

2022 annual report



thriving
together.



contents

4



[letter from steve](#)

8



[this year's theme](#)

14



[embracing in-person](#)

18



[race literacy](#)

22-24



[collective effort](#)

28



[financials](#)

6



[mission & vision](#)

10-12



[people-first programs](#)

16



[more than jobs](#)

20



[loss and lament](#)

26



[centering joy](#)

30



[staff and board](#)

letter from steve

“The sense of hope is palpable, as several students from Potomac Gardens and Hopkins public housing moved into college dorms and attend classes, with little to no student debt. What seemed like a dream is truly becoming reality.” / Steve Park



Dear friend,

2022 was a pivotal year at Little Lights. As mask mandates lifted and Covid-related restrictions loosened, Little Lights regained a sense of normalcy as students, program staff, and volunteers returned for fully in-person programs.

Life will never be the same as before the pandemic, so like everyone, we are navigating this new normal. Yet even in the midst of this transitional period, we saw youth and families who are connected to us, thriving.

Our Next Step College and Career Program, which just launched in early 2021, continues to have an incredible impact and expand its reach. We are working with elementary students and their parents and guardians to be better informed about and prepared for the DC school lottery process. We provide concentrated tutoring to middle and high school students for college readiness and guide them through the admissions and financial aid processes.

The sense of hope is palpable, as several students from Potomac Gardens and Hopkins public housing moved into college dorms and take classes, with little to no student debt. What seemed like a dream is truly becoming reality.

There is a clear shift in the culture for our students who have witnessed dreams realized for people they know well from the community.

At Little Lights, we are thriving together by continuing to hire from within the community to provide economic growth opportunities. In 2022, we employed 24 current and former public housing residents. We are committed to economic empowerment and love seeing our residents give back and become leaders in their own communities.

In 2022, we also saw more volunteers and volunteer groups from churches, schools, and corporations join us in partnership. Not only do volunteer groups provide invaluable labor and services, but many also have life-changing experiences themselves. We want to see our volunteers thrive, too.

Thankfully, we were able to bring back our in-person Benefit in 2022, and joyfully celebrated with more than 230 attendees. Our donors provide strong and stable financial support to continue and expand our work. We are poised to grow more in 2023 and beyond.

I am excited about what God has in store for us in 2023. We want to revitalize our mentoring program, take students on more out-of-town college tours and retreats, and help more youth find opportunities after high school whether it is attending college or learning a trade, or finding living-wage jobs. The positive change is real, and we want to see more progress this year.

Thank you for your partnership and let's continue to thrive together with the community in 2023.

Blessings and Peace,
Steve





mission & vision



Mission

To empower underserved youth, families, and communities in Washington DC by sharing the hope of Christ through compassionate action, caring relationships, and racial reconciliation

Vision

To help build communities of compassion and joy where underserved children, youth, and families flourish through holistic, wrap-around support and practical resources

Values

- ♥ We envision a community of racial and class reconciliation where mutual respect and authentic fellowship provide a place of healing and joy.
- 📦 We envision all children and youth thriving in every way through academic support, character-development, and arts and recreation.

- 🔗 We envision adults engaged in gainful employment and moving out of the cycle of poverty.
- 👨 We envision families being strengthened, children and youth becoming healthier and safer, and loving relationships flourishing.

thriving together: this year's theme



Little Lights is thriving together! As we reflect upon this 27th year of ministry, we are delighted to be back together, in-person, for all of our programming.

Students are growing together through our Homework Club as volunteers work with them to complete daily homework assignments after school. For those who are struggling to be on grade level, whether in reading or math, Little Lights provides one-on-one tutoring to build the skills and confidence to thrive in school. Though students across the country suffered learning losses, our students are making progress, as demonstrated by their improving reading and math assessment scores. The Next Step College and Career Program, in addition to preparing students for college, is working with families with younger children to guide them through the DC school lottery process so they can be in a school environment where they can thrive.



Community members are still working together, whether as part of our Clean Green Team or the Little Lights staff.

After taking a pause during the pandemic, in 2022, our Boys and Girls Nights have restarted and our Choir is back together again. Another highlight was being back together with supporters at our annual benefit “Brighter Futures”.



Little Lights expanded our Race Literacy 101 offerings with a 4-week Immersion program, customized for church and ministry partners. Twenty people from two churches participated in the pilot program this year.

