



# ANNUAL REPORT

**HIGHER HOPES!**

**2023**



# Welcome Message



**WILLIAM BIRNDORF**  
FOUNDER

Dear Higher Hopes! Heroes,  
As we celebrate our 10th year, we can look back and be proud of all the successes Higher Hopes! has had with providing relief to families with children facing food insecurity. Since our little organization was founded in 2014 we've provided over 2.7 million pounds of food to families through

our established programs, as well as by quickly seizing on creative opportunities to get more food to our community. Higher Hopes! is regarded as a valuable resource for helping families and we have developed close relationships with community partners to make a bigger difference. We are forever grateful for the many foundations, individuals, corporations, and friends that have helped Higher Hopes! grow and expand. I want to thank all our supporters and volunteers for helping to make dreams come true for Detroit families in need.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Birndorf  
Miranda Crammer  
David Lubin  
Lisa Applebaum

Mark Lichterman  
Dana Loewenstein  
Karen Rubenfire

# Our Mission

Higher Hopes! serves families with children enrolled in Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Programs in Metro Detroit by providing a bounty of food in nutritious, multiple-meal food kits. Our goal is to inspire independence, relieve food anxiety, and encourage family meals together.



# What We're Facing

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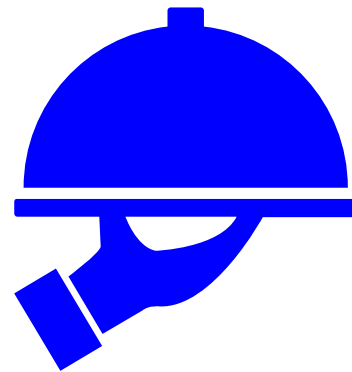
In Michigan  
**1 in 8 children**  
face hunger



There are  
**282,320 children**  
in the state who face hunger



Food insecurity affects  
**69%**  
of Detroit households



SNAP is utilized by  
**36%**  
of Detroit households



In Detroit  
**35,000**  
children are enrolled in WIC



A meal costs  
**\$3.34**  
on average

# What We're Doing

**151.2k**

151,200 packages of 2 oz sliced apples were distributed to Michigan's food banks to supplement summer lunch programs.

**\$50k**

\$50,000 in gas cards were given out at Thanksgiving to provide extra relief to Detroit families.

**1,000**

1,000 Labor Day BBQ meal kits were distributed at our holiday event.

**1,000**

1,000 Thanksgiving meal kits were distributed to 1,000 families for the 10th year.

**400**

Over 400 people at Development Center's (now MiSide) Family Fun Day were treated to lunch.

**12**

12 months of Hello Bello diapers and baby wipes were awarded to one deserving Head Start family.



# 2023 Programs 5

## Summer Program

In order to supplement summer feeding programs throughout the state, we have once again partnered with the Food Bank Council of Michigan. In 2023 we delivered 151,200 packages of apples which were distributed to Michigan's food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens.



## Labor Day BBQ

For the third year in a row, meal kits were distributed to 1,000 Detroit families for a Labor Day celebration. Each recipient received enough meat, spices, and sides to enjoy a BBQ with family and friends.



# 1,000 Turkeys, 10,000 Smiles

A major milestone, we celebrated our 10th Thanksgiving meal pass out this year! 1,000 families with children enrolled in Head Start or Brilliant Detroit received everything needed for a Thanksgiving feast. We also presented each family with a \$50 gas card.



## • • • • • COMING IN 2024 • • • • •

### Blessings in a Backpack

After working with our Detroit Head Start partners to identify the best ways to serve the community, the need for food over the weekend was an immediate concern. We are pleased to announce we are now an affiliate of Blessings in a Backpack, a national organization dedicated to ending weekend hunger for kids. Through this relationship we will use Blessings in a Backpack's proven best practices starting January 2024.

# Volunteers

In 2023, 166 volunteers and 70 Head Start family advocates helped to make the Labor Day and Thanksgiving events a success. Thank you!

