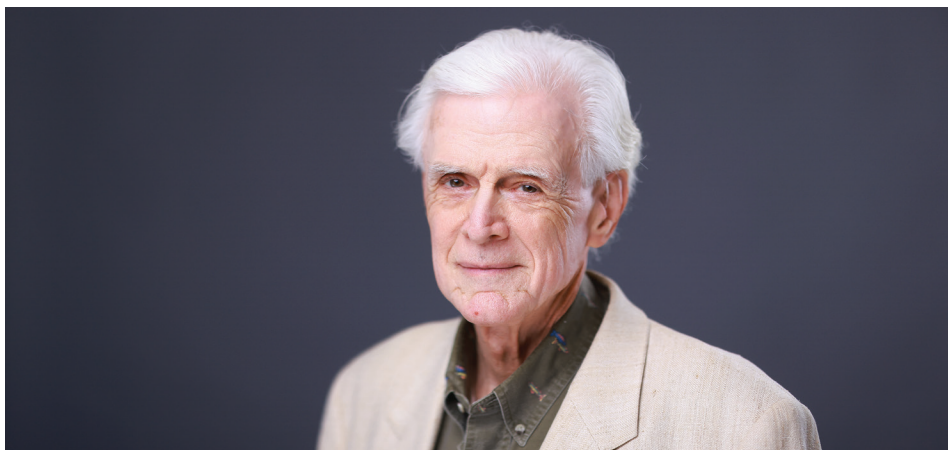
For a copy of the 2023 audited financial statements, 2023 Form 990PF, or a complete and detailed listing of our 2023 program investments, visit our website at [www.ilchf.org](http://www.ilchf.org) or contact Nedraae Hunt at 630.571.2555.





**ILCHF, in collaboration  
with committed partners,  
works to implement a  
comprehensive, holistic  
systems of children's  
healthcare to enable  
every child in Illinois  
grows up healthy.**

## Board member reflections: **Terry Hatch, MD**



Board Secretary, Executive Committee Member, Grants Committee Chair, Member of the Governance and Nominating Committee—these are just some of the titles Terry F. Hatch, MD has held over his 15 years of service on the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors. In 2024, Terry will serve his final year as an ILCHF Board Member, but, as evidenced by the many roles he has played, not without leaving a tremendous legacy.

Dr. Hatch, a pediatric gastroenterologist, is a retired Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and an Emeritus Associate Professor at University of Illinois College of Medicine. Given his commitment in his medical practice to caring for children, Dr. Hatch was an excellent addition to the ILCHF Board of Directors when he was elected in 2009. As he fulfills ILCHF’s 15-year term limit, Dr. Hatch reflected upon ILCHF’s progress during his Board service. Terry has been inspired by and contributed to the Foundation’s commitment to continuously listen, learn, and refine its grantmaking processes to meet the current health and well-being needs of children and families across the state of Illinois.

Early on in his Board service Terry was invited to join ILCHF staff and represent the Foundation at a statewide listening session centering voices of key stakeholders focused on children’s health. As a result of this event, diverse perspectives were gathered and utilized to inform the Foundation’s grantmaking strategies. While speaking with a dental professor in attendance at the session, Terry learned that the dental profession was once perceived not to be “a healthcare profession but rather a small business enterprise.” Terry believes that over the years as result of the work of ILCHF, and in particular the leadership of Bob Egan, ILCHF’s Director of Oral Health and Other Initiatives, there has been radical perspective transformation. According to Terry, through statewide partnerships, innovative strategies, education and collaboration, dental care is now revered as a meaningful healthcare profession and the provision of pediatric dental care for children has remarkably improved as well.

Terry hopes for the Foundation’s future is that it continues to improve efforts necessary to cultivate, support, and promote initiatives that improve the health and wellness of children in Illinois. When asked, what will you miss the most? Terry responded, “I will miss each and every aspect of my work at the Foundation. I always enjoy working with the staff and the leadership of an organization with the hopes of contributing (not interfering) but sharing thoughts and observations.”

As Terry ends his time as an ILCHF Board Member, he leaves us with these words of reflection: “It has been a privilege to know many of the founding board members and all of the subsequent excellent folks who have come on board to help our work. I wish the best to all now at the Foundation and those to come on board in the future.”

Terry, thank you for 15 years of service! Because of you, we are steps closer to ensuring the fulfillment of our vision that every child in Illinois grows up healthy.

## Thoughts about a very good man: **Bob Egan**

December 28, 1963—August 5, 2024



There really are no words to adequately describe what Bob meant to all of us.

Bob, Director of Oral Health & Other Initiatives, joined the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation in June 2004 as one of its first employees leading the efforts toward cultivating, supporting, and promoting initiatives that improve the health and wellness of Illinois children and families. Since that time, 20 years later, he developed and led the Foundation’s Oral Health Initiatives as well as other special initiatives and grantmaking strategies impacting countless children and families across the state of Illinois.

He was a beloved friend and colleague to our Foundation team, our current and former Board members, and health care partners across the state of Illinois. He was immensely dedicated to achieving the Foundation’s vision that “every child in Illinois grows up healthy” and because of his unwavering perseverance, ability to listen deeply, and his interest in learning and moving forward, we can honestly say that significant strides have been made toward ensuring our vision becomes a reality.

Since Bob’s death, we have received so many condolences from those who cared about him and those he positively impacted over the years. Below is one of those notes from Lee Francis, President & CEO of Erie Family Health:

*“Our team at Erie Family Health Centers was saddened to learn last month of the passing of your dear colleague, Bob Egan. Bob was a great partner and friend to Erie during his two decades of service and leadership at the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF). His deep commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and families in Illinois was clear in all our interactions with him, and the work we did together has had a lasting meaningful impact on the lives of tens of thousands of children.”*

Bob Egan—his favorite color was orange. He loved key lime pie and really good cookies. He appreciated beauty—whether that was in the written word of a good book, the awe inspired by a beautiful piece of art, the creativity of a binge-worthy Netflix series, the pleasure of a gourmet meal, the excitement of world travels or most importantly time with those he loved.