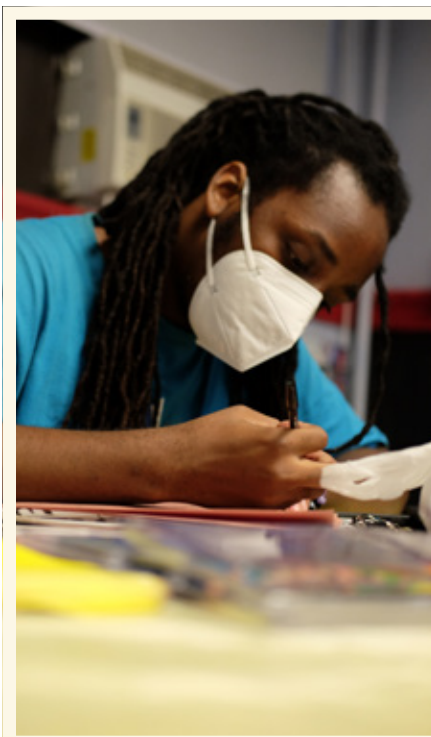
In all ways, Little Lights found that the best way to thrive—whether learning, working or serving—is to do it together.

growing together: people-first programs

Next Step College and Career

Teens living in Potomac Gardens, Hopkins, and Benning Terrace public housing communities often face barriers to break the cycle of poverty. Since 2021, Little Lights has provided wrap-around support to help teens imagine and plan for their life beyond high school, whether going to college, learning a trade or entering military service. This program is highly customized for each student based on their interests, abilities and needs.

In 2022, Little Lights hosted its first College Preparation Retreat Weekend at the Little Lights Retreat House. Students from the College and Career program learned about the college application process, toured schools together and heard from Markeith, a current student at Morgan State University and part of the Little Lights community. Additionally, the Assistant Director of Admissions of Fayetteville State University, an affordable and accessible HBCU in North Carolina, visited the Hopkins Center to meet with students and their parents. Three of our high school seniors committed to going to Fayetteville State University next fall!



Art and Design Internship

This past summer, Markeith worked as a paid Art and Design Intern with Ricky Altizer, supporting his private freelance practice by collaborating on poster concepts, illustrations, and T-shirt designs. During this 4-week internship Markeith participated in workshops to learn about typography, logo design, poster design, illustration, and design software and tools. Though there are many work opportunities in graphic design, there are significant barriers to entering the design field.

In 2016, AIGA, the professional association for design conducted a Design Census, showing that 73% percent of those surveyed are white, and only 3% were Black. This lack of representation is caused by many factors such as the steep cost of art education, including the need for mentorship, and the all-too-common practice of businesses offering unpaid internships. Little Lights provided the opportunity for Markeith to participate in a paid internship, creating pathways for future work.

In addition to helping students and their families navigate the DC high school lottery, college application and financial aid processes, this year, we expanded our programming for younger families to help guide them through the DC elementary school lottery. Families in our community have historically been less likely to participate in the DC public school lottery system. Little Lights is standing in the gap to help families find a best fit school environment so our students can thrive.

— Right: Students in the Next Step College and Career Program met with the Assistant Director of Admissions from Fayetteville State University to learn more about the school and the college admissions process.

Statistics

56

students participated in the Next Step College and Career Program

6

students accepted to college

\$517,760

scholarship money awarded to three students over four years





Left, top: Washington Wizards power forward Anthony Gill met with our students to share about the power of working hard to pursue your dreams.

Left, bottom: Students, volunteers, and staff at Potomac Gardens are all smiles during Summer Lights.



Homework Club

Four days a week, students come to Little Lights after school for Homework Club to reinforce school learning and work on homework assignments. Little Lights also offers one-on-one tutoring through our Reading Heroes and Math Heroes program to ensure that students are on grade level in school.

In spite of learning losses during the pandemic, 74% of our students increased or maintained their reading assessment scores (an increase of 3.5% from 2021) and 84% of students increased or maintained their math assessment scores (an increase of 2% from 2021). These improvements are noteworthy when reading proficiency among black students in DC fell by nearly eight percentage points as a result of the pandemic.

Through our partnership with DC Central Kitchen and the Capital Area Food Bank, we served 575 nutritious meals to our students during Homework Club nights.

Little Lights also helps students thrive emotionally. By helping them to identify, name and manage their emotions, they can interact with others in healthy ways. This is especially important for our students who have experienced trauma, which may manifest in anger



Statistics

180
students participated in Little Lights programs

74%
of students increased or maintained their reading assessment scores

84%
of students increased or maintained their math assessment scores

Pressing Need

A study of public and public charter schools in DC found that in the spring of 2021, 31% of at-risk students were at or above their reading levels, down from 58% in 2019.

or sadness or hopelessness. Little Lights hosts weekly Social Emotional Learning sessions and provides trained staff who can meet with students one-on-one during Homework Club nights.

