



Heart & Hand
Center for Youth and Their Families

**2020 Annual Report
10 Year Anniversary
Edition**



FOURTH GRADE



ELEVENTH GRADE

“ Heart & Hand is a family- they're always there to love and support you in all the things you want to accomplish. For ten years, this organization has supported me and given me new opportunities to engage in the things I love most: attending the opera, playing cello, acing academics, and being present for my guardians and siblings.

Thanks to the one-on-one connection I have been able to maintain through Heart & Hand, I know I can accomplish the dreams of my future, because having people who believe in you matters.

To many more years!

”

My tenure with Heart & Hand brings reflections of pride, gratitude and a happy heart watching so many of our students and families grow with us. As I reflect on the last decade, I am reminded of the young girl I met at a local homeless shelter who opened my eyes to the opportunity gap that exists in our communities, and the work that needs to be done to close those gaps and ensure that youth and families have the support needed to thrive.

Over the years so many brilliant and passionate people have contributed to Heart & Hand's journey. I express my heartfelt gratitude to our Heart & Hand team, Board Members, and dedicated donors. Thank you for your impact in our community. I look forward to walking alongside you all the next ten years.



Nikki Cady
Founder



I joined the Board of Heart & Hand 5 years ago as Treasurer, and took on the role of Board Chairman in 2019. Among the things I am most proud of during this unprecedented year is how we pivoted to provide full day support for remote learning, including breakfast and lunch, and connection to trusted adults and peers during this time of isolation. I am also grateful that with the continued investments of our wonderful supporters, we've maintained a healthy financial situation, despite the pressure that the events of 2020 have put on fundraising.

My board service at Heart & Hand has been a journey for me. I am always amazed by, and thankful for, the resilience of our students, and the generosity of our supporters.

Thank you.



Paul Ford
Board Chair



*amidst uncertainty, we've found confidence.
amidst division, we've found connection.
amidst obstacles, we've found a clear path forward.*

Dear Heart & Hand Community-

2020 has been a year of contradictions. It has quite honestly been the most challenging year in Heart & Hand's 10 year history, but has simultaneously been the year that we've seen Heart & Hand's true capacity and brilliance radiate stronger than ever. Through it all, perhaps the most important lesson we've learned, is that the Heart & Hand Center is resilient.

Heart & Hand exists as part of a robust and complex system. This ecosystem is made up of vibrant young people, perseverant families, creative staff, committed Board and Community Professionals Board members, collaborative school and community partners, and generous investors. We all bring different strengths, perspectives, and experiences to the complex challenge of empowering young people to realize their potential. And it's Heart & Hand's deep and meaningful connection to this diverse community that ensures we will not only survive, but thrive, no matter what challenges we face.

While navigating the uncertainty and ever changing realities of doing our work this year, Heart & Hand has stayed laser focused on our mission - creating a nurturing community that empowers young people to realize their potential. We have reinvented our work countless times to adapt to the public health realities. We have participated in the national reckoning with racial injustice, defining what it means for Heart & Hand to move towards anti-racism. And we've worked tirelessly to keep our team connected and our financial position strong. I could not be prouder of all we've accomplished together.

In these pages, I invite you to experience how our work is driven by our core values: family, connection, community, respect, and opportunity. In these trying times, we've held those values close.

None of us thrives alone. Thanks for being a vital part of our community. Thanks for making Heart & Hand resilient.

