

2022 Annual Report

Removing barriers
to opportunity.



Table of Contents

3

Message from our Founder

4

Our Reach

5

Utah Period Project

9

The Teen Center Project

13

Statement of Financial Position

14

Our Team & Looking Forward



Our Mission

The mission of The Policy Project is to remove barriers to opportunity through solution-based policy at all levels in society—including policies of governments, businesses, families, and individuals. We work toward healthy, equitable policy for the future of our children, our community, and our world, knowing that when every individual has access to opportunity, communities flourish.

A Message from Our Founder

Several years ago I wrote an op-ed for a Utah newspaper. It was foresightful in that we are often asked ‘why policy’ is the vehicle for change we need in society. The answer— policy has the ability to go “upstream”— to divert an issue before it becomes a societal problem. And it has the ability to reach the masses.

This excerpt illustrates that impact:



"There is an apartheid museum in Johannesburg, South Africa. Buried yards into zigzagged cement walkways, artifacts, photos, and documents, is a wall. A wall that stands stories high, vastly wide. Red and brown brick, covered almost entirely by hundreds of small black plaques, each engraved with white letters.

It's a wall that could be missed, immense as it is, but blended amidst the thronging displays. Upon examination, the sea of plaques takes form – each containing an “act” or law.

This wall, and each plaque on it, represents the formation and continuation of apartheid. One small “act” at a time.

And thereby, one country's 300-year history of institutionalized racism, and the almost-complete destruction of a way of life for 90 percent of a population. Destruction that had not been caused by wars, but by ideas. Ideas that became words. Words that became policies. Policies that became laws. And laws that undid lives.

Amidst the constant nagging questions of life, how is one person in a position of freedom and another in captivity? How is one in peace, another war? How is one surrounded by love, another by hatred? Crippling poverty versus expansive, sometimes crippling, wealth? Where did these differences come from? And can they ever end?

And, what can I do? This wall became a vision.

A call to arms. A commitment to recognize that small “acts” become sweeping belief systems. And the intersection at which change can occur, is at the inception of ideas and the movement of people.

It is a belief that policy, in short, has the power to impact everything. And it is our duty to ourselves, our neighbors and our countries, to ensure that equitable policy is our heritage."

It is with great joy and hope for the future that we share the results of our work in 2022—a proving ground that thoughtful policy and community movement building, is truly changing the trajectory of lives at a grand scale.

For your involvement, for your support—we express the deepest and most sincere gratitude.

Much love,

Emily Bell McCormick

Founder & President



OUR REACH

38 Events
with
**2,750 +
Attendees**

**1,300 +
Postcards**
written to legislators
by community
members

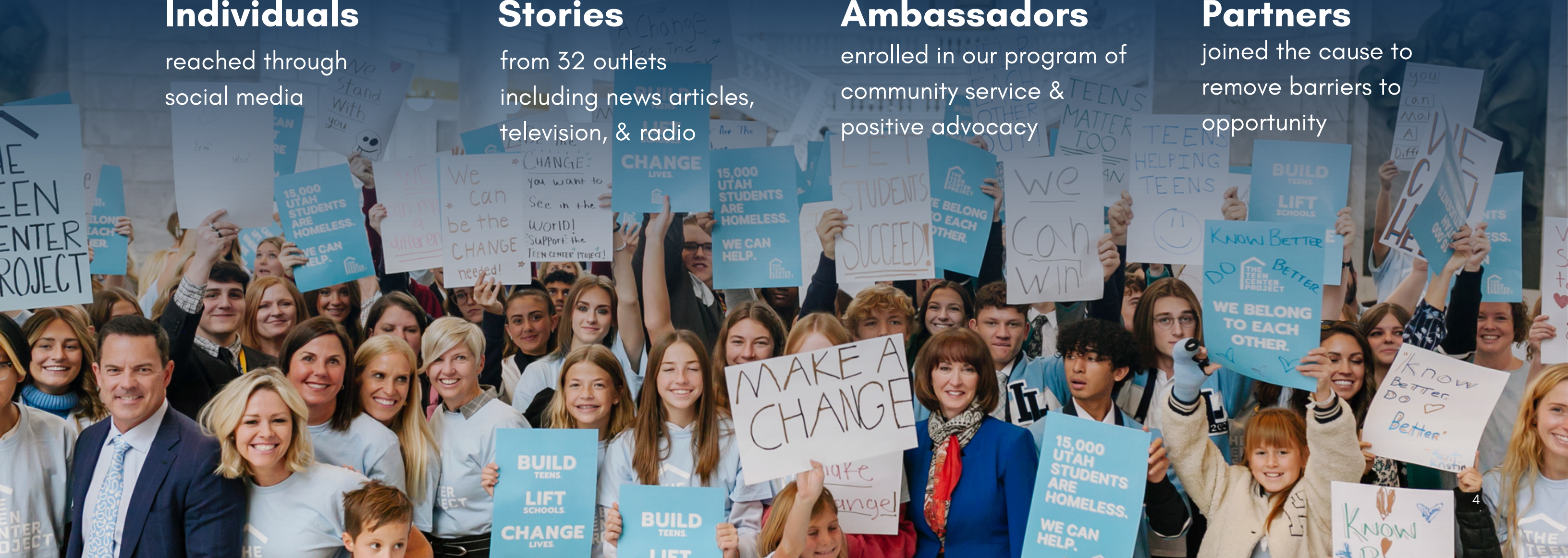
**354
Volunteers**
working to make a
difference for their
families and neighbors

