

20  
19



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**BUILDING UP**  
**SPACE OF HER OWN**

# THANK YOU

To our supporters:

It is an exciting time to work and live in Alexandria — huge investments by Amazon and Virginia Tech have led to growth, bringing benefits like new places to shop and dine and improved real estate values. As great as these changes are, we at SOHO are aware that some in our community are left out or harmed by increasing rents and cost of living, less stable housing, and competition for jobs.

Your support of SOHO is so important because it directly benefits the young people in our community who are most vulnerable to these changes. Your gifts of time, talent, and funding allow SOHO girls to “grow their wings.” With the support of their mentors and the SOHO program, they build self-confidence and are better-equipped to deal with the challenges and embrace the opportunities that come their way.

Thank you for your generosity, and for being a force for good in the Alexandria community this year!

*Julie Hawkins*

Julie Hawkins, Board Chair and Mentor to Yoselin

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Julie Hawkins



Linda Odell



Andrea Denny



Cynthia Chin



Courtney Dixon



Zerina Borhan



Jane Ramirez



Lori Neuhauser



Ainslie Benoit



Jenny Miley



Shannon Catlett

# BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

One of the key assets that helps a child to thrive is a sense of belonging and value in her community. Our programs show each SOHO girl that we care about her. Her mentor spends quality one-on-one time with her each week. Content-area experts teach her life skills, art, and carpentry. Chef Charles from Spirits of '76 prepares and delivers meals to each program meeting that are both delicious and nutritious. Generous donors pay for STEAM projects, fun and educational outings, family events, and bedroom/sleeping space transformations.

We are honored to have gained a variety of new partners this year, which include Building Momentum and Vélocity Bicycle Co-op.



Building Momentum teaches problem solving through science, engineering, and technology development. The organization provides technological problem-solving to help war fighters solve problems in the field. They also provide corporate training, technology, and prototype development. Deeply committed to engaging our Alexandria community and supporting youth development, Building Momentum provides experiential learning for students. When SOHO received an offer of a massive furniture donation – over 300 items – Building Momentum donated storage space, providing lots of heavy lifting by receiving deliveries and coordinating mentor pickups for SOHO’s space transformations. This spring, Building Momentum will host a bunk bed building weekend and also STEM field trips where girls will learn about 3D printing, drones, and welding. They have inspired us to build OUR momentum!



The volunteer-run Vélocity Bicycle Co-op grows and empowers an inclusive biking community through affordability, education, and embracing the fun of riding. SOHO Club girls applied for scholarships and received gently-used bicycles, safety and basic repair classes, new helmets, and bike locks. Some girls learned to ride a bicycle for the first time. This new form of transportation is life-changing. One girl now plans to get a paper route to earn money and help her family. Several girls will be able to stay after school and visit friends’ homes. Some plan to ride with their mentors and get in shape. The girls plan to return to Vélocity this summer for a more in-depth repair and maintenance workshop.

# YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



# ABOUT SOHO



We believe that one-to-one mentoring—coupled with opportunities for identifying strengths, thinking creatively, and mastering social and academic skills—empowers girls to soar to bright futures.

Matched with volunteer adult mentors, girls experience the arts as a means for self-expression and confidence. Through hands-on learning opportunities, they develop practical visual arts, carpentry, and design skills. They also learn life skills and healthy ways of interacting and collaborating with others. As a result, their academic progress at school improves as they become more generous and active participants in their own lives. The first year of the program culminates in a bedroom/space transformation, giving each child a personalized space of her own, which encourages creativity, conveys a sense of belonging and self-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.



# BUILDING OUR MOMENTUM

**WE CONTINUOUSLY WORK TO IMPROVE OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. HERE ARE SOME 2019 HIGHLIGHTS:**

## BUILDING ASSETS: ENHANCED MENTOR TRAINING

Mentors participated in a 4-hour training on building developmental assets in girls, gaining skills to help girls develop positive values, social competencies, positive identities, and commitment to learning.

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Several SOHO families struggled with unstable housing. With support from Alexandria's Office of Housing, three of these families were able to secure new housing in Alexandria.

## FULL STEAM AHEAD

Girls learned laser-engraving, clay animation, the physics of golf, and basic bicycle repair. They made puzzles, wired lamps, and spent a weekend at the beach learning about ecology.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETURNS TO PROGRAM

### MANAGER ROLE

Due to a staff departure and a desire to keep her head and heart in the game, SOHO's Founder and Executive Director Linda Odell served as program manager throughout the 2018-2019 school year, with a TON of support from mentors and other volunteers.

## NEW PARTNERS

SOHO welcomes new programming and support from Alice's Kids, Building Momentum, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Velocity Bicycle Coop.

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

SOHO developed an enhanced matching process to ensure that each girl is matched with the best possible mentor.

