

**WE BELONG PDX**  
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

# IMPACT REPORT

2022





# A NOTE FROM FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SARAH LOPEZ



It began with knocks on apartment doors in The Numbers of Portland, to offer academic support outside during the pandemic. It's transformed into caring for kids mental wellness through communities of belonging. This formation happened only because of the hands, feet and voices of many who gave a tremendous amount of time, resources and who shared our story with others. I had no intention of starting a nonprofit when I went knocking. The deep hunger for attention and belonging from these kids was too significant to ignore. I shared what I was seeing and the community responded. We were granted a free space, and people who were ready to invest their time and resource.

We're seeing kids growing in confidence, kindness, courage and joy. These kids know they're not alone in the world. They're better equipped to face adversities with a village of support behind them.

We Belong PDX is birthed from a community of people who care, and in turn we're forming communities of kids who care more about themselves, others and their environment. It's a beautiful cycle that will transform Portland and we can't wait to watch this positive transformation happen, one child at a time.

Sarah

# ABOUT US

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## TAGLINE

Creating Communities of  
Belonging for Kids

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## MISSION

Helping kids grow to be mentally well through year-round afternoon communities where meaningful connections and creativity are cultivated

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## VISION

Give every child access to a community of support and strategies that promote mental wellness

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## VALUES

### **Belonging**

We believe every child is made in the image of God and is worthy of a safe space that gives them a strong sense of belonging

### **Faithfulness**

We believe in consistent, long-term support as key to transforming communities

### **Healing**

We believe it's essential for volunteers and staff to be trauma informed and using latest research-based, effective strategies that promote healing

### **Fruitfulness**

We believe in the importance of providing a space where kids experience love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control

# OUR SITES

Freedom Foursquare is the site that started it all. We went from the parking lot of an apartment complex to a church just across the street that is nearly 16,000 square feet. The memories that have been made in this space are innumerable and lasting and we look forward to the many more to come.



## FREEDOM FOURSQUARE

"WBPDx keeps my daughter looking forward to things. I love that she feels comfortable with different people no matter their background or race. I'm glad that even though the word mentor isn't used, she's found one"

~ Mother of WBPDx 12 year old

"It's really helped him with his social skills"  
~ Mother of WBPDx 7 year old

- 6 Different Ethnicities
- 20 Families served
- 34 Kids engaged
- 215 Hours of on-site connecting and creating

"I'm so happy to be a part of WBPDx. I've always had a heart for kids, and being part of a community that's providing safe spaces for them to belong, be creative and be cared for is so important"

~ Tonya Storment, WBPDx Volunteer



Parklane Christian Reformed Church welcomed We Belong PDX at the beginning of 2022. Being next door to Parklane Elementary School, it's an ideal location for us. We connected with the school counselor for student recommendations and launched in February with a full group of kids eager to connect, create and play.



# PARKLANE CHRISTIAN REFORMED

"Our community at Parklane has been created by gathering of compassionate people who desire to connect with kids in a meaningful way."

~ Jasmine Johnson (PL Location Director)

- 7 Different Ethnicities
- 20 Families served
- 27 Kids engaged since launch
- 150 Hours of on-site connecting and creating

"My girls are so happy being a part of the program. It gives them a safe place to be after school that's right by our home and they have made great connections"

~ Mother of two WBPDx girls



# WE LIKE TO GO PLACES

More than **60 hours** experiencing new environments



## Places Our Kids Experienced in 2022 Include:

24 Hour Fitness, Columbia River Gorge, Nike Campus, Sellwood Public Pool, Parklane Park, Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park, King Pins, Glendoveer Nature Path, Rockwood park, Mt. Hood Timberline Lodge, Westmoreland Nature Park, Sellwood Riverfront Park, Moda Center, Downtown Gresham, PIR Winter Wonderland

