Annual Report





gabrielleswings.org

A Message From our Founder

As we look back at 2023, my heart is so full. It has been a year of growth, and I am grateful every day that we have an opportunity to do this work. As you read, you'll see the faces and places that are important to us, but what we can't fully convey on "paper" is the energy and joy – of our team, partners, and wonderful children we are lucky to support. These children, and the people who work so hard to help them, are truly awe-inspiring. I know in my heart that my daughter is looking down with wonder at this legacy we built in her honor.



When I think about what inspired me to create Gabrielle's Wings, it was because of who she was, to everyone she met. Focusing on the whole child is critical to helping them soar. At Gabrielle's Wings, that means creating foundational confidence and psychological safety. When a child is able to express themselves in a variety of ways, they reinforce that confidence and believe they are valuable – that they can make an impact. Without that, the ability to be curious, express emotion, and take risks is very limited.

This was Gabrielle's special gift, naturally helping other children on this journey. She had an expansive view of and access to the world, but knew that wasn't true for many. She understood the importance of giving back even at a young age. She truly saw others and created spaces for kindness and friendship. At 7 years old, she just "got it". That's what I wanted for Gabrielle, and that's what Gabrielle's Wings wants for every child. Thank you to all who have supported us in this important work. As you read through some of this year's stories, we hope we can pass on some of our joy to you!

Me Stor

Michelle Hord Founder & Chair

Our Partners

Camp Morty

We continued our partnership with Camp Morty in 2023, officially dedicating a new Gabrielle's Peace Corner and providing trauma-informed training to 52 counselors and staff. All of the campers are wards of the State of NY through various socioeconomic supported or foster programs.

During their 2 weeks at camp, 70% of the children used the Peace Corner. It was not only a safe haven when they needed it, it was also used to have conversations regarding coping skills, safety/self-care plans, and goals for the future. Giving them the tools to express their identities, emotions, and needs, not just during camp but as they take those tools back home and into their lives, truly makes an impact.



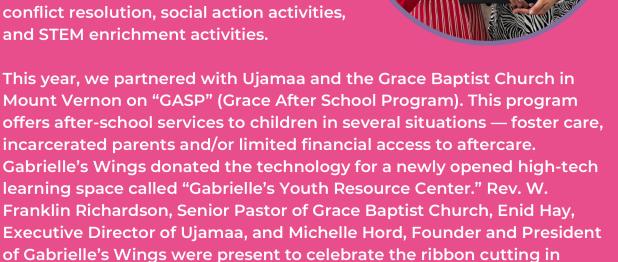




Our Partners

Ujamaa CDC

Gabrielle's Wings began a partnership with Ujamaa Community Development Corporation in Mount Vernon, NY in 2018, providing need-based scholarships to the nationally recognized "Freedom Summer" camp program for area students. These students are often in the public schools free lunch programs and have limited access to summer camp experiences. The camp provides an integrated reading curriculum, conflict resolution, social action activities, and STEM enrichment activities.





November!





Our Partners

Dream Day South Africa

In September, Gabrielle's Wings worked with our South Africa partner, Cape Gateway International Church, to host their inaugural Dream Day. In that area, over 40% of children do not graduate from high school. To inspire children to pursue educational and vocational dreams, seven adults spoke about their career choices, the necessary educational commitments, the obstacles they overcame, and the positive impact of education on their lives and the lives of their family and community members.

Thirty-nine children and their families participated, representing 19 different schools. This successful first-ever event exposed children to working adults in various fields who all come from their own community, demonstrating that they too have choices and opportunities available to them.





New Partner

Independence Mission Schools

We are happy to introduce our newest partner. In 2023 we began work with Independence Mission Schools in Philadelphia, PA, to pilot Gabrielle's Peace Rooms in their schools - safe spaces for the children to step away from the classroom if needed to restore their emotional wellbeing and sense of peace.

Our first school is St. Martin de Porres in North Philly. The space will be equipped with everything they need - comfortable surroundings, kinetic tools, and an on-site counselor. IMS is a 14-school system serving K-8 grades. 98% of the students are children of color living in historically excluded communities. We are excited to enter the Philadelphia region, and to work with IMS!















