



# HeartShare

HUMAN SERVICES OF NEW YORK

**2020 Annual Report**



**That's the Spirit!**

HeartShare won the Most Spirit Award in the 2019 Disability Pride NYC Parade.



## The Year of Living Hopefully

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” Literature’s most famous first line, from Charles Dickens’ “A Tale of Two Cities,” described the late 18th century, but it also describes the past 12 months. Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020) was business as usual until a deadly virus arrived. Overnight, HeartShare, The HeartShare School and HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services reinvented ourselves to serve a new reality: Group homes became medical facilities, front-line staff became first responders, PPE became an official uniform, living rooms became classrooms and we started feeding suddenly destitute New Yorkers. In the face of a pandemic that amplified racial inequality, we made the best of the worst of times by living hopefully. If every year is a collection of moments, FY 2020 was no different. We invite you to peruse these pages and share a few of our most memorable moments from this past year as we look forward to a brighter future.

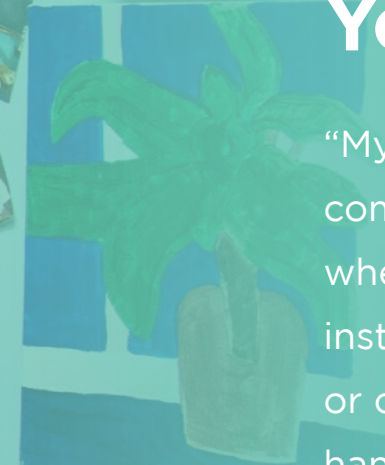
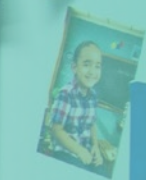
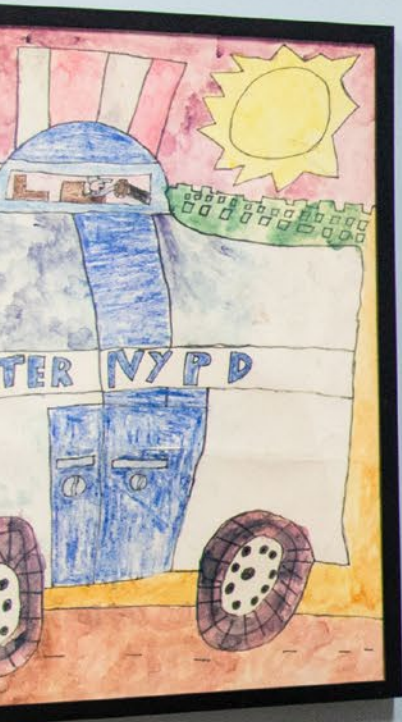
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Torre'.

Paul J. Torre  
Chairman, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William R. Guarinello'.

William R. Guarinello  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## You Before Me

“My goal is to give the individuals who come to Brooklyn Day Hab a place where their talents can flourish. So, instead of hanging my own awards or certificates in my office, I prefer to hang the individuals’ artwork because I consider that my greatest achievement in all my years at HeartShare. I’m really proud of it. I start blushing. It’s about them, them, them instead of me, me, me.”

—Edgardo Velez  
Senior Program Coordinator  
Brooklyn Day Habilitation Program  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York

## Fun 101

“Our Valentine’s Day Party offered our students time to come together and enjoy a special event with their peers and teachers. We like to include ‘fun’ in the curriculum and this certainly offered that. Our students had the opportunity to dance, mingle and socialize with each other. Awesome skills to have at a party. No ‘wall flowers’ at The HeartShare School, that’s for sure.”

—Sharon Toledo  
Director  
The HeartShare School





## No Going Back

“I remember the day I left Willowbrook like it was yesterday. Only it wasn’t yesterday. It was October 12, 1967. I was told, ‘You’ll be back.’ And I said, ‘Not if I can help it.’ I was placed there when I was 4 years old and I lived there until I turned 21. This is the first time I’ve been back in 52 years.”

