

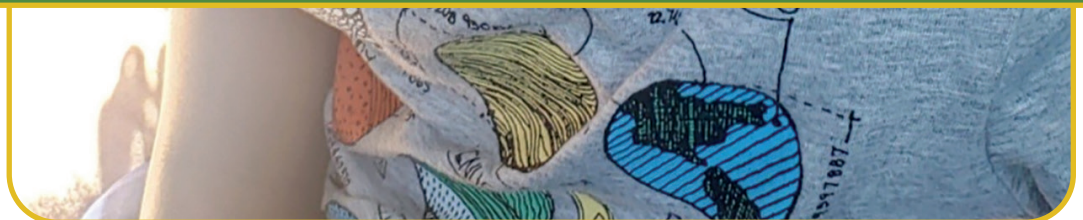


2023 IMPACT REPORT



Building Stronger Families and Stronger Neighborhoods in St. Louis

www.midtownstl.org



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FOR 34 YEARS, Midtown Community Services served under the Catholic Charities umbrella. When Catholic Charities closed the doors of many of its community centers in 2017, a group of dedicated volunteers remained committed to keeping ours open.



Those volunteers who remain with Midtown today tell us they could never have pictured where we would be just six years later. In 2023, thanks to dedicated supporters like you, Midtown experienced our

most successful year to date. Not only have our enrollment numbers increased across all programs, but we are fully staffed for the first time since becoming an independent organization!

In addition, we've been able to expand services within our multigenerational programs. Our Family PRIDE families have access to free in-house doula care and school-readiness activities, our afterschool students are accelerating their learning with new IXL tutoring software, and the Midtown Mamas and Men's Club are overcoming social isolation through field trips and community events.

All of us at Midtown - including our staff, board, and community members - can't thank you enough for your continued dedication to our mission. We appreciate each and every one of you so much!

SINCERELY,



Tim Ripplinger
Board President



Barbara Schaefer
Executive Director

STRENGTH THROUGH EMPOWERMENT: DESCHAE'S FAMILY PRIDE STORY

OVER THE PAST YEAR, Midtown and the Family PRIDE program has become a network of support for community member DeSchae.

Between raising three little boys under age three (John, Joshua, and Josiah), working as a security officer, and managing ongoing stressors in her personal life, DeSchae found strength through her Midtown family and fellow moms to overcome many of the obstacles standing in the way of her happiness and well-being.

"I am abundantly overjoyed and thankful to be part of such a dynamic and versatile group of caring individuals," she said. "Having someone in your corner who completely understands what you're going through means so much to me. It's such a great thing to see people coming together to help each other, no matter what they're going through."

In addition to regularly participating in Family PRIDE's free counseling and parenting workshops, DeSchae loves bringing her sons to the Midtown playgroups, especially when they're able to enjoy outdoor and nature activities together. She also extended her appreciation to the supporters who sponsored her family for the holidays, ensuring there were gifts under the tree for the boys during a tough time in her life.

"Midtown really is family-oriented, which you don't find with a lot of programs," DeSchae remarked. "I'm able to bring my kids into a safe environment around people I really trust. John considers Ms. MaDonna a second grandma, always asking when we can to 'GiGi MaDonna's house,' and Joshua runs straight to Ms. Barbara every time he sees her. That love and trust is something I'll never take for granted."



Thank you to Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) for helping to enhance our programs that improve the lives of children and families!

2023 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! In addition to joining workshops that covered everything from family literacy to self-care, our new and expectant mothers had access to free individual and group therapy and doula care. We also hosted playgroups and field trips to boost our kiddos' social, emotional, and motor skills so they're school-ready come kindergarten!



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the year, Youth Development helps children build on what they're learning in school to boost their grades, confidence, and overall wellness. During the summer, 80 campers joined our Summer Academy Day Camp to participate in gardening classes, arts and crafts, and our annual Peace Parade. This fall, 25 enrolled in Afterschool to take advantage of free tutoring and mentoring, STEM classes, and Kids in the Kitchen activities. They even planted their own garden behind Midtown to create farm-to-table snacks and meals and discover the importance of sustainable living!



ADULT PROGRAMMING

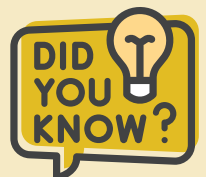
The Midtown Mamas and Men's Club members have stayed busy this year with a variety of educational and fun-filled activities, including field trips to Missouri Botanical Garden, Braeutigam Orchards, and the National Blues Museum, as well as health and financial workshops. The Midtown Mamas even won the Judges' Choice Award at this year's Lip Sync Battle! This past spring, Saint Louis University students led technology classes to help seniors become safer and more confident online.