Summer Lights

At last, Summer Lights came back, fully in-person! Our students had the opportunity to cook, swim and dance. They cemented their math and reading skills. They explored new interests in various arts and crafts and photography. Parents appreciated that their kids have a safe environment to play at Little Lights.

Capital Area Food Bank provided students a healthy lunch every day.

Many mornings, the students were waiting for our doors to open. It was such a joy to welcome them back and hear their laughter and delight!

back together: embracing in-person.

Statistics

27
mentor pairs

1,944
hours spent together

4
new mentor pairs



Boys & Girls Nights and Choir

In 2022, two programs that we paused are now back, in-person.

We restarted Boys and Girls Nights. These are small group gatherings where boys and girls study the bible, build character and enjoy being in fellowship.

And, our Choir is back together again with our new choir director, Joslyn Henderson. Throughout the fall, our students diligently practiced singing and then performed at our Community Christmas Dinner for their parents and community members.

Mentoring

Little Lights believes in the transforming power of trusted relationships. Mentors play a critical role in caring for and inspiring our students, who live in public housing complexes where 90% live in single-parent, female-headed households, on less than \$17,000 a year. Mentors remind students that they are loved freely and unconditionally by God and model what it means to love and follow Jesus.

Above: Little Lights Choir students perform at the Parent Christmas Gathering
Left: Washington Wizards mascot G-Wiz stopped by the Hopkins Center to play basketball with our students.

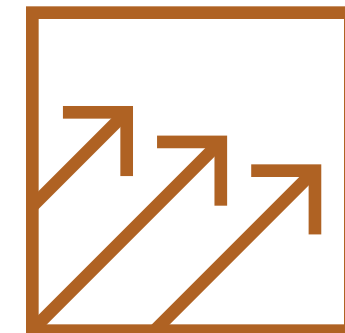
Mark and Tyron

Mark and Tyron have been a mentor/mentee pair for about a year. Mark first got involved with Little Lights by attending the Race Literacy 101 class and through his church community group's involvement in our Saturday DIP program at Potomac Gardens.

Mark and Tyron love to spend time together grabbing a bite of Texas BBQ at Union Market, tossing the football in front of the Capitol, and riding scooters near the White House. Not only do they have fun together, they engage in intentional conversations.

Mark described his connection with Tyron: "Our relationship feels brotherly/friendly. When I make space for him to be himself, he asks questions about the world, sings along to Spotify, or shows me a recent video he thinks is funny."

working together: more than jobs.



Little Lights tries to hire as many people from the community as possible. Residents are part of Little Lights staff, serving as tutors, academic support staff, van drivers, and part of the Clean Green Team. In 2022, Little Lights provided 24 current and former public housing residents with fair wages, job training and professional development, giving their families a chance to thrive.



Clean Green Team

Now in its 12th year of operation, the Clean Green Team steadily provides landscaping services—mowing, tree trimming, leaf removal—with its 7 member crew. As a social enterprise business, it provides ongoing job training and employment for our community members.

This year, the Clean Green Team lost one of its major clients, due to a change in leadership at the DC Housing Authority. Though the Clean Green Team's quality of work has been solid, this change resulted in a loss in revenue and jobs for two team members. Challenges like these are a reality for our community, but the Clean Green Team persists.

