

SMART LOVE[®]

FAMILY SERVICES



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 20TH ANNIVERSARY



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help children, parents, and families achieve greater inner well-being, sustain closer relationships, and build happier, healthier lives. We do this by providing counseling, early childhood education, assessments and therapeutic tutoring, and community and parenting support programs.

SMART LOVE

The principles of Smart Love™, an approach to parenting and child development originated by Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D., and William J. Pieper, M.D., inform and guide all of our programs. Endorsed by scholars and child development experts around the world and supported by the latest child development research, the Smart Love approach focuses parents' attention on maximizing their positive influence on their child by understanding the child's mind and emotions at every age and stage.

One of the cornerstones of the Smart Love approach is the knowledge that every young child copies the care they receive but cannot evaluate it. For this reason, informed

parenting, teaching, and caregiving are crucial if children are to grow up treating themselves and others with compassion and have the ability to care for their bodies, work productively, have stable inner happiness, and sustain enjoyable relationships.

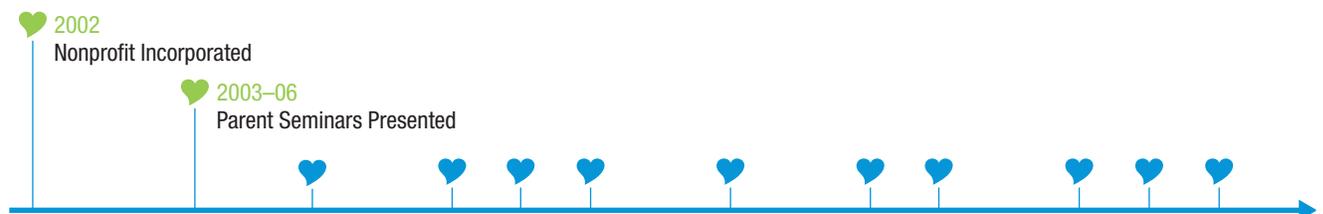
Programs and interventions based on Smart Love principles promote closer, more enjoyable parent and child relationships, and increase success and confidence for both caregiver and child. *Smart Love* (1999) describes the application of the Piepers' approach to parenting, and their underlying psychological theory is described in *Intrapsychic Humanism* (1990), the Piepers' book for professionals.

EQUALITY & INCLUSION

Creating a future that is free from racism and hate of all kinds begins with how we treat our children today. Children grow into open-minded, patient, caring, and loving adults through the relationship they experience with their parents and caregivers. When parents offer kindness, acceptance,

and love even when children display mad, angry, or other unhappy behaviors, children will grow up to show that same kindness, acceptance and love towards others. Smart Love's programs are designed to help create that future for the children of today and the children of tomorrow.

20TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The 2021–2022 program year marked Smart Love’s 20th anniversary as an organization. While major milestones like this are always occasions for celebration, this one is happening in a time that is affecting children and families like never ever before. During this anniversary year, we looked

back on two decades of service, with gratitude for everyone who has helped us to grow and achieve all that we have.

A highlight of this milestone year was our 20th Anniversary Gala. After two years of virtual fundraisers, nearly 180 guests gathered in person in March at the Mid-America Club to honor Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D., the originator of the Smart Love approach, and to raise funds so children and families can access Smart Love programs during this time of great need. We are grateful for the tremendous outpouring of generosity that made it the most successful gala to date. The event served to reaffirm the mission of Smart Love and how important our programs have been especially during these last two years.

In our counseling program, we endeavored to keep up with demand for mental health services as families continued to face challenges from the pandemic, economy, and

community divisions. *It Takes a Village*, our program for families of color, provided more sessions of parent coaching than ever before.

Our preschool program saw increased enrollment after having virtual and limited in-person enrollment the prior year. We recruited and trained a new diverse teaching team to provide the emotional support young children especially need and at the same time offer a stimulating and fun curriculum that kept children engaged. Our unique therapeutic tutoring program helped school-aged children struggling with school work due to learning losses, disruptions, and a host of other pressures.

We remain mindful of the ever-increasing need for the care and programs that Smart Love offers. We are so grateful for the support of our generous donors, our committed board of directors, and our knowledgeable and caring staff. Thank you for helping us to continue our 20-year legacy of service this year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stolper Friedman
President & Executive Director

20TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES



FINANCIALS

FY 22 (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022)

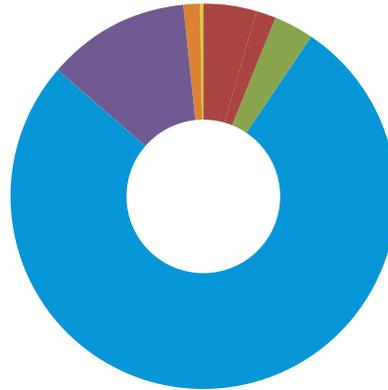
Income

Contributed Income

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Individual Donors | \$147,273 |
| Foundations, Corporations & Public Support | \$50,935 |
| Annual Gala & Other Events (net) | \$103,532 |