CITY GREENS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our community garden blossomed with activity all year long! In September, Spire spent two days cleaning and weeding as well as building us new garden beds. We also continued providing fresh fruits and vegetables to our community members and City Greens Market, and this year, expanded to donate produce to the No Limit Outreach Food pantry. Starting in March 2024, our Garden Club will have volunteer days every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday morning during the growing season.

After witnessing the impact of Family PRIDE's mental health initiative, we recreated many of the opportunities for the Midtown Mamas through a partnership with Deanna Granger from But First You!



OUR SUPPORTERS IN ACTION



THIS YEAR, Midtown put the “fun” in fundraising through a variety of events that brought together our volunteers, community members, and supporters. Whether they were showing off their smarts for the Tony McDonald Memorial Trivia Night, hitting the stage for our Lip Sync Battle, or spreading cheer at our Holiday Gala, they helped raise \$60,000 for Midtown programs!

BE SURE TO VISIT WWW.MIDTOWNSTL.ORG FOR OUR 2024 EVENTS!

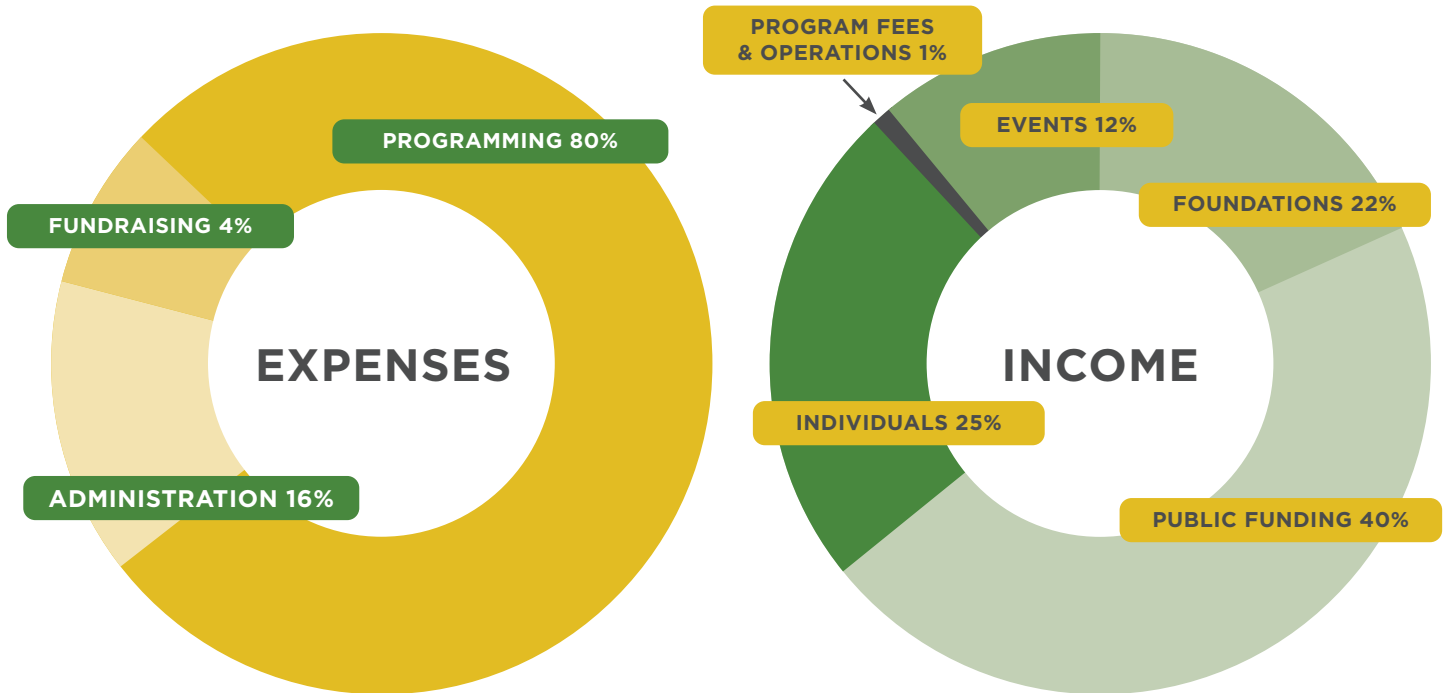
A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

ON DECEMBER 2, Midtown transformed into Whoville for our Grinch-themed “Breakfast With Santa” event. Thanks to help from the University of Dayton alumni group, 80 kids enjoyed breakfast, received gifts, and met with Santa himself. In addition, because of the generosity of donors from across the country, Midtown was able to provide 39 families with gift cards and Christmas presents, and 65 seniors with special holiday gift baskets.



2023 was Vince “Santa” Reese’s 31st year of representing the North Pole at “Breakfast With Santa!” Scan the QR code to watch his story on Fox 2 News Now.

2023 FINANCIALS



Our full 2023 financials can be found on our website, www.midtownstl.org.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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\$10,000 AND OVER

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**Midtown Neighborhood
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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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