

CRADLE OF HOPE

CREATING HOPE, ONE WOMAN AND CHILD AT A TIME



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

www.cradleofhope.net

LETTER *from* LEADERSHIP

Dear Valued Partner,

2022 was a time of growth and strengthening at the Cradle of Hope, with accomplishments that I never would have thought possible:

- Through the incredible generosity of donors, we secured our third home and will soon be able to welcome 10 women and their children at a time!
- We raised more than \$200,000 in just three months for the renovations needed to get everything in the new home child-friendly and up to code.
- We expanded the Cradle's Pregnancy Resource Center, establishing a regular presence Monday through Friday and hiring a full-time director to oversee this flourishing program.
- And, we strengthened our supportive services, hiring a case manager to partner with the women living in our homes in achieving their goals.

Many of these accomplishments were "pipe dreams," and I feel awe and immense gratitude when I think about how God brought them about. His provision shone through so many generous donors, skilled volunteers and passionate staff members.

Similarly, so many of the moms who reach out to us think raising a child on their own, finding a safe place to live, or securing a job that pays a living wage are all dreams out of reach. Unattainable. Yet, after just a few months with the Cradle of Hope community, their perspective and reality is dramatically changed. They are confidently accepting job offers, saving for security deposits on their own apartments, and creating a nurturing and loving start for their young ones.

Thank you for investing in the Cradle of Hope. You are a part of a family that is growing and strong.

With Gratitude,

Rachel Mullelly

Rachel Mullelly
Executive Director



OUR MISSION

The mission of Cradle of Hope is to minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of pregnant women, single mothers and children through transitional housing and support services.

Impact by the Numbers

OUR WORK



26 mothers and children received transitional housing, healthy meals, case management, and life-skills development in 2022.

7

babies were born while living at the Cradle!



16

former residents benefited from follow-up support in 2022, with needs ranging from car repair, children's clothing, and visits to provide encouragement.



403

calls/texts/emails were answered by the Cradle Pregnancy Resource Center in 2022 - 56 of which were from organizations seeking information to support their clients.



272

clients received counseling and support services through the Cradle Pregnancy Resource Center.

80%

of Cradle of Hope's transitional housing graduates from the past 3 years are **employed** and living in **permanent housing**.

