

United  
Way



United Way  
of the Greater Capital Region

# 2022-2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



# A LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Friends,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at United Way of the Greater Capital Region (UWGCR), our work to foster thriving communities for kids and families continues to gain momentum. On the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's incredible to see businesses, individuals, and community-based organizations and leaders come together to bring our mission to new heights.

Over the past year, we continued to build a strong foundation at The Blake Annex, where our community of mission-driven organizations and individuals grows each day. We're reimagining workplace giving campaigns with our corporate partners to create a more engaging experience beyond donations alone. Our community impact partnerships continue to evolve beyond grant funding.

According to a new United for ALICE report released this past spring, 38% of Capital Region households struggle to afford the basic necessities. This stark reminder of who we show up to fight for each day guides and strengthens our commitment to work with our partners toward a common goal of building a community where all can thrive.

We cannot do this important work without you and the support of our incredible community of corporate partners, donors, volunteers, and advocates. Here's some of what we were able to achieve together over the last year:

**\$3.01 million** invested in our community impact strategy for 2022 and 2023.

**285,165 meals** provided to children, teens, adults, and seniors.

**10,841 households & families** served by the Family Neighborhood Resource Center network in 2022.

**4,800 Tax returns prepared** in 2023 tax season resulting in **\$1.44 Million in tax prep fees saved**, and **\$1.48 Million total Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) received**.

**UWGCR strengthened its advocacy efforts with the Summer Meals Collaborative**, convening child nutrition, education, and anti-hunger advocates to urge NYS officials to ensure all children have universal access to free school meals, regardless of income.

**1000+ volunteers** came together to support our community for 518 Day.

Creating lasting social change takes all of us working together. When we Live United, we continue to build a stronger, more resilient, and equitable Capital Region for everyone.

Sincerely,

PETER GANNON  
President & CEO



CARM BASILE  
Chair, Board of Directors







# OUR MISSION AND IMPACT

United Way of the Greater Capital Region is working to advance community well-being on a generational scale. To us, well-being means everyone in the communities we serve experiences the conditions and opportunities they need to be happy, healthy, and thrive.

Our investments provide support to meeting the immediate needs and rights of residents and neighborhoods across the region, where more than 167,000 households live below the ALICE threshold and struggle to afford the basic necessities. We are committed to naming and tackling root causes and systemic inequities that allow challenges to well-being to persist.

We mobilize the caring power of donors, volunteers, and community partners to give, volunteer, and advocate for people within our region.

UWGCR WORKS IN **8 COUNTIES** WITH NEARLY **73 AGENCY PARTNERS** AND IN **6 FAMILY NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE CENTERS (FNRC)** TO HELP PEOPLE ACROSS THE CAPITAL REGION THRIVE.

THIS YEAR, WE COLLABORATED WITH

**73 FUNDED PARTNERS + 4,730 DONORS + 235 CORPORATE PARTNERS**

WE INVESTED

**\$3.01 MILLION**

into our community impact strategy in 2022 and 2023, which supported

**4,900 CHILDREN & 320 ADULTS**

who benefited from UWGCR's investments in nutrition security



**\$1,479,381**

returned to people in Earned Income Tax Credits



**10,841**

households & families served through FNRCs



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## EARLY CHILDHOOD/YOUTH SUCCESS

UWGCR envisions a Capital Region in which evidence-based, culturally appropriate, and affordable early childhood development is available to all children. Our goal is for all kids, teens, and young adults to have the ability and access to participate in high-quality education that sets them up for career success.

Over the last year, our investments provided opportunities for 876 kids and young adults to build their coding and tech skills, their confidence through increased academic performance, their English proficiency and literacy skills, environmental science, and STEAM.

### RESULTS WE'VE ACHIEVED TOGETHER

- 105** kids who participated in the Danny Dollar Academy, which teaches financial literacy and entrepreneurship (Albany, Montgomery, Schenectady Counties)
- 132** kids who learned about nutritious food while cooking with their families in Brightside Up's Veggie Kids Club, a program supported by UWGCR
- 876** kids and young adults who developed their confidence, English proficiency and literacy, coding, and tech skills through UWGCR investments

One partner reported that after-school program and school attendance rates improved by 1/3rd as a result



### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: GIRLS INC

At the core of the Girls Inc. Experience is a holistic approach to whole-girl development, which empowers girls to overcome gender, economic, and social barriers to foster growth into healthy, educated, and independent individuals. Through mentorship, girls-only settings, and evidence-based programs that promote healthy living and academic success, Girls Inc. provides a unique, pro-girl environment where girls can thrive.

