

**20
23**

Annual Report

A Year of Hope



**UPWARD
BOUND
HOUSE**

MISSION & INSPIRATION

At Upward Bound House (UBH), we are dedicated to eliminating homelessness among families with children in our community. Our mission goes beyond providing shelter—we offer housing, supportive services, and advocacy to empower families to achieve lasting stability.

Imagine a Los Angeles where every family has a safe place to call home. Upward Bound House is committed to making that vision a reality. We understand that families need more than just a roof over their heads; they need support to rebuild their lives. From job training and childcare to housing assistance, we offer comprehensive services to help families create a brighter future.

Thank you for standing with us in 2023. Your support has allowed us to make a lasting impact on the lives of so many families. As we look ahead to 2024, we are excited to continue this important work together, creating even greater change and building a future where no child experiences homelessness.



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

2023 marked a pivotal year of hope and transformation for UBH as we took bold steps to reshape the future for unhoused families in Los Angeles. The highlight of this progress was the renovation of *Family Place*, redesigning the site to provide enhanced amenities and foster a stronger sense of community for our clients. This initiative offers a safe and nurturing environment where families can heal, grow, and build a stable foundation for their future.

Our commitment to building strong community partnerships has also been a key factor in our success. Collaborations with local schools, corporations, and social service organizations have expanded our ability to serve more families and provide targeted support. Through these partnerships, we've created a robust network of care, ensuring families receive the resources they need to thrive.

As we look to the future, we remain optimistic and energized. With your continued support, UBH will keep breaking the cycle of generational homelessness, creating opportunities, and empowering families to build brighter, more stable tomorrows.



Christine Mirasy-Glasco

President & CEO Upward Bound House

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Mirasy-Glasco".



Cindy Maroun

Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Maroun".

OUR IMPACT

Since our inception, we have helped 2,930 families transition from homelessness to permanent housing with 93% of families remaining stably housed for more than one year after placement.

In 2023...



213

FAMILIES MOVED INTO
PERMANENT HOUSING



453

CHILDREN HAD A
PLACE TO CALL HOME



140

ADULTS INCREASED THEIR INCOME
THROUGH EMPLOYMENT



93%

OF FAMILIES REMAINED HOUSED
FOR ONE YEAR AFTER MOVING
INTO HOUSING

2,930

FAMILIES

transitioned from homelessness
into permanent housing
since our inception



OUR APPROACH

At UBH, we are committed to reducing the number of unhoused families with minor children who are hungry and living on the streets of Los Angeles. Our goal is to help these families access essential resources and transition into stable, permanent housing. We believe that every family, no matter their circumstances, deserves the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency.

Through our comprehensive programs across the Westside, South Bay, and South LA, we provide crucial support. This includes five emergency shelters, multiple rapid re-housing initiatives, and four transitional housing sites—three of which are specifically designed for pregnant and parenting youth. With these resources, we are making a lasting impact, helping families rebuild their lives and remain stably housed.

93%

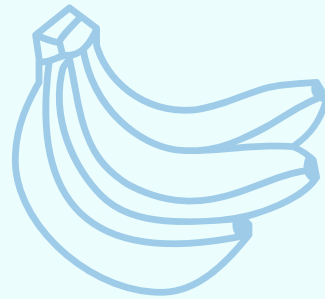
of families remain stably housed for more than one year after placement.

400+

families served annually

Basic Services

Food and Shelter



Individualized Services

Case Management; Employment Services;
Nutrition & Emotional Wellness

Housing Stability

Permanent Affordable Housing; Long Term
Sustainability Services



Community Connections

Community Resources; Childcare

A NEW CHAPTER: From Struggles to Success

When I found out I was pregnant, my world turned upside down. I had nowhere to go and was bouncing around from shelter to shelter. It was crazy stressful, especially trying to figure out how to be a good mom. Luckily, I was taking parenting classes and someone there told me about Upward Bound House. I knew I needed to build a solid base for my baby, so I reached out.

I was beyond excited when I got the call back. Those shelters were no place for a newborn. It was like a weight lifted off my shoulders. To give myself a chance, I started cosmetology school right after I had my daughter. It was tough, but I knew I had to do something.

When I finally got my own place through Upward Bound House, it felt like a dream come true. My brain was clear for the first time in forever. I had a space to grow and raise my daughter.



