



# 2017 Annual Report

Hands Across the Water

# Our Mission



Hands Across The Water is dedicated to building and supporting families, committed to the belief that every child deserves a home and loving family.

---

## Our Programs



Foster Care



In-Home Parent Education



Domestic Adoption  
(infant and state ward)



Mental Health Services



International Adoption



Pregnancy Support &  
Counseling

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,  
This past year has been a year of growth and change for the staff and clients of HATW. With new leadership, programs and a two-fold increase in clients served, HATW's future continues to shine brightly.

In December 2016, I was so incredibly honored to have been hired to succeed HATW's founder, Kathi Nelson, as the Executive Director. As an adoptive parent of two through HATW, (one daughter internationally and a son through our Waiting Child program), and a long time employee, I have a unique and intense dedication to the mission and culture of this agency. Our staff's dedication to inclusiveness, safety, quality services for families and strong ethical guideposts are why we continue to thrive and grow. We look forward to your future involvement in our success in the coming year.

**Katie Page Sander, LMSW**  
*Executive Director*

## Our Board of Directors



**Melissa  
Daneshyar,**  
LMSW -  
President



**Craig Fry, BS -  
Treasurer**



**Rick  
Modglin-Green,**  
MA, BS - Vice  
President &  
Secretary



**Belinda  
Needham,**  
Ph.D.



**Emily Rusnak,**  
Ph.D., CCC-SLP

# Year in Review

**533**

total clients  
were served  
in 2017



**125**

children in southeast Michigan received  
foster care case management services

**100**

families received in-home education and  
prevention resources in Washtenaw,  
Monroe, Lenawee, and Macomb counties



**33**

children  
found their  
“forever  
family”  
through  
finalized  
adoptions



**29**

children in foster care  
were reunified with  
biological parents



Over **30** women  
received free pregnancy  
counseling in 2017



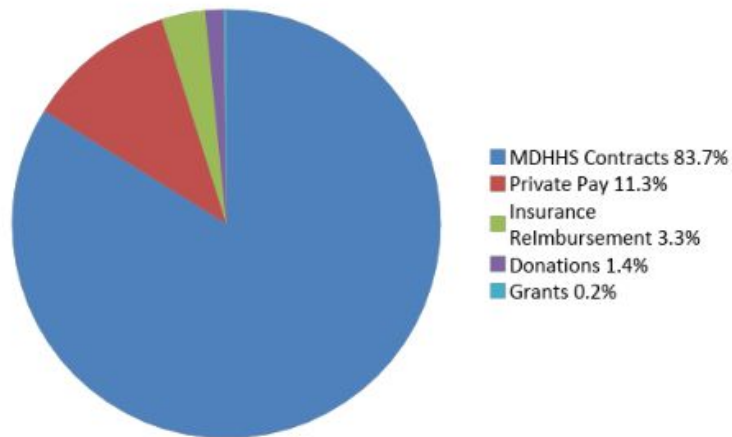
# Highlights from 2017

- In 2017, Hands Across the Water launched its Yoga for Youth project, which provides trauma-sensitive yoga instruction to youth who have experienced foster care or adoption. These lessons are provided at no cost to the families and are generously funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.
- With the support of Galen's Medical Society and Monroe Community Foundation G.R.O.W. Fund, Hands Across the Water opened a Youth Enrichment Fund in 2017. This fund awards grants from \$200-\$250 to Washtenaw and Monroe county youth in foster care to pursue enrichment activities, such as camp, art lessons, or educational trips.
- Hands Across the Water was recognized as a "Leader in Supporting and Serving LGBTQ Youth and Families" by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for the sixth year in a row, one of only two agencies in the state with this designation.
- The Council on Accreditation (COA) granted Hands Across the Water renewed Hague accreditation through 2022 with extremely high ratings of all "1" and "2" ratings - "1" for full compliance in 104 standards and a "2" rating for substantial compliance for 3 standards.

