

FY2018

TRANSFORMING SPACES
TRANSFORMING LIVES.



SPACE OF HER OWN

THANK YOU

Whether you donated your time, your expertise or your dollars, you have inspired each SOHO girl and me.

You are truly changing lives by supporting SOHO, which works with at-risk girls to build their STEAM skills, increase their self-esteem, grow their healthy decision-making skills, and give the girls a sense of belonging.

Throughout this SOHO experience, the friendships I have made and the support I have received have been priceless. You have given me a deep sense of purpose and a connection to the Alexandria community.

A heartfelt thank you for your tremendous and selfless contributions.

Linda K. Odell
Founder & Executive Director

TRANSFORMING SPACES

We spend nearly one-third of our lives in bed sleeping, and the quality of that sleep affects our lives drastically. Most people find it a challenge to relax on an uncomfortable mattress or in a chaotic, cluttered environment. High-quality sleep is associated with positive school performance. Uncluttered spaces are associated with tranquility.

SOHO's preteen participants live with sleep and space challenges. Some share a makeshift bedroom with multiple family members, and in several cases, entire families share one bedroom. Some girls sleep on a mattress in a walk-in closet, others on a couch in the living room, and occasionally a girl will sleep on the floor. Most lack storage space and many use trash bags or cardboard boxes to hold their clothes and other belongings.

At SOHO, girls make lamps, shelves and lap desks for their sleeping spaces, and take photography, ceramics and painting classes that yield decorative items for their homes. Community members pay for new mattresses and each mentor receives a \$375 budget to provide new bedding and other needed items.

SOHO girls' space transformations are brought about by things like a simple fresh coat of paint, donated used furniture, practical items such as hangers, window blinds, lamps, storage containers, rugs, and decorations that reflect each child's interests and personality. The transformation may be of an entire room or a small nook in a room with several occupants. Either way, after the transformation, it is a special space.

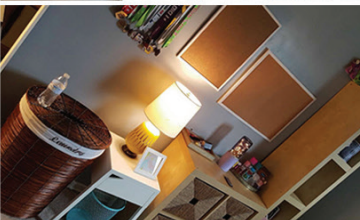
Additionally, weekends spent in the homes during transformation weekends enable mentors to bond with families and to identify needs. SOHO staff regularly make referrals to community services that help address housing, employment, medical or parenting needs. Our goal is to improve each girl's outlook on life, giving her a sense of place, an organized living space and an outlet for self-expression. Each girl completes the first program year with a one-to-one mentor relationship and a unique, personalized Space of Her Own.



ADRIANA & KIMBERLY
AFTER



BEFORE
ROOM TRANSFORMATION



BEFORE
ROOM TRANSFORMATION

AFTER



BESANI & TORRIA

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



ABOUT SOHO



Transforming spaces and transforming lives, SOHO empowers underserved girls through visual arts, carpentry, life-skills lessons and creative one-to-one mentoring. Our first-year programs serve fifth grade girls. Matched with volunteer adult mentors, girls experience the visual arts as a means for self-expression and confidence building. Additionally, they learn healthy eating habits and healthy ways of interacting and collaborating with others. As a result, the girls attend school more regularly and their academic progress improves as they become more generous and active participants in their lives. The first year of the program culminates in a bedroom transformation, giving each child a personalized space of her own, which encourages creativity, conveys a sense of value and worth, and gives her a daily reminder of her circle of support and care. The SOHO Club provides STEAM activities during the girls' middle school years and further builds long-term mentoring relationships.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

WE CONTINUOUSLY WORK TO MAXIMIZE OUR IMPACT AND DO SO BY TAKING THE FOLLOWING STEPS

01

SELECTING THE RIGHT GIRLS

Girls are referred by school social workers and recruited through SOHO's family information sessions, where parents and guardians learn about the value of having multiple caring adults in their children's lives.

02

SELECTING THE RIGHT MENTORS

Volunteer mentors are recruited year-round and undergo a rigorous interview, background check and training process.

03

MATCHING THE RIGHT GIRL WITH THE RIGHT MENTOR

SOHO's matching process enables each girl to get to know each mentor over the course of several weeks before matches are made. During initial meetings, they will have dinner with one mentor, work on an art or carpentry project with another, and ride home with a third.

04

INCORPORATING QUALITY PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

In close partnership with the City of Alexandria, Alexandria City Public Schools, and The Art League, SOHO's programs are led by first-rate social workers, educators and artists.

05

DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS

Based on pre-program surveys, SOHO's life-skills curriculum is adapted to meet key developmental asset needs: constructive use of time, commitment to learning, positive identity, and a sense of community.

SUPPORTING LONG-TERM MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

The SOHO Club provides a variety of leadership and STEAM-building activities and ongoing training and support for mentors, girls and families.

