



TREEHOUSE
BOOKS
ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Revitalize, Refresh, Renew

TREE HOUSE BOOKS' JOURNEY IN 2023

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REVITALIZE

LEARNING FROM OUR PAST TO LEAD US INTO OUR FUTURE.

IN 2023, WE LOOKED BACK ON TREE HOUSE BOOKS' HISTORY, THE WAY WE'VE BUILT COMMUNITY, AND THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN A PART OF THAT PROCESS. WE REFLECTED ON WHAT MAKES OUR IMPACT UNIQUE, FINDING THAT OUR RESPONSIVENESS KEEPS US IN FRONT OF ISSUES THAT OUR COMMUNITY FACES. IN TURN, THIS ALLOWS US TO SERVE PEOPLE IN FLEXIBLE AND ROBUST WAYS. AS WE EXPAND, WE WANT TO EMBRACE OUR BEAUTIFUL AND RICH PAST WHILE WE BREATHE FRESH IDEAS INTO TREE HOUSE BOOKS.

TREE HOUSE BOOKS IMPACT STORY #1



Philly Educators

Randi Grimes · 23h · 🌐



SHOUT OUT to Ms. Deirdre from Treehouse Books!! She visited Jay Cooke Elementary School's 5th grade last week. We learned about THB on the SDP's newsletter under the Grants section. It's FREE + she brings FREE BOOKS for the ENTIRE CLASS!! She's great for K-5th graders. In 5th grade, she told an oral story which the scholars added onto and could transform the plot [within reason] into anything they wanted. Scholars had a lot fun with this activity. She then asked them comprehension questions to practice their ability to audio-recall the story. Scholars completed the story independently at their seats by writing the rest and we shared + played a comprehension game. HIGHLY RECOMMEND!!!

The People Of Tree House

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MICHAEL BRIX (HE/HIM), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TANGIE WILSON (HE/THEM), MANAGING DIRECTOR
SHAKIRA KING (SHE/THEY), LEAD COMMUNITY EDUCATOR
EMMA GOLDSTEIN (SHE/HER), GIVING LIBRARY MANAGER
TITILAYOMI ABIODUN (SHE/THEY), ADMINISTRATOR
CHERYL BRYANT (SHE/HER), LITERACY SPECIALIST
DEIRDRE HYMAN (SHE/HER), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS COORDINATOR
CAMERON BUTLER (HE/HIM), COMMUNITY BOOK DISTRIBUTOR
LIZA VALOVATSKY (SHE/HER), SATURDAY GIVING LIBRARY MANAGER

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THANK YOU ALSO TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS, WITHOUT WHOM NONE OF OUR WORK WOULD BE POSSIBLE! WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO DONATE THEIR TIME TO HELP OUR ORGANIZATION AND THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.



From Our Board



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support of Tree House Books. It is with great excitement that we present to you our annual report for 2023: **"Revitalize, Refresh, Renew."** This theme encapsulates the spirit of our organization's journey over the past year, marked by transformation, wonder, and surprise.

Within these pages, you will find remarkable achievements and milestones that we've reached together in 2023. Our commitment to fostering a love of reading and learning among young people and families in our community has never been stronger. We are excited to continue this trajectory into 2024. In the beginning of 2023, we hosted our first official Alumni gathering, bringing together past Tree House volunteers, staff, and children. It was a heartwarming event filled with shared memories and renewed connections. The gathering highlighted the enduring impact of our work and the incredible young adults our THB kids have grown into.

This year was also a record year for empowering our kids to explore outside of their neighborhoods, often for the first time. A group of students and staff ventured to the Jersey Shore for a fun day in the sun, while some embarked on an educational journey to Washington DC. Visiting the capital broadened our students' understanding of identity and inspired their curiosity. With your continued help, we hope to replicate and expand these travel experiences in 2024.

While this year focused on refreshing our kids' and community's curiosity, it was also significant for the revitalization of our mission. As we continue to work on expanding our programming and doubling our capacity this coming year, we will place an emphasis on articulating an educational pedagogy that allows us to stay focused on our core vision: ensuring every child has access to books and limitless opportunities to pursue their dreams. To achieve this, we are looking to make more connections within our neighborhood, including developing a Parent and Neighborhood Council to guide us as we embark on this next phase of growth.

