

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SPECIAL GIFT FUND – 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND:

The Hennepin County Special Gift Fund (SGF) was established in 1970 to provide financial assistance to Health and Human Services clients who are faced with a crisis or have special needs where all other financial resources to meet those needs have been exhausted. Access to the funds, on behalf of a client, is made by the client's case manager or social worker. Individual requests are limited to \$200.00 except in compelling cases. All funds in the Special Gift Fund are donated, and no tax dollars are used.

2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

1/1/2022 Starting Balance	42,824.14
2023 Cash and Check Donations	8, 458.00
2023 Disbursements	14,682.03
12/31/2023 Remaining Balance	36600.11

In 2023, the fund received \$590 to support emergency response efforts, that money was utilized to assist families with basic needs during the response effort. The remaining monies of the \$10,000 Medica grant from last reporting year, was utilized to support the DART/Project Child programs with various art supplies and gift cards for various events to benefit children and families within that programming.

2022 SUMMARY OF DONATIONS:

The SGF is 100% funded by donations. In 2023, 5 individuals donated to the fund specifically to assist with emergency response situations, and an additional 22 individuals donated to the general SGF. These donations ranged from \$40-\$6000. Many of the individual donations were received during the Hennepin County Retiree Alumni group luncheon. There was an annual Jewelry/Boutique sale at the end of 2023, those funds will be reported on the 2024 annual report as they were collected well into January 2024. The funds collected at the 2022 annual Jewelry/Boutique sale are reflected within the donations represented on this report.

2023 SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES:

The Health and Human Services Department had 55 clients that received a grant from the SGF, this was down from the previous year. Many of the grants went to support physical and mental health, housing

stability, clothing, and overall assistance with basic needs. Various service areas were supported by the grant, including Initial Contact and Access, Long Term Services and Supports, Public Health/Healthy Families, Adult Protection, Child Protection and Behavioral Health. Grants were issued by check and ranged from \$36.72 to \$200.

The Special Gift Fund afforded clients and families the ability to have proper interview clothes after fleeing another state from a domestic violence relationship, it allowed for a pregnant mother to have the proper pillows and support during her bed rest for her high risk pregnancy, it afforded another family the ability to pay a consultation fee to a specialized physical therapy camp where their child has been working on core mobility and assisted many others with basic needs while navigating challenging times. The special gift fund provides residents and employees the ability to help when there are no additional resources. Many, employees share their gratitude for the fund and state that the impact of relief for their clients is amazing.

Prepared by:

Staci Brean
Strategic Systems Leadership Sr. Administrative Manager
Hennepin County Health and Human Service
4/19/2024