

HOMESPACE

Happenings



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*A letter from Executive Director
Lindsey Carter:
2024 was our 30th Year of Service,
and Lindsey's first year as ED*

As 2024 comes to a close, we reflect on a year of progress and resilience in an ever-changing child welfare environment. The youth we serve face unique and often challenging circumstances, and it is our mission to ensure they are met with the stability, opportunity, and support they need to thrive. At Homespace, we remain committed to evolving alongside the needs of our youth, strengthening our programs, and advocating for their success. This year, we took significant strides, creating new opportunities for growth and building a stronger foundation for the future.

One of the most transformative parts of this year was completing our partnership with DEI consultant, Clementine Gold. Through this process, we have not only deepened our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion but also taken actionable steps to embed these values into every aspect of our organization. This includes creating a culture statement that reflects our shared beliefs, developing an Inclusive Working Agreement to outline respectful meeting expectations across the agency, and implementing a new Intentional Procurement Policy and Procedure. This policy encourages us to be mindful of using local vendors from underrepresented or marginalized populations, ensuring equity is a fundamental part of our agency. While this work is ongoing, these foundational changes represent significant progress, and we remain dedicated to continuing this journey.

Building strong relationships and raising awareness about the impactful services Homespace provides have been central to our efforts this year. We deepened our partnership with the Buffalo Police Department's B District through collaborative community initiatives, including hosting their November Monthly Community Meeting. Thanks to this partnership, we've also connected with other key community organizations, such as the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition and the Neighborhood Engagement Team, and we are excited about exploring future collaborations with them in 2025. Strengthening ties with our neighbors was another priority, highlighted by hosting an ice cream social and participating in events like the Block Club Community Appreciation Dinner. Additionally, our ongoing collaboration with COFCCA, a state-wide child welfare advocacy organization, ensures we remain informed and proactive in addressing the evolving child welfare landscape.

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These moments of connection and engagement reinforce how critical community relationships are to our success and to the success of the youth we serve. As we've shared previously, we are thrilled to now own two plots of land directly across from our current sites. Over the next few years, we plan to develop these properties to expand our programming and create additional administrative space, ensuring we can better support our youth, staff, and community as we grow. Stay tuned for more details about our upcoming capital campaign, and join us in taking this exciting next step forward!

We ended the year on a high note, thanks to the incredible support of so many who contributed to our Holiday Fundraiser and End-of-Year Campaign. Whether you adopted a family, donated, wrapped gifts, or supported us in other ways, your kindness makes a direct and lasting impact. Thank you for helping us bring joy to our youth and their families during the holiday season- your support truly makes a difference!

As I look back on my first year as Executive Director, I am filled with pride and appreciation for the Homespace team and the community that surrounds us. While the year brought its challenges, I am inspired by the resilience of our youth, the strength of our programs, and the unwavering dedication of our team. To our Homespace staff, thank you for your hard work, commitment, and passion. I also want to extend my deepest thanks to our Board of Directors, whose guidance and support have been instrumental as we navigated challenges and opportunities together. None of this would be possible without each of you, and I am truly honored to lead such an incredible group of people.

There is so much to celebrate as we close out the year. We have grown as an organization, strengthened our programs, and deepened our impact in the community. As we look ahead to 2025, we do so with optimism, focus, and a renewed commitment to our mission. Thank you to all of our partners, donors, and supporters for standing with us every step of the way. Together, we're building brighter futures for the youth we serve, and we're excited to see what the future holds.

