

2025
ANNUAL REPORT
HEARTS ALIGNED INC.

Giving Hope



HEARTS *aligned*
supporting critically ill children
www.heartsaligned.org

PO BOX 901, GOLETA, CA 93116 • 805-570-3155 • HEARTSALIGNED.ORG



Making a Meaningful Impact

Dear Donors, Friends and our Caring Community,

Because of your support, 2025 was a year of meaningful growth and deepened impact for Hearts Aligned.

Together, we served 125 families with critically ill children, impacting 469 individuals across Santa Barbara County. **The average annual income of the families we served was \$36,167, thus underscoring the financial vulnerability many families face while navigating a child's critical illness.**

Every day we hear stories of children diagnosed with various illness such as Ezra and Azriel, twin boys born at 26 weeks gestation (14 weeks before their mother's due date); Kayla with spina bifida causing hydrocephalus; Hector who is not quite a year old and awaiting a kidney transplant; and Johanna who has a genetic birth defect and has been under hospice care since her birth. These are real children (often babies) that struggle and fight to stay alive each and every day. Their families never expected their children to be born with any of these conditions. A child born 3 months before their due date results in an unexpected and extended hospital stay for the babies, typically a 3-month stay in the hospital, and mom is there each and every day which means she stopped work at least 2 months before she was planning to stop. Kayla has spent 1/3 of her life in the hospital.

When a family is already doing everything they can just to make ends meet, and then they hear

the words that their child has a critical illness or condition, their world changes in an instant. This is where Hearts Aligned steps in. We can't change a diagnosis, but we can stand beside families through it. We can help ease some of the financial stress so parents can focus on what matters most - their child. We listen when they need someone to talk to. We connect them to resources and support they may not even know exist. For families who don't speak English, we can help them find their voice—so they can advocate for their child and better understand their child's care.

Most importantly, we walk with them. Every step of the way. This is how we make a difference. This is how we lift up families when they need it most. This is how we strengthen and empower our community.

Gratefully,



Colleen Scitolini
BOARD
PRESIDENT



Vivian Solodkin
FOUNDER AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR MISSION:

We help families with critically ill children living in Santa Barbara County by providing financial assistance, family support and advocacy.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Families are provided immediate direct financial assistance up to \$3,000 for bills. This includes rental assistance, utilities, car loan payments, car insurance, lodging, and child necessities. We provide emergency food vouchers and gas cards for families to travel to and from hospitals.



FAMILY SUPPORT:

Hearts Aligned assists families by securing items such as transportation for upcoming medical appointments. We provide additional resources/referrals to other local organizations with items such as baby equipment, clothing, diapers, wipes, food and other necessities. We deliver items from our partnering organizations to families across the county.



ADVOCACY:

We work closely with families, social workers, and medical professionals to understand each child's diagnosis and post-hospital care needs. We continue to follow up with families for up to one year, ensuring they feel supported and are connected to the appropriate resources. We empower families to advocate for their child's needs by providing guidance, information, and ongoing support.

ENHANCED CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Hearts Aligned became an Enhanced Care Management provider for CenCal Health, strengthening our ability to support families with critically ill children through a more comprehensive, coordinated approach. While case management has always been central to our work, this partnership allows us to deepen that support by establishing personalized goals with each family and helping them navigate the complexities of their child's long-term care. We work closely with medical providers to ensure families are accessing the care they need and staying connected to critical appointments, while continuing our in-person visits and linking families to trusted community resources. Through this expanded level of care, we are not only meeting immediate needs, but helping families build stability and confidence for the road ahead.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Sitolini, President
Brigitte Welty, Vice President
Lucy Kohansamad, Treasurer
Jonathan Pickert, Secretary
Thomas Fisher

Shannon Garton
DeeDee Nussmeier
Catherine Remak
Heather Sherman
Vivian Solodkin



Hearts Aligned is a unique organization that focuses on a multitude of critical illnesses. We are the only organization that has this broader reach.

Our Partnerships with LEAP and Mothers' Helpers

In 2025, with support from a grant from CommonSpirit/ Dignity Health, we partnered with LEAP and Mothers' Helpers to provide diapers and essential baby equipment to low-income families in Northern Santa Barbara County. This collaboration was inspired by a CommonSpirit study that identified a significant gap in resources for these underserved communities.