**1.6 Million +
Individuals**
reached through
social media

**55 Media
Stories**
from 32 outlets
including news articles,
television, & radio

**506 Student
Ambassadors**
enrolled in our program of
community service &
positive advocacy

**30 + Corporate
Partners**
joined the cause to
remove barriers to
opportunity



UTAH PERIOD D PROJECT



This year, we set out to ***eradicate period poverty*** and ***redefine the twenty-first century bathroom.***

Here's what we've accomplished so far.

Why Period Policy?

Periods. Fifty percent of the world's population menstruates for four to seven days, every month, for 40 years of their lives. And because periods are spontaneous and can't be "held in," immediate access to period products is essential for all menstruators regardless of socio-economic status. The inability to properly care for a period can lead to serious health consequences, absenteeism, and shame. "Period poverty" is a barrier to full participation in school, the work place, and the community. Although periods impact public health, privacy, education, and the workforce, they have historically been ignored by policy makers.

That's why we set out to increase access to period products and break down the taboo surrounding periods. We believe that the inability to afford period products should never keep a student from the classroom or an employee from the workplace. Bathrooms in public buildings should be equipped with period products—just like they're equipped with toilet paper and soap.

Redefining the twenty-first century bathroom and ending period poverty will require support from governments, businesses, community leaders, families, and individuals across Utah. This year we worked with thousands of Utahns from Logan to St. George, including moms and daughters, educators, custodians, elected officials, and entrepreneurs to make incredible progress.

The Breakdown:

NATIONAL DATA ON ACCESS TO PERIOD PRODUCTS.

86%

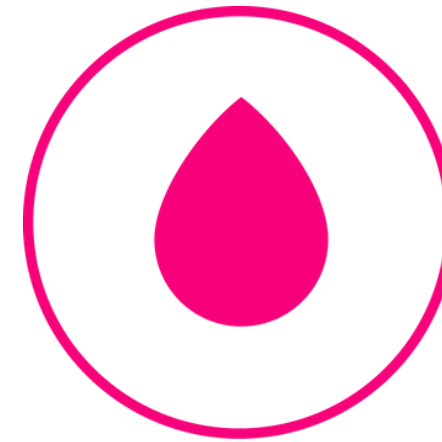
of women report they've been **'caught' somewhere in public** without a period product

46%

of women in poverty choose between buying **a meal or period products** each month

84%

of girls have **missed school**, or know someone who has, due to lack of access to period products



IN 2022, WE INITIATED CHANGE IN:

- UTAH K-12 SCHOOLS
- HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUSES
- BUSINESSES & WORKPLACES
- SHELTERS & EMERGENCY HOUSING
- UTAH CORRECTIONS SYSTEMS



1 in 4 teens cannot afford period products



H.B. 162 "Period Products in Schools" passed *unanimously* in 2022.