Earned Income

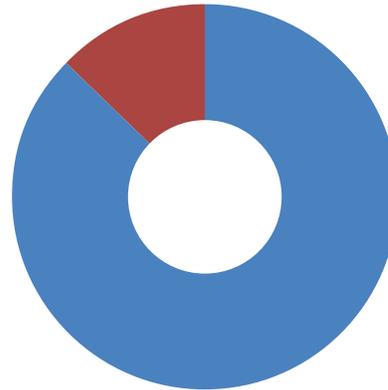
| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Counseling Services | \$2,430,562 |
| Early Childhood Education | \$378,685 |
| Tutoring, Community & Parenting Support | \$44,471 |
| Other Income | \$6,963 |
| Total | \$3,162,421 |



- Individual, Foundation, & Business Support
- Annual Gala & Other Events (net)
- Counseling Services
- Early Childhood Education
- Tutoring, Community & Parenting Support
- Other Income

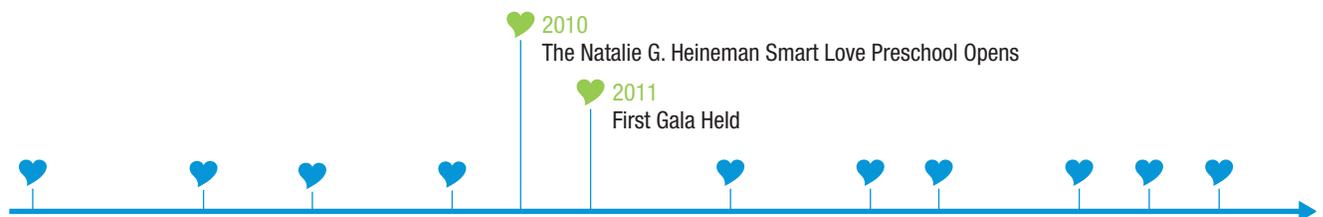
Expense

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Program Services | \$2,825,043 |
| Operating & Administrative | \$408,366 |
| Total | \$3,233,409 |



- Program Services
- Operating & Administrative

20TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES



PROGRAMS

Even though the pandemic has eased in some ways, it is still with us, and the impacts it has had on families of every type and kind are continuing to be felt. Adding to this are the many uncertainties in the economy, climate outlook, and community hostility that especially impact families with children in the home.

Counseling

Throughout FY 22 demand continued for our counseling services and we endeavored to hire and train diverse therapists to provide and sustain the very best in care and support to all who sought our services. We strengthened our professional development program for all therapists to ensure that their clinical work is culturally sensitive and respects, incorporates, and responds to diversity factors and individual differences in their clinical work. This year we also invested in major improvements to technology to make onboarding new clients easier and allowing for more streamlined and intuitive case management for our therapists.

The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool

In the preschool, after two years of pandemic related lower enrollment, we bounced back meeting demand from families in our community for our preschool program. Our program's focus on strengthening children's emotional understanding and their enjoyment in learning was a balm to families and children alike. Despite adherence to Covid 19 protocols, the children loved coming to school, happily wore their masks while inside the classroom and engaged with their teachers and one another in a year filled with delight and learning.

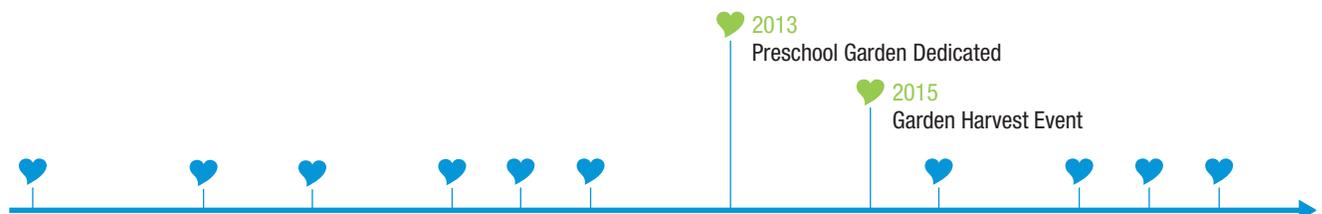
Assessments & Therapeutic Tutoring

The past few years have been difficult for many families. Beyond the effects of the pandemic, they have faced social and economic instability. The stress of day-to-day life negatively affected children, causing them to struggle in school. Our newer Therapeutic Tutoring program provided a place free from these pressures where children were supported and helped to overcome their learning challenges. We saw increasing interest from families in our community in this program and consequently we hired additional tutors to provide the one-on-one support to students.

Parenting & Community Support

In *It Takes a Village*, our support program for families of color in the greater Oak Park area, we provided groups for Black, Latino, and multicultural families, and saw more parents engaging in parent coaching services than ever before. The program helps parents better understand what their children's behavior is communicating and how best to manage it to promote healthy, positive relationships with their children. Additionally, we continued to offer the *In the Pursuit of Happiness* webinars for a second year. These helpful webinars are hosted on our website and were also on Facebook live.

20TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES



FY21 ANNUAL & PROGRAM SUPPORT

Smart Love is deeply grateful for the generosity and dedication of all the individuals, foundations, and businesses who contributed to our 2021–2022 Annual & Program Fund.