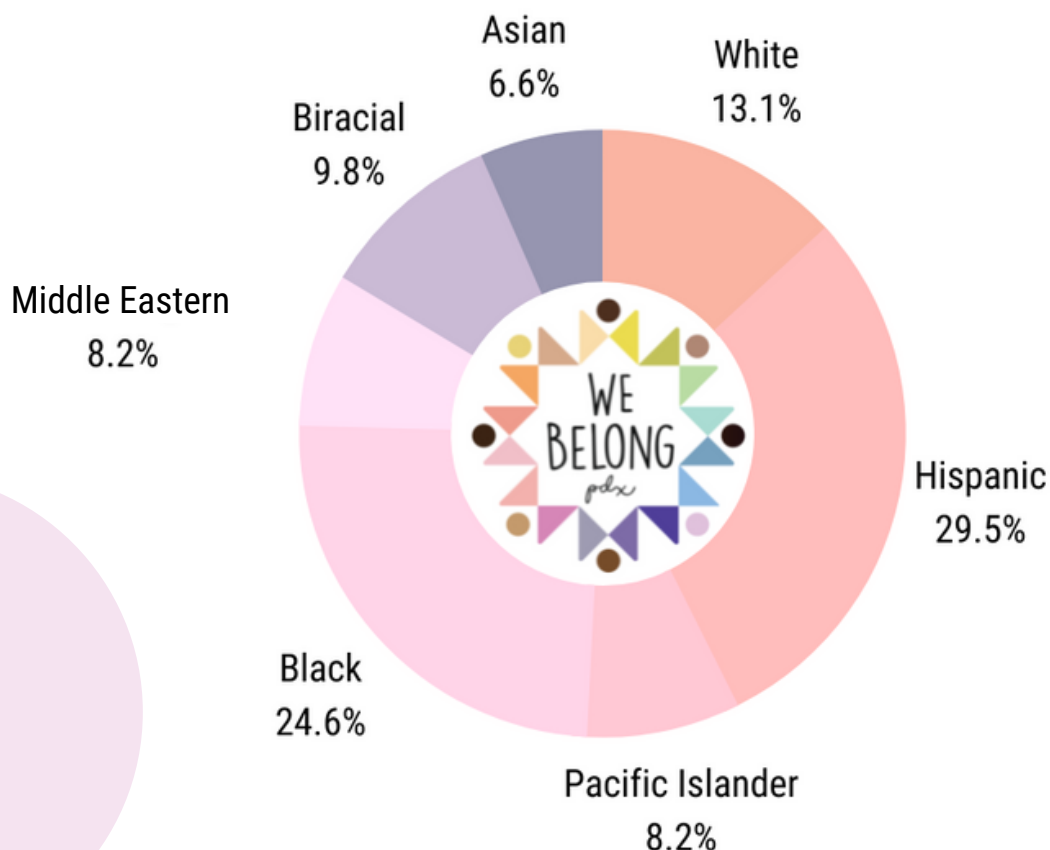


# OUR IMPACT

**100%** of our kids report **feeling happy** when they arrive at WBPDX

**96%** said they get the **time they need to be creative**, as opposed to only 63% feeling the same way about school

## THE KIDS WE ENGAGE



# OUR IMPACT

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**91%** said they **make friends easily at WBPDX**, as opposed to only 58% said they make friends easily at school

**95%** of the kids said WBPDX has helped them **get better at something**, including:

"learn that it's important to learn about other people"

"to get along with more people I don't know"

"building more friendships"

"being more responsible"

"getting outside more"

"meeting new people"

"playing new games"

"being more active"

"making fun snacks"