Looking further ahead in 2024, we are embarking on an ambitious journey to amplify our impact and deepen our roots within the community. Our focus will be around expanding our Out of School programming capacity and also giving out 100,000 books - more than ever before! Additionally, we're focusing on enhancing support for our staff and further solidifying our role as a pillar of support and empowerment for our community in North Philadelphia.

None of this would be possible without your continued support and partnership. As we venture into this new chapter, we invite you to join us on this journey of growth, innovation, and collective impact. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Tree House Books and the children we serve. Together, we can continue to revitalize, refresh, and renew alongside our community for generations to come.

With gratitude,
Grace Manning
Chair of the Governing Board

Our Year In Numbers

1,828

**NEW MEMBERS IN
THE GIVING
LIBRARY**



10,774

**TOTAL GIVING
LIBRARY
MEMBERS**



93,348

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED



186

**SUMMER READERS
IN WORDS ON
WHEELS**

316

**TRAVELING
TREE HOUSE
STOPS**

50
BOOK DRIVES



120

**TOTAL BOOKS
READ IN AFTER
SCHOOL STUDIO**

TREE HOUSE BOOKS IMPACT STORY #2

I HAVE BEEN GOING TO TREE HOUSE FOR ABOUT 5 YEARS. ONE THING I LOVE ABOUT TREE HOUSE IS THE STAFF BECAUSE THEY ARE REALLY CARING, NICE, AND GENUINELY SUPPORTIVE. SOMETHING I LOOK FORWARD TO AS WE GROW IS A BIGGER SPACE SO MORE KIDS CAN COME JOIN US AND JUST MEET NEW PEOPLE. ANOTHER THING I LOOK FORWARD TO IS MORE TRAVELING. SOMETHING I WOULD SAY TO ANOTHER YOUNG PERSON ABOUT JOINING TREE HOUSE BOOKS IS THAT IT'S A REALLY SAFE PLACE FOR WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO BE OUTSIDE WHEN THERE'S ANY DANGER. AND IT'S A VERY COMFORTABLE PLACE FOR YOUNGER KIDS AND ADULTS.

Refresh

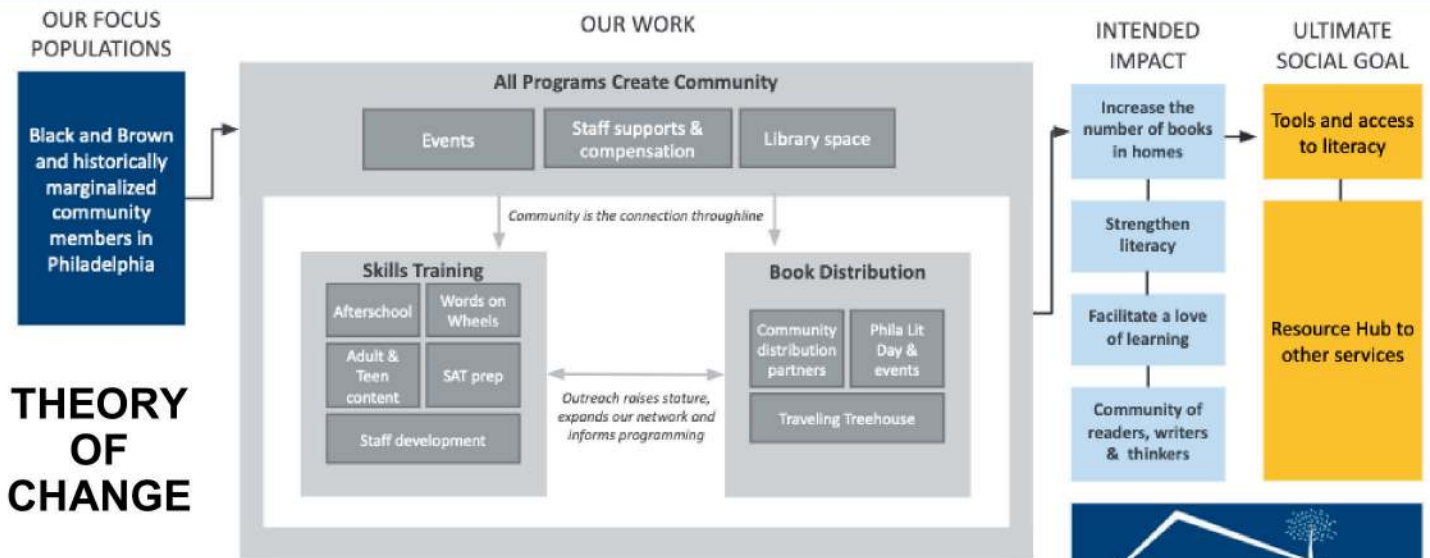
The "Special Sauce"



TREE HOUSE BOOKS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS GAVE THE GREEN LIGHT TO EXPAND OUR SPACE AND FURTHER OUR IMPACT. STAFF SPENT 2023 REWORKING OUR THEORY OF CHANGE TO PREPARE FOR HOW WE WANT TO GROW IN THIS COMMUNITY. IN DOING SO, WE PUT INTO WORDS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE: OUR "SPECIAL SAUCE."