Ari Mayo's journey exemplifies the transformative impact of the organization. After starting at age four in the Summer Fun Camp, she continued through the after-school program and eventually joined the five-year Eureka! Program. As a high school junior last summer, Ari gained valuable internship experience, broadening her career horizons.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## HEALTH

United Way of the Greater Capital Region is dedicated to improving health equity by addressing social, economic, and environmental disparities. We focus on two impactful strategies: nutrition security and inclusive health system navigation.

In the Capital Region, food insecurity is increasing, affecting families with school-age children where food accounts for around 21% of monthly expenses. Healthcare disparities disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. UWGCR investments support individuals in our region, tackling these challenges head-on.



### NUTRITION SECURITY

**\$500,000 (+)** UWGCR's investment to address nutrition security in 2022-2023

**285,165** meals provided to children teens adults, and seniors

**4,900 CHILDREN & 320 ADULTS** who benefited from UWGCR's investments in nutrition security

### HEALTH SYSTEMS NAVIGATION

**3,085** people connected to health services through UWGCR's investments

**144** students who benefitted from wrap around services that include mental health counseling

**160** people who received health coaching through CEK RN (funded by UWGCR)

### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MOM STARTS HERE

Mom Starts Here is committed to walking alongside Capital Region families on their parenting journey by offering educational support and advocacy. In New York State, where many women and persons who had recently given birth – particularly those from BIPOC and other under-represented communities – reported not feeling heard or being included in the decision-making process, Mom Starts Here helps build a stronger and healthier community around parents and their children.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## ECONOMIC WELLBEING

United Way of the Greater Capital Region seeks to invest in the talents, strengths, and ingenuity of low-income people in the Capital Region and address the obstacles they face to reach financial stability and thrive.

Through the work of our agency partners:

### 161 people experienced greater economic well-being last year and they:

- Increased their income on average by \$22,000.
- Increased their savings and/or their credit scores
- Received transportation support, enabling them to consistently get to work and appointments.
- Reduced their debt
- Increased their access to liquid cash.

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) supported Capital Region residents through:

**4,800** tax returns prepared in 2023 tax season

**\$1.44 MILLION** tax prep fees saved

**\$1.48 MILLION** total Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) received

### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TROY REHABILITATION & IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TRIP)

Last fiscal year, TRIP clients saved on average \$1,460 (going from being in debt to having savings). This program is designed to match renters' savings so they can have money for a down payment on a home, car or rental unit. In addition, clients are matched with other TRIP financial and homeownership services to support their wealth-building goals.



# ALICE

ALICE, standing for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed defines households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but cannot afford the basic cost of living. Despite struggling to make ends meet, ALICE households often do not qualify for public assistance. ALICE offers valuable data for equitable programs that truly empower people to thrive, not just survive.

While ALICE households exist across all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, and geographies, some groups are disproportionately ALICE. In many cases, the pandemic exposed and widened gaps in rates of hardship by race and ethnicity, age, and household composition. These patterns are the result of long-standing structural racism, institutionalized white supremacy, and structural barriers to education, homeownership, health care, and financial wealth and savings, among others.



**38%** of Capital Region households live below the ALICE threshold. This is an average that hides important truths about how inequity and disadvantage are distributed in our region.

BLACK AND HISPANIC HOUSEHOLDS: **60%**

NATIVE HOUSEHOLDS: **62%**, despite accounting for **1%** of the NYS population.

Similarly, structural disadvantage that flows along gender and age lines is reflected in ALICE:

**74%** SINGLE FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS ARE ALICE

UNDER 25 - **68%**

OVER 65 - **56%**

**167,057** CAPITAL REGION HOUSEHOLDS LIVE BELOW THE ALICE THRESHOLD

**2,983** MORE THAN 2019 (last ALICE report)

**50,779** CAPITAL REGION HOUSEHOLDS LIVE IN POVERTY.





# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## OUR WORK TO CHANGE SYSTEMS ACROSS THE CAPITAL REGION

United Way of the Greater Capital Region takes a unique approach to making positive changes in our community. We provide guidance and expertise to organizations over several years along with financial support. This gives our partners more time and resources to come up with innovative ideas, better evaluate their impact, and strengthen the impact of initiatives that advance equity and community well-being.