09

ASSESSING STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

Girls take pre- and post-tests to measure their developmental assets. Mentors and mentees are surveyed about the quality of their relationships. Mentor input sessions are held to assess training needs and to determine whether process and program improvements are needed.

08

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

Each first-year program for fifth graders culminates in a community celebration. Girls take storytelling classes and lead the event, sharing digital memory books, works of art and a video about their SOHO experience.

07

BUILDING TEAM

During each SOHO session, girls work with their mentors on projects that build Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math skills, creating items that will be used in bedroom transformations.

06

SHARIYA, SOHO OLD TOWN 2006-2007



Shariya & Mentor Josie
2006



Shariya

Shariya joined SOHO in 2005 when she was 10 years old. She said that experience was “awesome and life changing.”

Her best SOHO memory is of the original Old Town SOHO program, developed through a partnership between Alexandria's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit and The Art League. By observing a variety of professional art classes in progress, Shariya was inspired to be creative and found that art helped release her mind from the difficult and often “crazy” challenges she faced in her everyday life.

“My mentor Josie was always poised and polite. She showed me how to be a self-respecting young woman.” Thanks to Josie's influence, Shariya learned to think before speaking and went on to create art as a part of her daily life. During college, Shariya studied Information Technology and business communication. She currently works at Inova Alexandria Hospital and aspires for a career working with youth and making a difference in the community.

In her 2006 post-program survey, Josie expressed concern that Shariya might succumb to negative influences and lose her positive path in life. That hasn't happened. With the help of Josie, Shariya has become a bright, beautiful, creative and talented individual who has the world as her canvas.

This year, Shariya was the first SOHO girl to come full circle and return to the organization as an adult volunteer, helping to lead fun life-skill-building activities at Alexandria's Del Ray program.

ARIEL, SOHO OLD TOWN 2008-2009



Ariel & Mentor
Becky 2008



Ariel

Anticipating making new friends, Ariel joined SOHO in 2008 when she was 10 years old and a fifth grader at Alexandria's Jefferson Houston Elementary School. At that time, bullying was a major issue in her life, and Ariel remembers negative peer pressure, hanging out with the wrong people and gossiping.

Now 19 years old, Ariel is a student at NOVA Community College, studying elementary and special education. She has a rewarding job as an extended day aide at a local elementary school. Ariel says that SOHO helped her to realize who she was and who she should have as friends.

Ariel remembers etiquette lessons that have helped her to this day and the uncomfortable but important life skills lessons about changing bodies and what to expect during puberty. “My mentor Becky, who is a busy attorney, cares a lot and is a very good listener; we talked about everything. She helped me to grow as a person and an artist.” Becky developed SOHO's etiquette lessons and convinced owners of Restaurant Eve to host an etiquette brunch for girls to practice their skills along with their mentors.

Other than her gorgeous bedroom makeover, Ariel's best SOHO memory is of winning a digital camera for her perfect attendance at program meetings. Her mother is from Panama and when they visited that summer, Ariel was able to take a lot of photographs.

Today, Ariel regularly creates art. She chooses only quality friends and avoids gossip. Ariel aspires to be an elementary special education teacher for students with developmental disabilities. She is a bright, responsible, friendly, kind and passionate young woman with a very bright future ahead.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