Statistics

1,021
jobs completed across Washington DC

197
customers served

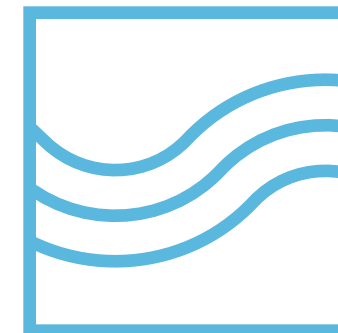
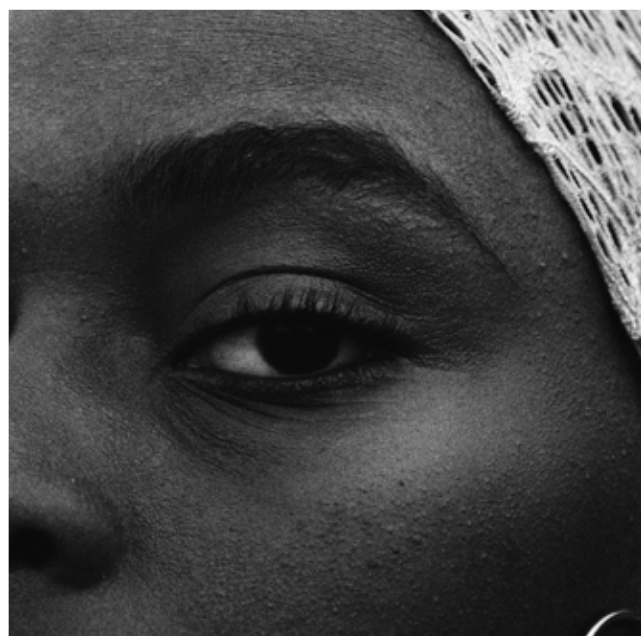
“Quality Landscaping, Affordable Prices and Doing Good” / Team Motto

Adult and Employment Programs

The Little Lights Family Center provides a space with computer access for community members. Trained staff assist community members as they search for jobs by helping with resumes and cover letters and coaching them on interviewing.

Additionally, through a contract with the DC Department of Employment Services, Little Lights served as a work placement for 23 students from the community. They were involved in our youth programs, notably Summer Lights and after school programs.

learning together: race literacy.



Since our Race Literacy 101 class was first offered in 2016, Little Lights has adapted its content for different audiences. In 2022, Little Lights launched Race Literacy Immersion, a 4-week version for churches.

RACE LITERACY

Race Literacy 101 is a 12-week study that helps participants to become more racially literate to work towards healing racial divides. With the help of trained small group facilitators, participants engage in honest yet grace-filled conversations.

In July, BEMA Discipleship and Impact Campus Ministries invited Steve Park to speak about his ministry experience and how Little Lights has evolved to meet the needs of vulnerable communities, and why it's important for Christians to engage in conversation about race.

Race Literacy Connections is a membership program for those interested in continuing anti-racism learning and investing in Little Lights' anti-racism efforts through affinity groups, classes and workshops.

Race Literacy Immersion is a 4 week abridged version of Race Literacy 101. Participants engage on the history and science of race, consider what scripture says and dialogue in racially diverse groups with the aim of helping people heal from the collective wounds of racism.

Scan or click to listen to the podcast:



Impact

22
people participated in a 12-week Race Literacy 101 class

RACE LITERACY 101

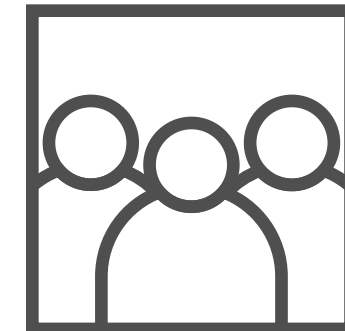
156
people enrolled in the Race Literacy Connections

RACE LITERACY CONNECTIONS

20
people participated in the new Race Literacy Immersion pilot program

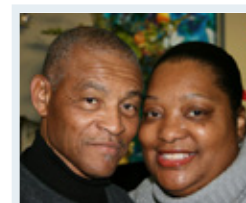
RACE LITERACY IMMERSION

grieving together: loss and lament.



The work of justice is always challenging, but even more so when we experience loss. In 2022, we lost two men who are very special to Little Lights. We are grieving together.

Mr. Thomas Rice



Mr. Thomas Rice and his late wife Linda were dear friends who fostered a

sense of community at Little Lights. In February 2022, we lost Mr. Thomas, a co-laborer of 15 years and father figure to the youth and families served by Little Lights. He knew how to laugh and create a sense of belonging for those who were in his midst. We miss Thomas' and Linda's presence. To honor their legacy, we set up a scholarship fund for Little Lights students.

Scan or click to donate to the Rice Scholarship Fund:

Mr. Joon Park



In July 2022, we lost a true champion for Little Lights, Mr. Joon Park. A Korean immigrant and entrepreneur who

operated several businesses including a diner, thrift shop and furniture store, Mr. Park believed that the children in under-resourced communities were worthy and supported his son Steve Park, founder of Little Lights, from his earliest days of ministry. Whether making his Tae Kwon Do studio available to Little Lights to offer after school programming or providing a vehicle, equipment and supplies, Mr. Park modeled life-long generosity and kindness. Little Lights is part of his legacy. May he rest in glory.