***With gratitude,
Lindsey Carter***



Christmas Recap from Development Coordinator Stephanie Codd



As I reflect on my second year of running holiday fundraising and the Adopt-A-Youth Holiday Gift Drive, I wanted to take a moment to extend a sincere & personal thank you to everyone who worked with us this year between donating gifts, organizing donation drives within their workplace, and sending in checks, cash, and making generous online donations so that we were able to purchase Christmas gifts, wrapping paper, decorations and everything needed to give all Homespace youth a beautiful Christmas - including staff & volunteers who worked tirelessly to wrap and deliver gifts, adding that little bit of Christmas magic. I continue to be blown away by the generosity of Homespace supporters year after year; thank you SO much for working with us to shop, donate, organize pick ups/drop offs, wrap gifts, and so much more! Here's a look at what you were able to help us accomplish this year:

55 YOUTH WERE "ADOPTED" AND SHOPPED FOR BY DONORS LIKE YOU!

\$10,677.17 WAS RAISED FOR UNRESTRICTED, GENERAL FUNDING THAT HOMESPACE CAN USE WHERE WE NEED IT MOST

\$3,760.20 WAS RAISED TO SHOP FOR GIFTS, WRAPPING PAPER, AND HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

3 COMPANIES HOSTED GIFT DRIVES FOR HOMESPACE TO PROVIDE GIFTS FOR FAMILIES (BRADY CORP, LEVEL FINANCIAL, AND CAPPELLINO AUTO DEALERSHIPS)



HALLOWEEN



Homespace youth celebrated Halloween with group pumpkin painting! Staff participated in a door decorating contest which can be viewed on our social media.

@HomespaceCorp



Thanksgiving

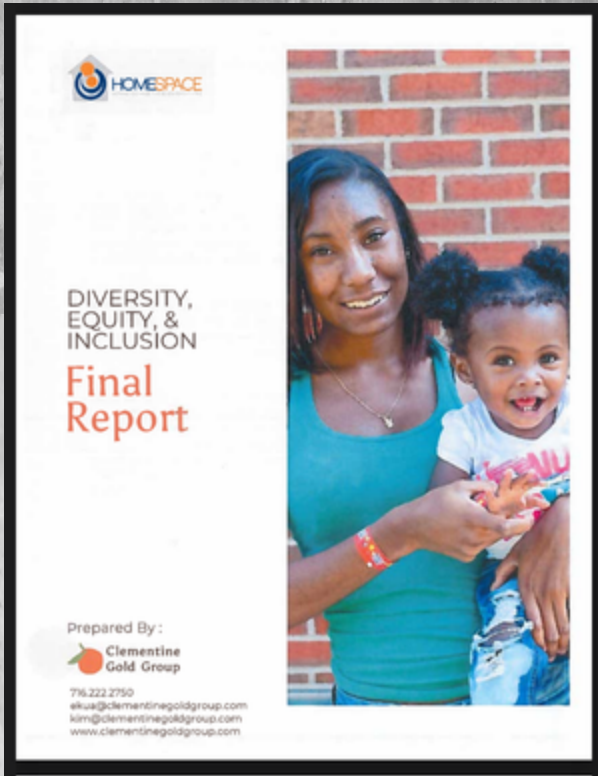
AT HOMESPACE

THANKS TO DONATIONS FROM INGRAM MICRO AND WEGMANS, ALL HOMESPACE FAMILIES WERE ABLE TO HAVE A THANKSGIVING MEAL COMPLETE WITH TURKEY, HAM, ROLLS, POTATOES, STUFFING, MAC & CHEESE, CRANBERRY SAUCE, GREEN BEANS, AND PUMPKIN PIE!



thankful

DEI



Over the course of 2022, 2023, and 2024, Homespace completed a rigorous Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program with Clementine Gold Group. We are pleased to share with you our final goals.

DEI GOALS:

- Achieve a high level of employee engagement
- Create a space where each employee and resident feels safe to be who they are
- Establish strong employee development practices
- Build a diverse employee base
- Establish a culture of consistency, transparency, fairness, compassion, respect and authenticity
- Implement collaborative decision making and conflict resolution practices
- Be the premier organization in the sector for offering safety and belonging

The full report can be viewed at this link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xVpLymCM_62qSDYGa49q8ZcqKYGX3AbtN/view?usp=sharing

OUR NEW CULTURE STATEMENT:

Homespace is a place that fosters belonging & acceptance, meeting everyone where they are, and supporting where they will go.