As we reflect on the challenges of this past year, we are overcome with gratitude for the ways Youth Guidance staff met the moment with compassion, expertise, creativity, and innovation. Their ability to help young people deepen their engagement in school, build their social emotional skills, promote mental wellness, and have a positive outlook for the future has been nothing short of remarkable.

With an unwavering commitment to deepening impact, Youth Guidance developed new approaches such as Evolve, a social-emotional learning (SEL) program designed to cultivate a district-wide culture of support and trauma-informed engagement. Evolve delivers training and resources to school-based staff to implement the most effective components of the organization’s most renowned programs—Becoming A Man (BAM) and Working On Womanhood (WOW).

Youth Guidance also established new partnerships, received transformational gifts from new champions, and garnered nationwide coverage of our evidence-based programs on CNN and HBO Max.

We hope this report offers a valuable understanding of what we do, the young people we serve, and the importance of accelerating and expanding our impact. It shares remarkable examples of resilience, generosity, compassion, and healing as we emerged from this extraordinary year stronger than ever before. As we press on together in our journey of healing and hope, we stand firm in our commitment to bright futures for the young men and women served at YG.

We are grateful for the tremendous generosity of supporters like you who believe in the potential of our youth and share this deep commitment to improving the lives of nearly 15,000 youth and families Youth Guidance serves. We are inspired by all that has been accomplished and are relentlessly optimistic about what we can do together in the years to come.
At Youth Guidance, we understand that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are fundamental to realizing our vision of bright and successful futures for all young people. We celebrate the diversity of youth and recognize them as empowered leaders, problem-solvers, and experts of their own experiences. At the same time, we acknowledge that many systems and institutions meant to support youth are inequitable and unjust.

We are committed to advancing DEI through our words and our actions, both internally and externally, by:

- **STRENGTHENING** cultural competencies as well as policies, practices, and organizational structures that foster belonging and leverage the unique backgrounds and talents of staff.
- **OFFERING** youth-centered programs that are accessible and responsive to people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, abilities, sexual identity, gender identity and expression, language, and cultural and religious beliefs and practices.
- **INFLUENCING** systems that youth, their families and communities are impacted by, such as schools, organizational networks, governmental bodies, researchers, and the funding community, to apply approaches that embrace DEI in addressing the needs and supporting the aspirations of young people.

The gift will be invested to help us execute Youth Guidance’s 2026 Strategic Plan that aims to:

- **EXPAND** BAM and WOW programs substantially to serve more than 18,000 students by 2026, including in new cities across the country that have requested Youth Guidance’s results-oriented programs.
- **INVEST** in new and additional programs, which have been identified by communities as an urgent need, to support students in existing and additional cities, including Parent and Family Engagement and Counseling, Community and Afterschool Programs, and Career Readiness and Success.
- **DEVELOP** and implement innovative new ways to make evidence-based programs accessible to more school districts.

Last year, Youth Guidance received the single largest donation in its history from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. We are investing the $22M gift to advance our ambitious vision to expand evidence-based programs for students of color and advance educational equity in select cities across the country.

We are incredibly grateful for Ms. Scott’s generous and transformational gift, which comes at a truly crucial moment for students of color in need of mental health support and connection to their school communities.

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Our Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

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Gratitude for Transformative $22M Gift to Invest in Our Future

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- **DEVELOP** and implement innovative new ways to make evidence-based programs accessible to more school districts.
This year was a tremendously impactful one at Youth Guidance! We delivered evidence-based programs to more young people in more schools than ever before in our history.

14,954
INDIVIDUALS REACHED

194
PARTNER SCHOOLS

12,269
GROUP SESSIONS DELIVERED

144,147
CHECK-INS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
2,918 Youth Served by WOW

71% of participants who started in the clinical range for depression experienced fewer symptoms

63 Partner Schools

3,996 Group Sessions

96% feel the WOW program helped them make better decisions

8,814 Youth Served by BAM

74% reported growth across all scales of social emotional development

162 Partner Schools

9,298 Group Sessions

93% feel the BAM program helped them make better decisions
**Wow**

**Ava’s Story**

Ava* says, half jokingly, that she joined WOW just to get out of class. She was getting into a lot of fights in school, her grades were declining, and she frequently skipped class.