Gun Violence

Gun violence is an ugly reality in America, and our community is not immune. It is uglier when we understand the links to racism and Christian nationalism. So, we are lamenting together.

In 2022, there were 203 homicides in Washington, DC. 18 of the victims were teenagers, double the number of teens killed in 2021.

In November, Little Lights co-hosted a "Plowshares and Prayers" service to lament gun violence, invoking the prophet Isaiah who spoke against the oppression and violence in his time by inviting God's people to return to the Lord. 80 people joined us for a corporate time of lament and call to action as we lifted our voices and hearts to God in song and prayer.

partnering together: collective effort.



Our partners help meet the tangible needs of our community, whether practical provisions such as diapers and backpacks or thoughtful gifts during the holidays. The Little Lights community is blessed by our generous partners!



MEALS

6,708 nutritious meals

were served through our partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank and DC Central Kitchen



DIAPERS + BABY PANTRY

29,500 diapers distributed

(valued at \$8,850). Little Light served as a DC Diaper Bank site, providing diapers to families in our community and \$5,381 worth of baby products



THANKSGIVING

300 Thanksgiving baskets

filled with non-perishable food and a grocery gift card for a turkey, provided by churches and the Little Lights Junior Service Council



CHRISTMAS

170 gifts

students chose for their parents and guardians. Gifts were donated by One Kind Act and Chesterbrook United Methodist Church

500 gifts

for our Parent Christmas Store donated by various donors



DONATED SPACE

\$286,752

value of donated space provided by DC Housing Authority and First Rock Baptist Church

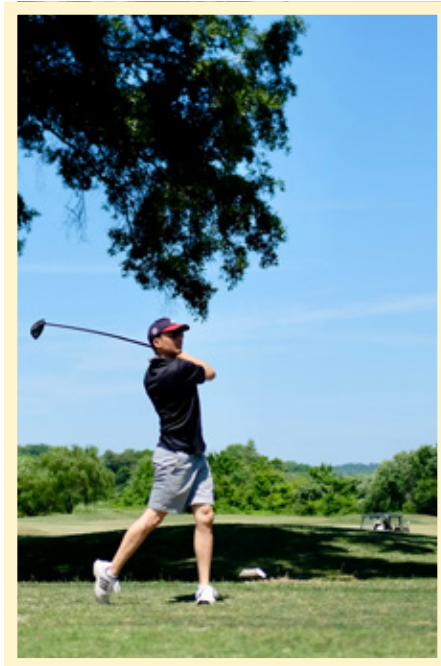
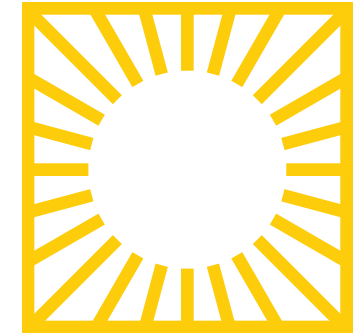


SCHOOL SUPPLIES

154 backpacks

with school supplies distributed

celebrating together: centering joy.



Golf Tournament

Little Lights hosted its first ever charity golf tournament to benefit students in our Next Step College and Career Program over Juneteenth and Father's Day weekend at the historic Langston Golf Course. Opened in 1939, as one of less than 20 (of more than 5,000) courses nationwide open to Black golfers, Langston Golf Course served Black golfers during segregation, housed the oldest Black women's golf club in the nation, and played host to esteemed politicians, celebrities, and professional athletes. 112 golfers helped raise \$15,000 for our students.



Brighter Futures Benefit

In October, we celebrated together the accomplishments of the youth involved with Little Lights at our Benefit. "Brighter Futures" drew over 230 guests to the City Winery where two students shared about the impact of Little Lights in their lives and one treated guests to a musical performance (above). Little Lights' generous partners help fuel the dreams of our students and families. In total, the event raised \$153,450.



Annual Christmas Party

For the first time since 2019, we welcomed families back to our annual Community Christmas Party! 55 students, parents and volunteers gathered at the Hopkins Center to feast together, listen to a message about Christmas and hear the Little Lights Choir perform. It was a festive and joy filled evening!



partners

Statistics

377
volunteers

7,094
volunteer hours

Volunteers are a vital part of Little Lights, and in 2022, we were able to welcome back more volunteers for our in-person programming. Little Lights is grateful for our one-time volunteers as well as our faithful regular volunteers.