Through our partnership with LEAP, we established a mini diaper bank, providing diaper distributions every two weeks. LEAP guided the program by sharing its established distribution model used in Goleta and Lompoc, along with a scheduling and tracking system that ensured efficient and consistent support. Through this program, we provided diapers to families caring for a critically ill child as well as any siblings in the household under the age of three. **Over an eight-month period, we distributed more than 10,000 diapers to 50 children from 38 families.**

Our collaboration with Mothers' Helpers ensured that families with critically ill or premature newborns received essential baby equipment before leaving the hospital. While providing these items is a core part of



Mothers' Helpers' mission, this partnership made it possible for them to purchase equipment specifically for Hearts Aligned families when items were not available in their inventory.

Although families with twins are less common, in 2025 we supported five sets of twins, each receiving double strollers with car seats. In addition, we provided four infant car seats, two infant strollers, six stroller and car seat combinations, and two convertible car seats to families in need.

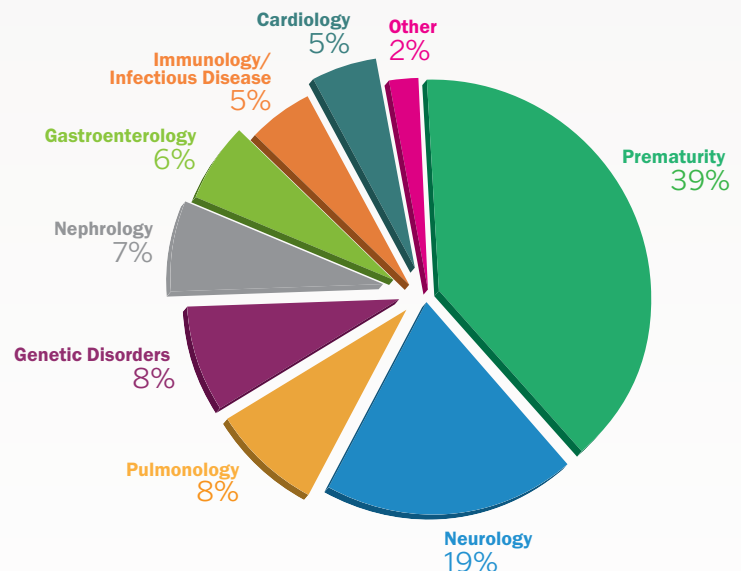


MORE THAN 75% OF THE CHILDREN WE SERVE ARE UNDER 3 YEARS OLD

“ We have never forgotten the incredible kindness you and Hearts Aligned showed us during such a difficult season. Your support, especially when you helped us with our mortgage while we were focused on Christopher's care, meant more to us than words can express. That compassion carried us through some very challenging days, and we remain deeply thankful. ”

—Mike, Christopher's father

CRITICAL ILLNESSES



\$36,167 IS THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF THE FAMILIES WE SERVE

Melanie's Journey with Hearts Aligned



Melanie has cerebral palsy and in 2025 was diagnosed with a severe case of scoliosis. Melanie was scheduled for surgery in Los Angeles to help with her scoliosis. What should have been a 5-day hospital stay turned into a 5-month critical care stay. Her family was significantly impacted not only financially but emotionally. They had to travel from their home in Santa Maria while they stayed in Los Angeles to be with Melanie during this time.

Melanie's parents, Norma and Jesus, had to take turns staying with Melanie's younger siblings while she was hospitalized. They also had to make the painful decision to leave their high school senior at home to continue school so he could graduate.



Hearts Aligned helped Melanie's family with rent, gas and grocery cards to assist with their out-of-town expenses. We paid their electricity bill, which was very high due to all the lifesaving machinery Melanie uses including a feeding machine, suction machine, nebulizer machine, and medical bed.

