Smart Love Newsletter





As a nonprofit, Smart Love depends on the financial support we receive from a wide range of sources in the community to provide the very best for all the children and families we serve.

While the revenues from our counseling and learning services fees and preschool tuition are what powers us, they alone cannot cover the full cost of all we do. The gifts, grants and sponsorships we receive from our supporters enable us to keep our fees as low as possible and to develop new services and programs to serve evolving needs. They allow Smart Love to serve financially-challenged and under-served families by giving us the leeway to offer sliding scale fees and free services, like our acclaimed Minority Family Program in Oak Park.

Our financial supporters make it possible for us to provide our Preschool teachers with all the resources and tools they need for their classroom. Their generosity allows us to create and sustain our Garden and Nature curriculum with its edible and native plant/butterfly gardens to help educate our Preschoolers about growing food, healthy eating, and the natural environment.

The friends of Smart Love are many, but we are always eager to engage more people in supporting and sustaining all that we do. Whether it's coming to big events like our Annual Benefit Gala, making generous contributions to our Annual Appeal, encouraging others to support us, or even lifting a few beers at Rev' Up, all contributions to Smart Love make a real difference. And we greatly appreciate what this commitment means to us and all whom we serve.

If you'd like to get involved, we are delighted to help you find the right opportunity! Please call us at 773-664-8052 and speak with Carolyn Friedman (ext. 130) or Bill Cosper (ext 272).



Getting Involved!

While financial contributions to Smart Love are always welcome, you can also support us by volunteering your time and talents. Among the opportunities for which we'd love to enlist more volunteers are:

The Associate Board

Members of the Associate Board help raise funds for Smart Love through social events, lower-cost events, and increasing public awareness, along with learning more about how nonprofits work and how getting involved in board service can benefit careers and enrich lives.

The Summer Lawn Party

Volunteers are encouraged to join us in hosting this big event for the community, with games, learning activities, and more — with over 150 families attending.

The Gala Auctions Committee

The Live and Silent Auctions are vital components in the success of our Annual Benefit Gala that raises scholarship dollars for Preschool tuition assistance or reduced-fee Counseling services. Committee members secure uniquely appealing items that bring in well over \$30,000 every year.

Preschool Open Houses

Alumni families of our Preschool are especially encouraged to attend the open houses so that new prospective parents can get a sense of our community and what Smart Love will mean for their child's healthy and happy emotional, social, and intellectual development.

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NEWS

Renewing Our Partnership in Oak Park



Smart Love is honored to renew and expand our funding relationship with the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, known to us as the CMHB. The original funder of the Minority Family Program, the CMHB has awarded a 2019-2020 fee-for-service contract to Smart Love to continue this acclaimed program with \$14,000 allocated to serve Oak Park residents in the parent and youth groups, along with individual parent coaching sessions.

One unplanned benefit of the CMHB's investment in the MFP is that although its funds can only be used to serve families who live in Oak Park itself, that funding enables the program to be robust enough that the parent and youth groups welcome participants from farther afield. In just the past three months, residents of communities as near as Forest Park, Berwyn, and Austin to those as far away as Englewood, Little Village, and Maywood have been actively engaged in this unique program.

This year, for the first time we have expanded our direct partnership with CMHB by being awarded \$10,000 for six months of individual weekly therapy sessions for children from 6 to 12 who do not have health insurance. With roughly 17% of Oak Park residents having no health insurance—generally due to having too high a family income for Medicaid and being unable to afford private-sector insurance—the CMHB seeks to insure that every Oak Park family can find the care their child needs but cannot access. We are grateful for their creativity in supporting our work for this vulnerable group of children.

The staff and board of the CMHB fund and assist an amazing number of organizations that serve Oak Park - a total of 32 this year alone - and we greatly appreciate to be among those whose work is made possible by their commitment to their community.



Community Mental Health Board

of Oak Park Township

Supporter Spotlight BEN HEINEMAN, JR. AND CRISTINE RUSSELL

Among our many generous supporters, Smart Love is honored to recognize Ben Heineman, Jr. and Cristine Russell for their outstanding support of all that we do. From throughout Ben's career, from his early days as a freshman reporter for the *Chicago Sun Times* during the 1968 riots, his long service as chief counsel for General Electric, and his writing and teaching on corporate governance, and in Cristine's distinguished career as a journalist reporting on major health, medical and science news, they have always maintained a profound commitment to charitable causes, especially those that serve children and families.



Ben Heineman, Jr, Martha Heineman Pieper, and Cristine Russell

Their connection to improving children's lives runs deep. As Ben pointed out at the dedication of Smart Love's new home, he and Cristine's support is continuing the 80+ years of remarkable dedication and energy his family has invested in children's well-being. Ben noted that his parents, Ben and Natalie Heineman "believed deeply that the welfare of every child—from every socio-economic group—depended on a loving, nurturing, supportive and affirmative family and school experience in early childhood", and his mother spent countless hours of her life in support of the Child Welfare League of America and other organizations. That family legacy continues, first with the naming of our preschool, The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool, and now our new home, the Ben & Natalie Heineman Smart Love Center. We are honored to have received a major gift from Ben and Cristine to name Smart Love's new home in Chicago's vibrant Logan Square neighborhood in honor of his parents—and grateful for their continued annual support.

Ben's other familial tie to Smart Love is that his sister is Dr. Martha Heineman Pieper, co-developer of the Smart Love® approach to child development that is the bedrock of our values and services. Like her brother, Dr. Pieper continues the Heineman family commitment of care for children and families, and we will ever be grateful for what these two siblings mean to all that we do at Smart Love.

Another Way to Help!

If you are a member of Thrivent, you can support Smart Love through Thrivent Choice, their member-directed charitable giving program! You can learn more about it at www.thrivent.com/choice



NEWS

Little Feet, Big Fun 2019 — 2019 Gala Supporters Celebrating Gala Success!





With heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the donors to our Silent and Live Auctions and all who generously bid and raised their paddles, Smart Love is delighted to report that Little Feet, Big Fun!, our 2019 Annual Benefit Gala was a fantastic success! We not only had an even larger crowd than last year, but the net revenues of the gala were up 15%.

These results mean that Smart Love will be able to significantly increase our direct underwriting of services for children and families with financial challenges. Whether providing tuition assistance for preschool or reducing the costs for therapy in our counseling program, the Gala's proceeds are a vital component of our ability to serve 900+ families in 2019.

Along with our Auction donors and all those who joined us this year for the gala we also want to thank our excellent co-chairs Jennifer Fisher and Kelly Partenheimer, our sponsors First American Bank and The Billing Company, the gala committee, and table hosts.

Sponsors



The Billing Company

Gold

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Diane Yetter **Champions**

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OUR LOCATIONS





TO LEARN MORE VISIT www.smartlovefamily.org www.smartlovepreschool.org

Smart Love Programs

COUNSELING SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Natalie G. Heineman

LEARNING SERVICES

- Therapeutic Tutoring Customized Parent Consultation

PARENTING

SMART LOVE.

Natalie & Ben Heineman Smart Love Center



2222 N. Kedzie Blvd.



The Smart Love Approach was developed by Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D., and William J. Pieper, M.D., and is described in their book Smart Love. The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool offers classes for three to six year olds, and parent and child programs for children six weeks to 36 months. Smart Love Family Services provides counseling for children and families based on the Piepers' therapeutic approach, Inner Humanism®. Parenting programs include private parent coaching, educational seminars (co-sponsored by the Intrapsychic Humanism Society), parent training and support programs, and publications. © 2019 Smart Love Family Services is an Illinois-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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