Utah's H.B. 162 was the **first policy in the country to comprehensively provide period products free to students** in every kindergarten through 12th grade girls' and all-gender bathroom in every public and charter school in the state.

What began as a desire to shine a light on the silent, but basic need of menstruation quickly grew into a state-wide movement. Hundreds of individuals turned out at events across the state to show their support for the proposed bill. Artists, DJs, bakers, and business owners donated their time and talents to turn periods into parties and smash the stigma that has kept girls silent for too long. Dozens of blazing hot pink billboards dotted the freeway from Brigham City to St. George, emboldened with the mantra "Girls are worth it. Period."



More than 400 girls signed up to be Student Ambassadors and learned how to use their influence to create positive change. They wrote postcards to legislators, hung posters in school hallways, discussed the issue of period poverty with principals, and testified in support of the bill at the Capitol.

In addition to the outpouring of support from students and community members, the Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation and the Andrus Family Foundation were early champions of the vision to put period products in schools and pledged to cover the cost of the dispensers to be installed in schools across Utah when the bill passed.

In March 2022, the Utah Legislature **unanimously** passed H.B. 162 "Period Products in Schools." The policy was implemented at the beginning of the 2022 school year. In less than a year, students who spoke up to end period poverty saw the fruits of their effort in school bathrooms across the state.

H.B. 162 IMPACT

How will period products in K-12 schools change Utah?

**337,000 +
Students**

impacted during
the 2022-23 school
year

**1.3 Million +
Students**

impacted by the
year 2065

**1,058
Schools**

in Utah providing
period products to
keep girls in class

**8,000 +
Bathrooms**

in schools with free
period products
across the state

**1,000 +
Letters**

sent to Legislators in
support of period
products in schools

**Unanimous
Support**

by all 104 Senators &
Representatives of
the Utah Legislature



THE TEEN CENTER PROJECT

BUILD, LIFT, CHANGE.

Our newest project is a public-private partnership that will give Utah high schools access to funding to support and expand school services and resources for students in need. Teen Centers will help our most vulnerable students graduate and prepare them to succeed as adults.



AT THE HEART OF EVERY COMMUNITY IS A SCHOOL.

Schools have long been on the frontlines of ensuring the basic needs of every student are met. However, an increasing number of Utah students and their families are struggling due to circumstances beyond their control: a significant drop in affordable housing, rapid inflation, vestiges of a pandemic, wage stagnation, as well as job insecurity and mental health challenges.

A student who is hungry, who doesn't have access to hygiene facilities or clean clothes, or is struggling with their mental health, is not prepared to succeed in the classroom and is less likely to graduate from high school than their peers. Those who do not graduate high school are more likely to be unemployed, live in poverty, have poor health or have children who will live in poverty.



1 IN 50

UTAH STUDENTS EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS AND LACK A FIXED, REGULAR, & ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE

34%

INCREASE IN UTAH STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SINCE 2020, WITH OVER 15,500 STUDENTS IDENTIFIED THIS YEAR

32%

OF UTAH TEENS FELT SAD OR HOPELESS FOR TWO WEEKS OR MORE IN A ROW DURING THE PAST YEAR

1 IN 4

UTAH STUDENTS HAVE HIGH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

1 IN 3

UTAH STUDENTS ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AND QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH

17%

OF UTAH TEENS HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE



TEEN CENTERS: A SPACE-BASED SOLUTION

Teen Centers are an innovative, space-based solution within high schools that centralize impactful student services and resources. Students are able to reliably access the help they need in the Teen Center and then enter the classroom prepared to learn. Each Teen Center is staffed by a trusted adult that can build meaningful relationships with students. Each focus area of a Teen Center is supported not only by school services, but also by connections to existing community resources for students and their families.

In 2022 we met with experts, service providers, and educators from every corner of Utah to gather feedback on how a state-wide implementation of Teen Centers could benefit Utah students. Based on this research, we laid the foundation for a three-year public-private partnership to provide Utah high schools access to funding for Teen Centers.

When we announced The Teen Center Project to the public, hundreds of students, parents, and community members signed on to be champions at their local schools and help transform Utah high schools.