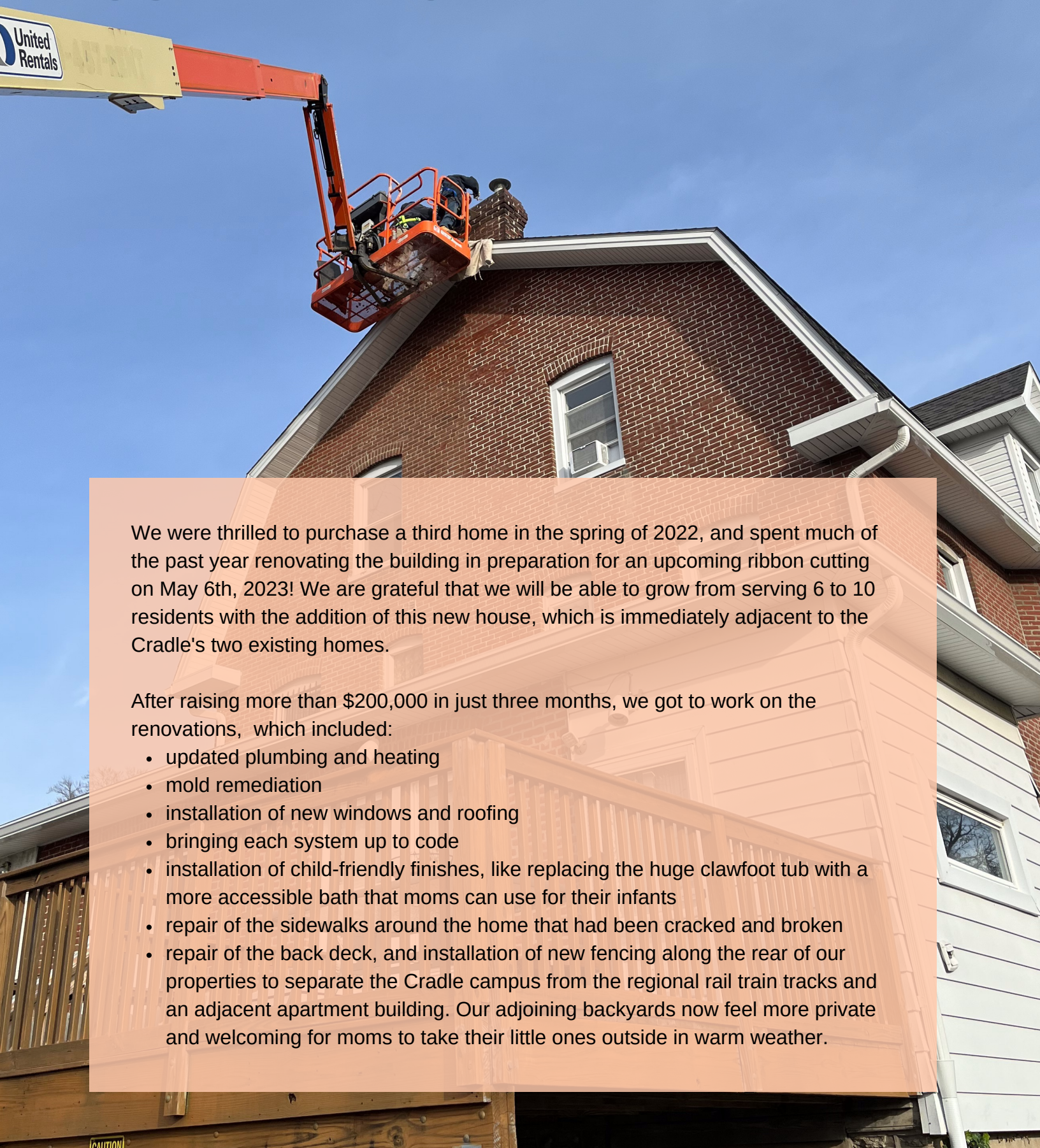


123 women

126 children

received transitional housing since Cradle of Hope's inception in 1997.

OUR NEW HOME



We were thrilled to purchase a third home in the spring of 2022, and spent much of the past year renovating the building in preparation for an upcoming ribbon cutting on May 6th, 2023! We are grateful that we will be able to grow from serving 6 to 10 residents with the addition of this new house, which is immediately adjacent to the Cradle's two existing homes.

After raising more than \$200,000 in just three months, we got to work on the renovations, which included:

- updated plumbing and heating
- mold remediation
- installation of new windows and roofing
- bringing each system up to code
- installation of child-friendly finishes, like replacing the huge clawfoot tub with a more accessible bath that moms can use for their infants
- repair of the sidewalks around the home that had been cracked and broken
- repair of the back deck, and installation of new fencing along the rear of our properties to separate the Cradle campus from the regional rail train tracks and an adjacent apartment building. Our adjoining backyards now feel more private and welcoming for moms to take their little ones outside in warm weather.

We are immensely grateful to our volunteers, who did everything from painting to removing old bathroom tiles!
Thank you for making our third house a home!



Year in Review

HIGHLIGHTS



The Cradle of Hope celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2022! Former clients, community partners and donors came out in large numbers to recognize this major milestone during the organization's spring fundraising event in May.

We were thrilled to have 6 clients graduate from the Cradle's transitional housing program and secure permanent housing of their own in 2022!



Empowering clients to pursue further education and job training continues to be a big focus of our residential program. In 2022, 9 clients attended classes or job training; 4 became certified phlebotomists; and others pursued their driver's license, high school diploma and other career goals, including becoming an event planner, pharmaceutical technician and dental assistant.