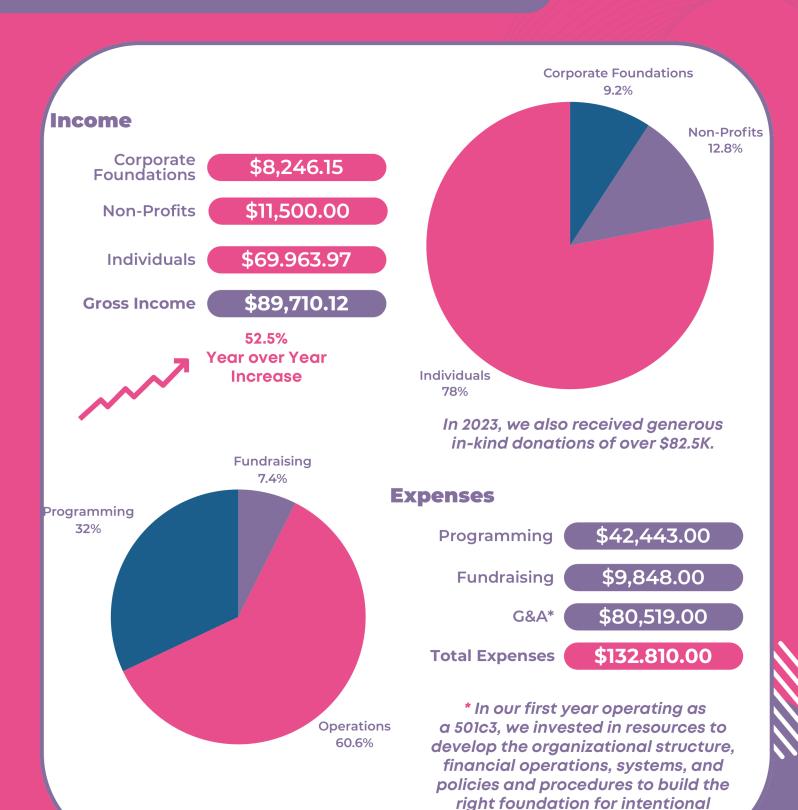


Gabrielle's Wings hosted our first fundraising event as an independent 501c3 at the Salamander Hotel in DC, surpassing our fundraising goal and having a lot of fun doing so! We welcomed supporters from across the country as they joined us during Howard's Homecoming Weekend for a night of music, dancing, and celebrating our work and our partners. We are so thankful for those that attended, and to those that offered their resources and talents to support our cause. Special thanks to Comcast NBCUniversal for their sponsorship, The Legendary Chris Washington for entertaining us with his music, and Cheriss May for her photography, and all of our incredible volunteers for their time, effort, and energy!

growth.



Financials



More Good News

In April, Gabrielle's Wings was honored with the Humanitarian Award at the Ujamaa Community Development Corporation's 2023 Village of Grace Scholarship Fundraiser Gala Benefiting Homeless and at-risk Children & Youth. We are grateful for the recognition of our work.





Beth Bunting, who has been a member of our Board since 2022, agreed to take on the role of Executive Director for 2024, supporting our efforts in building infrastructure, developing our strategy for the future, and continuing our growth in a thoughtful way.

Laurie Beasley joined us part time as Operations Coordinator, and is helping us ensure that your experience, and that of our partners, is positive, seamless, and impactful.





Couldn't Do it Without You!

Adrienne Bell Aisha Jefferson Amanda Knapper Angela Williams-Trapp **Angelique Speight** Anitra McFarland Annaelle Djomo **Arnee Gomez** Ashlee Brown **Audrey Sato** Axel Johnson Barbara White Barbara Cowan **Barion Grant** Becca Kabisch Benjamin Freedman Bernardette Storey Bernie Lawrence-Watkins Beth Kanofsky **Beth Bunting** Blackbaud Giving Fund **Bret Perkins** Brianna Hahn Camille Franklin Camille Cash Carla Jackson Carlos Cubia Carmen Hughes Carmen Hardy Carol Dudlley

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Couldn't Do it Without You!

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Our Board



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Tara Jones Vice Chair



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Tylitha Stewart



Susan Jin Davis



Beth Bunting
Executive Director

Connect

Donate to support our mission of giving children of color in historically excluded communities opportunities through educational support and cultural exposure. We hope that Gabrielle's legacy will enable children to aspire to dream beyond their immediate horizons and that her "wings" will enable them to soar. Click the button below to donate.



Follow and Share

You can follow us on all our social channels to see and share the latest updates on our work. Check out and share our Gabrielle's Wings website with your network to further spread our mission.







gabrielleswings.org