

Since 1951, Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service (PFH) has made a powerful difference in Peoria, and beyond. We have a heritage filled with stories of how we bring hope and dignity into people's lives. Our Advocacy, Coaching, Education and Support approach provides wrap-around services supported by short and long-term coaching for individuals and families living in deep poverty. We provide valuable services, such as food, clothing, youth education, adult education, employment preparation, and finance and employment coaching, while encouraging lasting change for those we serve. We are dedicated to providing hope and guidance that offers a "hand-up" rather than handouts.

SOLVING PROBLEMS



Education

21% of District 150 children are performing at grade level in Math
91% of our STEAMS children are performing at grade level in Math



Financial Stability

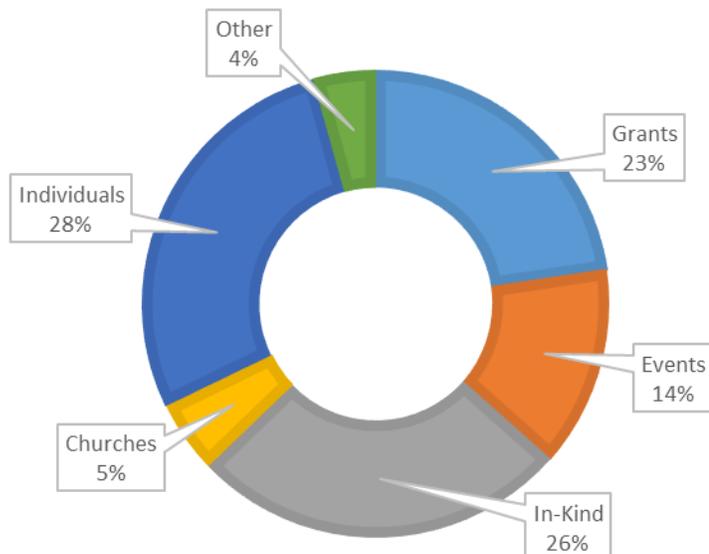
50,000 meals served
60 Job placements
40 GED Participants



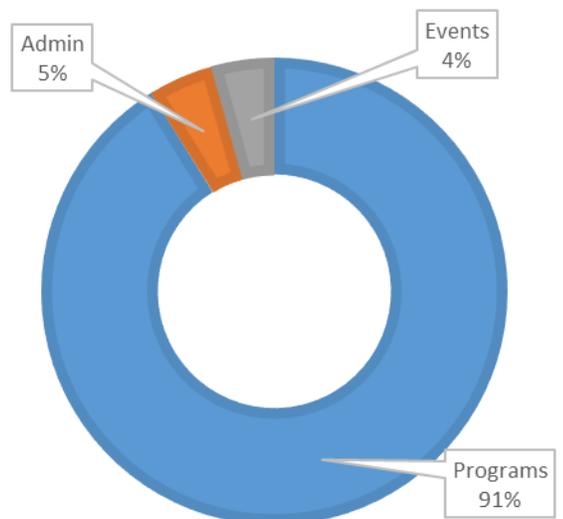
Health

400 Medical examinations
300 in Healthy Eating classes

DONOR SUPPORT



COMMUNITY IMPACT



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PROGRAMS

We offer individualized advocacy, coaching, education and support to everyone who walks through our doors. It is a holistic approach towards a path to overcome poverty through wrap-around services provided by short and long-term coaching. Individuals and families desiring to improve their circumstances work alongside our Program Managers and create an achievement plan towards overcoming issues and improving their lives. PFH collaborates with other agencies to assist in areas of resources that we do not directly provide.

STEAMS Academy: an after school program for Kindergarten through 8th graders that focuses on increasing learning potential with a concentration on one-on-one tutoring, enrichment activities and service learning opportunities. It features the STEAMS curriculum, which includes FIRST® LEGO® League, allowing the children to research, design, and build a LEGO® robot. Our goal is that the children grow to love learning and look beyond simply passing their school courses, but dream to excel far beyond. When school is out for the summer, we provide an eight week Summer Camp program focusing on leadership development that provides four consecutive 2-week camp themes with an enriching diverse program in a fun and safe environment. The children learn about healthy living, giving back to one's community through service learning, and social and emotional well-being.

La Familia (Latino Outreach): We are proud to serve our Latino community. For over 25 years, we have established a great relationship with our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters. Translation services, immigration services, events have helped us to strengthen our community as a whole.

Financial Stability: A career and personal finance service center that helps low to moderate-income people build smart money habits and focus on the financial bottom line.

Adult Education: Over 45% of the people who come to PFH do not have a High School Diploma or GED. We provide GED classes in English and Spanish, so that obstacles such as transportation, hesitation in signing up through a community college system or lack of confidence, are lessened.

Health Support Services: Many of our Friends would go years without medical attention if it were not for our Health Support Services program.

Friday Night Takeout: A daily food distribution program that provides over 50,000 meals per year to hungry men, women and children.

The Killer Bees: Our basketball team consists primarily of grade school aged children from the Taft Homes, which is in walking distance of Friendship House. Our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters allows us to match each child to a mentor who helps them to navigate the life obstacles that children of their age need help with understanding in order to feel secure about their future and safety.

TESTIMONIALS



A local family has been providing beds and bedding for local children for the past 5 years. They call it the "Sugar Plum Project." The woman who started it is a retired social worker. Before she retired, she accompanied the police on a removal of a child from an abusive situation. While in the home, she was helping the little girl gather her things, and noticed she didn't have a bed. She asked the little girl, who was about 10 years old, "Where do you sleep?" Her response changed the woman's life; "I just ball up my school clothes and sleep on top of them." The woman vowed to God that she wouldn't go another year without buying a bed for a child in need. She partnered with Friendship House and has provided hundreds of beds for local children in need. This past December, her and her family changed the lives of 107 children.

One of the 3rd graders in our STEAMS Academy has struggled in multiple subjects in schools. Through the use of MobyMax online learning, we were able to complete a "pinpoint" assessment to discover his skills gaps. Then we helped him create a tailored tutoring curriculum that he worked on daily. We reached out to his teacher to provide us with his current lessons and we were able to add those to his tutoring curriculum. We recently received a copy of his mid-year report card, and we were delighted to see that he had increased his performance by TWO letter grades in the subjects where he struggled. All the hard work that he put in at STEAMS Academy and at school did not go unnoticed. He received the most improved student award for the month of January at his school. The award included box tickets at a Bradley Basketball game and recognition during half time.