Client Testimonial

MARY'S STORY

Nineteen-year-old Mary came to the Cradle of Hope when she was seven months pregnant with a baby girl. Earlier on in her pregnancy, she took the abortion pill, but within 24 hours of that decision, she went to the hospital to have the process reversed. She was then kicked out of her mother's house and in search of a safe place to stay as her baby's father was emotionally and physically abusive.

Mary eventually found the Cradle through a co-worker and quickly moved in to become part of the Cradle family. Despite her young age, Mary had an "old soul" and easily connected with the staff and residents. She could often be found holding her housemate's babies so that they could have a break or clean up. She connected with our Doula who encouraged, educated, and coached her through the remainder of her pregnancy.

When it was time to give birth, her baby's father left her alone at the hospital in the middle of her contractions. A housemate immediately filled the void and spent the following 36 hours by her side as she labored and eventually had an emergency C-section.

Mary's daughter, just like her mom, lit up any room that she entered. She was a tiny bundle of joy.

Mary was able to return to a CNA job that she had been working at during her



pregnancy. The client and his family adored her daughter and permitted Mary to bring her to work each day.

Mary participated in the postpartum support group, she connected with many of the volunteers who visited the Cradle, and she loved to spend evenings in the Pregnancy Center, with staff over soda and snacks. The relationships that she formed with the community were a strong source of encouragement during difficult times - especially, as Mary battled for and obtained sole custody of her daughter!

In the summer of 2022, the Cradle sponsored Mary to complete education and training to become a State Certified Phlebotomist. Mary rose to the occasion and quickly obtained a

job in the field. With the help of the Cradle, she was able to secure daycare for her daughter and worked two jobs until she was ready to move into her own apartment.

Moving days are bittersweet for the Cradle Family. Our goal is to empower single moms to be able to move on to support themselves and their children. However, our hope is that they will continue to feel like part of the Cradle family and hold firm to the relationships that were formed. Although Mary moved out in October, she continues to visit and attend holiday festivities. Her sweet daughter will be turning one at the end of February 2023. We look forward to celebrating milestones and watching Mary and her daughter continue to grow and thrive!

**Name changed to protect client confidentiality.*



Cradle's Pregnancy Resource Center

GROWING COMMUNITY

Cradle's Pregnancy Resource Center (CPRC) - which opened in 2019 - has experienced significant growth, leading to an expansion of hours and other exciting enhancements. So we sat down with its new director, Denise Trimble, to learn more about its impact and strategic next steps.

Denise, can you tell us about what precipitated the CPRC's expansion?

Initially, the resource center was open for 20 hours a week and usually by appointment only. It became evident that there was such a great need in the community and that more service hours were necessary. At the same time, we were being so blessed by donated items - cribs and strollers and diaper bags - so we decided we needed to build a consistent presence, Monday through Friday, for the moms and families who were reaching out for support.

I came from a much larger organization, so in light of CPRC's rapid growth, the leadership asked me to build more structure. I spent my early time at the Cradle taking-in what worked and what changes could be made to strengthen our impact. As call after call came in from the community, I observed what the needs were and looked for gaps that we could fill.

We are excited to move forward into the new year with some additional programming. We're establishing a more regular schedule of life-skill classes, all with the aim of bringing people together and building community.



Community seems to be part of the Cradle's DNA. Can you tell us why that is so important?

One of the biggest needs we consistently see confronting clients - aside from affordable housing - is a longing for community and support. There are so many people out there feeling very alone and not supported. The pandemic didn't help that at all. So many women are being faced with the overwhelming challenge of an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy while being unemployed or unhoused...women are wondering "How am I going to do this? *Should* I do this?" It's not a simple decision to make, and for so many women it relies on other people's opinions and being told they can't do this on their own. The CPRC is here instead to say, "If you want to do this, you *can* do this, and we are here to help you so that you

don't have to do it on your own. It takes a village to raise a child...let us walk alongside you and help with some practical needs; build up some confidence and courage to apply for that job that you think is unattainable. Let's establish a relationship so you feel comfortable calling when things are tight to inquire about resources."

