

# MIDTOWN COMMUNITY SERVICES 2022 IMPACT REPORT



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVING ST. LOUIS FAMILIES.



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midtownstl.org



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St. Louis, MO 63110



# TO OUR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS:

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wow! To say 2022 was an incredible year at Midtown is an understatement. During our 40th year of serving St. Louis, the city was faced with an ongoing pandemic, gun violence, and summertime flash flooding. Yet through it all, Midtown was a beacon of hope for families across the region, providing support regardless of their challenges.

Through the support of our donors and volunteers and the unwavering strength of our community members, many families ended 2022 better than they had started. Whether it was a senior escaping the isolation of aging by participating in activities and field trips or a first-time mom with a dedicated support team of fellow parents, doulas, and therapists by her side, our neighbors knew help was just a phone call away.

The highlight of our 40th year was our inaugural Gala in December, which brought together our supporters and community for one remarkable night of sharing memories and our hope for the future. To see everyone who has shaped Midtown into the incredible place it is in one room together is a moment we will always treasure.

On behalf of our board, staff, and community members, thank you for being part of the Midtown family!

*Sincerely,*



**Tim Ripplinger**  
*Board President*



**Barbara Schaefer**  
*Executive Director*

## IN MEMORY



This year, we had to say goodbye to our colleague Willie Knighten who passed away unexpectedly. Willie always went above and beyond to lend a helping hand to both Midtown and our partner organization, City Greens Market. We thank everyone who made a gift to help support his daughter Nina as she completes her senior year of high school and prepares for her next step in life.

# HOW MIDTOWN BECAME A SECOND HOME FOR THE

## KNIGHTEN FAMILY



If you've volunteered at Midtown or attended one of our events, you're likely familiar with the Knighten family. For generations, this amazing family – from newborns to their great-grandparents – has been part of the Midtown community. They're also incredible advocates for our programs, sharing their experiences with others to expand our reach.

For Ms. Lola and her six grandchildren – Bella, Tavon, Bishop, Kameron, Kennedy, and Kashmir – Midtown has been a home away from home for years. All of the kids are active participants in year-round Youth Development programming, including our afterschool program.

"The kids just love Midtown and their staff," said Ms. Lola. "They enjoy everything here – cooking, interacting with the other kids, visiting the garden. They especially love sports and having a mentor like Mr. Dylan play basketball and kickball with them. The afterschool staff is just so wonderful to them."

She also shared that Midtown helps the kids stay on top of their schoolwork, offering free tutoring every Tuesday night and homework help during the week. In addition, they look forward to Summer Academy Day Camp every year so they can hit the swimming pool, go on field trips, and join our annual Peace Parade.

According to Ms. Lola, Midtown has truly become part of the Knightens' extended family over the years. "Everyone at Midtown is so welcoming and helpful. You can just walk in and join the community. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, they're here for everybody."

### DID YOU KNOW?

Through our new partnership with Ready Readers, Family PRIDE provided families with more than 1,000 free children's books in 2022!

# 2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## FAMILY PRIDE

This year, 100% of babies born to Family PRIDE parents were born healthy, and all participants worked to build stronger foundations for their growing families! Throughout 2022, Family PRIDE led 61 educational workshops and playgroups that covered everything from financial planning to safe sleep to sensory development. In addition, our moms received culturally-responsive group and individual therapy and had access to free doula services from Deeply Rooted Birth & Wellness.



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

During our 33rd Summer Academy Day Camp, 70 campers participated in cooking classes, arts and crafts activities, and our annual Peace Parade as well as our first Back-to-School Fair. Our afterschool program is currently offering free tutoring and homework help to students ages 5 to 18 to accelerate learning after two unpredictable school years. And thanks to a generous donor, we were able to purchase laptops and BookNook, a tutoring program with a social-emotional learning component so we can better address the full scope of our kids' learning needs.



## ADULT PROGRAMMING

Because loneliness is one of the biggest threats to a senior's overall health, we ensured our Midtown Mamas and Men's Club stayed connected to Midtown and each other with special events, workshops, and field trips. We offered free financial classes, cooking activities, outings to area orchards and farmer's markets, and other hands-on activities. Many participants also volunteered with Midtown in our Community Garden.



