

Annual Report 2022



WOMEN AND YOUTH SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

What is WYSE?

Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE) is a national mentorship organization that provides adolescent girls in underserved communities with the information, resources, and support to make healthy decisions and create community change. With branches at eleven universities nationwide, WYSE focuses on empowering women and girls through group-based and one-on-one mentorship offered by college women volunteers, and employs a national curriculum to address critical issues from building self-awareness to exploring future options.

WYSE is committed to inclusivity and belonging for all women: trans women, cis women, femmes, female-identifying, and individuals assigned female at birth. We envision a world in which we are all empowered to determine their future and effect change.



Mission

To empower young women by providing the resources and support necessary to make positive life choices and create community change

Vision

To create a world in which all women are empowered to determine their future and effect change

Pillars of WYSE

Critical Thinking and Decision Making

WYSE women explore fully and think deeply about significant issues in order to make informed, deliberate decisions.

Personal Identity and Self Esteem

WYSE women strive to recognize, explore, and proudly express who they are as individuals.

Strong Relationships

WYSE women believe in the power of positive relationships to change lives. WYSE women dedicate themselves to being a positive influence and role model for those around them.

Safe Community and Exploration

WYSE women express their ideas, ask questions, and learn in a safe, open, and accepting community. WYSE women encourage others to speak up and help each other discover new ideas.

Community Change

WYSE women strive to make a better society by gathering information, spreading awareness and taking action on issues that are meaningful to them.

Our Branches

George Washington University

Marquette University

Occidental College

Stanford University

Tulane University

University of Chicago

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of Southern California

Our Middle Schools

Langston Hughes Academy Scholarship Prep	New Orleans, LA
John B. Drake Elementary	Santa Ana, CA
Jefferson Middle School Academy	Chicago, IL
Eliot-Hine Middle School	Washington, DC
Garland Middle School	Washington, DC
Vista Charter Middle School	Milwaukee, WI
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy	Los Angeles, CA
Francisco Sepulveda Middle School	Los Angeles, CA
Mark Twain Middle School	North Hills, CA
PUC CALS	Los Angeles, CA
	Los Angeles, CA

Letter from our new WYSE Board Chair

I am deeply honored and thrilled to address you as the newly elected Board Chair of WYSE for the upcoming year. Having served on the board for over a decade, and having been a mentor and director at the NYU branch, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of our organization in empowering young girls and fostering their growth into strong, confident, and capable leaders. As we embark on WYSE's 31st year, I am filled with immense pride for the countless lives we have positively impacted and the lasting change we have brought to communities across the country.

Our dedication to creating a supportive and empowering environment for young girls remains unwavering. Through our 10 WYSE branches nationwide in 15 middle schools, we have continued to uplift and support each other, building a network of young women who are determined to break barriers and pursue their dreams fearlessly. As we move forward, I am committed to enhancing our outreach efforts, forging new partnerships, and expanding our reach to touch the lives of even more young girls across the country. Together, with your continued support, we can create a brighter and more equitable future, where every girl has the opportunity to flourish and achieve her full potential. Thank you for being an essential part of the WYSE family, and I look forward to celebrating another year of achievements and progress with you.

With gratitude and enthusiasm,

Anna Shaw-Amoah
Board Chair, Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE)