We are here to empower mothers and fathers and families with information, resources and support. We're not here to tell anyone what to do - that's not our place - but to give resources and help clients figure out the next steps that work for them. We're not just a diaper bank or give-away store. It's so much deeper than that. The goal is that we meet the needs of any mom, dad or grandma who contact with us.

We want to build a foundation of support and a community so that they get to a place that they don't need us anymore, and instead they're paying it forward to someone else. In the less than a year that I've been here, I've seen so many women say, "Hey, you helped me so much. Here's some formula I thought you could use. Or, here's some clothing I wanted to give back to the moms who are there now." That's a beautiful thing, and I just love to see that spread.

As you look to the year ahead, what type of impact do you hope the CPRC has?

We were conducting an intake the other day and two former clients came in and were just beaming about their time with us. That's such a testament to the work that happens here at the Cradle.

It's incredible to see the transformation in the women as we help them focus on what is best for them and how to achieve their goals. I love hearing about their new jobs, to see them happy and hopeful and encouraged; to see the confidence that maybe they didn't have when I first met them.

I was working with a mom recently who had some tough issues, addiction and other challenges. In the end, she actually hugged me and said, "Thank you so much for giving me love and dignity." The same client messaged me later and said, "I'm able to lay my head down and feel so much lighter going to sleep tonight."

That's what we are here to do and that's the impact we are working to make through the CPRC - to be there, offering unconditional and nonjudgmental love and support as we walk beside clients.



Get to know the Cradle's new case manager

MEET DONYELL

Can you describe your role as the Cradle's case manager?

I work with women who live at the Cradle to reach their goals of building and maintaining their independence. I help them get bank accounts, assist them with going back to school, fixing their credit, and being a sounding board. I set up therapy appointments, and take them and their babies to check-ups with their pediatrician. I've even accompanied two moms for their deliveries, because I don't want them to be alone - especially for the new moms who haven't gone through this before.

I support them and encourage them to get back on their feet and answer questions they have about their babies. Some of them are brand new to motherhood. I've raised five of my own children. The youngest is 16 and the oldest will turn 32 in March, so I've been there.

Some of the women have goals already established when they come to the Cradle. Like, a client I'm working with now is earning her high school diploma. Some clients want to raise their credit score so that they are more likely to secure their own apartment or car.

I also encourage them to save for the future, so that when they move out, they'll have the down payment they'll need for their own apartment.

Many of the women say they want to become better parents, so I connect them with training and support to assist them with parenting.



Would you tell us more about yourself and what experience you draw from as you carry out the Cradle's mission?

My background is in early childhood education. I had a daycare for nine years; I have always worked with children. I also served as a lead teacher for a drug and rehabilitation center for mothers and children. Then, I worked at Childlink as a service coordinator, connecting parents with the necessary interventions and services for their children. I realized from that experience that I wanted to provide the actual supports and interventions, so I became a therapist and worked with local agencies throughout Philadelphia. I visited children in their homes and daycares to help with speech, play, behavior and interactions with other children. I was doing that for seven years when I learned about the Cradle's job opening. I applied that same day. It doesn't feel like a job because I love what I do!

What motivates you to do this work?

The women motivate me because I've never been through what they've encountered. Their stories and their hearts motivate me, as well as their compassion for their children.

It can be a roller coaster of emotions, but I love it. I love that I can help and support others; that the women we serve can have a place where they feel loved and supported.

I have never worked with so many unhoused women, so my empathy is huge for this population. I learn from their struggles, and I learn from their mistakes and from what they're working to accomplish. I've learned a lot about trauma and our clients' trauma responses, including anxiety and depression. It makes me more aware of what others are struggling with. They learn from me, but I learn from them as well.