UTILIZING A STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH, TREE HOUSE BOOKS IS CULTURALLY REFLECTIVE OF THE PEOPLE IN NORTH PHILADELPHIA, RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS AND INPUT, AND RADICALLY SAFE TO INCLUDE THE MOST VULNERABLE.

IN THIS REPORT, YOU CAN SEE OUR "SPECIAL SAUCE" IN ACTION!



Refresh

2023 PLD: We Outside!



"IT WAS SO GREAT TO SEE ALL THE FAMILIES OUT HAVING A GREAT TIME!"

Philadelphia Literacy Day was everything we hoped for and more! With the last few years being rooted in indoor isolation, Tree House Books set out to bring us all outside to play again. We also sought to bridge the gap between the elders and young people in our community.



"TREE HOUSE BOOKS TEAM DID AN AMAZING JOB WITH THIS COMMUNITY EVENT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO COMING NEXT YEAR 9.7.24!"

Not only did we accomplish the goal of having an intergenerational gathering, but we exceeded our participation expectations. More than 700 people attended, doubling the amount of participants we saw last year!



"THREE THINGS I LOVED ABOUT PHILADELPHIA LITERACY DAY WERE THE ASSORTMENT OF BOOKS, THE VOLUNTEERS PLAYING WITH THE KIDS, AND THE LOVE AND OVERALL POSITIVITY."



"MY DAUGHTER IS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER AND SHE DROVE OUT TO SUPPORT. SHE HAD A BLAST AND RAVED ABOUT HOW WE NEED SOMETHING LIKE THIS IN QUEENS, NY!"

TREE HOUSE BOOKS IMPACT STORY #3

I HAVE BEEN COMING TO TREE HOUSE SINCE THE AGE OF 8. IF I KNEW SOMEONE WHO WOULD FIT IN AT TREE HOUSE I WOULD TELL THEM ABOUT THE LOVING COMMUNITY AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES. I SHOW UP TO TREE HOUSE BECAUSE IT'S A GREAT SPACE TO EXPLORE MY INTERESTS. ONE OF THE EVENTS I PARTICIPATED IN WAS PHILADELPHIA LITERACY DAY. I DISPLAYED MY SKILLS IN A ONE-PERSON MARTIAL ARTS PERFORMANCE WHICH WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME. IT WAS A RUSH OF EMOTIONS - EXCITING AND NERVOUS - BUT WHEN I FINALLY DID IT I FELT ACCOMPLISHED.

M ~ AGE 16



Renew

Our program growth and impact

OUR NEXT STEPS ARE A REFLECTION OF THE CREATIVE AND NURTURING COMMUNITY THAT WE SERVE. AS AN ORGANIZATION, WE INTEND TO FURTHER OUR REACH AND DEEPEN OUR ROOTS IN BEAUTIFUL NORTH PHILADELPHIA.

THE AFTER-SCHOOL LITERACY STUDIO AND TEEN PROGRAM MISSIONS ARE TO GIVE STUDENTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS CULTURALLY COMPETENT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES. IN THE FUTURE WE WANT TO HAVE MORE TRIPS, ENGAGE MORE TEENS, AND EXPAND THE WAYS WE ENGAGE GRADES 9-12. IN 2024 WE PLAN ON HIRING MORE TEACHING ARTISTS SO THAT OUR YOUTH CAN BE EXPOSED TO AS MANY MODES OF LEARNING AS POSSIBLE.

- SHAKIRA KING
LEAD COMMUNITY EDUCATOR



THE TRAVELING TREE HOUSE WAS CREATED TO COUNTER THE PANDEMIC, SERVING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ON A SMALLER SCALE. I DREAM FOR THE TRAVELING TREE HOUSE TO REIGNITE A LOVE OF READING AND CONNECT THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY DIRECTLY TO TREE HOUSE BOOKS.