He was a good man. He was a kind man. He was a gift to all of us.

We extend our deepest condolences to Bob’s family and all those who knew him. May he rest in peace and in the knowledge he was so well loved.

# ILCHF Board and staff

As of December 31, 2023

## ILCHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

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Assistant Professor & Assistant Dean  
for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
Rosalind Franklin University  
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Toroso Investments

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#### **Philip S. Cali**

Retired Executive Vice President  
Nicor Gas

Secretary

#### **Icy Cade-Bell, MD**

Pediatrician, University of Chicago;  
Mobile Medical Unit Director  
Comer's Children's Hospital

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Community and Parent Liaison  
Chapin Hall, University of Chicago;  
Senior Pastor, Crossroad of Life  
Community Church

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#### **Veronica Guadalupe Fonseca**

CEO  
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Southern Illinois University  
School of Medicine;  
Emeritus Associate Professor  
University of Illinois  
College of Medicine

#### **Ruby Mendenhall, PhD**

Executive Director Dean  
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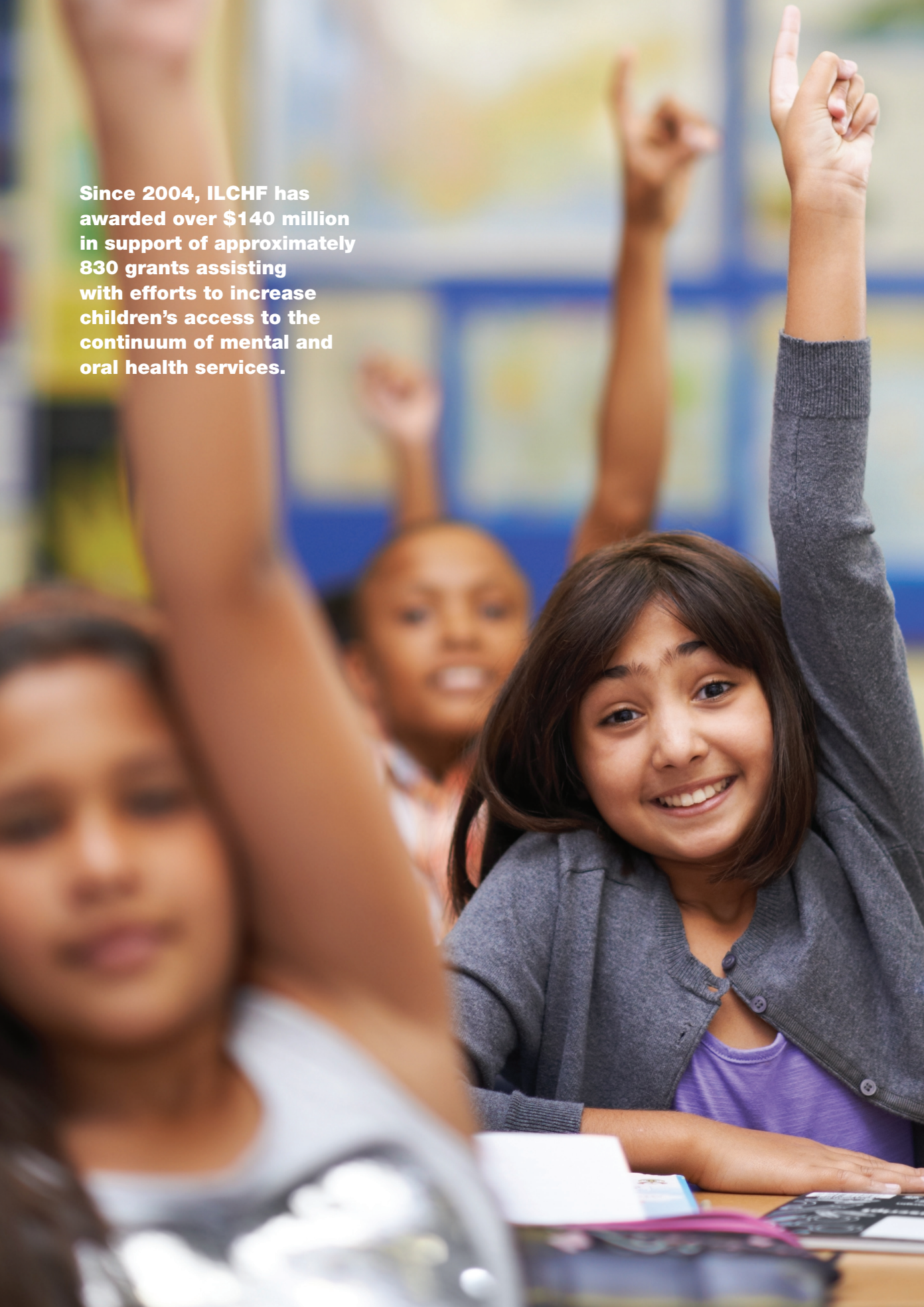
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A photograph of a diverse group of children in a classroom. In the foreground, a young girl with dark hair, wearing a grey cardigan over a purple shirt, is smiling and has her right hand raised. Behind her, another girl is also smiling with her hand raised. The background is slightly blurred, showing other children and classroom posters. The overall atmosphere is positive and engaged.

Since 2004, ILCHF has awarded over \$140 million in support of approximately 830 grants assisting with efforts to increase children's access to the continuum of mental and oral health services.



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