## GAINING NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation and the NBCUniversal Owned Stations recognized Space of Her Own, Inc. with a Project Innovation Award for utilizing innovation to solve community challenges. We are proud of our creative programming, mentor/mentee matching process and community partnerships.

## FIRST TRIP TO THE BEACH!

40 SOHO Club girls and mentors spent a fun-filled weekend camping at Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware where they participated in an ecology science program. Most of the girls had never been on a vacation or to the beach.

## VOLUNTEER AND DONOR MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Bloomerang - SOHO invested in new software to help us better engage and retain our supporters.

## SOHO CLUB ACTIVITIES

Girls caught fish, paddle boarded, kayaked, caught waves, golfed, hiked, tuned and then rode bicycles, hiked, baked, painted landscapes, made coded jewelry, thrift shopped, gave presentations, ice skated, roller skated, and picked up some new science, technology, engineering, art, and math skills.

# SOHO SPOTLIGHT

*Research shows that when involved in positive, caring relationships with adults, students are more likely to demonstrate improved social and emotional skills and build stronger relationships with parents, teacher and peers. They are also more likely to make healthier lifestyle choices and to graduate from high school.*

## ASHLEY & CYNTHIA, SOHO OLD TOWN 2008-2009

Cynthia Chin and her mentee Ashlee Suggs have maintained the longest mentoring relationship since the inception of SOHO Space of Her Own – 12 years! The two took a train to Richmond for The Virginia Mentoring Partnership's Power of Mentoring event and were excited when Cynthia received the 2019 Outstanding Community Mentor Award. When asked how she avoided risky behaviors that surrounded her throughout childhood, Ashley, now 21, responded, "I had people in my life like my mentor." The first year of their relationship was challenging because Cynthia and Ashley are both on the quiet side and take time to warm up to people. However, they bonded over SOHO's art and carpentry projects as well as while working together making a lemon battery for Ashley's science class. Their relationship continued to develop as they participated in the SOHO Book Club, hosted by Wright to Read. Cynthia even helped Ashley pick out the perfect dress for senior prom. Throughout the years, Cynthia and Ashley have remained close and connect regularly. This year, Cynthia helped Ashley access career coaching and, after Ashley experienced a sudden loss, Cynthia provided guidance and support. Ashley now has her own home which Cynthia is helping her to spruce up as she did 12 years ago during Ashley's Space of Her Own bedroom transformation. Cynthia is an outstanding role model and first-rate mentor who also serves as Creative Director on the board of Space of Her Own, Inc. working to impact the lives of hundreds of Alexandria girls.



## KIDS HELPING KIDS, HELPING SOHO

In 2014, when an Alexandria non-profit called Kids Helping Kids (KHK) fund raised to support SOHO's girls with their Lemonade Day event, our board members were thrilled and made guesses about how much the group would raise. Two hundred dollars was the top guess, so you can imagine our surprise when we received a check for \$5,000! Kids Helping Kids has been raising that much and more for SOHO every year. They've also volunteered at SOHO events and provided SOHO girls with the opportunity to host their own Lemonade Day stands. This past school year, KHK Chair Annie Tuttle volunteered as an intern with SOHO, providing logistical support and helping girls build life skills, work on art and carpentry projects, make digital memory books, play sports, and practice storytelling. Annie's good natured attitude and can-do-everything mentality inspired us all. This wonderful group of teenage girls are deeply appreciated for being outstanding role models to SOHO's preteen girls and for their astounding financial support.



Kids Helping Kids Junior Board of Directors from Left to Right: Olivia Petretich, Lucie Morton, Annie Tuttle, Olivia Morton, Eliza Marcus and Majlis Walker