—Henry Geller

HeartShare resident and author of “Henry Geller: A Memoir,” recalling his time at the now infamous Willowbrook State School on Staten Island to individuals at Lifestyles for the Disabled

## Independence Day

“When I first met Mitchell, he lived in a group home with 10 other individuals and he wasn’t very happy. He wanted to be independent but he understood there were steps he needed to complete. This past October, the call came through, ‘Your apartment is ready.’ Mitchell feels so wonderful about having his own place. One of the big things Mitchell has taught me is that people with disabilities are not always looking for a handout, sometimes they’re just looking for a hand up.”

—Rodney Nicholls  
Community Living Coordinator  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York





## The Good Fight

“The American Dream Program has given me a platform to not only speak out on the issues that impact the foster care community, but the opportunity to go after my goals and break the cycles that have affected my family intergenerationally. The chance for a brighter future should be a right for children and youth in foster care. Being in care is out of our control and issues within the foster care system only compound the injustices we have already faced. We cannot settle for mediocrity. These are our lives we are fighting for, and we only ask that you fight for us, too.”

—**Gabbie Rodriguez**  
American Dream Program Scholar and  
2019 Youth of the Year  
HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services



## Special Delivery

“In a city ravaged by a deadly virus, unemployment skyrocketed and food banks were overwhelmed. For many families, food became an essential commodity that was as hard to come by as N95 masks. In response, HSVS launched Food for Families, an initiative to provide nourishment to New Yorkers who didn’t know where their next meal would come from. We partnered with local eateries, and, with the help of amazing donors and volunteers, we distributed more than 50,000 meals to families and women in shelters. It was a way to bring people joy in the form of a hot meal.”

—Dawn Saffayeh  
Executive Director  
HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services



## The Wait Is Over

“Superstorm Sandy destroyed the Surfside Community Center in Coney Island. People waited seven years for the Center to reopen and for HSVS’s free programming for children and adults to restart. There were tears. Some of the kids cried. It’s all new everything.”

—**Brooke Rosenthal**  
Vice President of  
Youth and Community Programs  
HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services

## Love Is the Message

“I truly believe when we take on these jobs, we give it our all. I feel like I’ve instilled a lot of greatness in the individuals I’ve worked with. We make them as independent as possible, and then we have to let someone else take the next shift, because, at some point, we all have to move on in life. I always say, ‘Love is the message.’ I’ve given all the love that I could.”

—Miss Anita Adams,  
a.k.a. Mother Love  
Direct Support Professional  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York





## Warm Welcome

“The Energy Assistance & Community Development Department provides New York’s most vulnerable with utility assistance, solar and community outreach programs. We prevent tens of thousands of individuals each year from having to choose between heating or eating. In 2020, many who lost their jobs due to Covid-19 were forced to skip a utility bill payment and most have household members vulnerable to Covid complications. HeartShare provided essential services to protect these individuals and ensure that they didn’t have to worry about maintaining their utilities while they were already struggling with food insecurities.”

**Tanya N. Jones**  
Director, Energy Assistance &  
Community Development  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York

## Just One Voice

“When I think of advocacy, I’m reminded of the lyrics to a Barry Manilow song called ‘One Voice.’ ‘We need just one voice facing the unknown, and then that one voice would never be alone.’ When I began my career in early childhood education, I always knew I would be an advocate for the children and families who came through our door—to bring our collective voice to the legislators so they understand why it’s important to fund our programs. We must join together to ensure we are never alone in our fight.”

—Carol Verdi  
Executive Vice President  
of Education Services  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York





## Do the Right Thing

“In lieu of a 5K run through the streets of Breezy Point, the 40th edition of the Buckley’s-Kennedy’s Run community fundraiser for HeartShare was a virtual celebration due to current circumstances. It was a very different experience, but it was a wonderful opportunity to come together and honor this tradition and its beloved founders—my father Jimmy Buckley and Gerard Casey—as well as all those who have participated, volunteered or lent their support over the years. We may not have been together but we still followed our families’ simple motto: Do the right thing.”

—Jimmy Buckley

A group of diverse people are seen from behind, looking at several framed paintings on a white wall in a museum gallery. The people are dressed in casual, colorful clothing. The paintings are in ornate gold frames and depict various scenes, including a landscape and a historical battle. The floor is polished and reflects the light.