Upward Bound House helped me with so much more than just finding a place to live. They taught me about healthy eating, how to take care of a baby, and even about domestic violence. It opened my eyes to a lot of things I didn't know before.

My little girl is almost two and she's a bundle of energy! She's always laughing and exploring. Having a stable home has been amazing for both of us. I'm building my hair business and even starting to do nails. My apartment is my little world now – space for me, my daughter, and my work.

“I can't say enough good things about Upward Bound House. They helped me turn my life around and build a foundation for my daughter and me.”

-Ny

EMPOWERED TO RISE:

My Past Doesn't Represent My Future

Before finding Upward Bound House, I was struggling physically and mentally. I was a single mom with five children, a mental and physical disability, and was homeless. I eventually lost my kids and hit rock bottom. But then I met this caseworker who told me about Upward Bound House.

Upward Bound House was a lifesaver in getting my kids back. They gave us a place to stay, food, and even helped me gain skills to find a stable job.

I never thought I could have a real career or a nice home. But Upward Bound House helped me believe it was possible. I started a program to work as a Pharmacy Technician at CVS, and it was a big step.

There were nights I just wanted to give up. But I had to be strong for my kids. They're my reason for everything. Now, we're doing good. We go to the park, draw pictures, and just hang out. It's like a whole new world.

I want to buy a house for my kids, a place where they can feel safe and happy. I want to show them that no matter what happens, they can overcome anything.

I tell everyone about Upward Bound House. They helped me turn my life around. There's hope out there for anyone going through tough times—no matter what you're going through. Your past doesn't represent your future.

“I'm still healing, but I'm stronger than ever. Being a mom is the best thing in the world.”

-Ri'Elle





“Partners for Children South LA is honored to be a partner of Upward Bound House. Their dedication to providing housing and support services to homeless families is truly inspiring. Together, we’ve been able to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need, fostering a sense of community and hope.”

— Liza Bray, Executive
Director, Partners for Children South L.A.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: Partners for Children South L.A.

SUPPORTING UNHOUSED PREGNANT AND PARENTING YOUTH: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

At Upward Bound House (UBH), we are proud to collaborate with Partners for Children South L.A. (PCSLA) in addressing the often-overlooked needs of unhoused pregnant and parenting youth. This vulnerable group is growing in numbers, yet their complex challenges—often shaped by trauma before and during homelessness—frequently go unnoticed. Many of these young people are displaced due to child abuse, domestic violence, or parental behavioral health issues, leaving them unprepared not only for parenthood but also for the responsibilities of adulthood.

To support these young mothers, UBH and PCSLA launched a unique 12-month pilot program: the Life Skills Initiative. The goal was to empower a cohort of 20 transition-age mothers to achieve academic, employment, and personal milestones. The young mothers actively contributed to shaping the workshop content, ensuring that the initiative addressed their specific needs.



Partners for Children
South L.A.

Participants in the program gained vital skills in four key areas:

- **Parenting and Childcare Skills:** Workshops focused on prenatal and postnatal care, infant care, child development milestones, and essential parenting techniques.
- **Life Skills for Self-Sufficiency:** These sessions covered budgeting, managing government assistance, understanding credit, and building financial independence. Participants also learned job readiness skills, time management, and how to balance work, childcare, education, and personal well-being.
- **Mental and Emotional Health Support:** Recognizing the widespread mental health challenges facing pregnant and parenting youth, the program offered trauma-informed care, counseling, stress management techniques, and emotional regulation strategies.
- **Nutrition and Wellness:** Participants learned to plan nutritious meals, shop on a budget at grocery stores and farmer's markets, and develop basic cooking skills for themselves and their children. Group activities such as parent-child yoga and walking groups helped to foster both physical and emotional well-being.

Of the 20 participants, 17 successfully completed the program, reporting increased confidence in seeking professional support, cooking, parenting, and navigating the challenges of employment. They also gained valuable skills in resume building, interview preparation, and managing the balance between work and family life.

Perhaps just as importantly, the Life Skills Initiative helped build a strong sense of community among the young mothers. Peer support became a key component of their journey toward self-sufficiency, as one participant shared:

“When you’re going through something, basically what we all do is just go up in our room and trap ourselves... We’re sitting there and thinking about it all the time. But then when we come here to the workshop and we’re with others, we share our thoughts...”