I'm also motivated by the mission of the Cradle and the volunteers and donations that we receive; the churches and people that give their time and the effort they invest.

I just want it to continue so that we can reach more women and make a difference in their lives. Twenty years from now, when they reflect on their time at the Cradle, I hope our clients remember what we told them was possible that they didn't think was possible at the time. That's what motivates me.

I'm so excited for the new house - we are going to be able to serve 10 women at a time! I'm so happy, and I'm up for the challenge!



"I love that I can help and support others; that the women we serve can have a place where they feel loved and supported." - Donyell

Learn about exciting new programming on the horizon

LOOKING AHEAD >>>

THE CRADLE OF HOPE IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE TWO NEW PROGRAMS:



PAY IT FORWARD

Through the generosity of a group of local donors, Cradle residents' savings will be matched up to \$1,500! The *Pay It Forward* program incentivizes residents to save as much as they can towards their future while living at the Cradle.

Securing a new apartment, for instance, can be a major obstacle for Cradle graduates seeking to build their independence, especially with a lack of affordable housing options. In many instances, it requires first and last months rent, as well as a security deposit - a sum that usually far exceeds a Cradle graduate's means. The *Pay It Forward* matching funds will help to close this gap and empower graduates to secure their independence.

In return, over the next 5-10 years, graduates are asked to donate whatever amount they are able to the *Pay It Forward* fund for future clients. Whether that means \$5 or \$50, this is an opportunity for graduates to be empowered and invest in future Cradle clients, building a community of women with lifelong connection who support and validate one another as they transform their lives.



EXTENDING FAMILY

The new *Extending Family* program will connect outgoing Cradle residents with a nearby church family who will build relationship and become like an extended family to them. Since many of the Cradle's clients do not have nearby relatives or support, the *Extending Family* program will meet this need by leveraging Cradle's vast partnerships with local church communities. Host families will be encouraged to provide loving and nonjudgmental support. They will also receive training on things like setting boundaries and empowerment coaching to be well equipped for this role.

"Our vision is to have the church community become the extended family for Cradle graduates as they build their independence. To share meals together, have an open invitation on holidays, and just generally do life together for the long-haul," said Rachel Mullelly, Executive Director of the Cradle of Hope.