## Express Yourself

“Art speaks to everyone. It’s a universal language. When the Individuals we serve visit a museum, they get to ‘hear’ and see how other people express themselves through color, images, symbols and words. I believe this inspires Individuals to express themselves.”

—Barbara Nowack-Cuthel  
Co-Curator of ArtShare  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York



## All Together Now

“Black lives matter. In what world does that even need to be said? This world, unfortunately. Our world. HeartShare stands with peaceful protestors, just as we have always stood with the vulnerable and marginalized. Our dedication to diversity—every color, every age, every ability—is reflected in our staff and in the communities we serve. We haven’t gotten to where we are without raising our voices against forces that have sought to oppress. And we won’t stop now. We will not go gentle into that good night. There is no good night for one unless there is a good night for all.”

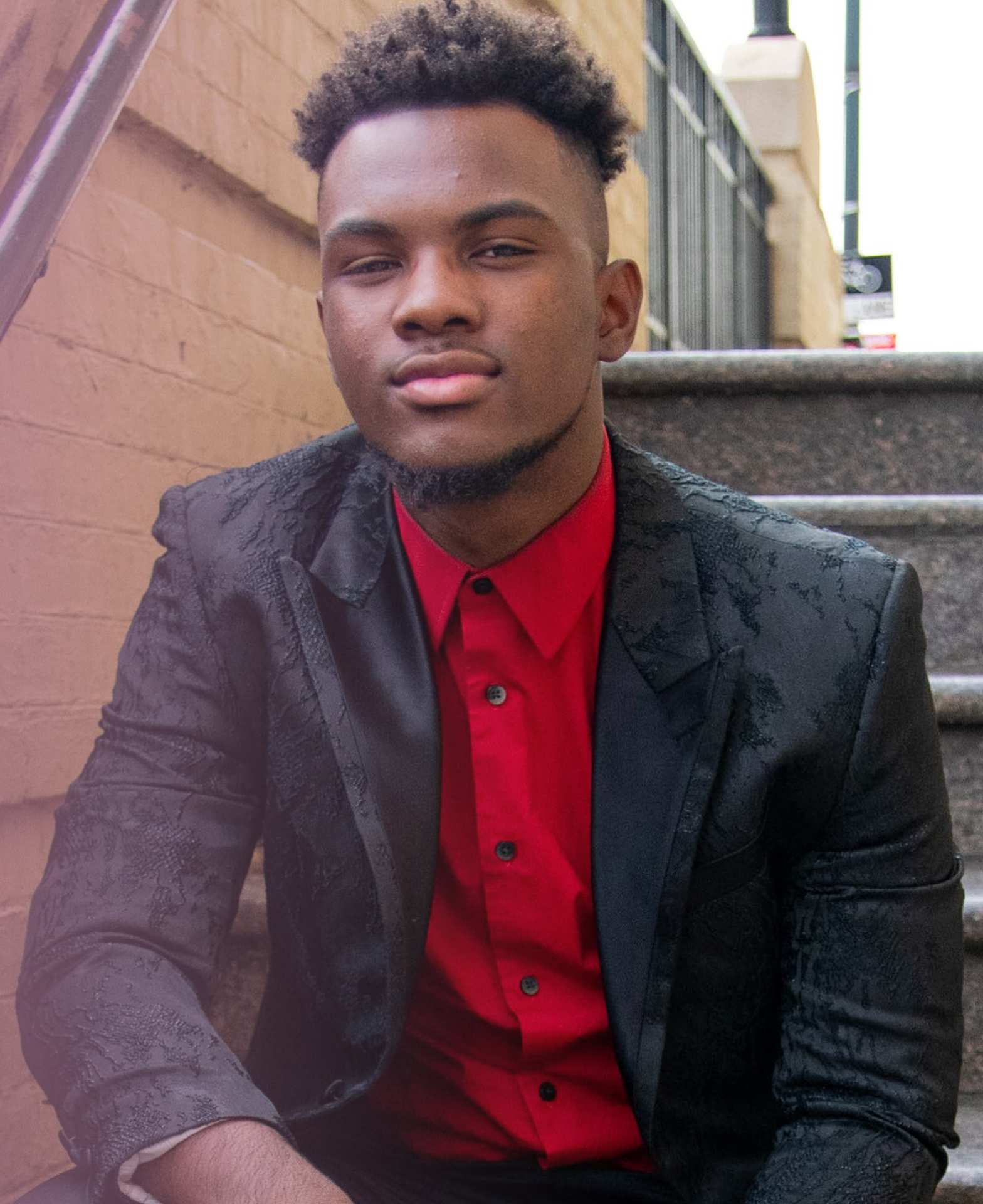
**William R. Guarinello**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York