We are deeply grateful to PCSLA for joining us in expanding the village that supports these young families. Together, we are helping young mothers confront their challenges and lay the groundwork for brighter futures.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

A year of connection, celebration, and community impact. From fostering family bonds at Summer Fest to recognizing exceptional partners at the Angel Awards, 2023 was filled with inspiring moments that brought our mission to life.



SUMMER FEST

Summer Fest was a resounding success in fostering community and joy among over 100 Upward Bound House families. Designed as a day of connection and fun, the event brought families together, creating a strong sense of belonging within the UBH community. Beyond fostering relationships, Summer Fest provided valuable resources to support families' well-being. This heartwarming event would not have been possible without the dedication of UBH staff, board members, and volunteers, whose contributions made it a memorable and impactful celebration of the end of summer.

ANGEL AWARDS

The Angel Awards recognizes exceptional individuals or organizations demonstrating unwavering commitment and loyalty to Upward Bound House. Carlthorp School was the proud recipient of the Angel Award, recognizing their long-standing partnership with UBH and their significant contributions.



HOME RUN FOR KIDS

Our annual Home Run for Kids 5K was a wonderful time! Nearly 600 participants, including seven school teams and several pet dogs, joined us for a morning of fun and fitness. With a lively atmosphere featuring a DJ, emcee, and special performances, the event raised crucial funds to support our mission of ending family homelessness. The addition of a "bring your pup" option enhanced the family-friendly experience, creating a memorable day for all involved.



LOOKING AHEAD

Blazing a Path to Disrupt Intergenerational Homelessness

As we execute our 3-Year Strategic Plan, our focus remains on one critical mission: disrupting intergenerational homelessness among families with children. We continue to witness the heartbreaking cycle of homelessness being passed down from one generation to the next, a crisis driven by systemic barriers like poverty, racism, lack of affordable housing, and limited access to education and employment opportunities.

While many families manage to move into permanent housing, too often they find themselves struggling to remain stably housed. Living on the brink of financial insecurity, their long-term needs are not adequately met by the resources currently allocated. The available support tends to fall short of addressing the ongoing challenges these families face after transitioning from homelessness to housing.



Introducing Thriving Families: A New Approach to Sustainable Housing

In response, we are proud to pilot a groundbreaking program—**Thriving Families**. The goal of this initiative is to establish a much-needed middle ground between the current time-limited subsidies and costly permanent supportive services. Unlike traditional programs where the availability of services ends when rental assistance runs out, Thriving Families extends both housing tenancy and sustaining services for an additional 12-18 months after temporary rental subsidies expire.

By ensuring that families receive continued support beyond the usual timeframes, we aim to provide the resources and guidance necessary for long-term stability, giving families a better chance to thrive, not just survive.