Mary Cipollone

Mary Cipollone
Executive Director



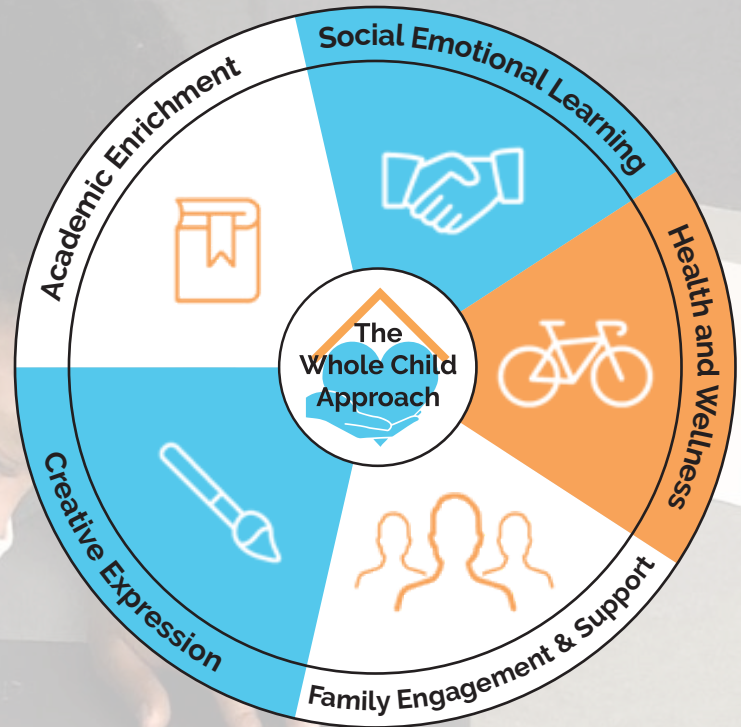
vision:

A world with no opportunity gap

mission:

By creating a nurturing community, Heart & Hand empowers all young people to realize their potential.

Heart & Hand offers afterschool and summer programming based on a whole child approach for youth beginning in second grade to two years after high school graduation, and also provides resources and ongoing support for families.



95%

of our students graduate high school.

96%

of our students say that Heart & Hand helps them feel better about who they are.

97%

of families say that their relationships with Heart & Hand staff are important.

100%

of families say that having a safe place for their children at Heart & Hand is important.

Heart & Hand serves students and their families in Northeast Denver. We have programs based at Columbine Elementary School, Smith Elementary School, and Bruce Randolph Middle School. We also provide 1:1 support to local high schoolers and post-secondary mentorship to graduates.



We value *family* as a lasting foundation of love and trust. Thanks to all the caregivers we walk alongside to empower youth to realize their potential.

Family Development

Last Fall, Heart & Hand Center launched our Family Development Program to interrupt poverty with a multi-generational approach.

The first part of the year saw growth, planning, and professional development to ensure the program launched with a strength and evidence-based approach.

Building even deeper relationships with families has been a bright spot this year. We are proud to share the following accomplishments:

- Over 800 boxes of food distributed impacting over 2600 individuals
- Individual Family Support program providing high touch engagement that empowers caregivers to set and achieve goals
- Regular check-ins with over 100 families to assess needs related to remote learning, income loss, and health and safety





Of all the goals we've set this year, staying connected amidst remote work, isolation and pain has been the most important. These words from our community describe how connection has impacted Heart & Hand kids and families this year:

"Our virtual learning has improved immensely in one day. My son got called out in a positive way from his literacy teacher for the first time this year. My son's response to the teacher's affirmation was, Mom, there were no distractions and people are there to help."

- Elementary school mom in response to her son starting in person Heart & Hand program

"Thank you. I am seeing a glimmer of our pre-COVID life and I appreciate you for making this happen. My entire household is happier! As a frontline worker this makes me happier than you will ever know. WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!"

- Elementary school mom in response to her children starting in person Heart & Hand program

"Sometimes the weekly text messages, phone calls, and check-ins from Heart & Hand get me through the week because I know that someone cares about me and my family."

- Middle school mom after receiving a check-in text from Heart & Hand staff

"Sometimes I feel more connected to Heart & Hand now than I did before COVID because I was able to make my meetings since they are virtual. I really got to see just how much the people at Heart & Hand care about me because they have supported my family and I in more ways than ever before through the hardest time of our lives."

- Heart & Hand Career & College emerging leader



Heart & Hand

Center for Youth and Their Families

2010 –
Nikki Cady founds the Heart & Hand Center at 2758 Welton, providing afterschool support for 30 students in Northeast Denver.

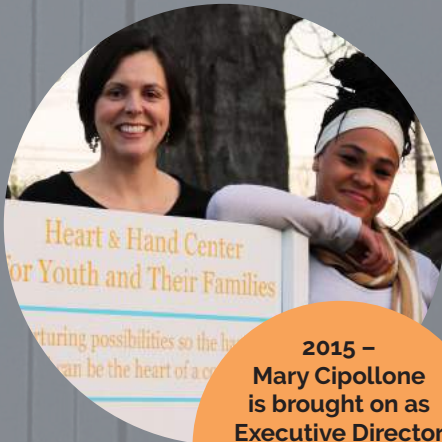
2012 –
Heart & Hand incorporates as an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit and introduces Art Studio.