## There's No Place Like Home

"I've been with HeartShare St. Vincent's for eight years. I grew up in Haiti but after the earthquake I ended up in New York. Over the course of four years I was in seven foster homes. I felt unwanted. In 2015, I came into the Hernandez's home and, honestly, I was terrified. When I got into trouble in my previous homes, they were quick to get rid of me. Not the Hernandezes. Since day one, they've accepted me for me and treated me like their own son. On September 4, 2019, they adopted me. It was the best feeling of my entire life. I really feel like I'm home."

**Weedley LeBlanc**  
Foster Youth  
HeartShare St. Vincent's Services





BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH

NEW YORK

## Stronger Every Day

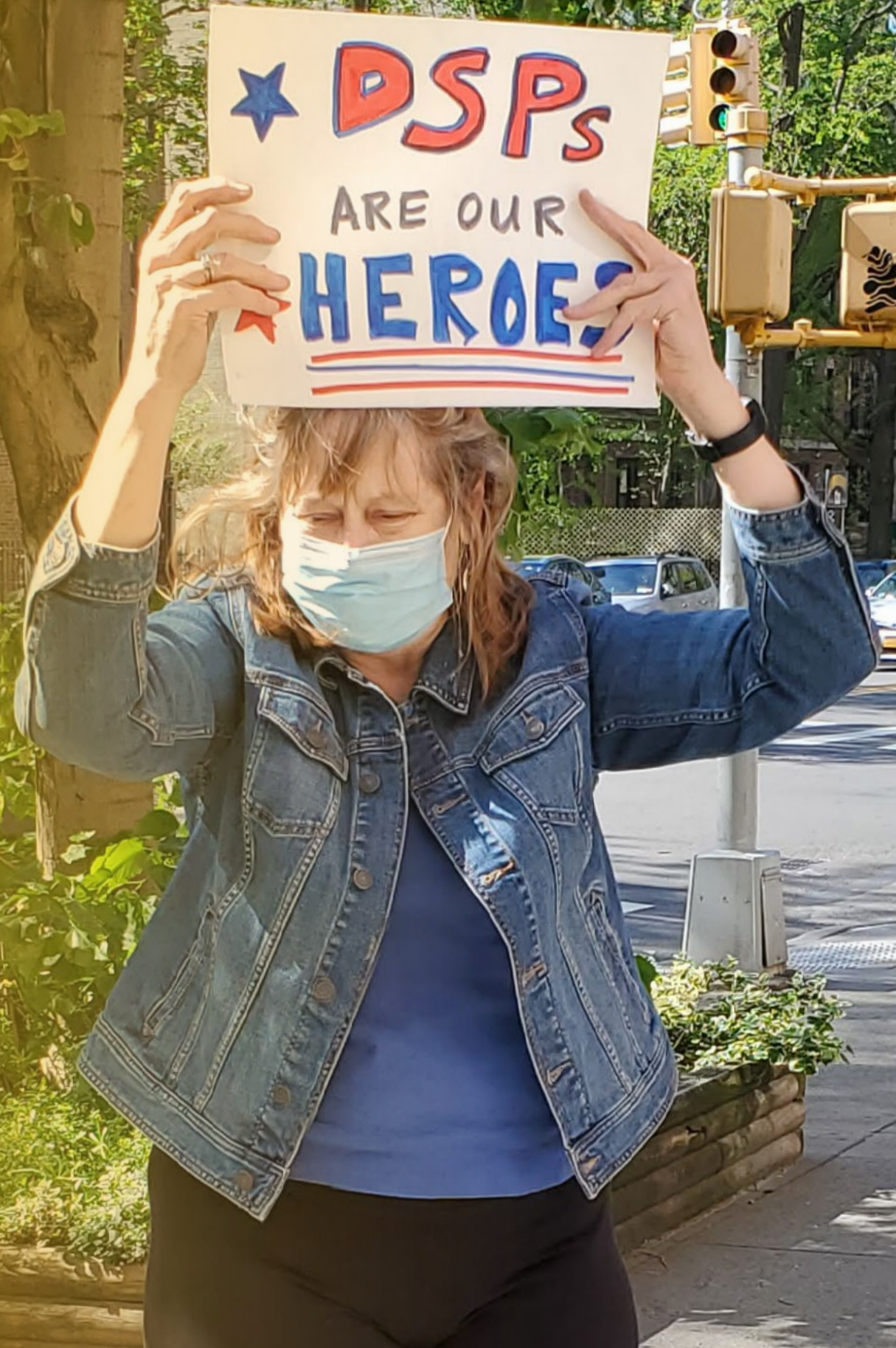
“The physical therapy services at HeartShare Wellness help to develop my legs so I can stand for longer periods of time. Wellness gives me strength, both physically and mentally.”