Benefactors

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Cristine Russell & Ben W. Heineman

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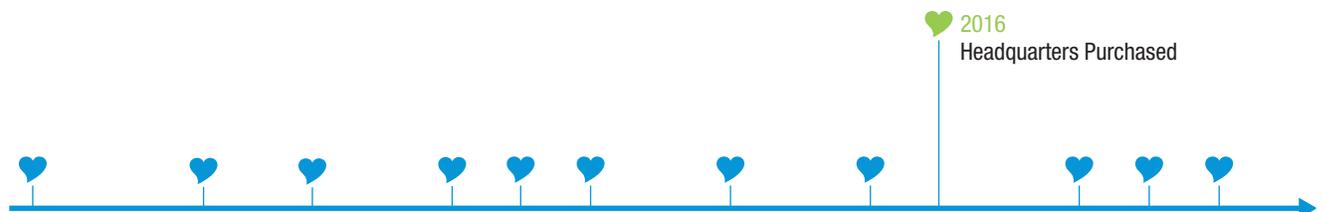
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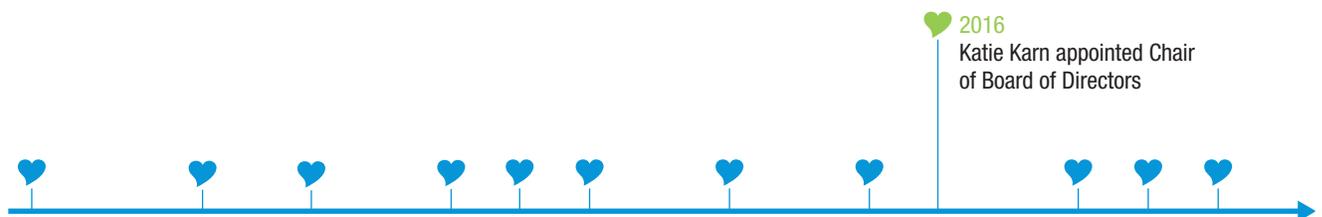
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20TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES



20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA!

Our sincere thanks to all who so generously supported Smart Love's 20th Anniversary Gala!

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First American Bank
Christy Webber Landscaping

Platinum

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Gold

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Silver

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Patty Ryan & Steve Weber
Rebekah Scheinfeld & Benjamin Seigle
Laura & Matthew Tanaka

Leaders

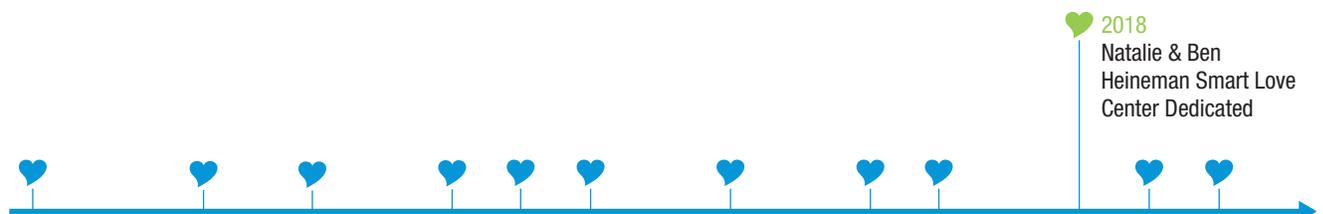
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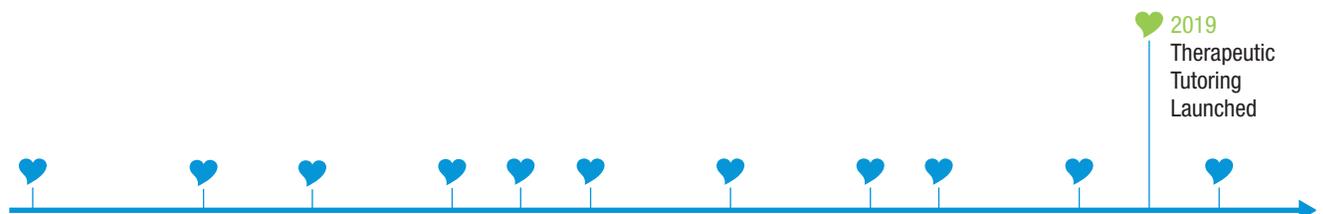
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Administrative Coordinator & Preschool Support

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Michael Zakalik, Psy.D.
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Dana Fenceroy, M.A. candidate

Kathryn Gadowski, M.A. candidate

Haley Rosenthal, M.A. candidate

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Neuro & Psychological Testing

Katie Majko, M.Ed.
Therapeutic Tutor

Alison Pildner
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Vice President, Education Programs & Preschool Director

Sandie Gonzalez
Teacher

Karen Hermach, M.A.
Teacher

Carolyn Howarter, Ph.D.
Teacher

Kim Waites
Assistant Teacher

Ashley Marchan
Teacher

Glenny Perez
Teacher

Maddie Perez
Teacher

SMART LOVE FAMILY SERVICES

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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www.smartlovetfamily.org
www.smartlovetpreschool.org



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Oak Park, IL 60301

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