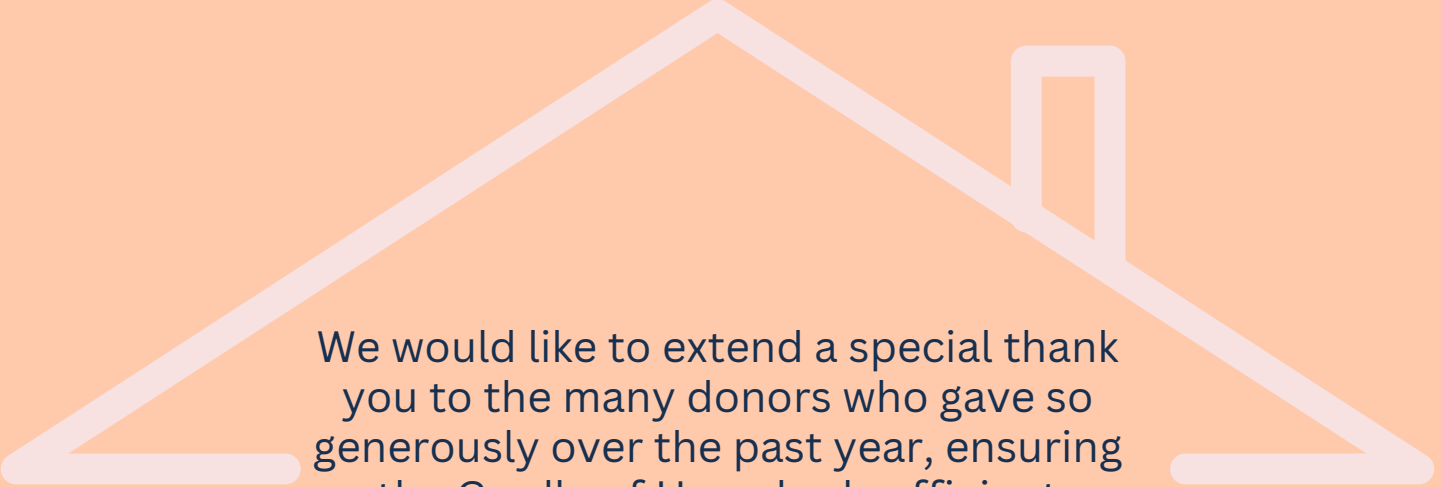


OUR VALUED PARTNERS

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The Weiner Family Foundation
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We would like to extend a special thank
you to the many donors who gave so
generously over the past year, ensuring
the Cradle of Hope had sufficient
resources to operate its programs and
renovate the new house!

"I just want to say thank you so much. Cradle of Hope is such a great resource, and I know that all the clients that have been able to utilize this opportunity are very grateful." - former client

OUR VALUED PARTNERS CONTINUED

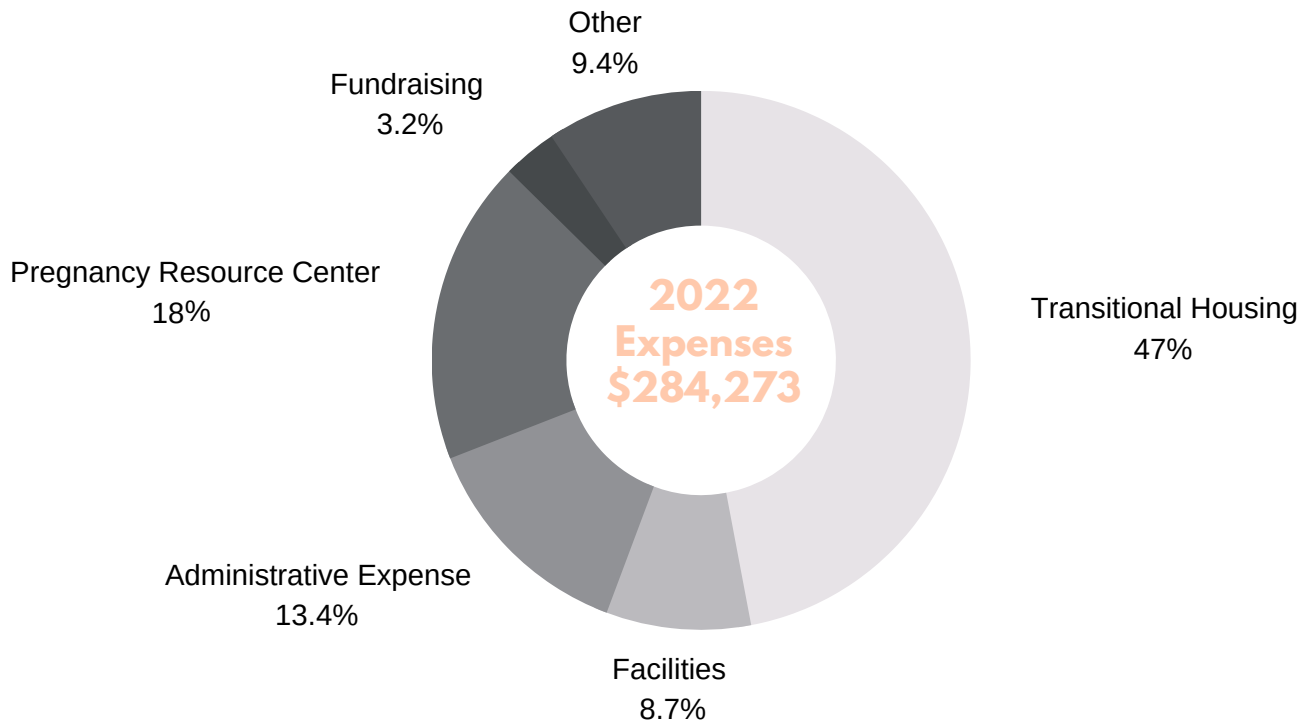
We are so grateful to the many community partners
who make our work possible.