**Gilbert**  
HeartShare Wellness patient

# Quintessential Workers

“HeartShare’s Direct Support Professionals have been more than amazing during the pandemic. They have gone above and beyond to care for others, risking their own safety to put the individuals first. Their dedication and compassion knows no bounds. They are a shining example of what it means to be an essential worker, and we can never thank them enough for the difference they have made each and every day.”

**Linda Tempel**  
Executive Director,  
Developmental Disabilities Services  
HeartShare Human Services  
of New York





# What You Keep in Your Heart

“This year marks my 50th anniversary with HeartShare. People ask, ‘What do you think is your greatest achievement?’ I tell them: A few years ago I had minor surgery. I was in the recovery room and the nurse asked, ‘Are you Bill Guarinello from HeartShare?’ I managed to say, ‘Yeah.’ And she said, ‘My grandson is in your Queens preschool for autistic children. When he first started there, he couldn’t talk. Now, after six months, we have full conversations all the time.’ So, what’s my greatest achievement? It’s helping that nurse’s autistic grandson to speak. It’s seeing someone receive the assistance they need to live their best life. Even in 2020, with a global pandemic that forced us to change the way we provide assistance, we continued to make a difference in the lives of the individuals in our care and I can’t ask for better than that. To know that you’ve had a positive effect on so many is something you never forget, something you keep in your heart, even after 50 years.”

**William R. Guarinello**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
HeartShare Human Services of New York



Founded in 1914, HeartShare is New York’s premier nonprofit dedicated to New York’s most vulnerable, empowering individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities to reach their full potential through education, life skills and vocational training, as well as residential, recreational, family support and long-term therapy services.

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[www.heartshare.org](http://www.heartshare.org)

    
@heartshare



**A Day in the Park: An individual from HeartShare’s Brooklyn Day Habilitation Program enjoys a Sip and Paint outing in Prospect Park.**





For 150 years, HeartShare St. Vincent's Services has worked to equalize opportunities for those who need it most. Every year, we serve over 6,000 New Yorkers through our adoption, foster care, mental health and youth and family programs. Founded in 1869 as a home for young working boys, HSVS today provides comprehensive and holistic services to New Yorkers of all ages who are dealing with trauma related to family separation, poverty and mental illness.

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[www.hsvsnyc.org](http://www.hsvsnyc.org)

    
@hsvsnyc



Young at Art: Art therapist Jess Benson encourages a visitor to the newly reopened Surfside Community Center in Coney Island to get creative.



# The HeartShare School

The HeartShare School enables children with autism ages 5 to 21 to experience a curriculum and therapies for a brighter, more independent future. Our teachers, counselors and therapists are certified experts in educating and nurturing children with special needs, incorporating vocational training, extracurricular activities and community participation to maximize the learning potential of every student.