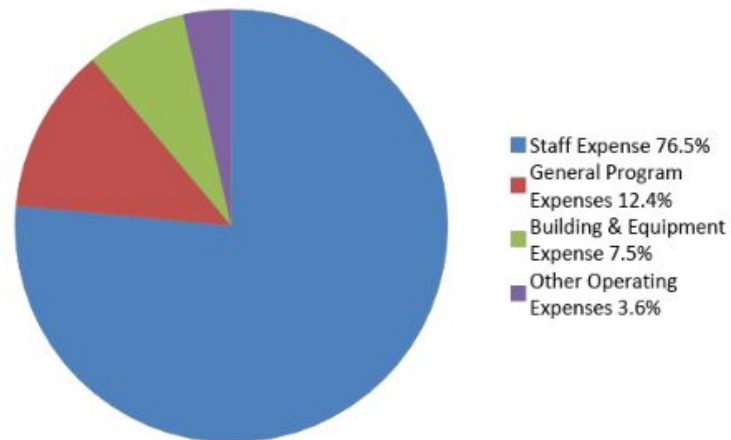


# Statement of Operations

2017 Net Income: **\$179,457.19**



Total Income: \$1,955,185.01



Total Expenses: \$1,765,704.06



# Testimonials

“This is a wonderful agency staffed with wonderful people. They are totally LGBT affirming and have treated us like family.” -**Infant Domestic Adoption Client**

“I never thought I would say this, but this whole Protective Services thing has been a blessing, because it brought you to us and you’ve been so helpful.”  
-**In Home Parent Education Program Client**

“[Our caseworker] made this experience that began as an overwhelming question mark, a fabulous exclamation mark! She is a shining star on this journey.” - **State Adoption Client**

“ I think it's cool how anybody can really do yoga if they try.” -**Yoga for Youth Program Participant**

# 2017 Hands Across the Water Supporters

We wish to thank the following individuals, families, companies, and foundations for their generous support of Hands Across the Water during the 2017 fiscal year.



## **Fiscal Support**

FAAC/Aerotech  
T. Marzetti  
Olivia Fanning  
Deborah and  
Charles Nicholas  
Marcia and  
Richard Chesney  
Linda George  
Arbor Research  
Collaborative for  
Health  
Juliet Rogers and Mary  
Downey  
Jennifer Paley  
Jan Ulrich  
Kelly Kerbawy  
Karin Fujimoto and Tony  
Schirripa  
Akiko Annaka  
Miriam Connolly  
Amazon Smile

Carrie Herbolzheimer  
Kroger  
Philip Santer  
Kapnick Insurance Group  
Michael Gabelman  
Amanda and Storm Ross  
Mark Kieme  
Gretchen Eby and Russell  
DePriest  
Connie Davis  
Susan and Jim Pates  
Deanne Davidson  
Linda Miller  
Lauren Cleveland  
Nicole Herrera  
Joe Messerly  
Hannah Chen  
Tommy Palmer  
Scott Santoni  
Laura Leone  
Cassie Przesmycki  
Roy and Stacy  
Townsend

Elan Dental Group -  
Moeller, PC  
Blaze Pizza  
Kroger  
Chipotle  
University of Michigan  
Athletics  
Katie Page Sander  
Amy Harris  
Jamie Munson  
Matthew and Alyssa  
Sierawski  
Melissa Daneshyar  
Karen Weiss  
John Baugher  
Nancy Munson  
Anonymous  
Lynn McPhee  
Liz Wilkinson  
Kristen and Nick Seguin  
Susan Peterman  
Jess Perkon  
Christine O'Connor

Katie Lopez  
Margaret and James  
Sander  
**In-Kind Donations**  
Heather Gilbert  
Amy Fry  
Cherry Republic  
Panera  
Arby's  
The Ark  
Skateland  
Costco  
Goodrich  
Catching Fireflies  
Busch's Market  
The Henry Ford  
Mancino's  
Chipotle  
Imagine Theater  
Frita Batidos  
Great Harvest  
Lucky's Market  
Quality 16 Cinema

RoosRoast  
Trader Joe's  
West End Grill  
Zingerman's  
Meijer  
Biggby  
Literati  
Jennifer Sharp  
Ann Arbor SPARK  
Emily Rusnak and Bill Loyd  
Big Family of Michigan  
Together We Rise/Toyota  
Harvest Mission Community  
Church  
Kristen and Nick Seguin  
**Grants**  
Michigan Health Endowment  
Fund  
Galen's Medical Society  
Community Foundation of  
Monroe & G.R.O.W Women  
in Philanthropy Fund

**For information on how you can support our mission, contact us at [info@hatw.org](mailto:info@hatw.org) or 734-477-0135**





*Serving children and families since 1999*

**Primary/Administrative Office**

781 Avis Drive, Suite 200  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48108  
734-477-0135 Fax: 734-477-0213

**Branch Office**

20 W. Fifth Street, Suite 104,  
Monroe, MI, 48161  
734-639-2234

Email: [info@hatw.org](mailto:info@hatw.org), website: [www.hatw.org](http://www.hatw.org)