

Smart Love® Newsletter

Celebrating 20 Years of Service to Families



On March 11, 2022, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary at the Mid-America Club—the first in-person event since 2019. The Gala crowd buzzed with excitement as friends caught up with one another and generously bid on auction items and raised their paddles to exceed our goal for the evening, raising over \$143,000. The bounty from our friends and supporters was truly amazing and we could not be more grateful. Event proceeds will assist families in accessing Smart Love’s counseling, preschool, therapeutic tutoring and *It Takes A Village* support program for families of color.

Led by our outstanding co-chairs Cecelia Pikul and Laura Tanaka, the weeks of planning and preparing for this milestone event proved more than worth it. Together our volunteers and staff created the perfect setting for celebrating 20 years of service and honoring Dr. Martha Heineman Pieper whose research, clinical experience, and vision has continued to inspire and guide all our work since our founding.

Smart Love is grateful to the co-chairs and the members of the Auction Committee: Sarah Ambrose, Carla Beatrice, Louise Benzer, Mike Conway, Bill Cosper,

Kiersten Essenpreis, Mari and Brandon Fair, Carolyn Friedman, Amber Guenther, Natalie Clark and Nathan Hinshaw, Diana Jackson, Katie Karn, Lauren and Nick Lucius, Kelly Perez, and Katie and Kevin Wohlgenant. Special thanks also to our auctioneer Brett Walkow, and all those who supported and helped make this fantastic evening possible.



We Do More for Your Money.



PROGRAM UPDATE

Great News on the Funding Front!

Smart Love is honored and grateful to have received recent grants from three key foundation and public agency partners.

The trustees of the Bowman C. Lingle Charitable Trust at BMO Harris awarded Smart Love a grant of \$18,000 to support our primary programs. These resources will be essential in ensuring that we will continue to provide the best in services and programs. Contributions like this as general operating support enable us to implement improvements ranging from the adoption of the new and very capable Theranest client data management system to rebuilding

the Preschool's entrance ramps and gates in more sustainable and weather-proof materials—among many others.

Our *It Takes A Village* (ITAV) program serving parents and families of color just received a renewed grant of \$15,000 from the Westlake Health Foundation. With the purpose of enabling ITAV to serve more families from across Proviso Township, this grant will be extremely important as the program transitions back to in-person from the virtual format in which it has functioned since March 2020—which we hope may begin as early as this year.

Sustaining its longstanding funding for ITAV, the Community Mental Health Board (CMHB) of Oak Park Township has awarded Smart Love \$10,000 for services provided to residents of Oak Park. As the original funder of this unique program, the CMHB's financial, intellectual, and relationship-building support has been vital to ITAV's success for more than five years now.

We deeply appreciate these investments in the strength and vitality of our programs and what this support means for those we can serve thanks to these funding commitments.

It Takes A Village Expands



It Takes A Village (ITAV), our unique therapeutically-facilitated peer-to-peer support and coaching program for parents and children of families of color is continuing to diversify its offerings to provide resources for families on the West Side and near-western suburbs.

ITAV is also growing its operations and client support. The reorganization of the ITAV team and operating structure to accommodate the growth in groups has been paired with the vastly improved capabilities offered by our new client portal. These improvements are allowing us to provide swifter intake and internal referrals, connect clients with other necessary services and—most of all—reach out even more effectively into the communities ITAV serves. We have seen significant increases in inquiries about ITAV and referrals from partner agencies and schools.

In February 2022, a new program for multicultural/multiracial parents was added as a fourth group component within ITAV, joining

Finding Strength Together, the group for Black parents, *Mi Familia*, the group for Spanish-speaking parents; and the *Multicultural Youth Group*, which serves children 6–18 years old from diverse backgrounds.

Partnerships with local non-profits are helping more families access our ITAV programming.

- Hephzibah Children's Association in Oak Park provides comprehensive services for children and families in crisis like group homes, foster care, day care, and adoption services.
- Chicago House and Community Services provides housing and supportive services for families impacted by HIV/AIDS in the Austin community.

To learn more, please visit www.smartlovefamily.org/fsp.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Annual & Program Fund

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

Emily & Robert Carroll
Cristine Russell & Ben W. Heineman

GUARANTORS

Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
Katherine L. Knight
Bowman C. Lingle Trust
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
Westlake Health Foundation

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

20th Anniversary Gala Attendees

Our deepest thanks to all who so generously supported our 20th Anniversary Gala!