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[www.theheartshareschool.org](http://www.theheartshareschool.org)



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**Teamwork: Brooklyn Cyclones pitcher Gorey Gaconi poses with HeartShare School student and CRP resident Danny, who threw the first pitch at the 2019 Christmas in July game.**



HeartShare Wellness offers psychological and psych-social evaluations, as well as long-term therapy, to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including psychological and sexuality counseling, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Services are provided at the main clinic location at 177 Livingston Street, Lower Level, in downtown Brooklyn, as well at eleven satellite locations in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

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[www.heartshare.org](http://www.heartshare.org)



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**Caring, Friendly, Kind:** Patricia, an individual who obtains therapy through HeartShare Wellness, holds a visual expression of her feelings for the program.



# Our Impact

HeartShare provided services to over **100,000** children, adults and families.



Placed **565** foster children in loving and stable homes



Kept **659** families together

Provided **3,491** children and youth a safe place to go after school and during the summer



Encouraged **47** scholars to enroll in college



Provided **448** children and adults with I/DD with lifelong homes



Provided **824** adults with I/DD with life skills, volunteer and job opportunities

Educated, evaluated and reviewed **778** preschool children with special needs



Educated **80** school-age children with autism



Provided **777** individuals and their families with family support services



Provided **742** individuals with I/DD with long-term therapy

Provided **943** children and adults with health home services



Kept **33,064** households warm and well-lit



Supported **300** individuals to express themselves creatively through ArtShare



Delivered **51,000** meals to food-insecure New Yorkers

# Our Financials

## HeartShare's Financial Report

Year ending June 30, 2020

	REVENUE *	EXPENSES *
<b>Services for the Developmentally Disabled</b>		
Residential Programs	\$56,281	\$53,994
Day Programs	\$26,700	\$21,289
Early Childhood Services	\$16,072	\$14,711
Family Support	\$791	\$884
<b>Affiliated Programs</b>		
HeartShare St. Vincent's-Grand Total	\$49,173	\$48,760
-Adoption, Foster Care, and Independent Living	\$14,602	\$13,769
-Family Centers & Youth Programs	\$8,546	\$8,210
-Housing Programs	\$19,158	\$17,914
-Integrated Health (Medicaid, OPC, CD)	\$6,110	\$7,452
-Other Programs	\$757	\$1,415
The HeartShare School	\$4,130	\$3,882
HeartShare Wellness Ltd.	\$1,647	\$1,240
Energy Programs	\$232	\$196
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>\$155,026</b>	<b>\$144,956</b>
Management and General		\$15,790
Fundraising		\$684
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>		<b>\$16,474</b>
<b>Public Support and Other Revenue</b>		
Contributions	\$412	
Distribution from HSVS's 501 (c)(2)	\$1,563	
Change in net assets of HSVS's 501 (c)(2)	\$1,700	
Net Special Event Income	\$774	
Grant Income	\$2,149	
<b>Total Public Support and Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,598</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$161,624</b>	<b>\$161,430</b>
<b>Beginning Net Assets 7/1/2019</b>	<b>\$23,059</b>	
<b>Ending Net Assets 6/30/2020</b>	<b>\$23,253</b>	

(\*dollars in Thousands)

Unaudited statement as of 10/2020

Copies of HeartShare's audited financial statements are available upon written request to HeartShare Human Services, 12 MetroTech Center, 29th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

# Dream On

“Fight for your dreams, and your dreams will fight for you. Never forget where you came from, and the only time you should ever look back is to see how far you’ve come while you’re moving forward. We’re not perfect, nor all knowing, nor saints; we do the best we know. So, continue to believe in yourself, because if you can believe it, you can achieve it. Things rarely work out the way we expect. Life is messy, and no matter how hard you try to figure it all out, you won’t. If you think you have it all figured out, you don’t. People walk into your life. And they walk out. We have no guarantees. No absolutes. But it is all worth it. All the loss, all the hurt, is nothing compared to all the love and light there is on Earth.”

—**Ericka Francois**

Fair Futures Youth Board Coordinator  
HeartShare St. Vincent’s Services

## HeartShare 2020 Annual Report

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# 2020 Annual Report