When we talk about a “systems change” approach, we mean we’re working to reshape the policies, relationships, operations, incentives, and motivations that underlie our community’s problems. Our goal is to create a fairer, more transformative, equitable, and long-lasting impact. Achieving systems change requires organizations that are well-equipped and capable of making a significant difference.

### Systems Change for Nutrition Security

UWGCR’s \$100,000 investment in **Creative Good’s Free Food Fridge** program through our Luminosity Collaborative exemplifies our dedication to reshaping the way we perceive food and nutrition security. Creative Good is fundamentally altering the narrative surrounding food, shifting it from a mere commodity to a recognized public good. This evolution places food at the core of community-building to ensure nutrition security for all.

In the initial year of our partnership with Creative Good, our investment focused on achieving three vital objectives:

- Creating a Mobile Grocery:** Creative Good is establishing a mobile grocery service that will supply fresh produce and other requested food items, making nutritious food accessible to those in need.
- Promoting Mutual Aid:** Mutual aid is grounded as a practical, year-round approach to community involvement and nutrition security support, fostering a spirit of unity and assistance.
- Engaging the Private Sector:** Creative Good is working with small businesses, providing them the opportunity to participate in addressing nutrition security, creating a collaborative effort extending beyond the nonprofit sector.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## ADVOCACY TO CHANGE SYSTEMS

The United Way of the Greater Capital Region passionately advocates for children and families through diverse initiatives. We joined forces with child nutrition, education, and anti-hunger advocates to push for free, nutritious school meals for all New York State students, aiming to eliminate meal-related stigma and benefit children in rural areas and ALICE households. Although not fully funded in the 2024 budget, around 81% of New York school children would benefit from expanded Community Eligibility Provisions coverage. UWGCR also championed menstrual equity with Women United, calling on lawmakers to ensure free access to menstrual hygiene products in public schools and facilities, pledging to continue this fight in the 2024 legislative session.

Additionally, we supported the Working Families Tax Credit, combining and enhancing tax credits to aid working families, inspired by the success of the Federal Child Tax Credit expansion in 2021. UWGCR’s multifaceted advocacy efforts embody our commitment to improving systems for the well-being of children and families in New York.



### Systems Change for Health Equity through Transportation

Our \$100,000 investment in the Saratoga County Community of Excellence – a partnership between CAPTAIN Community Human Services, the Saratoga Community Health Center, and Saratoga Hospital – addresses the link between health inequity and transportation challenges. Health problems like cancer and chronic diseases often stem from upstream factors like access to reliable transportation, education, economic opportunities and social policies.

IN PHASE 1 (LATE 2022 TO 2023), WE AIMED TO:

- Pilot transportation services in underserved Saratoga County communities.**
- Develop a system to identify and activate community assets.**
- Introduce Community Coaches to connect residents with health equity resources.**
- Identify and prioritize the needs for long-term, dedicated public transportation.**
- Engage the community in outreach efforts to address transportation challenges.**



# PHILANTHROPY

## EXPANDING UWGCR'S PHILANTHROPIC REACH

At its root, philanthropy is a love of humanity for humanity. At United Way of the Greater Capital Region, we are supported by a growing network of corporate partners and employees, individual donors, and volunteers whose generosity enables us to be a force for good in the community.

Workforce giving remains the bedrock of our philanthropic outreach. Employees from more than 100 companies support our mission by donating through their employers' annual campaigns, accounting for more than 40 percent of our annual revenue. Their impact goes far beyond dollars, as many of our corporate partners routinely sponsor events and organize community service projects that support our nonprofit network.

Over the past year, we've continued our work to raise more funds and expand our philanthropic influence. Through our Emerging Leaders United and Women United donor networks, we are continually engaging with new members of our community and expanding our influence. We aim to build a community of funding partners who are eager to collaborate and strategically pool resources so we can empower empower our community partners to deliver the most impactful and sustainable services and programs.

This approach strengthens our connections with both existing and new donors, affirming our commitment to broadening the scope of giving in our community. We are excited to continue doing philanthropy differently in the Greater Capital Region, creating lasting and meaningful change.

### Be the Difference

UWGCR was not immune to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furloughs, the Great Resignation, and remote work significantly impacted regional workforce giving, which accounts for more than 60 percent of annual revenue. Be the Difference was a corporate fundraising campaign to fill the financial gap posed by the COVID-19 pandemic so that UWGCR could maintain its commitments to our agency partners and the communities they serve.