COMMUNITY

11th Street Bridge Park
Black Swan Academy
Building Futures
Capital Area Food Bank
Christian Community Development Association
DC Central Kitchen
DreamWakers
Dress Lab
Falls Church Fellows
Fuller Asian American Center
Fund for American Studies
Gonzaga College High School
Greater DC Diaper Bank
Guerrilla Gardeners
Hill Havurah
Howard University Chicago People's Union
Initiative on Faith and Public Life
Little Lights Junior Service Council
One Kind Act
SHARE Food Network
St. Albans School
Turning the Page
Tyler Elementary School
University of Maryland Terps for Change

CORPORATE

B.Lin Catering
Chu Contracting
First Citizens Bank
Fulcrum Properties group
The Gaskins Team
Highlands Residential Mortgage
SuprTEK, Inc.

CHURCH

All Saints Church
Bridgeway Global Church
Capitol Hill Baptist Church
Chesterbrook United Methodist Church
Christ Central Presbyterian Church
Christ City Church
Christ Church Washington Parish of Washington DC
Christian Reformed Church of Washington DC
Church of the Advent
Citizen Heights Church
District Church
First Baptist Church of Glenarden (Willing Workers Ministry)
First Rock Baptist Church
Great Commission Community Church
Grace DC
Gracepoint DC

Grace Capital City Church
Grace Community Church of Arlington
Grace Community Church of Howard County
Korean Presbyterian Church of Washington
Lord Jesus Love Presbyterian Church
National Presbyterian Church
Open Door Presbyterian Church
Passion City Church
Redemption Hill Church
Restoration Anglican Church
Washington Community Fellowship

FOUNDATION

The Capitol Hill Community Foundation
Crowell & Moring Foundation
Heinz and Liselotte Nehring Stiftung
Herb Block Foundation
JKBae Foundation
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
New Life Foundation
Richard E. and Nancy P. Marriott Foundation, Inc.
United Planning Organization
4G Foundation