## CITY GREENS COMMUNITY GARDEN

While City Greens continues to offer our neighbors in need fresh fruits and vegetables, it's also a popular outdoor classroom for Youth Development to demonstrate the importance of healthy eating. Our kids harvested a variety of produce they transformed into fried green tomatoes, apple crisp, and other homemade goodies, and they started their own raised gardens at our playground to plant cantaloupe, cucumbers, and sweet potatoes.

*"The people are the best thing about Midtown. Everyone there is so nice and never judgmental. I feel comfortable that Midtown cares about helping me and my daughter. I believe that the program wouldn't be at the level it is if it wasn't for the Family PRIDE staff that are there."* - Family PRIDE mom

# OUR SUPPORTERS IN ACTION



This year, Midtown was finally able to bring our fundraising events back in person, and our supporters did not disappoint! Whether they were showing off their smarts for trivia, picking up a paddle for our ping-pong tournament, hitting the stage for the return of our Lip Sync Battle, or spreading cheer at our 40th Anniversary Gala and holiday party, they helped raise more than \$80,000 for Midtown programs!

## A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

After two years of visiting with Santa virtually, more than 90 kids headed to Midtown for our annual “Breakfast With Santa” event to share their holiday wishes directly with the big guy himself. In addition, thanks to the generosity of donors across the country, Midtown was able to provide 36 families with gift cards and Christmas presents for their children. In addition, 60 seniors received special holiday gift baskets.



This summer, journalist Travis Cummings covered Midtown's Peace Parade for KSDK. Scan the QR code to be inspired by our kids' messages of hope.

## SAVE THE DATES!



**MARCH 18, 2023**

Tony McDonald Memorial Trivia Night



**FALL 2023**

Midtown Lip Sync Battle



**SPRING 2023**

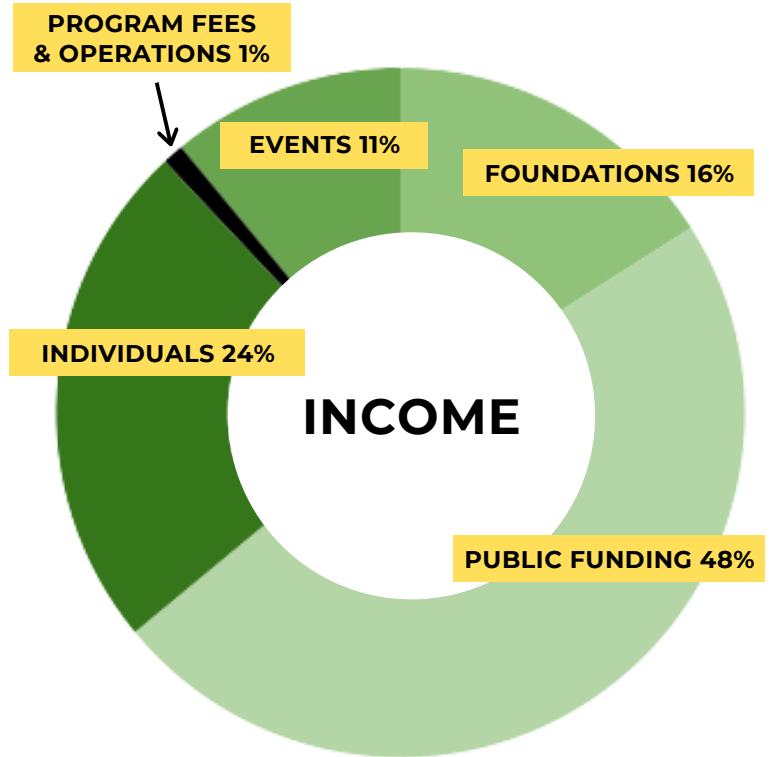
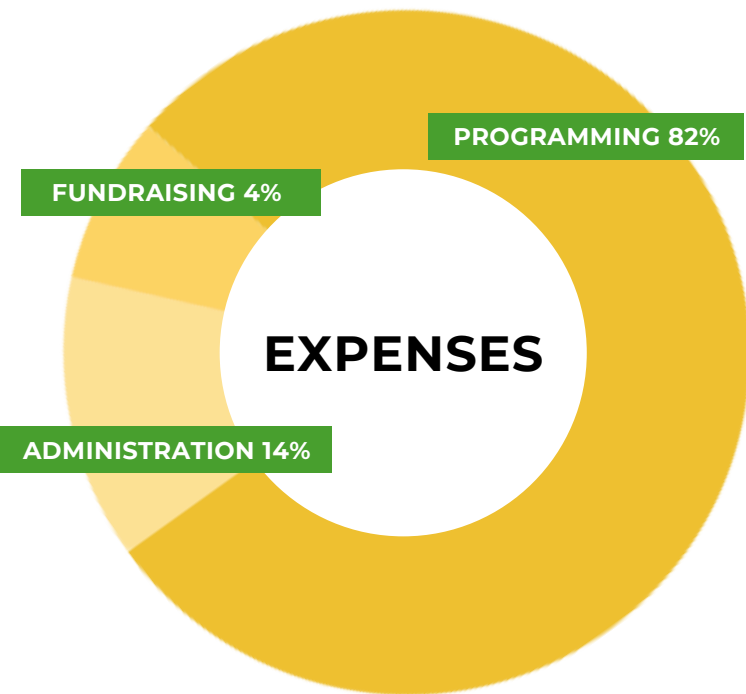
Judy Borst Memorial Ping Pong Tournament