### BE THE DIFFERENCE PARTNERS

**21**  
Businesses

**\$150,000**  
Raised

# PHILANTHROPY

## SIGNATURE EVENTS

### 518 Day

Presented by United Way of the Greater Capital Region and MVP Health Care, 518 Day brings together more than 1,000 volunteers at 50 community service projects that support our nonprofit partners.

This day of service makes a huge impact on the communities we serve:

**1000+ VOLUNTEERS**

**55 SERVICE PROJECTS**

**9,000 HOURS SERVED BY VOLUNTEERS**

**\$286,200 INVESTED INTO THE COMMUNITY**



### Annual Awards

UWGCR's Annual Awards celebrate our Campaign Champions, organizations, and individuals who invested more than \$4 million to support the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. The evening pays tribute to our region's most generous philanthropists. In 2023, we were proud to present Paul "Batman" Collins-Hackett with this distinguished honor. As the executive director of The RED Bookshelf, "Batman" and his team of superheroes have promoted childhood literacy by inspiring young readers throughout the Capital Region.

### Perfect Pitch

Perfect Pitch is a 'Shark Tank' style event powered by United Way of the Greater Capital Region's Women United, where four local nonprofit agencies have the opportunity to 'pitch' their innovative idea for the chance at a \$10,000 grant and serve as the Women United Premier Partner. In 2023, Capital Region Menstrual Health was our Perfect Pitch winner.



# PHILANTHROPY

## DONOR NETWORKS

### Women United

Women United is a group of 75+ energetic, passionate, and philanthropic women empowered by UWGCR to make a true impact in our community. The members mobilize change by investing in, advocating for, and creating programs with a mission to drive equity and excellence for all women and children.



### COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Being a parent can pose significant challenges, especially for expecting parents facing financial struggles. Women United hosted the 518 Day's Community Baby Shower, providing vital support to new moms in the Capital Region. They received an incredible \$16,086.17 worth of donated items, including diapers, clothing, bottles, formula, pacifiers, and bath toys, totaling over 57,000 items. These essentials were distributed to UWGCR's six Family Neighborhood Resource Centers.

### Leadership Society

Made up of the region's most dedicated philanthropic trailblazers, Leadership Society includes donors who give \$1,000 or more annually. This group is a driving force for positive lasting change, committed to creating action, and dedicated to bringing together expertise and resources that get results.



### Emerging Leaders United

Emerging Leaders United (ELU) is a diverse group of engaged young professionals committed to improving communities across the Capital Region through volunteerism and service initiatives. ELU brings together service-oriented young professionals to become leaders of lasting social change.

### NUTRITIOUS CHOICES LEARNING PATHS



The Nutritious Choices Learning Paths are designed to make learning about healthy eating habits fun and easy for kids and families. This year, Emerging Leaders United installed three paths at Henry Hudson Riverfront Park in Hudson, Knickerbacker Park in Troy, and Steinmetz Park in Schenectady.

### Tocqueville Society

United Way's Tocqueville Society is a committed group of individuals and families who contribute \$10,000 or more annually to United Way of the Greater Capital Region. This generous group inspires others to lead with a philanthropic mindset and makes a measurable and sustainable impact to help the Greater Capital Region thrive.

# THE BLAKE ANNEX

## COMMUNITY OVER COMPETITION

### Our Mission

The Blake Annex elevates the critical role that mission-driven organizations play in creating communities where all can thrive. This space allows nonprofits, grassroots movements, startups, entrepreneurs, and other tax-exempt ventures to focus more on mission and less on overhead by providing working space below fair market value and promoting collaboration to further impact.

### THE BLAKE TEAM



**Angelique Powell**

Director of Community Animation  
angelique@theblakeannex.org



**Ketti Blackwell**

Director of Operations  
ketti@theblakeannex.org

### BLAKE WAY DAY

On April 6, United Way of the Greater Capital Region and The Blake Annex joined hands with friends and community partners to commemorate Adam Blake, Jr.'s birthday. This joyous occasion saw Steuben Place ceremonially renamed Blake Way, a fitting tribute to the enduring legacy of Adam and his wife Catherine.

