



GOLDIE FLOBERG NEWS

SPRING

2024

Goldie Floberg is Growing!

It's fair to say that we haven't been this excited for Goldie Floberg and our programs—maybe ever. Well, at least not since we moved the boys and girls from the Center into their community-integrated group homes.

Goldie Floberg's Board of Directors agreed unanimously to purchase RocVale Children's Home on Rockton Avenue in Rockford. We will turn this facility into a High Intensity Support Group Home Program for kids and young adults with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) or autism who have significant behavioral support needs. Behavioral needs could include physical aggression, self-injurious behavior, elopement, and property destruction.

Our Vision

Our vision is simple. We want to work with these kids and young adults with highly specialized staff so they learn, grow, and will have a future successfully living within their community.

We have the knowledge and experience from providing this type of expansion at the Center for many, many years. The beauty of this situation is the group home campus atmosphere.

The Reason

This comes at a crucial time when services for kids and with the highest behavioral needs have the fewest options. Our program will be one of only six facilities in the whole state

of Illinois. For comparison, there are over 200 adult placement programs in the state.

Our Urgent Goals and Repairs

Before opening, there are a few upgrades and repairs we need to make. We absolutely must have a perimeter fence, not only for the safety of the people served, but also so they can enjoy their park-like environment. It

will also have a \$1,000 monthly fee to operate.

We have additional minor construction and repairs, including purchasing replacement kitchen appliances, and acquiring new and durable furniture.

This campus group home model will allow youth served to enjoy the comforts of living in a home-like



Group Home at Goldie Floberg High Intensity Program Facility.

is typical for behavior plans to include outdoor breaks to manage difficult behaviors, but also to celebrate and reward great behaviors. Our fence and installation costs will be \$48,000.