PROGRAM INCOME

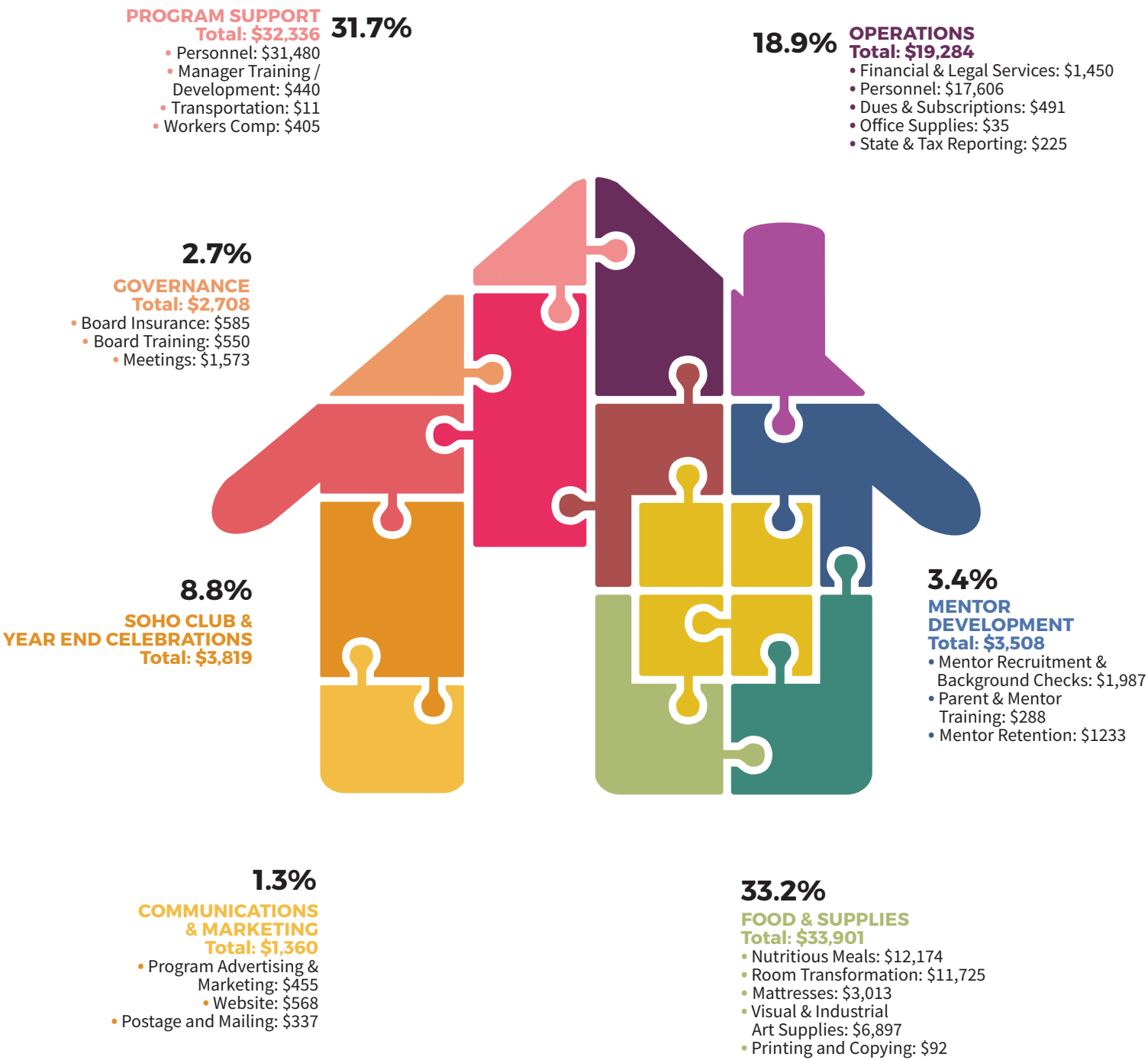
Total Income for Space of Her Own 2017-2018 Fiscal Year: \$110,109



PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Total Expenditures for Space of Her Own 2017-2018 Fiscal Year: \$102,089

77.1% SERVICES TO YOUTH - Total: \$78,737
21.6% GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS - Total: \$21,992
1.3% COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING - Total: \$1,360



YOU MADE IT HAPPEN



"TRY TO BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE'S CLOUD." - MAYA ANGELOU, *LETTER TO MY DAUGHTER*

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

SOHO's volunteer mentors collectively contribute well over 10,000 hours of service per year to their mentees and the community. Subject-matter experts volunteer to provide prevention education about bullying, gangs, and drugs and alcohol. They also teach about nutrition, puberty, healthy relationships and transitioning to middle school. In addition to fundraising for the organization, our working Board of Directors provides countless house of support in the following areas: legal and human resources, governance, finance, marketing, mentor recruitment and community outreach.

Donations of new sheets, blankets and pillows are always welcome. Lightly used loft beds and bunk beds are highly sought-after items.

DONORS

246 individuals who care tremendously about SOHO's girls contributed a total of \$40,137. In addition, the following organizations also provided much-needed support to SOHO.

Mason Hirst Foundation \$15,000
Washington Forrest Foundation \$15,000
Business Women's Giving Circle \$10,000
Anonymous Family Foundation \$6,222
IVAKOTA Foundation \$5,000
Kids Helping Kids \$5,000
Crowell & Moring Foundation \$5,000
Harry & Zoe Poole Foundation \$2,500

Rotary Club of Alexandria \$1,000
Meltzer Group \$1,000
Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation Fund \$1,000
CDK Global \$1,000
Wells Fargo \$1000
Frantz Family Fund \$500
John Marshall Bank \$500
Kiwanis Club of S. Arlington \$250

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Art League
Alexandria City Public Schools (6 schools)
Arlington Public Schools (3 schools)
Alexandria Mentoring Partnership
The Chicago School of Organizational Psychology
The City of Alexandria
18th District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit

ACT for Alexandria
DC Modern Quilt Guild
AR Workshop
Virginia Mentoring Partnership
Spirits of '76 and Chef Charles Smith
Volunteer Alexandria
MentorPrize

GET INVOLVED WITH SOHO



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