**DECEMBER 2, 2023**

Midtown Holiday Gala

# 2022 FINANCIALS



Our full 2022 financials can be found on our website, [www.midtownstl.org](http://www.midtownstl.org).

## OUR GENEROUS DONORS

### DEFENDER OF HOPE - \$10,000 AND OVER

- Area Resources for Community and Human Services
- Matt Borst
- Christopher J. Grimaud Charitable Foundation
- City of St. Louis Senior Citizen Services Fund
- Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust
- Steve and Mary Frank
- Happy 2 Give
- Herman T. and Phenie R. Pott Foundation
- St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
- Voices of Women

### GUIDING LIGHT - \$5,000 TO \$9,999

- American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation
- William and Anna Maria Borst
- The Buddy Fund
- Charless Foundation, a component fund of the St. Louis Community Foundation
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- Nature's Path Foods Inc.
- Nike Community Impact Fund
- Dr. Edward and Cheri Reh
- The Saigh Foundation
- Mark and Jennifer Schaefer
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Carol Size
- Thrivent
- Bob Viragh

### HELPING HAND - \$2,500 TO \$4,999

- Steven and Patricia Ackerman
- Advertisers Printing Co., Inc.
- BNSF Railway Foundation
- Dedee Coughlin and Ralph Levy
- Esse Health Foundation
- David J. Gund Trust

- Bob and Mary Alice Helmsing
- Susan Hertich
- Joellen McDonald
- Novus International
- Bernard Purcell
- St. Louis Italian Invitational Golf Tournament for Charities
- Dominic and Marcy Soda
- Simon and Mary Tonkin
- Watson Pointe Dental
- Dr. Warren and Bonnie Wimmer

### GOOD NEIGHBOR - \$1,000 TO \$2,499

- Noel and Joann Abkemeier
- Arts and Education Council
- Cardinals Care
- Bob and Madeleine Cole
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- Virginia McDonald
- Network for Good
- Bill and Sara Patterson
- Timothy Ripplinger
- Frank Schiavo Jr.
- Guy Slay
- Gerald Smith
- Walmart

- Jim and Cheryl Wiltsch

### \$500 TO \$999

- Pete and Sharon Abel
- Don Bellon
- Paul and Sue Buse
- Capellupo Foundation
- Eunice Cheshire
- Gina Christopher
- Anne-Marie Clarke
- Joseph Connolly
- David and Kathianne Crane
- Cure of Ars Catholic Church
- Janet Heath
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- David R. Ganz
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- Cynthia Jordan Littlefield
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- Northern Trust
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- Evelyn Puleo
- Roy and Mary Reed

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- Charles and Joyce Woodard
- Jeanne Wozniak
- Linda York