- CAMERON BUTLER
COMMUNITY BOOKS DISTRIBUTOR

WHEN I FIRST STARTED WORKING HERE IN 2017, THERE WAS A BOOK DISTRIBUTION GOAL OF 50,000 BOOKS A YEAR. LAST YEAR WE SAW OUR HIGHEST BOOK DISTRIBUTION NUMBERS YET, ALMOST DOUBLE THAT NUMBER! ADDITIONALLY, LIBRARY VISITS RETURNED TO PRE-COVID NUMBERS. THIS AFFIRMS FOR ME HOW NECESSARY AND EXCITING OUR EXPANSION IS. WE NO LONGER HAVE THE ROOM FOR THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD LOVE TO HANG OUT HERE AND HAVE A SAFE SPACE TO READ OR DEBRIEF FROM THE DAY. 2023 HAS TRULY SHOWN ME THAT THERE IS A WANT AND WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE A TRULY HOLISTIC COMMUNITY SPACE FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

-EMMA GOLDSTEIN
GIVING LIBRARY AND DONATIONS
MANAGER



WORDS ON WHEELS IS A BOOK DELIVERY PROGRAM TO HELP STUDENTS PREVENT SUMMER SLIDE. IN THE LAST THREE YEARS WE HAVE CONTINUED ON THAT PATH WITH THE ADDITION OF OFFERING FAMILIES ACCESS TO FUN AND ENGAGING ART AND LITERACY WORKSHOPS. THIS SUPPORT NOT ONLY GIVES STUDENTS PRACTICE WITH READING, BUT WORKS WITH PARENTS TO TAKE A CREATIVE APPROACH TO ENGAGING THEIR CHILD'S SUMMER READING. IN THE FUTURE, WE INTEND TO BROADEN OUR REACH BY BECOMING THE LITERACY COMPONENT TO TRADITIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS. THROUGH THIS, WE EXPECT TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND PARTNER WITH SCHOOLS TO GIVE CHILDREN A NEW OUTLOOK ON READING.

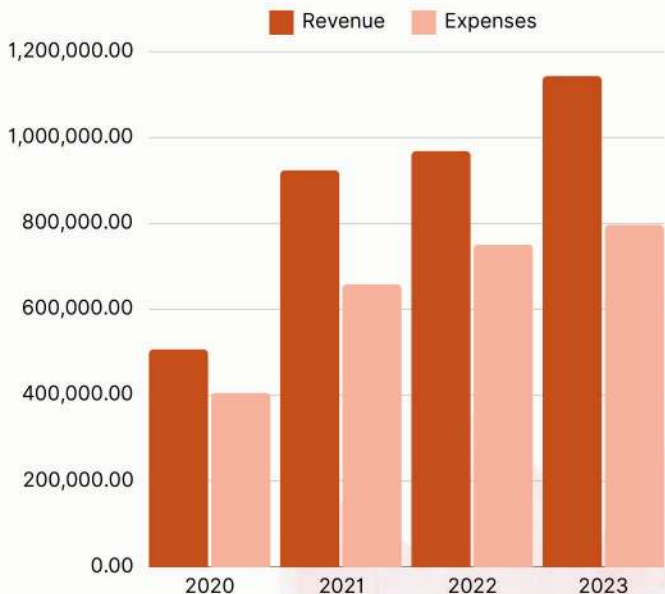
-DEIRDRE HYMAN
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS
COORDINATOR



Finance Report

For more detailed financial information, our annual audits are on file in the office.

Year over Year Budget Growth



436

Total donors this year!
We couldn't do it without you!