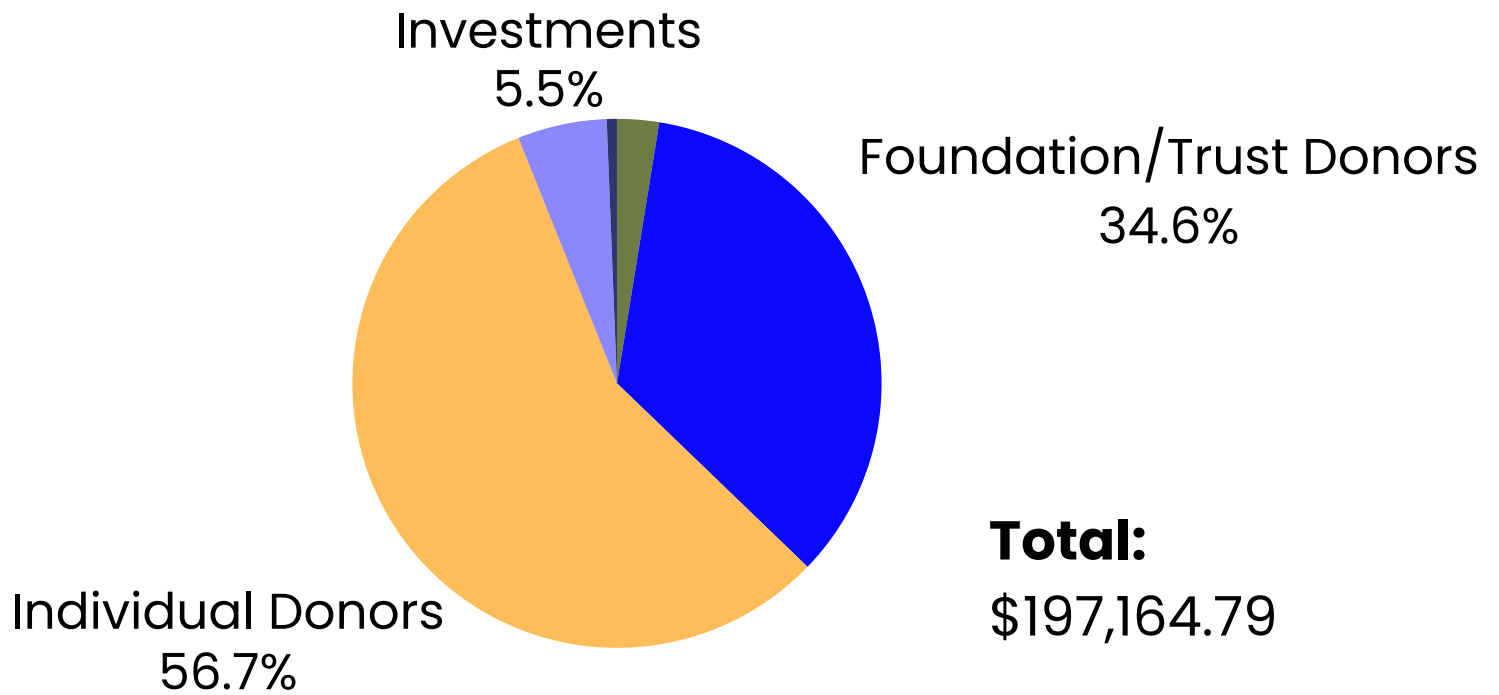


Higher Hopes! is fortunate to have the support of many long-time volunteers, some of whom have been with us since day one. We also love welcoming newcomers that bring light and energy to our events.