Program Year 2022 - 2023

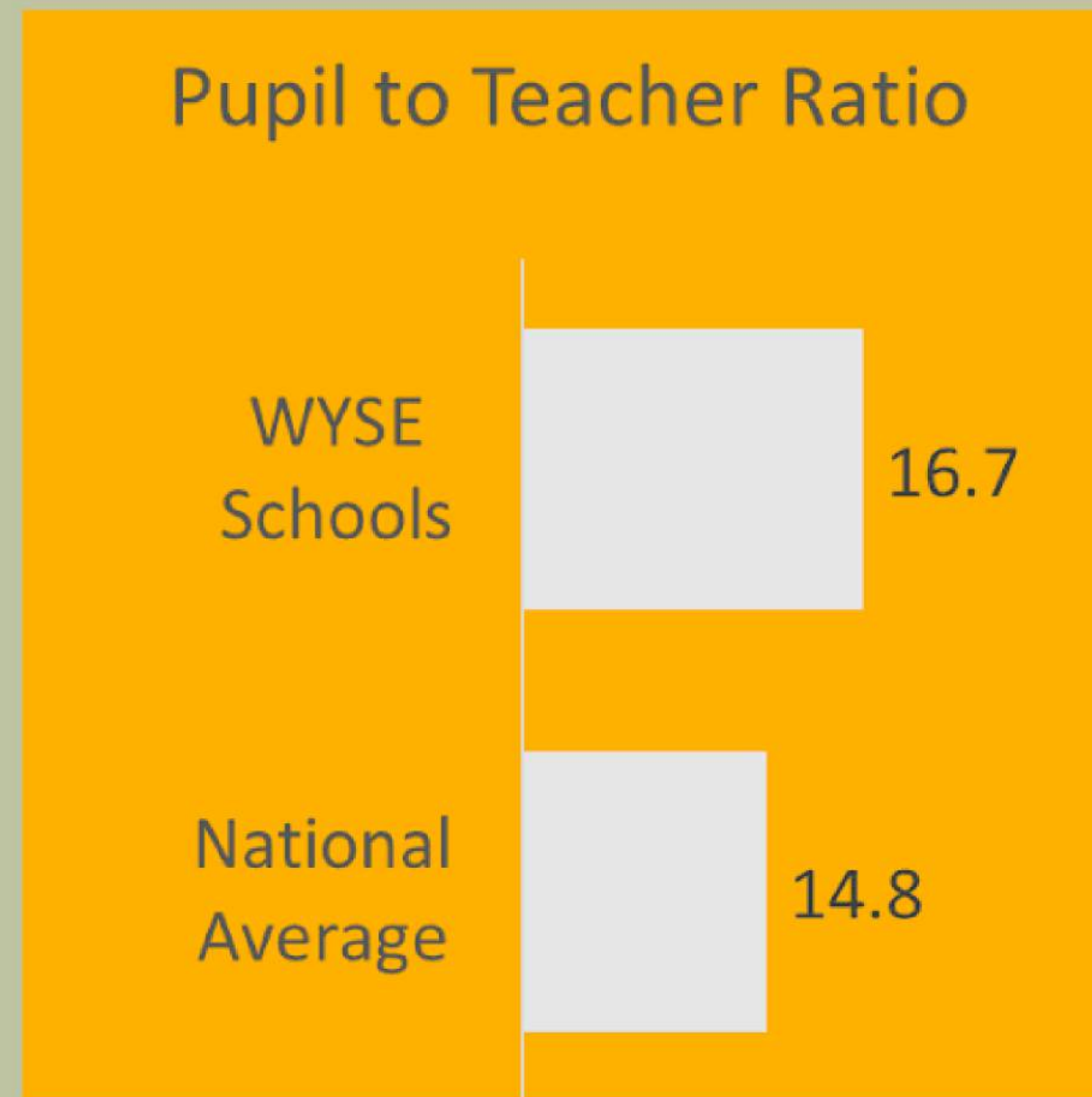
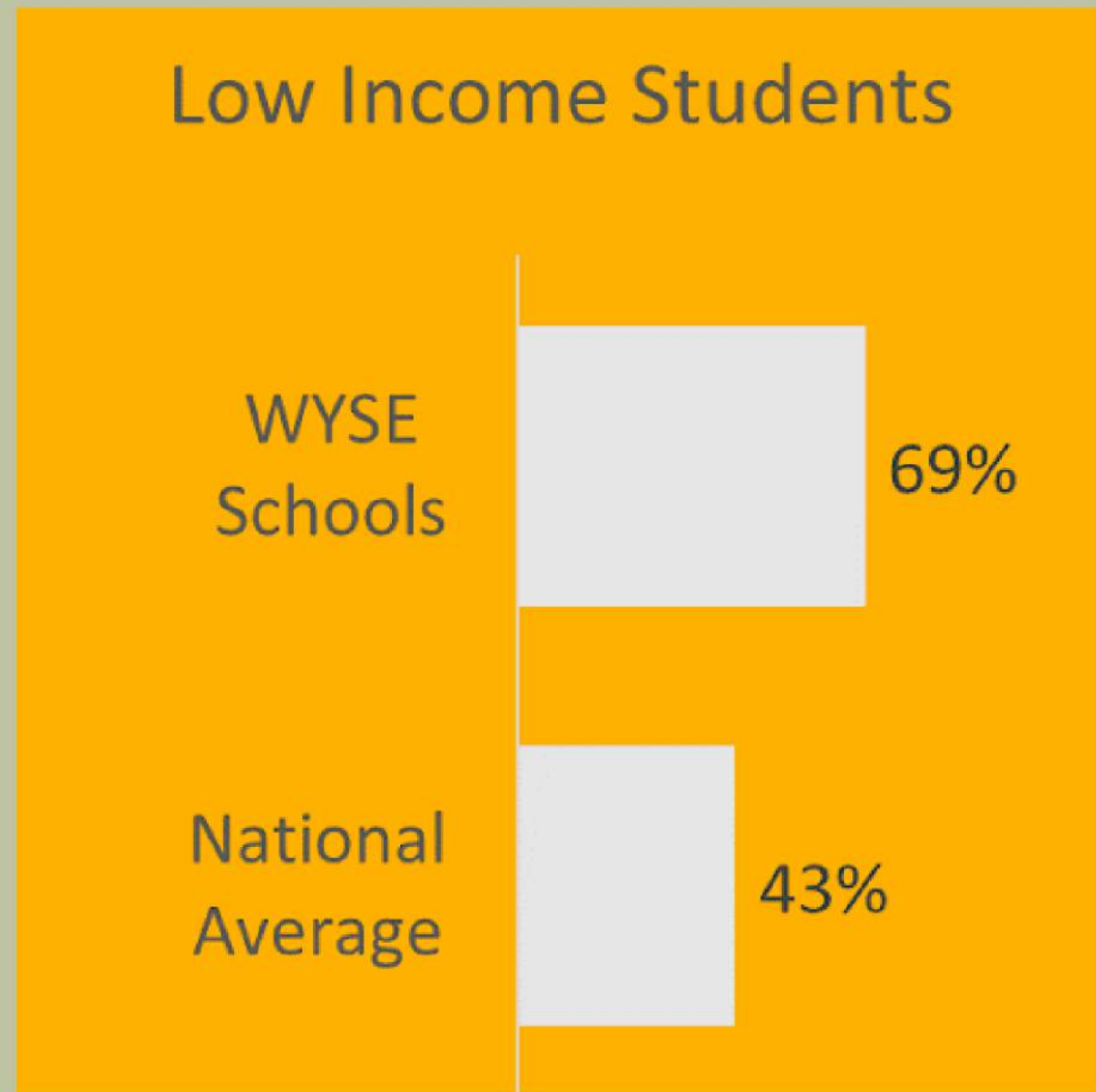
Milestones

- 204** 6th-8th grade mentees
(average 20 per branch)
- 212** Mentors
(average 21 per branch)
- 65** College women in branch leadership
(average 7 per branch)
- 146** Total WYSE sessions
- 65** Total hours of mentor training

Note: Total number of mentees and mentors are taken from point-in-time counts and likely represent an undercount of the number of program participants.

About Our Middle Schools

WYSE serves schools with a higher proportion of low income students than the nation overall, and a higher pupil-to-teacher ratio.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics; Low income students include those eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (Income below 185% of Federal Poverty Level).