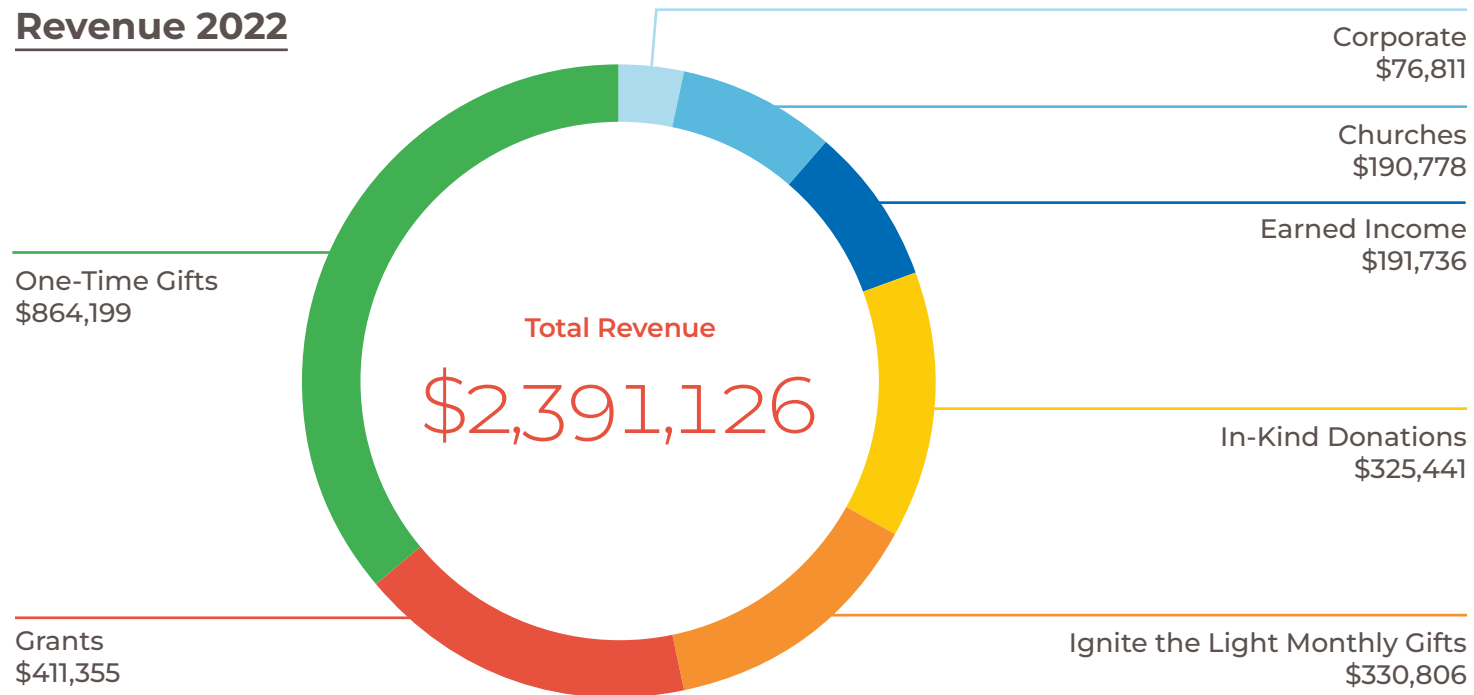
GOVERNMENT

DC Housing Authority
DC Public Schools
Department of Employment Services
Learn24 OST

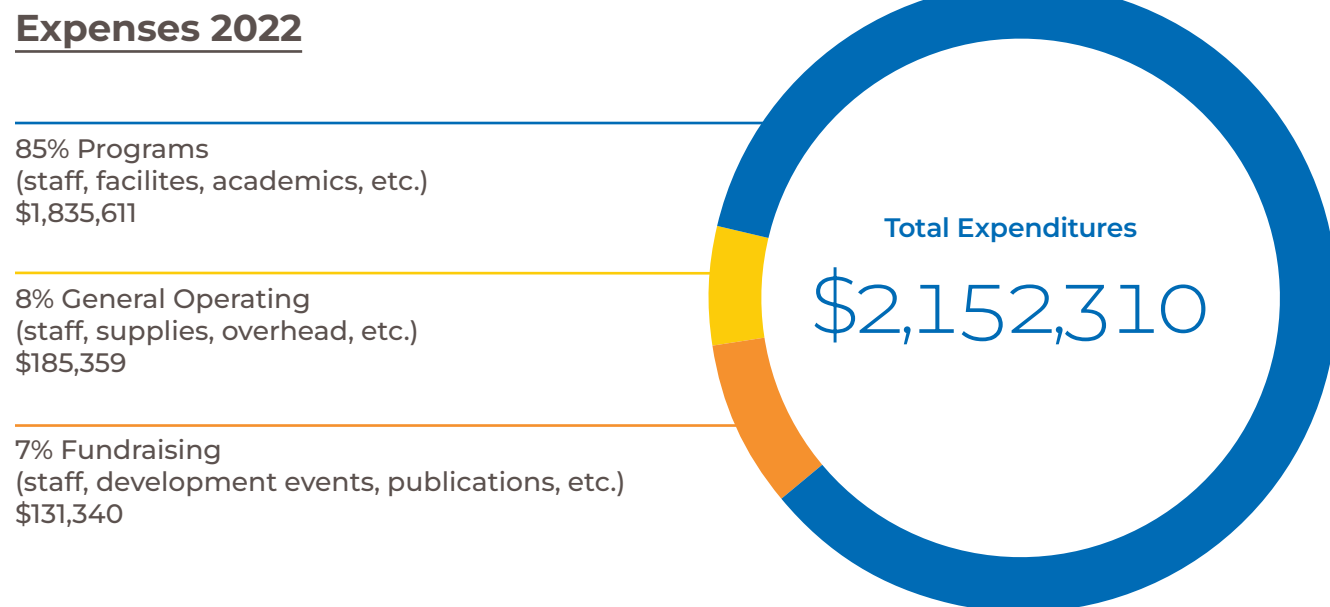


financials

Revenue 2022



Expenses 2022



staff & board



FULL-TIME STAFF

James Ahn
 Alizah Wilson
 Theodora Beschel*
 Mary Daniel Cheek
 Isaac Choi
 Aaronica Glover
 Kathryn Larkins
 David Lee
 Sophia Nalty
 Courtenay Oliver
 Mary Park
 Steven Park
 Cierra Peterson
 Dominique Scruggs*
 Karmen Taylor
 Kristy Wallace*

— Above: Little Lights full-time staff at the 2022 Brighter Futures Benefit.