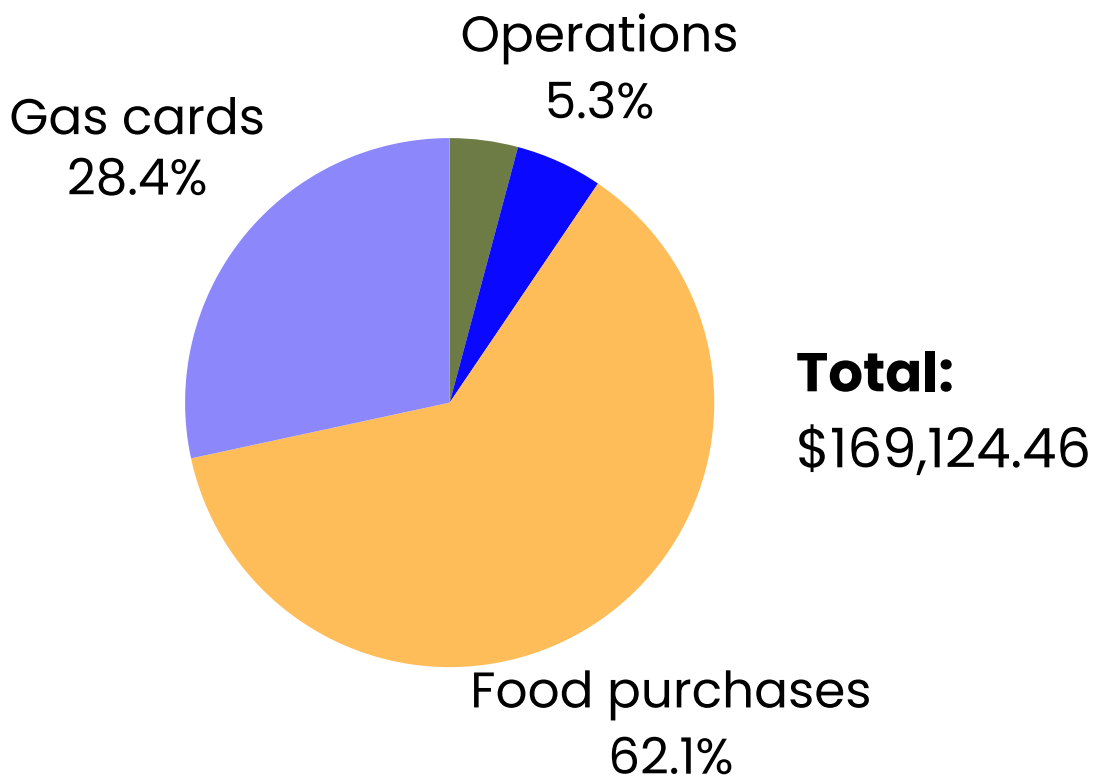


# Financials

## Revenue



## Expenditures



# Testimonials

"We truly appreciate your generosity as our food bank network would not be able to do the work we do without the support of people and organizations like yours."

*~Moreen Crum*

*Food Bank Council of Michigan*



"Thank you Higher Hopes for the food basket! This year my family was given a basket. What a wonderful surprise, especially the MUCH NEEDED gas card! We were invited to join another family for dinner for Thanksgiving . So my oldest daughter had an idea to cook all the food, which she did and we went downtown Detroit the afternoon of Thanksgiving and passed out 20 turkey dinners to families and individuals . Thank you for all you do each year to ensure families have food and good memories :) ."

*~Thanksgiving meal kit recipient*

"The Higher Hopes! organization is persistent, committed, and dedicated to the vision of the organization. They continue to bring the Early Head Start, Head Start, and community partners and funders together to collaborate and distribute food to low-income families."

*~Roxanne Campbell*

*Executive Director*

*United Children and Family Head Start*



"This was our 4th year volunteering (Focus Hope location) and as always we had a great time. We look forward to coming back next year!"

*~Ashley Bailey*

*North End Bandits Bicycle Club*



# Our Heartfelt Thanks

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## Sponsors

Applebaum Family Foundation, Blue Ribbon Restaurants, C Sill Fund, Chartreuse Kitchen & Cocktails, Chelsea Milling Company, Costco, D. Dan & Betty Kahn Foundation, Dental ROI Associates, Eagles for Children, the Fetter Family Foundation, Franklin Publicity, Freya & Dragonfly LLC, Jeffrey & Jennifer Farber Family Foundation, Joan M Criscuolo Living Trust, Kahn Sovel Mertz Fund, L Thomas Construction, The Libman Company, Lormax Stern Development Co, Marjorie & Maxwell Jospey Foundation, Meijer, Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance, Michigan Potatoes, MJS Packaging, Neal & Esther Zalenko Philanthropic Fund, Podolsky Family Fund, Robert Half Inc., Royal Container, Sierra Management, Sigmund & Sophie Rohlik Foundation, The Thomas Foundation, and WeatherGard.