When she first started coming to group, she said she didn’t trust anyone and would just sit quietly. Ava’s WOW Youth Specialist began to meet with her before and after group sessions to check on her well-being. She stated that she liked talking to her YS, and as they established a rapport, there was a drastic change in Ava. Her grades went up significantly and she started to attend her classes more often. Ava says that her involvement in WOW has increased her coping skills and has helped her set goals for positive changes in her personal and academic life.

*Student’s name has been changed for privacy.*
BAM
Charlie’s Story

When Charlie joined BAM, he felt disconnected from his parents, and had to visit a mental health clinic weekly due to his depressive state. Since being in BAM, Charlie has become more open and self-aware of his emotions. He has developed increased coping skills and confidence to deal with more difficult feelings. He has a closer relationship with his parents and feels like he can talk with them more about his experiences. This year, Charlie no longer visits a mental health facility and reports that he is more proactive in managing his depression.

“WHEN I SEE MY BAM MENTOR AROUND SCHOOL, I ALWAYS ASK HIM IF HE CAN ADD AN EXTRA DAY OF BAM SO THAT IT’S NOT THE ONLY DAY THAT I SEE HIM AND MY BAM CIRCLE.”

Louis
BAM STUDENT, 16
**Wow**

**Kelli’s Story**

Kelli saw the camaraderie and friendships that her male peers gained from the Becoming A Man program at her school. She recalls hearing their excitement spending time in “circle” with their BAM Counselor. So when WOW was offered, she joined immediately, although she didn’t expect it to have a huge impact on her.

Today Kelli is thankful to be a part of the program. She has a strong camaraderie with her WOW peers, and enjoys being able to talk to them about all sorts of things, especially the pressure connected to college applications and figuring out steps after high school. Kelli says WOW has even helped her with that, connecting her to resources for career and college fairs.

“**MY WOW COUNSELOR WOULD TALK TO ME LIKE A HUMAN, NOT JUST A CHILD. I REALIZED I COULD REACH OUT TO OTHER WOMEN IN MY LIFE AS WELL, LIKE FAMILY AND TEACHERS.”**

---

**Marcus**

BAM STUDENT, 14

“I EXPRESSED WANTING TO JOIN THE FOOTBALL TEAM, AND NOT ONLY DID MY BAM CIRCLE WORK OUT WITH ME, SO DID MY BAM COUNSELOR. I NEEDED THAT SUPPORT TO GET ME TO THE NEXT LEVEL.”

---

**Ke lli**

WOW STUDENT, 17

“**MY WOW COUNSELOR WOULD TALK TO ME LIKE A HUMAN, NOT JUST A CHILD. I REALIZED I COULD REACH OUT TO OTHER WOMEN IN MY LIFE AS WELL, LIKE FAMILY AND TEACHERS.”**
We have developed innovative ways to respond to the imminent needs of the youth we serve. Look at our programs across Youth Guidance in action!

Community Connections

During the COVID-19 pandemic, families confronted the stress of grief, loss of family and friends, economic hardships, isolation, and mental health concerns. We found new ways to support our youth and their families by rapidly mobilizing resources and providing increased crisis intervention.

Community Connections grew out of the need to help families gain access to resources to address emergency needs such as food, housing, utilities, technology, access to health care services, and intensive mental health support. Youth Guidance staff incorporated on-going needs assessments to help identify and connect families to resources.

Community Connections aims to serve families across all our 162 Chicagoland partner schools. We hired two community resource specialists who dedicate their time to helping those we serve with the securing the resources they need.

