

MIDTOWN COMMUNITY SERVICES 2021 IMPACT REPORT



EMPOWERING FAMILIES. ENRICHING LIVES.



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midtownstl.org

1202 S. Boyle Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63110



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At this time last year, we thought COVID-19 would loosen its grip in 2021. While vaccines helped provide relief from the pandemic, and our kids were finally able to return to school, the impact is still felt daily by those we serve.

Thankfully, because of you, Midtown was able to push through with online and in-person programs to empower community members of every age, from the kids in Youth Development to their grandparents in our Midtown Mamas and Men's Club. In addition, we expanded our free doula, therapy and advocacy services to Family PRIDE families to give babies their healthiest start to life.

Even faced with continued challenges, we're excited for 2022 as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Midtown! We have events planned all year to celebrate this milestone and can't wait for you to be part of it!

Thank you again for everything you do to help make Midtown the incredible place it is!

Sincerely,



Tim Ripplinger
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LATOIYA'S STORY

MIDTOWN HELPS LATOIYA BOOST HER CONFIDENCE AND BUILD HER INDEPENDENCE

As a child, Latoiya spent her afternoons in Midtown's Youth Development program, taking part in cooking classes, sports, and arts and crafts.

"It was always such a kid-friendly place," she said. "What I remember were all the smiles and fun - there was just this positive energy all around us. You always felt safe and happy when you were there."

When she became more involved with school activities in high school, she thought her days at Midtown were behind her. That was until she had children of her own and discovered Family PRIDE through her sisters who were active participants in the parenting program.



Latoiya joined Midtown at a picnic one day and immediately rediscovered her love for the organization and community. And for Latoiya, this reconnection couldn't have come at a more critical time. Pregnant and undergoing treatment for cancer, Latoiya found the resources she needed to handle the challenges in front of her.

"I felt like I was losing everything around me, but Midtown was there for me. The staff was always asking, 'How can we help you? What can we do to make life easier for you?' There were days I was too sick to move, but Midtown was at my house dropping off diapers or calling me to check in."

In addition, the access to free therapy, connections to services, and the support of her fellow Family PRIDE moms played a role in her healing. Now that she is healthy and in remission, Latoiya, a talented makeup artist, has dedicated herself to growing her clientele in 2022. Through Midtown's financial planning workshops, she has learned best practices for investing in her business and building her savings to provide a solid foundation for herself and her four children.

"You can always depend on Midtown for anything you need, whether it's diapers, gas cards or just someone to talk to. They really take a load off your shoulders financially and emotionally. But more important, Midtown helps you focus on your growth. They are here to set us up to be stronger women, stronger mothers and stronger people. I know they've helped me find faith in myself."

**DID
YOU
KNOW**

Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits

Get big tax benefits while helping Midtown in a big way! Donate to Family PRIDE through the PRC program, and receive a 70% tax credit from the State of Missouri! Visit www.midtownstl.org/prc.



2021 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



FAMILY PRIDE

In 2021, Family PRIDE led 55 online workshops for 50 parents that covered everything from safe sleep and yoga to financial planning and processing life transitions. In addition, our moms continued to receive culturally responsive therapy with Thoughts Out Loud Counseling, and moms-to-be had access to free doula services from Deeply Rooted Birth & Wellness that empowered them to advocate for themselves and their newborns.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

This summer, we were finally able to safely welcome our kids back to Midtown! During our 32nd annual Summer Academy Day Camp, 80 campers participated in cooking classes, arts and crafts activities, and field trips as well as led a Peace Parade. Since September, our afterschool program has provided 50 students with free tutoring, homework help and STEAM classes. We also expanded our Teen Club offerings in 2021 to help high school students prepare for college and their future careers.



ADULT PROGRAMMING

Because loneliness is one of the biggest threats to a senior's overall health, we ensured our Midtown Mamas and Men's Club stayed connected to Midtown and each other by providing them with free tablets and WiFi. Throughout the year, the Midtown Mamas participated in 93 virtual exercise classes, financial planning, computer and health workshops, and arts and cooking activities. In October, we were finally able to get together for an outdoor picnic!



CITY GREENS COMMUNITY GARDEN

While City Greens continues to offer our neighbors in need fresh fruits and vegetables, it also transformed into an outdoor classroom for our Youth Development program to demonstrate the importance of healthy eating. As part of afterschool and summer camp, the kids planted and harvested a variety of produce that they transformed into homemade onion rings, French fries, hand pies, and other homemade goodies.

"Midtown has helped me keep my grades up this year because the counselors are really helpful. They help me and talk to me in a way so that I can better understand my homework."

D'Corian, Teen Club Member

OUR SUPPORTERS IN ACTION

Thanks to Spire for transforming Midtown's outdoor space and City Greens Community Garden! Volunteers at the Garden built a water tank stand, constructed senior-accessible planter boxes, and painted our fences. At Midtown, they cut down tree branches, dug holes to plant trees, and created a compost area to bring a little bit of the Garden home to our playground.