Adam Blake, Jr., the adopted son of a former enslaved African, rose to prominence as a visionary entrepreneur. His spirit lives on through the Kenmore Hotel, which now houses The Blake Annex, nurturing a growing community of changemakers and dreamers. This space – and now Blake Way – not only commemorates Adam and Catherine's unwavering commitment to revitalizing Downtown Albany but also continues the legacy set by them as a vibrant hub for philanthropy, entrepreneurship, and community.



### OUR BLAKE ANNEX COMMUNITY





# THE BLAKE ANNEX MINI ANNUAL REPORT

## WHAT'S TO COME

### Continued Growth at The Blake

Over the last year, The Blake Annex has further solidified its place in the co-working community in the Greater Capital Region. We've hosted community discussions and events, hosted trainings for multiple industries, and provided a space for individuals and organizations to achieve their goals. Here's how we plan to continue down this path in the future.

### Added Classroom Space

Construction will begin soon on our classroom space, which will enable members to host staff trainings and other programs. With organizations like Young Futures and Mission Accomplished Transition Services hosting training events at The Blake this past year, we are excited at the opportunity expanding these offerings will provide current and future members.

### More Professional Development

We want members and visitors of The Blake Annex to have as many opportunities to learn and grow while in community with us. Providing more professional development events and workshops is one of the areas we've seen great reception in and hope to grow. Last year, Blake member Girls on the Run Capital Region hosted its coach training and UAlbany PACK led a peer-to-peer discussion on how to use storytelling as a metric.

### Building More Community

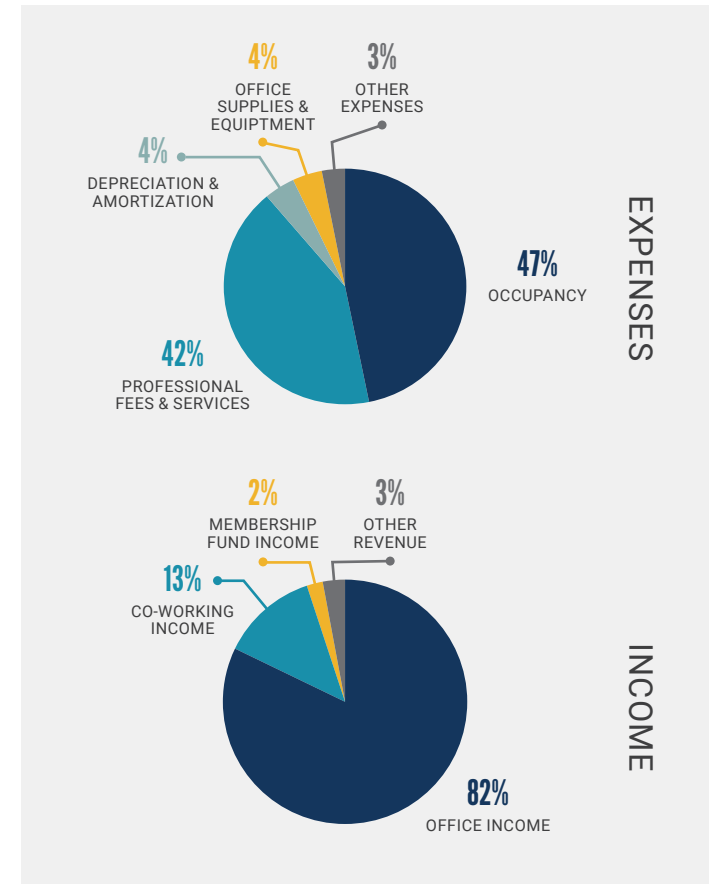
We envision The Blake Annex becoming a staple venue for our community organizations and movements to come together and further their missions. During International Women's Day with UWGCR and Women United, women from across industries and our community came together to learn about the unique challenges women face here in the Capital Region and the solutions that are needed.

# FINANCIALS

## THE BLAKE ANNEX BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	06/23/23
CURRENT ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	\$20,336.36
Accounts Receivable	\$77,303.91
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$97,640.27
Fixed Assets	\$192,312.10
Other Assets	\$3,623,231.94
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,913,184.31</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	\$752,418.76
Long Term Liabilities	\$3,455,262.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$4,227,681.00
EQUITY	-\$294,496.69
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$3,913,184.31</b>

## THE BLAKE ANNEX PROFIT & LOSS



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION

### SEFA

The State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) is a charitable solicitation of New York State employees every fall. For more than 25 years, UWGCR has coordinated the Capital Region SEFA campaign. State employees may give to any of the charitable organizations that have been approved for participation in SEFA.