New ways to support youth & families:

- MOBILIZED RESOURCES
- INCREASED CRISIS INTERVENTION
Michelle Obama Joins a WOW Circle!

It’s always a great week in Chicago when former President Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama make a public appearance. Michelle Obama even visited our very own WOW youth and joined a circle at Hyde Park Academy to share words of encouragement and validate their experiences with her own. This awe-inspiring experience was shared by WOW Directors Ngozi Abandy Harris and Shykira Richards, and former WOW Director Gail Day.

“GROWING UP ON THE SOUTH SIDE MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY, AND I WAS THRILLED TO MEET WITH SOME WONDERFUL YOUNG WOMEN FROM CHICAGO TO TALK ABOUT OUR WORK WITH THE @GIRLSALLIANCE.”

Michelle Obama
@MICHELLEOBAMA
INCREASING PATHWAYS to POTENTIAL

Various programs help Youth Guidance achieve its ultimate goal of connecting youth to post-secondary opportunities on their path to a brighter future.

THE @WORK PROGRAM
@Work is a year-long program for high school students who have successfully progressed through the BAM or WOW programs. Skilled @Work specialists support career exploration and post-secondary success through a 15-lesson curriculum. This year @Work expanded its reach to serve Boston as well as Chicago.

YOUTH GUIDANCE CAREER DAY
Youth Guidance hosted a Career Day for more than 130 students with professionals across many industries. WOW and BAM youth networked, heard from panels of professionals, and shared space in an open Q&A session with the Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

YOUNG MEN OF COLOR INITIATIVE
In our new Young Men of Color Scholars Program, BAM and Chicago Scholars will partner to support more Black and Latino sophomores at four Chicago Public High Schools. The partnership aims to reach students earlier in their academic journey.

INTERNSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES
Partners like the Chicago White Sox, Chicago Bears, and United Airlines have opened the doors for internship and employment opportunities at various networking events. A student who interned with the Chicago Bears is now an in-house photographer with the Chicago Blackhawks. Another student who interned with United Airlines is now a full-time flight attendant for Air Wisconsin Airlines.

In the coming year, Youth Guidance will expand Career Readiness Support programming to Boston through an award by the NBA Foundation’s Racial & Social Justice Coalition.
IMPACT in CHICAGO

With our partners, we continue to offer programming in Chicago, impacting the lives of our youth through counseling services, in-school and out-of school enrichment, and more.

COMMUNITY & AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING

This year Youth Guidance served more youth than ever through our Community and Afterschool Programs. They support positive outcomes for Chicago’s students by integrating the Community School philosophy of student support and systemic change into school-based opportunities for students.

We continue to work closely with partner schools to develop and implement programming with a holistic, child-development focus that applies to in-school and out-of-school time throughout the academic year and summer. We have had an exciting year of transferring skills to our youth and ensuring that we aligned out-of school time with classroom learning, while bringing communities, families, and resources into the schools.

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Helping our parents to better serve their youth at home, Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) continues to increase resources and support we provide to families. The difficulty of the last two years on families shifted our perspective on what they truly needed to help youth live fulfilling lives. With the generosity of our grant partners, the PFE team provides ongoing support to families through needs such as food, clothing, school supplies, hygiene kits, and social-emotional learning kits.

We have also recruited more Parent Mentors to support parents and families, and continue to conduct needs assessments and provide on-going grade level parent supports circles monthly to help parents cope with stress.

SCHOOL-BASED COUNSELING & STRIVE PROGRAM

Our School-Based Counseling programs continue to reach the gap for the needs of our students. Youth Guidance’s School-Based Counseling team helps students process and overcome the effects of trauma through individual and group counseling. We remain in the areas where youth need services most such as Auburn-Gresham and North Lawndale, serving partner schools.

