

Dear Friends of It Takes a Village,

When I think of It Takes a Village I feel an overwhelming sense of pride. I am so proud to be part of a community that cares for new families and babies. I'm proud of our Co-Executive Directors Lisa and Mollie for the brilliance and compassion that they bring to work every day. I'm proud of the donors and volunteers who provide the foundation to allow us to serve so many in need. I'm proud of our customers who are accepting help and making better lives for their children.

This year has been focused on reinvesting in It Takes a Village, focusing on supporting our excellent Co-Executive Directors and staff. The need for our services has been growing through the pandemic and these uncertain times. As we strive to meet these challenges we continue to rely on your help and

support.

I am proud to be standing beside you, helping It Takes a Village to continue to achieve the impressive results and to star in the beautiful stories you'll read within this Impact Report.

My sincere thanks for your continued support of It Takes a Village, and of the families and children in your community.

With gratitude and love,

Mary Lorbert President, Board of Directors





2021-2022 Impact Report

Core Principles

Our Mission

To provide free postpartum and early parenting support to families with babies and young children living in Western Massachusetts, and to inspire the community to welcome the newest members of their Village.

- Families are resilient and communities are stronger when everyone works together to welcome the newest members of their Village.
- Assisting families make connections to the community eases social and geographic isolation.
- Families with babies and young children benefit from a support system that can provide practical and emotional support and essential resources.
- Our guiding principle is to increase each family's connection to community, assist them in finding and building their own support systems and improve access to resources.
- We provide all our programs with the utmost integrity and respect, inclusive of all families.



Our Vision

Families are connected, strong and resilient, easily engaging with their community, knowing the Village is there for them.

Our Values

CONNECTION

SUPPORT

COMMUNITY

RESOURCES

RESILIENCE

INCLUSIVITY

INTEGRITY





Home Visit Program

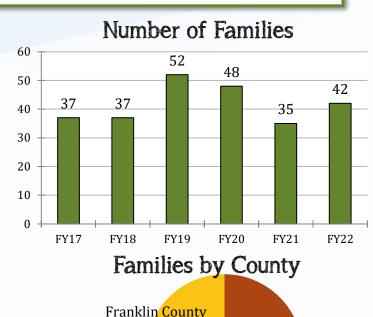
Through the Home Visit Program, volunteers provided 385 visits to 42 families with new babies across 19 towns. This year 6 new volunteers joined the team.

"This is the first time I haven't felt overwhelmed in a long time. I feel hopeful that I will be able to manage. I feel a peace that has been absent." ~ Carolyn from Goshen

- Any family living in one of the 29 Hilltowns with a **baby under the age of one year** is eligible to be matched with a volunteer.
- As we have expanded our volunteer team, we have been able to serve families in the surrounding Pioneer Valley.
- O Volunteers visit for 2 hours at a time for up to 12 weeks in the baby's first year and can assist the family with **household tasks** like dishes, laundry, or holding the baby so the parent can take a shower.
- O They can also help entertain older children, run errands, or just be a friendly face and a person to talk to. Volunteers often bring supplies from the Village Closet and make referrals to other local resources.

What the studies tell us:

- Weekly home visits **reduce social isolation** and the risk of postpartum mood disorders.
- O Visits **promote maternal resilience**, parent-child bonding, and access to other community resources.
- O Home visit programs create positive changes in parental wellbeing, competence, and self-esteem.



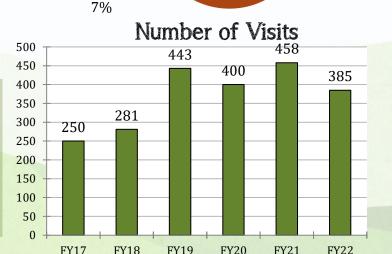
33%

Hampden County

3%

Berkshire County

Hampshire County





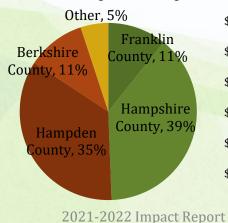
The Village Closet

3,742 families received \$634,084 worth of free maternity, baby, and children's clothing, cloth and disposable diapers, and other essential baby gear.

- Any family, regardless of income or town of **residence**, is welcome to take items from the Village Closet.
- This year, the Village Closet partnered with Jewish Family Services and other local agencies working with resettled Afghan and Haitian immigrants to provide needed items for children and those families who arrived about to give birth.
- We increased deliveries to homeless shelters and domestic violence safehouses, and partnered with the Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to secure emergency funding for domestic violence survivors.