Mentor & Mentee Survey Responses

100% of Mentors and Mentees would recommend WYSE to others.

100% of Mentors and 92% of Mentees reported feeling like WYSE was a safe space for all participants.

77% of Mentees reported that participating in WYSE helped them to better understand and accept their personal identity.

92% of Mentees reported that their WYSE Mentor is someone they trust.

97% of Mentors and 92% of Mentees agreed that “WYSE helped me to know that I have the power to make a difference in my community.”

Methodology:

Start-of-year surveys were administered at all WYSE branches. Questions were asked on a four-point scale from 1 (“Strongly Disagree”) to 4 (“Strongly Agree”). Percentages reflect the proportion of respondents who answered 3 or 4 on the scale.



*Return to
In
Person!*

National Leadership Training Conference 2022



In 2022, we brought NLTC back to in-person at the University of Southern California! Branch leaders across the nation gathered for a full retreat weekend to make connections, share ideas, and plan for the new program year.

Thank you to our volunteer alumni Maggie Deagon for support in executing NLTC, leading sessions, and **alumni Bryce Bakewell, Madalena Burke, Carolina Duarte, and Maggie Deagon** who spoke to branch leaders on what to expect returning to in-person WYSE programming.

NLTC wouldn't have been possible without all of our alumni support and donor support to help cover the costs!



The 2022-2023 program year marked the 30th Anniversary of WYSE!

- 30 YEARS of equipping girls with resources to make positive life choices
- 30 YEARS of objective, nonjudgmental, curriculum-based group mentoring
- 30 YEARS of fostering growth opportunities for college women to impact, influence, and lead
- 30 YEARS of developing critical thinkers and confident decision makers
- 30 YEARS of empowering young women to create community change
- 30 YEARS of promoting leadership and self-determination
- 30 YEARS of nurturing problem solving skills in young leaders
- 30 YEARS of WOMEN AND YOUTH SUPPORTING EACH OTHER



In celebration of three decades, we completed a successful anniversary fundraising campaign, branch-led WYSE Week celebrations across the U.S., and a mixer celebrating our Herstory and program evolution. We also collected stories from former mentees and mentors to highlight WYSE's lasting impact.

Conceived at UCLA in 1992, WYSE has expanded to engage and empower young women across the nation. WYSE hired its first executive director and opened the National Resource Office in Los Angeles in 1997. The following year, the first annual WYSE National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) assembled college women to collaborate in preparation for branch leadership. In 2007, WYSE restructured to a fully volunteer-run model, operated and governed by the National Board of Directors. In 2011, WYSE became an independently registered 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization.