## Dedications

Donations in honor of Ari Beigelman, Bill Birndorf, Larry & Carole Birndorf, Casy Belen, Donna, Joey Maliansky, Marie, Nira Slutsky, Pam Lumberg, Sam, and Stevie Dorfman.

Donations in memory of a dear brother & mother, Billy Howard, Bob Dengler, Cheryl Gutow, Dede, Donna Pearlman, Dr. Grumet, Harriet Wolok, Lisa Rath, Robert Grumet, Ronald & Maxine Grumet, Stewart Newblatt, and Susan Small.

# Deepest Appreciation

Daniel & Barbara Abramson, Soozee Alterman, Kevin & Greta Archuleta, Jan Arnett, Thomas & Nancy Aronson, Mark Barre, Laurence & Paula Berger, Mark Billes, Howard Birndorf, Jessica Birndorf, Susan Birndorf, Richard & Terrie Birndorf, William & Holly Birndorf, Mitchell & Michele Bleznak, Roberta Brandstatter, Beth & Avi Brandvain, Diane Braykovich, Bonnie Brenner, Kim & Bob Broner, Rachael Bulger, Ruth & Steve Chaness, Bernard Cohen, Adam & Lauren Cohen, Kathi & Richard Cohen, Thomas & Laura Dailey, Cathy Dawkins, Judy & Gene Devore, Julie Edgar, Michael Eizelman, David & Nanci Farber, Neil Fetter, Deborah Franzblau, Hildy Franzblau, Jordan Franzblau, Rachel Franzblau, Sean Franzblau, Beth Gans, Brian Gehrisch, George & Sherri Glassman, Tamara & Bruce Gorosh, Louise Granader, Samantha Grosinger, Richard & Jody Grossman, Hannah Hall, Claudia & Irv Hershman, Russell & Rhoda Horton, Janis & Jason Horton, Linda & Mike Houbba, Kristen Hurt, Mark Kahn, Carol & Dennis Kastle, Ronna Katzman, Dan Keil, Steve Kirsch, Mark & Nori Klar, Jessica Klein, Mary Kreiser, Anna & Yale Levin, Tony & Karen Levin, James Levine, David & Beth Levitt, Andrew & Lisa Libman, Mark & Susan Lichterman, Dana & Richard Loewenstein, Carol Lowen, Ken Lozen, David & Stephanie Lubin, Ryan Lutz, Darrin & Danette Lynd, Carolyn Markesi, Dan & Miriam Medow, Paula Mezza, Julien & Emeshe Mininberg, Susan Moiseev, Michelle & George Molnar, Lillian Movish-Katz, Dan & Dawn O'Connell, Patti & Gerald Parrett, Jeffrey Perlman, Robert Pliskow, Jonathan & Ann Podolsky, Alan Poole, Larry Posen,




# Deepest Appreciation

Cathy & Doug Pumfrey, Michael & Linda Ragins, Stephen Rideout, Patty Rose, Karen Rubenfire, Melvyn Rubenfire, Harvey & Lynn Rubin, Craig & Randy Rubin, Marianne Sacks, Kristin Schleicher, Monique Scott, John Scott, Chantelle Scott, Sam Silverstein, Nira Slutsky, Missy & Rich Small, Barry & Hilary Spolan, Dennis & Donnye Spradley, Rachel Stern, Michael (Rusty) Stockinger, Dennis Sulisz, Ruth Tobias, John Hundiak Tony DeFinis, Kenny Walters, Jerry & Liz Walters, Maxine & Herb Weinberg, Lora Weingarden, Crystal Williams, David Wolfe, Karen Wyns, Mary Wyns, and Ryan Yaple.



# Contact Information

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# THANK YOU