SPONSORS

First American Bank
Christy Webber Landscaping

PLATINUM

Emily & Robert Carroll

GOLD

Cecelia Pikul & Thomas Gallagher
Amber & Jeremy Guenther
Sara & Ty Johnson
Katie & Ted Karn
Jean Klingenstein
Jean & Charles Murphy

SILVER

Carla Beatrici
Gloria & Bruce Cox
Carolyn & David Friedman
Scott Hudson
Brian Kirkbride
Corinna & Rodrigo Lema
Philaine & David Nexon
Anne & Stephen Rowley
Michael Santa Cruz

BRONZE

Chris & Ed Campbell
Diana & Robert Jackson
Katherine L. Knight
Martha Heineman Pieper
Susan & Richard H. Sanders
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Patty Ryan & Steve Weber
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Laura & Matthew Tanaka

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Christa Chavez & Stephen Martay
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Mari & Brandon Fair
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Kristi & Jim Johnson
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Mae & Rod Kingzette
Sushma & Ravi Marur
Kelly & Juan Perez
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Margaret & Larry Sondler
Shirley & Robert Spencer
Dan Swinney
Martha Swisher
Neide & Mark Terrill
Lisalyn & Keith Tristano
Dr. Margaret Trybus
Maria & Markus Wimmer
Diane Yetter

PROGRAM UPDATE

Meeting the Learning Needs of Students



Since July of 2021 enrollment in Smart Love’s Therapeutic Tutoring services has tripled with more and more inquiries coming in each month. To meet the demand, Smart Love is hiring additional tutors and increasing our outreach to inform parents and schools of our unique program. Our approach to tutoring offers children academic tutoring in a therapeutic context providing them space to address their feelings surrounding school in a constructive manner. In this way, children become unburdened so that they can better focus on their studies.

“Whatever you are doing is absolutely working and is bringing out her confidence and desire to do better.”

– Parent of child enrolled in Therapeutic Tutoring

Tomatoes, Spinach, Lettuce & More - Smart Love’s Garden Is in Full Bloom!

Since April our “gardeners” have been busy preparing for the growing season by setting up the greenhouse, mixing organic soil into our garden beds, and starting seeds in the classrooms. The care and patience that the children provide to the plants and flowers serves as a wonderful model for their own self-care, while also offering an abundance of learning in math, science, language arts, nutrition, and more. The curriculum offers the children lots of room to make decisions about the garden. For example, when asked where to plant our wild flowers, the children thought that our playground fence needed some color! Their curiosity and love of learning blossomed as they pondered, “I wonder what we will find underneath the grass?” while they turned over the soil in preparation for their flower seeds. Throughout the late spring and summer months children begin to realize their hard work as they harvest the fruits and vegetables they helped to plant and nurture.



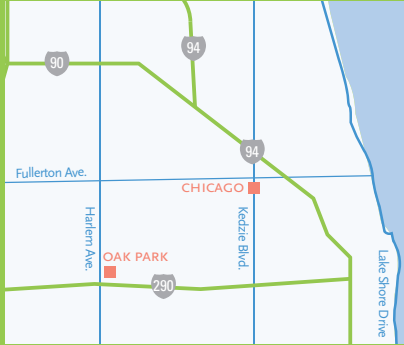


SMART LOVE[®]

FAMILY SERVICES

Natalie & Ben Heineman Smart Love Center

2222 N. Kedzie Blvd., Chicago, IL 60647 | 773.665.8052, ext. 130



OUR LOCATIONS

Chicago • Oak Park



TO LEARN MORE VISIT

www.smartlovetfamily.org

www.smartlovetpreschool.org

Smart Love Programs

COUNSELING SERVICES

- Therapy for Children, Adolescents, and Adults
- Play Therapy for Young Children
- Support Groups for Children and Adults
- Neuro-Psychological and Psychological Testing
- Couples and Family Counseling

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Natalie G. Heineman
Smart Love Preschool

- Preschool and Kindergarten for Children 3-6 years
- Playschool for Children 2-3 years
- Summer Camp

LEARNING SERVICES

- Psycho-Educational and Learning Assessments
- Therapeutic Tutoring
- Customized Parent Consultation

PARENTING & COMMUNITY

- Parent Coaching and Counseling
- Webinars
- Publications and Resources
- Parent and Youth Groups

Smart Love Resources for Parents & Families!

Smart Love provides a wealth of information on parenting and child development for families via our website's Community & Parenting Resources page.

- **Blogs:** *Through Your Child's Eyes* provides insights into how children understand their world at each age and stage.
- **Webinars:** *In the Pursuit of Happiness* quarterly series featuring Smart Love clinicians, key staff, and guest speakers offering insights, sharing perspectives, and answering questions submitted by the public.
- **Video Library:** Peruse past webinars and other videos in our video library.
- **Smart Love Publications:** Access your own copies of *Smart Love: The Comprehensive Guide to Understanding, Regulating and Enjoying your Child*, Q&A Handbooks, children storybooks, and other publications by Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D. and William J. Pieper, M.D.
- **Parent Coaching and Counseling:** Personal parenting support is offered in confidential one-on-one sessions with our counseling staff.

Learn more at <https://www.smartlovetfamily.org/smart-love-parenting-programs>

FREE Summer Lawn Party!

A FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZA!

Saturday, June 25, 2022 | 10am-1pm
2222 N. Kedzie Blvd

OUTDOOR SUMMER FUN AND GAMES
FEATURING MICHAEL'S MUSIC MACHINE

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 Comprehensive Guide to Understanding, Regulating and Enjoying your Child* (2011). Smart Love Family Services is an Illinois-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. ©2022