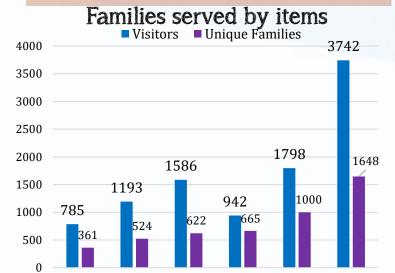
Families by County

"It's not just that I get the items I need for my baby; you also make me feel accepted and welcomed." ~ Village Closet Visitor



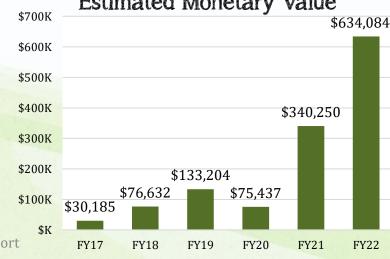
What the studies tell us:

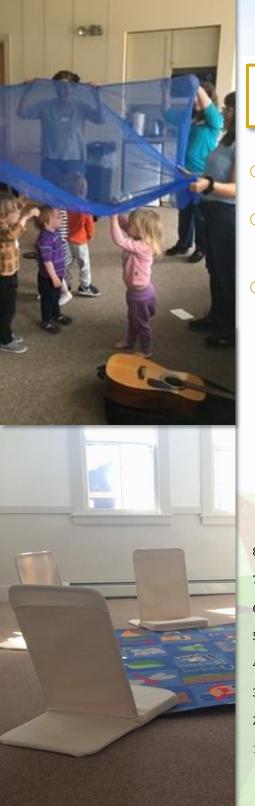
- Families will spend an estimated \$233,000 to care for their children from birth to age 18.
- Families spend up to \$5,000 in the first 5 years just on food and clothing for a baby.
- One in three families struggle to pay for diapers



"What you're doing is extraordinary. These mothers have arrived with nothing except the clothes on their back, have nothing, know no one." ~ Jewish Family Services







Parent Support and Education

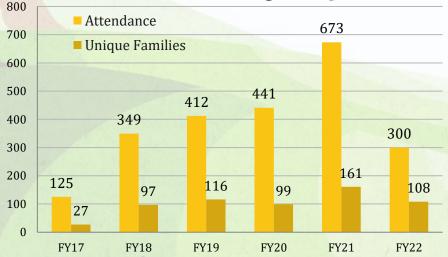
The Parent Support and Education program welcomed 300 attendees to 77 group meetings, classes, and workshops.

- Weekly groups included Outdoor Parent Chat in Ashfield and evening "Post-Bedtime" online group.
- Naomi Edelman piloted a weekly Caregiver and Child Music Class in Williamsburg, funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
- Special workshops included:
 - Navigating Head Start
 - Breaking Free from Emotional Eating with Eric Almeida
 - Sexuality in the childbearing years with Evelyn Resh
 - Volunteer training postpartum parents in Recovery with Dr. Elizabeth Peacock-Chambers
 - O Building Better Brains with Sharon Saline
 - Social Media Apps: Safe and Risky Use with the Hampden County District Attorney's office
 - Supporting Families of Preemies and Household Safety

"There are all these playgroups for the kids, focusing on THEIR development, THEIR socialization, THEIR school readiness. But no one besides the Village groups ever asks how *I* am doing."



Families Attending Groups



What the studies tell us:

- Peer support groups can improve postpartum depression outcomes by reducing isolation, sharing resources, and increasing social support.
- Peers can be seen as more credible role models than professionals because they have undergone and survived relevant experiences.
- The simple act of making information available increases the rates that these resources are utilized.

Village Closet distributes \$1M in baby and children's items

Development and Outreach Director for It Takes a Village

HUNTINGTON - The Village Closet, a donation, and distribution cen-ter for free baby, children's, and maternity supplies located in Huntington has just of It Takes a Village's founder Maureen hit a new milestone: \$1 million worth of Shea in her home in Cummington, housitems distributed to local families since ing just a few bins of clothing for fam-

its opening in 2016.

The Village Closet is managed by It Takes a Village, a nonprofit that provides free postpartum and early partnering support to families with babies and young children in Western Massachusetts.

