2022 was a year of growth, as Playtime Project served a total of 401 children, which is a 20% increase from the previous year. Playtime expanded to shelter locations, as well as community-based sites, in order to meet families where they live their lives.

In February, Playtime began the year with twice weekly play programs at J.C. Nalle Elementary School. This experience built our knowledge and provided us with strong foundational skills needed to continue our partnership with DC Public Schools, which allowed us to start a program at LaSalle-Backus Elementary School in January 2023.

In June, Playtime expanded to our second shelter site in Prince George’s County; Warm Nights, an emergency hotel shelter serving 90 children and their families. This move into Prince George’s County was a strategic decision to meet children where they live, and the geographic widening represents Playtime’s commitment to serving more children experiencing housing insecurity. We also piloted a four-week summer program at the Franklin Park apartment complex in Greenbelt, MD, four days per week, for four hours per day. This camp provided us with a foundation and additional skills to continue camp programming into the future. In November, we launched another program at Columbia Heights Village affordable housing complex in DC's Ward 1. With the addition of CHV, Playtime Project was permanently located at seven sites, including three shelters, two domestic violence shelters, and one school.

Throughout 2022, Playtime hosted Pop-Up Family Playtime events for any children experiencing housing insecurity in the DC region, at community spaces around the city, including two special Pop-Ups at the Days Inn, where we served migrant children so that their parents could receive pro bono legal support in the same location.
VOLUNTEERS GIVE THE GIFT OF PLAY

More than 150 volunteers dedicate their time to support Playtime Project’s mission of cultivating resilience in children experiencing housing insecurity through the power of play. Play Rangers work weekly in our program locations to support positive emotional development for children experiencing housing insecurity in DC and Prince George’s County. These volunteers make a commitment at one of our weekly programs at seven program sites. Play Rangers participate as support for playroom activities that are trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate, with supervision from Playtime Site Managers. They are an integral part of our program, and we could not provide Playtime for children without them.

Additional volunteer opportunities include cleaning our playrooms, sharing special talents and skills with our youth, and coordinating in-kind donation drives. Playtime Project hosts two large in-kind donation drives per year: for back-to-school and for the holidays. Volunteers help purchase materials, assemble backpacks and gift bags, deliver items to sites, and hand out items at programs. A full list of our volunteer opportunities can be accessed at playtimeproject.org/volunteer.

Since Playtime’s inception, volunteers have dedicated an estimated value of nearly $750M to our children experiencing housing insecurity.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue: $1,324,436
Expenses: $1,286,903
Assets as of 12/31/22: $2,203,742

The unaudited financial information set forth above is preliminary and subject to adjustments and modifications after the audit.

LOCATIONS (2022)
The Brooks | One of DC’s eight short-term family housing shelters (Ward 3)
Columbia Heights Village | Subsidized housing apartment complex (Ward 1)
DASH Cornerstone Building | District Alliance for Safe Housing (Ward 5)
LaSalle-Backus Elementary School | DC Public School with high number of children experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity (Ward 4)
My Sister’s Place | DC’s oldest domestic violence shelter (Ward 5)
Shepherd’s Cove Emergency Shelter | Prince George’s County women and children’s shelter (Capitol Heights, MD)
Warm Nights | Shelter based in a Prince George’s County hotel (Beltsville, MD)

Playtime Project
20 Years of Play

Playtime Project was founded by a coalition of concerned community members, led by social worker and child advocate Jamiela Larson and lawyer Regina “Toni” Rice. Volunteers started at GWU in 2003, moved to DC Village, and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2005.

Origins

2003

Rapid expansion

Expanded beyond emergency shelters to include transitional housing programs, hired its first regular staff members, and applied for grants to build on individual donations.

2006–2011

Play curriculum

Began piloting a play-based curriculum to provide children with much-needed tools for learning educational and therapeutic activities. DC General became target of Playtime’s site partners serving hundreds of tenants throughisha annually for more than a decade.

2020

Play at a distance

Adapted to provide play at a distance through Playtime to Go kits that included toys, books, art activities, a “Parent Toolbox” with online resources and in-room activities, Virtual Playtime on our YouTube channel, and live Zoom Playtime sessions to keep kids connected. Resumed playground programming in the fall.

Overflow shelter hotels

DC General closed in 2019. Expanded to serve families residing at overflow shelter hotels, in addition to transitional housing sites, until the city closed remaining shelter hotels in 2020.

2023

20 years of play

Now in its 20th year, Playtime continues to transform and grow. Playtime expanded to Prince George’s County in 2021, started its first school-based sites, and hosted regular Pop-Up events to reach more families in their communities in response to the changing landscape of family housing insecurity.