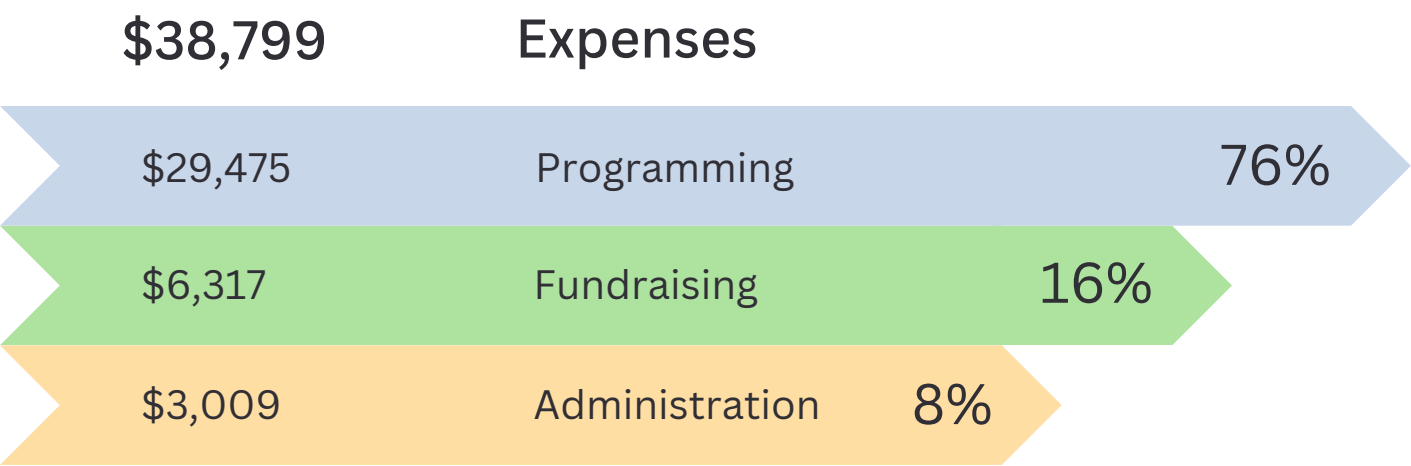
"being social"

"being nice"

"everything"

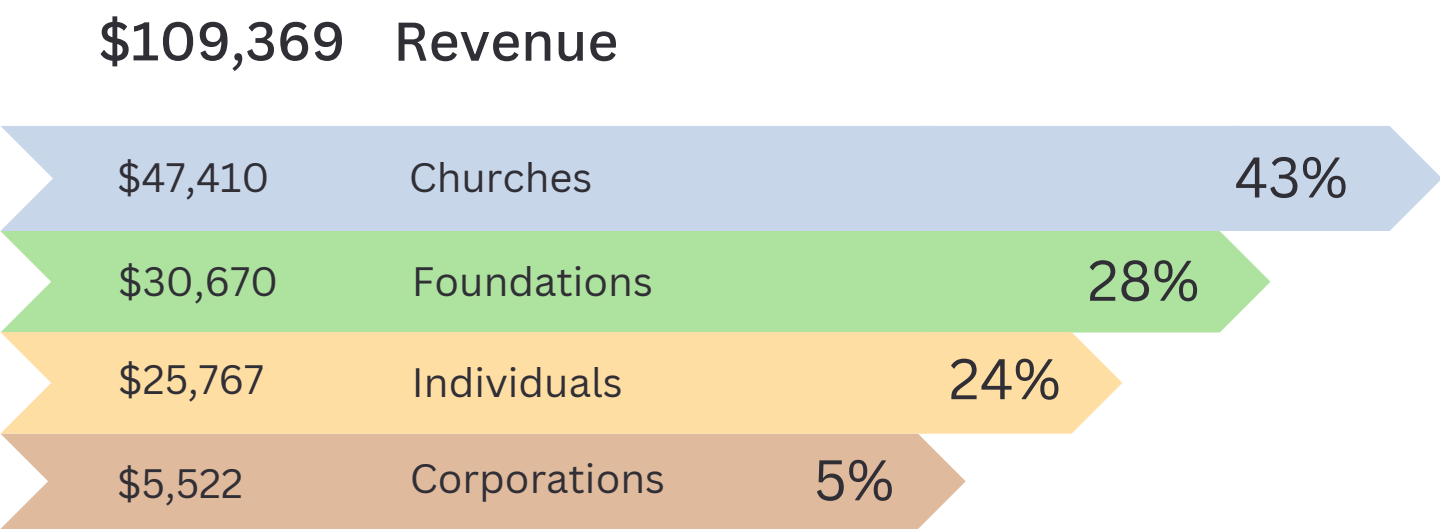


# OUR FINANCIALS



## WHAT DOES PROGRAMMING INCLUDE?

- Staff Support for Kids
- Healthy snacks
- Activity Supplies
- Experiential Outing
- Volunteer Training



**\$75,378**      **NET for 2023 Expansion**

# OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

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The heroes who have given the one thing you can't have more of — time.

