Playtime served a total of 321 children in 2021, a 60% increase from 2020. In spite of the pandemic, in spring 2021, Playtime began a partnership with The Brooks, the D.C. short term family housing (STFH) site in Ward 3. With the warm weather, Playtime brought outdoor play back to all of our shelter-site partners in April 2021. In June, Playtime piloted a daily play program at our first community-based site, Rita Bright Family and Youth Center in Ward 1, next door to the Ward’s STFH. We also started programming at our first shelter site in Maryland, Shepherd’s Cove Shelter for Women and Children, in Prince George’s County.

In order to bring the benefits of play to more children and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, Playtime expanded to community-based sites, in addition to shelter sites, meeting families where they live their lives. In fall 2021, we hosted “Pop-Up” Family Playtime at outdoor and indoor community spaces around the city. “Pop-Up” events include family activities, play kits with books and toys, information about community resources, supplies for parents like diapers and grocery gift cards, and special guests like Step Afrika! Our expansion into Prince George’s County also led us to host a “Pop-Up” Family Playtime event at the Warm Nights Shelter, the largest family shelter in the county. We established a partnership with D.C. Public Schools in 2021, and our community-based programs pilot set the foundation for our first school-based play program in February 2022, at Ward 7’s J.C. Nalle Elementary School (JCNES), which serves a high number of children experiencing housing insecurity.

Looking ahead to 2022, our goals are to serve 350 children in 2022, expanding to at least two more program sites. With the support of donors and volunteers, Playtime gives children the chance to solve problems creatively, build self-confidence and resiliency, develop new friendships, and enjoy activities designed to support healthy child development at shelter and community-based sites.
VOLUNTEERS GIVE THE GIFT OF PLAY
In 2021, more than 150 Play Rangers dedicated their time every week in our playrooms to support positive emotional development for one of the most vulnerable populations in the District. They made a commitment to running one of our 20 play programs at our partner sites, and we could not provide Playtime without them.

Additional volunteer opportunities include coordinating in-kind donation drives, cleaning our playrooms, transporting toys and supplies, and sharing special skills and talents with our youth.

2,517 TOTAL PLAY RANGER VOLUNTEER HOURS
3,171 TOTAL PLAYTIME VOLUNTEER HOURS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thank you to all Playtime supporters, for making our work and play possible!

Revenue: $1,826,811
Expenses: $1,145,791
Assets as of 12/31/21: $2,092,577

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

SHELTER LOCATIONS
The Brooks short-term family housing site | Friendship Place (Ward 3)
DASH Cornerstone Building | District Alliance for Safe Housing (Ward 5)
My Sister’s Place | D.C.’s oldest domestic violence shelter (Ward 5)
Shepherd’s Cove Emergency Shelter for Women & Children | United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (Capitol Heights, Md.)
Turning Point Center for Women & Families | The Salvation Army (Ward 1)

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