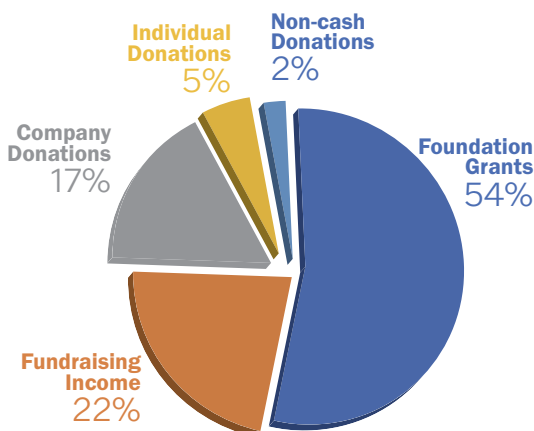


We also helped them apply for the utility's CARE Program and Medical Baseline Program, which ensures the lowest electricity rate due to the medical equipment Melanie relies on at home. This is a long-term strategy that will assist in further reducing their electricity bill.

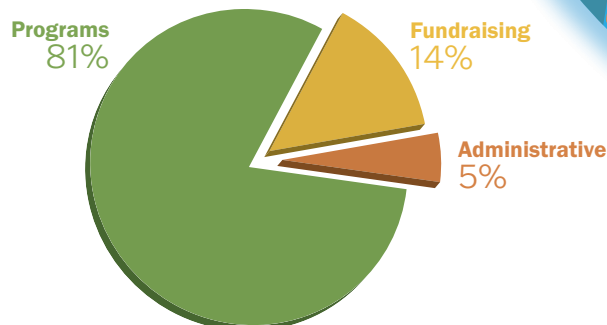
The family was not anticipating living out of town for 5 months, where dad could not work, so we reached out to our partners at The Starfish Connection, to help this family with additional rent support and they graciously approved.

Many thanks to the wonderful support from local foundations, companies and individuals who have contributed to the mission of assistance to families with a critically ill child.

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Adopt-A-Family for Christmas

In December, Hearts Aligned hosted its first Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program, bringing together **41 sponsors to support 45 families** in our community. Sponsors generously shopped from personalized wish lists, ensuring each child received thoughtful gifts—many receiving more than they otherwise would have during a difficult season.

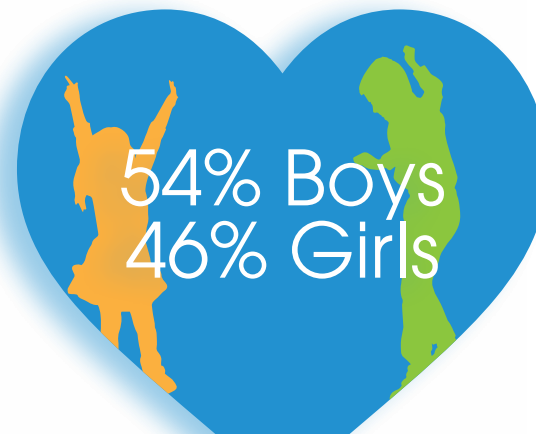


For parents navigating their child's medical appointments and hospitalizations, the holidays can feel especially overwhelming. Many families shared they were not planning to celebrate due to financial strain. Through the compassion of our community, these gifts brought not only joy, but also a renewed sense of hope and encouragement during an incredibly challenging time.

We are also deeply grateful to Michelle Erickson of Mothers' Helpers for her guidance and for generously sharing space and resources to make this program possible.



This inaugural effort was a meaningful reminder of what community can do, and we look forward to continuing this tradition and bringing joy to even more families in 2026.



Special Thanks for our 2025 Donors

\$50,000 and over

CenCal Health
Dignity Health, a Member of
CommonSpirit Health
The Grassini Family
Charitable Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Mark and Dorothy Smith
Family Foundation
Santa Barbara Association
of Realtors (SBAOR)
Sisters of St Francis
Partnership Fund
The Patricia & Paul Bragg
Foundation
The Roy & Ida Eagle
Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Greene Family Foundation
Herbert & Bui Simon
Foundation Inc.
Peter & Vivian Solodkin
The Edwin & Jeanne Woods
Family Foundation
Village Properties