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

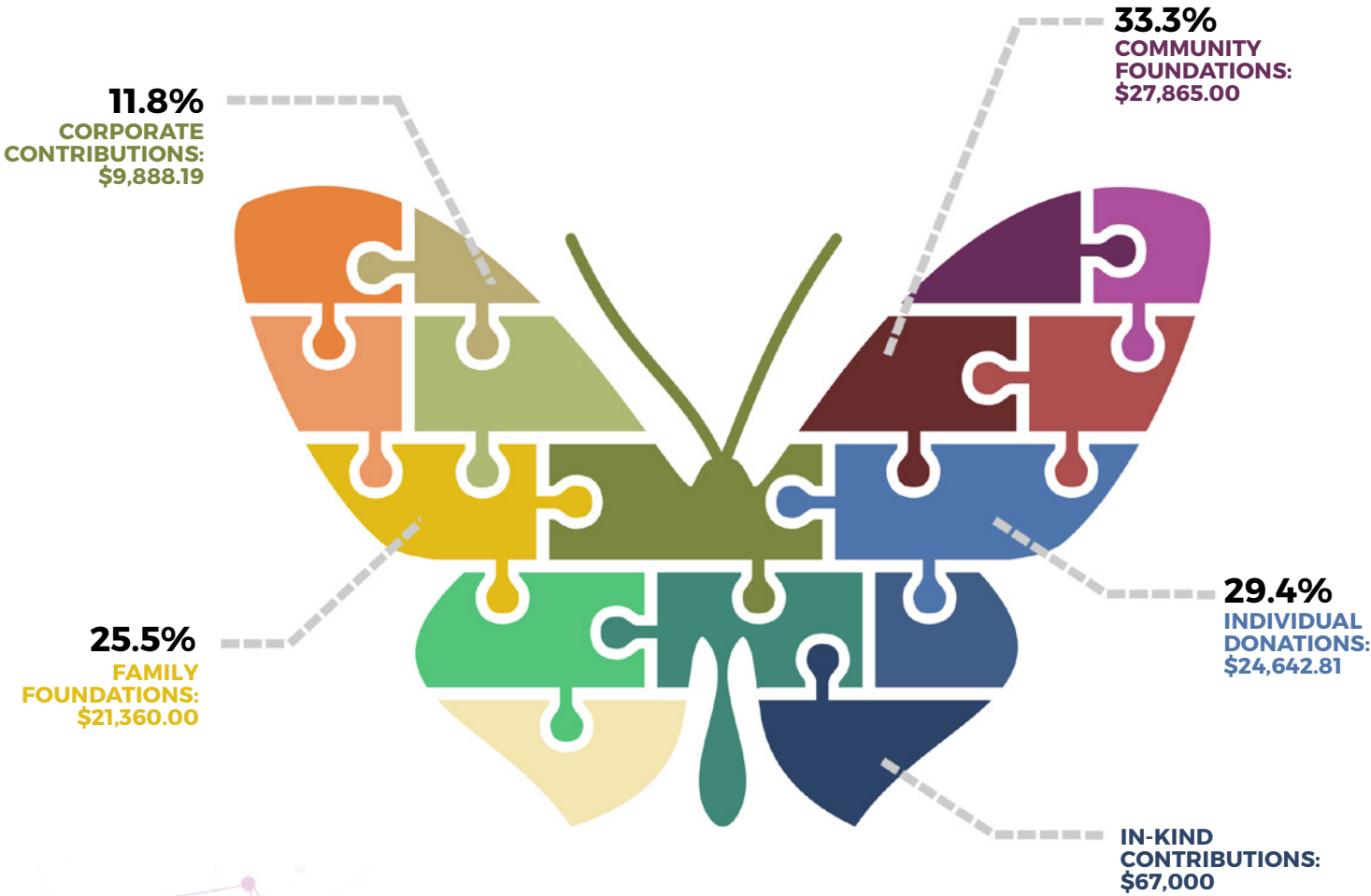
## PROGRAM INCOME

**Total Income for Space of Her Own: \$83,756**

**In-Kind Total: \$67,000**

The City of Alexandria provided program managers for SOHO's Old Town and West End programs, at an approximate value of \$50,000. The Art League provided art instruction, staff, meeting space, year-end program videos and special events including an art exhibit and two community celebrations.