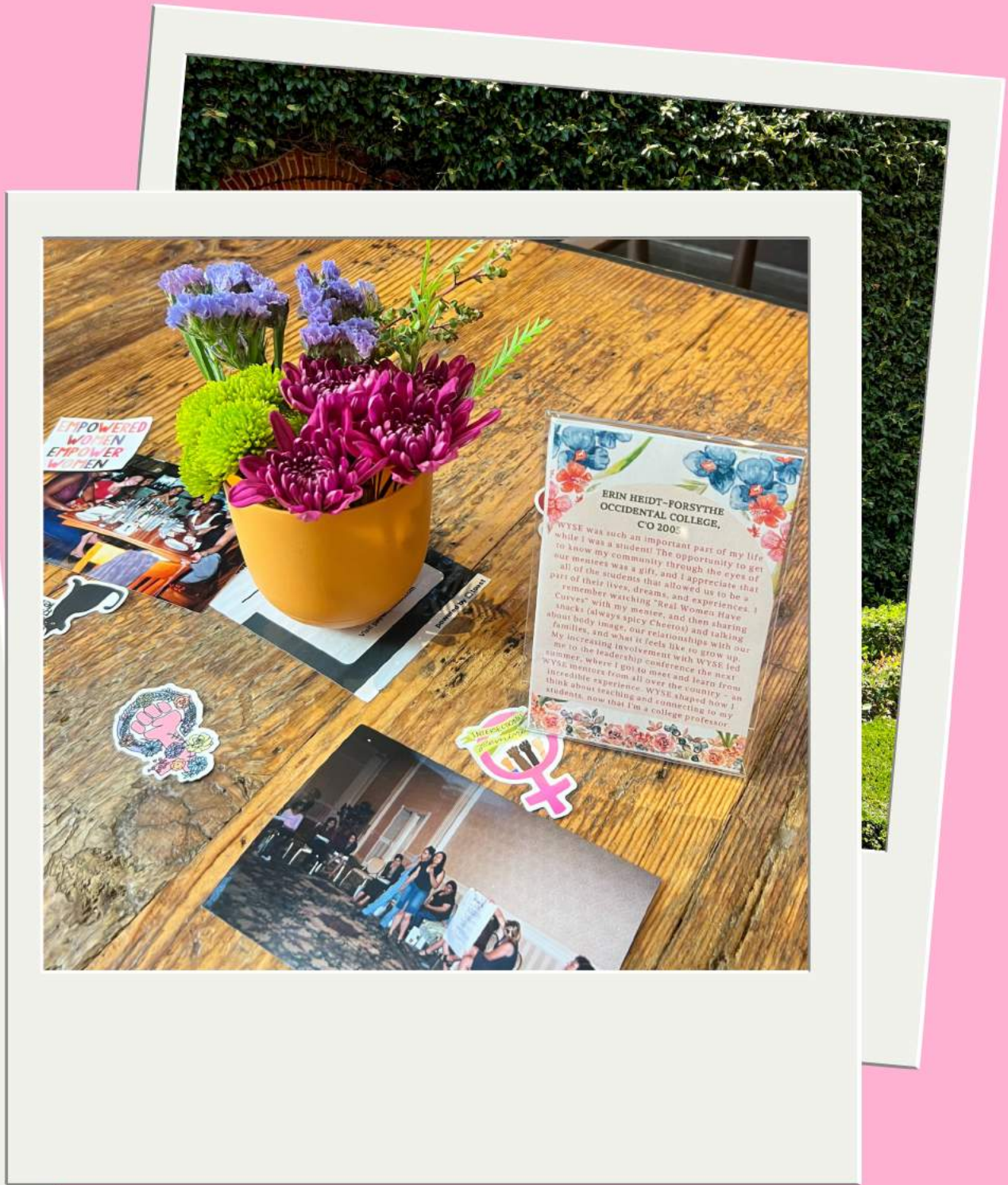
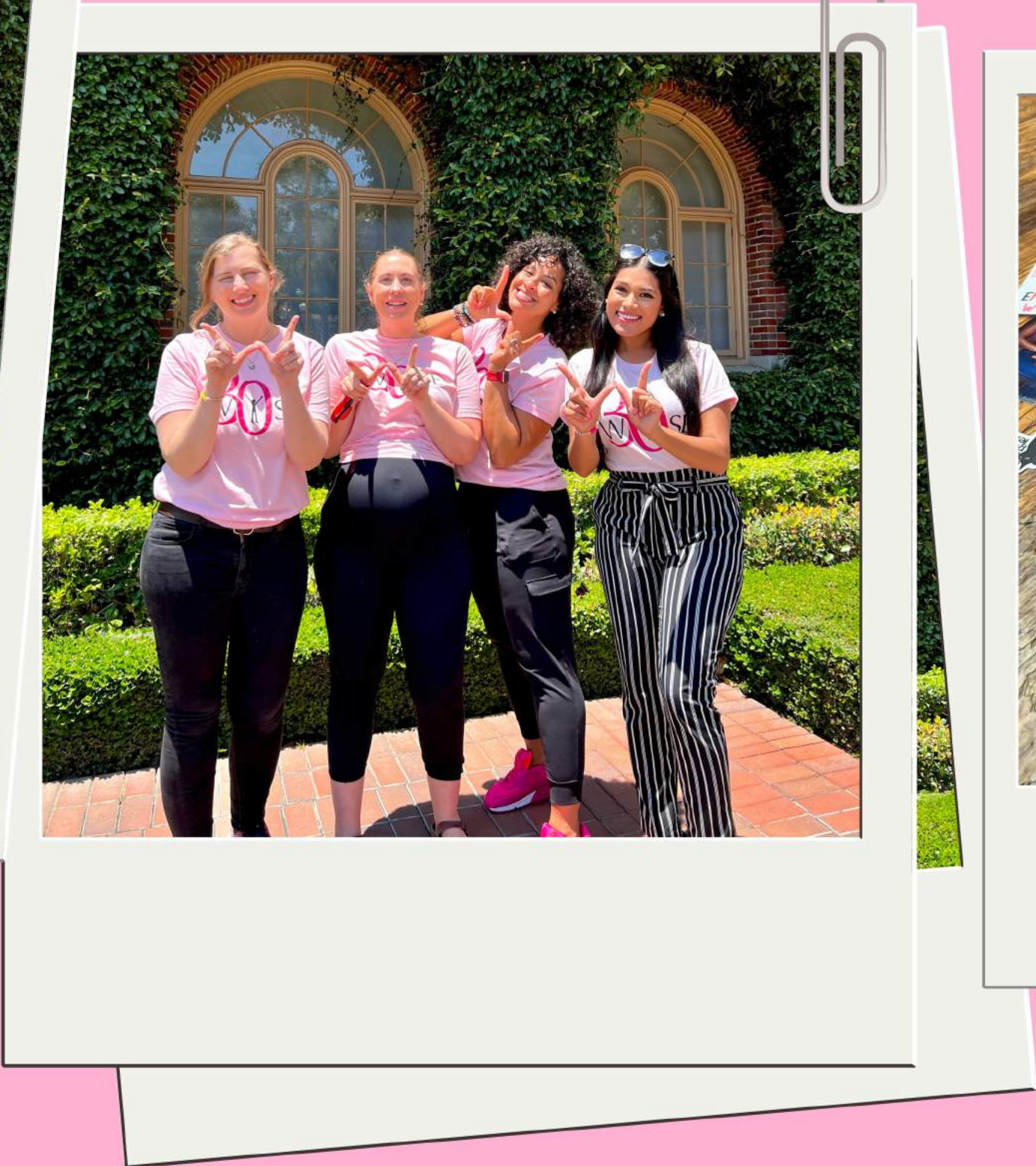


Today, WYSE remains 100% volunteer-powered. Our program's evolution over three decades includes numerous shifts in leadership, funding streams, and operational models. One thing has remained constant: WYSE continues to thrive thanks to our dedicated college student leaders. Our program has persevered through many challenges - including a global pandemic - and nevertheless, WYSE persisted.

Over the past 30 years, our small, grassroots, volunteer-run nonprofit has empowered more than 6,000 girls with the information, resources, and support to create community change. We have developed more than 2,000 leaders among our college branch directors. Our WYSE alumni network is vast and full of possibilities. We are proud to celebrate the tremendous achievement of 3 decades of WYSE.