This work extends to our STRIVE program, and serves to support youth in care of the State of Illinois. Most youth in care have experienced trauma or neglect. STRIVE offers comprehensive support, positive adult guidance, and a sense of normalcy. This is essential for healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development. STRIVE serves ages 14-21 through one-on-one counseling, college tours, social and educational field trips, educational workshops, and more.
Mena Ruiz

Mena is a former Youth Guidance participant who started as an intern for McShane Construction Management and is now a full-time Project Coordinator. She often speaks about her journey starting with WOW and the continuation through the alumni program.

She is the current Youth Guidance Alumni Council President and works as a Project Coordinator with McShane Construction company. Mena was connected to the McShane Construction Management firm through the Career Readiness and Success programs. She started as an intern, looking to figure out next steps after high school and college and was connected through Michele Cruz. While the role was different from what she was looking for, it became a great fit.

Early on, she was given a mentor and was included on important projects. Mena was then hired as a Project Coordinator and now helps McShane connect with other students like herself who may have never considered this kind of work. In November, she was able to share her own experience with BAM and WOW students at the Youth Guidance Career Day.

Monique L. Harvey

An alum who always shares her story, Monique L. Harvey became homeless right before her senior year of high school in 2016. She was able to connect with the Teen Living Program (TLP), which was able to assist her with applying to La Casa Norte to provide her with stable housing. From then on, she decided to attend Kennedy-King College as she graduated from high school a Chicago Star Scholar with High Honors.

Her educational journey through Kennedy-King College and Columbia College Chicago has heightened her skillset in producing, scriptwriting, and directing. Monique began to believe in her journey through media when NBC’s “Making a Difference” covered Monique and her peers for their collaboration with Landmarks Illinois in 2017. She has been featured in numerous other interviews since.

Over the years, Monique has learned how to DJ and produce podcasts, radio shows, and music. Monique actively writes poetry, scripts, and songs in her free time. Her passions include creating content around the African American community and restoring her community through entrepreneurial social adventures.

Currently, Monique is the Social Event Coordinator for the Youth Guidance Alumni Council where she continues to advocate and gather youth for social and academic engagement.
The Bright Futures Gala is Youth Guidance’s premier annual event to raise funds to support programs like Becoming A Man and Working On Womanhood, which served nearly 15,000 youth this year.

Thank you to the YG community who helped us to raise more than 1.4 million dollars in support of our programs. This level of support continues to be unprecedented and met with immense gratitude. The value of the dollars raised goes far beyond the programs they will provide. We are thankful for our co-chairs Paul Reilly and Jim Mills, and are incredibly grateful to those who joined us both virtually and in-person. We cannot wait to see the impact of your support next year.
### STATEMENT of FINANCIAL POSITION

**June 30, 2022**

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>Grants receivable, net, current portion</td>
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<td>Investments, at fair value</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$36,841,691</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted cash and equivalents</td>
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<td>128,993</td>
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<td>Grants receivable, net of current portion</td>
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<td>Security deposits</td>
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<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>23,825</td>
<td>23,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(13,321)</td>
<td>(10,247)</td>
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<td><strong>Total other assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$510,578</strong></td>
<td><strong>$350,216</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$53,420,050</strong></td>
<td><strong>$37,191,907</strong></td>
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#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