**Grand Total Income for 2018-2019 Fiscal Year: \$150,756**



## PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

**Total Expenditures for Space of Her Own 2018-2019 Fiscal Year: \$ 144,906.00**

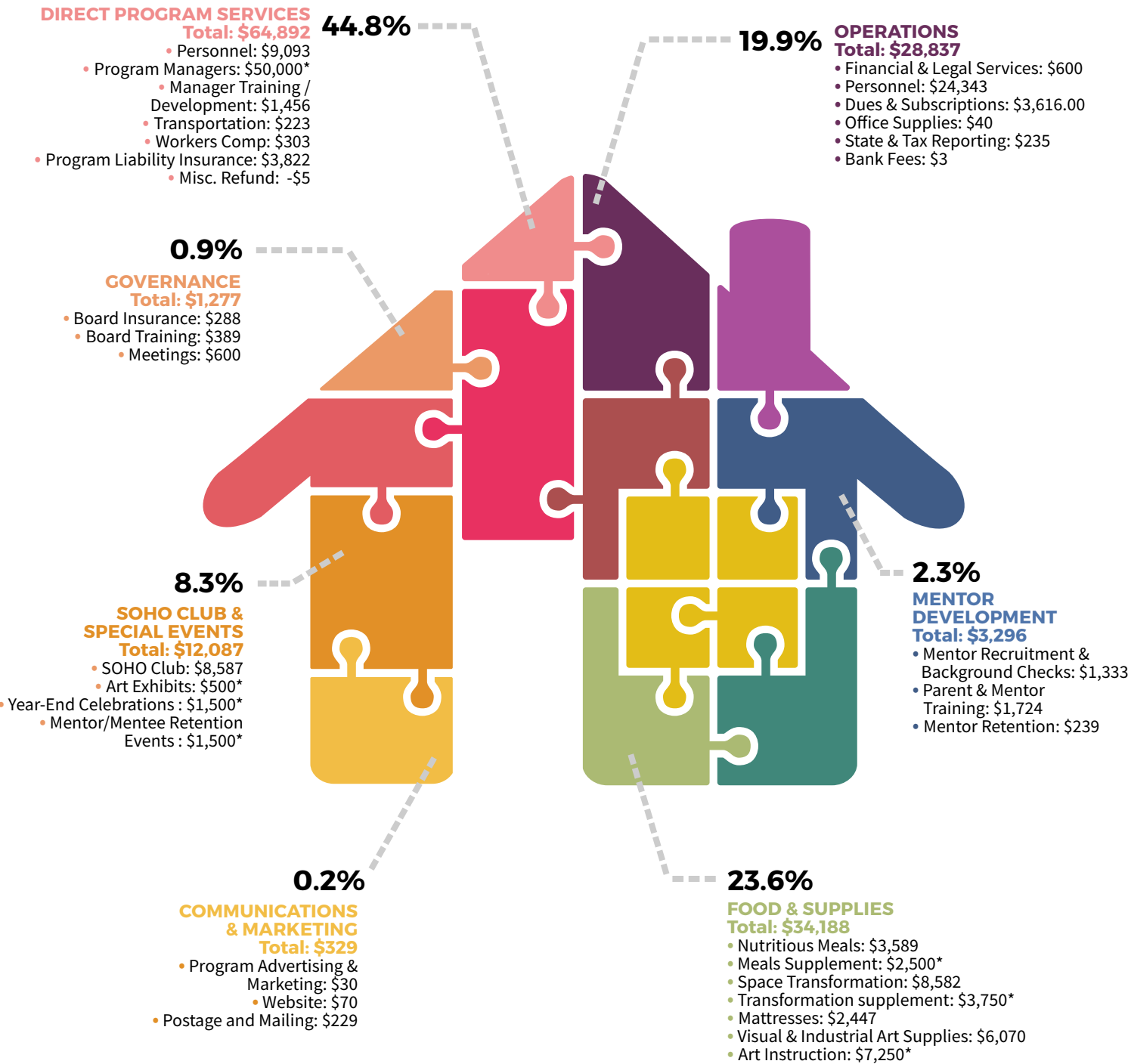
**79.0% SERVICES TO YOUTH - Total: \$114,463**

Space of Her Own Inc. Funded: \$47,463

\*In-Kind Support: \$67,000

**20.8% GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS - Total: \$30,114**

**0.2% COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING - Total: \$329**



# YOU MADE IT HAPPEN



"THE GREATNESS OF A COMMUNITY IS MOST ACCURATELY MEASURED BY THE COMPASSIONATE ACTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS."  
CORETTA SCOTT KING

## VOLUNTEERS

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, puberty, drugs and alcohol, on-line safety and showing appreciation. They also teach about nutrition, healthy relationships and transitioning to middle school. In addition to fundraising for the organization, our working Board of Directors provides countless hours of support in the following areas: legal and human resources, governance, finance, marketing, mentor recruitment and community outreach.

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

## DONORS

193 individuals who care tremendously about SOHO's girls contributed a total of \$24,642.81. 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  
IVAKOTA Foundation \$5,000  
Kids Helping Kids \$5,000  
Crowell & Moring Foundation \$5,000  
Anonymous Family Foundation \$4,760  
Rotary Club of Alexandria \$1,000  
Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation Fund \$1,000

CDK Global \$1,000  
Frantz Family Fund \$500  
John Marshall Bank \$500  
Kiwanis Club of S. Arlington \$250

The following organizations made contributions to support SOHO, however, the funds were not received during this fiscal year.

Harry & Zoe Poole Foundation  
Meltzer Group  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Art League  
Alexandria City Public Schools (6 schools)  
Arlington Public Schools (1 school)  
Alexandria Mentoring Partnership  
Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit  
Alice's Kids  
ACT for Alexandria  
Building Momentum

City of Alexandria  
Kids Helping Kids  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
Spirits of '76 and Chef Charles Smith  
Vélocity Bicycle Coop  
Virginia Mentoring Partnership  
Volunteer Alexandria

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SOHO



[spaceofherown.org](http://spaceofherown.org)



[spaceofherown](https://www.instagram.com/spaceofherown)



[soho@spaceofherown.org](mailto:soho@spaceofherown.org)



[SOHOspaceofherown](https://www.youtube.com/SOHOspaceofherown)



520 King St., Suite 100  
Alexandria VA 22314



(703)705-2452