30TH ANNIVERSARY



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30TH ANNIVERSARY



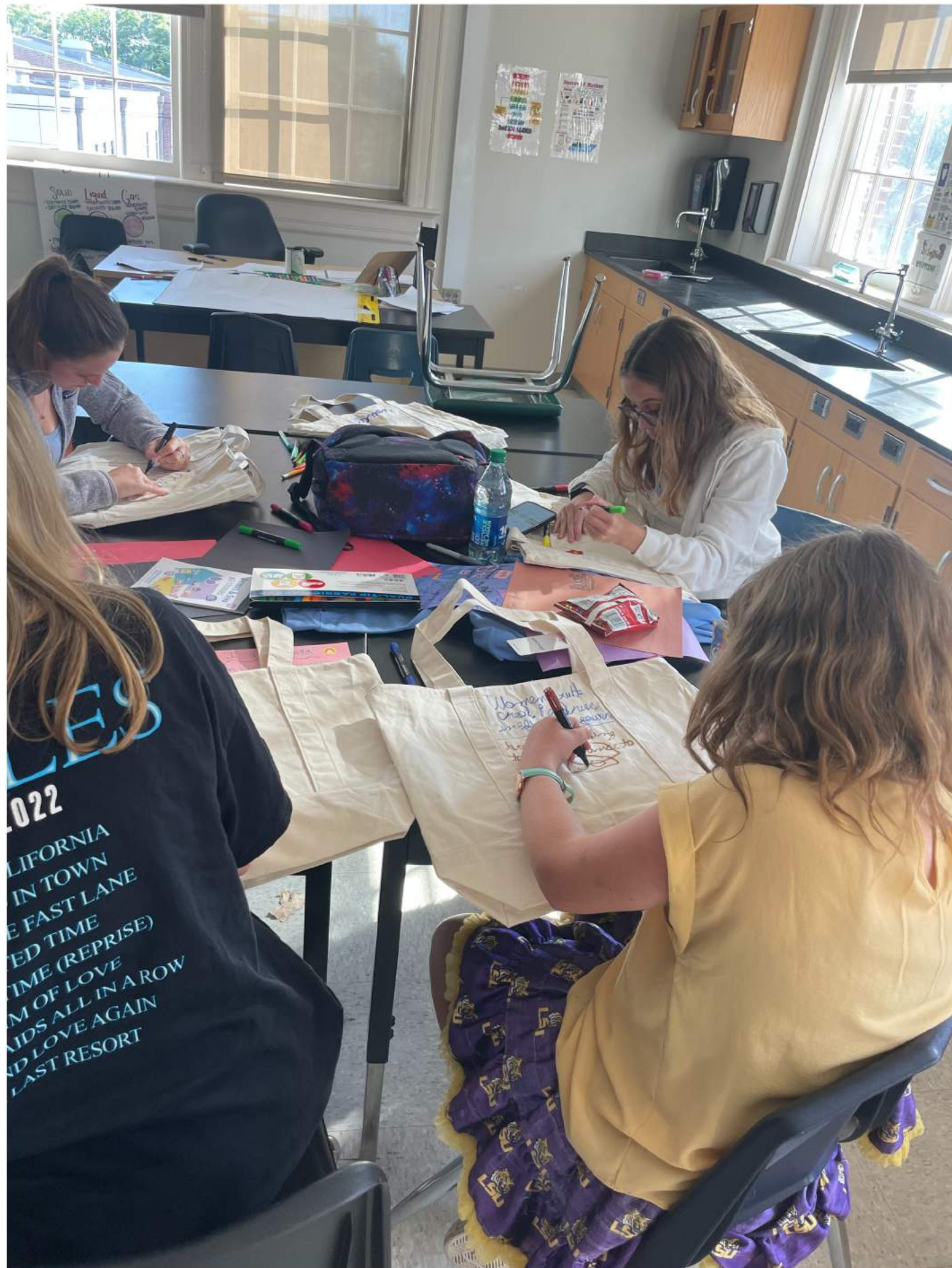


In June, friends of WYSE gathered alongside NLTC attendees to celebrate our 30th anniversary with a mixer at Rock and Reilly's in USC Village. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, perused nostalgic photos, reminisced over shared WYSE memories, and listened to remarks from Karla Arriola, a former WYSE mentee, who is now Executive Director of Berkeley WYSE. Karla's journey exemplifies how transformative WYSE mentorship can be in helping girls to envision broader future options and aspire to create community change!

The mixer capped our celebratory year, securing WYSE's sustainability into the new program year with the conclusion of our successful anniversary campaign.

Branch Spotlight: Tulane





Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, Tulane's WYSE branch had the joy of hosting in-person sessions for the first time since the pandemic. While we encountered a number of hurdles during the first semester in finding a school to work with, we ultimately overcame these obstacles and found an amazing school to partner with, **Bricolage Academy**, whose mission revolves around advancing equity for students from diverse backgrounds.

Collaborating with Bricolage Academy has allowed our branch to flourish, as we've had the pleasure of developing positive and effective relationships. Needless to say, the wait was well worth it, and the patience and effort invested in this endeavor were richly rewarded.

Beyond fostering new school site relationships, Tulane's branch has also continued to fulfill our commitment to community engagement. We've actively served the greater New Orleans community through philanthropic endeavors. **Notably, in the Spring of 2023, we were able to fundraise and collect funds for New Orleans Women and Children's Shelter.** Through our efforts, we were able to donate much needed items such as diapers and strollers, making an impact on the lives of families in our community--much like the impact we aim to empower our mentees to make.