1076

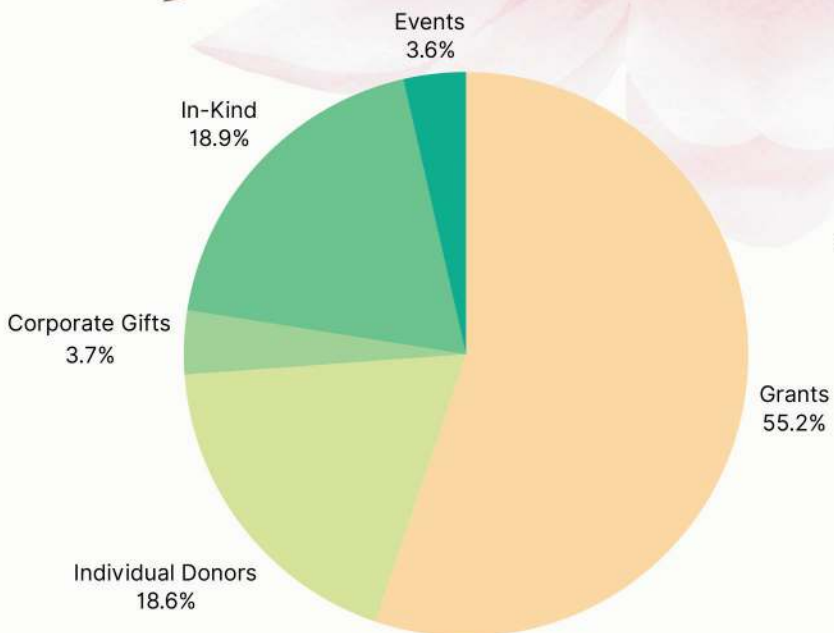
Total gifts in 2023!

\$50,000

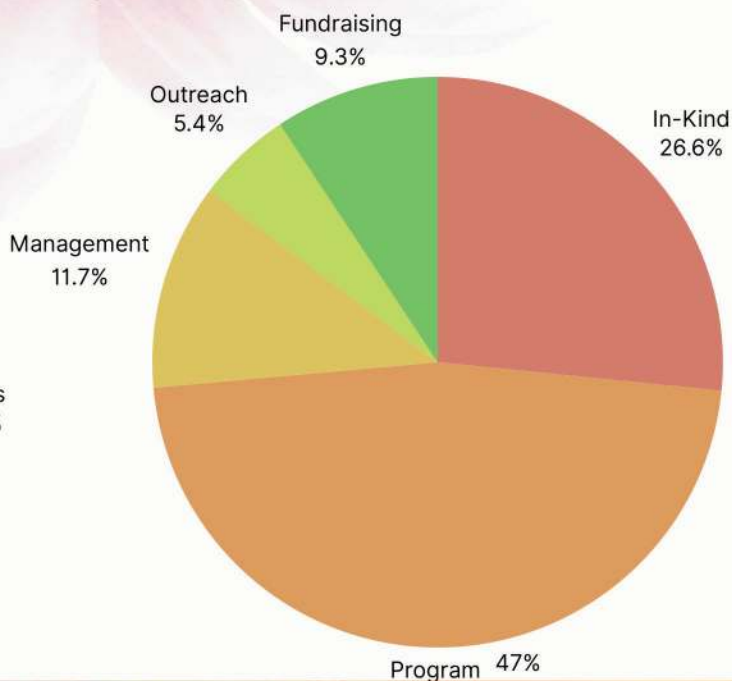
GSK Impact Award!



2023 Revenue



2023 Expenses



2023 Donors and Supporters (Continued)

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors and partners. Fulfilling Tree House Books' mission would not be possible without you! Donors are listed in alphabetical order within each category.

Root partners (Gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999)

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^ Denotes a Foundation or Grant Gift

Unfortunately space considerations don't allow us to print gifts up to \$99 - but we are no less grateful! They can be found on our website.

www.treehousebooks.org



2023 Donors and Supporters (Continued)

Branch partners (Gifts of \$100 to \$999)

Abigail Thaker	Elisabeth Fulbright-Hadden	Kristen Wilf	Peggy Hartzell
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Osterweil	Kimberle Kennedy	Patrick Van Gorder	Yvonne Watson
Elie Basch	Kimberly Gauthier	Paula Singer & Howard Kaufold	

2023 Donors & Supporters

We are so grateful to all our donors and partners in this work. This work cannot happen without you. Donors are listed in alphabetical order within the categories.

^ DENOTES A FOUNDATION OR GRANT GIFT

Evergreen partners (Gifts of \$10,000 and above)

Anonymous Family Foundation ^
Anthony and Staci Wiemelt
Caroline Buck Foundation ^
Community Literacy Collaborative at University of Arkansas ^
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
GSK Impact Award ^
Justamere Foundation ^
Le Vine Family Foundation ^
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The Lawrence Saunders Fund ^
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Touchdowns for Books Campaign



With your help, we can create and sustain a community of readers, writers, and thinkers.

To join the people listed here, please contact us at info@treehousebooks.org



We make every effort to be accurate, and apologize for any errors. Please contact us at info@treehousebooks.org to correct and update our records for names, amounts, and any other reason.

(Root & Branch partners inside!)