It Takes a Village also manages a Home Visit program for families with infants in the Hilltowns, and free in-person and virtual parent support groups and

However, the Village Closet has become its most popular program, serv-ing nearly 9,000 families from 165 cities and towns across Massachusetts, northern Connecticut, and southern Vermont

All supplies at the Village Closet are free to everyone, regardless of income or

The cost of caring for young children is increasing every year. The most recent federal government report estimates that families will spend over \$233,000 to care for their children from birth to age 18, and this figure does not include safety items like car seats or cribs. Families are not permitted to use their SNAP (Food Stamp) or WIC benefits to purchase diapers, even though one in three families nationwide struggles to



reopened inside the Gateway Regional Middle School in Huntington. However,

the covid pandemic immediately forced its closure. Throughout the early days of the pandemic, Village Closet staff

continued making deliveries of essential supplies like diapers, formula, and car seats to local families, some of whom

we referred to the organization from the

Department of Public Health and were

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Just some of the Village Closet in

and changing to provides feeding tles, infant for swaddles and selection of clo and wipes. Volu

In addition find social sur

Nonprofit hosts undergraduate nursing students

Development and Outreach Director of It Takes a Village

HUNTINGTON - For the second year in a row, the local nonprofit It Takes a Village is hosting undergraduate nursing students as part of their field study clinical rotations

Students from the University of Massachusetts and Elms College have been working with It Takes a Village staff and volunteers to learn about postpartum and early parenting health, and how isolation and a lack of necessities like diapers and formula can impact the health of the whole family.

The organization provides free tpartum and early parenting support to families with babies and young children living in Western Massachusetts through home visits for families in the Hilltowns with infants, free support

WTBR

WTBR

clothing, diapers, and supplies.

In addition to providing practical and emotional support to families, It Takes a Village partners with care providers and other agencies to ensure that families can access these resources

While all the students are learning about It Takes a Village's programs, each class also has a specific community health project that they are working on throughout the semester. One groun from the University of Massachusetts has been shadowing home visit volunteers and researching the impact that community visiting programs can have on the physical and mental health outcomes of parents and babies. Students are also organizing a formula drive for babies. Other students are working with the Village Closet donation center and Jewish Family Services' Afghan resettlement efforts in the Pioneer



Closet in Huntington.

Village

cal practicum at It Takes imm ought life to our nurssays Francis Brown,

HUNTINGTON

By Eileen Kennedy





Organizations work together to help families

While the holiday season was a joyous time for some in the Hilltown area, for others it can be stressful for families who cannot provide

Pantry, The Russell Police and distribute 3,000 toys. Department, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation

Village Closet sends kids back to

school with free clothes, supplies

Last month, six organigrounds all came together to
provide tors and books for
Tiny Activist, and the organization trakes a Village, all picked sy from the various drives
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yielde sy from the various drives
nization trakes a Village all
yielde sy from the various drives
to worked together to collect
The Houst interpretable to the collect
The toys were all made

Volunteers and staff lies during the last week of



December at The Village Closet.

Mollie Hartford, Development and Outreach Director from It Takes a



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It Takes a Village awarded at United Way annual meeting

ton-based It Takes a Village recently won the Kay Sheehan Spirit of the Community Award from the United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region.

Claire Higgins, executive director of Community Action Pioneer Valley, presented the award to It Takes a Village, a United Way partner agency that encourages and supports parents and caregivers in developing their own postpartum networks, decreasing the solation that is common in rural areas, and improving connection

The agency also provides family resource kits containing safety inplies and information, provides

families with specialized car seat loans for premature infants, and it operates a Home Visit Program and The Village Closet in Huntington, this year's winner of the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network's Nonprofit Excellence Award in the Small Nonprofit category.

In the past two years, large ly due to the pandemic, It Takes a Village saw a dramatic increase in need as families ran into COVID-19-related challenges due to missed work and lack of childcare

"The school site housing The Village Closet program in Cummington was shut down," Higgins said. "Within a matter of days, they transformed the program into

a delivery-only model that focused on their most high-risk families. The first month of this new model resulted in over 80 deliveries to homebound and hospitalized clients. That number was double the total number of deliveries in 2019."

Four other awards were given at the United Way's annual meeting on June 8. The Community Champion Award went to Dr. Martin Wohl, a dentist from Northampton who is a longtime global and local activist and advocate, and Greenfield Savings Bank was named the 2022 Workplace Champion. In conjunction with the Daily Hampshire Gazette, United Way honored Robin Bialecki, ex-

ecutive director of the Easthampton Community Center, as its 2022 Person of the Year, and Lilly Fellows, of Orange, was named the Young Community Leader.

"Our annual meeting is always a wonderful opportunity for us to express gratitude to our partner agencies, donors, volunteers and the community at large, and we are honored to also be able to present awards to activists in the community who offer so much support and ask for nothing in return," said Geoff Naunheim, United Way's interim executive director.