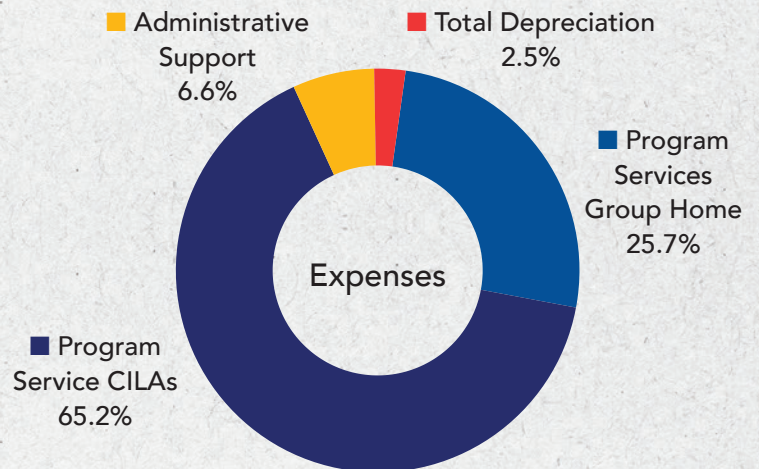
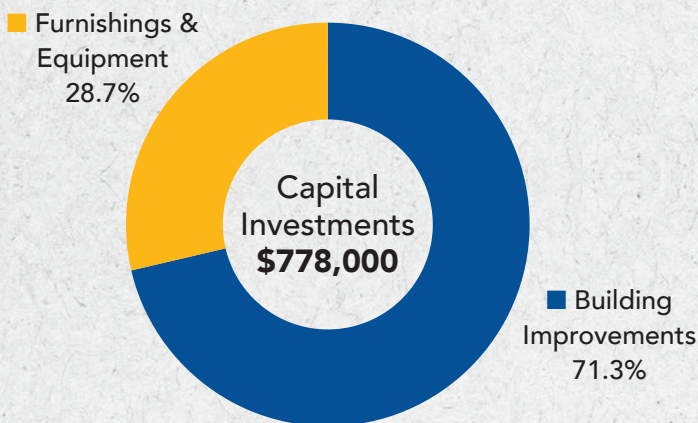
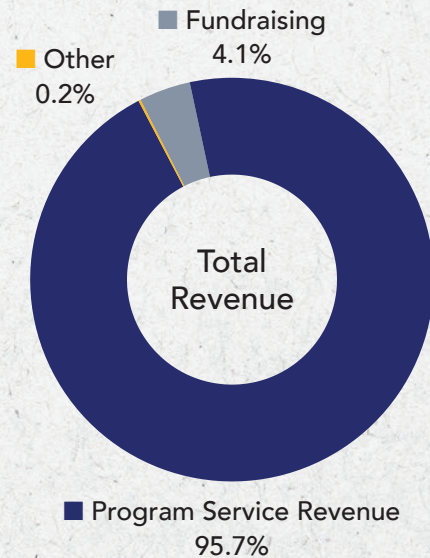
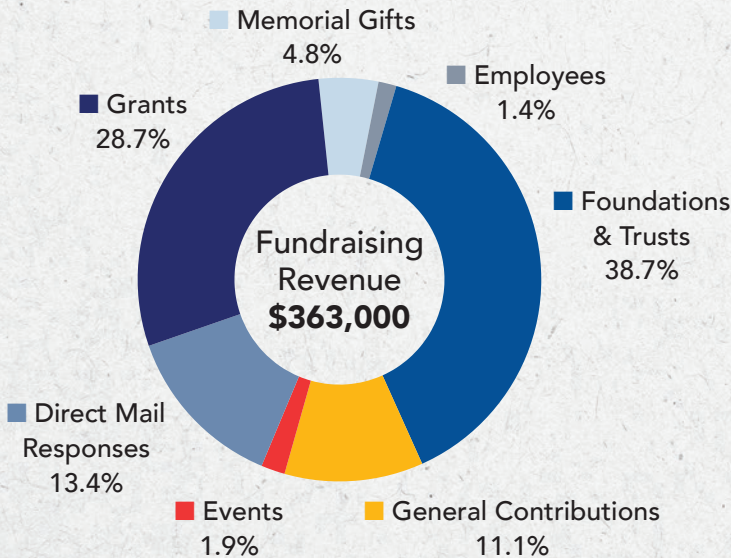
We will need to update and upgrade the security system. This will cost \$26,000 to place the cameras, alarm keypad, door contacts, motion detectors, and door card access control. This updated security system

atmosphere while also having the physical safeguards and highly trained staff to meet their special needs.

Are you as excited as we are? With a century-long partnership with our community, we recognize that community support is pivotal for accomplishing our mission. Please join us in our mission and donate to the high intensity support group home program and reach out to learn more!



FY23 Annual Report



* Some graphs may not add up to 100% because of minor categories and rounding.

With Your Help...



We reopened **two** homes after being closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic



Your advocacy resulted in Direct Support Professional wage increase



We were able to provide **160** community outings!



We increased the number of people served by **three** CILA individuals!



We had **33** Special Olympic Athletes



Each person served received **6 gifts** thanks to our generous **37 Mother Christmas supporters!** With the help of our community, we were able to raise **\$7,395** for a total of **408 gifts**.



Employee Giving — A Dream Maker Fund

At Goldie Floberg, we offer a voluntary fund where employees can contribute. Our President and Chief Executive Officer, John Pingo, encapsulates its purpose by saying, “[we are helping] make dreams a reality.” This employee fund supports various opportunities such as attending sporting events, receiving new technology, or spending time with family.

Several of our employees who contribute to this fund have firsthand experience as Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Our Chief People Officer, Sarah Miller, shares her reason for donating back to Goldie Floberg, stating it’s because, “of the personal connection I have [to the people we serve] ... Although I’m not a DSP anymore, I am still committed to creating opportunities for the people we serve.” In Sarah’s current role, she can contribute and ensure that Goldie Floberg is able to create meaningful experiences for each of our individuals.