A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Thanks to the generosity of donors across the country, Midtown was able to provide 67 families with gift cards to purchase Christmas presents for their children. In addition, 60 seniors received special holiday gift baskets. On December 4, our resident Santa made his 28th appearance at Midtown to hear our kids' wishes during our virtual "Breakfast with Santa" event!

DID YOU KNOW

Through our partnership with the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank, Midtown provided our families with more than 24,000 diapers in 2021!

SAVE THE DATES!



MARCH 19, 2022

Tony McDonald Memorial Trivia Night



FALL 2022

Midtown Lip Sync Battle



SPRING 2022

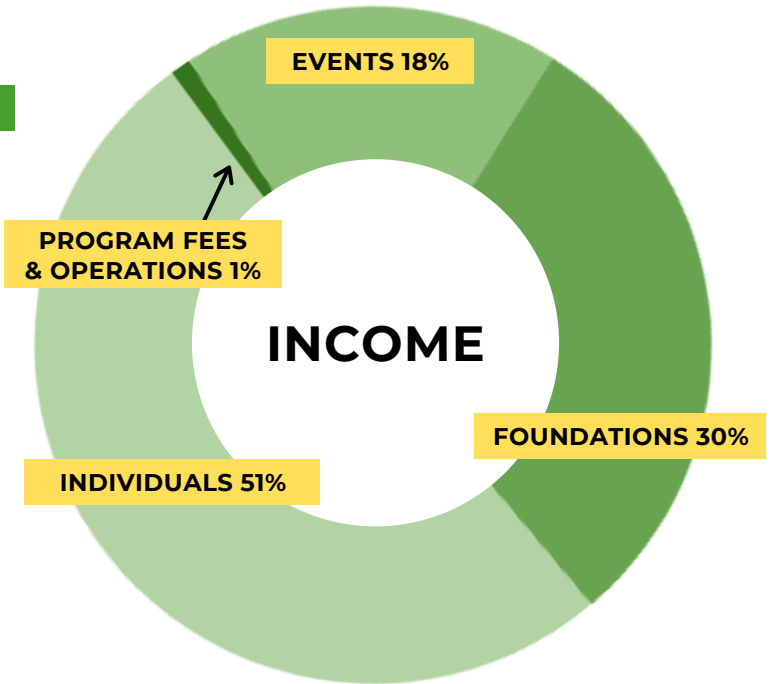
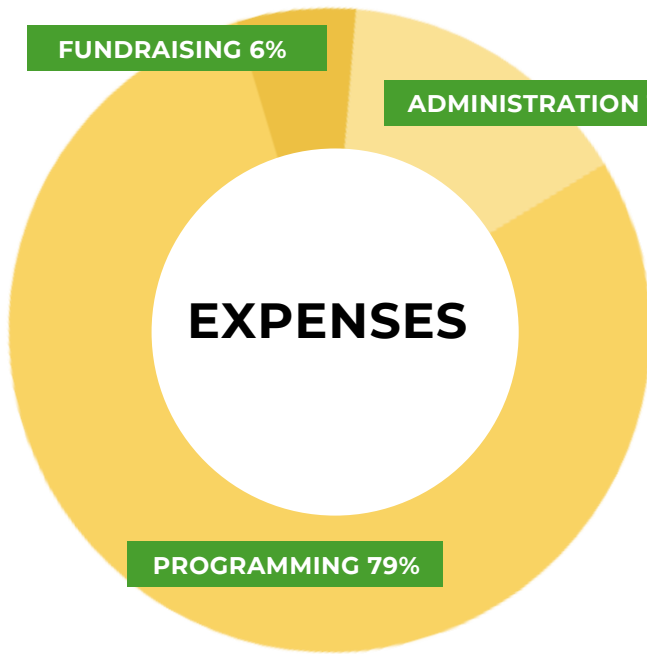
Judy Borst Memorial Ping Pong Tournament



DECEMBER 2022

40th Anniversary Gala

2021 FINANCIALS



Our full 2021 financials can be found on our website, www.midtownstl.org.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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- East Missouri Foundation
- Steven and Mary Frank
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- Mary Margaret Kleba
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- Fr. Gerry Kleba
- Ginny McDonald
- Dr. Edward and Cheri Reh
- Tim Ripplinger
- Ken Rinderknecht and Barb Wallace
- William Tucker and Armella Geier

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- Tony McDonald
- Eric M. Outlaw



Midtown Neighborhood Opportunities Corporation
1202 S. Boyle
St. Louis, MO 63110

MIDTOWN'S MISSION

To provide a wholesome, peaceful center where individuals, families and especially children can be nurtured, supported and build community together. Midtown offers people access to connections and resources for realizing their value and full potential.

GET IN TOUCH

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Opportunities Corporation
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St. Louis, MO 63110
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