Before offering the awards during the lunchtime Zoom meeting, outgoing Executive Director John Bidwell gave a brief over-

Naunheim offered a look ahead.

Bidwell talked about the highlights and efficiencies of the recent merger between the Franklin County and Hampshire County United Ways and said the increased need brought on the agency by the pandemic may be begin-

"That doesn't mean our work is done," he said. "Agencies continue to face shortages and continue to scramble to find donations items and volunteers. The needs have not abated."

For more about United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region, its partners and mission,



Getting ready for the Holidays at the Village Closet



with a donation from Marine Toys for Tots



Geoff Naunheim and Jenny Coeur from The United Way of Franklin and Hampshire Regions visit the Village Closet



Cheryl Bowe and a UHAUL full of toys!



Elms College nursing students volunteer at the Northampton Community Baby Shower

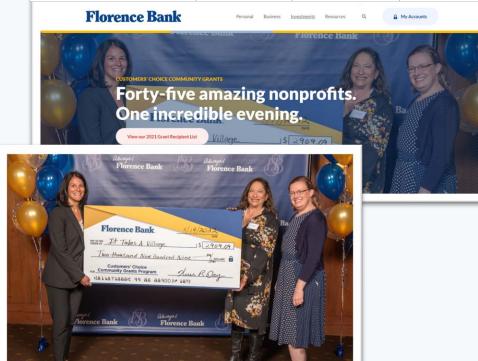


Visitors bring home books after this year's Back-to-School event

Financials

Consolidated statement of activities for the year ended June 30, 2022

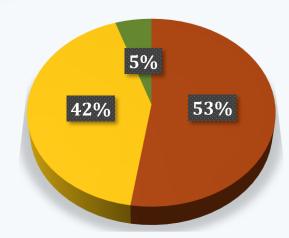
Hilltown Village Inc., DBA It Takes a Village EIN 47-1394720			
			Combined Fiscal
	FY2021	FY2022	Year Totals
Revenue	\$187,675.00	\$155,111.00	\$342,785.00
Expenses	(\$148,380.00)	(\$171,803.00)	(\$320,184.00)
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$14,529.00	\$0.00	\$14,529.00
Revenue less expenses	\$53,824.00	(\$16,692.00)	\$37,132.00
Balance Sheet			
Total Assets	\$134,983.00	\$118,290.00	
Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Long Term Liabilities (EIDL)	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
Total Equity	\$108,983.00	\$93,290.00	
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$134,983.00	\$118,290.00	



Mollie and Lisa at the Florence Bank Customer Choice Awards Event (and on the Florence Bank home page!)

Revenue Sources FY22





Budgeting during COVID-19

It Takes a Village was very grateful that, during FY2021,we received an outpouring of public support and COVID-19 grants from private foundations, as well as a PPP Loan forgiveness and an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) from the SBA that covered rent at our new location for a year.. We had also put a disciplined cost containment strategy into place due to financial uncertainty of the time period. This resulted in a large net revenue in FY21 (\$53,824)). It had become apparent that It Takes a Village had clearly outgrown its capacity to serve the increased needs and number of families struggling during the pandemic. In order to create a stronger operational infrastructure and to expand capacity to better serve our rising number of clients, the Board of Directors passed a FY22 budget of \$-30,081.01 deficit with the intention of using the net revenue from FY21 to balance a two-year combined budget. FY22 ended with a deficit of \$-16,692.66, and a two-year combined surplus of \$37,130.70 (beating our budget by almost \$14,000.00).



Village Cornerstone Community

New families are experiencing a greater need for our services and it is essential to know we can count on significant levels of consistent major gifts to establish a dependable base of operating funds year after year. Our goal is to gain an annual commitment from loyal donors like you, provide a solid foundation for our programs, and make comprehensive plans for the future of It Takes a Village.

Village Heroes

Anonymous
AzureGreen & Blossom Center
Baystate Health
Berkshire Taconic Community
Foundation
Community Foundation of Western
Massachusetts
Hilltown Community Development

Corp Jeanne Sargent and John Nelson Jr. United Way of Franklin and Hampshire Regions

Village Champions

AKC Fund
Anonymous
Boston Rare Maps
Florence Bank
Gateway Farm & Pet
Hilltown Community Health Center
Horace A. Moses Charitable Trust
Massachusetts Service Alliance
Pedal Thru Youth
Project 351 Gateway Regional
Ambassadors
The Lagemann Foundation
United Way of Franklin County

Village Leaders

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Plainfield Congregational Church
Pope Family Annual Giving Program
The Dauber Memorial Fund
The Susan A. and Donald P. Babson
Charitable Foundation
Tricia Reidy and Greg White
Walmart Foundation
Village Closet Cash Jar

Village Partners

Amazon Charity Wish List Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous **Deborah Toomey Iacob Ruben** Massachusetts Nonprofit Network Nancy and Peter Madru Phyllis A Muldoon Rebecca and Frank Mlynarczyk Roxie Pin Sean O'neill Shepley Metcalf Shirley Winer

Wyben Union Church

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Beth Bussolini Beth McDonald

Bethany Iones

Beverly Adams

Big Y Giving Tag Program Blair Feltham Brian Butler Bruce and Regina McCutcheon Bryana Stover Bryna Greenspan and Tammy Reid C. Michelle Whipple Caitlin Connors Camille and Darryl Smith Carla Sullivan Carol Debus Carol McMurrich Carol Seligman Carvl Isenberg Cass Mclaughlin Catherine Allard Catherine Boshe Cathy and Steve Erickson Cecily Legg Charlene Stovak **Charlotte Perkins** Charlotte Wood Chervl Bowe Chervl Piper Chris Brown Chris Kenah Christina Mcglew Christine and Mitchell Kramer Christine Furcinite-Revnolds Christopher Balise Christy Sylvester Colette Viadero **Connie Hankins**

Connie Talbot and Stephen

Philbrick

Courtney Littlefield **Cummington Supply Dalton Ballet Studio** Dan Fennessey Dan Huckestein Dan Mason and Sharon Wretzel Dan Olshansky Daniel Schultheis and Jennifer Beichman Danthu Vu Darlene Graham and Tim Walter Davenport Childcare David Sweet Dawn Jensen-Audet Davna Lovell Deb Longe Debbie Koundry Deborah Kaegebein Derek Ray Diana Chaplin Diane Thouin Dianne Bowe Dianne Martin Don and Mary Brainerd Dr. Barbara Brown Dr. Kathleen Sheridan, MD East Elm Pediatrics, LLC Eileen and Donald Stewart Elaine Chase **Elaine Howes** Elbow Room Cafe and Roasters Elizabeth Burns Elizabeth Grey Wells Elizabeth Johnson Elizabeth Potter

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Heron's Birdge/VWMA

High Five Books and Art Always **Huntington Evangelical Church**

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Janielle Losaw Janna Mangini

Jasmine Montanaro Jenn Delaney

Ienn Dubiel Jennifer Paige

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Lucinda Waite Lynn Gebo Lynn Koenig

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Morgannne and Iordan Crouser

Nancy Garlock Nancy Goff

Nancy Towler

Naomi Edelman and Joe Johnson Natasha Brooks-Sperduta and

Cory Woodard Nate Goldsnider Nichelle Miyakoshi

Nick and Courtney Pucel

Noreen Moross

Northampton Martial Arts Outlook Farm Barn & Eatery

Pam Hurley Pamela Stalcup Pat Miller Patricia Dagrosa Patricia Young Phoebe Shaw

Piece of My Art Studio **Provisions Mill District** Rachel Ashton-Millin

Rachel Braids Rachel Lewis

Rebecca and Jim Piermarini

Rebecca Haight Renee Horton Richard LaFrancis Robin Ginac

Ruth Harper Ruthie Oland-Stuckey

Sam Coren Samm Miller

Sandra Clark-Martin

Sandra Lozada Sandra Powers

Sara Rose Rachlin and Ben

Brumbaugh Sarah Berard Sarah Godin Sarah Karol Sena Farm Brewery Shannon Wade

Sharon Pickrel Sheila Thorn Shelly Blackburn **Sherry Elander**

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Sierra-Rae and John Bottum

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Timothy Plankey Tony Bertera and Anna Zina

Tonya Jackson

Training Wheels Motorcycle

School

Tristan and Marcena Pinard

Virgina Southard Vivian Leskes-Ward Wendy Lewis

West Cummington Congregational Church

Westfield Services

Westhampton Women's

Fellowship Whitney Labranche Williamsburg Market

Women of Color Health Equity

Collective

Worthington Inn-Four Corners

Zoe and Evan Spring

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BB Birrell Beth Carroll Beth Girshman Boy Scouts Pack 120

Brenda Arbib Brianna Sloane Carol Duda Carrie Diehl

Charlene Stoyak
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Tami Hurd

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University of Massachusetts Nursing

Viability Vicki Mayhew

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