Expanding Our Reach in South LA

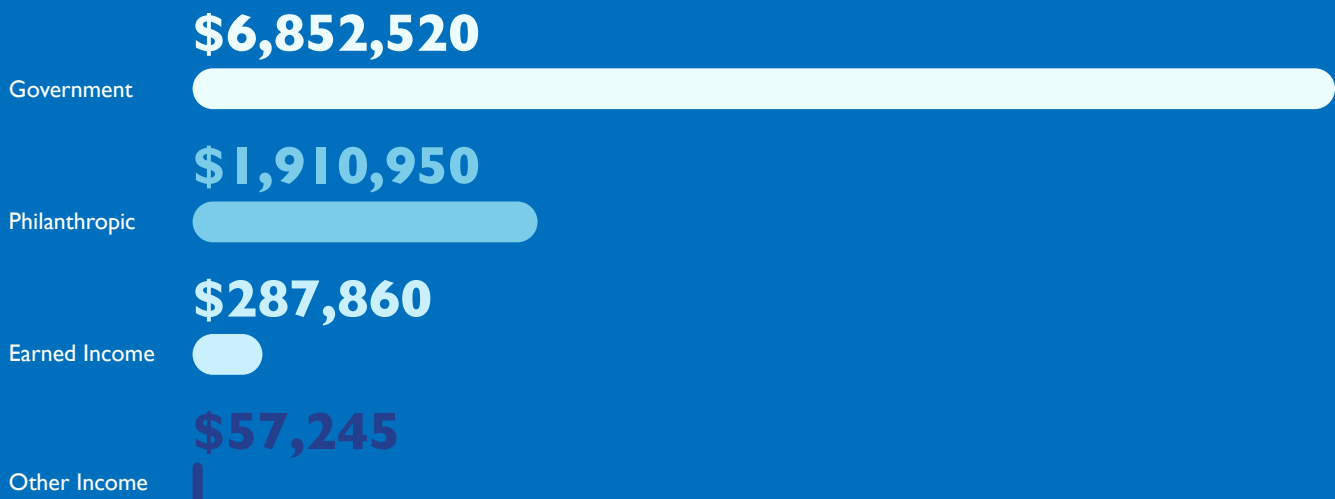
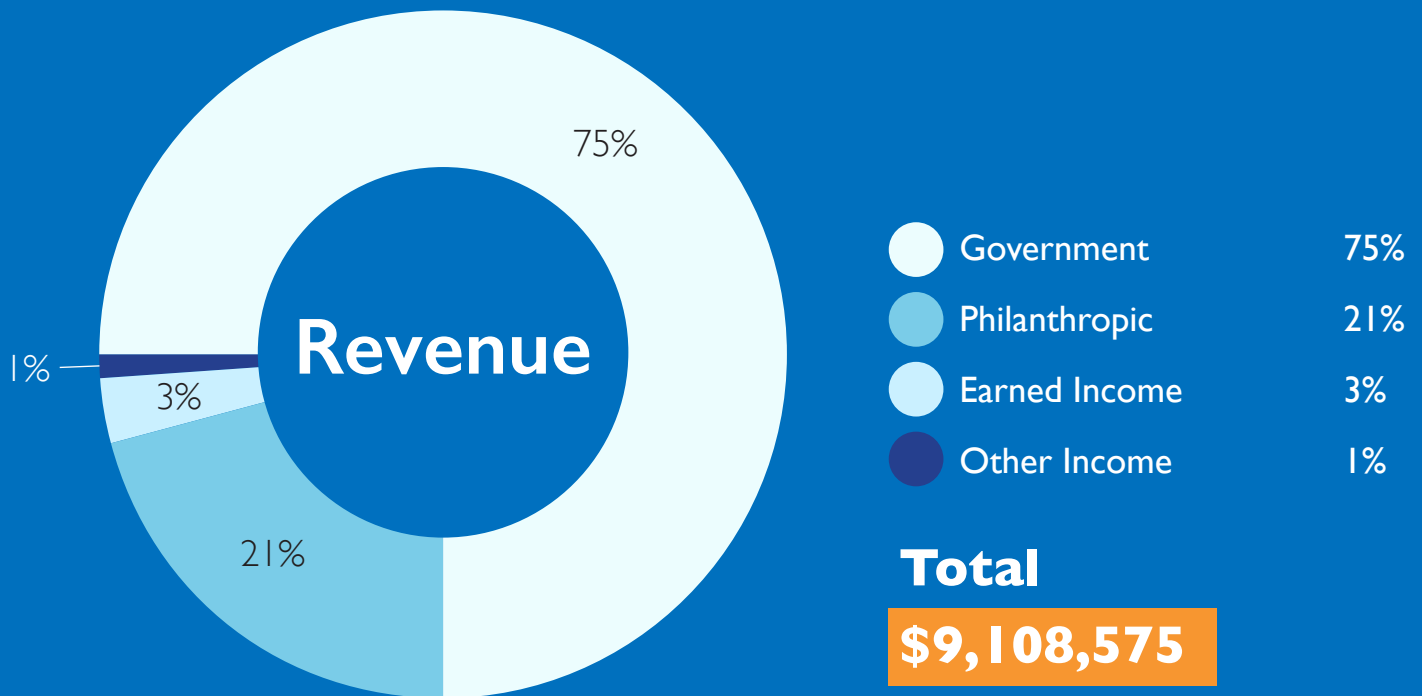
We are also excited to announce our plans for a new program hub site in **South LA**, which remains a key focus for our efforts to assist unhoused families. As a prominent service area for our programs, the majority of our work is now concentrated in this community. This new site will serve as a central hub for multiple services, including a childcare center, access to vital resources, and a wellness center—ensuring that families have a safe space to grow, heal, and receive the support they need.