## On-Site

Andrew Diedrich  
Pete Armstrong  
Brent Osborn  
Elizabeth Nguyen  
Larry Nienmeyer  
Pam Lemar  
Trey Steele  
Juan Carlos Tellez Flores  
Freda Emmons  
Julian Johnson  
Joselin Arevalo  
Larry Little  
Jennifer Little  
Tony Koetje  
Tonya Storment  
Sara Majitiscic  
KC Weimann  
Josue Diaz  
Dena Muraski  
Craig Gruenwald  
Evan Simko  
Sterling Mitchell  
Laila Raphael  
Angela Cornell  
Dennis Brands  
Leah Gabler  
Brette Way

## Remote

(gave time to special events, social media  
or other needed support)

Allison Vidaurri  
Melissa Monroe  
Jov Luke  
Joe Page  
Cody Brown  
Tammy Thompson  
Kayla Drozd  
Tyra Grove  
Kassie Barone  
Ryan Vail  
Brianna Ross  
Mady Morrow  
LaToya Seawood  
Laki Karavias  
Aaron Shephard  
Laura Wells

## Board of Directors

Melanie Brown  
Amanda Allquist  
Heather Hollingsworth  
Sarah Collins  
Sabrina Sultzer  
Sarah Lopez



# OUR VALUED DONORS

We cannot do what we're doing for these kids without the generosity of the community

Special Thanks to **Parklane Christian Reformed Church** and **As Is Church** for providing us with our largest donations of 2022

## Individuals

Tammy Thompson	Rebecca Blevins	Joe Page	Sara Matijascic
Sarah Collins	Dan Blaisdell	Emily Pratt	Peter Armstrong
Jordan Lovelis	Josue Diaz	Kirsten Ray	Wesley Eader
Allison Vidaurri	Everett Patterson	Heather Hollingsworth	Amanda Allquist
Debra Hickman	Melissa Monroe	Holly Smith	Sabrina Sultzer
Angela and Ean Cornell	Eliseo Lopez	Steve Barone	Kelly Pauli
Leah Gabler	Alison Mullis	Dena Muraski	René Pinnell
Hannah Hair	Cody Brown	Bernard Mckenna	Brent Osborn
Kyle Yocum	Jonathan Preston	Heather Cobb	Luke Lopez
Tim Lopez	Beth Lyons	Mallory Mumford	Debbie Cheney
Michelle Shepherd	Taylor Wells	Allison Martyn	Nancy Farrell
Larry Niemeyer	Lauren Ewalt	Tiffany Blackmon	Bridget Zadoff
Tim & Diane Warren	Ronnie Scott	Arthur Price	Dimitrios Karavias
Ruby Guardia	Jessica Butkus	Susan Overcast	Andrey Butenko
Madison Morrow	Radcliffe Dacanay	Laura Geniesse	Melanie Brown
James Veraldi	Ryan Graven	Amanda Esko	Rosa Silver
Ryan Vail	Mema Village Muse	Abby Berg	Erika Brown
Alejandra Ramirez	Dharma Indurthy	Alexis Silva	Kathy Bigham
Tyra Grove	Laura Wells	Kary Youman	

## Organizations and Foundations

Parklane Christian Reformed Church	Nike Employee Benevity Fund	SN Charitable Foundation
Clackamas United Church of Christ	Klarquist Sparkman LLP	Oregon Community Fund
Rose Church	Oregon Public House	Vital Life Foundation
As Is Church	Climate Trust	Anderson Construction
	Symma LLC	Foundation
	AT&T	

# JOIN OUR MOVEMENT TO CREATE AFTERNOON COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING FOR KIDS IN PDX & BEYOND

DONATE