Cheltenham Baptist Church
Abington Baptist Church
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Abington NICU nurses
Abington Presbyterian Church Trustees
Action Automotive
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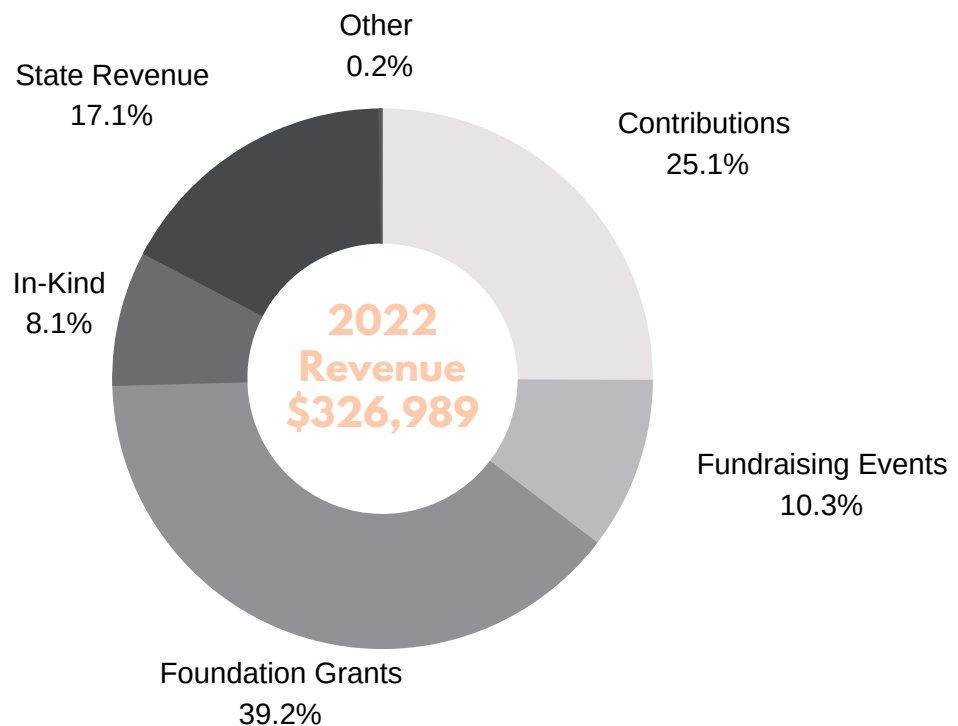
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FINANCIALS

Cradle of Hope is committed to the highest fiscal integrity and transparency as it carries out its life-changing mission. Below is a snapshot of the organization's 2022 revenue and expenses.



This does not include the capital projects revenue of \$601,732 for the new house



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to support Cradle of Hope's mission and make a life-changing difference for the families we serve.



VOLUNTEER

- ▶ Conduct a life-skills class about something you're knowledgeable in (*we're especially in need of credit repair skill-building!*)
- ▶ Provide yard work and maintenance
- ▶ Host a self-care outing for our clients, like a spa treatment
- ▶ Connect with us on social media!



[@cradleofhope1](https://www.instagram.com/cradleofhope1)



facebook.com/Cradle-of-Hope-Greater-Philadelphia-108411511743168/

GIVE FINANCIALLY

- ▶ Make a donation through our website:
www.cradleofhope.net/donate
- ▶ Support us all year long by becoming a monthly donor!
- ▶ Host a diaper drive

SCAN ME



Questions? Contact Executive Director Rachel Mullelly at 215-572-5937.

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A Home for Single Mothers and Children

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