2013 –
Partnerships begin with neighborhood schools for elementary programming, Middle school program is launched at the Heart & Hand Center.

2014 –
Heart & Hand expands to include the Family Resource Center and Administrative offices.

When Nikki Cady arrived in Denver and began providing art therapy to children at a local homeless shelter, she had no idea it would begin such an amazing journey for Heart & Hand. From making sure that 30 kids had a safe place to go after school for a hug, a hot meal, and academic enrichment, Heart & Hand has made great strides! We now support approximately 300 youth between second grade to two years post-graduation through our afterschool and summer programs and provide additional support to their families and our community.

Through the Years



2015 –
Mary Cipollone is brought on as Executive Director to refine program model and lead organizational expansion.

2017 -
Career & College Readiness Program is launched to ensure students graduate high school and meet their postsecondary goals. Provided \$20K in financial assistance to families.

2019 -
130 students enrolled in summer programs. Family Development Program is created to disrupt poverty with an intergenerational approach.



By creating a nurturing community, the Heart & Hand Center empowers all young people to realize their potential. We envision a world with no opportunity gap, where all children have access to the resources, skills, and information they need to build vibrant futures.

In the last 10 years, Heart & Hand has...

- Created a nurturing community for more than **1,000 young people**
- Invested over **\$5.4 million** in programming for Denver youth
- Built meaningful relationships with our community that will last for decades to come

Becoming ever more woven into the rich fabric of our *community* has been critical to Heart & Hand's resilience in 2020.

We are all experiencing the devastating effects of a global pandemic - creating loss, anxiety, and uncertainty within our families and communities. We have also seen the nation and our neighborhoods face a painful reckoning with race relations in light of the tragic deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Elijah McClain, and countless others. We know that our kids and families are disproportionately affected by health crises and police violence, and during this past year Heart & Hand has responded to the unique needs of our community with intent, creativity, and an inspiring optimism.

Heart & Hand's Responsive Programming

Our nimble operations have continued to meet the shifting needs of our community and have included:

- Full day in-person remote learning centers to ensure students keep learning and stay connected to trusted adults and supportive peers
- Virtual connection times for structured enriching activities and social emotional check ins
- Regular communication with students and families to ensure they have technology and information necessary to participate successfully in remote learning
- Distribution of food, cleaning supplies, and personal protection equipment to families



We appreciate the *opportunity* provided by our corporate partners, who remind our young people to dream bigger!

Featured partner: Optum

Optum has participated in a workplace giving campaign by hosting a Heart & Hand Giving Tree, sponsored fundraising events, and provided volunteers to support community-led activities. Through sharing their time, talents, and treasure, Optum has made a tremendous impact on the lives of Heart & Hand youth and families.



Heart & Hand is proud to go beyond the traditional model of corporate social responsibility to build holistic partnerships. In 2020, our corporate partners stepped up in new ways to support Heart & Hand youth. Together we shared career information with Heart & Hand's emerging leaders, financial tools with families, and raised funds critical to responsive programs. Through collaboration we have created opportunities to learn together, celebrate our strengths, and lean on each other during challenging times.

Board of Directors

The Heard & Hand Board of directors acts as the governing body for the organization and is composed of local business leaders, philanthropists, and invested community members.

Paul Ford, Chair	Nikki Cady	London Lomax	Corbin West
Dave Keyte, Treasurer	Jason Gaede	Isiah Salazar	Brooke Wolf
Frankki Bevins	Douglas Johnson	John Streelman	Daniel Wolf
Matt Briger	Randy Lewis	Scooter Anata Walsh	Allison Woolston

Community Professionals Board

The Heart & Hand Community Professionals Board is an integral piece of our community that aids in the decision making and fundraising strategies for our students and their families. We welcome a diversity of members on a rolling application process. Please contact us if your are interested in this impactful opportunity!

Scooter Anata Walsh, Co-Chair

Wolfgang Zahner, Co-Chair

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Brittany Burke

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Heart & Hand

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