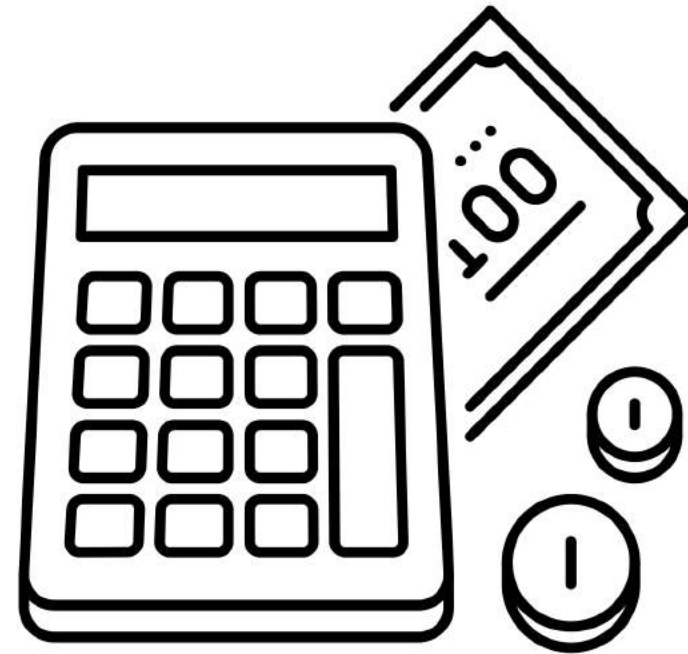


NEW ORLEANS
WOMEN'S
SHELTER

Financial Overview

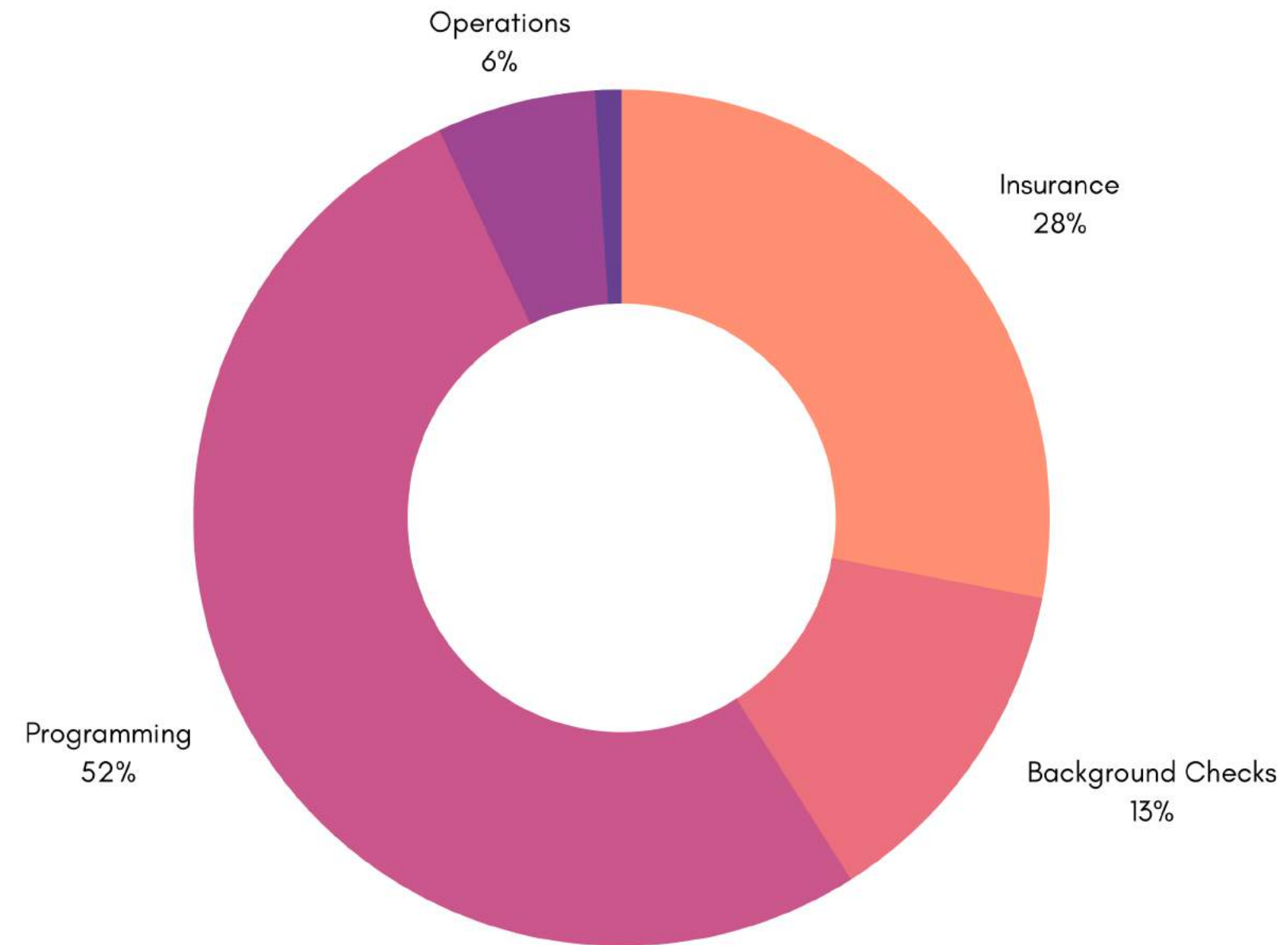
What did our finances look like in 2022? Here is an overview of the expenses and revenue for WYSE, with comparison to years past, from **January 2022 through December 2022**.

WYSE is a 100% volunteer-run organization, with nominal overhead expenses and all revenue channeled directly to programming, operations, and fundraising support.