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Chevron Products Company
Cottage Health
Michael DeGusta
& Sally Morgan
Kristina Huberman
Latkin Charitable Foundation
Mark & DeeDee Nussmeier
Amie Parrish Brallier
Rudi & Berta Schulte Angels
Santa Ynez Band
of Chumash Indians
The Ann Jackson Family
Foundation
The Henry W. Bull
Foundation
Yardi Systems, Inc.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

David & Deborah Arviso
Casa Dorinda
Charities Aid Foundation of
America C/O CyberGrants
LLC
Thomas Fisher
Kensington Investment
Council
Colonel Sean Magee
Igor & Adriana Mezc
Montecito Bank & Trust
Ashley Parker Snider
Rudi Schulte
Family Foundation
Santa Barbara Foundation
The Starfish Connection
Alain & Brigitte Welty
Corey & Patty Wendt
Zegar Family Fund

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Action Roofing
Company LLC
Carmen Benz
Louise Borgatello
Kathy Borgatello-Koeper
Tim & Louise Casey
Mike & Ruth Cavaletto
Central Coast Home
Health and Hospice
Elisabeth Crain
Janyce Creery
Crutcher Family
Foundation
Christine Doyle
Mark & Patti Duell
Easy Lift Transportation
David Edelman
Patty Evans
First American Title
Insurance
Patricia Forrest
Forte Stone LLC
Melissa Franzen
Sharon Fritz
Renee Grubb
Hayward Lumber
Andrea Holland
Kelly Jensen
Sharon Jordano
Layla Khashoggi
Lynn Kirst
Lucy Kohansamad
Rob & Linda Laskin
Margaret Lloyd
Traci Miller
Bibi Moezzi
Karen Motaghedi
Northern Trust
Marie Nussmeier
Pacific Premier Bank
Pattis Himovitz Family
Giving Fund
Jonathan Pickert
Yvonne Ramos
Darcie Richardson
Rotary Club of Montecito
Santa Barbara Ponds
Diane Sheldon
Michael Sherman
Roberta Solodkin
The Allstate Foundation
Anne Towbes
Petra Valenzuela
Louie Valenzuela
Ben Valenzuela, Jr.
VNA Health
Ron & Mary Werft

\$500 - \$999

Yolanda Angulo
Sarah Anticouni
Daniel Babai
Kerri Boeddeker
Jackie Carrera
Mary Anne Chambers
Velma Chan
Karen Christman
Peter & Bonnie Curtin
Brian Davis
Julie Davis, PA
Gwen Dawson
Shannon Garton
Janice Gehret
Bernice Gelberg
Katie Grassini
Beatriz R. Herrera
Anthony & Norma
Herrera
Brad Hope
Juliana Horton
Page Howard Fleming
Incyte
Jill James
Mike & Kerry Kelly
Kent & Michelle Krabill
Brenda Lang
Diana Langley
Victoria Lindstrom
Sandy Louie
Christina Magee
Nissy Mahmoud
Mike & Rhonda
McFarlane
Cristi Michelon Vasquez
Earl Minnis
Jorge Morales
Jeffrey Oien
David Peterson
Josh & Alex Rabinowitz
Sandy Reid
Catherine Remak
Jeremy & Kathryn
Roberts
Rotary Club of Goleta
John Savrnoch
Andrea Shaparenko
Sarice Silverberg
Paulo & Colleen Sitolini
Steven Van Scoy
Linda Vannier
Lydia Vilkins
Jonathan Wimbish

\$100 to \$499

Stephanie Andrade
Meichelle Arntz
Lin Aubuchon
Amy Bailey
Bruce & Rita Bailey
Christine Banderas
Valerie Banks
Nicole Barry
Bridget Benenate
Lindsey Black
Natalie
Blackmore-Azria
Alexandra
Bongiovanni
Kristi Bordeaux
Paula Bottiani
Garin Bougie
Maria Bravo
Tom & Judi Brooks
Aaron Brophy
Bonny Bryan
Bob Bryant
Rhonda Bucci
Bridgette Bugay
Cristina Caratachea
Lee Carlander
Rebecca Carroll
Citizens Business
Bank
Bob Contons
John Corby
Elaine Cox
Michael & Daniela
Daoud
Jake DelRosso
Tyler Dobson
Domestic Violence
Solutions
Lynne Early
Gloria Easter
Cindy Elster
Michelle Erickson
Tonie Esteban
Farmers & Merchants
Bank
Martha Fling
Doe Florsheim
Gary Ford
Risa Gaddis
Emily Garcia
Charlene Garfinkle
Thomas Garner
Janet Garufis
Devyn Gehret
Christie Glanville
Mary Beth Gomez
Patricia Griffin
Adrienne Grover
Natalie Grubb
Campbell
Christopher Hansson
Thi Harmand
Jodi Harris
Kachina Heil
Katie Hoegh-Guldberg
Hospice of
Santa Barbara