Total Raised in 2022: **\$525,204.02**

Participating agencies: **113**

### Labor Unions

United Way and organized labor have been working together since the 1940s. This longstanding partnership has helped create jobs, educational opportunities, and healthy communities for decades. Union members have been partners in the United Way workplace campaign, where they are encouraged to give, advocate, and volunteer on 518 Day, at the annual Labor Parade, or during the National Letter Carriers Food Drive. Additionally, union members are eligible for UWGCR's Emergency Labor Assistance Program (ELAP), a program intended to cover common expenses, like food, housing, and clothing, that may become a major inconvenience and stressor during emergencies.

## BLAKE MEMBERSHIP PERKS

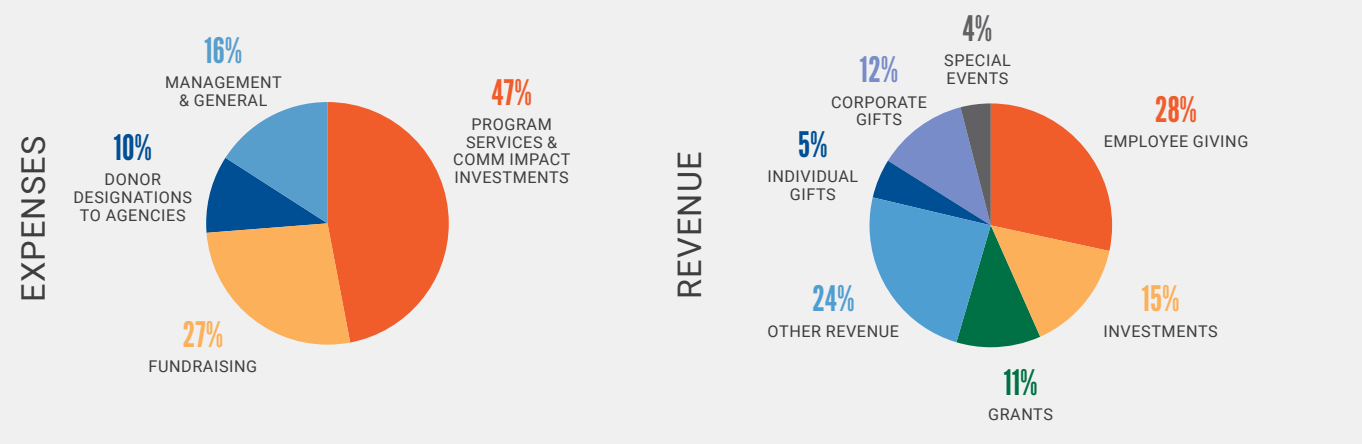
- PARKING GARAGE ACCESS\* AND DISCOUNT WITH ALBANY PARKING AUTHORITY.
- UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO RIDE WITH CDTA.
- WALKING DISTANCE FROM MULTIPLE COFFEE SHOPS AND EATERIES.
- SECURED BUILDING WITH FRONT DESK RECEPTION.
- ROOF-TOP DECK WITH INCREDIBLE DOWNTOWN ALBANY VIEWS.
- ACCESS TO CONTENT CREATION LAB FILLED WITH PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT FOR FULL-TIME MEMBERS.

\*\* in addition to membership fee\*\*

# FINANCIALS

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION

ASSETS	UNAUDITED - 6/30/2023	AUDITED - 6/30/2022
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$492,723	\$640,223
Investments	\$7,823,642	\$7,998,239
Pledges Receivable	\$1,019,852	\$1,339,603
Other Receivables	\$478,430	\$234,711
Prepaid expenses	\$8,113	\$0
Property & Equipment Net	\$697,658	\$162,693
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust	\$563,929	\$535,468
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$11,084,347</b>	<b>\$10,910,937</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$324,589	\$397,684
Grants Payable	\$937,512	\$713,897
Designations Payable	\$480,322	\$424,680
Notes Payable	\$805,167	\$0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$2,547,590</b>	<b>\$1,536,261</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions - Undesignated	\$0	\$571,247
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions - Board Designated	\$7,825,299	\$8,091,971
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$711,458	\$711,458
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,536,757</b>	<b>\$9,374,676</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$11,084,347</b>	<b>\$10,910,937</b>



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# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

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List: (\*In Memoriam)

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