# OUR GENEROUS DONORS

## \$250 TO \$499

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- Deborah DaLay
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- Franciscan Sisters of Mary
- Fr. Robert Gettinger
- Zachary Goodman
- Gerard Grant
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- Healthy U STL
- Robert and Jane Heinrich
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- Terrence and Kathleen Hunn
- Sat Guru Khalsa
- The Knighten Family
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- Woodard Cleaning & Restoration
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- Stephanie Herbers
- Sam Herbig
- Jocelyn Hertrich
- Mary Hoff
- David Hoffman
- J. Hoffman
- Jean Hoffman
- Marlene Holtgrewe
- Gregory Hood
- Michael Inyart and Maribeth Clancy
- Joy and Hope Counseling Services
- Joseph and Elsie McBride Charitable Foundation
- Tricia Jostlein
- Cecilia Kelly
- Michele Kemp
- Kay Kennedy
- Thomas Kernan and Madonna Kuciejczyk-Kernan
- Jason Kesselring
- RJ and Joanne Kinnison
- Gerald Kirk
- Sue Klevorn
- Debra Knighten
- Michael Kerbs
- Janet Kuciejczyk
- Joyce LaFontain
- Gregory Lavigne
- Jane Leonardelli
- Cammie Lewis Holiday
- Anne Loida
- Mary Ann Lombardo
- Scott and Jodi Luetkemeyer
- Stefanie Lutter
- Daniel and Kim Madden
- Andrew Marting
- Roland and Marie Martir
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- Joan McGinnis
- Mary McGuire
- Mary McNally
- Mary Merello
- Emma Miller
- Tom Muenks
- Catherine Nolan
- Mary Nolan
- Georgia O'Brien
- Carol Ochsner
- Jill Oge
- Dorrit O'Hallaron and F. O'Neil
- Joyce Ohmes
- Diana Oleskevich
- Mary O'Malley
- David Murphy
- Allen Palisch
- Ellen Parker
- Nicole Plegge
- Lindsay Poettgen
- Margaret Pride
- Melba Ramos
- Michael Rea
- Paul and Barbara Reading
- Matthew and Stephanie Reh
- Ellen Rehg and William Miller
- David Renard
- Carolyn Reynolds
- Gerald Richardson
- Neshama Roash
- Barbara Schaefer
- William and Kathy Schaefer
- Schnucks
- Rev. Donald Schramm
- Fr. A. John Schuler
- Kathy Siddens
- Robert Simon and Michael Brasfield
- Jerome Sexton
- Angie Spatola
- Jenna Speckart
- Sandra Spencer
- Albert Sprehe and Margaret Costello
- Robert and Anne Stalinski
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- Charles and Anna Marie Stillwell
- Tom and Anna Stremlau
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- Erin Ulichnie
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- Jack and Suzon Villa
- John Volger
- Joseph and Suzanna Vollmer
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- Gerald and Jaculin Wankum
- Mike and Mary Ward
- Celia Watson
- Penny Watson
- Eddie Welch
- Andrea Welnick
- Anthony West
- Judith Winklemann
- Lois Yatzeck
- Joan Zerega

## UP TO \$249

- ALDI INC.
- Marie Andrews
- Thomas and Dale Auffenberg
- Nicolai Bachman
- Kelly Barkey
- Robert and Penny Barnicle
- John Bauman
- Russell Bley Jr.
- Althea Bolden
- Karen Bradshaw
- Paul Brockland
- David and Cathy Brown
- Stephen and Lisbeth Brown
- Carol Brym
- Gregory Bueltmann
- Richard Burk
- Susan Burke Kellett
- Joan D. Burtelow
- Lacy Cagle
- Joy Camp
- Wayne and Susan Coleman
- Roxie Daggett
- Daughters of Charity
- Belinda Davis
- Jeffery and Juanita Davis
- Lori Deering
- Kathleen Desutter Jordan
- Derek and Lizet Dickinson
- Leib Dodell
- Michael Dunne
- Jerome Dyson
- Glenn and Patricia Eckert
- Don and Mary Ann Eggleston
- Janice Fairless
- Lyanne Feilen

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF

- Matt Borst
- Kathianne Crane
- Joe and Sylvia Dunne
- Mary Frank
- Fr. Gerry Kleba
- Laura Lamb
- Ginny McDonald
- Joellen McDonald
- Dr. Edward and Cheri Reh
- Tucker Vermillion
- Peter Wollenberg

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

- Fr. Dennis Brodeur
- Gary Kuetemann
- Tony McDonald
- Willie Knighten



Midtown Neighborhood Opportunities Corporation  
1202 S. Boyle  
St. Louis, MO 63110



## MIDTOWN'S MISSION

*To provide a wholesome, peaceful center where individuals, families and especially children can be nurtured, supported and build community together. Midtown offers people access to connections and resources for realizing their value and full potential.*

## GET IN TOUCH

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