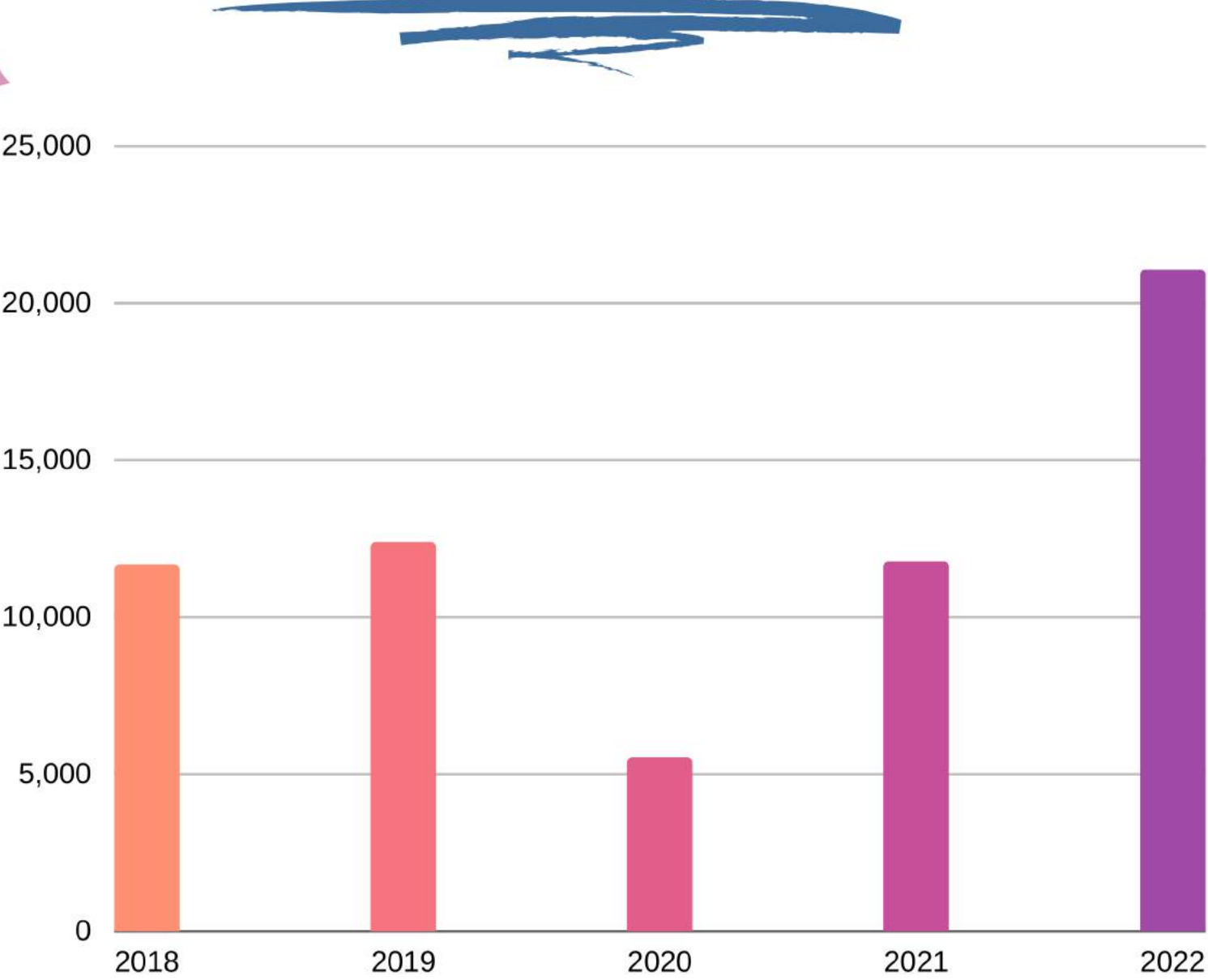
Expenses

Total expenses in 2022: \$21,039.29



In 2022, we were able to use grant funds to revive and reignite an in-person National Leadership Training Conference!