Our Gratitude and Vision for the Future

We are deeply grateful to all our supporters, donors, and partners who continue to stand by our mission. Together, we are charting a new course and building a future where families are no longer trapped in cycles of homelessness but are given the opportunity to truly thrive. We look forward to walking this path with you and remain committed to creating lasting, transformative change in the lives of those we serve.

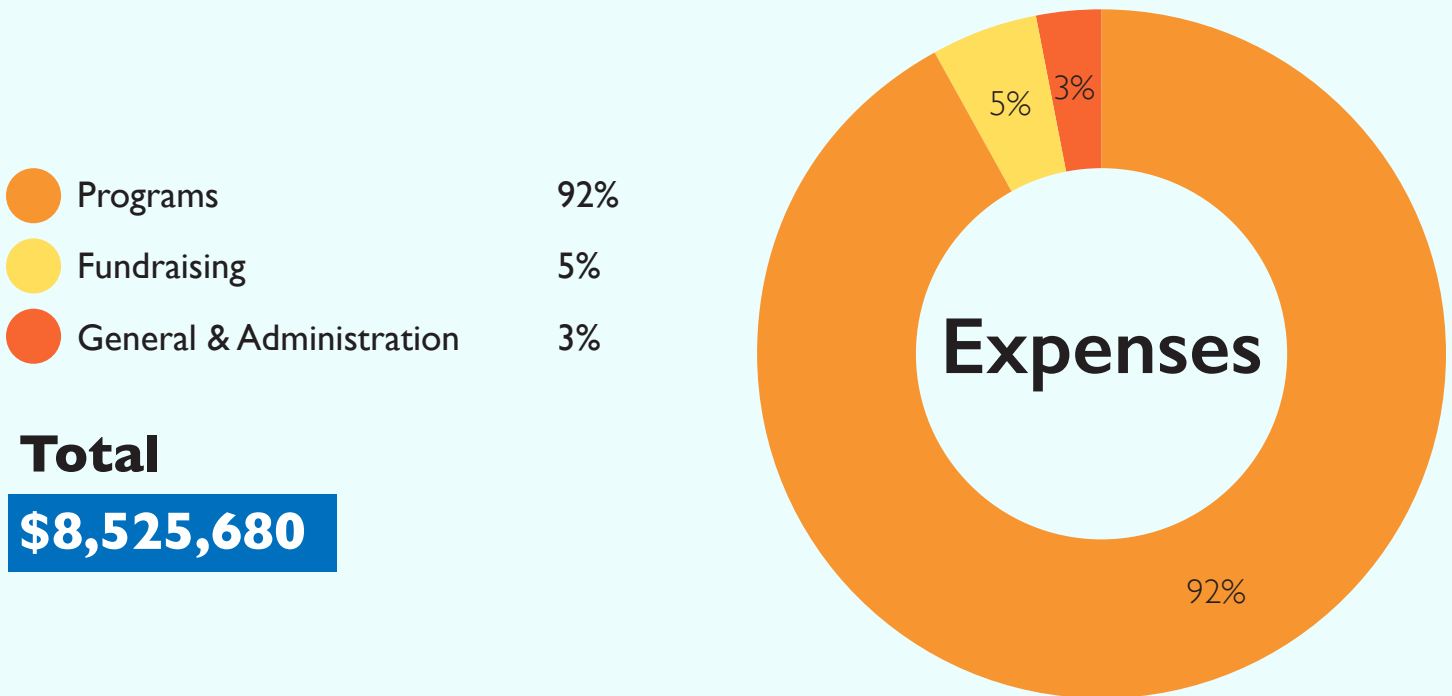
2023 FINANCIALS

Our revenue streams include public government contracts and private philanthropic support from a wide range of individual donors, foundations, nonprofits, and corporations as well as earned revenue from investments and service fees.



In 2023, we increased our budget by

30%



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2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We extend our deepest gratitude to our generous major donors whose support fuels our mission. Their philanthropic investments have a profound impact on the lives of countless families, enabling us to provide essential resources and create lasting change for unhoused families in our community.

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