TT THE POLICY PROJECT



Student Ambassador Service Project
September 13, 2022

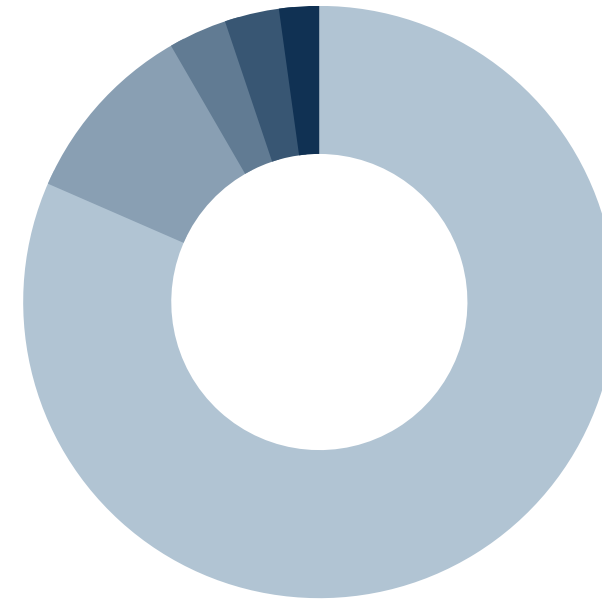
Statement of Financial Activity

The Policy Project thanks every individual, foundation, and corporate partner that donated in 2022. Those donations made generational change possible. We remain steadfastly committed to doing the most good possible with every donated dollar.



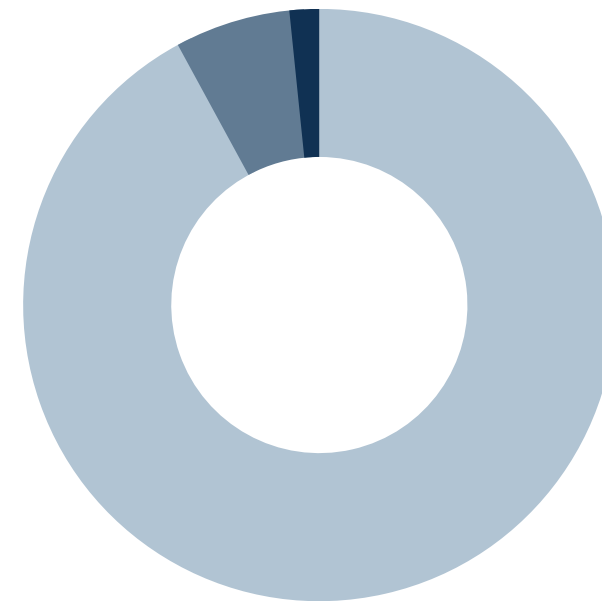
In addition to the funds received by our organization, The Policy Project successfully advocated for an appropriation of \$2,300,000 from the Utah Legislature to be used by schools to implement H.B. 162 "Period Products in Schools."

REVENUE \$2,042,584.56



- 82% **Foundations**
\$1,665,566.82
- 10% **In-Kind**
\$206,410.00
- 3% **Individuals**
\$65,143.30
- 3% **Corporations**
\$60,826.23
- 2% **Earned Income**
\$44,638.21

EXPENSES \$1,696,875.02



- 92% **Program Services**
\$1,562,316.16
- 6% **Management & General**
\$107,085.90
- 2% **Fundraising**
\$27,472.96

Thank you.

The accomplishments of this year are a tribute to the countless members of the community who donated their time, talents, funds, and services to the cause—including our 354 volunteers and eight incredible interns. For your partnership and support we are forever grateful.

OUR TEAM



Emily Bell McCormick
President & Founder



Mary Catherine Perry
Director of Policy & Government Affairs



Kristin Andrus
Community Champion



Brooke Gledhill Wood
Director of Legal & Programs



Jane Clayton
Student Ambassador Program Director

Looking Forward

The Policy Project will continue to make “good trouble.”

We see the path to a more brilliant tomorrow. Always focusing on future, but never forgetting the past. And instead of exhausted, we are invigorated.

We are grateful to be in a position to do the work — to see the needs and to engage. To use policy as a vehicle of change toward health and equity.

And we welcome all to the table, as we pursue the building of a beautiful community.