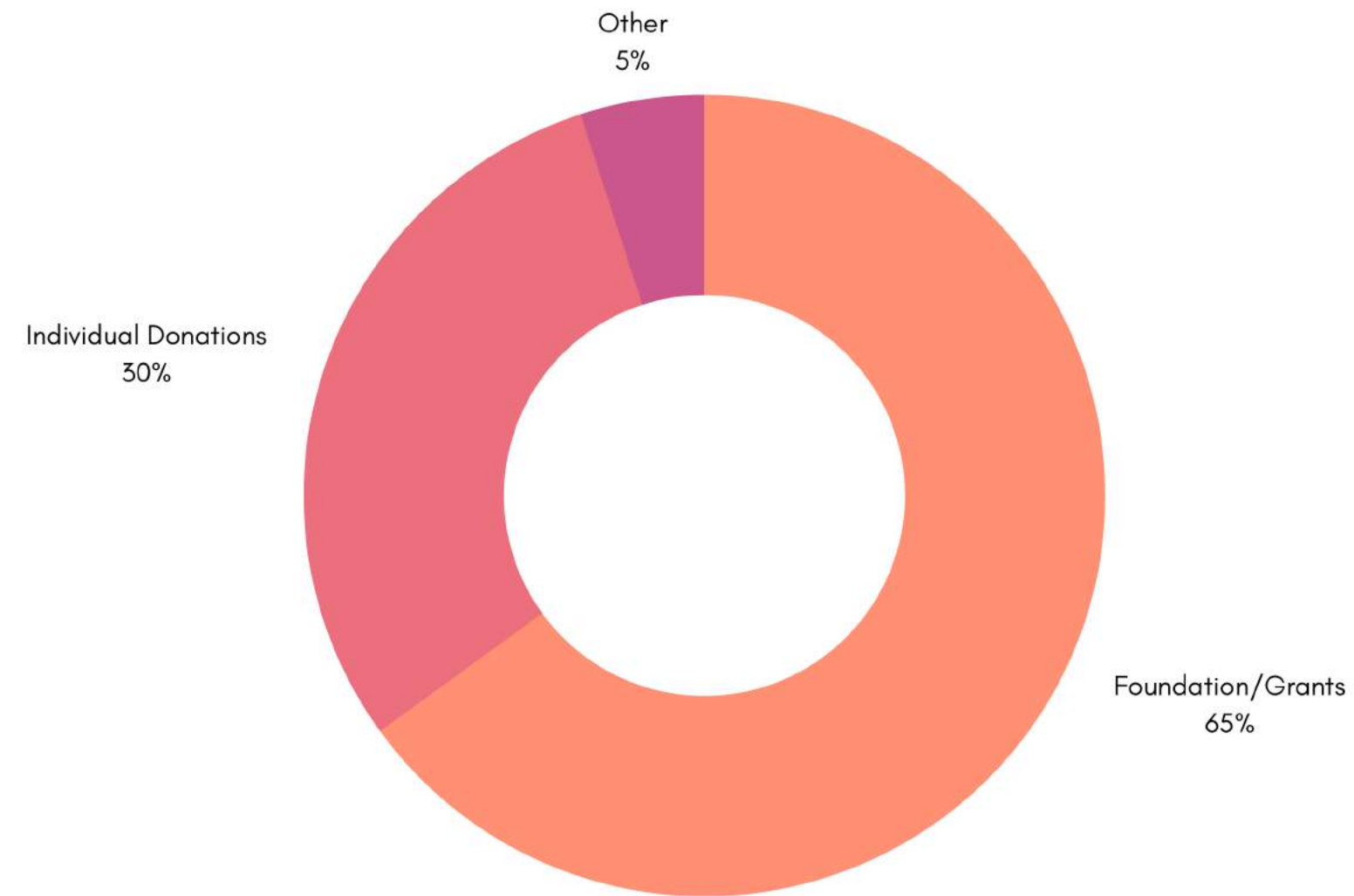
Expenses



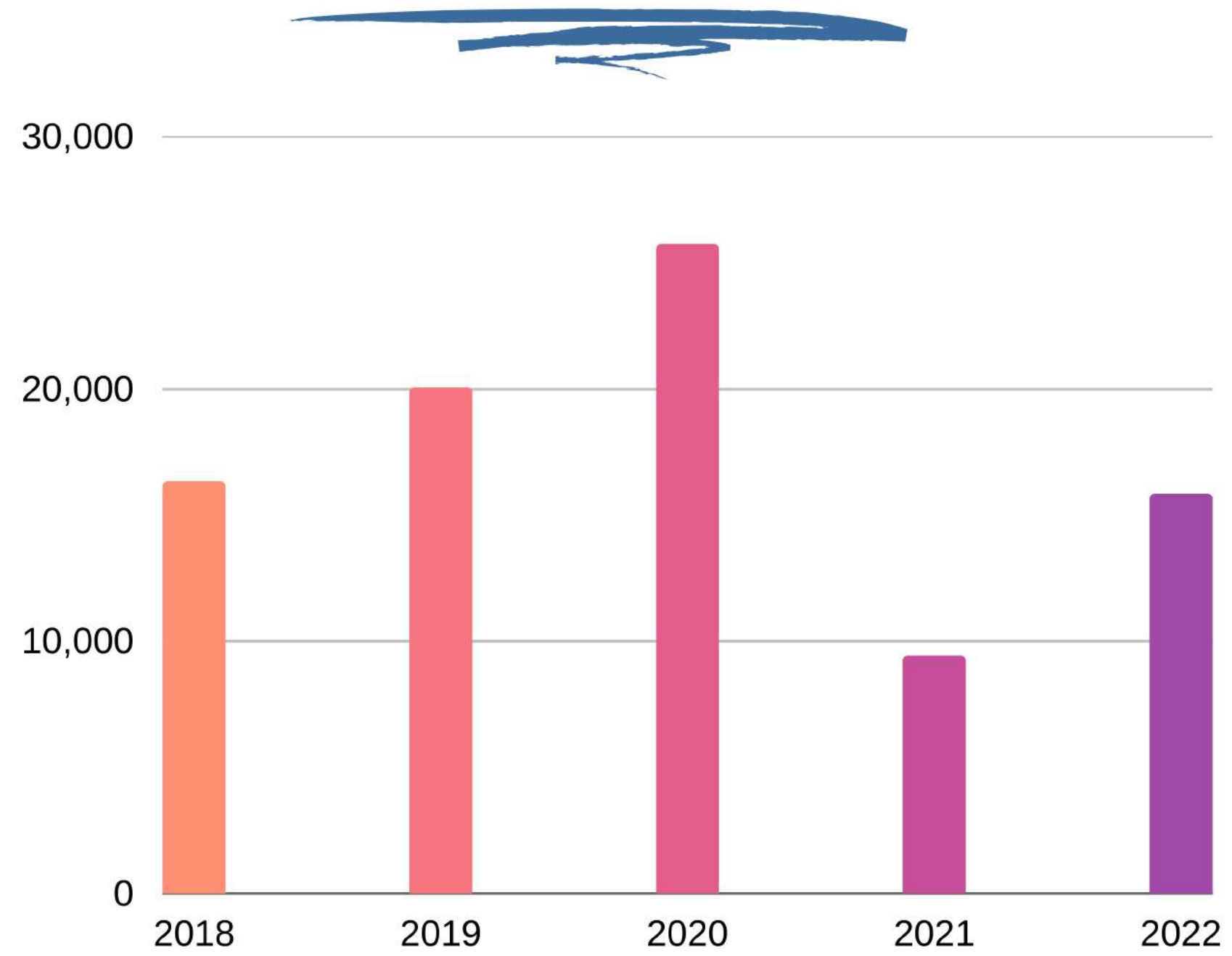
Revenue



Total revenue in 2022: \$15,811.71



Revenue



Thank You, Donors!

Thank you to our generous WYSE family of donors in 2021* that supported our programs nationwide.

Justin Jaikissoon
Ellen Albritton
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Marilyn S. Broad Foundation
Detrick Warner
Melissa & Douglas Beek
Japreena Kaur
Anna Kintas

**These donations span January 1, 2022- December 31, 2022 as well as Double Good Donors from 2023*

***These donors made recurring monthly gifts. We appreciate your ongoing support!*

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Thank You!