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<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued expenses</td>
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<td>Government advances</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$4,137,768</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>12,000,839</td>
<td>10,592,706</td>
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<td>Board designated</td>
<td>18,189,545</td>
<td>1,053,871</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets without donor restrictions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$30,190,384</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,646,577</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purpose restricted</td>
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<td>Perpetual in nature</td>
<td>129,189</td>
<td>$128,993</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets with donor restrictions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,383,333</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,137,768</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$50,573,717</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33,054,139</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$53,420,050</strong></td>
<td><strong>$37,191,907</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022 Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>2022 With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>2022 Total</th>
<th>2021 Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$25,763,037</td>
<td>$7,448,956</td>
<td>$33,211,993</td>
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<td>Government grants</td>
<td>21,367,439</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,367,439</td>
<td>14,882,339</td>
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<td>Program service fees</td>
<td>1,570,532</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,570,532</td>
<td>571,176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract revenue</td>
<td>155,508</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>155,508</td>
<td>189,355</td>
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<td>Donated services &amp; In-kind contributions</td>
<td>18,463</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,463</td>
<td>27,262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorships and ticket revenue</td>
<td>1,390,073</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,390,073</td>
<td>1,524,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less costs of direct benefits</td>
<td>(182,505)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(182,505)</td>
<td>(315,153)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net revenues from special events</td>
<td>1,207,568</td>
<td>4,137,768</td>
<td>1,207,568</td>
<td>1,491,377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>69,976</td>
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<td>69,976</td>
<td>20,827</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income (loss)</td>
<td>(2,384,793)</td>
<td>(1,885,274)</td>
<td>(4,270,067)</td>
<td>3,926,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPP loan and interest forgiveness</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,751,696</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net revenues from other revenue</td>
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<td>(1,885,274)</td>
<td>(4,200,091)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>6,587,911</td>
<td>(6,587,911)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Public Support and Revenue</td>
<td>$54,355,641</td>
<td>$(1,024,229)</td>
<td>$53,331,412</td>
<td>$37,766,074</td>
</tr>
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### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022 Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>2022 With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>2022 Total</th>
<th>2021 Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>29,275,799</td>
<td>24,245,334</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative and general</td>
<td>4,929,049</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,929,049</td>
<td>4,317,926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>1,606,986</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,606,986</td>
<td>1,617,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$35,811,834</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$35,811,834</td>
<td>$30,181,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$18,543,807</td>
<td>$(1,024,229)</td>
<td>$17,519,578</td>
<td>$7,586,026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$11,646,577</td>
<td>$21,407,562</td>
<td>$33,054,139</td>
<td>$25,469,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, End of Year</td>
<td>$30,190,384</td>
<td>$20,383,333</td>
<td>$50,573,717</td>
<td>$33,054,139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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"NOT EVERY VOICE IS LOUD ENOUGH TO CALL OUT—SO YOU NEED SOMEONE WHO IS GOING TO BE CLOSE ENOUGH ... WHO CAN HEAR US ... BAM & WOW MAKE YOU FEEL SAFE ... THEY MAKE YOU FEEL UNDERSTOOD. YOU ACTUALLY HAVE SOMEONE WHO WILL TALK TO YOU.”

Charles  
ALUMNI & YOUTH GUIDANCE INTERN

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BAM Scholar
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Ja‘Malia Bond
Sr. Director, Office of Child Welfare & Attendance, Compton USD

Jon Burton
District Sales Manager, Amazon Web Services

H. Carl Crawford
Fin Svcs Professional, New York Life Insurance, Spokesman, Patagonia

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Executive Director, Faith Foster Families Network (JFN)

Yvonne Maria Jimenez
Deputy Director at Neighborhood Legal Services of LA

Velianca Millet
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Mario Rodriguez
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Hilary Thomas
Executive at CAA

Lauren Wallace
Teacher, LAUSD, Special Education

Stephaune Wallace
Assets Protection Outreach Coordinator, Target Corp.

BAM SEATTLE

Hon. Bobbe Bridge
Former Associate Justice, Washington Supreme Court

Regina Elmi
Co-Founder & Member, Somali Parents Education Board

Dr. Susan Enfield
Outgoing Superintendent, Highline Public Schools

Leo Flor
Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services

Robert Gant
Community Partnerships Manager, King County Juvenile Court Services

Aaron Garcia
Community Inclusion Manager, White Center Community Development Associate, Highline School Board Member

Kisa Hendrickson
Chief Engagement & Partnership Officer, Highline Public Schools

Aimee Khuu
Executive Director for PSJH Global Partnerships and Co-Chair of Southwest Youth & Family Services Board of Directors

Andi Smith
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Thank You!