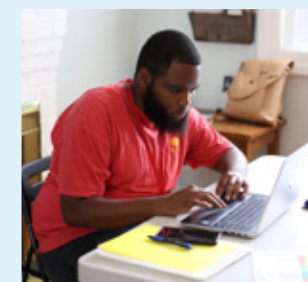
PART-TIME STAFF

Ricky Altizer
 Manuela Asamoah
 Teresa Breland*
 Amanda Briggs*
 Milton Brown*
 Christine Buchholz
 Sam Carrasco*
 Donna Cartwright
 Markeith Davis
 Christopher Dellaporta*
 Grace Dickerson
 Caulah Francis
 Bonita Guerrero
 Shakyra Harris*
 Charmaine Hart
 Joslyn Henderson
 Keith Hicks*
 Kevin Hollins

Kyona Hunt
 Kirsten Jackson
 Juanita Jenkins
 Barbara Leathers
 Shelly Malcolm
 Deverrick McAllister, Jr.*
 Ta'Shawn McKinney
 Patricia Moten
 Tyra Mullen*
 Jane Pak
 Jarmal Pannell
 J'mia Pendleton
 Shantelle Powell
 Kassidy Powers
 Anna Rozzo
 Jamiyah Scruggs
 Katherine Shapiro*
 Camille Smith
 Deonte' Smith
 Jerry Smith*
 Maria Smith*
 Madisyn Starks
 Aaron Tinch
 Jennifer Tomlinson
 Danyel Turner
 Deniesha Tyree
 Joseph Washington
 Amaria Williams*
 Kreceda Williams
 Antwan Wright
 Daniel Yim*

CLEAN GREEN TEAM

Henry Dent
 Lawrence Dozier
 Kelvin Gordon
 Gary Sams, Jr.
 Antonio Smith
 Bernard Tyree



Dominique

As a child, Dominique Scruggs participated in Little Lights programs. He returned to Little Lights, as an adult, to serve as the Program Coordinator/Site Leader of the Hilltop Center in Ward 8. Now we celebrate Dominique and his new role with the KIPP DC's Aim Academy as a 6th grade Homeroom Teacher.

He also created a non-profit organization called the YES Foundation DC to address gun violence, social-emotional learning, education and sports for youth growing up in underserved communities. He credits Little Lights for preparing him well to thrive in all aspects of his life.

BOARD

Ted Kim, Board Chairman
 Deputy Associate Director, Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations, USCIS

Steve Park, Board President
 Executive Director, Little Lights Urban Ministries

LaToya Archibald, Secretary
 Director of Leadership and Governance, The International Association for the Study of Pain

Derek Sykes, Treasurer
 Vice President of Finance and Operations, Community of Hope

Cherie Bellamy, Member
 President, LaVie Medical

Andy Biggers, Member*
 Realtor, Keller Williams Realty

Audrey Donnell
 Founder, Audrey Donnell Coaching & Consulting

Candace Essel
 Pharmacy Manager of Regional Outpatient Center, Maryland, Children's National Hospital

Andrew Ho, Member
 Director of Development, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Kay Kim, Member
 Director of Practice Innovation, Simpson Thacher LLP

David King, Member
 President & Founder, Neuma Consulting, LLC

Alex Knight, Member
 Vice President of Business Development, Cooley LLP

Phillip Lee, Member
 Associate, DLA Piper LLP

Matt Luecke, Member
 Deputy Associate Director at Board of Governors, the Federal Reserve System

Anthony Minter, Member
 Pastor, First Rock Baptist Church

Jared Noetzel, Member*
 Director of Strategic Partnerships, Stand Together



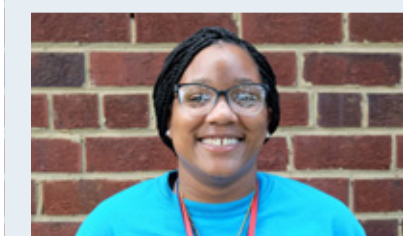
Michael Oh, Member
 Director, FINRA, Office of Financial Innovation

Jake Thomsen, Member*
 Managing Partner, Sovereign's Capital

Tina Yoon
 Director of Philanthropy Consulting, The Nature Conservancy

— Above: Little Lights Board of Directors at the 2022 Brighter Futures Benefit.

*indicates that they are no longer on staff or on the board



Courtenay

Courtenay Oliver, like Dominique, grew up participating in Little Lights programs as a student. She's returned to Little Lights as the new site leader for Hilltop Center where she will focus on empowering students in the Benning Terrace and Benning Heights community.

"Growing up in Little Lights was amazing...I decided to return because I wanted to be a part of something great. Little Lights impacts many different families in Washington DC and I also want to be a part of that. Making a difference is what I long for being a part of at such a wonderful organization."



760 7th Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.548.4021
CFC #89156 | UW #8543

www.littlelights.org
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**growing, working,
learning, grieving,
partnering, celebrating,
thriving together.**

Scan to Give:

