

2022-2023 Impact Report



 CAC


Ed Cothorn
Pool


Beardsley
Community
Farm



Wesley
House
Community
Center



Letter From Our Executive Director



Friends,

Looking back over the past four years, I cannot begin to express the gratitude I have for the work Wesley House performs everyday. The one thing I've learned time and time again is that everyone has a Wesley House story. When I came to Wesley House four years ago, I assumed my biggest priority would be teaching people about the wonderful work we do. I know now that people are already very aware of our impact. We are a staple of our community and Knoxville as a whole. I'm thankful for the donors and community members who have supported our mission. I'm so excited for the next several years and what will come. Wesley House has a bright future ahead of us because of people like you. I pray that you continue supporting and loving us throughout our work.

As you flip through our impact report, you will see how we are a community staple. I hope you see how we also rely on our own Wesley House staples to get our critical work done. We hope you enjoy reading about how our programs have impacted lives over the past year. That work could not have been completed without your support and passion for the Beaumont, Lonsdale, and Mechanicsville communities.

Sincerely,

Kara Finger
Executive Director



Youth Development

100 youth served during summer camp and 2022-23 school year

100% of students experience decrease in in-school suspensions if participating in at least 90 program hours (Average decrease in TN, 65.6%)

90% of participant's families report an open, welcoming environment and that staff is always available to discuss student needs



Emergent Needs

53,000 estimated food insecure individuals in Knox County

24,492 individuals served in fiscal year 2022-2023

\$33.9 million to fill the food insecurity gap in our community

145,000 pounds of food given out in fiscal year 2022-2023



WISE (Wellness In Senior Education)

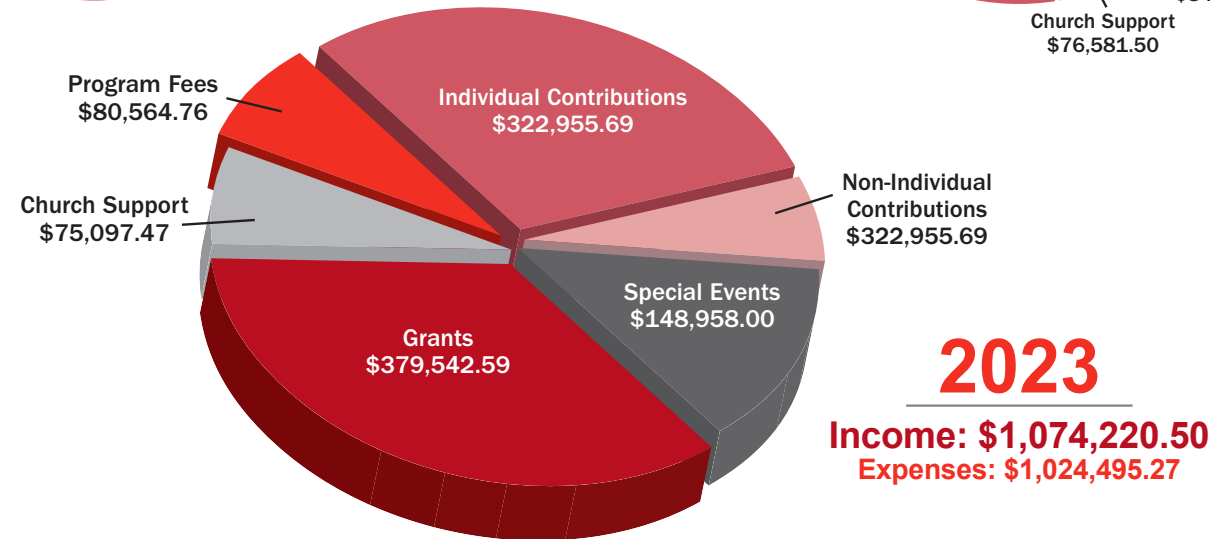
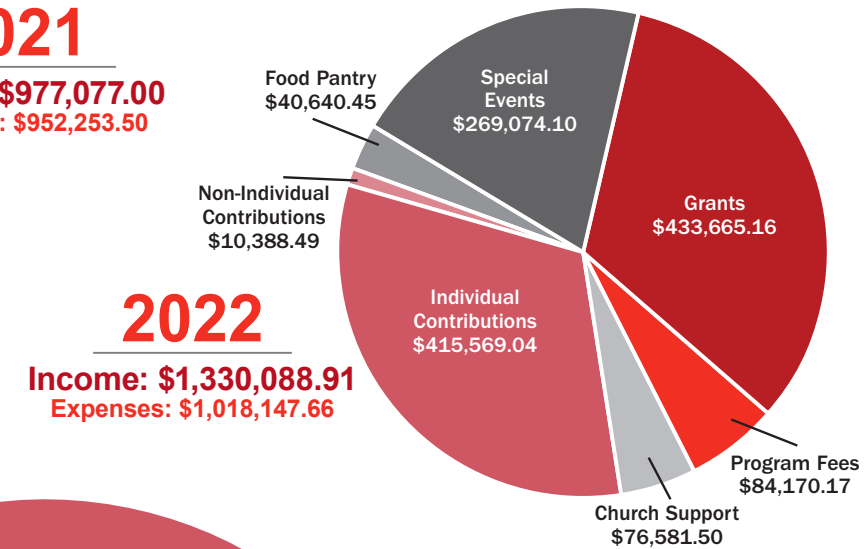
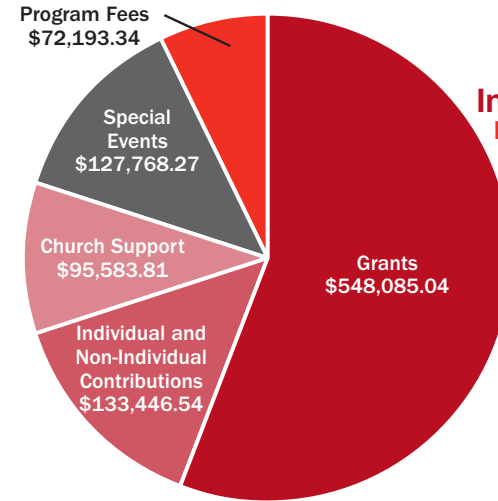
Senior program serves **25** people

164 social hours provided to seniors in 2022-23. They met 41 times, averaging 4 hours per visit.

10% reduction in weekly alone time for WISE seniors (The national average of weekly alone time spent by individuals 60 or older is 7 hours and 22 minutes*.)



*Livingston, G. (2019). On average, older adults spend over half their waking hours alone. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/07/03/on-average-older-adults-spend-over-half-their-waking-hours-alone/>



Aaliyah

A field trip to Dollywood has been Aaliyah's most memorable experience since she started coming to Wesley House in kindergarten, but she also enjoys the variety of activities offered throughout the afterschool and summer programs.

"I like the fun stuff that we do. I enjoyed the tie-dye day, kite day and cooking club."

And while she would plan more counselor vs. student game days, Aaliyah still thinks kids should join Wesley House programs.

"Wesley House is a fun place. You get to do anything, but there are rules. The staff are nice and the kids are friendly."



Daquan

Wesley House summer and afterschool programs have made an impact on Daquan, who has been participating since kindergarten.

"Wesley House is a great place for kids. We do a lot of fun things, especially during the summer, that most kids don't get to do."

While Girl Scout Camp and Dollywood are two of his favorite experiences, it's the Wesley House team who have made the biggest impression.

"I like the counselors and staff. Everyone is nice and positive. They are not negative."

There is, however, one change Daquan would make – "add more programs." Specifically, he would like a Wesley House baseball or football team.



Linda Adams is a participant in the senior program and the widow of former Wesley House executive director, Tim Adams.

Linda has been coming to Wesley House for 30 years, starting as a volunteer for the senior lunch program. The small task of calling seniors to confirm their attendance created connections that turned into wonderful friendships.

Linda has now joined the senior program and was welcomed into the group with open arms.

When asked why someone should donate to Wesley house, she said, "We treat people like human beings."



James has been coming to the food pantry four days per week for about a year.

Why do you come to the Wesley House food pantry?

Everyone here is courteous and kind to me and the others that come in here. It's also the only place that is open five days a week. It's been so helpful to me and the people in different situations in this community. We can trust it. Its reliable and dependable.

How did you find out about the food pantry?

Word of mouth. That's how we find out everything in the community, word of mouth. I've told others I know to come to Wesley House, and they'll give you what you need.



Emma has been with Wesley House for 8 years.

What does Wesley House mean to you?

It's been a godsend. The fellowship of the women in the senior program is wonderful because it keeps them doing something. I've made a friend here, Irma. We have an everlasting friendship. It's been a beautiful blessing.

Why do you think people come to Wesley House?

The food pantry is a true blessing. They have great attitudes, and they treat you with respect. They have compassion for the people who come to the pantry.

Irma has been with Wesley House for 3 years.

What does Wesley House mean to you?

I like the friends I've made and the network I've created here. We treat people with kindness here. I've worked at many places and here we have each other's backs - you can't always say that about your work.

Why do you think people come to Wesley House?

We treat people the way we want to be treated, and that's all that counts.

Donald has been with Wesley House about a year.

Why do you volunteer with Wesley House?

Gives me a purpose and keeps me active. I enjoy helping others and helping out around Wesley House in a variety of ways. I worked as a food manager, a diet counselor, and food operations manager. I enjoy working with the individuals who come to our food pantry because a lot of them need the services we provide.

What's your favorite thing about Wesley House

The people I work with and the people I serve. I really enjoy getting up and coming here every day.



Our Partners

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee

Knox County Community Action Committee - CAC

Great Smoky Mountain Council - Boy Scouts of America

Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians

Beardsley Community Farm

Keep Knoxville Beautiful

Bike Walk Knoxville

YWCA Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley

AmeriCorps

UTK Nursing

United Way of Greater Knoxville

Canvas Can Do Miracles

First Horizon Foundation

Knox County Health Department

Helen Ross McNabb Center

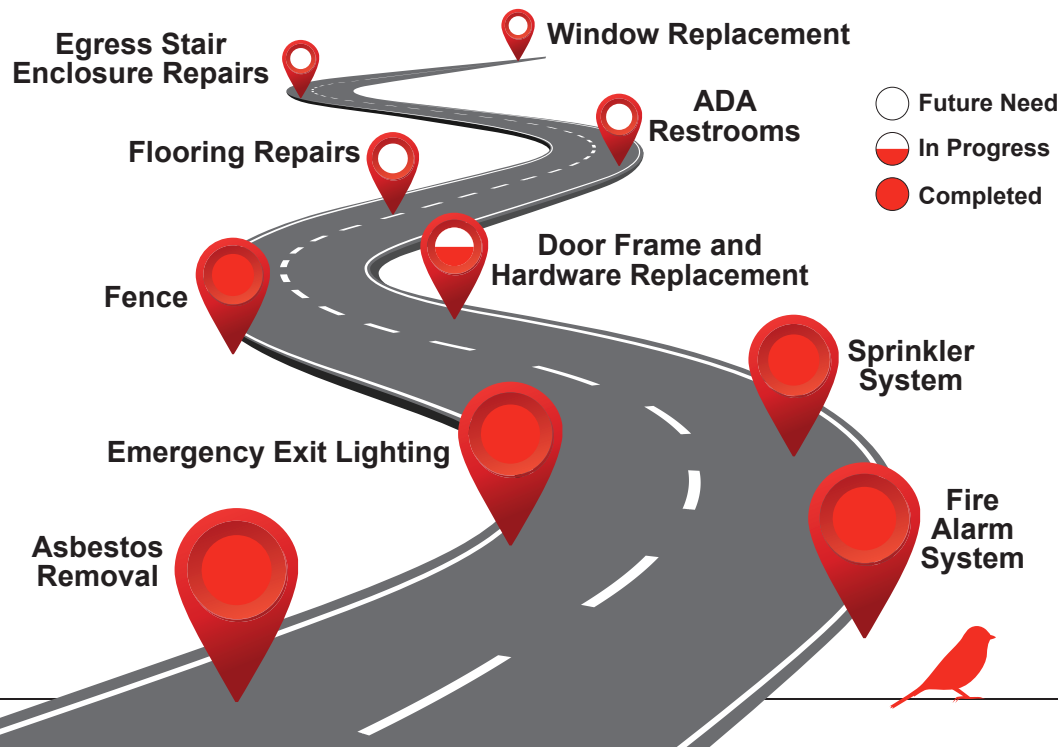
Road To Licensure

Families in Knoxville's historically underserved communities of Beaumont, Lonsdale, and Mechanicsville depend on Wesley House Community Center for the resources needed to thrive.

The facilities and vehicles used by Wesley House need updating and modernizing to more safely and securely serve these children and families. The Beyond Our Building capital campaign paves the way for Wesley House to become fully licensed by addressing these needs.



Scan here to learn more about the Beyond Our Building capital campaign.





Volunteer Volunteer for our afterschool, summer and senior programs, or help clean up our space! Visit WesleyHouseKnox.org/volunteer to see available opportunities.



Donate to our afterschool program, senior program, food pantry or the capital campaign. Capital campaign donations help us get one step closer to becoming a licensed facility!

Cultural Values

-  **Respect**
-  **Equity**
-  **Diversity**
-  **Wholeness**
-  **Spirituality**

Our Mission

Wesley House works to empower and serve the Mechanicsville, Lonsdale and Beaumont communities in Knoxville, TN.

Our Vision

The Mechanicsville, Lonsdale, and Beaumont communities will be equipped with the spiritual, emotional, and educational resources needed to thrive.

DEI Statement

Wesley House is committed to fostering and maintaining a work environment where diversity, equity, and inclusion are fully integrated into everything we do for the benefit of our employees, families, and community members we are called to serve. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are rooted in our cultural values that shape each day at Wesley House. We are dedicated to learning, growing, and doing better each day to ensure all feel welcome in our building.

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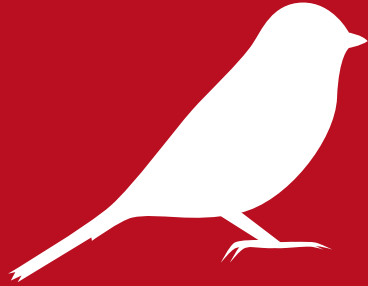
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#WelcomeToOurHouse