However, there are quite a few employees who do not have experience as a DSP and still help dreams come true. Our Vice President of Fund Development, Laura Wilkinson, explains that she donates to this fund because, “the people served by Goldie Floberg are some of the sweetest, kindest people [she’s] ever met... [and] my family believes in giving back and paying forward.” Similarly, our Vice President of Finances, Jeanette Jones, shares that she donates back to Goldie Floberg because, “I like being able to help in some way, and with the employee

Meet Rebecca — A Recurring Supporter



Rebecca Martin’s ties to Goldie Floberg, the organization, run deep. She was first introduced to our organization after her close friends used her

as a reference when they were going through an adoption for their first child through our organization. From there, she continued to learn about Goldie Floberg, our mission, and our organization. Her involvement grew when someone close to her had to place their child at Goldie Floberg, prompting Becky to initiate contributions.

After becoming involved in our organization, Becky realized that she and Ms. Goldie Floberg (our namesake) were neighbors. She spoke

fondly of her and their memories together, discussing that they would, “occasionally get together for coffee and talk about her [work and organization].”

In 2015, Becky’s connection to the organization grew stronger when her daughter joined the Fund Development department. This encouraged her to establish recurring donations, ensuring continuous support for the people we serve.

Since 2009, Becky has remained a loyal supporter of Goldie Floberg, transitioning to become a recurring donor in 2019. We are immensely grateful for her unwavering dedication, invaluable support, and the sense of community she brings to our organization and the children, teenagers, and adults of Goldie Floberg.



Our administrative staff proudly wore blue to show support and raise awareness for Autism Acceptance Day!

Employee Giving

fund, I know it goes 100% to the people we serve [and helping them accomplish their dreams].”

With all the support from employee contributions, the people we serve can fulfill their dreams. John Pingo explains that “making a dream a

reality can be especially challenging for the people we serve, who often lack the financial resources to do so,” and knowing that each of the employees who contribute to the employee fund and help make dreams a reality, is all that really matters.

Guardian's Recognition - Highest Level of Praise



*Thomas Smith in
the Program Services Office*

At Goldie Floberg, a parent or guardian's recognition is the highest level of praise. Recently, a guardian expressed profound gratitude to our Vice President of Program Services for the exemplary efforts Thomas Smith

provides the individuals at Goldie Floberg. She commended his impact on her loved ones, stating, "Tom has touched my heart... He has made such a difference in [their] life,"

As a Case Manager, Tom works closely with clients to implement programs, advocate for their rights, and bridge the communication between parents and guardians, medical professionals, and the individuals served.

Tom demonstrates exceptional compassion and meticulous attention to each of his client's needs. In a recent instance, when Tom learned of the passing of a client's mother, he did extensive research into grief,

understanding loss, and navigating the array of emotions one might experience. Tom then personally visited the person served, offering support, and aiding in the processing of their emotions surrounding the news.

This gesture exemplifies Tom's unwavering dedication to his clients. Things like this will be remembered and will make the difference in the lives of the people we serve. We are extremely grateful to have individuals like Tom on our team at Goldie Floberg. Their tireless efforts and concern for the individuals we serve embody the values that guide our organization.

Thank you to all donors providing support from Dec. 1, 2023 through Feb. 29, 2024.

Anonymous (3)	Nancy and Raymond Derksen	Scott and Karen Hulick	Charles and Loraine Martellaro	Nancy Perry	Timothy and Kathleen Starck
Alpine Kiwanis Club	Edward and Kathleen Dibbin	Thomas and Sue Humphris	Rebecca Martin*	Gary and Jan Peterson	Patrick and Kellie Stien
American Legion Auxiliary	Kim Dixon	J. Carlson Growers, Inc.	Francis Martinez	John and Hilda Pingo	Nancy and Lawrence Swain
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Victorino and Maria Delgado	Rose Mary Highland	David Magnuson			
	Roger and Sophia Himmel	Michelle and Joe Marella			
	Patricia Holmertz				

* Member of the Georganne Eggers Legacy Society

(Please contact us if you notice an error or omission. Thank you!)