Jan Ingram
Ruth Jackson
Dianne Johnson
Katie Jones
Madhu Khemani
Deborah Kruse
Anne Marie
Kucera-Sablock
Jaime Kuczkowski
Ashleigh Lamberti
Mary Landsberg
Heather Laskin
Rod Lathim
Kenneth Loggins
Diana MacFarlane
Sgt. Major Michael &
Esther Magee
Kristen Maggitti
Molly Markstrum
Lailan McGrath
Angela Miller-Bevan
Rochelle Mirabello
Mitch Morehart
Roberta Morris
Cheri Nagle
Mary Nishimoto
Patricia C. Nunez
Jill O'Gorman
Kaitlyn Olson
Kimberly Olson
Tessa Ortega
Colleen Osab
Steve Ozab
Kate Phelan
Julie Pickert
Drew Ponce
Anne Rizzoli
Carol & DavidRoe
Victoria Roth
Rob & Rhonda Rza
Rhonda Schneider
Shelley Schulte
Kristine Schwarz
Arcelia Sencion
Kieran Shah
Courtney Shannon
Tammy Sims Johnson
Ana Sitolini
Brittany Sloan
Michael Smith
Martha Solodkin
Terry & Lee Stutheit
Maria Suriano
Tracy Thomas
Sabrina Tinajero
Daniel Torres
Tim Tremblay
Benjamin Valenzuela
Denise Valenzuela
Tanya Valenzuela
Tad & Linda Varesio
Scott Whiteley
Monica Williams
Kate Winn-Rogers

"Hearts Aligned has helped me tremendously when I needed it the most. You came to my home with a large box of diapers, wipes, grocery card, and car payment right after we were in the hospital. You can't understand how much it means to me, all the help I have received from Hearts Aligned."

-Monique, Ezekiel's Mother



Hearts Aligned Staff:

Viri Carrasco,
Leticia Sanchez,
Sandra Padilla

The Luncheon Committee Members are:

Kachina Heil, Drew Ponce,
Margaret Lloyd,
Shannon Garton,
Colleen Sitolini,
Kirsten Stuart,
Amie Brallier,
Vivian Solodkin,
Valerie Banks,
Anna Beebe Wilkens,
Brigitte Welty,
Heather Sherman,
David Edelman

Photography by
Richard Garnica,
RG Photography



4th Annual Hearts to Hearts Valentine's Luncheon

Our 4th Annual Hearts to Hearts Valentine's Luncheon was a huge success—raising over \$230,000 to help families with critically ill children. Over 250 guests were in attendance to support the community we serve. Guests enjoyed a silent auction, our very popular wine pull, and exciting raffle prizes

We were fortunate to have the powerful duo of Catherine Remak, KLITE 101.7 and Janet Garufis, Chairman and CEO Montecito Bank & Trust as our MC and Auctioneer. We honored Melanie and her family as we presented their heartfelt story in a video about their journey the past year. We ended the afternoon honoring four social workers from Cottage Hospital who have been advocates for families—Regina Medina, Devon Nelson, Cassandra Ramhap, and Christine Walker. Their support for local families is tremendous.

We're deeply grateful to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for making this day so meaningful. Your generosity is truly making a difference in the lives of the families we serve.

Save the  Date 2027
HEARTS
to hearts
VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

February 12, 2027 at the Rosewood Miramar

Hearts Aligned Inc.

PO Box 901 • Goleta, CA 93116 • (805) 679-5505

2323 De La Vina Street, Suite 106, Santa Barbara, CA 93105 • 338 Betteravia Road, Suite A, Santa Maria, CA 93454